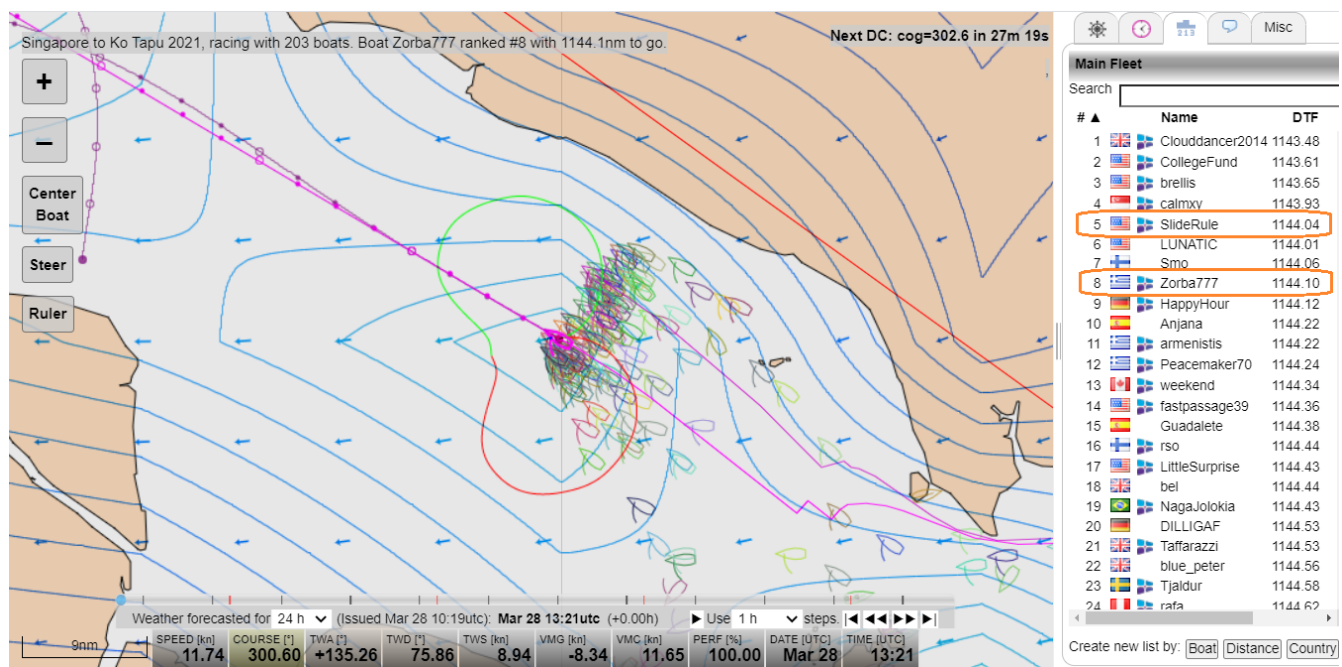


Singapore to Ko Tapu 2021 – Report by Zorba777

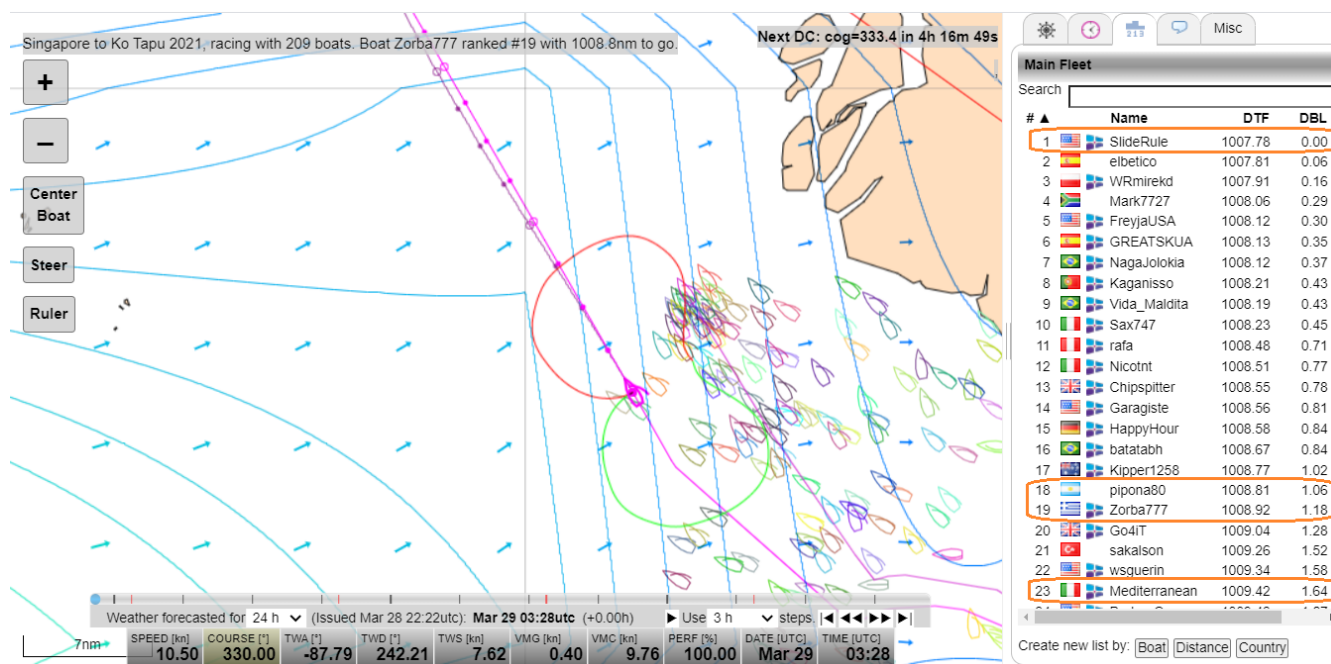
A simple 1191 NM in an orange catamaran. What looked like a likely 3 or 4 day race became more than 6 days, and it could have been 9 days if we hadn't been blessed with strong winds on the final day... I started with low expectations because travel and other obligations have kept me busy in recent weeks. But I like to navigate the chaos of slow and unpredictable winds, and there was no shortage of that in this race. Here is the story of a memorable race, with my usual screens of what I thought could be the key moments...

