

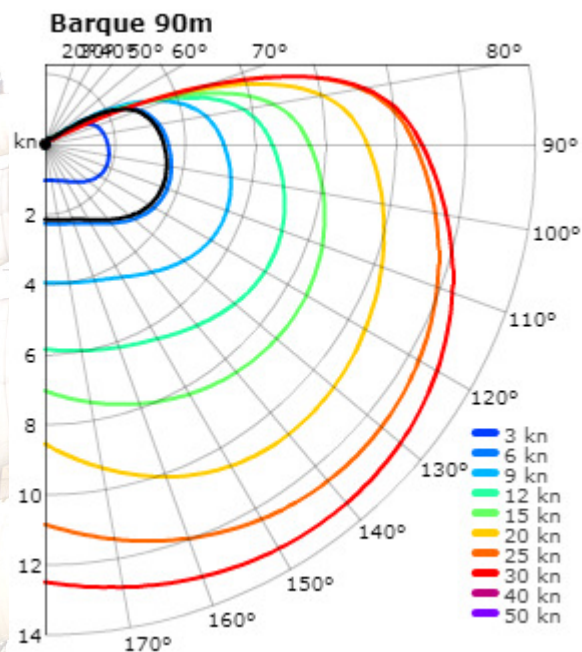
The Tall Ships Races 2017 - Race 2 - Turku to Klaipeda

One again, I found myself away from my home port while racing tall ships. This was very much a two part affair, with the race from Turku to Storal Karlso being pretty straight forward, and the second leg to the finish being a technical balancing act.

As I said, the first leg didn't cause much concern. I went a bit further west than much of the fleet, which ended up giving me a better angle to the Storal Karlso mark, and I was able to round in the lead. However, it became immediately apparent after rounding that the leg home would present some options. The Barque we're sailing has a polar that has a knife edge fall off at about 70°. I decided to sail as close hauled as I could, while many in the fleet found speed by sailing a little looser. This put me well back, at one point several miles behind, and in 40th place. I knew that without a significant change in the wind, those boats ahead of me would need to do some tacking in order to get back up to the finish, but it looked pretty dire for a while.

Fortunately, the wind predictions held true, and as we got closer to the line, I started to meet those boats that had taken off so quickly earlier. The wide tacking angle of this boat had them heading more or less away from the line, in order to regain the northern distance that they'd given up on the way across the Baltic.

In the end, Alexandria out-sailed me by quite a bit on the second leg, but I was able to sneak in a second place finish, just ahead of the ever-dangerous kenza. (Always a good day when I can say that ☺)



With the finish line at about 70° TWA, we had some options!

-longreacher
July 26, 2017