

Christmas Comes Early

The annual Christmas to Christmas race is easily one of my perennial favorite races. This year I started out heading North Northwest, half expecting to take the far north and west route that seems to win most years. But after a few days I was heading west, separating from the group that continued north. When they turned southwest, I had lost some distance. At this point my route began to take me west southwest while the north group headed off on a route that would take them north of the Philippines. By the time the group I was with approached North Maluku, I was one of the few to go south and found myself briefly in the lead when we reached Buton Island. As we approached Komodo I had about a 30 mile lead on vostro, but a weather update had me turn west to go north of West Nusa Tenggara, but the following weather put me back on track to go south. The turn cost almost my entire lead over vostro, and he chased me all the way to the finish. Honestly, had the winds not gone light and on the nose of the group approaching from the north they probably would have finished well ahead of us. It's also worth noting that Dingo and the others who tried their luck going south of Australia were not that far behind. It was rather amazing how closely the three different paths finished. For me it was a wonderful early Christmas present!

Have a Happy New Year everyone! See you in 2019.

Respectfully,

Garagiste