

NEWPORT BERMUDA 2020

In the double-handed Sun Fast 3300 class, six Mamaroneck Frostbite Association racers were on the starting line, four started and finished, and one of our guys didn't get the memo and was in a Dehler 46. That guy was *Ed Claflin / edclaflin* finishing 208/35 in the Fleet / Dehler class. A first time SOLer he moved up from 471th based on his rhumbline route despite the "nail-biting" lull mid race.



Here's Ed rigging his IRL Dyer Dhow.

Out of the Sun Fast Fleet of 77 boats here's the tail of the tape:

Dino Ness / TroyTempest finished 327 / 58 (Fleet / Class) in his first SOL race, finished off our virtual podium but is now mildly hooked. He had some troubles mid-way with his DC's that put him head to wind for ten hours unnoticed while he was IRL racing with Eric Letellier, too bad it was a drifter. Dino is a first-class splicing fanatic and his Dyer and Laser look like he never countenances the end of a rope, until he was at the end of his near this race's finish line and looked away for several hours sailing into deep eastern blue doo (from a decent rhumbline early position), sailed past Bermuda waving, and had to claw it all back.



"Suffice it to say, this requires far more attention than even the most needy Tamagochi, and you guys are far better at multitasking than I."

Bill Zobrist / Zobiwan 282 / 42 has tried a few SOL races and but let's face it Bill, trout fishing the Beaver Kill is preferred to virtual sailing, drink in hand or no!



In his British Racing Green dinghy (Bill, at least in SOL you don't get wet!)

Simon Mahler / sfd 273 / 36 and number three in our MFA group stuck to a basic Rhumbline course if I'm not mistaken and is a computer whiz...get this exchange:

Wsguerin: Second guessing SOP. Anyone leaning toward routing? I'm kinda sick of smelling elephant doodoo

Sfd: ... learning to use a routing software would be quite cool. I have actually started messing with the API and reading up on course optimizers, may turn it into a programming exercise. Copying course adjustments from qtVlm (or whatever the cool kids use) does not sounds nearly as much fun. That being said, it's very clearly the way to do really well in SOL *and* learn a useful skill.



Nice kit there Simon!

Scott Guerin / wsguerin 253 / 23

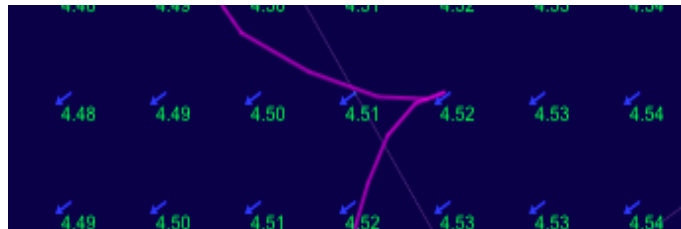
I was very very lucky to have pulled off this finish as I really bit the eastern route hard and hung in there while following some of SOL top racers like dtayls and Wrmirekd down the blue rabbit hole. In hindsight, playing the corners in any race is a bad idea as the wind always seems better ahead, to the left or right. But there are other reasons for failure of course!



Missing the first mark by putting in my course change a few seconds to early...what was I thinking? That cost me about 10 - 20 minutes in distance traveled and performance loss.

Another priceless move: the go backwards tack. This is when everyone east had to take a huge starboard knock knowing the tack to port would swing you back down as the wind shifted over 100°. I went to early and instead of a little jog, did a loop...sigh.

And below, here I am in my Dyer named Red Devil with sail 666. The name is from my first Dyer which was actually red, owned and named by a kid, and whose woodwork was eaten by porcupines while in storage at our cabin.



John Field / jbafield 226 / 10 led our band to take first place on the MFA podium. He had some moments himself but pulled in front of me for good when, overnight, he set a perfect arcing TWA course back toward the rhumbline while I was COG and beating against the shift at a lean 40° TWZ and going 3kts to his 8.



"What was most interesting lesson in Bermuda is that the data is GFS (which SUCKS, btw) and looking at different forecast might have changed [my] easterly plan..."

John, being Captain of our association, took one for the team when he enacted the MFA capsize procedures. He's also IRL pals with Scott Bearse / SlideRule 168 / 2 in the Dehler class.

So, congrats to the winners of our class: Midnight, Sloane, and Oscar. Well played, and thank you to the SOL admins who patiently answered hundreds of the same questions, the N2B organizers, and media team that kept things pretty lively. This race has been on my bucket list and perhaps I'll meet some of you on the water in the coming years.

wsguerin/June 2020