

SATORI'S REPORT ON THE SUSAN HOOD TROPHY RACE 2022
(A Partnering Between Sailonline (SOL) and Lake Ontario Offshore Racing (LOOR))

I have to start out by telling you SOLers how elated I was that Satori finished 1 second ahead of SOL's top ranked **WDMirekd**. I particularly wanted **Satori** to finish well in the Susan Hood in our home waters on Lake Ontario but bettering **Mirek**, who has 10 first place finishes in the last 30 races with a few more in reserve to justify his ranking, was more than I anticipated.

On-the-water there was also a close finish among the 8 Beneteau 36.7's racing. The actual finish times of **Ariadna** sailed by Alec Meinikov of the Etobicoke Yacht Club and **Sandpiper** sailed by Robert DeWitte of the Burlington Sailing and Boating Club were within 6 seconds of one another. A daylight photo-finish for the LOOR Race Committee!

Before I go on, I would like to thank all of you SOLers who supported this brilliant partnering between LOOR and SOL. 104 of you registered for the Race with 67, representing 21 countries, crossing the Starting Line putting the Susan Hood on the international map for those who follow yacht racing by reference to SOL. There were 8 Canadian boats registered and 5 raced with the finishing order being **Satori**, **Bawldeegle**, **FreeNeasy**, **weekend** and **Sunrunner1**

When the SOL Race is officially closed and the SOL PODIUM posted with the Canadian Ensign centred over **Satori**, the Polish flag will be over **WDMirekd**, who finished 2nd, just 1 second later, and the flag of Spain will be over **GREATSKUA**, who finished 1 minute and 10 seconds later. There were 8 countries represented in the Top Ten and they finished within 5 minutes and 38 seconds of the Leader **Satori** sailed by John Gambles of the Royal Canadian Yacht Club and the Sailonline Yacht Club.

On-the-water the actual finish times of the Beneteau 36.7's, ignoring rating corrections, ranged over 84 minutes, from 13 hrs 26 mins 43 secs to 14 hrs 51 mins 7secs, with **Strega** sailed by John Harper of the Mimico Cruising Club having the fastest elapsed finishing time. On corrected time Beneteau 36.7 **Strega** finished 3rd in their Division behind a J 35 and a C&C 115. **Satori's** virtual finishing time of 14 hrs 5mins 1 sec was only better than 2 of the 8 Beneteau 36.7's racing on-the-water.

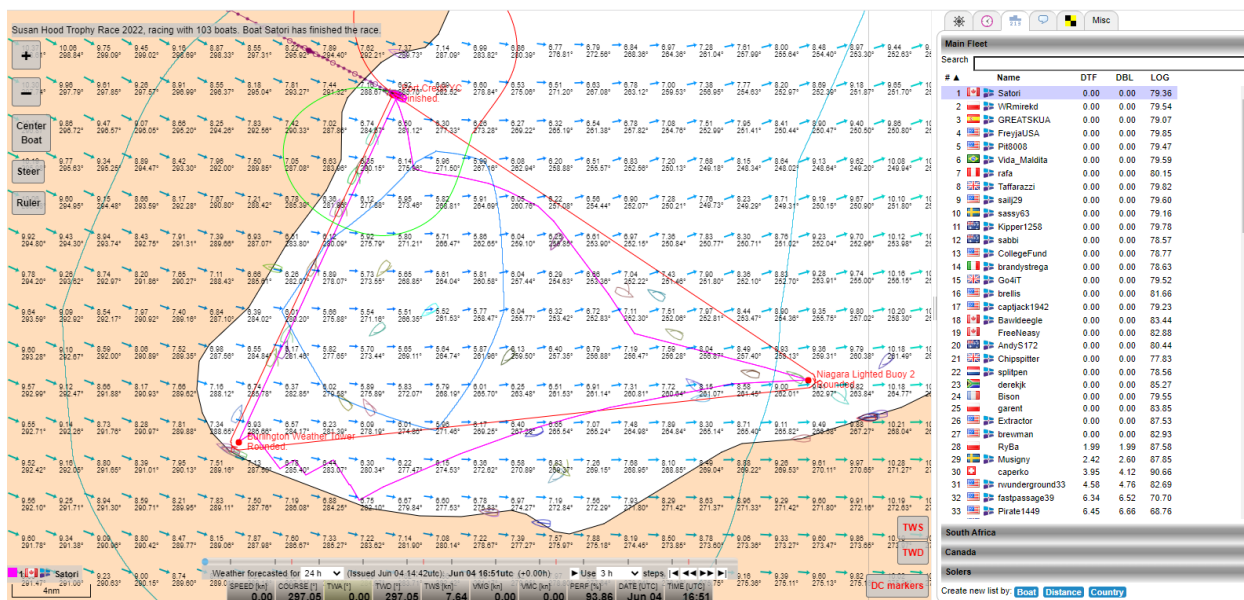
Registration for the SOL race was opened early to give on-the-water participants and their crews and friends the opportunity to register a boat on SOL and try out the course before the start of the on-the-water race and to follow the trending weather around the course. As you SOLers know, after registration is open, those of us who use routing software, are producing routings using the predicted weather at the start time with each pre-race weather update and studying the trending weather specific to the race course. Those of you who are sailing SOTP's are running the course often more than once before the race starts and you know that practising often improves your placement in the race.