I will try to show the progression of a couple of boats that finished well or had a remarkable result for some reason or other. Can't cover every boat, so to keep it practical we follow the progress of: @SlideRule, @AL53_SSIta, @pipona, @Mediterranean, @JJ1 and my own boat @Zorba777.

1 – The start was very slow. Just got away on overnight DCs and went to sleep. After 15 hours of “racing” we had advanced less than 50NM and the differences between boats were small:

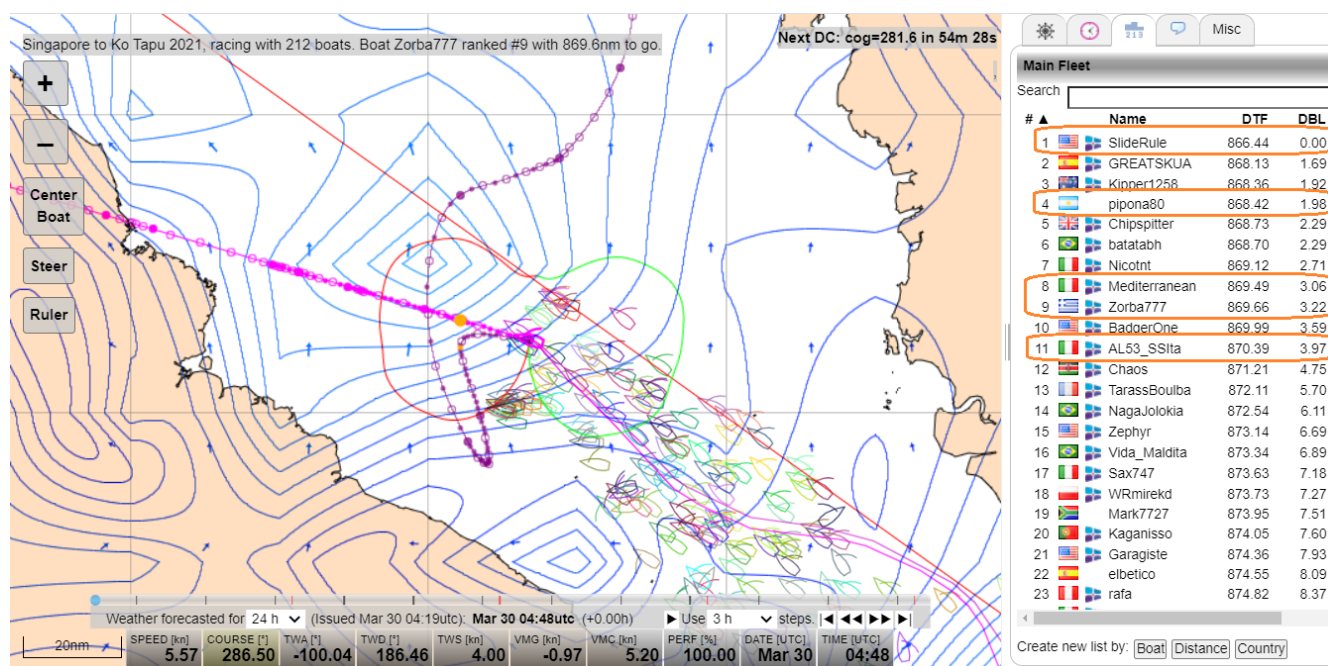


2 – Ten hours later the boats had gathered a bit of speed and here SlideRule was in the lead already. I had drifted more to the SouthWest and 1NM behind, but still a long way to go. No two subsequent routings had looked even remotely similar at that point. So uncertainty was as high as it gets. I tried to stay in “some wind” and away from the coasts.

