

Key Lime Pie

My overriding memory of this race was the incessant light winds, turning it into a bit of a slog in the Fareast 28R

The polar is fairly benign with nothing much to be gained between 70 -130 deg TWA in the light airs present during the race. This, together with the predominantly SE'ly wind direction, led me to opt for what I judged to be a shorter route rather than perhaps a faster, slightly longer one.

The leg down to Key West found Sebensa lying well back at the mark, due to my usual inefficient DC's set overnight (I sleep at night, regardless). The unusual wx times did not help, with me sometimes missing 2 wx. I make no excuses for this.

At the mark I noticed a few boats, including as it turned out the eventual winner SKOVSER, going North on the inside of the chain of Islands stretching SW from the finish to Key West, with 4 gaps allowing opportunities to reach the finish, which could not be reached directly from the West. It was also my intended route.

Sebensa opted to head for the Northern most gap in the Island chain. Overnight DC's were not optimum, with Sebensa going a bit too far South of where she should have been. SKOVSER was in the better position, being further North of Sebensa.

Once through the gap in the Island chain, Sebensa tacked North, but again made an error by turning East to get a direct line to the finish, too soon. The winner was now ahead, and remained so until the finish.

The end result was Sebensa ending up as the meat in the Danish sandwich (no, hotdog, Ed.).

Well sailed SKOVSER, as our route was a few minutes better than those who took a more Southerly island gap, or none at all, by simply sailing around the chain from Key West.

It is not often that Sebensa ends up on the podium!

Finally a word of thanks to the Admins & Engine room who unselfishly keep SOL operational, many thanks.

Sebensa / October 2019