

Airlie Beach to Cairns

Day 1 Monday June 1 UTC 1800

Had a strategy to head out to the right for 30-40 min before tacking into the lift but just before the start I realized the wind was already better on the left. I keyed in -126 TWA a server cycle or two late so I took a performance hit twice (the Muhammed Ali-like fake right then left) but am happy with the course which lifts me up through all the islands into 6-7kts of pressure in a few hours. Doesn't hurt my confidence in the decision to have WRmirekd of to my portside quarter either!

wsguerin 06/01 19:45:04

On Wisconsin B1!

BadgerOne 06/01 19:51:49

Thanks WS. We both know how long a #1 ranking lasts at this stage in the race

Day 2 Tuesday June 2 0000UTC

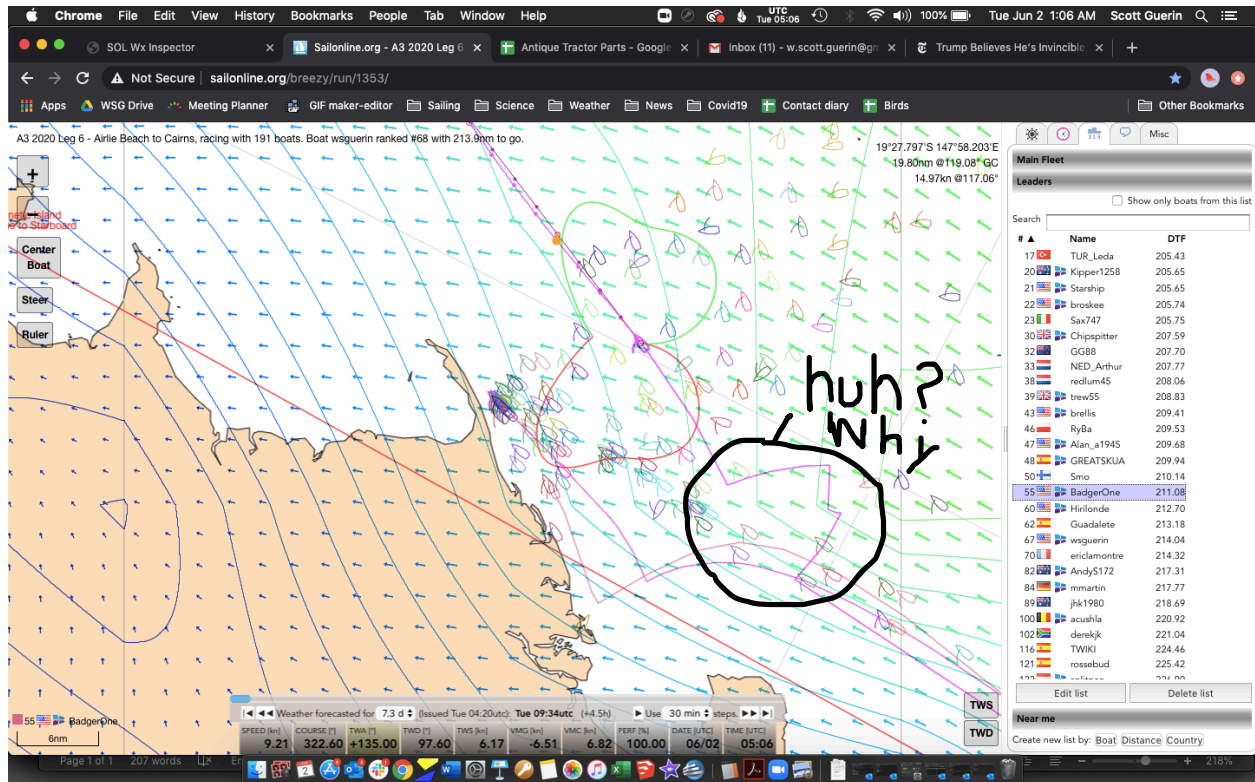
Holding steady at the front of the front pack for the past several hours, lots of lead changes including me on top for a bit. The 50% of the fleet that went right and out are in better breeze – 9kt cf to our 5-ish — but they sailed seeming a long way out of their way.

Looking to Gybe onto +118 on about 0115 then an hour later +122TWA and ride a massive knock back down toward Magnetic Island. Took a look around in Google Earth, what a wonderful seascape, remote coastline, but sadly stressed reefs.

wsguerin 01:33:30

B1 i'm taking a hitch north east for breeze. cu later, i hope!

Well, as they say in NASA parlance “Boy, did I screw that pooch!” Gybed way too early into the knock and sailed away from any sort of decent VMC and added 15nm to my race.



Tuesday still, 1230UTC

Clawed my way back from 67th to 36th with a recovery overnight in good wind and the right TWA toward Maggie. I followed leader's zig zags rounding Magnetic Island, aptly named as several notables BBQ'd there unable to resist its attractions: Bimmer and Badger1 were partying alongside each other, Beliberda, a race leader along the way, clipped the last bit of the island for a rest and dropped back to 30th. The mainland is not without its own beached trimaran whales as the shore claimed many many others.

wsguerin 11:26:58

Badger joined Bimmer on the beach, bummer

RainbowChaser 11:58:00

Happy to note that Magneto Island will be free of other wessels by the time I get back to it! :-D

BadgerOne 12:40:23

Oy - when even Bimmer and Rafa hit the beach, things are bad. Maybe "Magnetic Island" is named such for a reason?

wsguerin 15:22:46

calm, the SLI is ahead!!!

wsguerin 15:23:15

oh no WR hit it too

WRmirekd 15:33:03

I'm sorry, gentlemen. This conversation with my student's mother cost a lot. But more important is the child. Good luck, I don't always have to win.

calmxy 16:04:07

If it weren't for wsguerin, I might have BBQ'd for significantly longer before realizing that I was TWA O'd...

Tuesday 1940 UTC

Leaders have made the gybe to Green Island and I, for once, waited another 5 minutes for a slightly better fast angle. Picked off Smo and a couple others and have a shot at 25th if all goes well. Feeling good about the tactics on this one but have regrets about that loopy walkabout I took 24 hrs ago. Every race, for this SOP-er, has a moment or leg of complete FUBAR.

Tuesday 2110 UTC

Hah, just like the SoCAL 300 an error on the very last leg probably cost me one or two spots. I sailed past Green Island .6nm while family matters came to the fore. Ended up nicking SAX747 by 1 second for 26th, my best finish to date.

Congratulations to Bonknhoot and the Holy GraeI-ers!

Lastly, having lived in Oz and visited the town, I remember how they corrected my pronunciation of it:

Racing over the reefs beer in hand
To Cairns we set off no remand
But if ever you stay
And the town you need say
Remember water-packed tuna in Cans