The SOL Race

Below is a screen print of the course that **Satori** sailed in the Race (the weather is post-race when the print was taken). **Satori's** course is the burgundy line and the red line is the rhumbline of the 3 Leg clock-wise triangular course from the Start Line to the Niagara Lighted Buoy 2 to the Burlington Weather Tower to the Finish Line at the Port Credit Yacht Club. Unfortunately, a few SOLers decided to sail the course counter-clockwise! Were they from places where the water goes down the drain that way? As **Pit8008** said in the Chat Room we will not name names!

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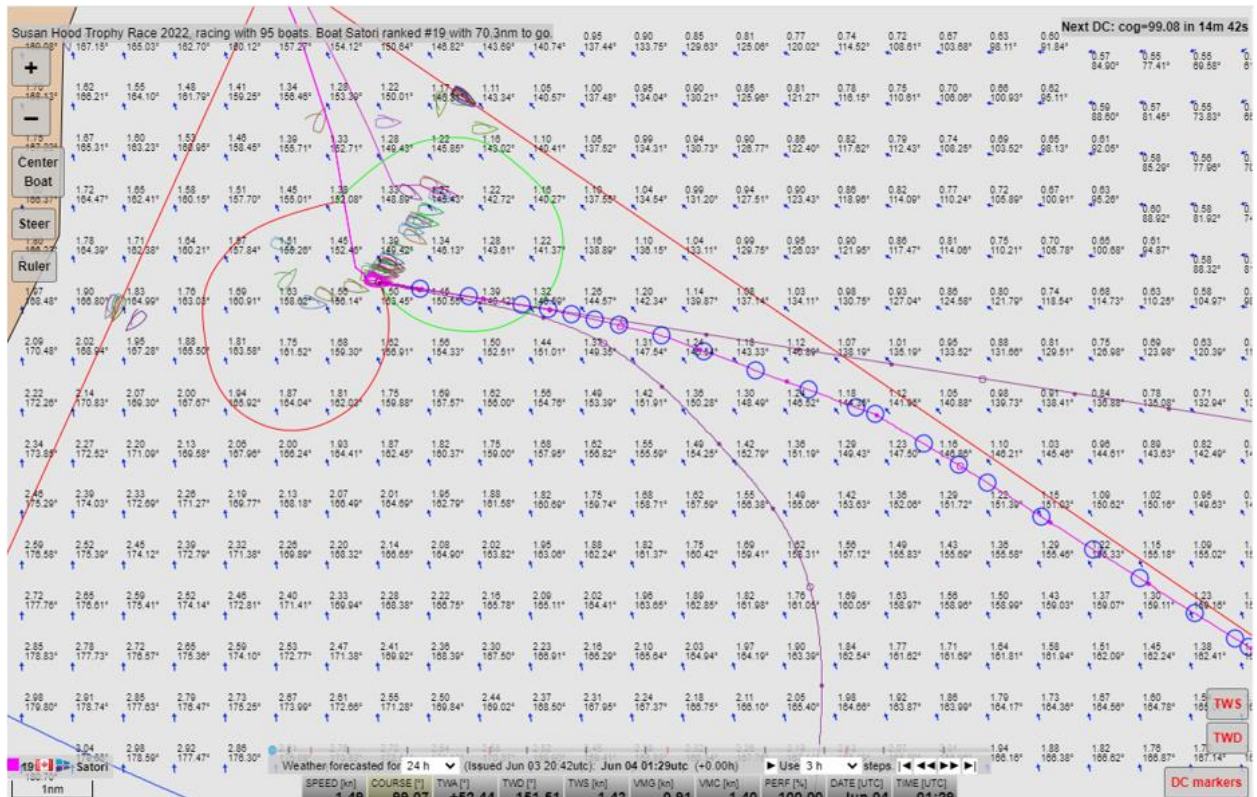
Pre-race planning – Using the last weather update 3 hrs before the race and Qrtlm routing software a routing was created around the course using a Pathway of the three race marks with a predicted finish of June 4th 9:57 am ESDT. (**Satori** actually finished at 9:50:01 ESDT.) As I have said in previous reports I have learned from other SOLers, and from experience, that in long-distance routings the algorithms of routing software appear to make compromises that can be bettered by linking shorter routings. After comparing the mark rounding times, **Satori** actually sailed individual routings for each of the Legs using the full course routing as a guide for temporary post-rounding routing while the next Leg's route was being created in Qrtlm for posting to SOL's Command Centre.

