

I am curious (Canary Yellow)

Having taken a look at the travel sites for the Canaries and seeing all the nude beaches featured, I first thought, maybe a bar-b-que WAS in order!

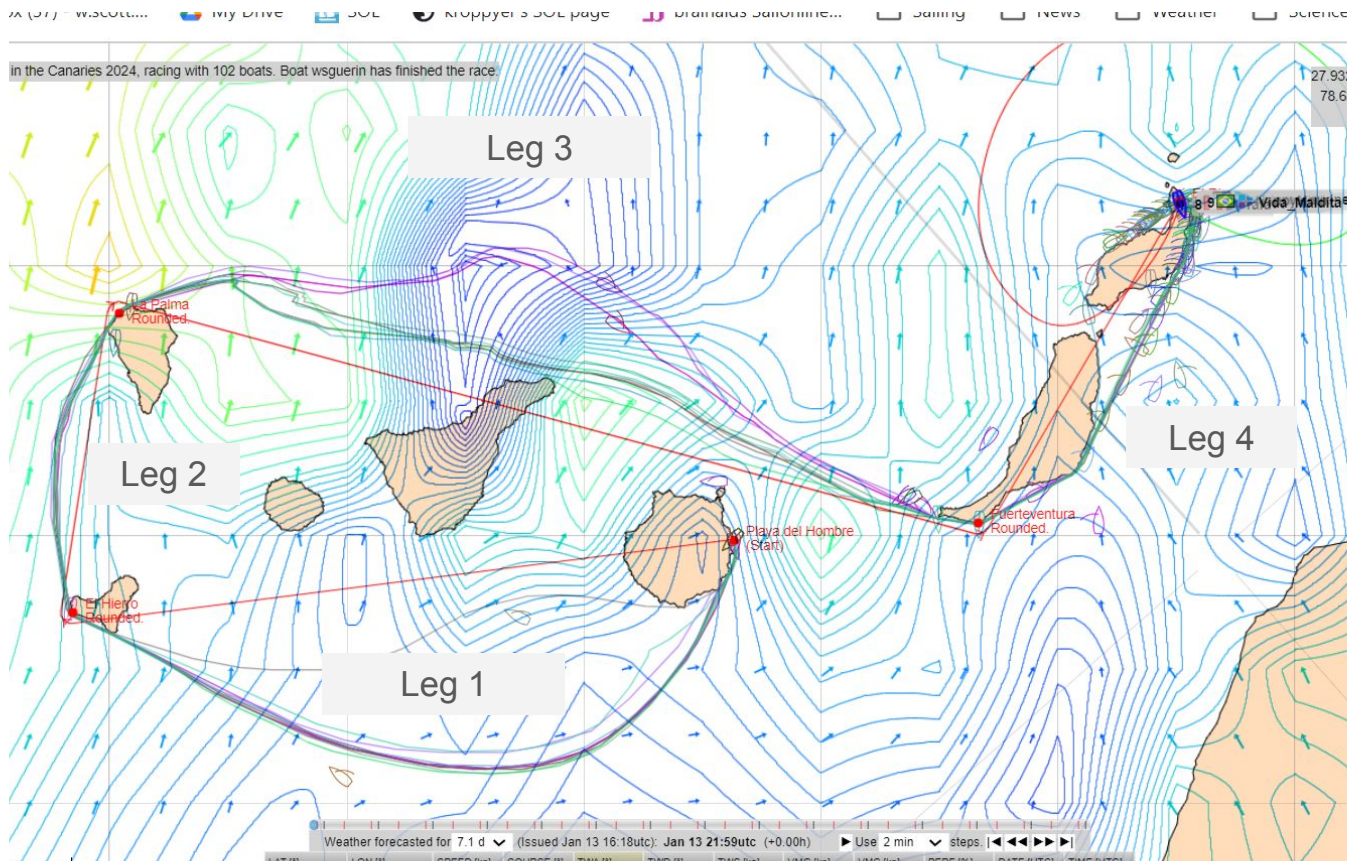
Rather, I decided to bare only my SOL and report on what went right, and almost went wrong in this, my first gold finish since starting to race in March 2020.

I'll take this kind of yellow any day!

For those of you with many wins and podiums under your belts, perhaps you still remember the “first time” with its gut wrenching hours (or moments) in first place as you approached the line. An approach, in this case, in which about half went backwards across it including WS.

