

RACE SCREEN PRINTS AND COMMENTS

SATORI SYC

(Sailing as Pirate SHADOW HUNTER)



FOR THE

CARIB RUM RUN 2020 (1754 nm)

STARTING AT 1700 UTC SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

FINISHING AT 11:23:36 UTC SEPTEMBER 26, 2020

SKIPPER - JOHN GAMBLES RCYC and SYC

(Shadow Hunter finished 9th of 125 boats racing of the 146 boats registered)

(Satori now ranked 53rd of 240 in SYC World Rankings after 8 races)

Carib Rum Run 2020

Chart and Info: Carib Rum Run 2020 (1754nm)

Start time: Sep 10 2020 17:00:00 UTC

Start by Mount Gay Pick Up at position: 13N05.4000 059W39.6000

Marks:

BRG is the bearing from ship to mark at scoring position.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------|
| 1: Anegada BVI | - Leave 18N44.5200 064W19.6200 to Port | - BRG 201 |
| 2: Bacardi Pick Up | - Leave 18N27.7800 066W01.7400 to Starboard | - BRG 355 |
| 3: Rafael Hernandez Airport | - Leave 18N28.8000 067W08.4000 to Port | - BRG 178 |
| 4: Brugal Pick Up | - Leave 18N18.0000 069W54.0000 to Port | - BRG 165 |
| 5: Isla Beata | - Leave 17N32.5200 071W32.5800 to Starboard | - BRG 349 |
| 6: Appleton Pick Up | - Leave 17N54.6600 076W42.4800 to Port | - BRG 180 |
| 7: Boatmans Bay | - Leave 17N51.0000 077W42.6000 to Starboard | - BRG 008 |

Finish line:

Line by Cancun Drop Off between marks A and B at positions:

- A: 21N04.4620 086W44.7804
- B: 21N06.3380 086W44.0195



Carib Rum Run 2020

This is a longer Report because of the length of the Race. However, most of the length of the Report is due to the Screen Prints. It will not take you long to read the words. It is basically written in 2 parts, the first being a summary of the Race itself and the second part being how I used the QtVLM (Qt) routing software during the Race at this early stage in my use of it. There may be more questions than answers but I am hoping that it will be useful to those less than expert on the use of Qt. Some may learn from my mistakes! Some with Qt experience and their secrets may smile! If you have any answers or thoughts please convey them to **Satori** in the Chatroom on Sailtalk or in the SOL Technical Forum on Qt. I would be pleased to provide you with my email address and accept your advice. Just ask in the Chatroom.

If you are not interested in a little pirate humour and a summary account from the perspective of **Shadow Hunter**'s position in each Leg of the Race but do have an interest in how I used or misused QtVLM skip to Page 12. In doing so you might miss some mention of your pirate ship that you can show to landlubbers!

Given the 1754 nms of this Race and the attention it might require over 10! or more days, I did hesitate to participate. Every one of the rum pick-up locations is a potential BBQ location and I knew that I would need to be there to round the Mark, something I am still not very good at! However, who could ignore the enthusiasm of **RainbowChaser** and her Parrot for this pirate themed race and see the very heart of SOL become remarkably evil and talk like a pirate!

Out of the cupboard came my tri-cornered pirate's hat and cutlass! Yes, just like you I have been a pirate on Halloween and I wanted to look the part and get into the mood!

For pirate lingo where could I go but to a parrot! Off the bookshelf came "Yiddish For Pirates by Gary Barwin". A story told by a 500 year old wisecracking grey named Aaron who clung to a shoulder on the high seas with swashbuckling pirates in the years around 1492. Recognize the year? Does Canuck SOLer **AaronJC** know of his parrot namesake?

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/249646/yiddish-for-pirates-by-gary-barwin/9780345815521>

Barb joined in to rename **Satori** for this pirate rum pick-up. "**Shadow Hunter**".....Out of the mist shadows gather and the hunt begins!

Now, on the so-called semi-serious side. **Shadow Hunter** participated in Practice Race 2 on the 9th with 4 other pirate ships. What was immediately revealed was the Polar of our Clipper 240 will require our full attention due to the so-called "pops" in its TWA or virtual sail-change drops in boat speed. You do not want to be sailing with a TWA of 90° because the difference in boat speed between 90° and both 80° and 100° is a drop of as much as 5%. Will this Polar cause some complications for QtVLM (Qt) in optimizing the route?

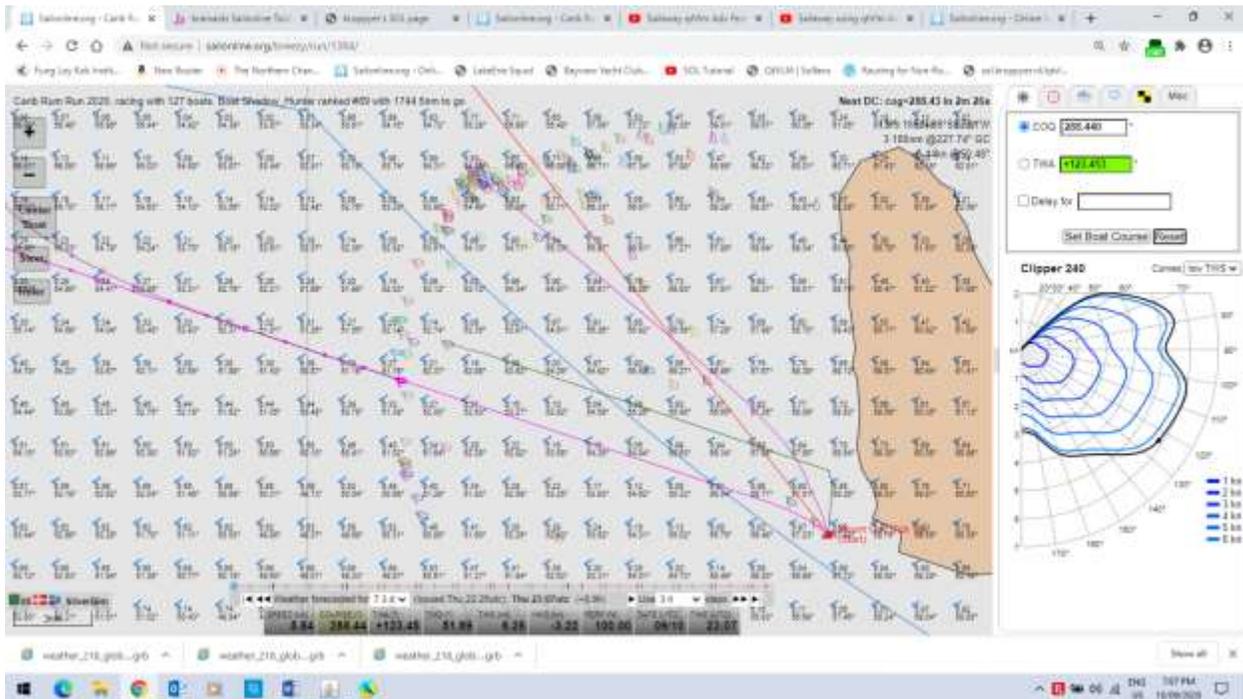
http://sailonline.org/static/var/sphene/sphwiki/attachment/2018/08/28/Clipper_240_Particulars18.pdf

In the Practice Race I focused on optimum TWA and got off to a good start and was leading up to 4th Mark and then I did the unforgivable. Instead of steering around the Mark I entered the COG in the Command Box. Yes, the wrong COG! You know that if you use the Ruler Tool to draw a line between two Marks the COG shown depends on which direction you have drawn the line! Of course you have never made this mistake! For a moment I was somewhat dumbfounded. On the screen it looked like **Shadow Hunter** was dragging the Mark! When we got on the right course we keel-hauled the helmsman. I was down below being patched up. When **Shadow Hunter** crossed the bow of **Crimson Permanent Assurance 2** the musket snipers in the rigging wounded me. When I was able to take over the helm **Shadow Hunter** finished 4th. Post-race, with me filled with grog, **BrainAid** performed the necessary brain surgery on the G-Scow. Yes, lucky to be alive! I now have an implanted doubloon. I just checked the gold market. I am worth more dead than alive! You will all understand if **Shadow Hunter** does not perform well in the actual Rum Run Race! I expect that most of the time First Mate "**Quiet Trouble**" (Qt!) will be at the wheel!

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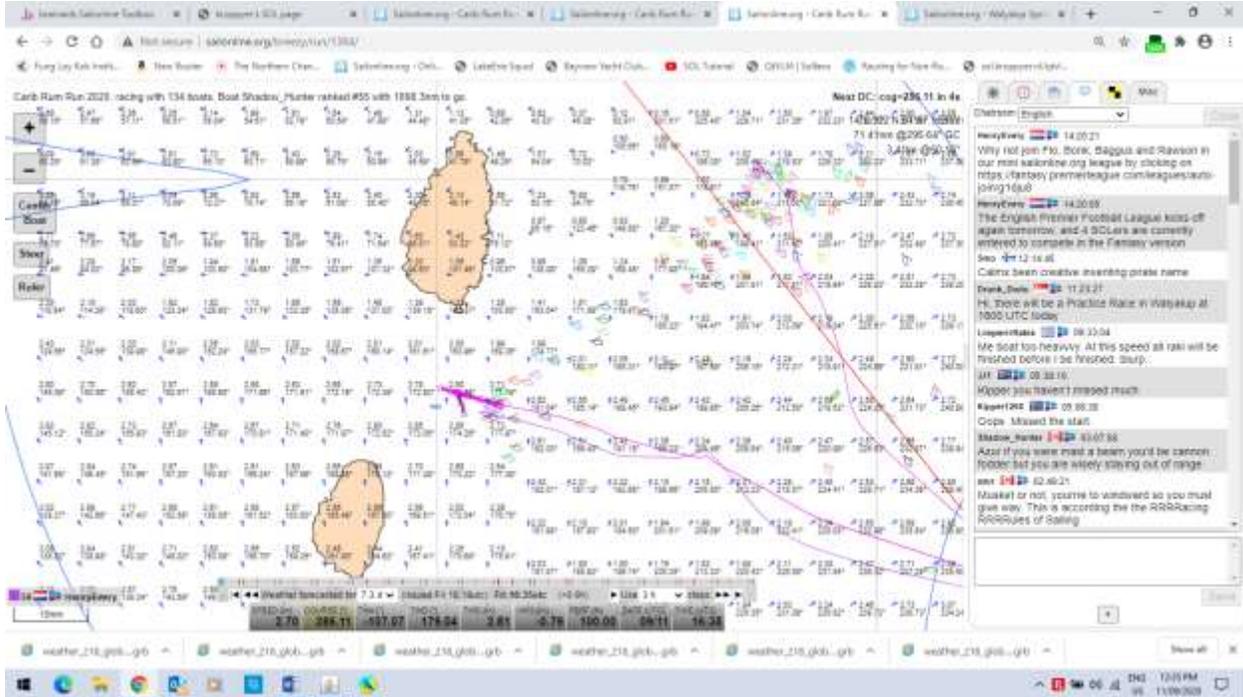
This 1754 nm Race was fundamentally decided in the very first hour in painfully light winds that continued for the next 40 hours. QtVLM's (Qt) Route has **Shadow Hunter** heading northwest while the majority of the fleet is heading north north-west presumably expecting to find higher winds in the open Atlantic with hurricanes brewing to the north. These winds did not materialize. The hurricanes seemed to be sucking the Atlantic winds north to be filled in by winds from the west out of the Caribbean Sea. It did not help that NOAA was having computer issues and there was no pre-race WX at UTC 1630.

5 hours and 44 minutes into the Race with **Shadow Hunter** and a few others going their own way looking like they had already been into the rum cargo! Will the rum last to Anegada? The fleet is fanning out. **SilverBim** (Bimmer) went north immediately at the start and then turned north-west. In a similar but opposite fashion **Drunk Dodo** (calmxy) went south immediately at the start before turning NW. What influenced them?



