

MISTLI'S BIRTHDAY BBQ 2021

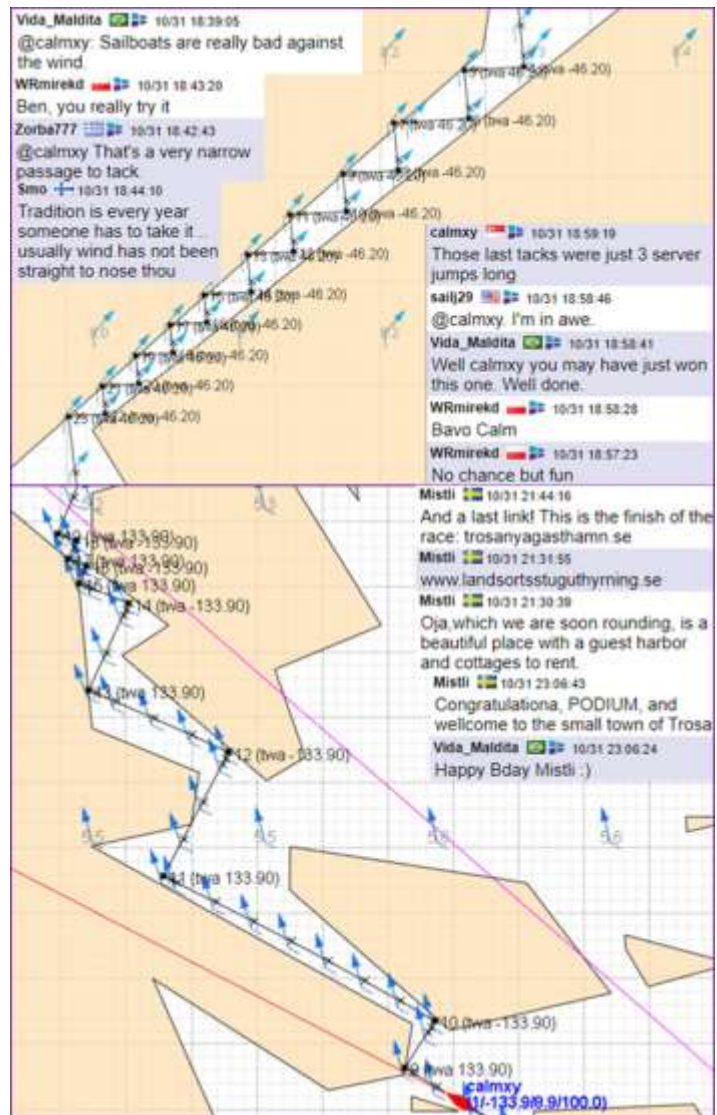
This is the third time that I raced Mistli's BBQ. Of course, being a "BBQ race", it involves weaving through areas full of SLIs. With an estimated finishing time of 7am locally (10pm start), this was going to be tricky to deal with, especially since it was a working day. Luckily, the general optimal strategies were to tack away from the Swedish coast between waypoints, so I set DCs to cover the entire race duration. In fact, most of this race can be reasonably DC-set; the exceptions are the Wx updates and the two screenshots that are included in this report. I mean, you can get lucky and still clear those narrow channels on your starting DCs, but that's pretty unlikely. Possibly by chance, I happened to wake up at just the right times.

The former section in particular (between Rånö and Utö islands) is an interesting case. In both 2019 and 2020, I've seen someone use this channel in the race. However, as I understand they sailed a straight line through it, even when there was a 20 knot tailwind, which on this polar cost a lot of speed.

If it was a 20 knot tailwind then I would not have gone by this channel as proper gybing strategy would have server jumps that are too large to safely fit within the channel. Imagine when one server jump of TWA 146° in either direction would result in a BBQ. But since it was a 7 knot headwind, I decided that the boat would move slowly enough that I could safely fit the tacking there. Of course, performance loss from the repeated tacks would be expected but given the limit of lost performance and the extra wind after that, I went for it anyway.

Surprisingly enough, I was the only one to leave Rånö to Starboard, and this led to the nearly 4 minute lead over the others. Avoiding the remaining SLIs, I managed to hold the lead all the way to the finish.

Happy Birthday Mistli!



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