

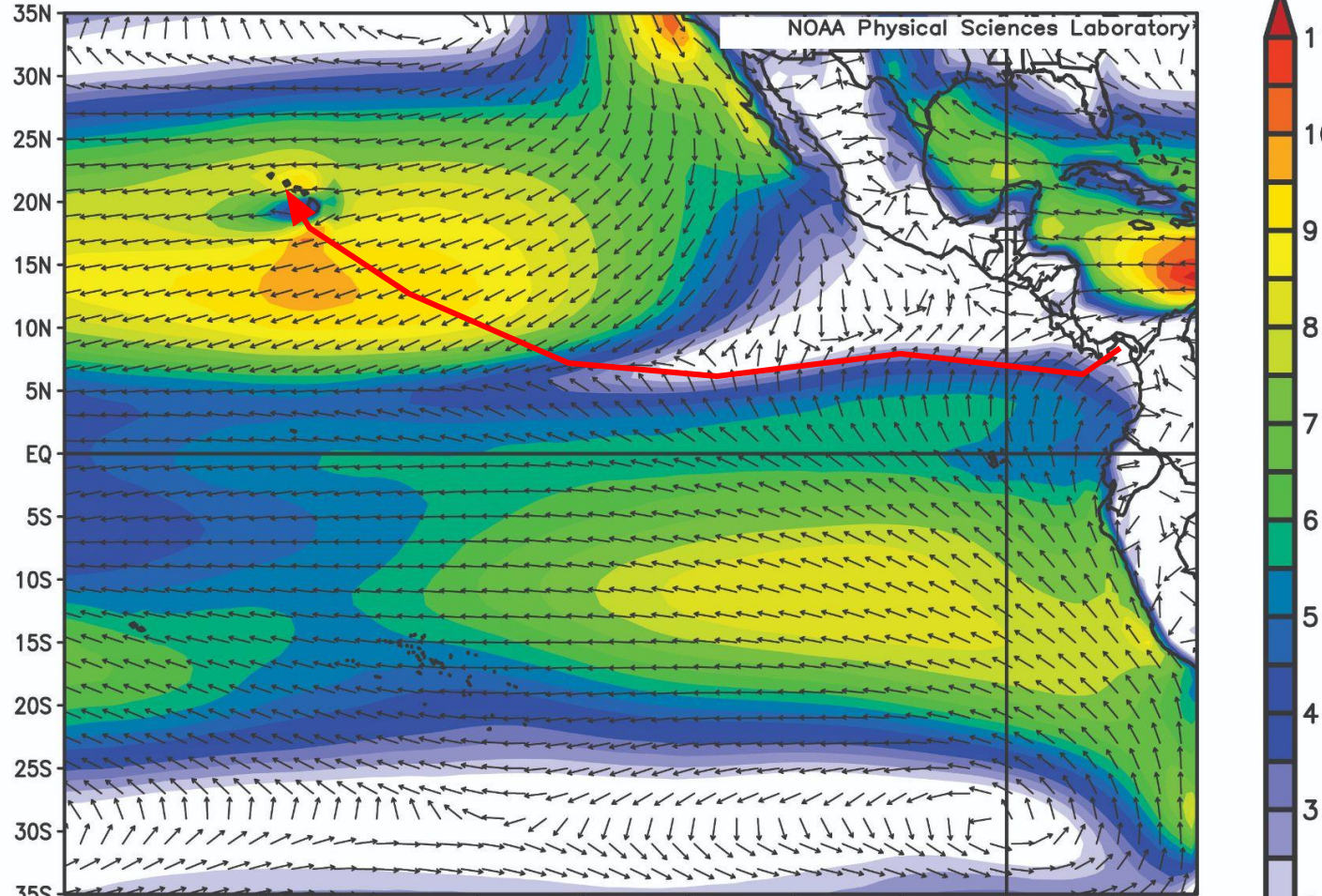
Panama to Honolulu: a  
beast of a race in a beast  
of a boat



## Planning

I downloaded the average winds for the race area and it looked pretty clear what to do - on average.