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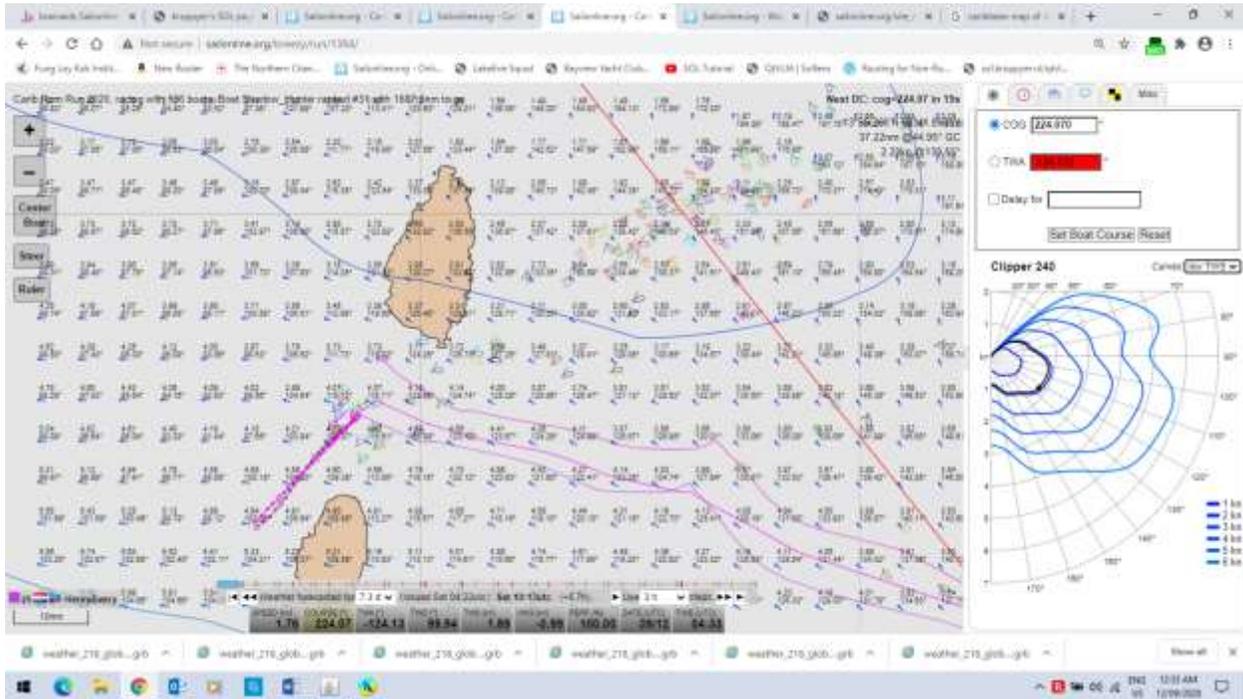
21 hours and 35 minutes and just over 50 nms into the Race and the fleet continues to separate. 24 boats including **Shadow Hunter** heading west of St Vincent and the other 110 boats are heading north north-west following the rhumbline. This will certainly be and was telling! **Shadow Hunter** is in good company since the 24 includes some high-ranking Solers in pirate disguise – **HenryEvery** (bonknhoot), **Silverbim** (Bimmer), **Drunk Dodo** (calmxy), fellow Canuk **azur** and POTSM **GreatSkua**. Look at the wind change ahead as it swings past the stern from port to starboard and drops to less than a knot in 3 hours. Those to the north-east will have slightly higher winds but not for long. Get out the rum! Note the interesting trail of **HenryEvery**! He must have been into the Rum! Those in the middle are keeping their options open or have changed their strategy in frustratingly low winds!



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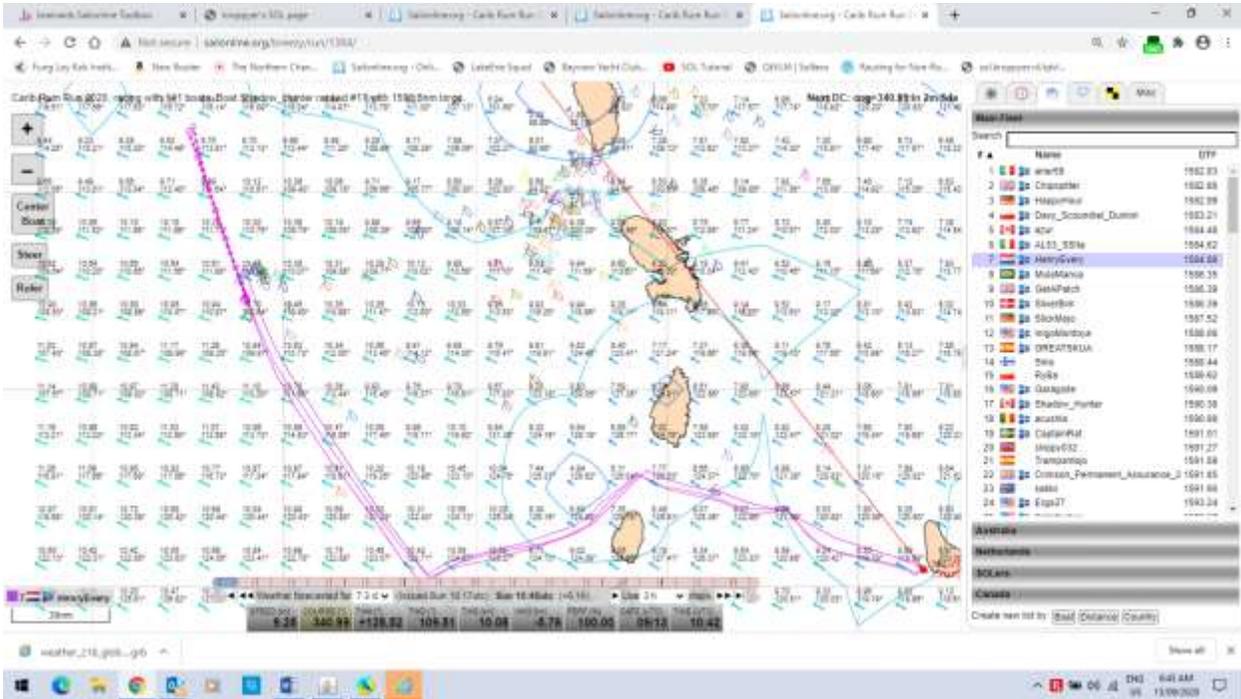
You see the major course change for **Shadow Hunter** and the other boats in this group including **HenryEvery** and **SilverBim** gybing to the SW with the exception of the Peruvian pirate **rafa** who likes the Podium without the gallows! Would you do this without Qt? Note the similar trails of **rafa** and **HenryEvery**. Are they getting similar routing advice or just thinking alike?

Look at the disarray in the fleet to the NE! Lack of wind causes chaos among sailors. Opinions abound! It is worse than strong winds. You need a dinghy sailor from Lake Ontario to be aboard! Hold your breath. Don't move! Be quiet. The crews must be running around on these decks! 1687 nms to go @ 1.76 knts! There'll be mutiny!

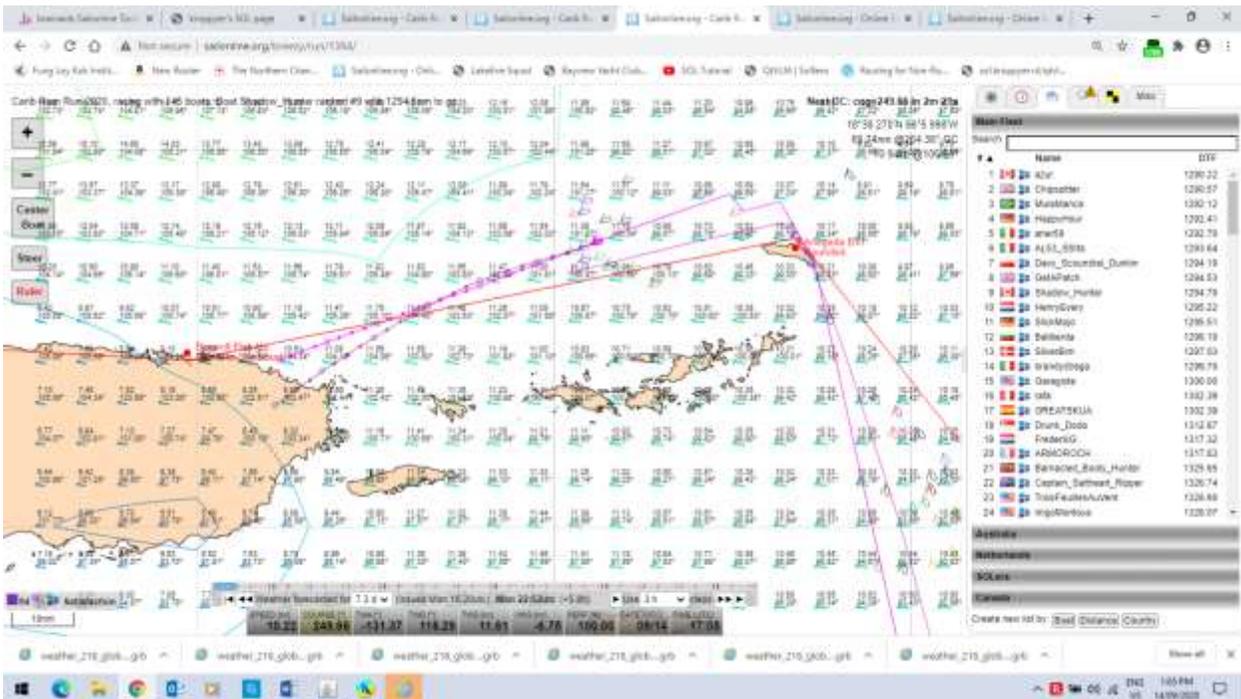


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Finally some decent winds. In the first 42 ½ hours the average boat speed was dismal 2.8 knts. Here we are 65 hours and 42 minutes into the Race and **aner59** (later disguised as **Trapelicino**) already has a 45 minute lead over **Shadow Hunter** and is 6 nms ahead, potentially an insurmountable lead but for a future missed rum pick-up! The east and west fleets are actually ~80 nms apart.