Thanks to my sailing comrades and to the Sail Online gods and goddesses who make this all possible.

Remember, it's a simulation, not a game!

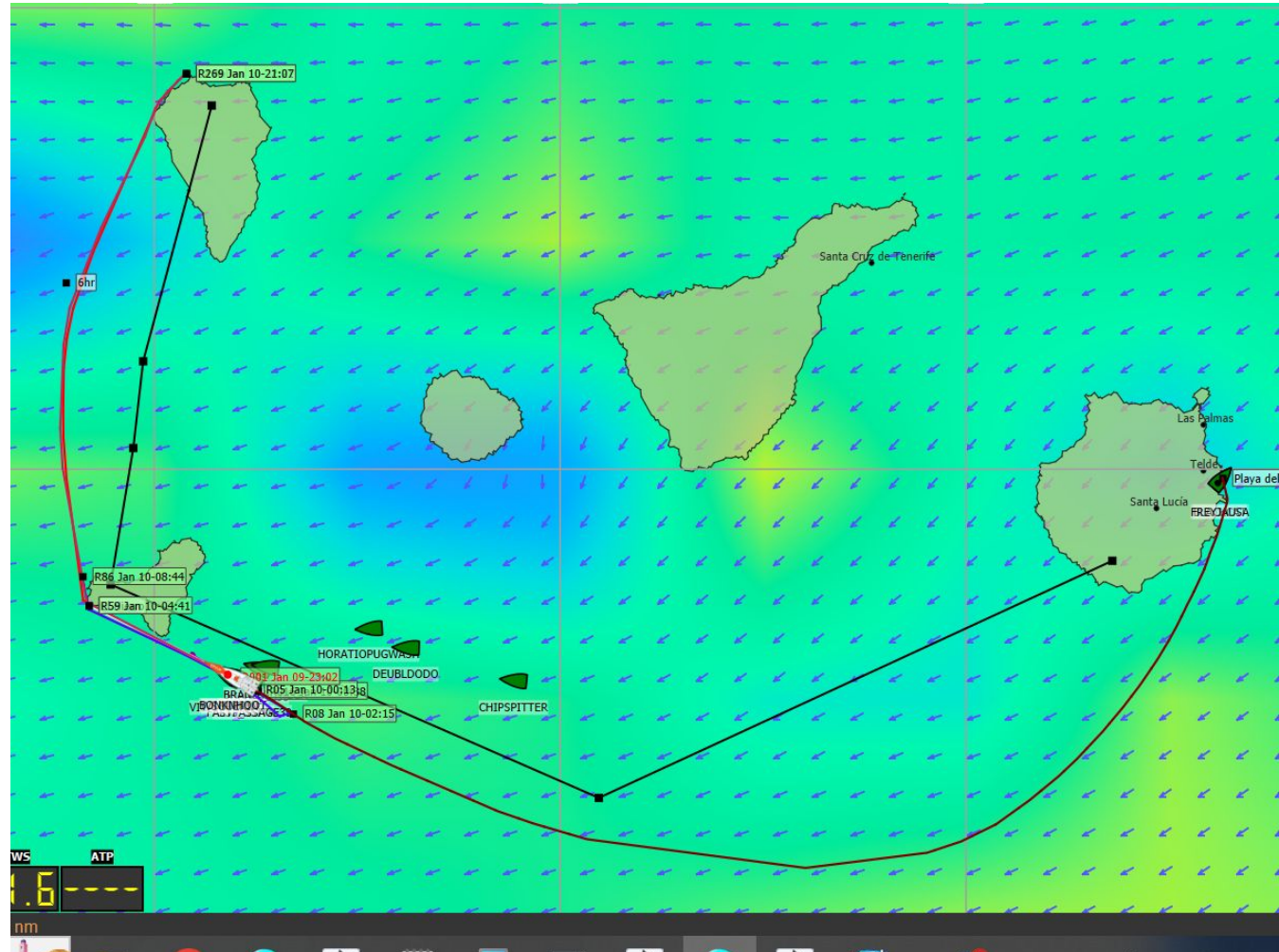


Leg 1

I was late to the line and had to run two routings 15 minutes before the start: one headed north of the Island, the other south.

