

Mistli Birthday BBQ race 2020 – Report by Zorba777

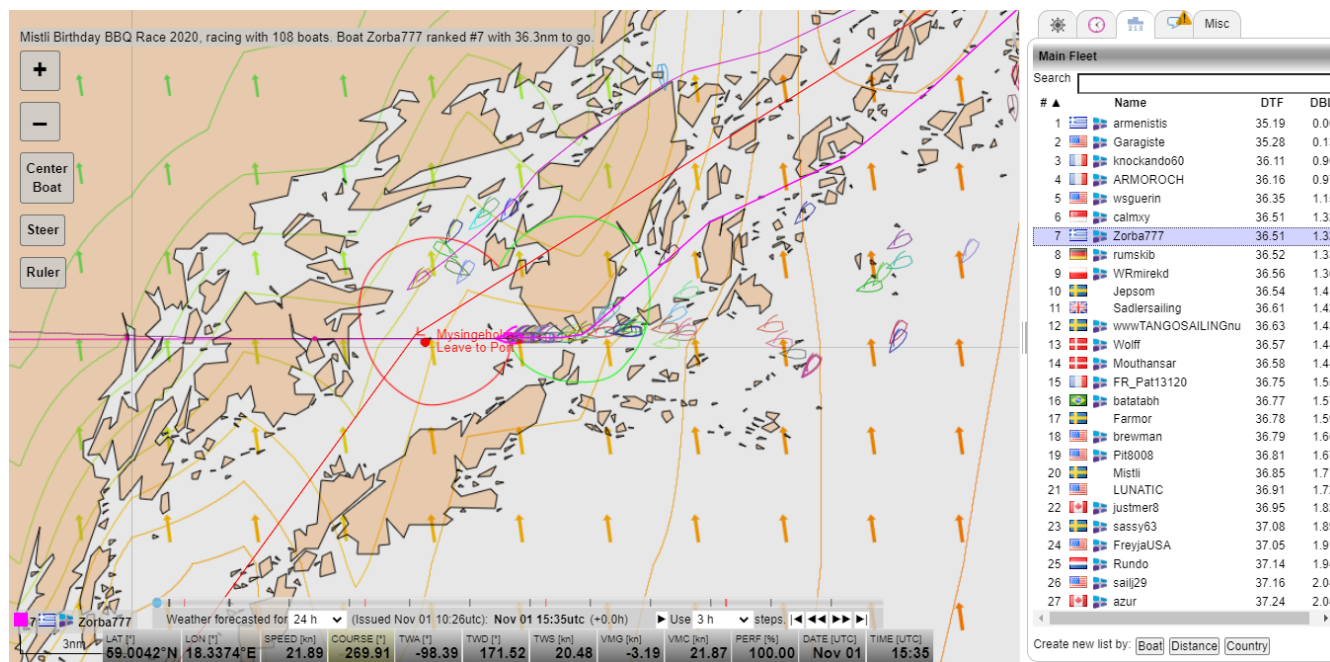
I liked the idea of a birthday race, something I had not seen before on SOL, and when I checked out the race plan I understood why it has become a yearly SOL classic. Hundreds of small and not so small islands near Stockholm and you have to find your way between them.

The number of possible paths to the finish line after 65Nm is probably an astronomical number. I did a routing in qt, but it was instantly clear to me that the resulting route would not be a winning path. This would mainly require SOTP navigation and quick accurate steering, not in the least because race day was blessed with very strong winds at a good angle.

I had done the PR for this one and that really helped me. Avoiding BBQs was as important, if not more important, than trying to find a quick path to “Trosa Beer and BBQ”.

Usually I make quite a few screenshots during races to see later where I went right or wrong. But in this race permanent concentration was needed, leaving not so much time for things like screenshots, beer or bathroom breaks.

