

Now I remember why I took a break from SOLing..3 days of concentration and what a race this is. It got me up in the middle of the night four times. But I learnt a lot of new stuff with some of the tools (agl and qtvlm) which helped me refine the course I wanted to make, so big thanks to those who have developed them. It's also interesting how many races within races there can be. For me this time it was largely with Kipper and Rafa, and the only difference between us really was in who made what little mistakes and when. It's such a competitive fleet these days. There seemed to be two major decision points which made a big difference to the race. The first was the start, and what a lottery that was in such light and variable winds. I started with the intention of sailing up one of the eastern passages, but by the second WX was headed instead for Discovery Passage. That put me some six hours behind those in the lead from memory. The whole passage up to Cape Scott was then a bit of technical sailing. Missing a WX during sleep fortunately didn't see me bbq but I did some tacks out of good wind and angle and lost a fair bit to Rafa and Kipper only to find Rafa then bbqd. The next big tactical spot was Cape Scott. I think it was here Kipper sailed a bit awry, but Rafa and I sailed almost identical courses all the way down to the entrance to the southern tip of the island. Many of the leaders were also making errors and I had moved from about 15th at Chatham Point to maybe 5th by Race Rocks. After that it was technical sailing up through the maze of islands. 15 miles from the finish I could see there was a tiny gap between an upcoming island and a small one beyond it but at 2am in the morning I had no desire to get out of bed to try to negotiate it by hand. By the time I got up for the 2:20am WX, Jawz had indeed had gone for it, as had a number of others, but Hirilonde, Rafa, and Henrys hadn't, much to my relief. Jawz winningly stole the show for a memorable win. Thanks to all for the good companionship during the race, and thanks to the committee for their hard work. Maybe next

year, a mark might be added to deal with that almost impossible pinch point.

Dingo