

## Simonstown to St. Helena 240226 - 240304

Not knowing much about this part of the world and only vaguely remembering this was the second of two islands Napoleon spent time on, in this case his last days, I was pretty lazy in the lead up to race day.

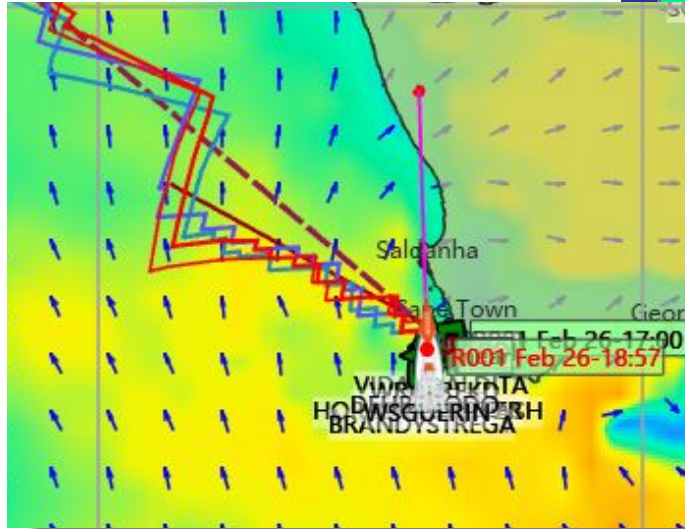
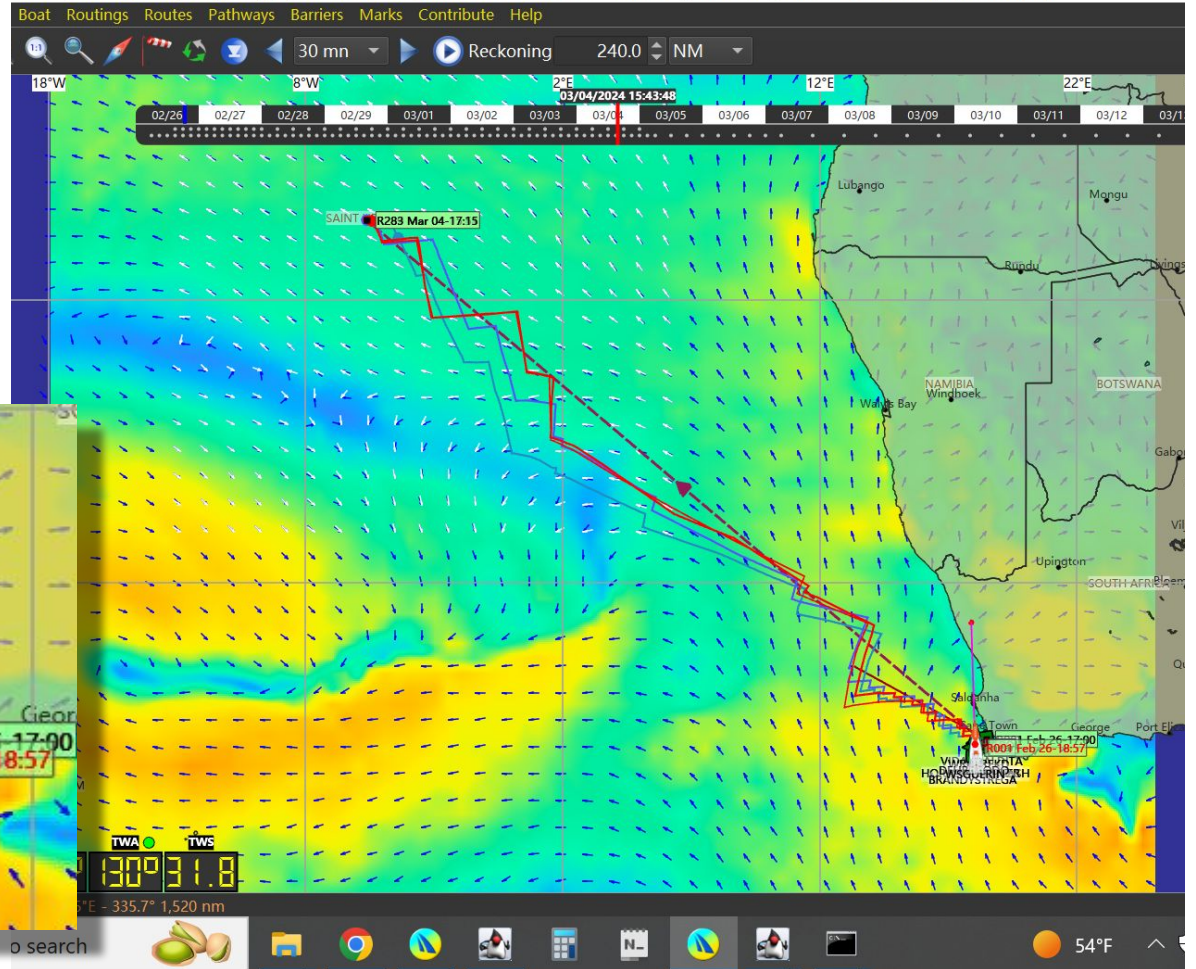


