

Oahu East Coast RTI Sprint 2020

From the start this looked to be a tricky race with a light and variable breeze.

Using the shifting wind and heading for the stronger areas would pay off. Tacking and gybing in light winds has a small amount of performance loss and is the key when tacking or gybing on a shoreline with a shifting wind pattern.

So a majority of the fleet used this tactic - very close racing. A key point in the race was after rounding Moku Manu, a stronger breeze filling in from the west and a shift with it. Reach that point as fast as possible and you were going to have a good position at the next mark.

So, that's exactly what I did and made up a good few places, to 5th from 10th. Round the final mark and the run to Kaneohe, a stronger breeze to the east with a shift coming right at the finish line.

The only option in my mind was to lean into the stronger airs and keep the speed up during the final minutes and the shift. although dropping to 7th during the final leg, heading into the east area paid off, keeping good speed in the last 2 minutes of the race using the shifting wind angle, the final few seconds got me on to the podium in 3rd. My first podium for some time.

Great racing as always. Superb performance by Lou and bonknhoot. It's always a challenge with so many great SOLers, and it feels good to keep up with them from time to time.

Stay safe and be good.

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