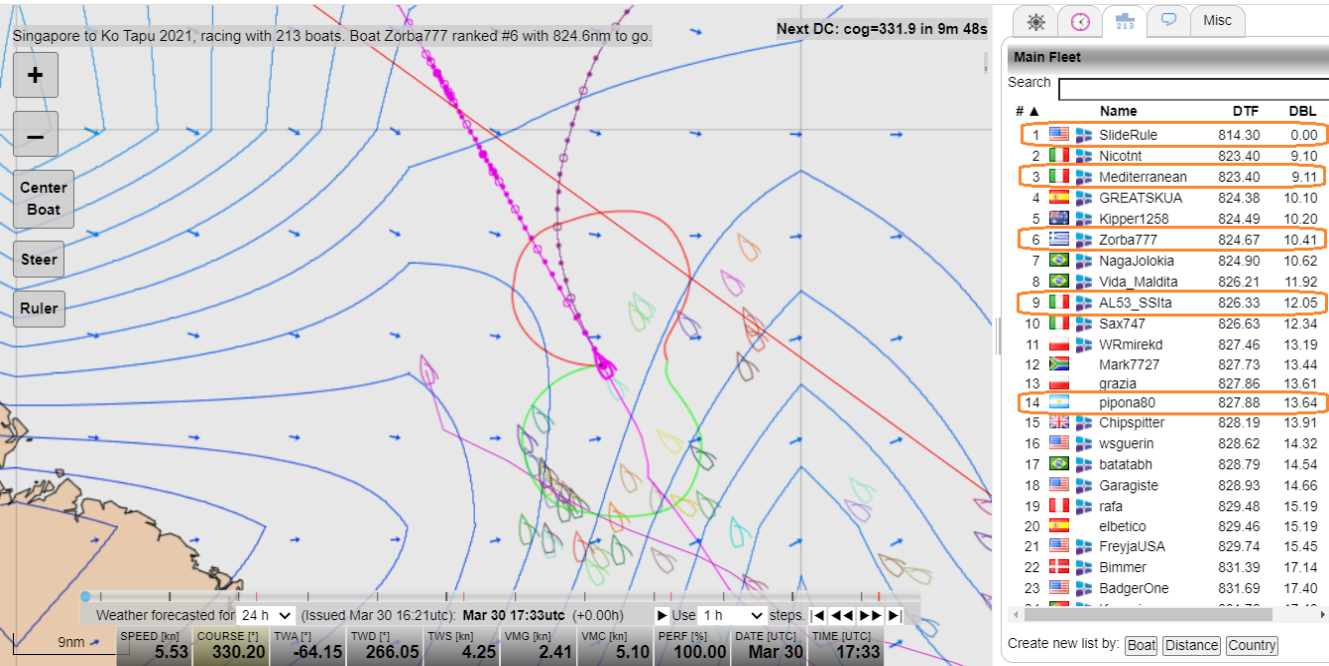


3 – Two and a half days into the race and here we still had almost 900 NM to go. The predictor lines and the boats went all over the place.

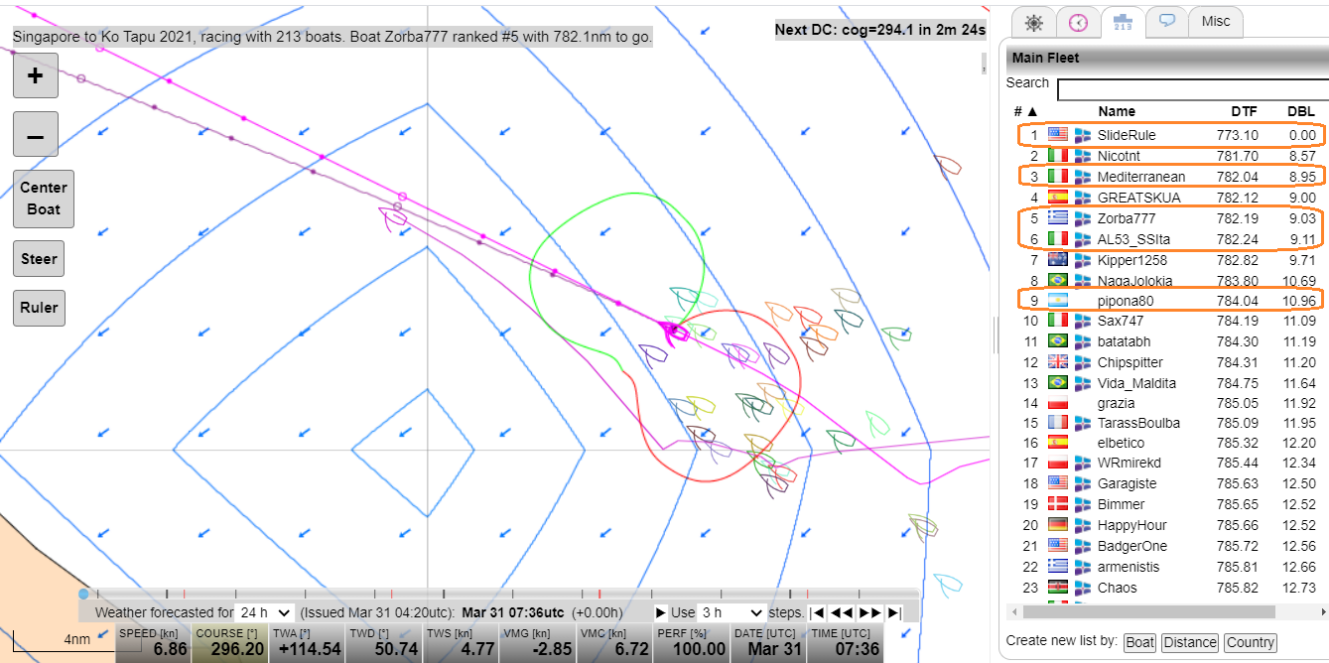
SlideRule was right in front of me at this point, but I was 3NM behind. An important group went West and would get stuck in very slow wind on the next WX update. SlideRule went straight for the stronger wind right in front of us and really pulled away from this point. Five of the top 10 finishing boats were here in the top 11 already (marked in orange).



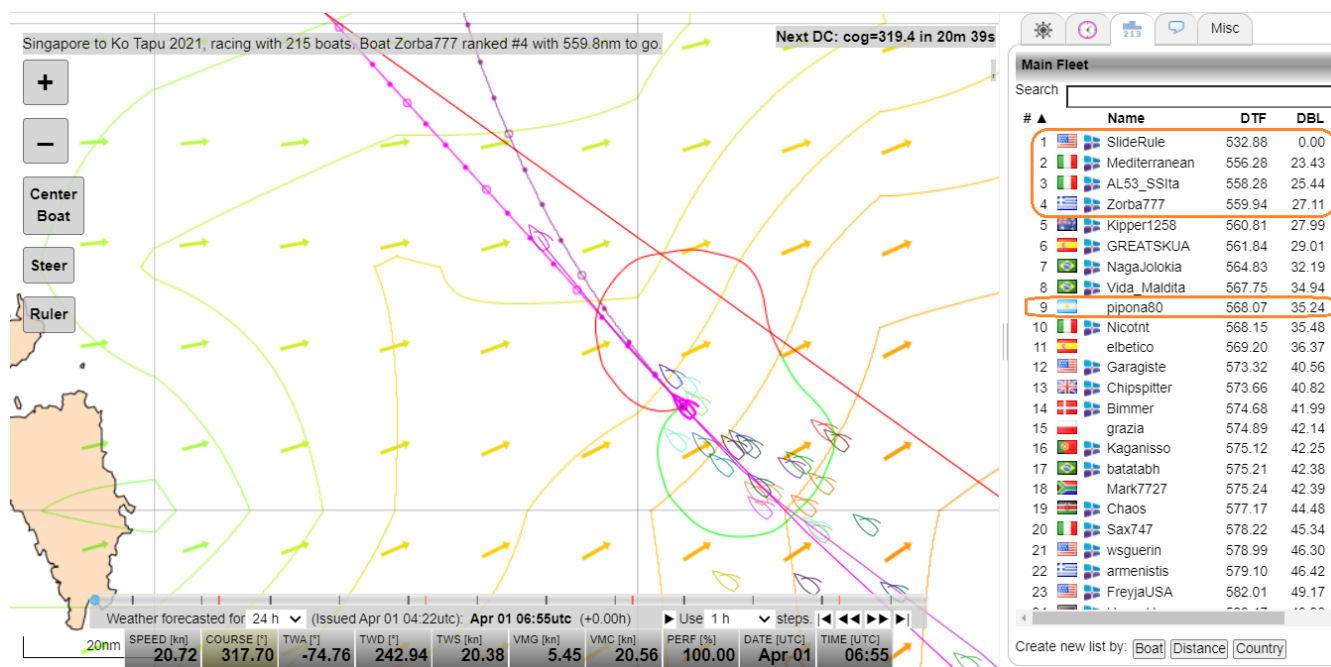
4 – Thirteen hours later and 45 NM closer to the finish we could see the damage that had been done. SlideRule opened a 9NM gap as everybody struggled to keep the boat moving.