## 20th Century Reanalysis V3 Vector Wind (m/s) Climatology

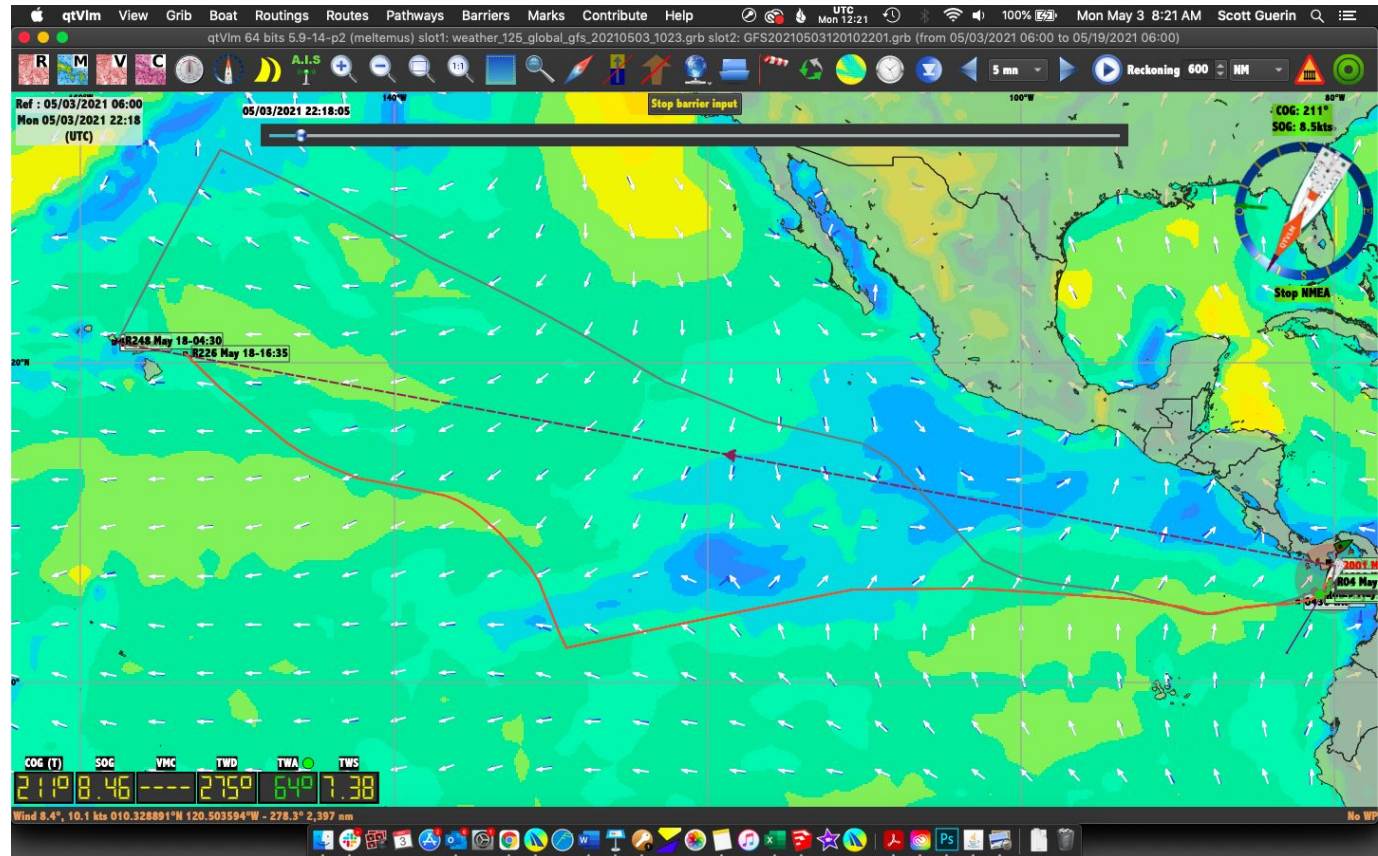




The Start: Sunday, May 2, 1800 UTC

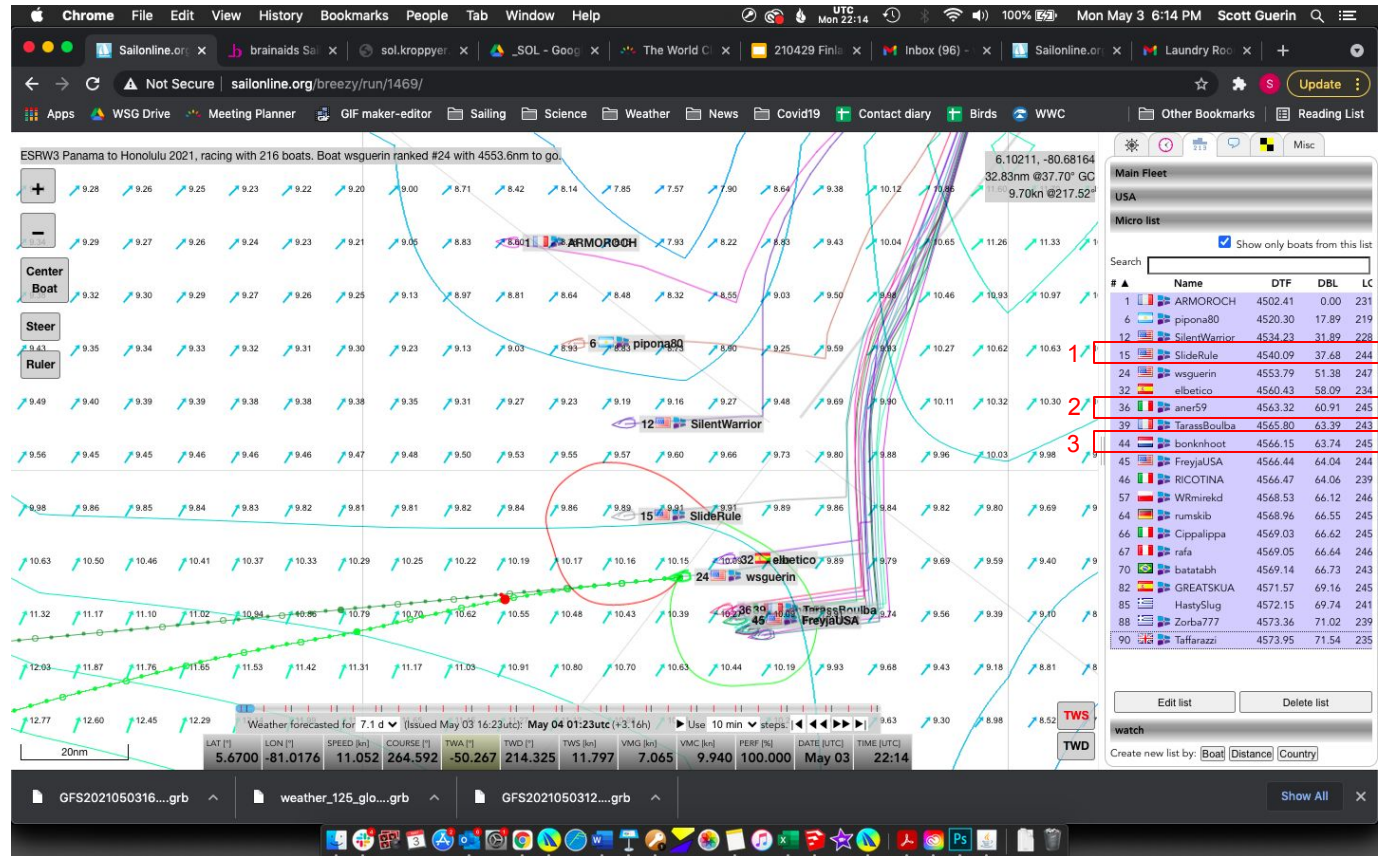
But a day or two after the start, my routing was flopping between a southerly average course and a northerly route.

The fleet crawled out of Panama in very light winds.