Satori averaged 5.635 knts. sailing 79.36 nms. over the course. As the SOL racing is so close, just like IRL the crispness of the Mark roundings is critical as every minute, every second, counts when just 1 second separated the first two boats and just over 1 minute separated the first three boats.

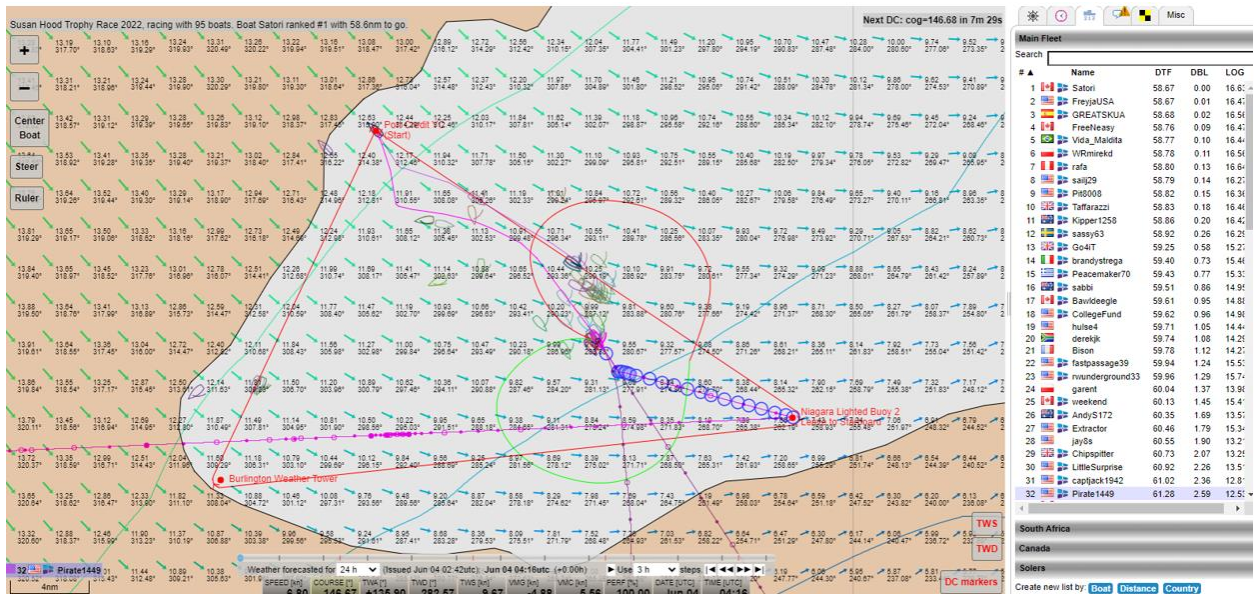
The **1st Leg**, which is just over 25 nms, was the slowest for **Satori** with an average BS of 4.13 knts. On this Leg you had to anticipate the wind shifts, particularly the one just 2 ¾ hrs and 4 nms into the Race. On the next screen print you can see how the SOL fleet was dealing with the wind shift in these low unstable winds. **Satori** is the burgundy boat with a BS of 1.49 knts. Each of the blue circles (which can be toggled on and off) on **Satori's** predicted course is a DC Marker showing that there is a Delayed Command for a course change posted to the SOL Command Centre. There was a weather update coming up in another 3 hrs and 15 mins that predicted an increase in the race duration of 4 mins that did not materialize but it shows the difficulty of predicting accurately in low unstable winds both from a weather forecasting and a routing perspective. This is where your knowledge of the weather trends will influence your intervening with some SOTP's helming!