The race started Jan 08th 13:00

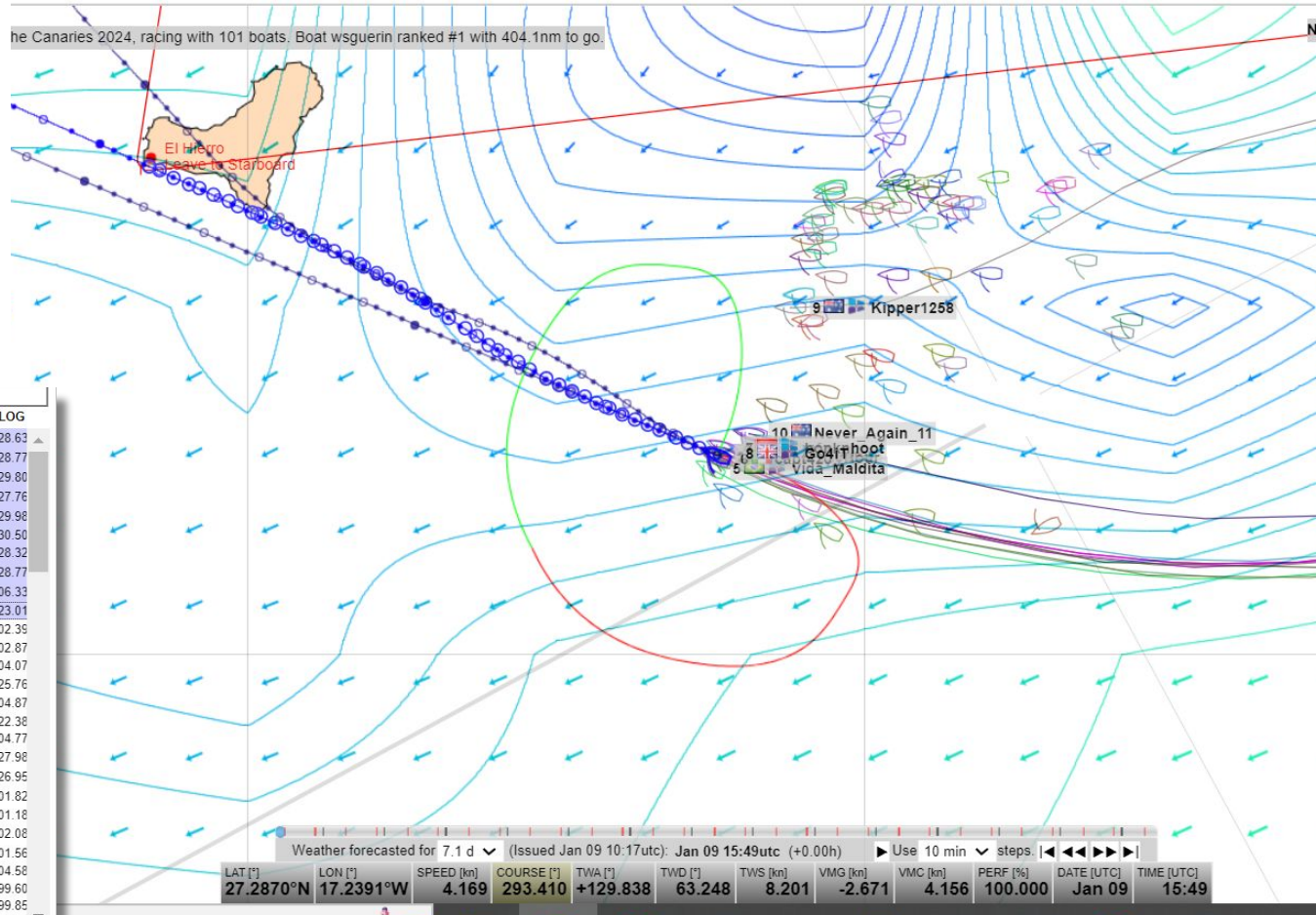
I think there may have been one or two that went north but the rest split into two Southern Fleets with some heading almost straight across to mark 1 and others taking a wind shifting arc far south.



Leg 1

Here is the fleet disposition January 9 10:49 EST or 1549 UTC about a day after the start.

WS was trading places with Mirek every other server jump. Note my TWA predictor line angling up nicely.



