

Lac Manicouagan Ice Race 2024

After the two races on a DN and with some nice results under the belt I looked forward to a possible third race and just at the end of February I noticed a "Lac Manicouagan Ice Race 2024"!!!

OK, another super fast race on DN! YES, let's GO!!!!

Let's register: GO TO RACE

What??? Who made the course? It's too difficult, I will never make it without stopping for some BBQs.

Ok, let's give it a try and see how far I can go.

First things first: let's set the starting command and let's hope. This time I set the boat to start right at 15:00 without any delay (this was really needed!!!).

So the race started with a first part downwind with the first crucial decision, port or starboard? I tossed a coin and got it out so I set the commands and hoped for the best.

We all started speeding up and moving fast, kissing the shores of the lake, gybing and running. I kept quite a conservative distance from the shore and kept pushing.

From the beginning I saw Brellis, Pit, Sax, Smo and all the usual super SOLers going really fast. So I kept thinking that my best target might be "top 10" and still be more than happy.

The race went on and at the first mark the race was going pretty good for me. Brellis, Pit, Smo, Sax were all pushing hard and we were all packed in a few 0,0something nm. Any mistake or imperfection and the top 10 is gone. So I kept controlling the boat, checking bearings and fixing every bit possible according to my capabilities. I do not use any router or external support, I just guess the next move and hope it's the right one. This is what I did after the third mark (Manicouagan N) when I had to decide where to go. Here it is when Brellis took a different decision and...

Now came the next decision, when to tack balancing the shortest route with the wind changes and the polar. I tacked when it seemed right but then found I could not pass the coast just after mark_4 so I had to tack 2 times in short sequence. I feared for the worst but apparently the wolves chasing me got distracted and I kept a nice position.

Before mark_5 (Manicouagan 3) Smo and Sax got mixed up and lost some time, what a pity!!!

They say it's strange for an Italian to be in the top places on these ice races but what about a brazilian???

Yes, Vida_Maltida, you came up really fast and got it really good!!!

I kept doing all I could hoping for the best. When you have Vida, Pit, Sassy, Brellis, Rafa... all pushing for the finish it's not easy sailing!!!

The last part of the race saw the group tacking and tacking to skip rocks but still take advantage of every possible bit of extra wind. Then the finish line came and...

I DID IT AGAIN!!! I won another race.

Pit8008   02/28 18:37:38

Best of all came the comment from Pit: ITA210 takes the series with 1-1-3!!!

So there's a series of DN?!? And I even manage to win it?!? ALLAGRANDESSIMA!!!!

For this race I checked the leaderboard and I won for just 2 seconds!

For the series I discovered that a fourth race was run in November... I missed that completely!!!

Final comment: thank you to all the people who keep SOL running!!!!