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Here is the next wind shift in Leg 1 and winds have increased to 9.67 knts and leaders have taken hold of the Race in 4 ¾ hrs and just over 16 nms. 9 of the boats ranked by the Server based on the Distance To Finish at the Niagara mark finished in the Top Ten. (The SOL Server creates the Ranking based on DTF to next mark as the seagull flies.) Certainly racing the rhumbline was not the answer. Playing the wind shifts was and this is where routing software delivers placement points! Remember QtvIm is FREE!

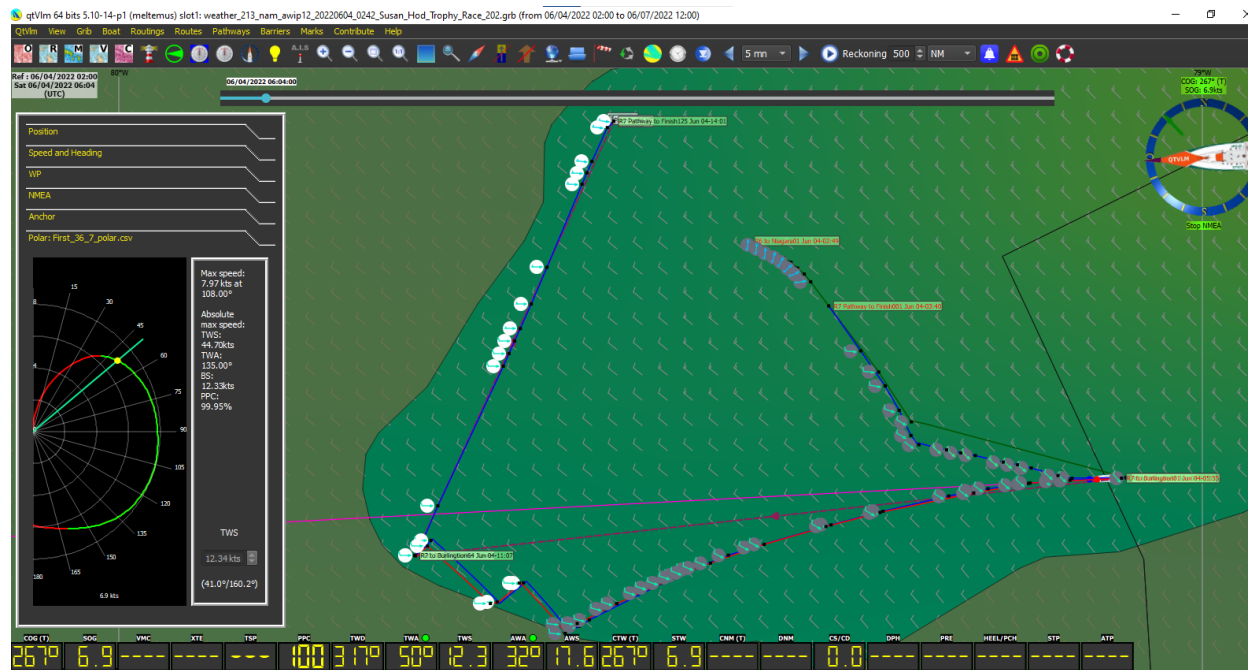


Satori had a confirmed rounding of the Niagara Buoy at 1:54 am ESDT in 1st place.

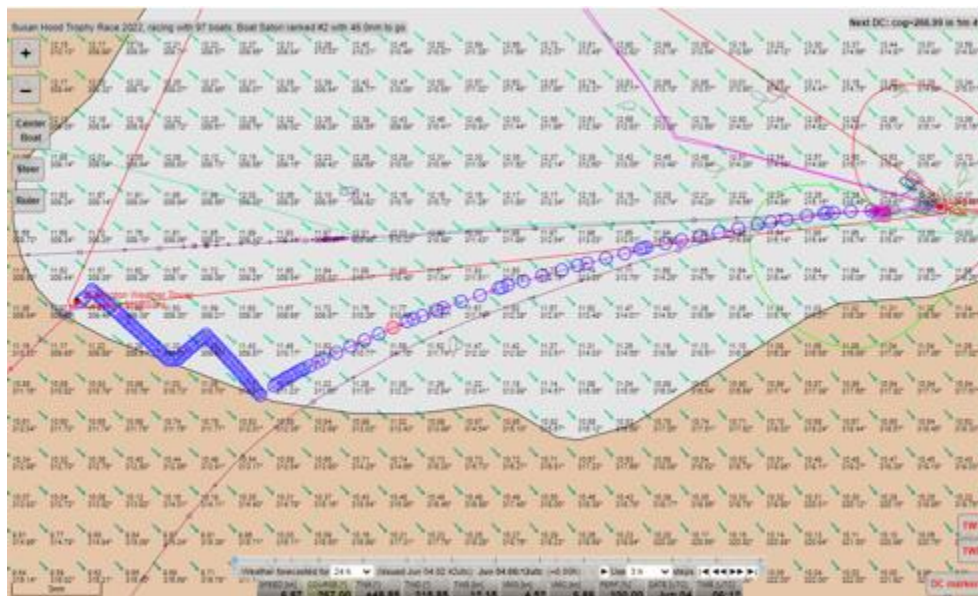
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The **2nd Leg** is around 29 nms and **Satori** averaged 5.53 knts on this Leg. Here is a screen print of QTVm's routing from the Niagara Lighted Buoy to the Burlington Weather Tower. The Blue route is the Pathway routing to the Finish Line. The red line parallel to it is the routing between the 2 Marks and the route that **Satori** is sailing.