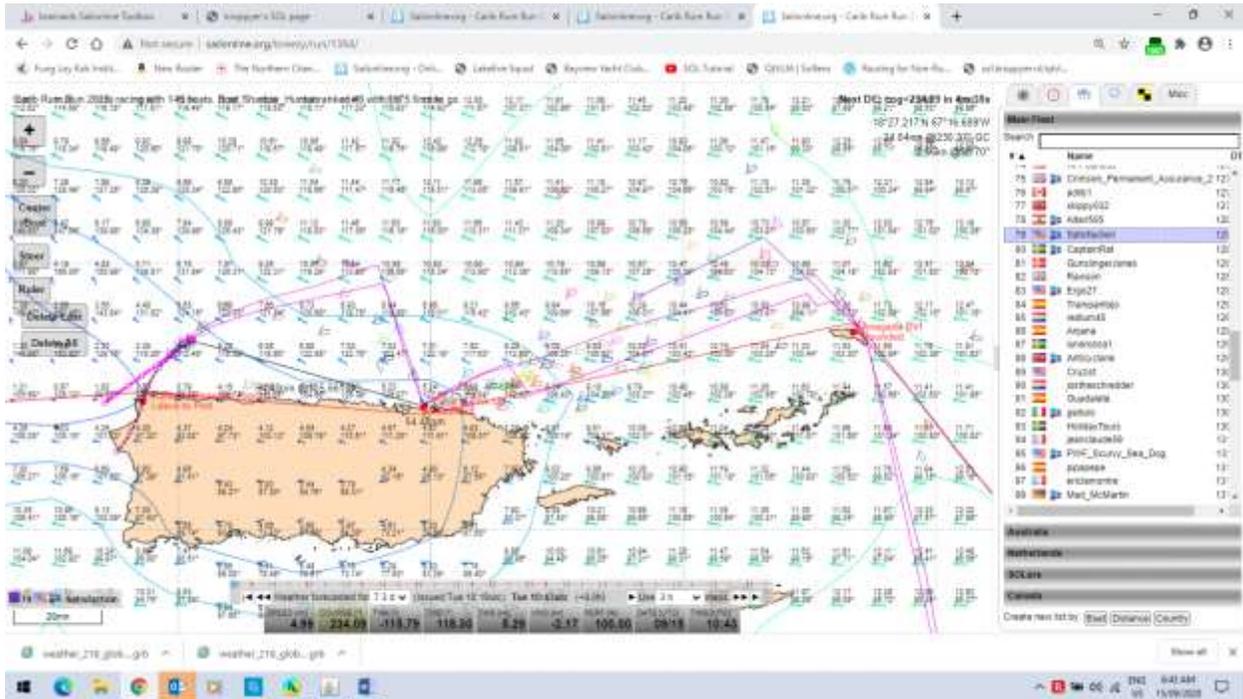


Group of 16 boats are up front having rounded Anegada heading for the Bacardi Pick-up.

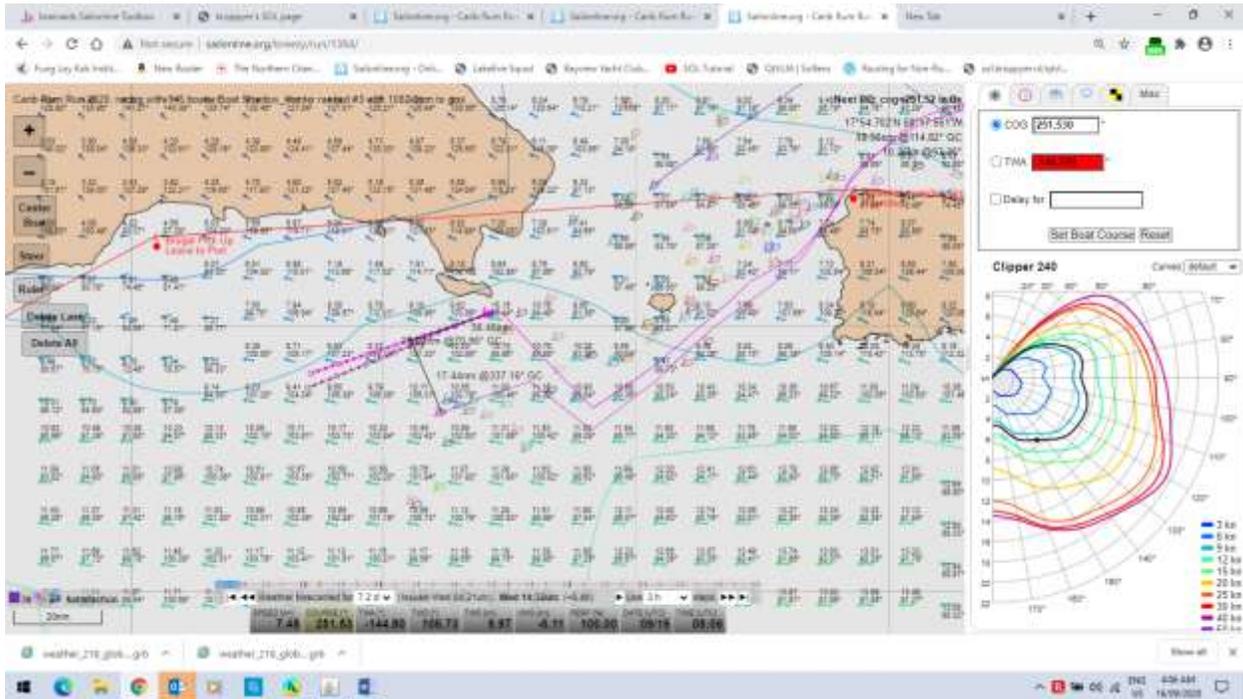


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Shadow Hunter has a confirmed rounding at the Bacardi Pick-up and will make it safely past western point of Puerto Rico. **HappyHour** and crew stopped for a quick BBQ!

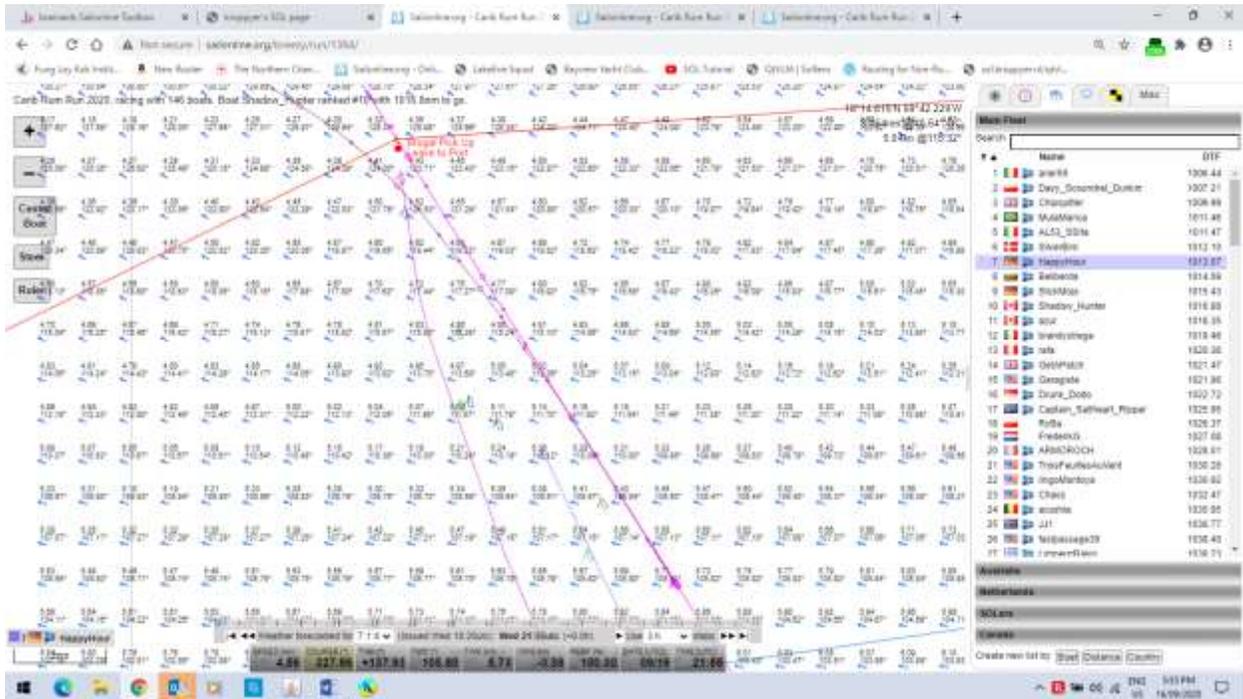


aner59 the leader is 17 nms SW and 19 nms ahead of **Shadow Hunter** in stronger winds. 15 hours to Brugal Pick-up which will reveal the true placings. Canuck friendly American pirate **Satisfaction** (FreyjaUSA) is 47 nms behind and ultimately had an admirable finish of 18th after starting to use Qt.

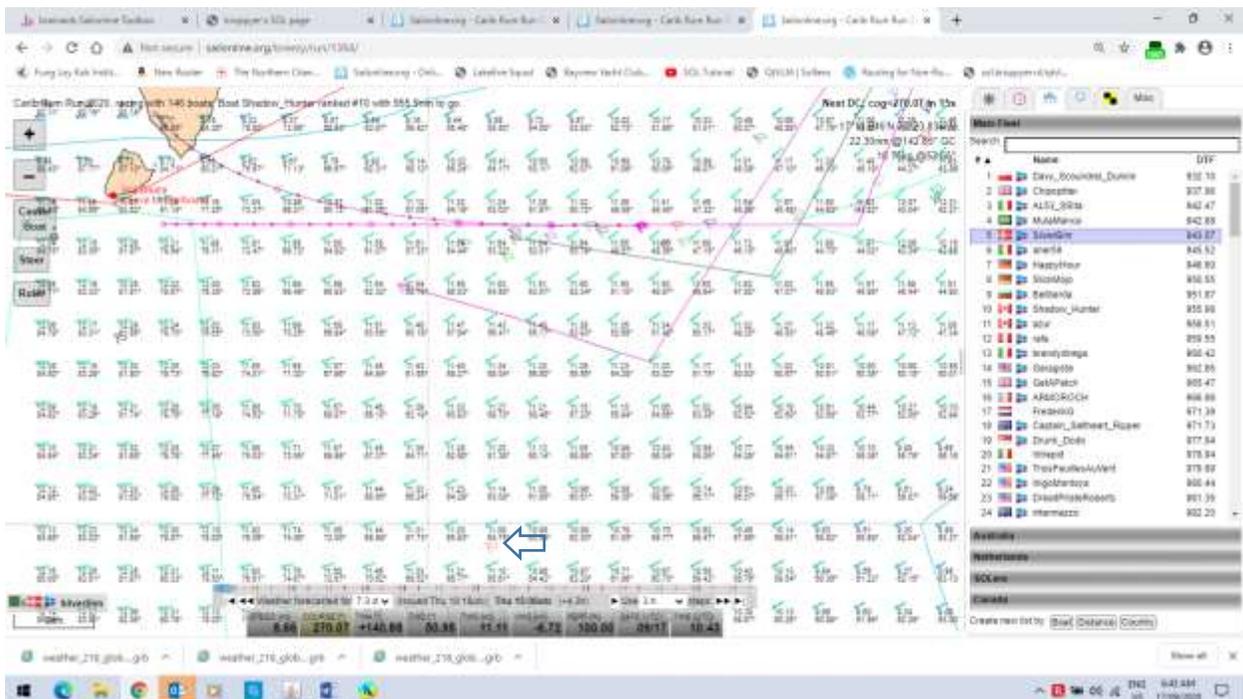


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Approaching the Brugal Pick-up (perhaps too closely!) **aner59** is 3 hours ahead of **Shadow Hunter**. **HenryEvery** who was in 2nd place has dropped out having found out that he missed the Bacardi Pick-up rounding when well past it. **Shadow Hunter** subsequently had a confirmed rounding.

