

The Odyssey Series 2020 Race Report

Thanks to Zorba's great proposal, SOLers have a chance to get back in time, in an era when life was easier and the worst that can happen was to displease Gods with some foolish action and suffer well-deserved consequences. Or be captured by a nymph for seven years and then have to explain that to one's wife...

Furthermore, Greek trireme polar offers some interesting solutions when oar-powered in low TWA or TWS (not quite unique, since SOL boathouse has a Viking longboat also).

Finally, Mediterranean is infamous for its unpredictable and fast-shifting winds, especially in this part of year. Any long-term forecast is unreliable and skipper is forced to adjust (if not completely change) strategy with every new WX.

All of this could be seen in Leg 1, when after Akra Maroneias mark fleet was forced back almost to the ruins of Troy before can continue to finish. Mirek has found the best way to motivate his oarsmen, with Zorba and Olev not far behind.

In Leg 2, the fleet was divided from start, passed Kythira Island north and south. Only on the third day, when wind has dropped and oars were in full action, I have recognized from chat that a polar used in this race differs one used in previous. qt was reloaded, all deck-walking canceled and faster flute whistle ordered, but the Greek pair, Zorba and armenistis, were unreachable.

Leg 3 was one where Mediterranean's wind unpredictability showed its full potential. Leaders were turned into chasers with every new WX all the way from Levanzo to Positano. At the end, Olev has found the fastest path, remarkable over an hour in front of bonknhoot and NagaJolokia.

Before the final Leg, for overall Series ranking situation was quite simple: "The Winner Takes It All". There were some other combinations for Zorba, Olev and me to win Series without winning Leg 4, but ABBA's hit would cancel them all.

From start the fleet has remained pretty compact, managed to escape Scylla and Charybdis, reached Malta, resisted temptation to check all that rumors about Calypso, and turned back to Ionian Sea. There, with the wind is falling on the way to Corfu, it turns out that "Size does matter" and "Shorter is better" - both related to sailed path. Finally, after Asprokavos mark, with some 15 minutes advantage on Naga and Kipper, but with qt shows route east of Lefkada Island some 15-20 faster than west, I have decided to sacrifice few minutes by going east of Paxos and Antipaxos, keeping possible 'east of Lefkada' route, until 16:30 WX did close it.

Remaining advantage was enough for Sime to take P1, race and Series. What I did find home after 10 years, I'll rather keep for myself...

Altogether, I did enjoy Odyssey Series very much. Races were exciting, competitors excellent. Hope we'll have opportunity to race it again. Big thanks Zorba on the idea, SOL Team on implementation and SOLers on racing.

As this is my last RR for some time, and this is season of joy, happiness and giving (even in these strange days), please forgive me for ending with these thoughts:

All this darling Ladies and Gents from SOL Team are working for the benefit of all of us SOLers completely voluntarily, and therefore have our endless gratitude. However, technical part of SOL needs assets, and SYC Membership is the income that enables Sailonline to be open for all to race under equal terms. Please consider to join SYC or renew your membership. I certainly will.

Also, many of us use qtVIm, and through years its developers implemented many features that benefit SOL. Software is free, but in my think a small donation is a nice way to show appreciation. I did and will do again.

Again, please forgive me for talking about money in RR. I assure you I have no personal interest, other than Sailonline remains a place of joy and friendship, fierce competition aside. We aren't a large community, but here you can find, along other, fairness and respect, qualities harder and harder to find in today's world.

To all of you, dear SOLers, and all your darling ones, I wish nothing but all the very best!

December 2020.

Mladen / SimeMali