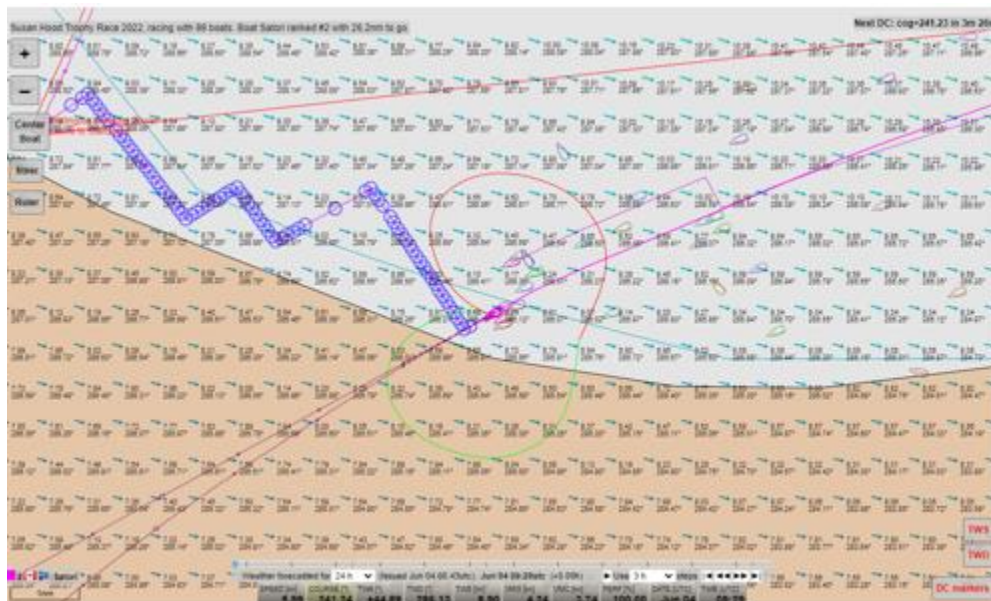
On this SOL screen print you see more clearly the red course that **Satori** is sailing to the Burlington Weather Tower.



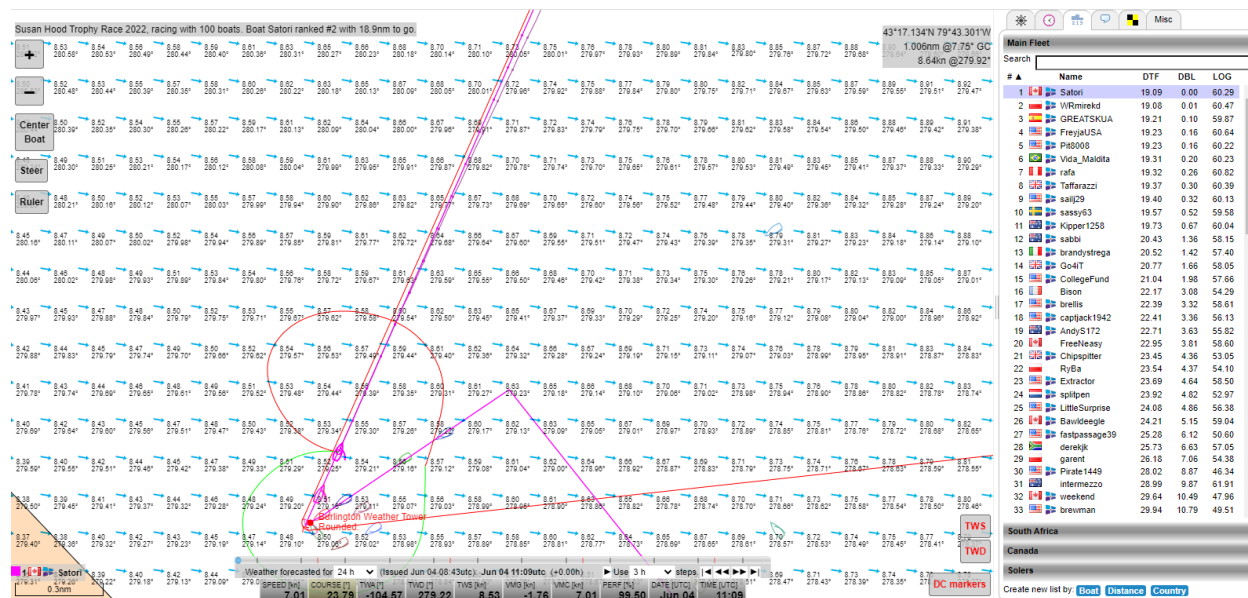
Each of those blue dots is a DC Marker indicating a course alteration in the SOL Command Centre. The red dot among the blue dots is my highlighting of the next weather update (WX). When that WX comes

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through you had better not have been sleeping because it does change the tacks before the Burlington Weather Tower. Here is **Satori's** course after the WX. You can see **WDMirekd** covering to windward.