Monday, May 3, 0645 UTC

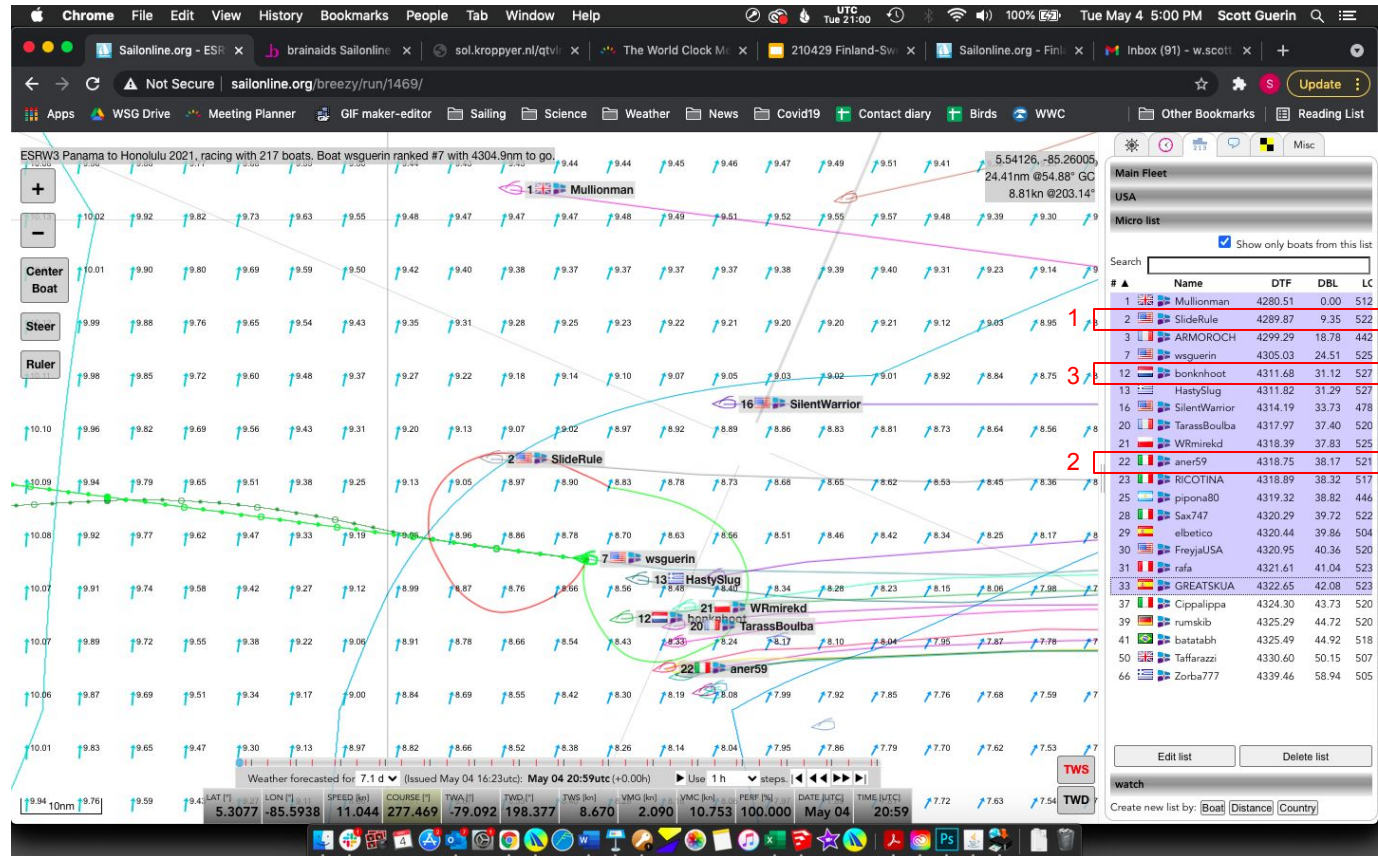
The podium die was cast early on.



ESRW3 Panama to Honolulu

Tuesday, May 4, 2100 UTC

SlideRule always seemed to have a bit more speed as he continues to extend.

