

## Bay to Bay Leg 2

April 29, 2023

Brewman

After a disappointing Leg 1 in the 2023 Bay to Bay where I was unable to be at the helm for the start and the crew of Brewman spent hours on the beach waiting for me to come back to the helm, Leg 2 proved much more satisfying.

The start and first leg was straightforward – close hauled after buoy 4 and carry to Turkey Island. Hug the shore as the wind was veering slowly to the left.

After rounding the Booker Island Mark, a decision to be made: bear off on port into the predicted header to pass South of Walsh Island, or tack around the North side. I originally had decided to go north, then after rounding decided to join Pitt and Mirek going south. I stepped away from the helm for a few minutes and a forgotten DC rerouted Brewman back to the north. Coincidentally, a new wx appeared which reduced the advantage of the south route, so Brewman didn't lose quite so much by going north.

The next decision was how to deal with a huge wind shift coming about  $\frac{3}{4}$  the way to Duck Island. I could see negatives on both the left and right side of the course, so tried the middle – usually a bad decision, but this time no one seemed to come out with a huge advantage.

Rounded Duck Island in the top ten, then the last big decision: North or South of Big Woody Island. North was shorter, but less wind and a less favorable sailing angle, while South has an extra jibe. I decided to take the easy route North only to see most of the competition (with the exception of Pitt & Slide Rule) go south. Pitt & I both figured we'd made a bad decision while watching the southerners charge up the Island with Mirek leading the way. I started trying to guess if I would stay in the top ten after we all converged at the Big Woody mark...

Unfortunately, Mirek had some bad luck and BBQ'ed just before clearing the island. That opened the door, and it turned out that North was not as bad as feared. Brewman had a tight clean rounding of the Big Woody mark and then it was trading places all the way to the finish with Vida, Pitt, Sassy, and Brewman trading 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> places and back again multiple times. No way to predict the final places till the server spit them out. In the end Vida by 3 seconds over Brew, and Brew squeaking a 2 second margin over Pitt with Sassy coming in 4<sup>th</sup>. The top 11 places separated by less than a minute. Amazingly tight racing!!!