# Prep

I set up a pathway and ran a few routes once the race opened up and they looked consistent and pretty straightforward.

EXCEPT, in the Gunboat, high-speed gybes are performance loss killers and QT was telling me there would be a lot of them once we rounded Cape Point.

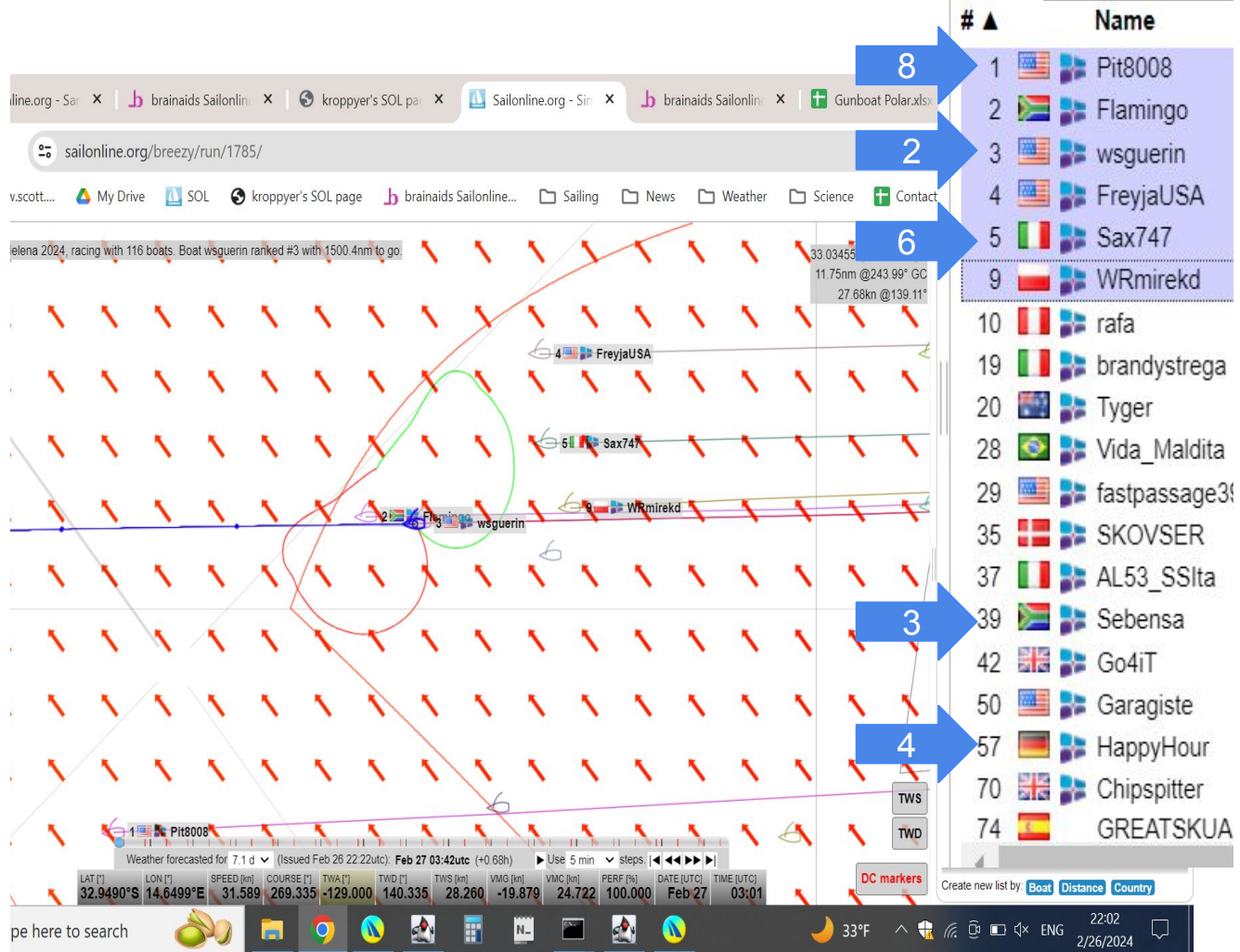
eltemus) slot1: weather\_84\_global\_gfs\_20240226\_1619.grb slot2: GFS20240226161702087.grb (from 02/26/2024 06:00 to 03/13/2024 06:00)