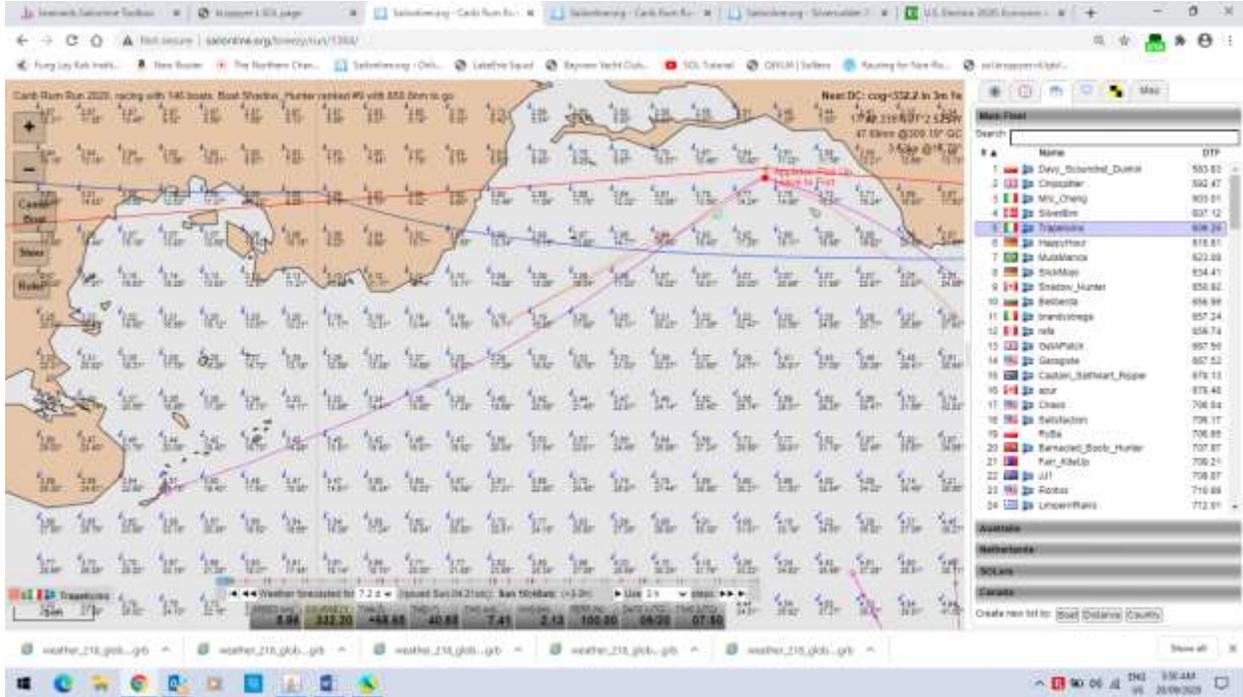


3 leaders on similar course trajectories past Isla Beta with better TWA. **aner59** well south 2 hours ahead of **Davy Scoundrel Dunkin**. What a lead! Next 10 boats in single-file parade to Appleton Pick-up. We all ended gybing to the south before heading back north. The 7 leaders made great gains this Leg.



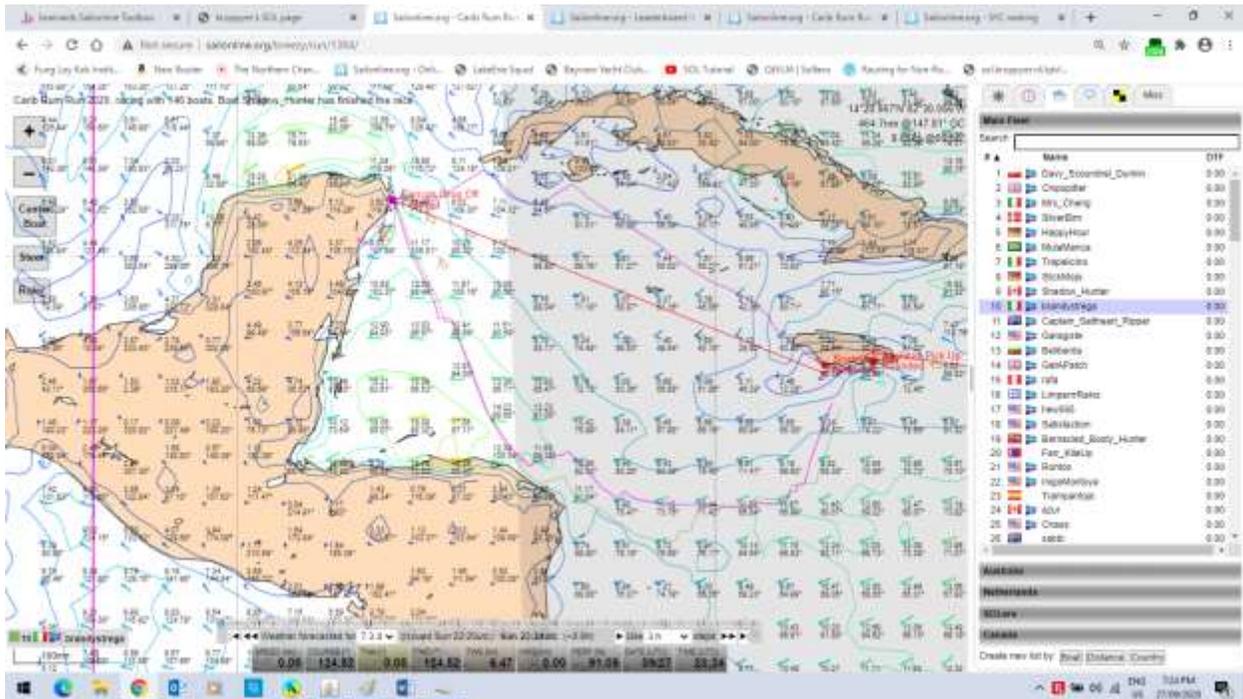
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I awoke for **Shadow Hunter's** rounding of the Appleton Pick-up to find that now disguised **Trapelicino** (aner59) with the insurmountable lead must have discovered that he missed a confirmed rounding of the Appleton Pick-up 10 nms after and was heading back for a confirmed rounding. I was also wondering if the new leader **Davy Scoundrel Dunkin** was going to make it through these islands! Yes.



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Here is the trail of **Shadow Hunter** to Cancun on a very southerly route. The telling feature of this Race was for **Davy Scoundrel Dunkin** and **Chipspitter** to choose a northerly route and you can see **Davy's** trail. In the Chatroom **Davy** said that one router said north and the other (Qt?) said south. Based on his experience in last year's race he did not choose Qt! His choice was not likely available to those behind, other than **Chipspitter**, because of their lead. They were remarkably patient in very light winds along the south coast of Jamaica until they broke free. They might have been having second thoughts! Those following the southern leaders did not have to go that far south. Placements did not change much on this crossing of the Caribbean Sea so there was not much more to tell. There were a couple of duels up front – **Mrs Cheng** and **SilverBim** vying for the 3rd spot on the Podium and **HappyHour** and **Trapelicino** who were overlapped heading right up to the Finish Line which **Trapelicino** passed for a BBQ in Honduras before recovering and losing one place in the standings. **Shadow Hunter** crossed in 9th place.



Using QtVLM (Qt)

I am just learning how to use the Qt routing software. This will be my third race using it so I still have a lot to learn but sharing how I am using it may be helpful to you. Learn from my mistakes! Tell me what I am doing wrong. The Manual tells you what Qt does but not really how to use it. This is my attempt!!

After registering for the Race a couple of days early I started producing routings using the then latest WX grib files. At first it looked like this Rum Run course might be perfect for a Pathway Routing, which I have not used up to now. So for a refresher on how this Qt Tool works I went back for a review of Tommy Cod's YouTube tutorial on its use – QtVlm Advanced Features – Part 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XgzjsirD2v4>

When I tried to make use of it each of the Marks got added into the Pathway quite nicely until I got to the Cancun Drop Off and Qt told me that the location was off the Grib! "Sorry, impossible to reach WP. Try another GRIB" when I thought that it was possible. I have not figured out a solution for this yet, which might involve adding a Mark. Kroppyer in his 2014 Introduction to QtVLM on Solfans says that this can happen if your start or end point is too close to shore. Later I learned that you could not get there within the Grib's 7 day forecast.

(I have not used Waypoints yet and as a result do not understand their use but sense that it may be an essential tool for me to connect the individual routes I am creating between Race Marks. *I have seen a response from Maitai in the QtVLM Forum to "How do I create a Waypoint?". Response – "Create a Pathway, then a Routing on that Pathway. Set Routing Quality to Maximum if the legs are small."* Why do I suspect that those expert in the use of Qt would be using this tool in races such as the SilverRudder that circumnavigate an island? Would they also be using the Barrier Tool? I will have to experiment on a Timed Race Course! Would you use it in Practice Races?)

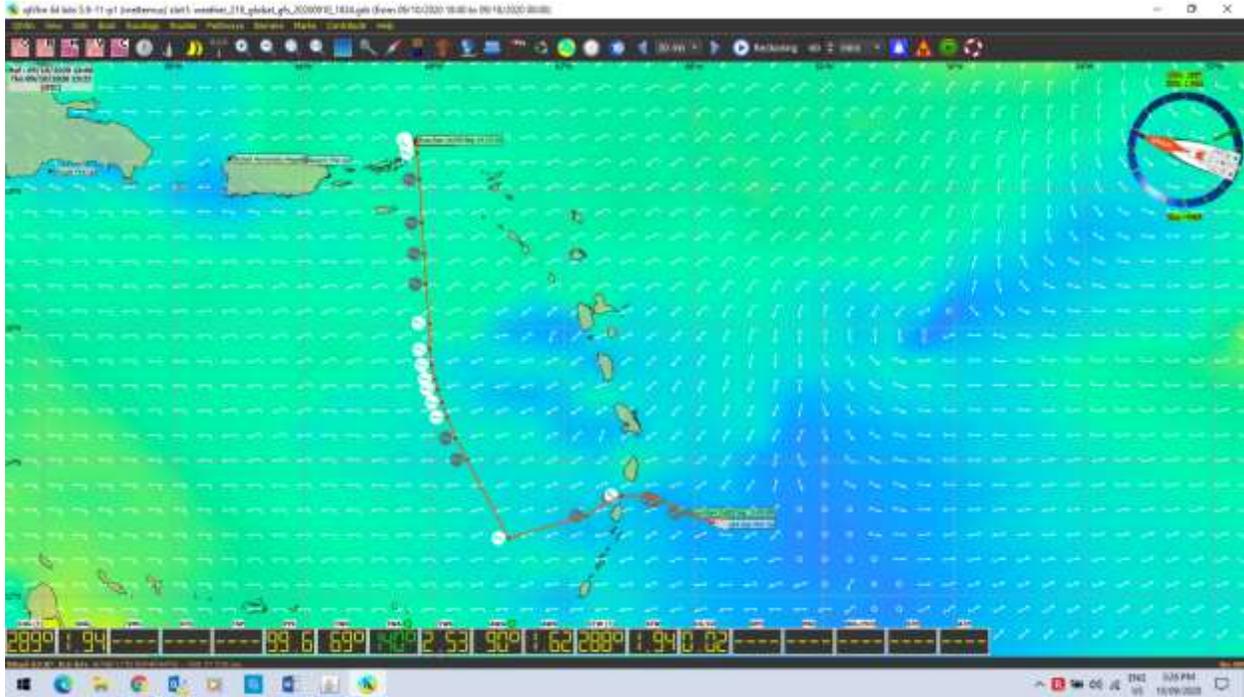
So I went back to creating a routing between the boat at the Mount Gay Starting location and Anegada BVI. First I put a Port Mark in at Anegada to make sure that **Shadow Hunter** passed this location to Port. The route created went almost all the way to Anegada to the east of the Islands of the Lesser Antilles and then cut between Martinique and Dominica before turning north. In converting this routing to a route it was actually bumping into some of the islands. I have been told by **bonknhoot** that this can be solved by making the POI "unsimplifiable". This Route had a large number of POI's so that seemed impractical but I did have an approximation of the Route. So I thought maybe I should recreate the routing and put in a Pivot Point at a spot that would cause it to miss the islands it was hitting. I have not used Pivot Points yet but was aware of them from Tommy Cod's YouTube tutorial – QtVlm Advanced Features – Part 1.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-bxglllEtU0>

This seemed to do the trick but I was now forcing the routing to go to this Pivot Point on its way to Anegada which might not be the fastest way as weather changes and the Route is up-dated! When I converted the Routing to a Route the Optimization went on and on and I finally stopped that process but still had a Route. This Route took **Shadow Hunter** up the coast of the Island of Trinidad to the east of the Mount Gay Start. Knowing this was the Route I then put a Mark in at the north end of the Island on the course of the Route and created a shorter routing to this Mark thinking that after the Race starts and I get to this Mark then I will create a new Route to Anegada from the boat with the latest WX grib file.