#	Name	DTF	DBL	LOG
1	wsguerin	404.16	0.00	128.63
2	WRmirek	404.16	0.01	128.77
3	HappyHour	404.23	0.09	129.80
4	rafa	404.26	0.10	127.76
5	Vida_Maldita	404.28	0.12	129.98
6	capt420	404.43	0.28	130.50
7	bonknhoot	404.43	0.29	128.32
8	Go4IT	404.65	0.50	128.77
9	Kipper1258	405.70	1.53	106.33
10	Never_Again_11	405.86	1.72	123.01
11	CollegeFund	406.08	1.91	102.39
12	Kerran	406.12	1.95	102.87
13	BS1	406.12	1.95	104.07
14	Speedwagon	406.11	1.97	125.76
15	brandystrega	406.15	1.98	104.87
16	Vlieg	406.13	1.99	122.38
17	maxusdabuscus	406.17	2.00	104.77
18	AL53_SSIta	406.57	2.41	127.98
19	fastpassage39	406.68	2.54	126.95
20	ITA210	406.75	2.57	101.82
21	Sime	406.86	2.69	101.18
22	RyBa	407.36	3.19	102.08
23	garent	407.38	3.20	101.56
24	CriticalHippo	407.42	3.24	104.58
25	Lady_X_I	407.52	3.34	99.60
26	Stringpuller	407.64	3.45	99.85
27	brellis	407.72	3.53	99.76

1

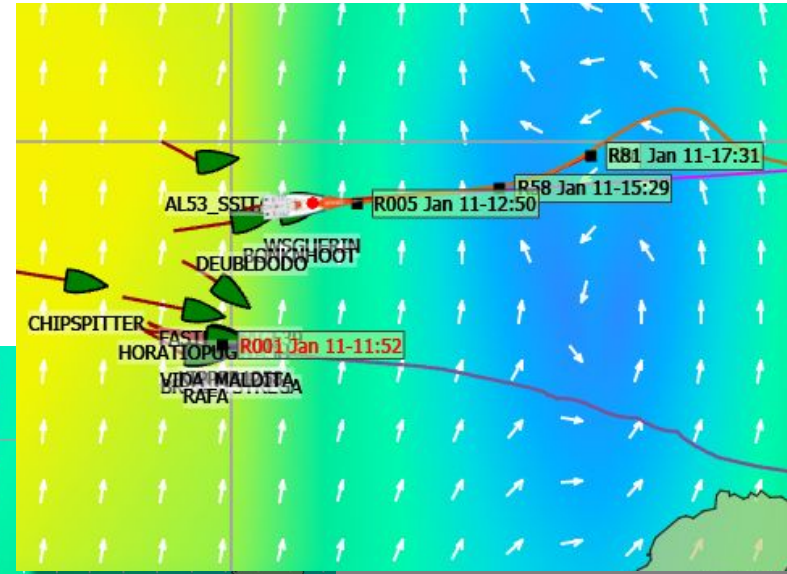
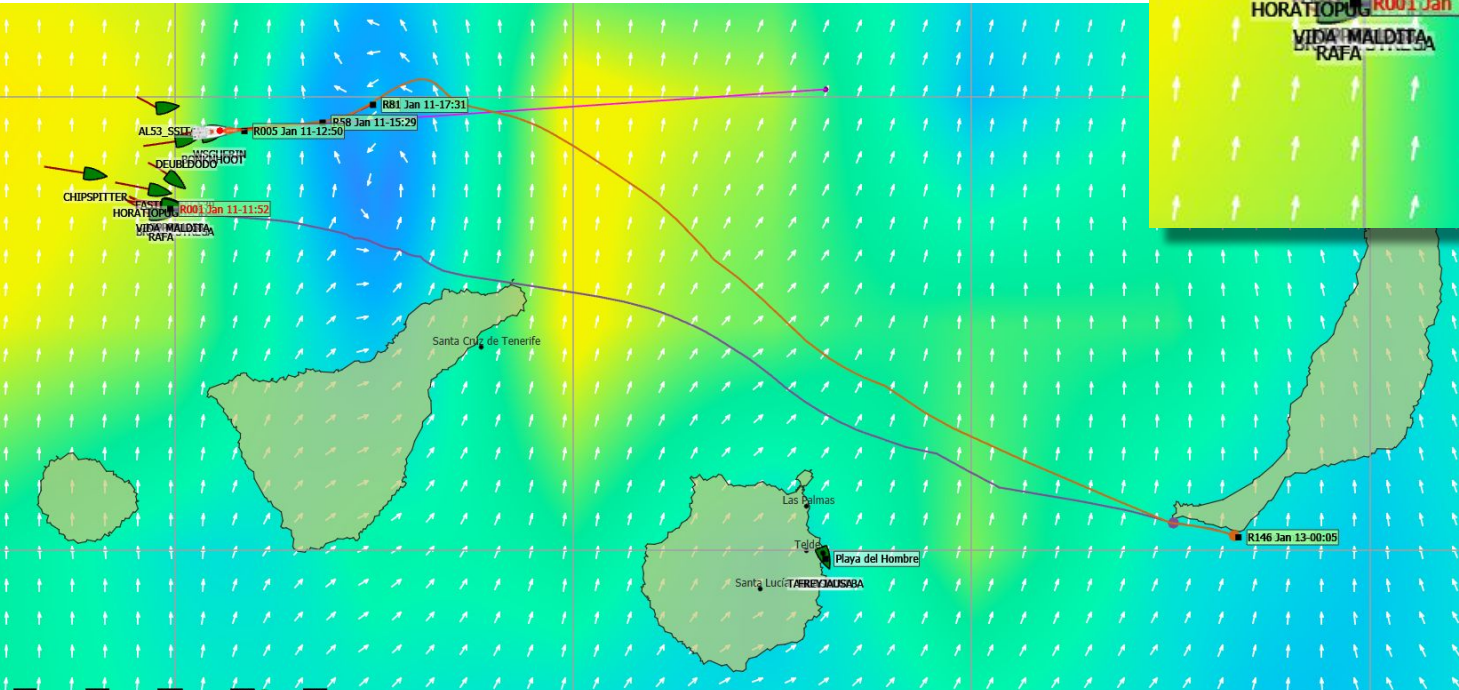
2

