

Melbourne to Devonport 2020 Race Report

Boat: FreyjaUSA

Skipper: Doug Nelson

Background information for FreyjaUSA:

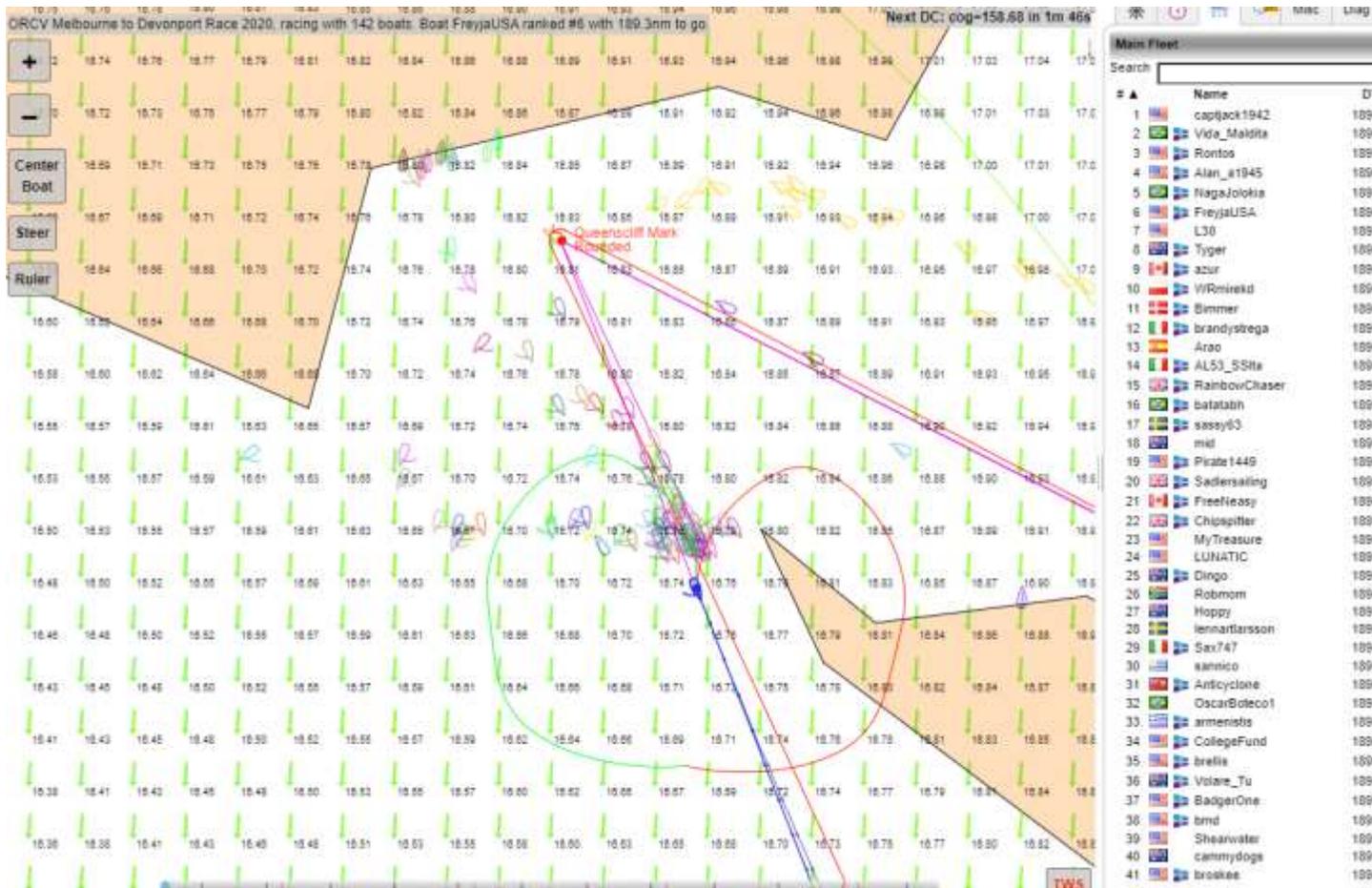
This is my first race report, and my first podium showing. I have been racing with SOL since July 2020. I was invited to participate via the Pacific Cup Yacht Club. My brother participated in the last 2 Pacific Cups, and I was on their mailing list receiving regular updates from PCYC. Oh, how far I have come since that first race finishing 191st! I honestly had no idea what I was doing, how to set a course, or what a DC was. I have been sailing all my life, so I knew how to sail, but getting a virtual boat to do what I wanted it to, was a little challenging without the wind in my face, the waves, and of course a cast of crew to help. Before the first night was over, I was the newest member of SYC. Learning how to sail virtually is a very humbling experience, especially for someone who *thinks* he is a pretty successful sailor. I ended up with FreyjaUSA as my boat name, because a few months earlier, I guess someone had taken Freyja, which was my first choice. This is a family boat name that I have many memories of starting in the 1970's through the 1990's. I spent the first 3 months sailing by the seat of my pants, using the tools that were available. I committed myself to learning how to make Freyja go without any routing support. I first started using Qt about halfway through the Carib Rum Run when I felt it was time to try and start finishing within the top 25% and the "routers" were killing us "non routers" with their additional support.