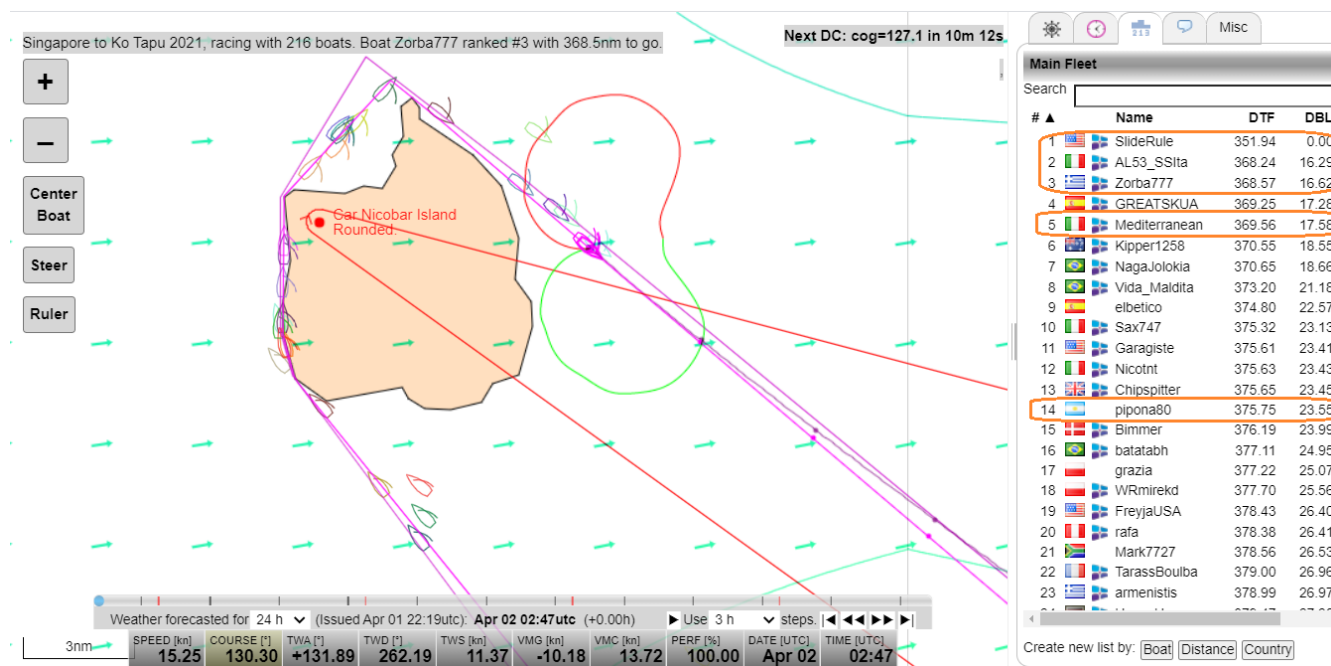
5 – Relying on anything more than the next 6 hours was constantly punished in this race. Following the router led (most of) us into another speedbump. Here we get up to speed again, 1 hour behind the leader:



