

2020 Walyalup Sprint

The stars aligned this year in the Walyalup Sprint for brewman:

1. A good start time for my time zone.
2. No social distractions, mostly due to Covid 19 as all our social commitments have been cancelled.
3. Fairly steady winds throughout the race.

The first two legs were station to station, as there were no wind shifts. Only the turn around Cernac Island required some concentration to execute the gybe at the correct point.

Then it was upwind from Straggler reef to Wallace Island. To my eye, there was no significant wind direction or velocity advantage to either side of the course, so I opted to harden up after Straggler Reef and tack once to lay Wallace Island so as to minimize performance losses. I had second thoughts about this strategy when rafa tacked over midway up the leg. I decided to hold the course and arrived at Wallace Island about 20th place.

Then the slalom around Wallace Island, Dyer Rock, and Dyer Island. I entered this part of the race with some trepidation. Even though I had laid out the courses using the Ruler, often in these races I turn just too early and BBQ. Fortunately, the server jumps were almost perfectly aligned with my turns and I exited the slalom somewhere between 2nd and 5th place.

Tacking downwind to the finish, it appeared there would be a slight favorable wind shift out on the east side of the course, so I gybed and set sail for that corner. Again, I had the chance to second guess myself as several of the lead boats gybed back about halfway down the leg. Stubbornly, I decided to stay the course out to the corner and see where we would come out.

One last gybe for the finish and brewman was trading 3rd and 4th place with calmxy. The Wind Gods smiled upon brewman and the finish came up 3rd.

As my podium finishes are few and far between, I've come to enjoy them more and more. A fun race!!!

Brewman / September 2020