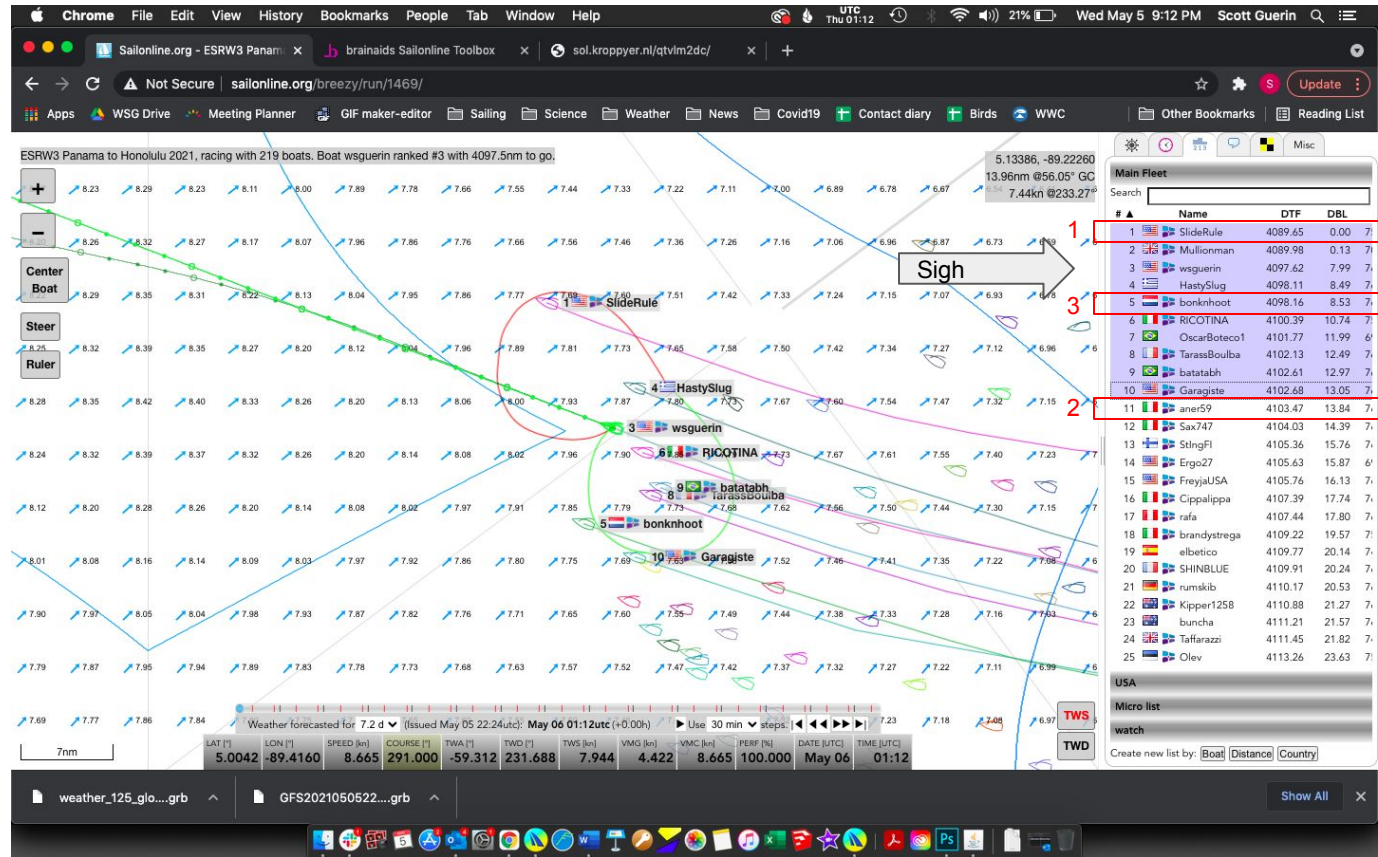


ESRW3 Panama to Honolulu



Thursday, May 6, 0112 UTC

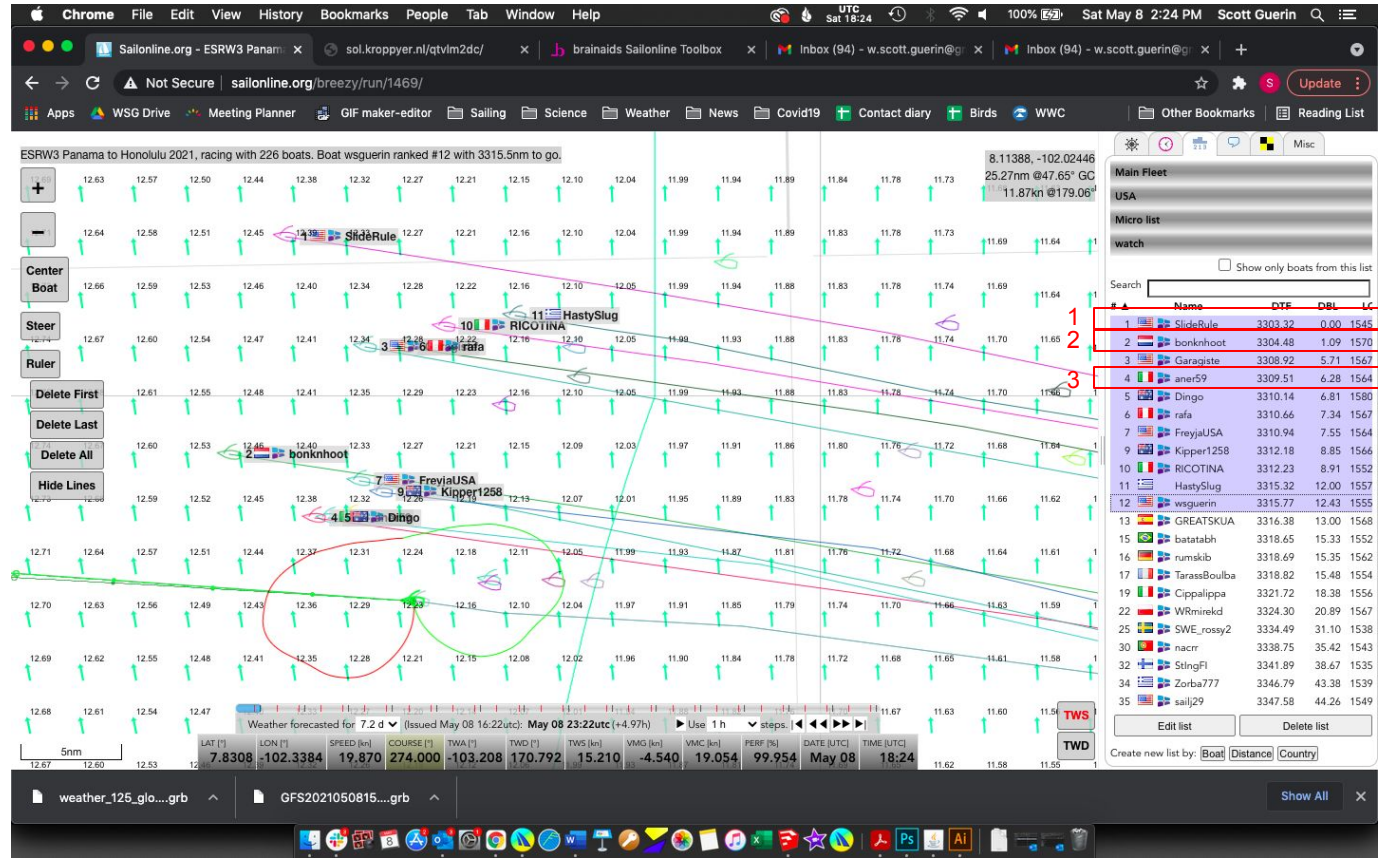
SlideRule moves into the lead for good while my premature podiumization was not to last...