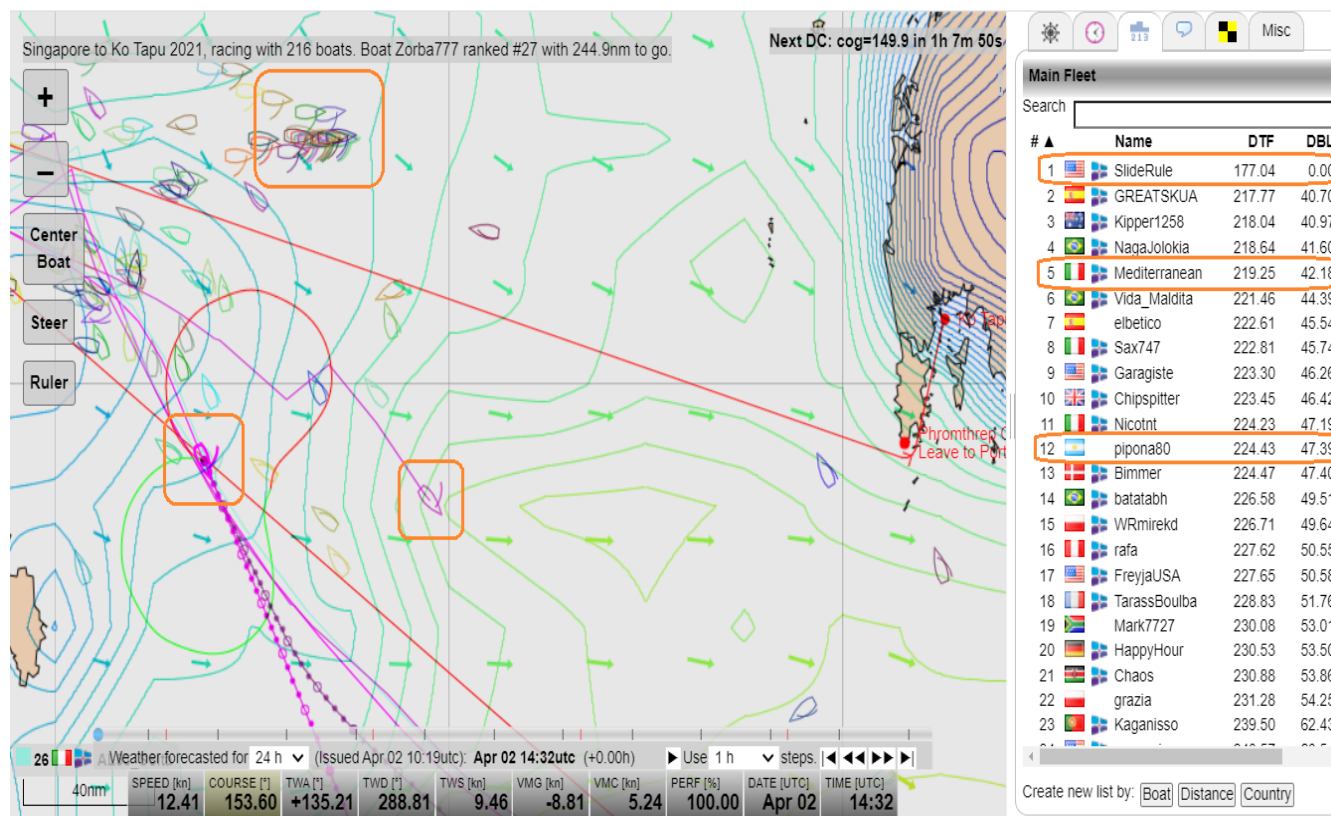
6 – We finally found a nice breeze, which made for a rich-get-richer type situation. Mediterranean had become a solid 2nd, 23 NM behind. AL53 into 3rd place:



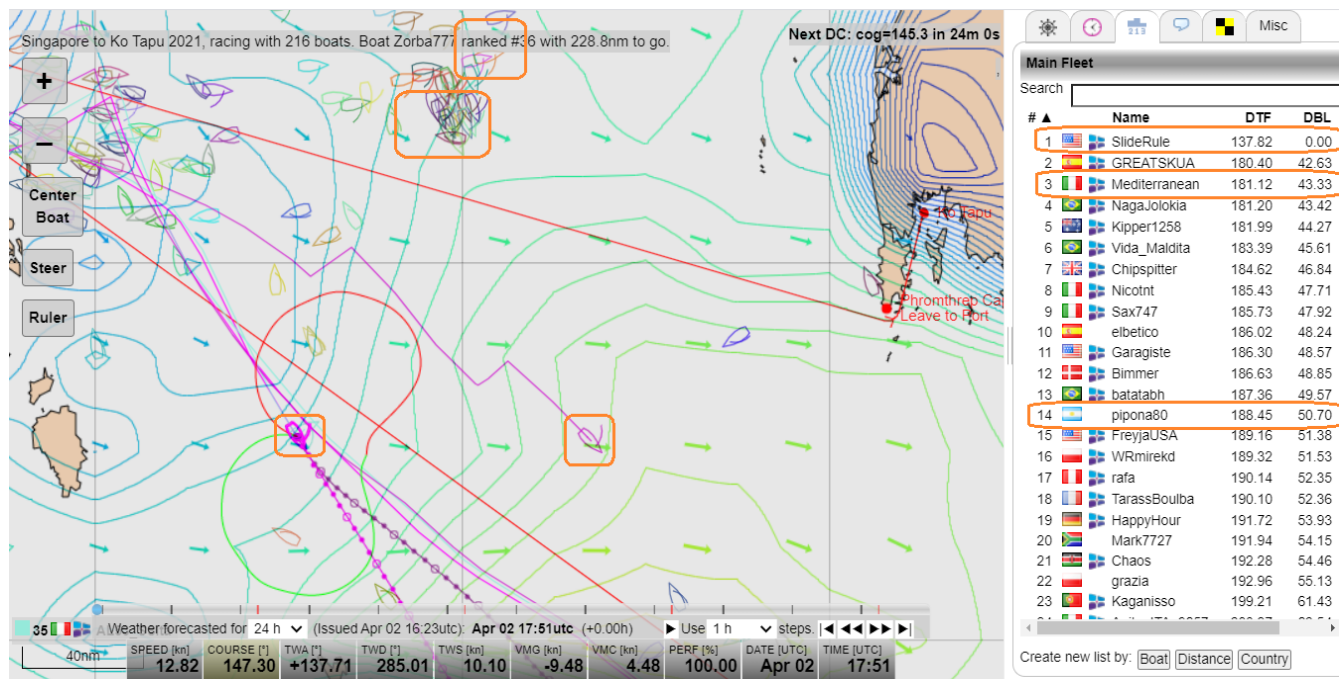
7 – At Nicobar Island @Mediterranean had a 15 minute BBQ, which cost him several places. Pipona was half an hour behind AL53 and Zorba777, but would then make a tactical choice that nearly brought him on the podium :