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All of these issues, which I still need to investigate and understand, seem to have gone away with the latest pre-race WX grib download which takes **Shadow Hunter** west of the Lesser Antilles island chain between Grenada and St. Vincent and then to a clear run north to Anegada! Having said that, at UTC 1700 there was no 1630 WX. Apparently NOAA has been processing super slowly for the last 24 hours with delayed or missed WX updates. So I started the Race using the UTC 1030 data and that separated me from the fleet. **Shadow Hunter** is going northwest with a boat speed of 1.03 knts and a TWA of about 160° compared to the northbound fleet which appear to be on a TWA of around 180° which should give them a boat speed of around 1.4 knts. Shadow Hunter is either going to be first or last!! I am sticking with the Qt routing just to see how accurate it is! I do notice that Qt is avoiding the “pops” in the TWA that is being sailed and using the Polar to a TWA advantage. (My settings 100% Polar 100% TWS.)



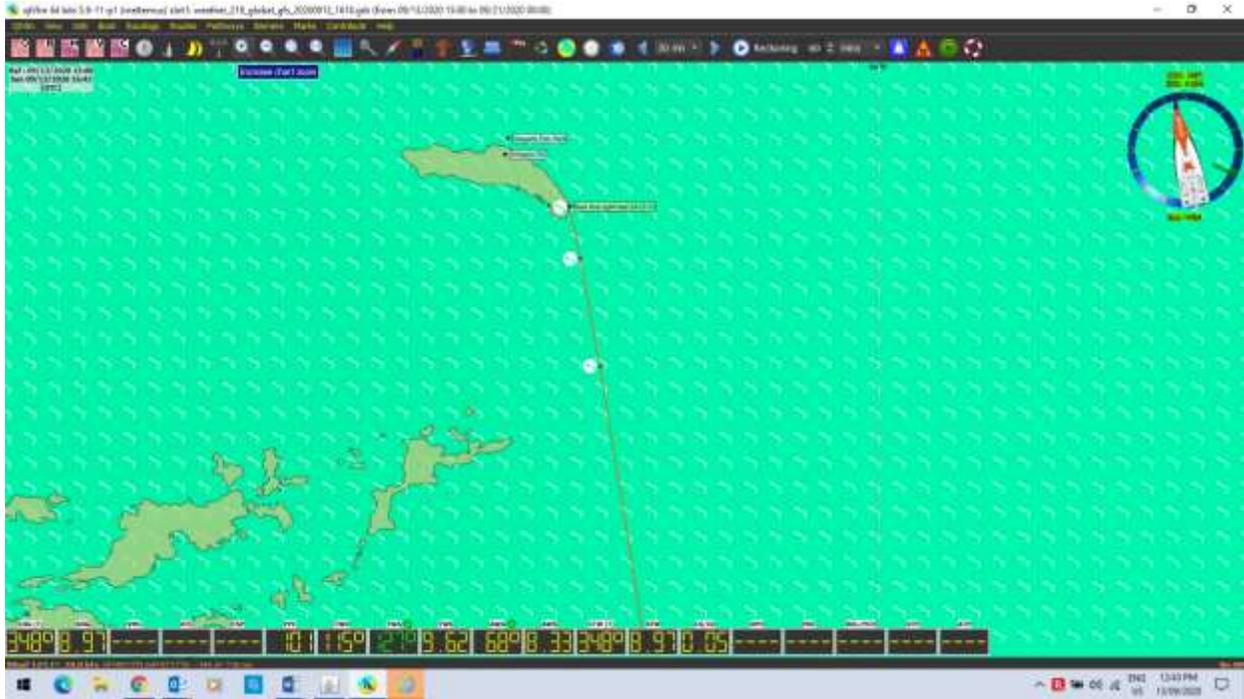
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I put a Mark in at the position of **Rawson**, lead boat east of St. Vincent, and created a routing which you see here in pink. **Rawson** is said to arrive at Anegada Port Mark at UTC 19:51 on September 14th 7 hours and 14 minutes after **Shadow Hunter**. This speaks to the advantage to those of us who went west.

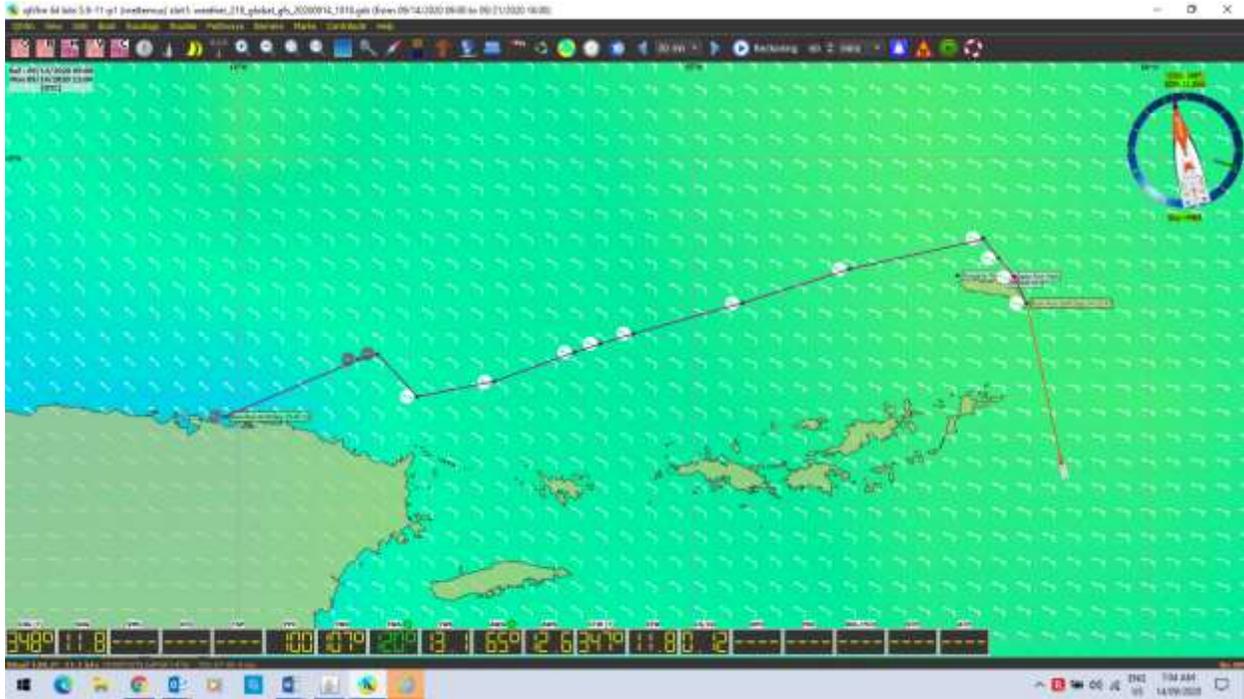


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After the UTC 1630 WX I decided that I had better produce a new routing. The previous Routes were hitting the eastern end of the Anegada Island to get to the Anegada Port Mark I had placed off shore. I put in a new East of Anegada Mark at the eastern end of the Island to solve the problem and created the Orange Route you see below. I have not decided what I am going to do when I get there! Qt or SOMP's? ETA at the East Anegada Mark is September 14th UTC 13:17.

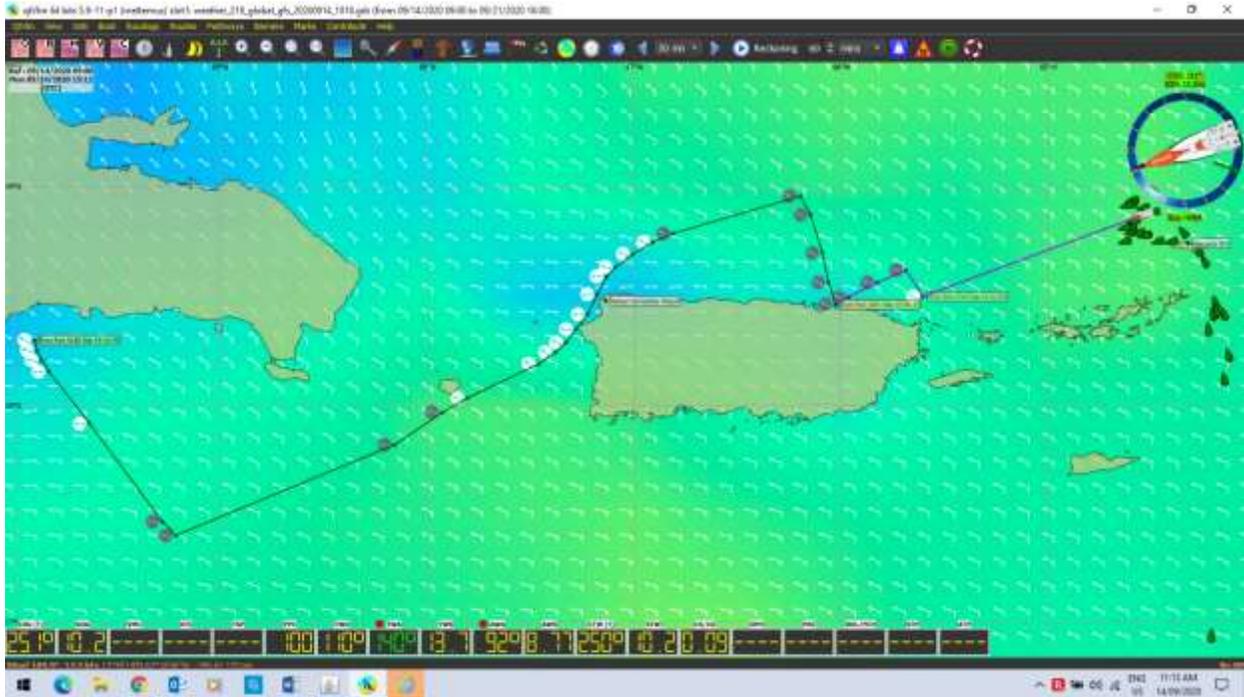


After the September 14th UTC 10:30 WX I created a routing from Anegada East Mark starting at ETA UTC 12:47 to the Bacardi Pick-up which fortunately went north of Anegada and gave me a COG 335.24° for after the arrival which I could use while creating a routing from the boat to Bacardi Pick-up.