ESRW3 Panama to Honolulu

Saturday, May 8, 1824 UTC

SlideRule extends, while WS misses a couple weekend WXs and stays south of the pack. That lead to my comment that I liked Go4iT's northerly track.



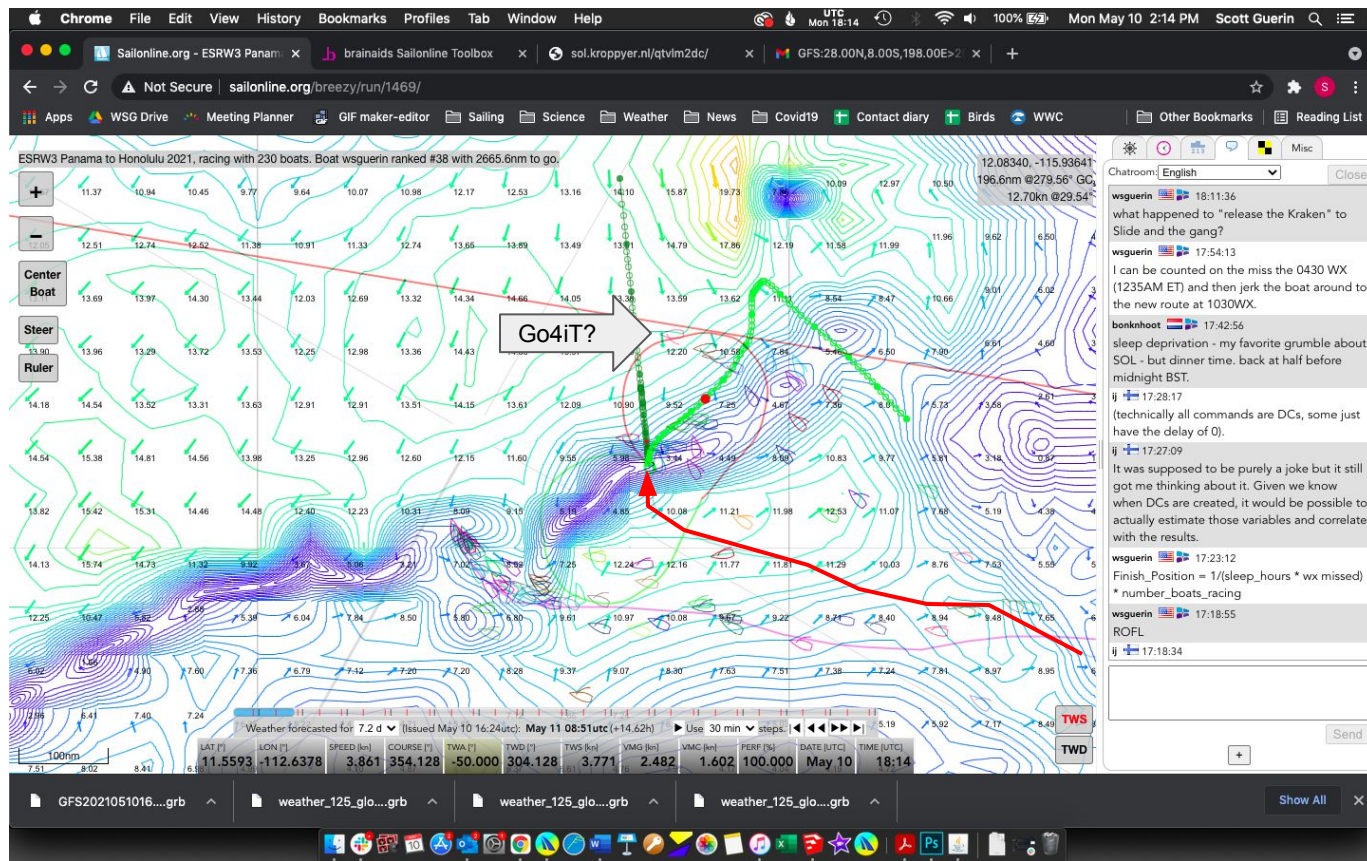
ESRW3 Panama to Honolulu

Monday, May 10, 1814 UTC

WS (red track) headed north spying a gap in the goo that closed off.