3

Leg 2 and 3

I don't remember much about Leg 2 or the La Palma rounding. I think I'd dropped off the podium but it was still close racing. QT "suggested" a north path but it looked a lot longer, and, as you can see, there were counter rotating winds against us.

Nonetheless, that was where I headed with Bonk just behind me and Vlieg nearby. Bonk remarked in chat he liked our position and a counter routing I did looked good indeed at 2356 on Jan 12. The blue retreated south and we all rode it over the top into the lead.



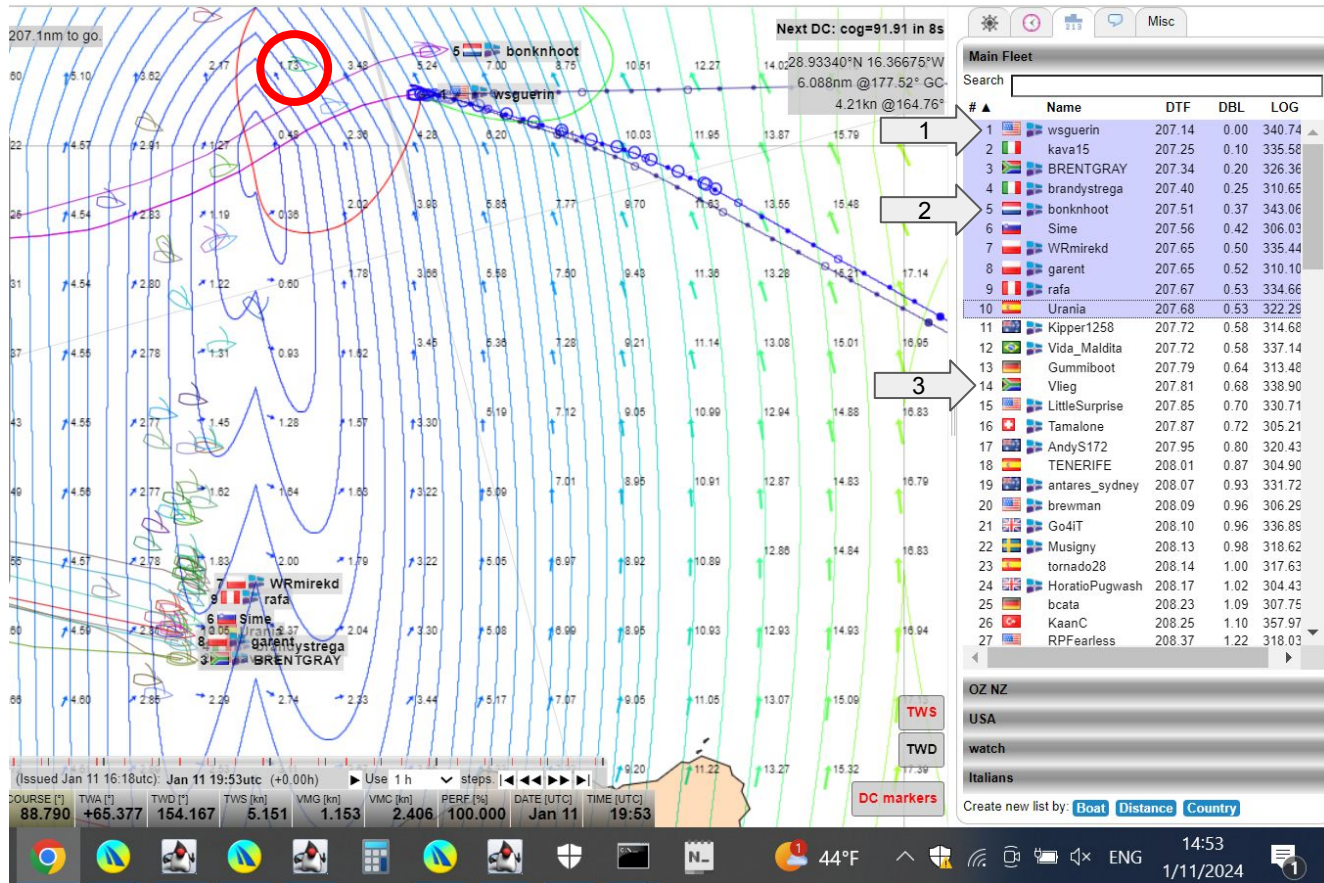
Mid Leg 3

Here we are accelerating over the hump. Bonk to the North and Vlieg was, I think, the boat circled.

I spaced out that we were on Starboard tack and the angle was actually a little in my favor. Bonk had to go a bit more head to wind to the turn, but mistakenly, I assumed I was going to be rolled.

Bonk wrote in chat "I've been winging it since leaving La Palma. Travelling by car in France with my wife who is not keen on SOL." BEEN THERE DONE THAT!

Vlieg wrote "Vlieg had to go to work. Ill give my boos trouble tomorrow because of the situation he put me in :)"



Late Leg 3

My nerves ratcheted up as I continued to lead but with the hounds on my tail. I checked every move.

All too often I've gone rogue, entered the opposite TWA, fallen asleep with no course entered, used a ruler measured course that was backwards, and generally have slipped on that Yellow colored, elongated, fruit named Chiquita.

The screenshot shows a sailing software interface with a map of the Canary Islands. The map displays wind patterns, boat positions, and race progress. A chat window on the right shows messages from participants.