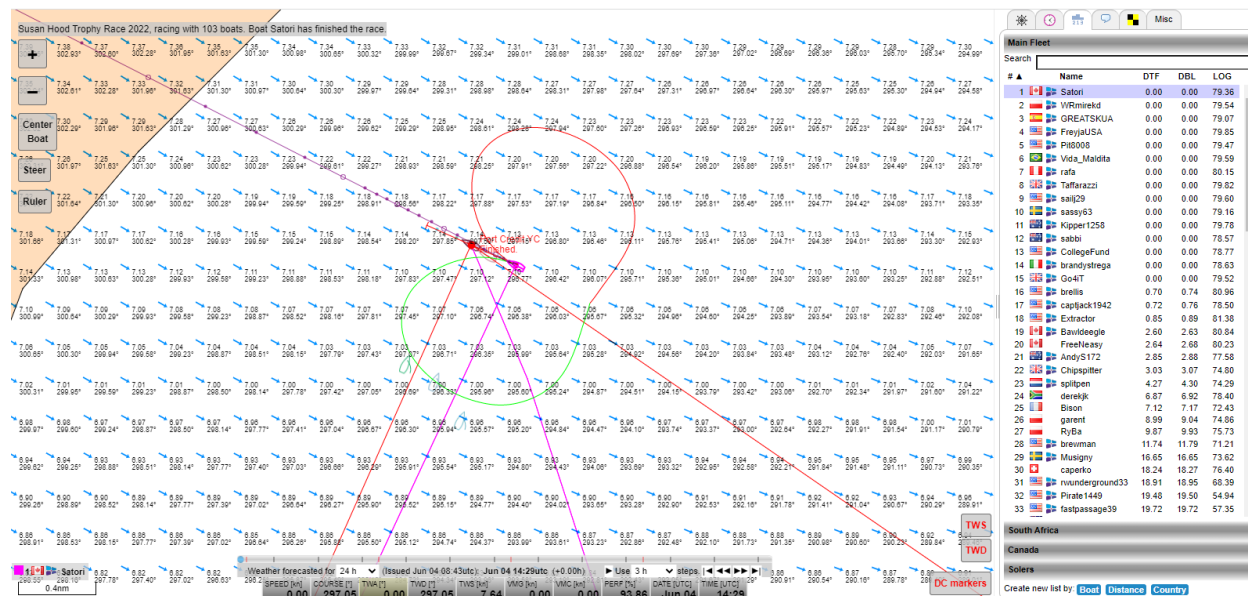


The **3rd Leg** is around 19 nms and **Satori** averaged 7.06 knts on this Leg. **Satori** is in 1st place with a confirmed rounding of the Burlington Weather Tower at 7:06 am ESDT with **WDMirekd**, the No. 1 ranked SYC sailor, right on her stern. **Satori** and **WDMirekd** match raced to the Finish Line for 3 solid hours with the Server alternating their 1st and 2nd positions with almost every crank of the Server. They were never more than 3 boat lengths apart. I was literally glued to **Satori's** helm with minute course corrections watching **WDMirekd's** AIS boat speed and DTF. **WDMirekd** mentioned in the Chat Room that the Server was driving him insane with each crank! I responded with "now we know where the word cranky comes from"!



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Here is **Satori** on the Finish Line in 1st place. The angle of the Finish Line made the starboard end of the line advantaged and **Satori** crossed as close as possible to the STBD end while staying inside the Mark.



Let me close by thanking SOL and LOOR for arranging their partnering in the 67th year of this “the coolest race on Lake Ontario” that I have had the pleasure of sailing IRL in my younger days.

My thanks also go to all you SOLers for registering and for racing. I hope to see you on the Starting Line for the Lake Ontario 300 Challenge, which starts Saturday, July 16th. I am sure that SOL will open the race for registration early to give SOLers, those registered for the on-the-water race and their crews and friends the opportunity to practice before the Race starts.

If you are not using routing software perhaps you will be encouraged to think about it after reading this report. **Satori** would not have finished first without it.

Fair winds to all,

John Gambles / **Satori**