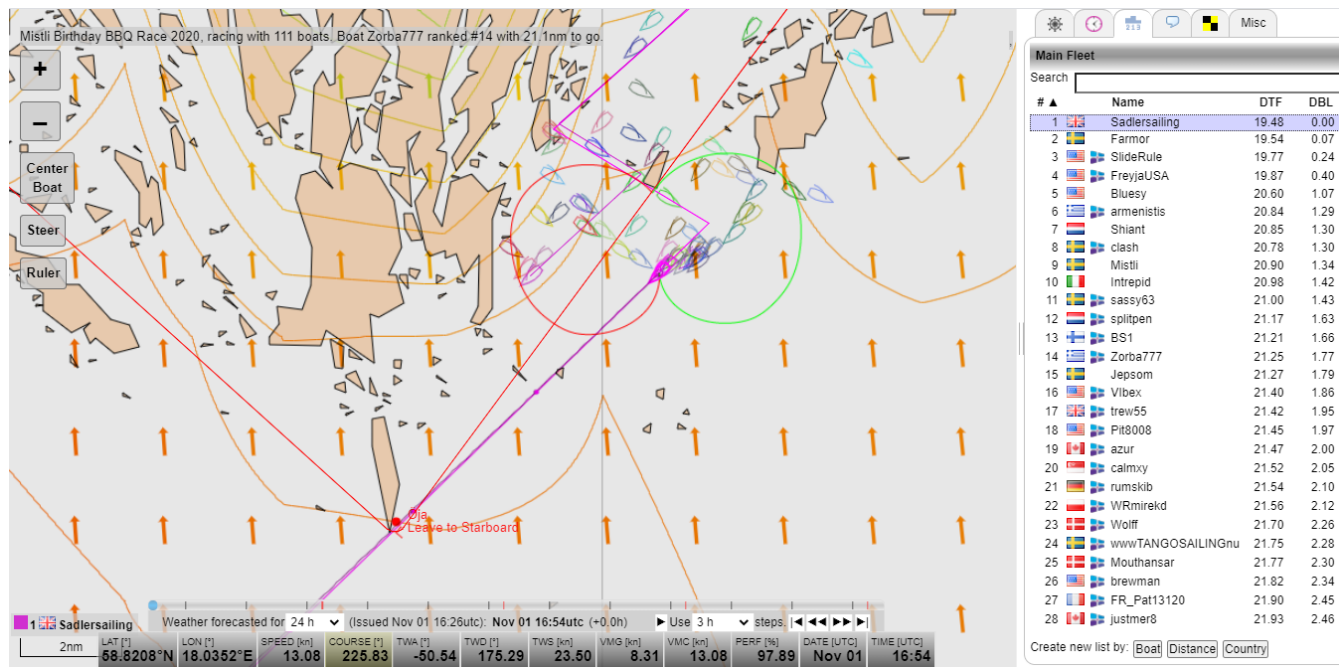
I did make a few, so here we go. A picture says more than a 1000 words:



This one was taken after about 30Nm. You can see boats have taken very different paths. At high boat speeds of over 20 kts the PL on steering is significant, so my strategy was to sail the straightest path possible with the minimum number of tacks.

The more Northern route is in the lead at this point, but I am well positioned on the more direct middle path, here in 7th position equal with @calmxy, who is always setting a good benchmark to check how you are doing a race.

After the waypoint at Mysingeholm the boats spread out on different tactical strategies again. I continued as far as possible near max VMG to minimize my PL penalties. Here is my second and last screenshot:



I had just tacked towards the last waypoint at Öja here. Most boats had tacked earlier and crossed above the island Mällsten you see in the middle of the boats here. By waiting longer and passing just South of that island I gained a small but crucial advantage. It set me on course to be first at the Öja waypoint and from there on it was a fast sprint to the finish line. I felt lucky that no more tacking was required in the very narrow final passages.

Note that Mistli sailed a good race as well, being in 9th place in this screen.

Good races by Mouthansar and Jepsom, finishing in 2nd and 3rd place. Congrats.

Thanks again and I hope to be back next year for Mistli's 80th birthday, which probably should be made into a special edition.

See you next time.

Zorba777