

Report for race 1475 - Kaneohe to Kiritappu 2021

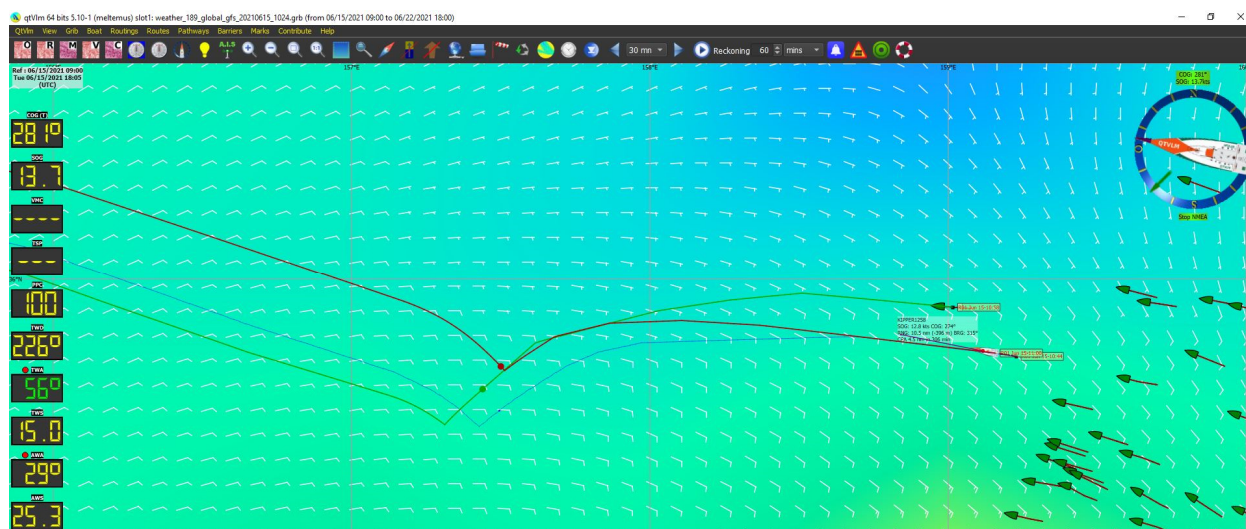
A kipper, a slug and a dingo walk into a bar in Kiritappu, in that order...

I wish I could continue the story of what could be an intriguing joke, but duty calls and I have to write this report instead... So, I'll share the boring account of the trip to the bar from the point of view of the slug.

Kaneohe was not an easy start for a race towards Japan. We had to round the north part of the east face of Oahu before hitting the open ocean towards the northwest. Things were even more difficult for my time zone, as I was facing a weather update of just 30min after start which could have easily led to an early BBQ and a disastrous delay of 7hrs until I had gotten up in the morning. Balancing this risk against the well known effects of sleep deprivation, I decided to keep well clear of the coast of Oahu and just sleep through the 22:30 weather update, which I did throughout this race. As a result I ended up a couple of miles behind the leaders who had chosen a similar path.

The race went on without many surprises. There was some flopping of the weather router between a north or southern approach, but quickly settled towards south. Two major gybes were predicted ahead following the passing of anticyclones. I adopted the strategy of my SOL friend Scott of SlideRule and slowly gained the lost miles, and near to halfway I had reached the leaders. The strategy "don't let the tail wag the dog" is explained in all of SlideRule's reports, thus I should not repeat.

Kipper appeared in front of me after the first gybe. I wasn't paying attention to him at that point. He consistently kept the lead for the next few weather updates. Approaching the second gybe, I planned my attack: I gybed earlier (red) than suggested by the router (blue), hoping for a slight header further ahead that would render going so far south pointless. Kipper's predicted path is green. My plan worked somewhat and the 15min difference noted by Kipper last time we crossed paths was reduced to 5 at the finish line.



Congratulations Kipper and Dingo! You sailed very well. Congratulations to all top finishers!

This was my first podium! Hurray! Drinks are on the slug!

Some thoughts

Kipper mentioned that sleeping through the 16:30 weather update helped him avoid misguidance by the weather router. I could say the same for the 22:30 weather update. Dingo appeared from a different path and finished third, thus I can conclude that it was a race with plenty of opportunities at various occasions.

Kipper also mentioned that a boat assist would be useful. I couldn't agree more, as the offwatch routing from my collaboration with Scott of SlideRule has proven. But as Scott was racing IRL at the beginning of this race, no offwatch routings were used.

Thomas of HastySlug (virtual boat only)

June 2021

Bio

Thomas lives in Thessaloniki (Greece) and works at the university. He sails every summer since he got his offshore sailing diploma in 2000 and he raced at the local offshore championship for 15 years, mainly at the bow. He then followed a course on weather routing and got addicted to SOL ever since. His dream is to join an ocean race IRL.

