# Melbourne to Osaka Yacht Race 2018

The distance is a long one – 4805nm as Sailonline sails it.

The course is not unfamiliar – Sailonline has sailed this exact course twice before in the past three years in the pre-races for this main event, and, of course, regularly plays in and around the waters of Australia and Micronesia.

The challenge, as always, was to try and do better than in the past.

I am mostly an SOTP SOLer, (SOTP = "seat of the pants", i.e., using pretty much just what you see on-screen) but to keep my hand in, I will occasionally dive into the heady environment of routing software(QtVLM or BWR).  The results of these efforts are plain for all to see in the SYC and Championship rankings – occasional flashes of "how did I do that" with a lot of  "oops" and "Beached AZ!" thrown in for good measure.

I semi-justify my not doing so well as being mostly due to my spending heaps of time, as do others now too, helping to run Sailonline.  It is almost 8 years since I first started helping as an Admin-in-training, so a lot of what I do is now second nature, but it remains time consuming, however enjoyable!

The truth of the matter, of course, is that I participate in almost all races – I and my OPS Admin colleagues are expected to do this… it is how we keep an eye on things and by liaising with the SRC (Sailonline Race Committee) and our Tech Team, we hope to ensure smooth sailing for all – and being in several races at one time, along with a life outside Sailonline (did I really admit to a life outside Sailonline?!) does of necessity mean that a degree of dilution in concentration must undoubtedly creep in…that's my excuse, and I'm sticking with it!

OK.. ignoring prior poor performances… I truly don't quite understand how I ended this race as #8.  I am not around for wx updates, I sleep at night, I randomly point my boat in a useful direction and, as this was an ocean race, having chosen where I wanted to go, I did use QtVLM to help me get to my chosen waypoint on route.  But I've done this in other races … to little effect.

If you were able to review my course, you can see that in places towards the end at least, my track is roughly similar to others – I make sharp turns within about 6hrs or so of others, so my fumbling approach to using QtVLM, without completely compromising my SOTP nature, finally seems to have worked.

Enough of me.. how about @Maverick, the yacht crewed by SOLer Roddo and his son? Well after the delayed start and the official restart, they are doing wonderfully.  It will be fascinating to find out if they believe that the two trial runs on Sailonline made a difference to their race.

Right now, they have some 1500nm to go, and appear to be in some pretty decent winds.

All news from the real race can be found here:

http://melbourneosaka.com/en/home/   including a weekly wrap as well as highlighted news pieces.

SO there we have it… RainbowChaser made it inside the top 10 in an ocean race.  I am going to feel  chuffed to bits at my good fortune for quite some time to come!

RainbowChaser / April 2018