

2018 40' Series Championship Race 3 – Florida Rum Run

This year's 40' Series has introduced a bit of a twist with the introduction of the *Farr 400*. So far, it seems to be the unbeatable choice, so the first bit of strategy is to decide when to race it. My strategy is to race it whenever I think I might be most competitive, and decide amongst the slower boats when I'm not as sure if I'm going to be present for all the roundings.

I waffled back and forth a bit on whether to pull the *Farr* out of the boathouse for this race. I initially thought I'd miss the first rounding, but as the start time got closer, the winds dropped a little, and the rounding time became a little more favourable. Also factoring in my decision to race the *Farr* was the fact that we're changing to daylight savings time this weekend. This change means that the 0430 weather update will move to 1:30 AM in my time zone, which means I'm pretty likely to sleep through it until we switch back to standard time in the fall. This would be my last chance to pay close attention to the weather for a while.

Once we got underway, the course was pretty straightforward. Lots of *Farrs* out to keep us company and as expected, we pulled away from the fleet early. As we proceeded, we chased *Smo* and *rafa* for a while, playing hide and seek around the Berry Islands in the Bahamas. As we made the final rounding, I had the slimmest of leads, and it looked like a pretty straight shot to the finish. Then, the final weather update threw us a bit of final wrinkle. Dying winds, meant a bit of a twisty path and a few hours more racing before we'd be home. Fortunately, on the final approach, I found the right line, and caught the line in the early morning in Eastern Florida.



Not a bad place to be racing when it's -2° and snowing here. Thanks to the SOL team for putting this together.

-longreacher

March 11th, 2018