Chatroom: English

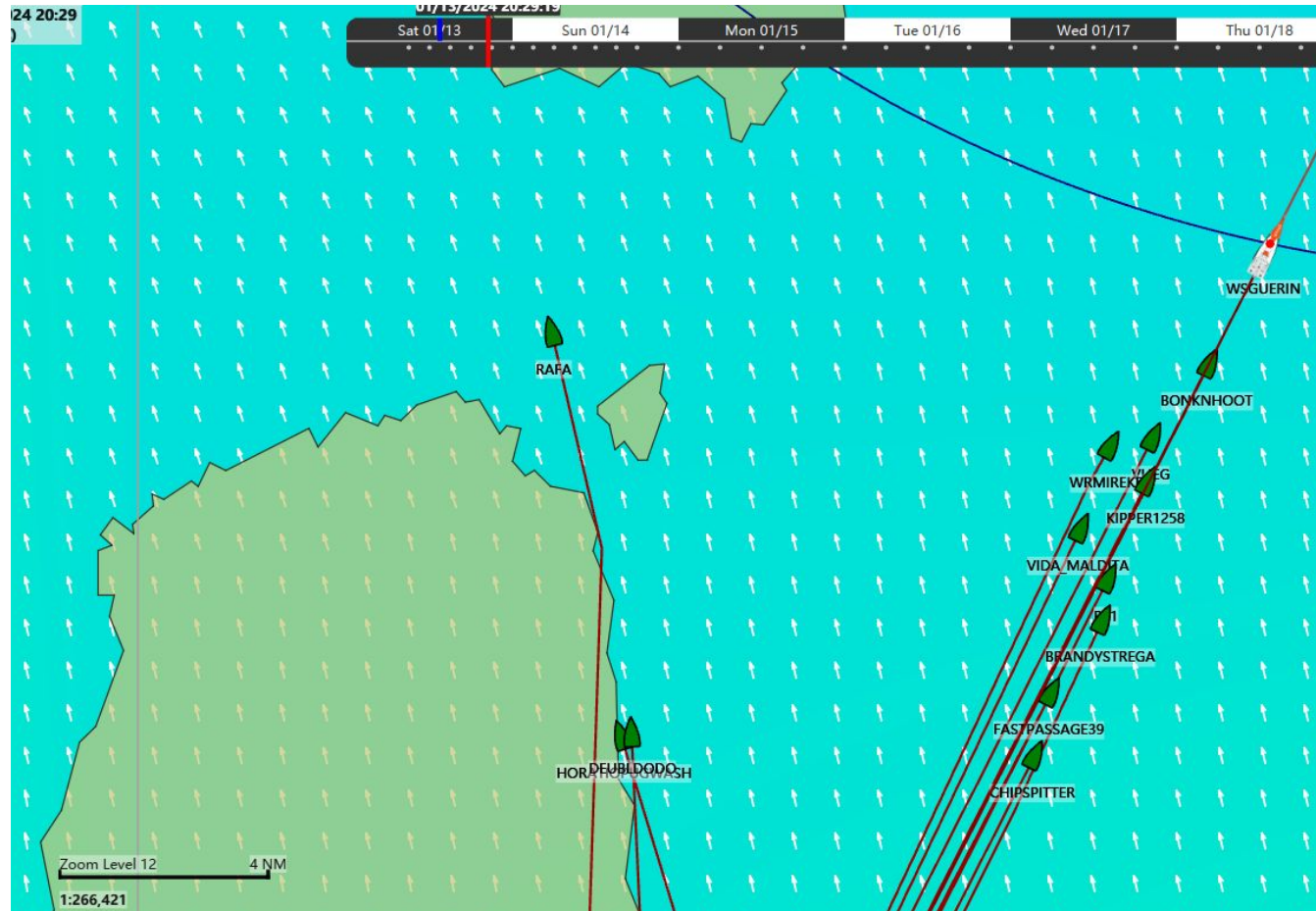
- wsguerin 10:48:48
Tx G4, at Fuentaventura is the exit!
- Go4IT 10:42:37
Nice ring road found by wsg!
- wsguerin 09:59:30
@bonkhoot this has been a strict QT diet. She's treated me well it seems
- Vida_Maldita 09:36:29
Great call staying north. Congrats.
- bonkhoot 08:37:39
@Vlieg flying low, eh?
- bonkhoot 08:36:42
@wsguerin you flying by the bottom of your trousers as well, Scotty?
- wsguerin 00:31:41
emmmmm, better angle for bonk, vlieg and bs1 below me (downwind)
- antares_sydney 01/11 22:45:09
I think I will go have a hair cut, lunch and by then maybe we might be out of the goo. Just in time to wave good bye to the northerners over the horizon by the look of it!
- Vlieg 01/11 13:44:22
You must say "Vlieg, don't freak out you are exactly where you wanted to be" Unfortunately Ill be watching an orchestra exactly when then my boat needs checking. Tchaikovsky.
- wsguerin 01/11 13:32:07
@bonk, I do like the counter routing for now
- bonkhoot 01/11 11:21:32
@wsguerin i quite like your opinion, Scott!

Leg 4

I had taken a look at the Western route taken by Rafa and others (as shown here) but it routed an hour or so slower from my position at the time so I stayed the course.

Bonk wrote earlier “@wsguerin last time I checked which was after rounding FV it was at least half an hour longer. Was disappointed you didn’t try it !”

I bet he was, but If Bonk had turned, I’d have been tempted to cover.



Finale

There was a lot of chatter about COG versus TWA as I rounded the headlands of Lanzarote to the line with a local brew in hand.

