

Pacific Cup 2020 – Report by outlaw

This Pacific Cup can be divided in three parts. First approaching and sailing around the big high that sits around 40N140W, then a long reach SW, and a somewhat more technical finish.

I made a big mistake expecting an easy and predictable route on the first part, and by skipping one of the early updates ~30h in, I miss a big change and put myself in a deep hole. Thankfully the wind provides a big push that helps me recover much of my losses. The routing remains a bit erratic, but now I'm adjusting well. My strategy for more erratic situations is trying to hold a steady course. Much of the art of SOL is to not overreact to each and every update. That and the ongoing push helps me move up the fleet.

As we move away from the high I'm up to second. In the mean time, aner59 has worked some magic and moved into a solid lead. Bad news. Really bad news. He's been a force for years, and moving around him would be difficult. For now, there's not much I can do.

The second part was just heading SW forever and ever. Fleet bunched up pretty tight, and nothing noteworthy happened. But wow, this boat likes sailing in perfectly straight lines.

For the third part, as we approached Hawaii an opportunity for a north-south split opened up. A large number of boats lead by Kipper took off north. Naturally I'm heading south. And in the worst possible outcome, aner59 is about the only one who goes along with me. I can't pass him that way... but at last I force him to pick a side. I push further south and eventually he gives me a tiny bit of room. I've probably pushed too far, but what choice do I have? Anyway the exercise amounts to nothing what-so-ever, as aner59 keeps his lead and Kipper barely passes me for second.

Overall this turned out very enjoyable with a tactical finish. Big BRAVO to aner59 for the brilliant display in the early part, and the overly aggressive cover, and Kipper for capitalizing on the split.