Most of my in IRL sailing has been in the San Francisco Bay. My family raced for many years out of Richmond Yacht Club. I relocated to Denver Colorado in 1995. Lake sailing has never really gotten me too excited, although SOL has sparked my passion for sailing and I think this will change as we come out of COVID, and winter. Since moving to Colorado, I have done most of my IRL sailing in the San Juan Islands in Washington and Canada with my parents. They relocated to Bellingham Washington in 1992, and took extended cruises every summer, and I would join up with them for a leg or 2 when I could. I would also join them in some club races sponsored by the Bellingham Yacht Club when I was in town.

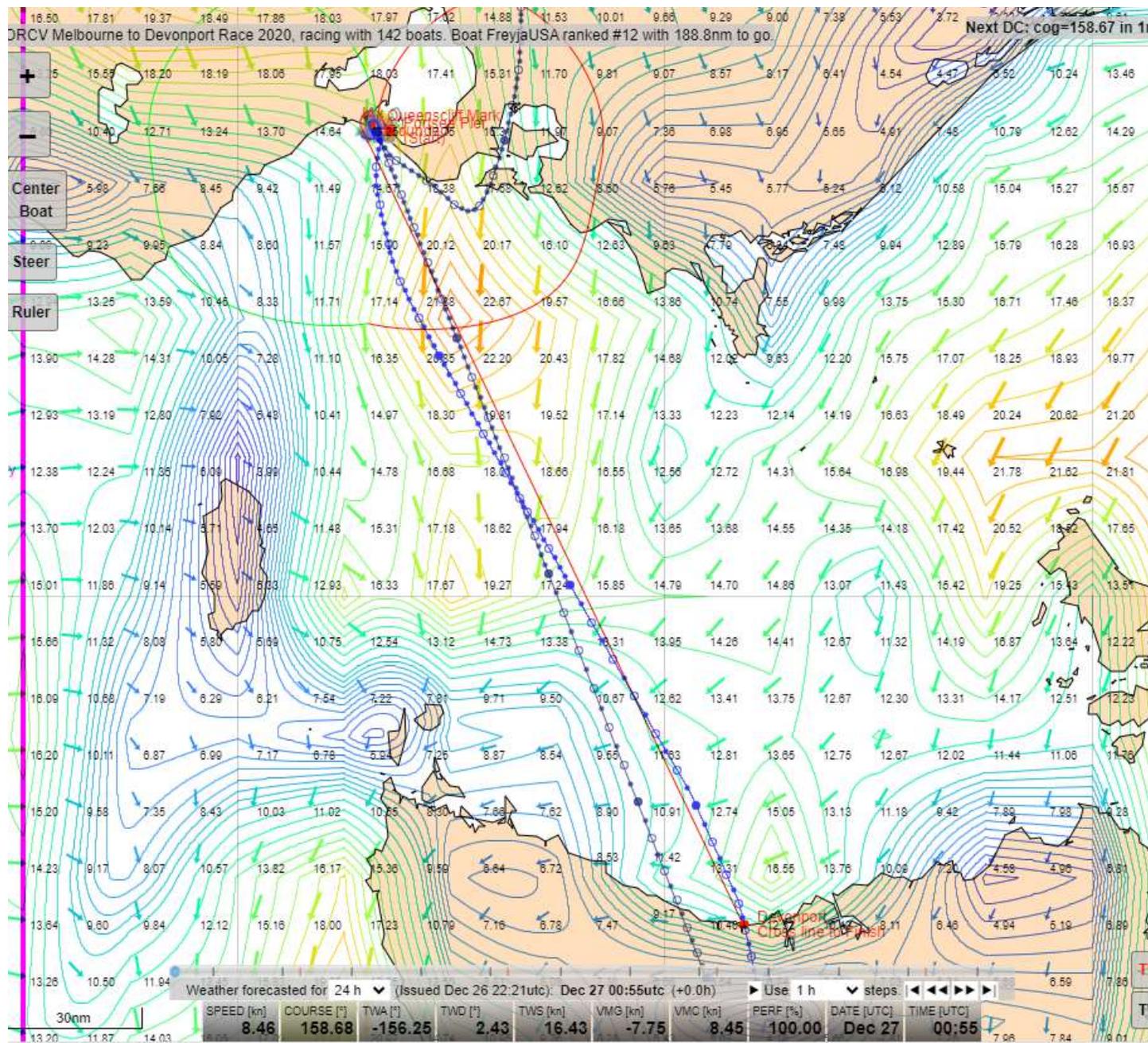
Race Report:

Most of this recap is based on memory, as I did not take any written notes during the race, but did take some screenshots along the way, and will reflect on them.

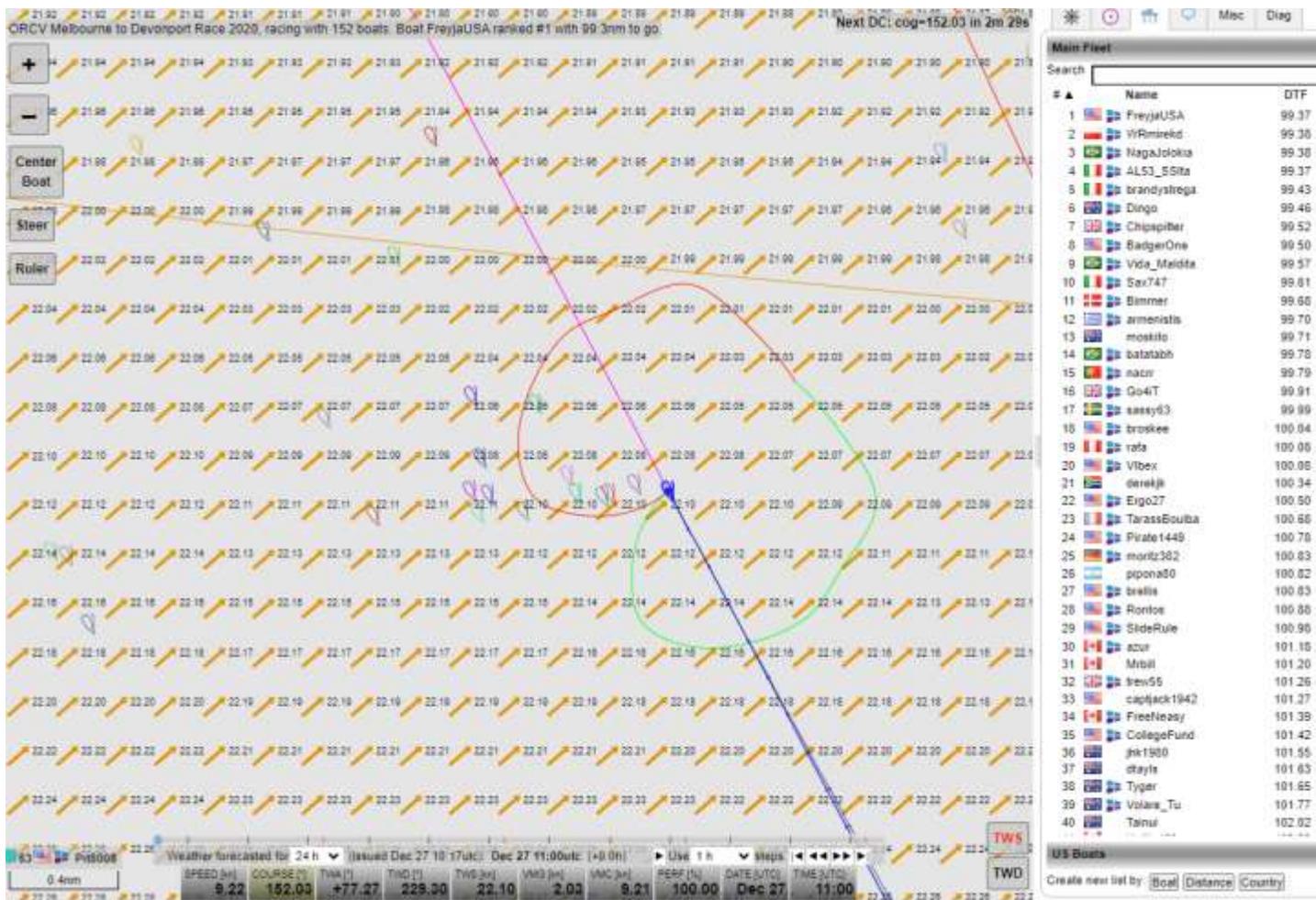
The race could not have had much better wind in both angle and pressure, especially when sitting at my desk competing in the comfort of my home. I was fortunate to get off to a solid start. The biggest challenge was having a clean rounding of the first (and only) mark, Queenscliff. With a stiff breeze I was able to get a clean mark rounding and came out of the first mark in 3rd place. This is significant, because I have struggled at times with rounding marks early. A number of boats rounded and took the rhumb line approach, Freyja and WRmirekd went a little further west of NagaJolokia initially.