# And they're off

It took the Brits 10 weeks to sail with his Post Waterloo Highness to St. Helena but routing showed about 10 days if I recall correctly. Here, the boats are speeding along at 31kts,

Early leaders on my watch list are shown here on one of the gybing legs past Cape Point.

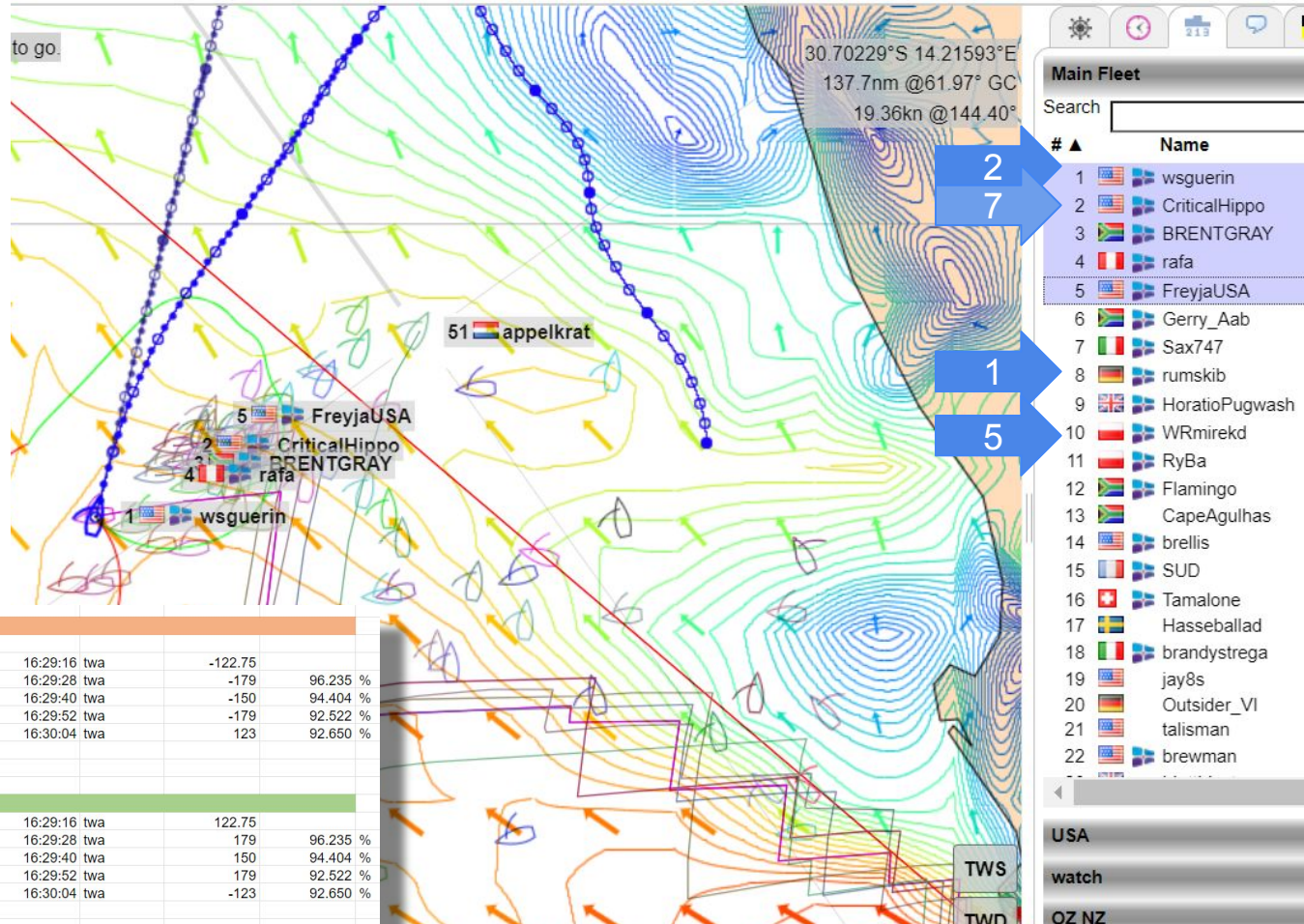


# Gybe Talkin'

At this early stage, the fleet committed to sail up the wind slot.