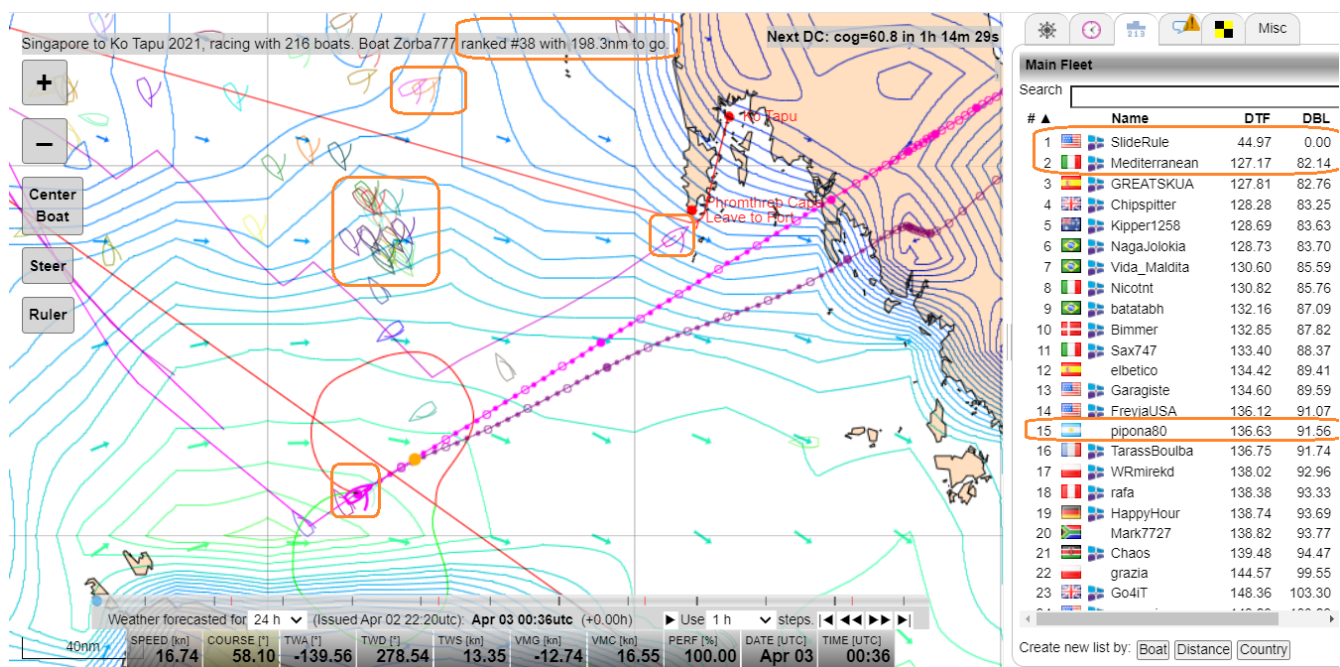
8 – SlideRule was pulling further and further away. AL53 and Zorba777 took the Southern route and lost time in slowing winds. All the other boats had gybed to the East as the race for positions 2 and 3 was still wide open. I wasn't optimistic at this point as we fell behind so quickly. But there were still a few WX updates to come:



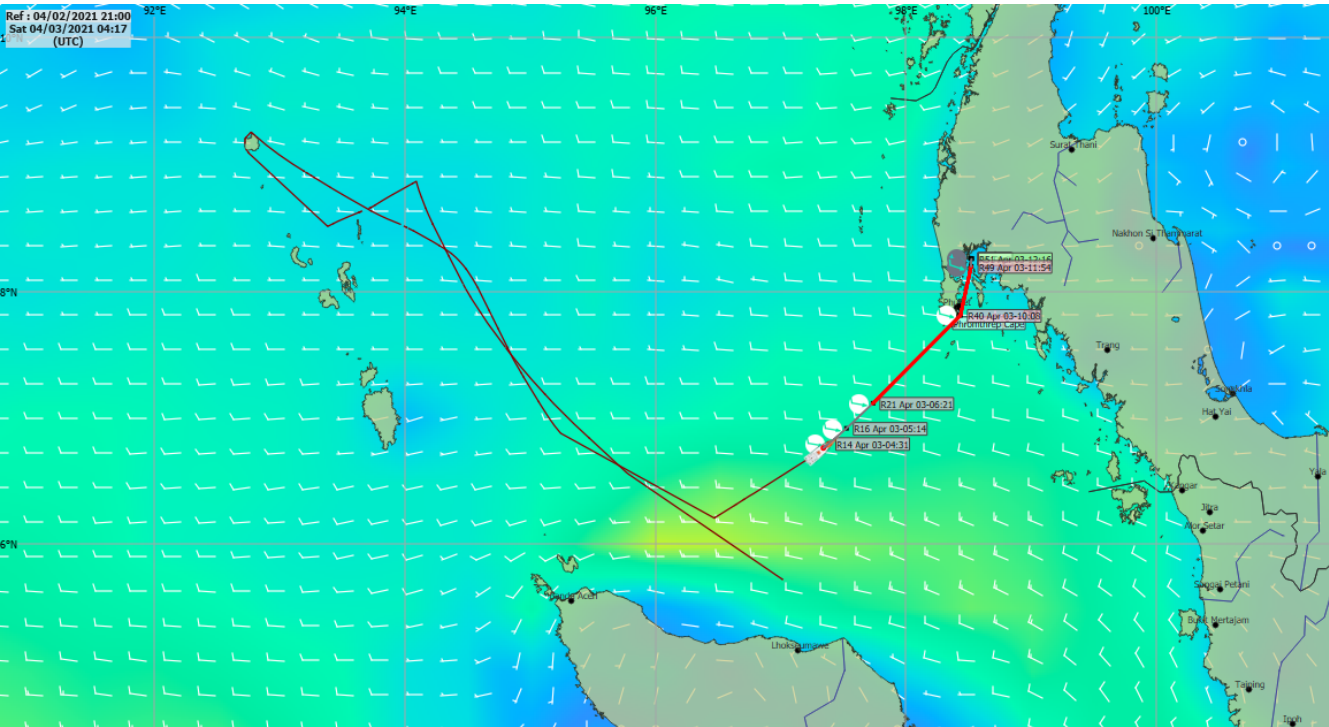
9 – The Northern group then split in two parts:



