

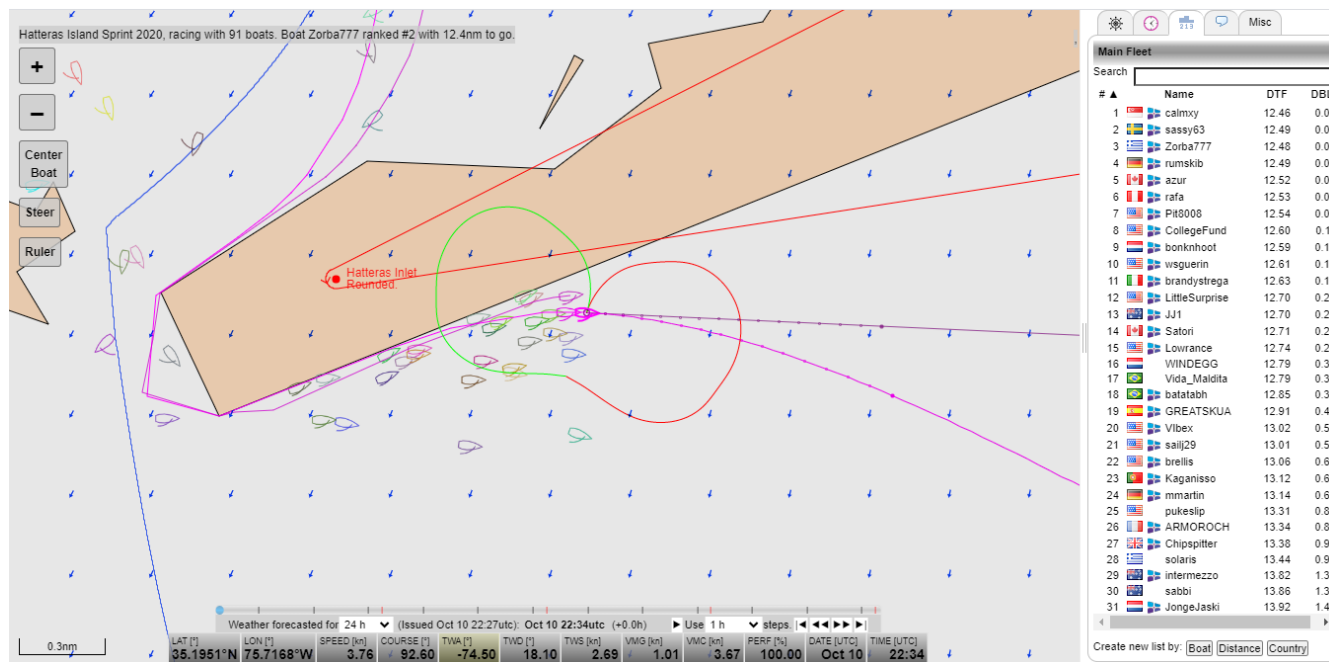
Hatteras Island Sprint 2020 – Report by Zorba777

I decided to join this nice 25NM sprint race, as the winds looked good for a reasonable early night finish by Europe time standards. But the last WX update before the race start altered the picture. Much slower winds, with plenty of tacking along the coast to keep up. And some changing wind directions that would keep everyone busy.

Well, just see how it goes then.

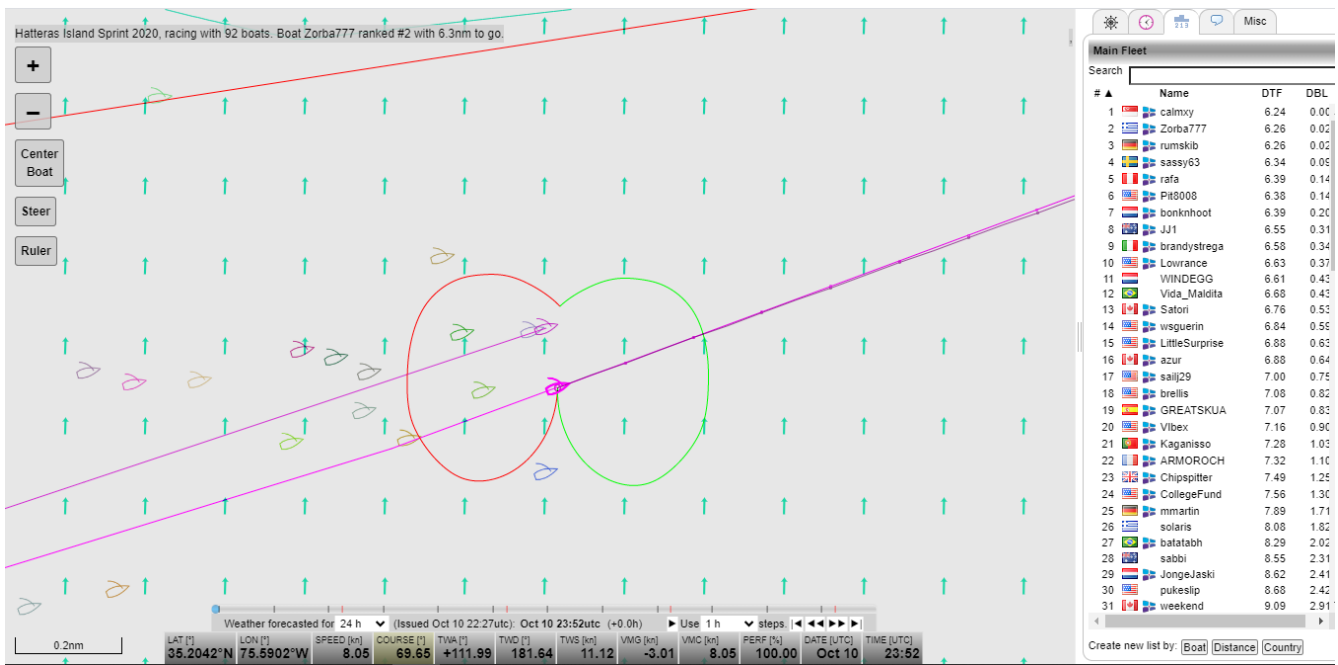
I wasn't too happy with some of my moves in the first half, but perhaps I was too self-critical. After the turn at Hatteras Inlet my boat climbed into 3rd place, with Calmxy in the lead and Sassy63 and Rumskib also following close. I believe Rafa was in the lead after the turn, but a brief BBQ had thrown him back to 6th position.