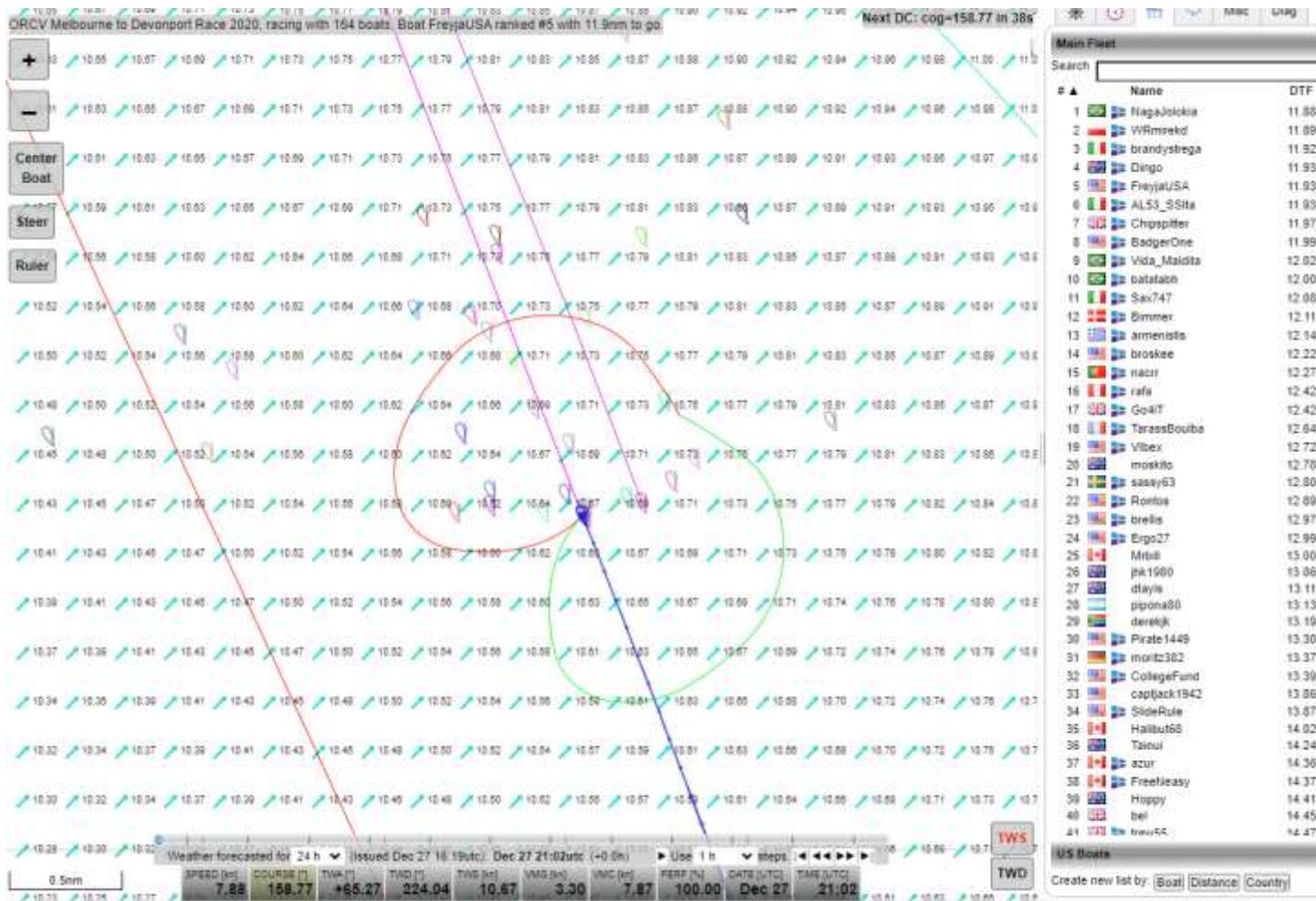
There was only 1 gybe during this race, as you can see in my first screenshot it was a pretty straight shot to the finish. The blue DC predictor line is the route that I pretty much followed the entire way.