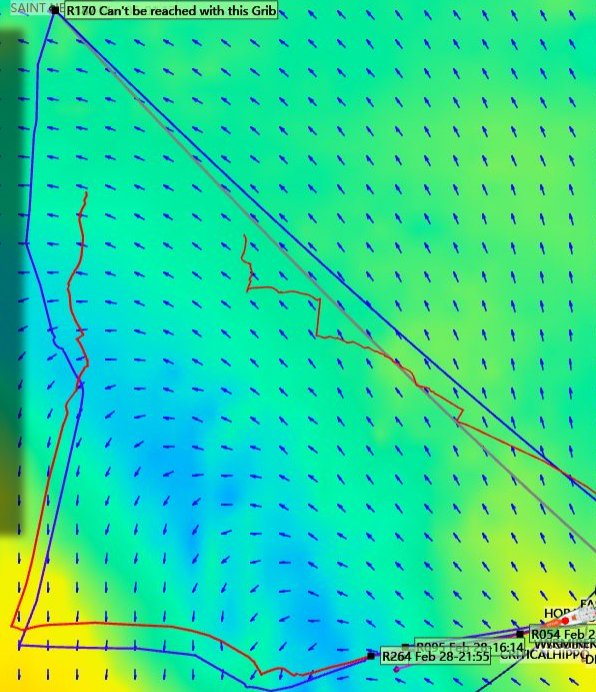
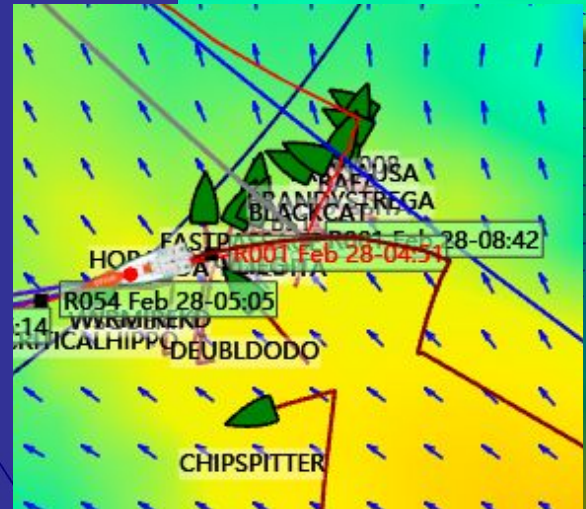
Some rely on AGL to solve Performance losses but I haven't tested it in high boat and winds speed to be confident of it.

So I built a custom worksheet that calculates the wiggles needed to gybe at just under 93%, Example below.

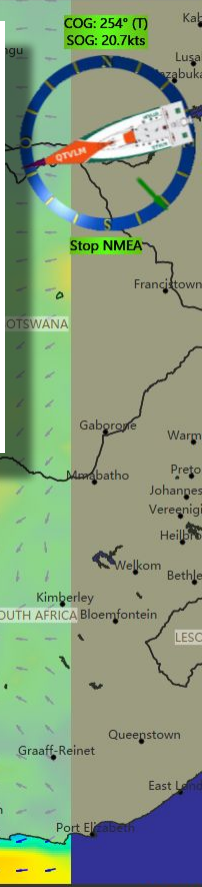


# What's boy to do?

Ref: 02/27/2024 21:00  
Wed 02/28/2024 01:41  
(UTC)



For a day or two QT made suggestions of a wildly divergent route west. Here you can see WSG in a not terrible position but I had noticed the consistency of the winds at St. Helena were along the rhum line. This meant a bunch of Gybes on the approach. Whereas the Western route had very good angle and decent winds but required two crossings of the blue, High Pressure ridge.

