

Dondra to Sanya 2020 race report

This 3in1 race has promised to be an interesting one.

First part, from Sri Lanka to Malacca strait wasn't too critical, because it was to be expected fleet compression in weak winds of strait entrance.

Real fun began with choosing an entrance point to negotiate infamous weak and capricious winds of Malacca strait. My choice was start in the middle, and continue down Wx by Wx. (my considerations on routers in doldrums-like wind condition can be found in *SWR 17/18 Leg 4 - Melbourne to Hong Kong* race report – another OD65v3 race).

It all went well, and I found myself some 10 min in front of Beliberda near narrowest part of strait, when my long absence from SOL routine came into play. Simultaneously there were 16:30 Wx and tack near Sumatra's coast. Downloaded Wx from brainaid site, switch to game and tack, then switch to qtVlm and routed the finally way out. Surprisingly, it didn't differ much from previous one. As I was still at work, I set course, export route for home use and went home. A couple hours later, when I reached home and import route into qtVlm with current Wx, I did realize that something went wrong! Simply, I did download a new Wx, but didn't load it into router. And did my routing with old Wx.

At the moment I did completely forget wise words from the cover of *The Hitchhiker's Guide* and start panic. Pulled sharp south, passed just in front Beliberda's bow, and continue... 'till morning, Beliberda was in comfort lead.

From that point I have started my chase over the South China Sea. I did manage to close the gap a little, but then on turning north made another mistake. Searching for stronger wind, I didn't realize that with higher BS comes also greater optimal TWA.

Desperate times call for desperate measures, so I did pull into the wind a bit harder than optimal angle suggest and hope for the best. Not quite sure if it worked, but near Vietnam coast SimeMali crossed Beliberda's track some 2 min behind.

A game of chess begun, with change of positions and figures with every new Wx. At the end, by my opinion Beliberda made the same mistake I did down south, searching stronger wind but got worse TWA. Bad luck. Great duel till the end, I salute him.

Thanks all SOLers on great race, congratulations FR_vostro and top10 finishers.

As I wasn't SOLing for a while, this was my first encounter with HTML5 Client. Great job! Thanks very much to all involved.

And thanks SOL Team on another nice race!

Fair winds to all!

SimeMali

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