I think that Go4iT got through and into the wind nicely even further to the north.

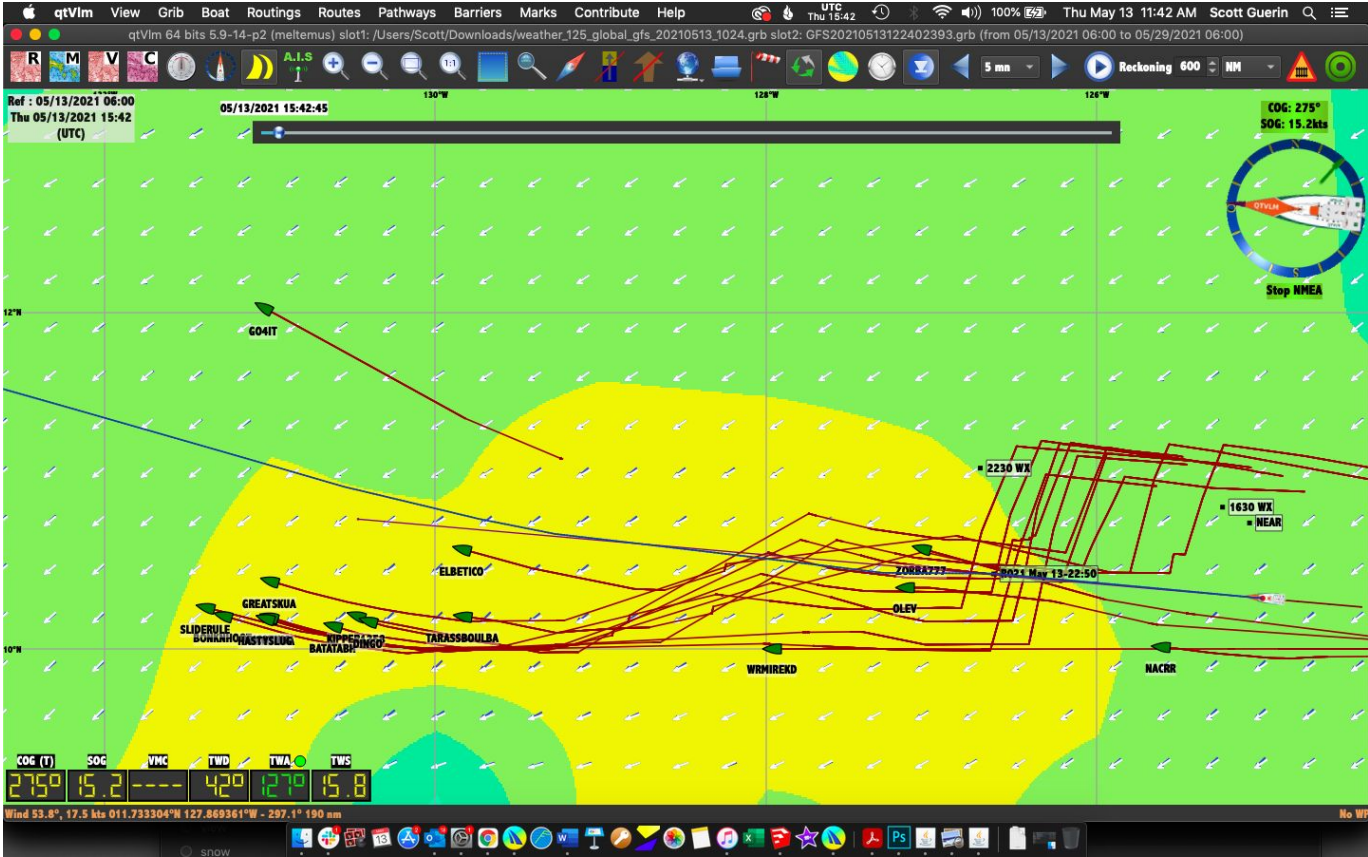
Slide and the gang stay close together in the South to tackle their gap - how did they see that one?





