

## A Round of Rum Sprint 2023

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This race started at 3:30am for me on the West Coast of the U.S.A., so I made sure to drink lots of water around 10pm, forcing me to get up and handle Nature's Call before the Countdown, which I was privileged to provide in the Chat. Perhaps that brought me some good luck!

Planning to be awake throughout the race, I made some 'safe' DC's as I approached each turn. Watching the 11-second screen updates allowed me to feel the timing for tighter turns, keeping me at pace with the Usual Suspects/Leaders.

Two stretches required a combination of TWA and COG, which I performed pretty well thanks to years of experience here at SOL. The only turn I made at the 'safe' margin was Kinlock North near the end of the race; I thought that would sink me into the Pack (which was only about 5 seconds back!), but I managed to make up those seconds in the following stretch, almost as if I'd planned it that way!

After Shaman Insir, I started out heading pretty straight towards the North end of the Finish Line, but noticed several of the Top SOLers angling a bit South, with lower TWA but towards a closer part of the Finish Line. I made a little adjustment (following from ahead as opposed to leading from behind, hehe) and everything looked great - except here comes Kipper doing a huge jump over the last bit of land and cutting in front of me for 2nd Place. Racing with so many excellent SOLers, 3rd Place & a spot on the Podium is a very special result!

brellis - May 2023