Another WX update was coming up, possibly mixing things up again. Some boats had moved a bit from the main group, to take advantage of possible wind changes:



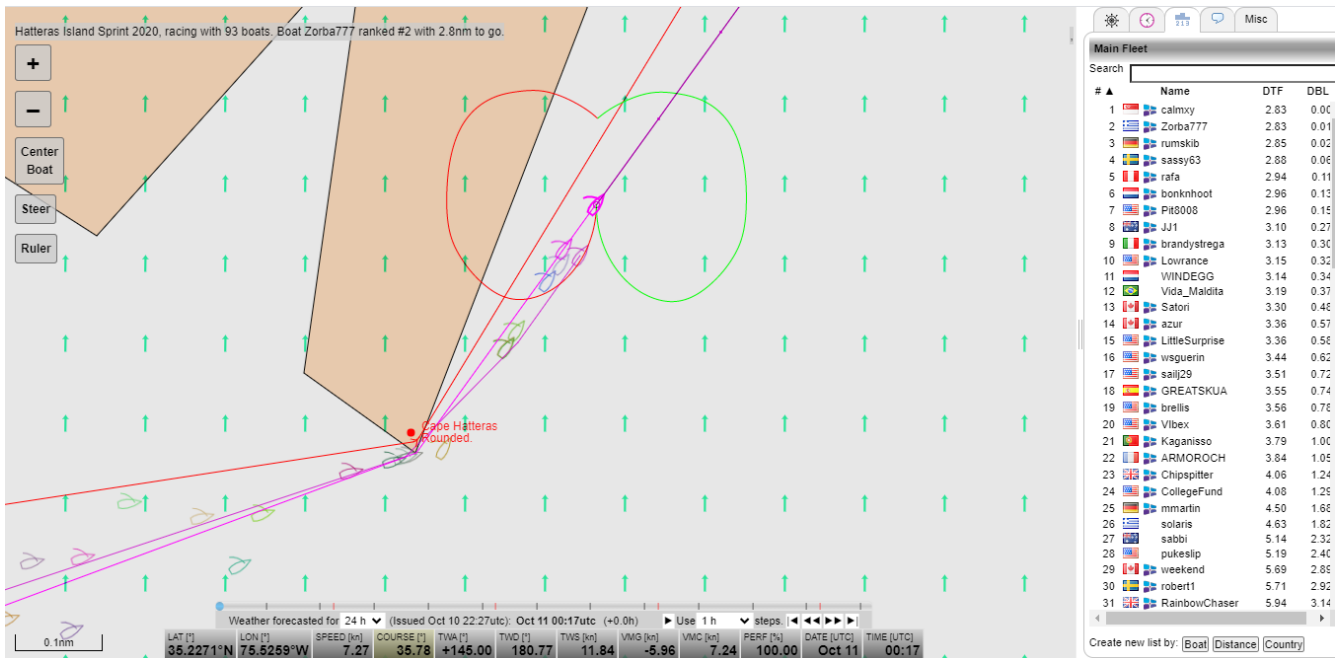
With 7 boats within 0.08NM of the leader a lot was still possible.

Situation after the WX update, which forced all boats to tack again in quickly changing wind direction:



Calmxy was still 0.02 NM ahead. I was fighting with Rumskib for 2nd place with 6.3 NM to go. Calmxy and Rumskib headed straight for the next (and final) turning point at Cape Hatteras. I decided to sail a little bit more Southern course to try to take advantage of slightly higher wind speed.

A podium place seemed fairly secure at that point. The last turn would decide the order on the podium:



2.8 NM to go. I was within 0.01 NM of the lead and took a bit risk on that turn. It worked as Calmxy came out a bit wider. That gave me the crucial angle advantage to win the race by 5 seconds.

Those sprint races are all about execution and making no big errors. It takes a bit luck of course. Very happy to win my first race on SOL with such a small difference. Congratulations and thanks to Calmxy and Rumskib for a good close battle.

See you next time.

Zorba777