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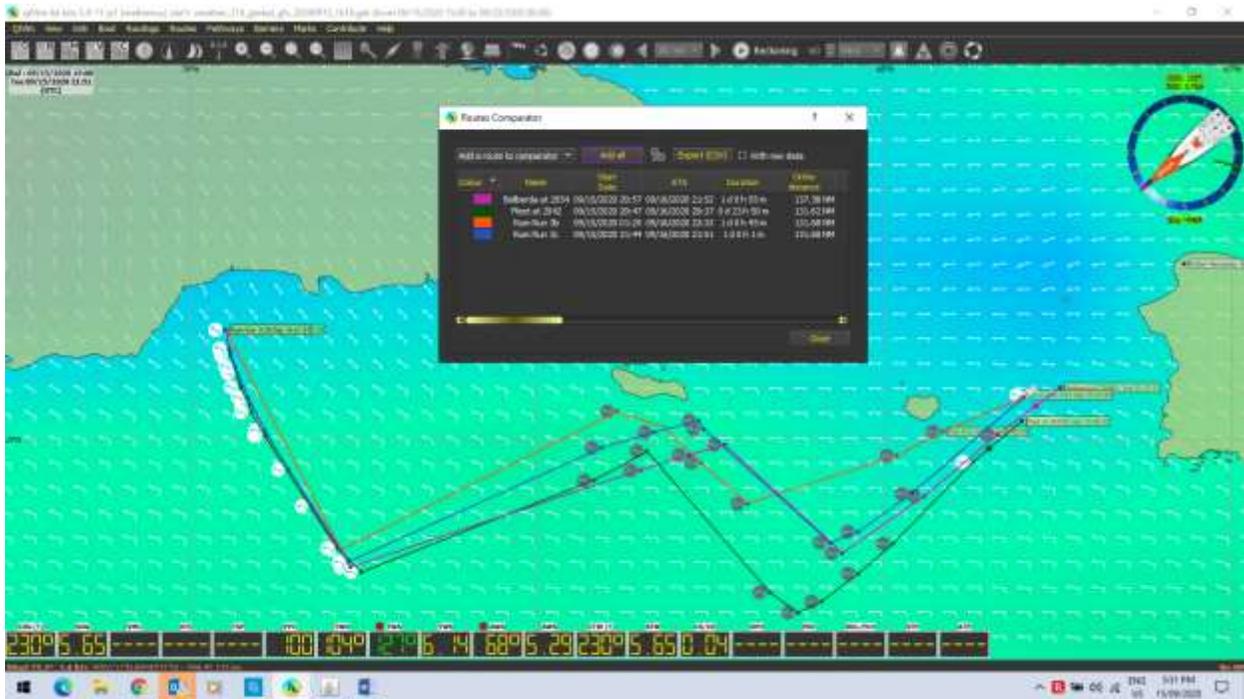
Possible Route to Brugal Pick-up starting at Bacardi Pick-up ETA of September 15th UTC 01:25 and arriving September 16 at UTC 16:26



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I became worried about Qt and the fact that the fleet have much higher boat speed. I created these additional routings for comparison. The Orange is **Shadow Hunter's** course which has too many tacks and gybes in it south of Isla Saona Domi of the Dominican Republic. The Green is the Fleet Leader at UTC 2042 who is already 2 hours ahead but 6 nms SE and scheduled to arrive 1 hour and 56 minutes ahead of **Shadow Hunter** – essentially neutral. The Purple route is for **Beliberda** who is parallel to **Shadow Hunter** but 4.4 nms SE and will arrive 41 minutes ahead. This is the course that concerns me. The clincher is that both of these competitor courses have 3 tacks and gybes while the Orange course of **Shadow Hunter** has 67! As a result I deleted my DC's and altered course to a TWA of 120° and increased boat speed by .7 knts. I will stay on this course for 1 hour and create another routing for comparison. I need to get rid of these tacks and gybes. There may be a way through the simplification optimization process that I am not yet familiar with!

This Blue Route now improved my arrival by 42 minutes and has **Shadow Hunter** arriving 1 minute ahead of **Beliberda** and has thankfully reduced the tacks and gybes to 4. Now to upload it. We will see at the Brugal Pick-up whether it was a mistake to follow Qt and not cover the leaders. I was at the tail-end of the leaders except for **SilverBim** who was .08 nms behind! Imagine behind! He finished 6 hours and 38 minutes ahead of **Shadow Hunter**! My thinking was that nothing will change if I follow the leaders unless someone makes a mistake. I had overlooked the 47 tacks and gybes in my Orange Route hidden in the low screen resolution. I should have reviewed the Route Log beginning to end or looked at in the Route Comparator. It looks like the mistake will have been mine. So I will try and stay ahead of **Beliberda** and **SlickMojo** and I will have only lost one place to **SilverBim** who with his experience would have been hard for me to stay ahead of in any case. Updated with UTC 2230 WX the simplification and optimisation took 4 minutes off of the Blue Route.



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Looking ahead I wanted a Route from the Brugal Pick-up to the Appleton Pick-up using a Fixed Starting Time of the ETA at the Brugal Pick-up. I wanted to have a sense of the Route and a COG to follow after rounding while I am creating a routing from the moving boat to the Appleton Pick-up.

I also wanted to get some idea how my Qt setting choices were impacting the routings and the ultimate ETA. I looked at what settings I thought could have an impact:

- Boat Settings/Tacks and Gybes – I was using 83% on both with 1 crank at the suggestion of **Dingo**. **Bonknhoot** had suggested that I try 98% for tacks and 93% for gybes.
- Routing Settings – Best Performance vs Best Accuracy – I was, at my screen resolution, about 2/3's along the 6 inch selection bar at about 4 1/4 inches. **freeNeasy** told me that your selection impacts the length of time the Route Simplification/Optimization process takes. Faster at the Performance end and slower at the Accuracy end (could take up to 15+ minutes).
- Edit Route – Wind/Polar Corrections – I was using 100% for both TWS and Polar Efficiency. I certainly saw that Qt was staying out of the dips in the Polar of this Clipper 240.

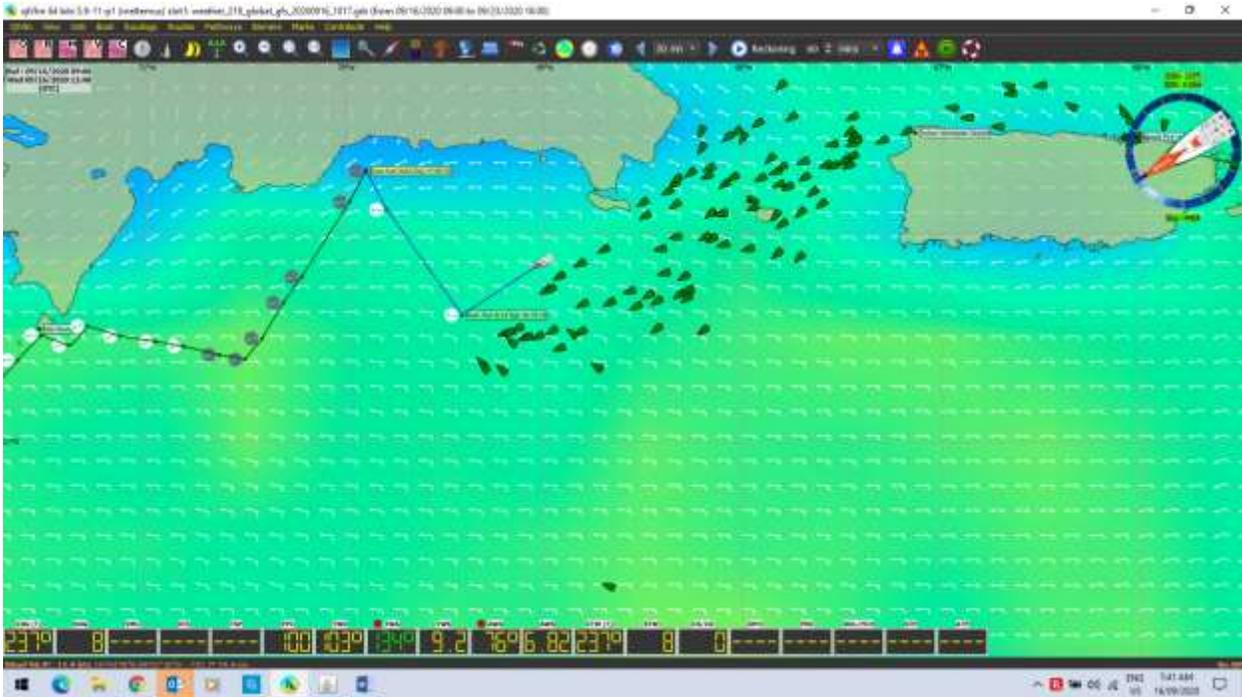
I then set about creating a multiple number of converted routings trying various combinations and permutations of these settings observing the time it took to Simplify and Optimize and then in Route Comparator comparing ETA, number of nms sailed vs Ortho, number of tacks and gybes. I guess this is what all new users of Qt have to do to see what seems to work best and is highly competitive. Maybe it will be different depending on the Polar?

I ended up settling on a Route shown on the next screen print in Green that continued to use 83% for Tacks and Gybes and Wind Corrections of 100% for both TWS and Polar Efficiency but changed Routing Setting to choose Best Accuracy notwithstanding the length of time the Simplification/Optimization process might take. **freeNeasy** told me that there might be times when you are in a hurry to produce a Route and might opt for Best Performance. Later when I created a sample routing/Route from the Appleton Pick-up to Cancun the Simplification/Optimization process took 14 minutes and 46 seconds to save 8 minutes on a Route of 824.35 nms sailed in 5 days and 11 hrs and 34 minutes. IRL maybe not, but on SOL it could win a race!

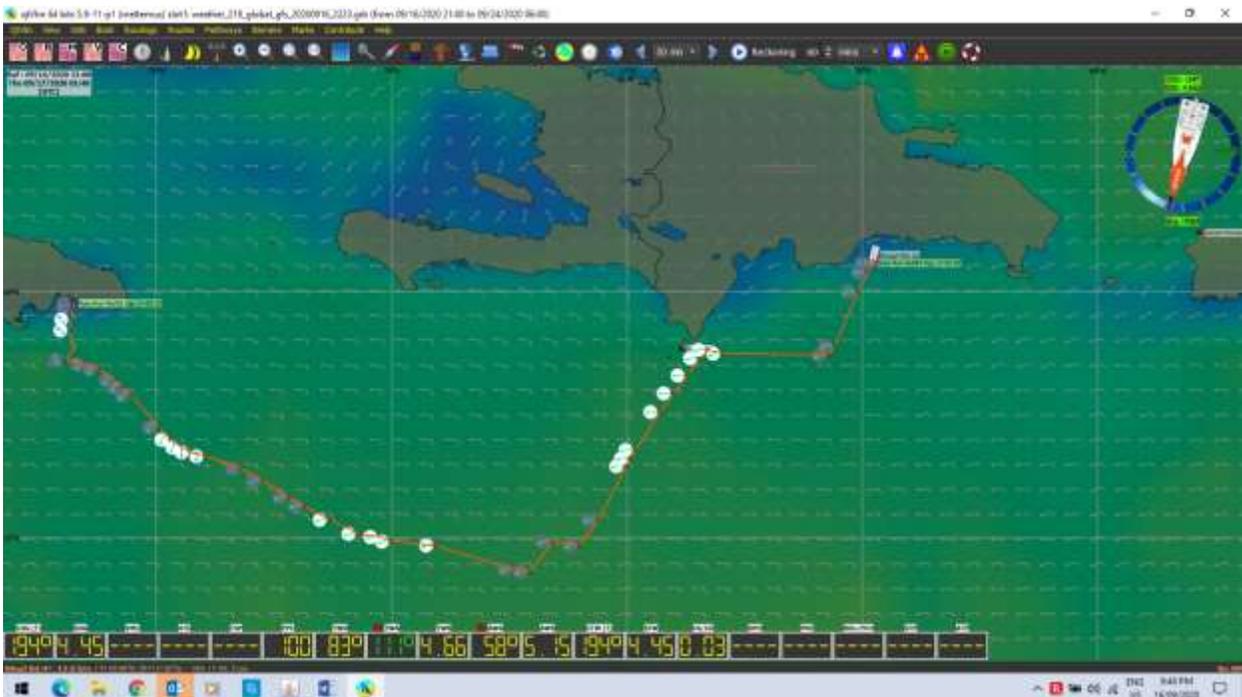
Later in the Race I discovered what I believe may have been a critical mistake I was making. Only the results confirm this not advice from someone who knows better. After a WX grib upload to Qt I was applying it to my existing Route and simplifying and optimizing, a quick process. I continued to be troubled as to why the small group of Leaders in this Race were always on a course trajectory slightly different but significantly so. As a result I started creating a brand new routing after a new WX grib upload and getting different and better ETA results compared to my WX updated existing Route. Why? Is it because the updating is simply modifying the last *retained* portion of the existing Route in the established original Simplification/Optimization process versus a brand new and lengthy process for a new Route? Whatever the reason I started creating a new routing/Route after each WX but too late in the Race. I felt that this probably cost me at least two places but is keeping **Shadow Hunter** in the second group behind the 7 leaders. I continue to be amazed as to how this Group of 7 just got way ahead and how **SilverBim**, **HappyHour**, **rafa** and even **azur** just consistently weave their way through to the front! And where is **Drunk Dodo** (calmxy) in this Race? I will be looking over my shoulder!

