

NEWPORT BERMUDA 2020

I'm the navigator on Cynthia, a Grand Soleil 46.3. We did the last Newport-Bermuda (2nd in class) and Marion-Bermuda 2017 (1st in class).

I joined SYC just for the Newport-Bermuda race. I did a couple of races beforehand to get a handle on how the system works. It seems the same strategies we used for IRL races work well here, too. You'll notice, in fact, that in the St. David's Lighthouse division, the Newport-Bermuda racers are dominating over the regular SYC members. I think SlideRule, who was in the lead as I wrote, also just joined, I assume in order to lead this race :-). Honestly, for the great service that SYC has been doing to host us, I thought the \$35 fee was more than deserved.

Getting in front is always a matter of mostly luck. That said, I tried using weather models other than GFS to look further out than the 6-hour set period. It seemed to me that the far eastern approach looked good on GFS, but not so great on the NDFD model, which I've found more reliable past a day or two out. So, I stuck close to the rhumb line, trying not to get stuck in any of the big wind holes.

But once you get onto a reach, like the last day of the race, it becomes near-impossible to pass, and so, managing not to screw up on the final turns, I was happy to slot in just behind the podium three.

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