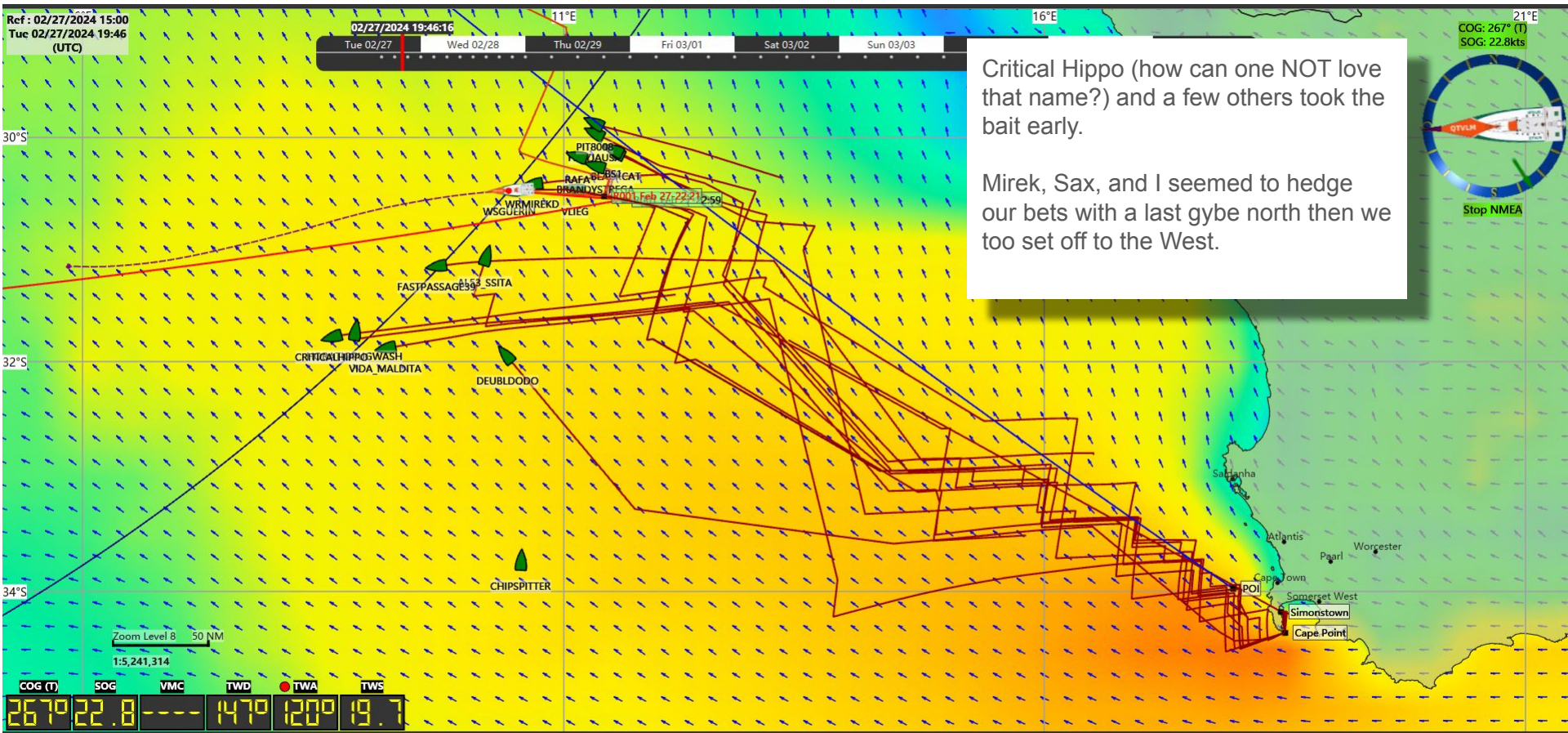


Zoom Level 6 200 NM  
1:17,543,054

COG (T)	SOG	VMC	TWD	TWA	TWS
254.0	20.7	---	137.0	118.0	17.7

Wind 2.2 kts, 008.7° 16.3776°S 15.0665°E - 025.6° 954 nm

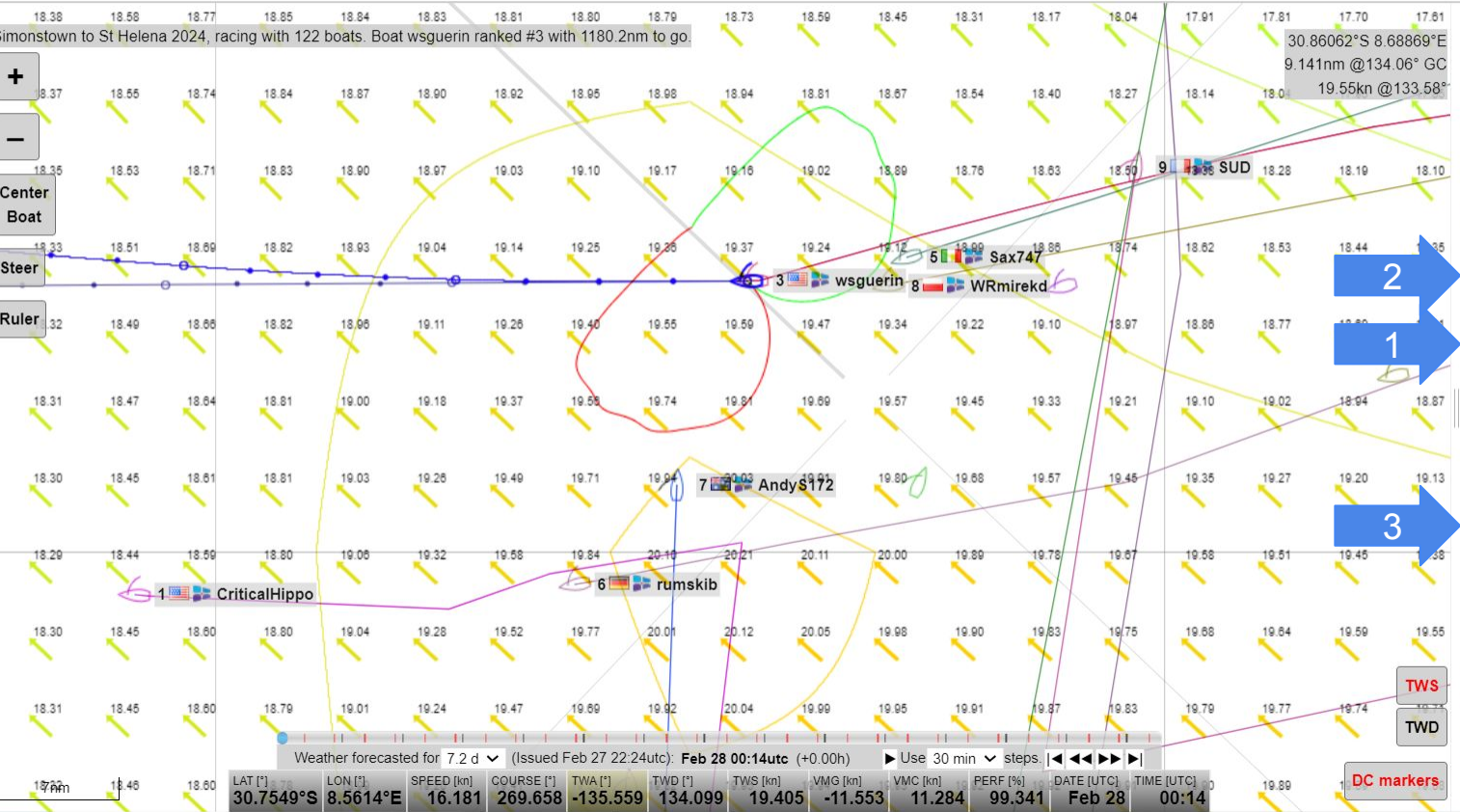
# Split #1



Critical Hippo (how can one NOT love that name?) and a few others took the bait early.

Mirek, Sax, and I seemed to hedge our bets with a last gybe north then we too set off to the West.

# The Western Fleet



Main Fleet

USA

watch

Show only boats from this list

Search

#	Name	DTF	DBL	LC
1	CriticalHippo	1169.64	0.00	
2	HoratioPugwash	1176.76	7.15	
3	wsguerin	1180.47	10.90	
4	Tamalone	1181.37	11.74	
5	Sax747	1185.47	15.83	
6	rums kib	1185.56	15.93	
7	AndyS172	1185.54	15.99	
8	WRmirekd	1185.85	16.21	
9	SUD	1190.90	21.31	
10	fastpassage39	1192.35	22.72	
11	brellis	1192.58	22.99	
13	Vida_Maldita	1194.56	24.87	
21	Flamingo	1204.06	34.33	
24	Sebensa	1208.89	39.26	
26	Pit8008	1209.29	39.56	
28	Tyger	1211.96	42.28	
29	rafa	1212.35	42.63	
31	FreyjaUSA	1213.69	43.97	
35	SKOVSER	1216.88	47.15	