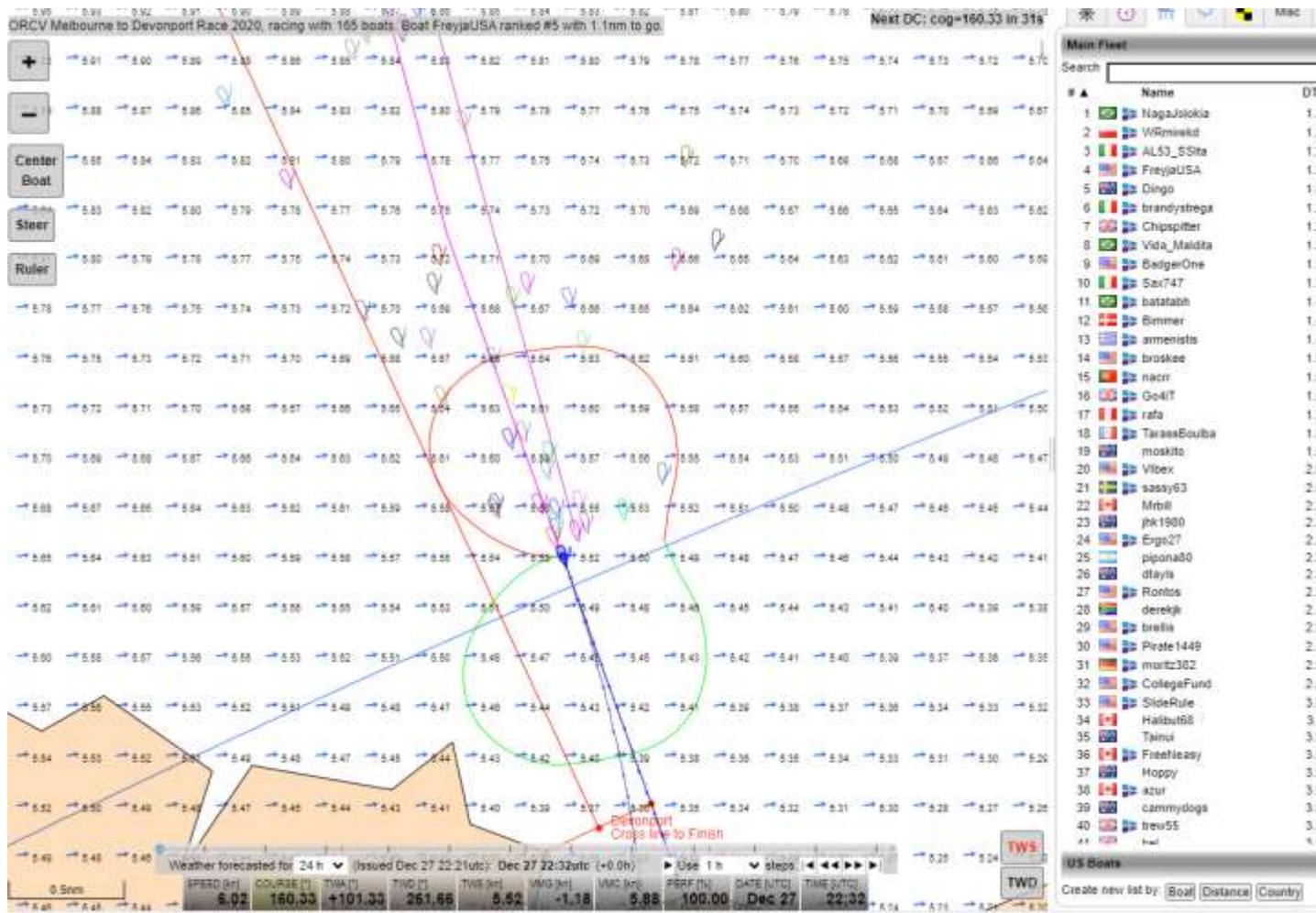
Freyja had her chance for a first place, and when I first saw her leading, I was quick to take a screenshot, as I wasn't sure how long it might last, and there were still 100 miles left to the finish.



