

Log Hawaii Zig Zag – 2015

bonknhoot last raced this Zig-Zag back in 2015, "just missing the podium If I hadn't been such a chump coming into the Finish". Ahead of me that year were kenza, javakeda and Dingo, all three not active on sailonline at present, for various reasons, but we hope for their return.

In 2015, sol's unusual grib interpolation had not yet been translated to any of the routers people used, except perhaps to kenza's very own sol-pilot. Javakeda, mind you, was an Expedition man, which maybe is a better router than the QtVlm most of us use today, but without sol-interpolation, ri-ro (rubbish-in, rubbish-out) surely applies to it too.

Dingo, currently fully occupied creating serial masterpieces in oil on board or canvas (check out his work, it really is very good!) and I both used Qt but as a guide ('twas all it could be), steering mostly by hand. But time moves on, and time is precious, so today I habitually upload long strings of DCs at each WX – generated by Qt, converted using Excel, and checked on AGL – and go away. Quite time consuming as well, but less so.

And so it was, that twice, not heeding my opponents, busy as I was with other things, I sailed too close to Hawaii, gybing a little too early on the run north east to Puna, and cutting in a little too much on the run north west round Hawi to Kaho'alowe. Total cost: not much more than 1 minute. This put me in a dog fight with Kipper1258, who had under-cooked things even more en route to Puna; said dog (or should that be dingo?) only loosing the bone after rounding Kauai, where a gybe into the coast for better angle cost my Australian friend precious seconds.

WRmirekd, however, conceded not an inch, and rafa also did enough to stay ahead of bonk, so that it finished WR from rafa by 78 seconds with bonk a further 23 seconds adrift and Kipper another 71 behind bonk. That's 172 secs or slightly less than 3 minutes between first and fourth over a race duration of slightly less than 60 hours, or 0.08%!

Back in 2015, the gap between first and fourth was 20 minutes and the race (light going, often to windward, in Seacart 30's) took 63 hours, making the gap 0.5%, which again isn't a lot but compares more favourably with the interest you might get on a Euro flexi-deposit account. And like IRL as well, the same ol' question arises: increased skill or better technology?

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