I have not overlooked the possibility that some may be using Expedition software (**Davy Scoundrel Dunkin?**). On this front there has been two books written on the use of Expedition software. How is it that no one has written a book on using QtVLM? Maybe there is one in French. If so we need an English translation!

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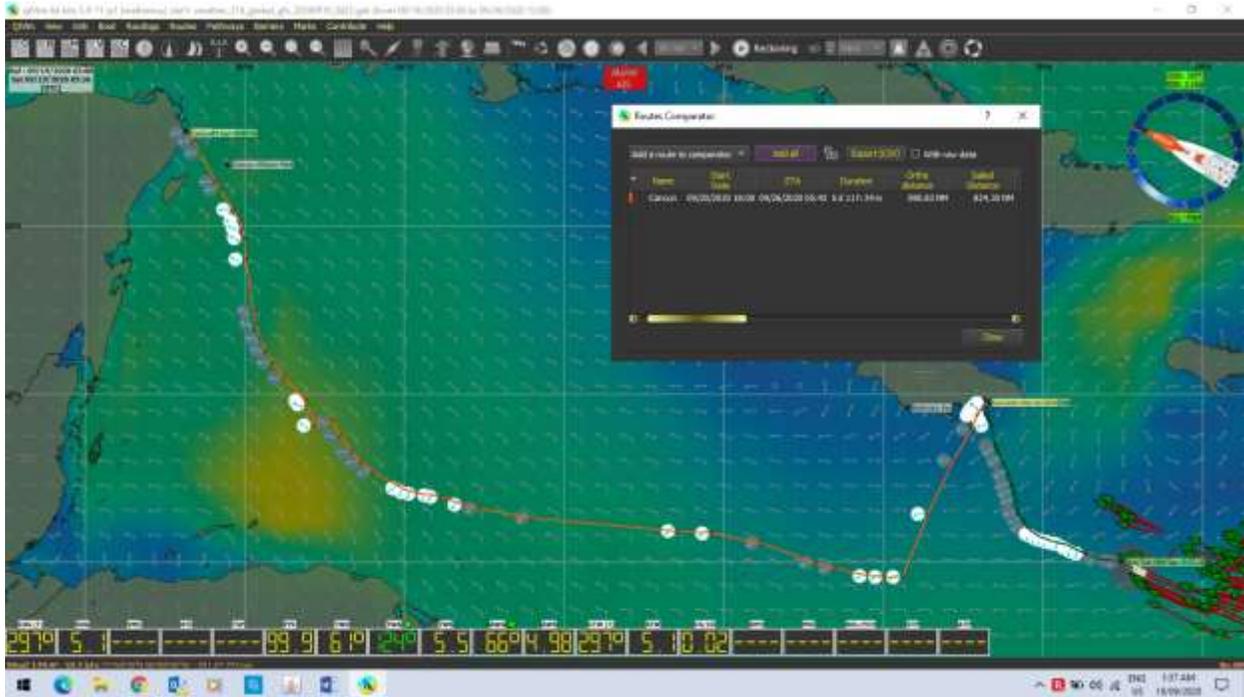
Post rounding Brugal Pick-up at UTC 0107 confirmed. New Orange Route from the boat to replace the Green and use going forward using same settings as the Green Route. Optimization took 7 mins 58 seconds and took off 5 hrs and 4 mins. ETA 21st 0433. 542 nms vs 388 ortho. 26 tacks and gybes.



Approaching Isla Beata before a gybe south. No BBQ was planned and I was awake in case **Quiet Trouble** and the crew were planning a rum party while looking for buried treasure! ETA now September 20th UTC 2248

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A look at the Route to Cancun Drop-off starting at Appleton Pick-up ETA of September 20th UTC 1808. ETA at Cancun Drop-off September 26th UTC 0542. Using 2/3rds between Performance and Accuracy the simplification/optimization took 14 minutes and 46 seconds to save 8 minutes in ETA. Trip duration 5 days 11 hrs and 34 mins (131 hrs and 34 mins). After Appleton Pick-up rounding - COG 224.21°, TWA -94.96°, TWS 3.51 knts, SOG 2.54 knts. Trip BS – Avge 6.26 knts, Max 9.80 knts, Min 1.70 knts. Ortho distance 598.83 nms. Sailed distance 824.35 nms an additional 225.42 nms. Number of tacks and gybes = 3. Boat speed of an additional 0.38 knts per hr required to gain ~50 nms held by Leaders over the remaining ~132 hrs.



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See how the passed POI remains and needs to be deleted. Route revision with this POI remaining would have **Shadow Hunter** sailing back to this POI first before proceeding to Appleton Pick-up! That is why you must always compare the 1st COG of new Log with the NMEA course being sailed before Applying.



Just look at the hurricanes!!



Carib Rum Run 2020

Post the confirmed rounding of the Appleton Pick-up here is the new Green Route from the boat to Cancun. The red section of the Route indicates some island land that it had not avoided and the chance for a BBQ in approximately a day and a half. I will worry about that as we get closer should new post WX routes not avoid them. In the Chatroom **Davy Scoundrel Dunkin** indicated that he is using two routing systems and one is sending him north and one south. As he hugs the shoreline of Jamaica it seems obvious that he might have chosen the northern route! If the fleet splits between north and south it may be an interesting finish. What choice will the leaders make? At present **Davy** the scoundrel is the only one heading north! It looks like he is not relying on Qt! How about those immediately behind me, **brandystrega**, **Beliberda** and **rafa**. The first two who have rounded are on the same course line as **Shadow Hunter**. **rafa** has yet to round. Presumably local knowledge would be helpful. Is this counter clockwise wind rotation centred south of Cuba always there?

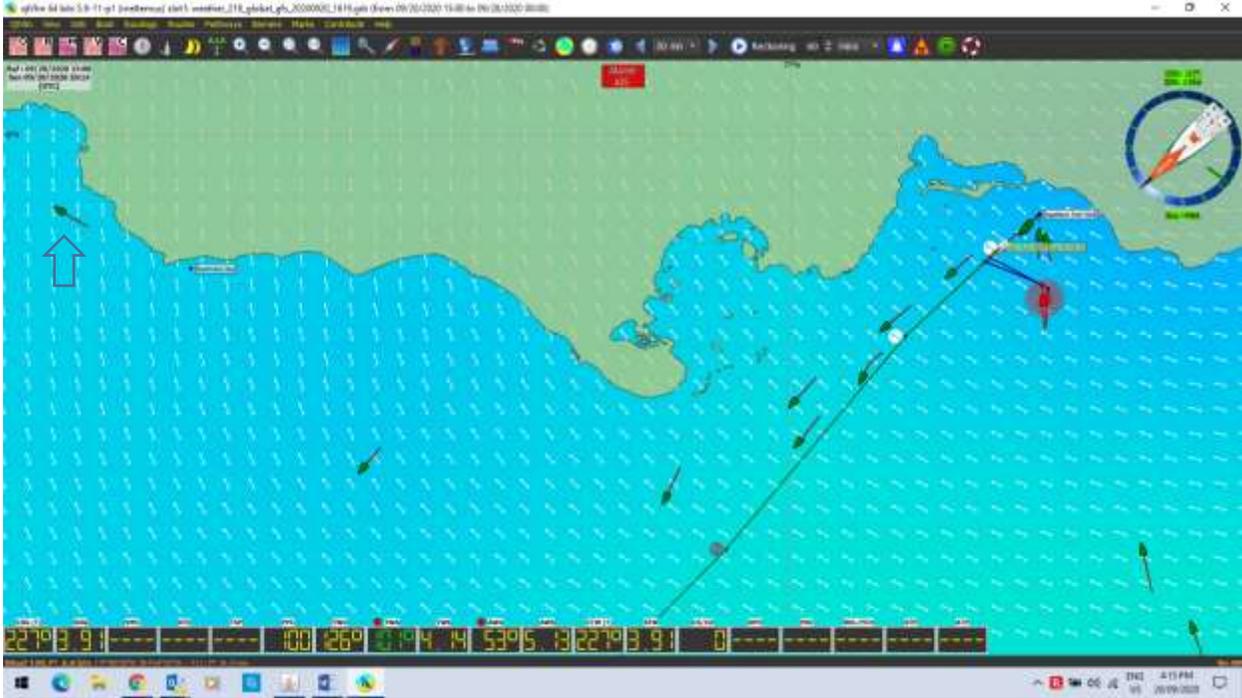
This Green Route to Cancun has **Shadow Hunter** arriving at the Cancun drop-off in 5 days 4 hrs and 45 minutes at UTC 0038 on September 26th. The simplification/optimisation process took 12 minutes and 22 seconds. **Shadow Hunter** will be sailing 824.19 nms compared to the ortho of 597.66 nms, an additional 226.53 nms. Boat speed ave 6.60 knts, max 9.18 knts, min 3.01 knts with 5 tacks and gybes. The initial COG is 230° with TWA -103° and SOG 3.71 knts. The ultimate arrival at the Finish Line was 11 hours later!



Carib Rum Run 2020

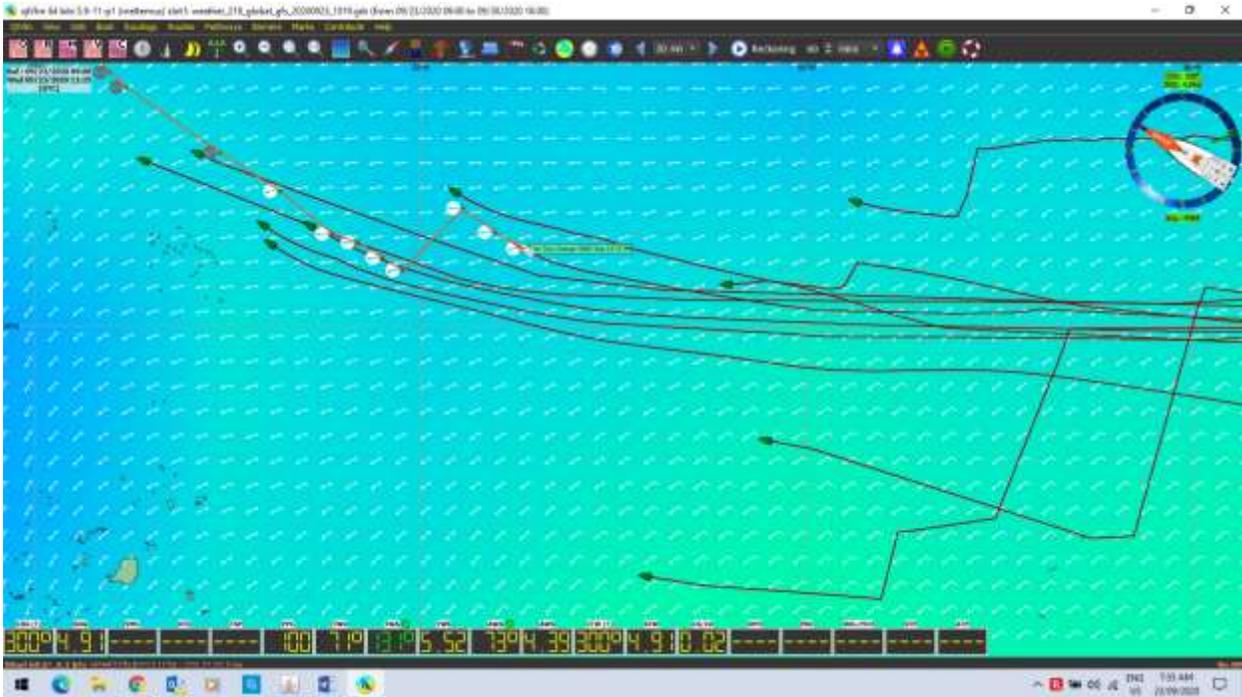
Here you see leader **Davy Scoundrel Dunkin** off to the northwest on his own hugging the shoreline of Jamaica having passed the Boatsmans Bay Mark to starboard presumably with the intent of taking the northern route that must be from his other routing system. Is it Expedition? The SOL wind bar shows that the winds will be consistently higher in the north over the next 24 hrs. Is **Davy** right? This was clearly the telling decision of the Race. Only **Chipspitter** followed and they took the first two spots on the Podium.