As we came up to the finish, 12 nm's out, the top 10 boats were still all within .14km's of each other and Freyja was sitting in 5th place. My general feeling at this point was to just let her go on the course I had set, and let everyone else try to battle it out. I would have been very pleased with a top 5 finish, and still don't have enough confidence to try and squeek out any additional speed to move ahead. I will be practicing that more when I am sitting in a less critical position.



At 1nm to the finish I was unsure how the other lead boats were going to fare with the lifting wind and pretty much let Freyja cruise to the pin finish hoping I would have enough boat speed to finish strong.



With the race finally over, initially Freyja showed as 4th place on the rankings, then clicked up to 3rd place. I was not entirely sure of where it would finally land and would not start celebrating our first podium until the official results were updated. It must have taken 5 minutes for the official leaderboard to update, and when it finally did, Freyja narrowly finished 1 second ahead of ALS3_SSita and Dingo. Never have I seen the top 5 finish so close together, at only 19 seconds apart, and to have 1&2 tie, and 4&5 tie made it even more amazing.

Leaderboard for ORCV Melbourne to Devonport Race 2020

ORCV Melbourne to Devonport Race 2020, racing with 169 boats.

Rankings: [SYC ranking](#)

[1-50](#) [51-100](#) [101-150](#) [151-200](#)

| Rank | Boat Name | Boat Type | DTG | DBL | Finish Time (UTC) |
|------|--|-----------|-----|-----|---------------------|
| 1 |  NagaJolokia | First 40 | 0 | 0 | 2020-12-27 22:43:32 |
| 2 |  WRmirekd | First 40 | 0 | 0 | 2020-12-27 22:43:32 |
| 3 |  FreyjaUSA | First 40 | 0 | 0 | 2020-12-27 22:43:50 |
| 4 |  AL53_SSIta | First 40 | 0 | 0 | 2020-12-27 22:43:51 |
| 5 |  Dingo | First 40 | 0 | 0 | 2020-12-27 22:43:51 |
| 6 |  Chipspitter | First 40 | 0 | 0 | 2020-12-27 22:44:13 |
| 7 |  brandystrega | First 40 | 0 | 0 | 2020-12-27 22:44:16 |
| 8 |  Vida_Maldita | First 40 | 0 | 0 | 2020-12-27 22:44:42 |
| 9 |  batatabh | First 40 | 0 | 0 | 2020-12-27 22:45:44 |
| 10 |  Bimmer | First 40 | 0 | 0 | 2020-12-27 22:45:51 |

Congratulations to NagaJolokia and WRmirekd and the entire top 10 with fantastic finish. I am so very pleased that I was able to compete with such a great team of sailors in my first Rudder Cup Race.

Have a very happy and safe 2021,

Doug/Freyja