Thursday, May 13, 1542 UTC

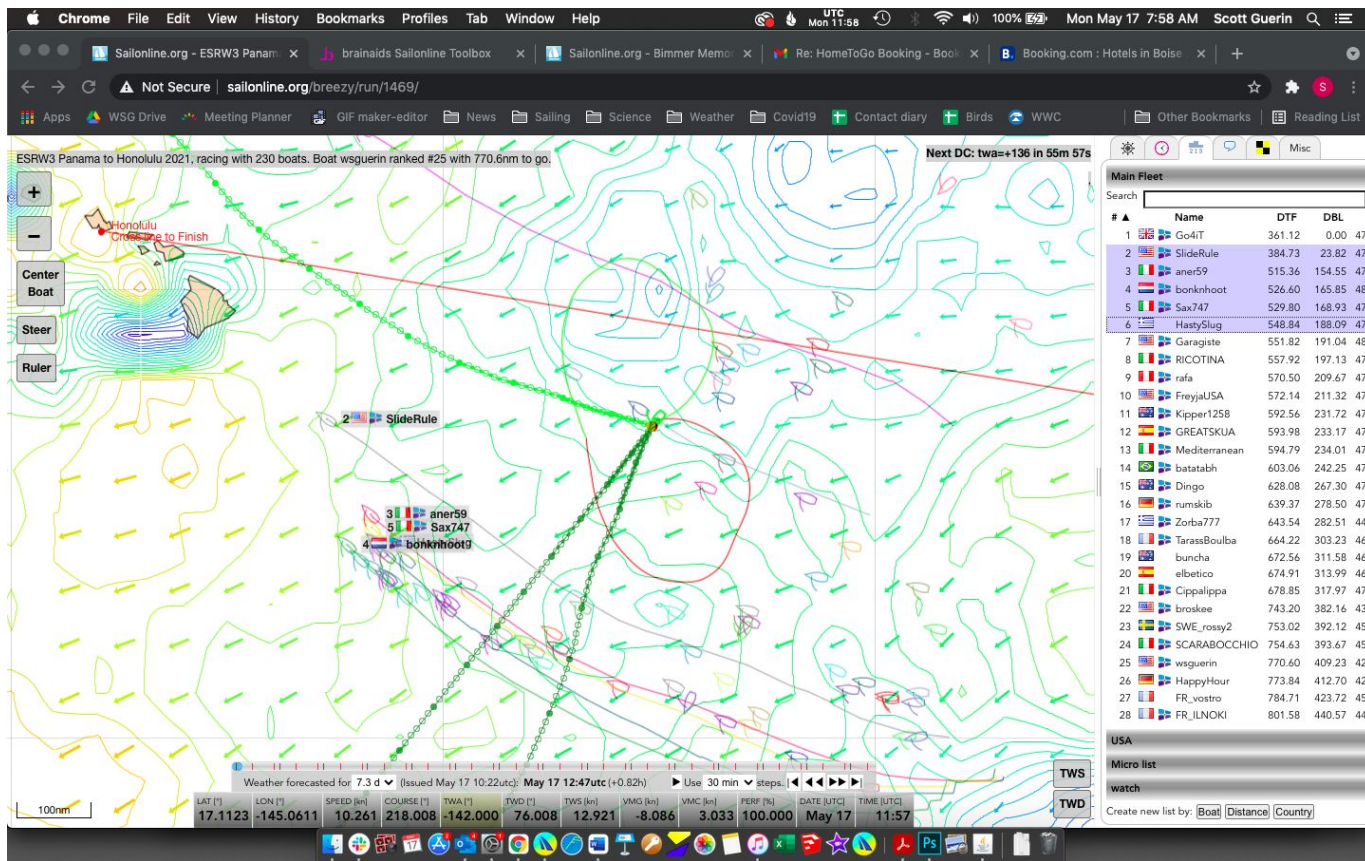
Go4iT had made their move north some days ago, and for awhile it looks like a brilliant roll of the dice.



ESRW3 Panama to Honolulu

Monday, May 17, 1158 UTC

While Go4iT (just off screen at top) has held the top position for some days, Slide's better angle to the wind, resulting speed, and astonishing 150nm lead over the pack gets him off his Gunboat and onto the barstool first.



Thursday, May 20, 1206 UTC

Go4iT (blue track) screamed in like a missile finishing a highly respectable 16th. They went North at the right time, I later followed.

WS (red track) makes a final try for top 35 but it was not to be.

Some said this race was boring, it was not, but being in the lead pack then falling back to follow the leaders is maddening and humbling. And then, following the leaders really IS boring!

So I took a late, ill-considered, counter-to-QT flyer as a result and it didn't pay off. It went against the odds as shown in the average wind chart at the top of this report.

My hat is off to not only the podium who really kept their eyes on the ball, but to the rest of the SOL fleet, admins, and newcomers.