Edit list Delete list

OZ NZ

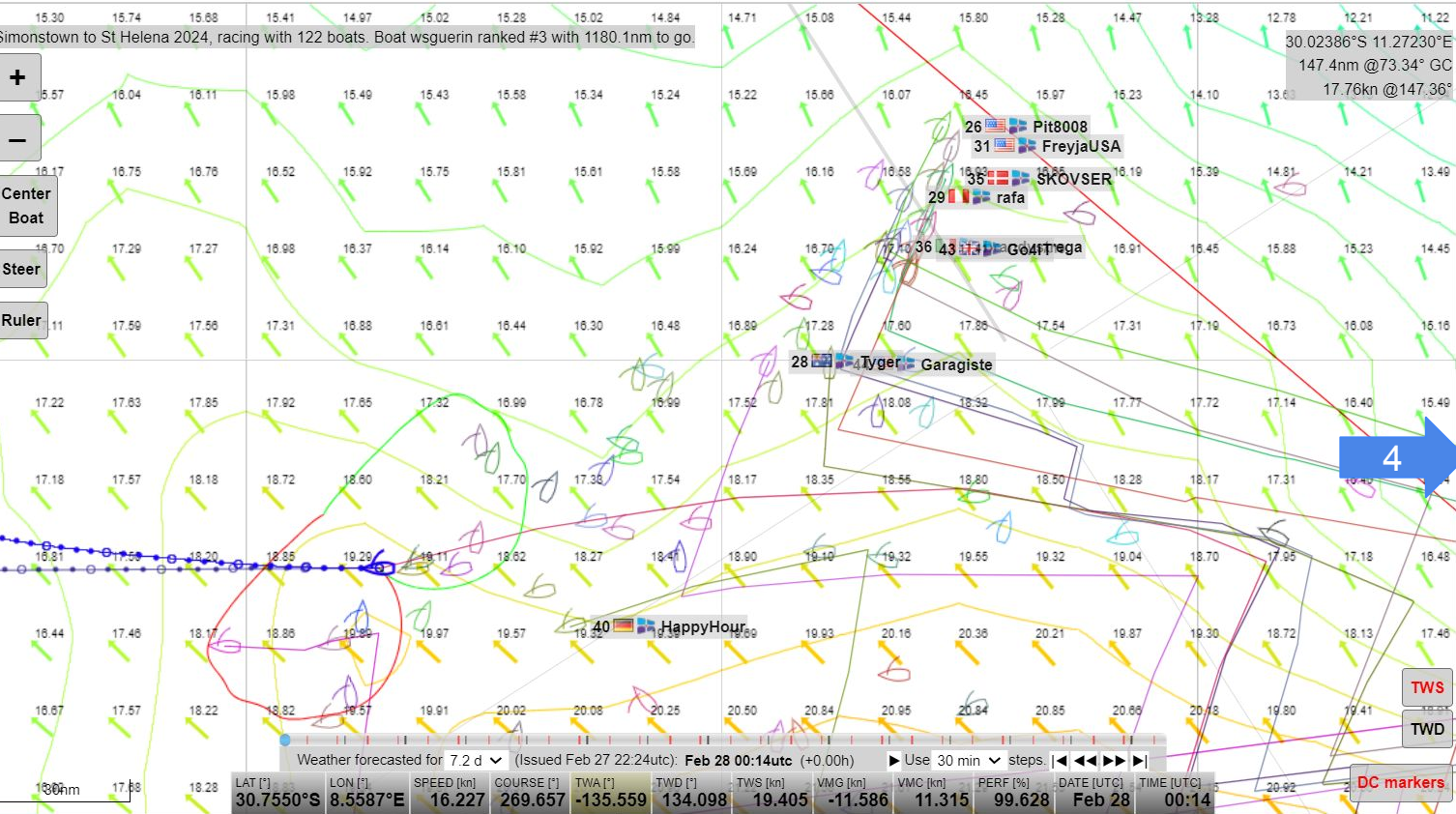
Italians

Create new list by: Boat Distance Country

# The Eastern Fleet (except Happy Hour!)

Simonstown to St Helena 2024, racing with 122 boats. Boat wsguerin ranked #3 with 1180.1nm to go.