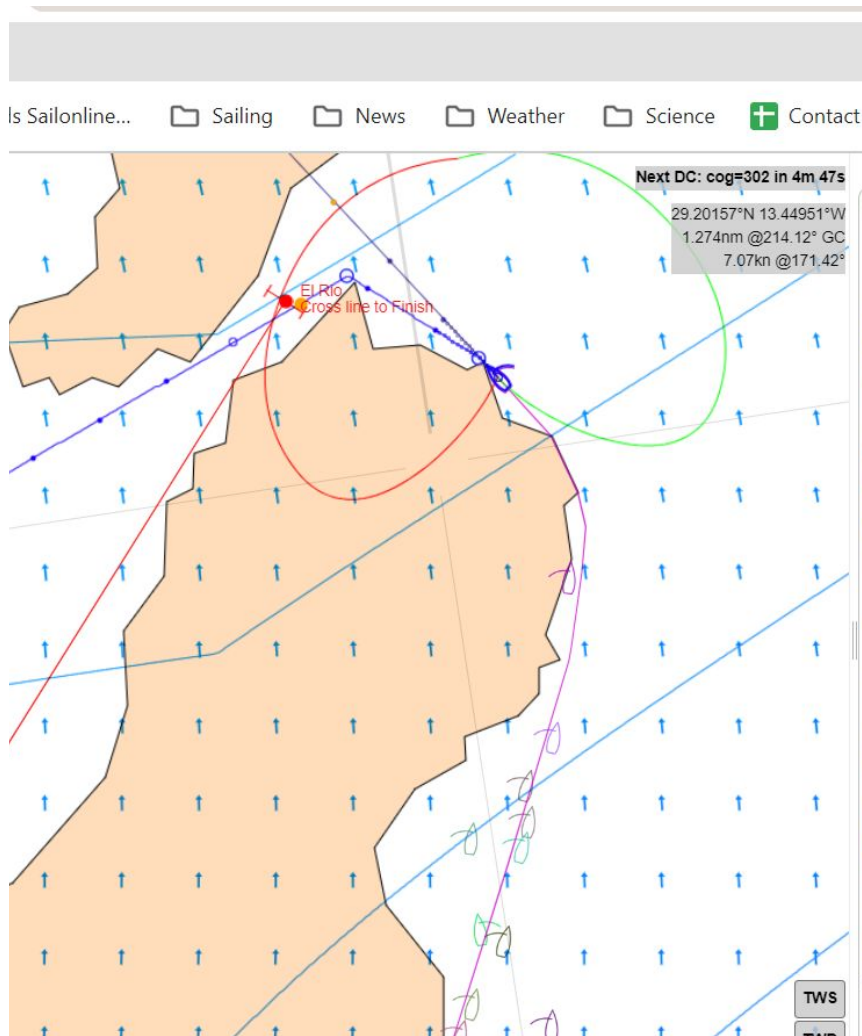
In honor of this fun, exacting, exhausting, race, I composed the following ditty:

On the shoulder of the polar
Is where my Beagle be.
O'er blue seas this SOL-er went,
Led by a kind QT.

While Darwin's tangled banks attract,
I stopped not for Bar-b-que.
Instead my course was circular,
And avoided air 'twas blue.

When near the finish line,
My comrades they did hail,
A gold in hand first time old Scott,
Put our drinks along the rail!

Cheers all!



Chatroom: English

wsguerin 19:30:51
@vida, it will be my honor. Banana daquiris all around!

Vida_Maldita 19:29:14
@wsguerin: Tradition says that your first winning needs to pick up the bar tab as well. :)

Vlieg 19:22:28
hahahah Brent. I wanted to touch on that subject but i knew you would pull though. hahahah

BRENTGRAY 19:20:15
@Vlieg, need an inverter ? Well, I have loadshedding right now, which finishes 40 min. But my lights are still on.

Vlieg 19:16:06
My area is going into load shedding in 45 minutes for 2 hours. then Im on my phone. Unbelievable. Believable.

wsguerin 19:04:59
My gybe around the headland can't come soon enough!

Vlieg 18:58:02
Yes, I did wonder about the extra space. Watch this space hahahaha MRmirked

bonknhoot 18:55:11
from the next headland i'm lust going to cc headland to headland and take th PL hit, as I suspect the longer course I'd sail on twa would cost more than the tiny bit of PL I'll incur.

bonknhoot 18:51:57
I'm switching from twa to cc at irregular intervals, but all my turnig is happening when I'm on twa

BRENTGRAY 18:48:34
@Vlieg, I knew you wouldn't take any advice from me as usual but GO GIRL GO !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Vida_Maldita 18:48:30
I meant to say: PL doesn't apply when sailing under