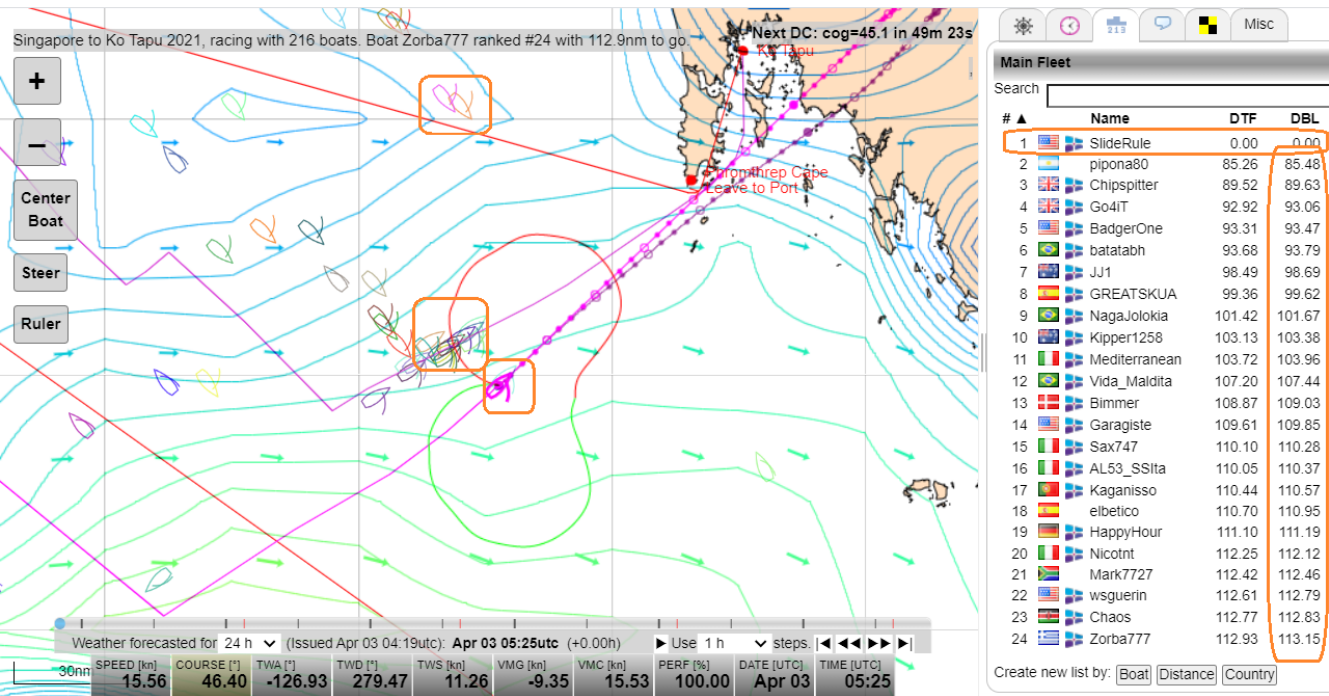
10 – A very interesting fight developed for the remaining podium places, as SlideRule neared the finish with a gap of 82NM on Mediterranean, who was back into 2nd. AL53 and Zorba777 in the deep South had just gybed and hoped to be blown into the finish fast enough.. The large middle group was setting up to gybe. Pipona (not visible here) was still in the North and apparently headed for Myanmar:



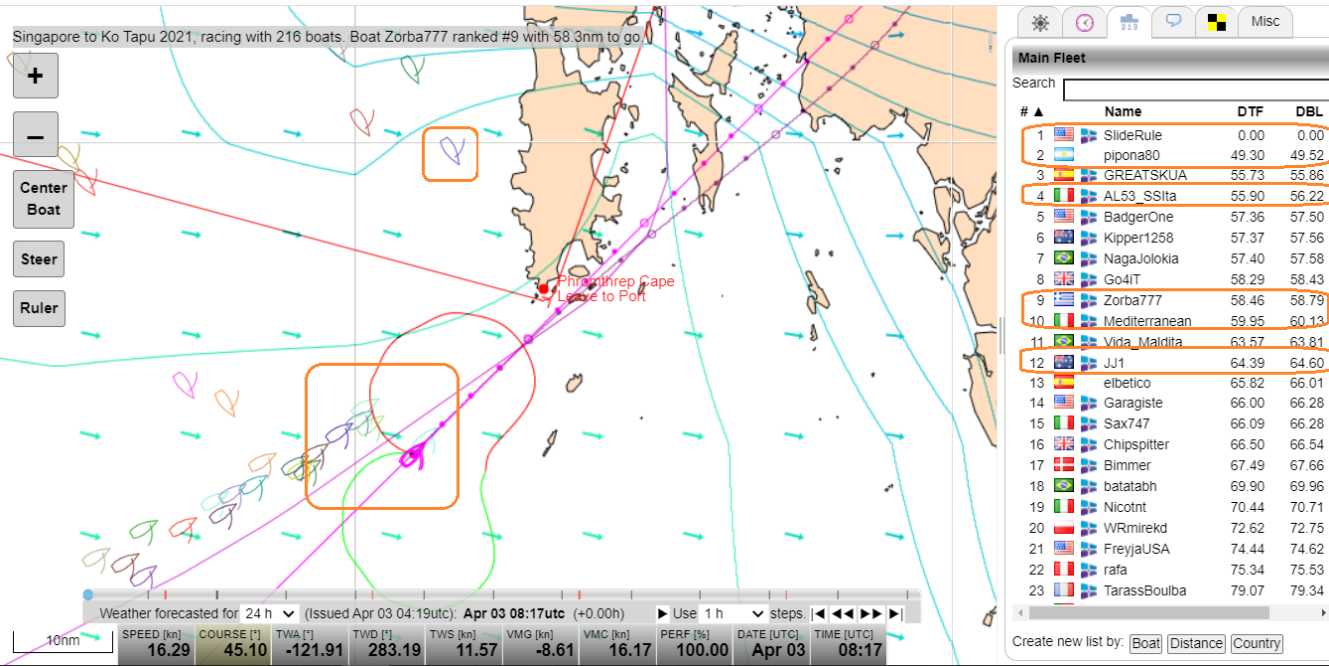
11 – I made this screen of my sailed path. Came back from Nicobar on almost the same route that was used to get there. If it was always that simple :-)