Shadow Hunter remains in 9th place. This is likely to be the last time actual positions will be known until we cross the Finish Line in Cancun in 5 days.

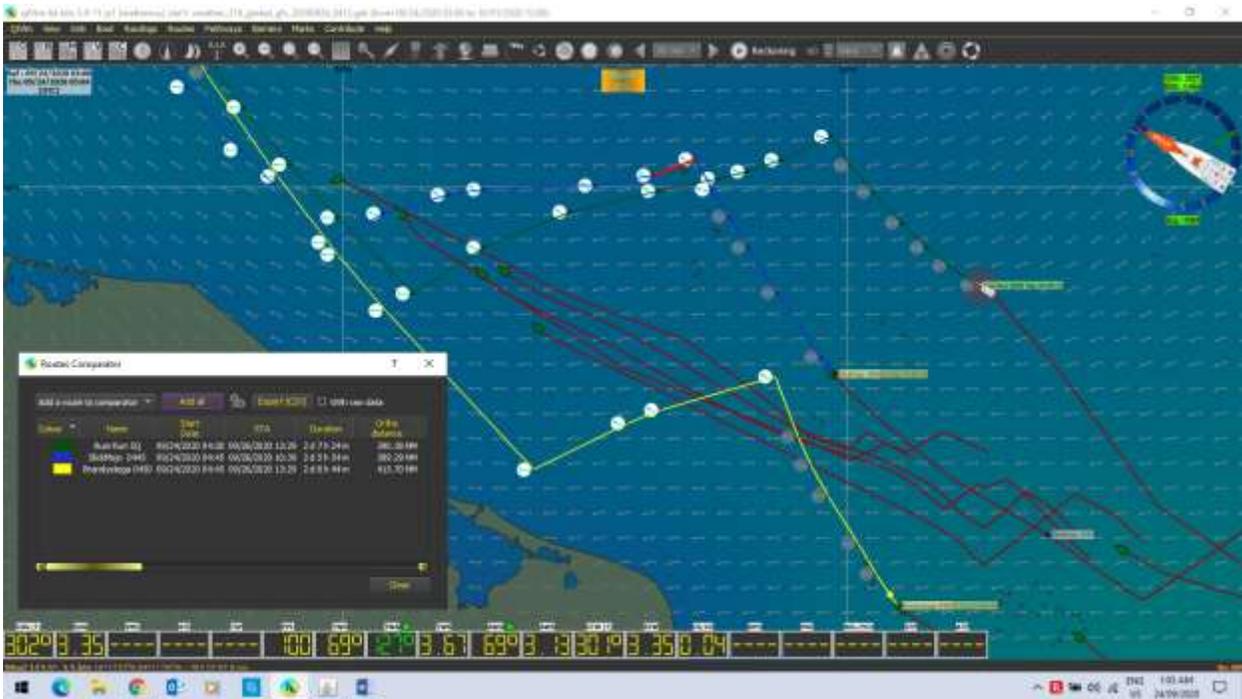


I like the AIS to be on so that I can see the trails of the other boats, the course they are sailing, and the ability to hover my mouse over the boat and get their NMEA details, particularly boat speed and distance from **Shadow Hunter**. If it gets too messy with trails you can turn AIS off and then back on again which starts the trails over again from that point in time. The boat images are easier to see than on the SOL screen. You can see who is adjusting their course, who might be sailing TWA and those virtually straight-line COG courses. Immediately after a new WX grib download course changes may be signalling who is updating their routing and who is not!

Carib Rum Run 2020



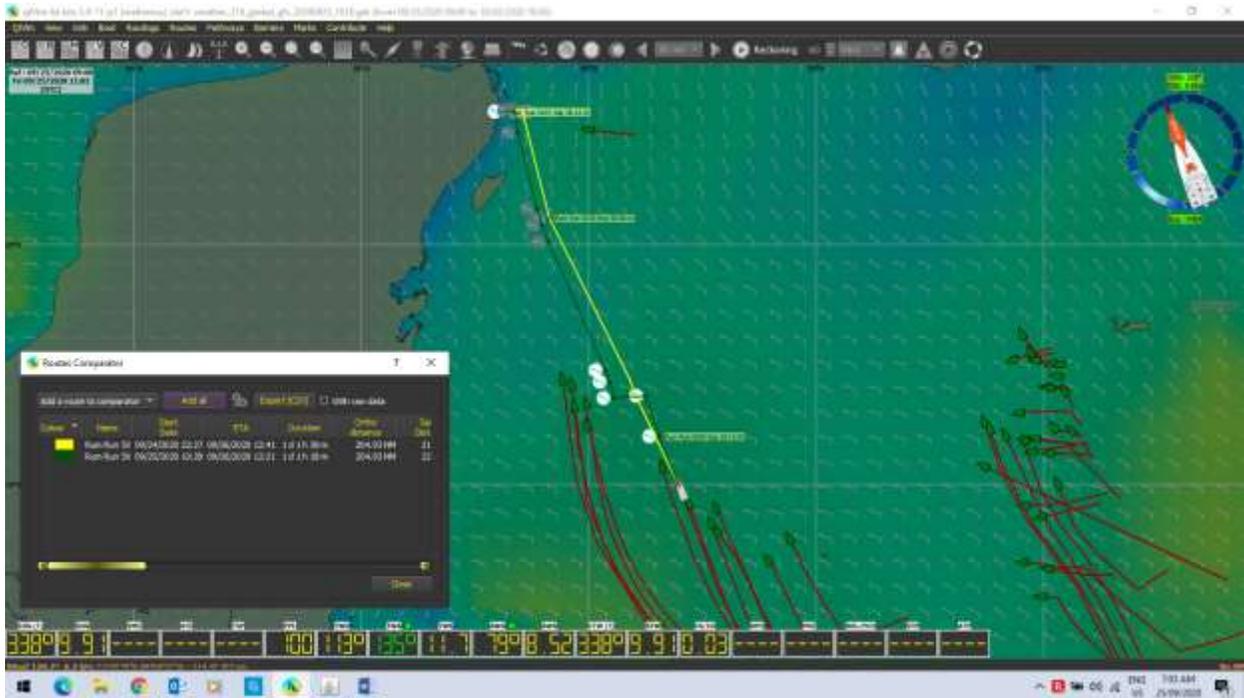
September 24th post the WX of UTC 0430 - I created Routes for **SlickMojo** (Blue) and **brandystrega** (Yellow). Cancun ETA for **SlickMojo** is September 26th UTC 1039 an improvement of 2 hrs and 38 minutes and has him arriving 1 hr and 51 minutes ahead of **Shadow Hunter**. ETA for **brandystrega** is UTC 1329 an hour and 1 minute behind **Shadow Hunter**.



Carib Rum Run 2020

September 25th UTC 1043 post WX 1030 - New Green Route with a Cancun ETA of tomorrow September 26th UTC 1221, an improvement over the WX updated existing Yellow Route of 19 minutes. Another example of the need to create a new route after a WX for comparison. **Shadow Hunter** remains in 9th place and has a boat speed of 9.8 knts. **SlickMojo** is 12.55 nms ahead at 10.3 knts. **brandystrega** is 9.39 nms behind at 10.1 knts and has gained 2.4 nms in the last 11 ½ hrs. I created a route for **brandystrega** and it has a Cancun ETA of UTC 1319, 58 minutes after **Shadow Hunter**.

The 13 leaders have become divided into 3 distinct groups – on the northern route **Davy Scoundrel Dunkin** who has already a record finish of UTC 04:44:13 today and **Chipspitter** who has just 40 nms to go. In the south there is then a group of the next 5 – **Mrs Cheng** with 133 nms to go followed by **SilverBim** 4 nms behind and who will always be challenging for a Podium spot, **Trapelicino**, **HappyHour** and **MulaManca**. There is then a third group 32 nms behind - **SlickMojo** with 190 nms to go followed by **Shadow Hunter** and **Brandystrega** who will be continuing to try and overtake **Shadow Hunter** for 9th place, **Captain Saltheart Ripper**, **Garagiste** and **Beliberda**. The 14th place boat is a further 40 nms behind. This is now something of a parade to the Cancun Drop-off providing they all keep their Routes updated with each of the next 4 WX reports and there are no dramatic wind shifts in the next 25 hours. However, the boats in front will be continually sailing into lightening winds which, of course, gives the boats behind something of a continuing advantage. Hopefully 9th place is secure but I think that I could have done better by at least 1 or 2 places just by creating a new Route with each WX report rather than just updating the existing Route. Unfortunately, I did not know enough about Qt to start doing this until several days into this Race of 16 days. Yes, 16 days and 64 WX reports! So a conservative new route improvement over an updated existing route of say 5 minutes each WX report amounts to a 5 hour improvement in ETA. As I keep repeating, a very important lesson learned in the use of Qt. Perhaps this is a given for those already versed in the use of routing software IRL! How many other little things make a difference – the Qt settings, the roundings? Deviating from the Qt routing to cover your competitors in the short-term at the expense of ETA? Who cares about ETA providing you get there ahead of everyone else! Qt doesn't know that!



Carib Rum Run 2020

Shadow Hunter crossed the Finish Line September 26th at UTC 11:23:36 in 9th Place of the 125 boats racing and the 146 boats registered. It was a long race for **Shadow Hunter** - 15 days, 18 hours, 23 minutes and 36 seconds and even longer for the remaining 117 boats still on the course. I was on the six-hour watch system and at the helm for each of those 64 WX Reports! In the process I created and uploaded 106 new Routes to Kroppyer's, BrainAid and SOL. I treated this Race just as I would have had I been on-the-water and at the nav-table. Fortunately, I had in this pirates race **Quiet Trouble** at the helm much of the time but, just like IRL, I could not ignore the other pirates. As I have said, and you all know, it is not about getting to the Finish Line as fast as you can. It is about getting there before the competition! I had to get "about" into the Report so that you would recognize my Canadian accent!

Cancun now has its year's supply of rum! Agrrr...

I hope that you derived both pleasure and Qt knowledge from this Report. If you want to consistently be in the SYC Top 20 in the long-distance races you need to be using routing software, particularly if you want to get some sleep! I do want to thank the Members of SOL who have reached out to mentor me on the use of QtVLM, particularly **bonknhoot**, **Dingo** and **freeNeasy** and the others who have responded to my questions in the Sailtalk Chatroom and the Technical Forum. In this Report I am attempting to pass on that generosity as I learn how to use this routing software in this racing environment. It has certainly helped move **Satori** up both the Leadership Board and the SYC Ranking. I also have got tremendous satisfaction from the technical sailing knowledge I have gained that is so relevant IRL on-the-water. Tell as many sailors as you can that SOL is a place of learning for those with long-distance sailing on their bucket list and for juniors who aspire to navigation not to mention us Seniors who thought our long-distance racing was virtually over! How about the locations!

If you have not become a Member of the SailOnLine Yacht Club I encourage you to do so in order to support this not-for-profit volunteer organization from which you and I derive so much pleasure, especially during this Covid-19 imposing isolation. For you pirates it is less than the proceeds from a case of rrrum and this Race was SOL's Membership Drive for 2020.

September 27, 2020

John Gambles/Satori/Shadow Hunter