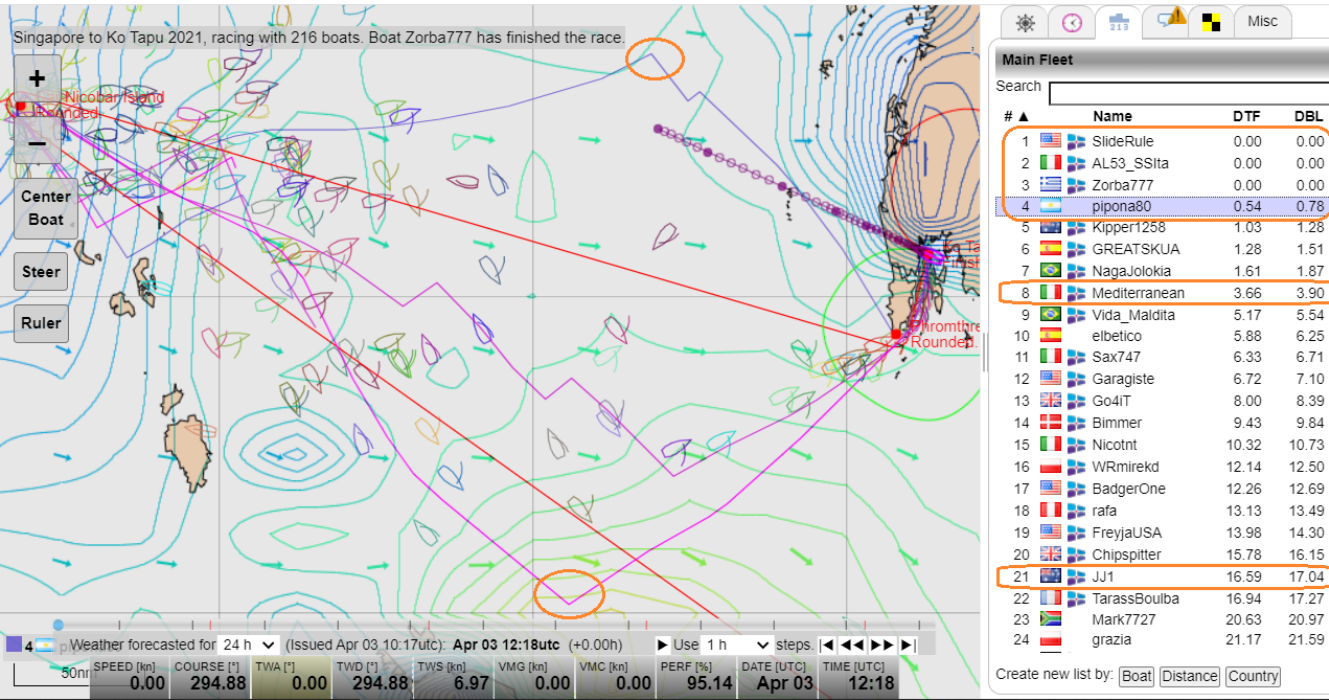
12 – I recorded the gaps when SlideRule crossed the finish line. Some of the biggest differences that have been seen in recent SOL memory. Between 80 and 120 NM behind was a good result:



13 – The different groups converged at the last waypoint. AL53 and Zorba777 could overtake the main group, but there came Pipona along the Thai coast out of nowhere...



14 – ..but he just missed out on the podium by a few minutes. A remarkable recovery from where he was at Nicobar. Here is a screen showing the different routes.



15 – So what about @JJ1? Well, he mentioned he sailed SOTP and in this race it was definitely not easy to keep up without some router help. To be nearly in top 20 is a great performance in those circumstances.

It's interesting to take a look at the log of total distance sailed. AL53 had almost 50 NM more than SlideRule. And JJ1 has sailed by far the shortest path of the top finishing boats in this race.

Main Fleet				
Search				
# ▲	Name	DTF	DBL	LOG
1	SlideRule	0.00	0.00	1344.07
2	AL53_SSIta	0.00	0.00	1393.73
3	Zorba777	0.00	0.00	1388.24
4	pipona80	0.00	0.00	1333.69
5	Kipper1258	0.00	0.00	1374.40
6	GREATSKUA	0.00	0.00	1368.55
7	NagaJolokia	0.00	0.00	1372.28
8	Mediterranean	0.00	0.00	1369.84
9	Vida_Maldita	0.00	0.00	1373.47
10	elbetico	0.00	0.00	1377.14
11	Sax747	0.00	0.00	1352.54
12	Garagiste	0.00	0.00	1371.09
13	Go4iT	0.00	0.00	1341.48
14	Bimmer	0.00	0.00	1353.24
15	Nicotnt	0.00	0.00	1372.28
16	WRmirekd	0.00	0.00	1355.49
17	BadgerOne	0.00	0.00	1355.81
18	rafa	0.00	0.00	1362.71
19	FreyjaUSA	0.00	0.00	1361.58
20	Chipspitter	0.00	0.00	1344.89
21	JJ1	0.00	0.00	1309.13
22	TarassBoulba	0.00	0.00	1344.57
23	Mark7727	0.00	0.00	1358.03
24	grazia	0.00	0.00	1370.99

Create new list by:

Congrats SlideRule for an outstanding win by 7 hours. Congrats second placed AL53_SSIta, couldn't pass you. Well done. Thanks to all and see you next time.

Zorba777