+  
-  
Center Boat  
Steer  
Ruler



Main Fleet  
USA  
watch  
 Show only boats from this list  
Search

#	▲	Name	DTF	DBL	LC
11		brellis	1192.39	22.99	
13		Vida_Maldita	1194.46	24.87	
21		Flamingo	1204.01	34.33	
24		Sebensa	1208.72	39.26	
26		Pit8008	1209.25	39.56	
28		Tyger	1211.87	42.28	
29		rafa	1212.29	42.63	
31		FreyjaUSA	1213.63	43.97	
35		SKOVSER	1216.82	47.15	
36		brandystrega	1216.87	47.22	
40		HappyHour	1218.68	49.28	
44		Go4IT	1221.32	51.67	
43		Garagiste	1222.39	52.90	
46		AL53_SSIta	1223.30	53.66	
70		GREATSKUA	1293.25	123.65	
75		Chipspitter	1309.19	139.84	
109		ita10267	1716.51	546.74	
110		TarassBoulba	1716.51	546.74	
112		BadgerOne	1716.51	546.74	

TWS  
TWD  
DC markers

Edit list Delete list

OZ NZ  
Italians

Create new list by: Boat Distance Country



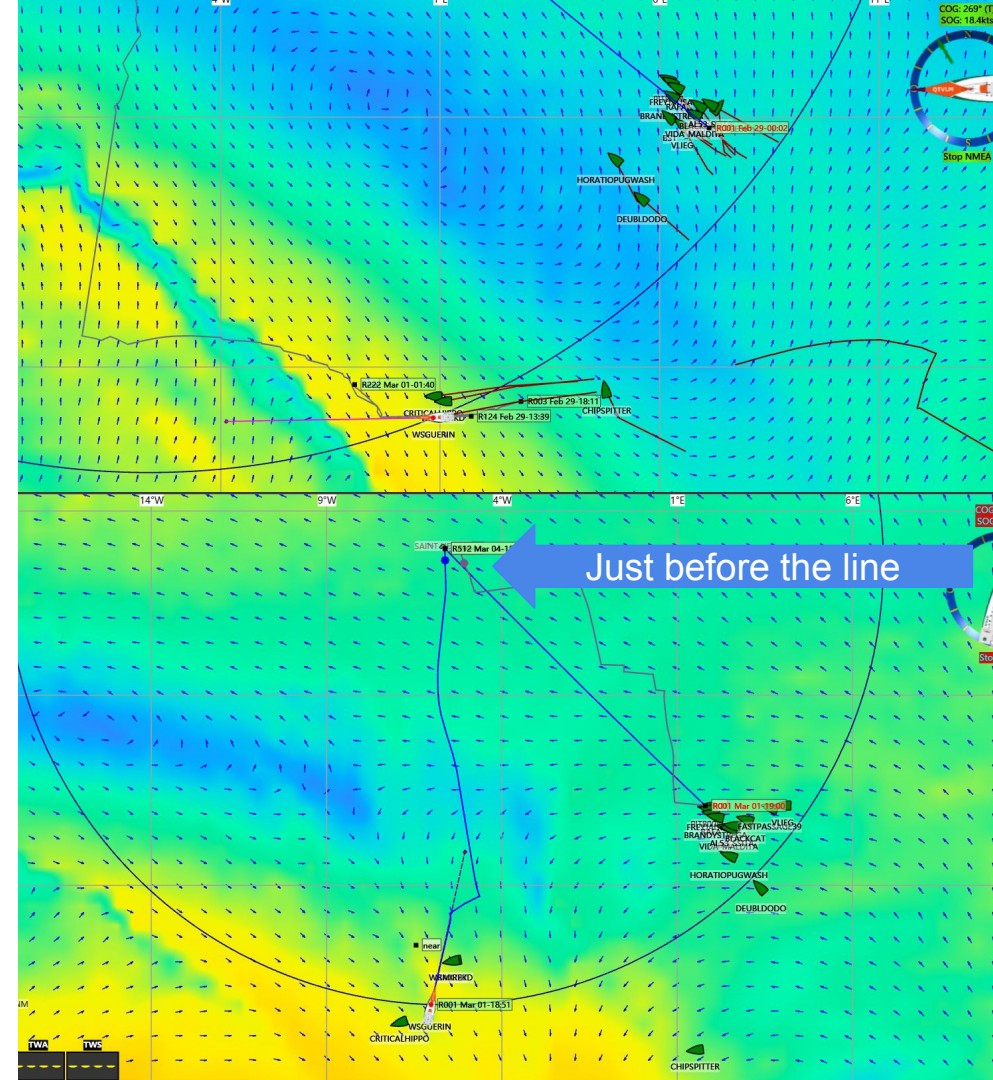
# Moving right along...

Several challenging days lay ahead. Routings vacillated between disaster and a near win.

Mirek and Sax were north of me; I was being rolled, but a funny thing happened on the way to the Forum:

Rummy and I headed north on a beeline while Mirek and Sax stayed West! Split #2.

AND, counter routing the Eastern Leaders showed me several hours ahead of them for the first time. (See the positional dots at the arrow)

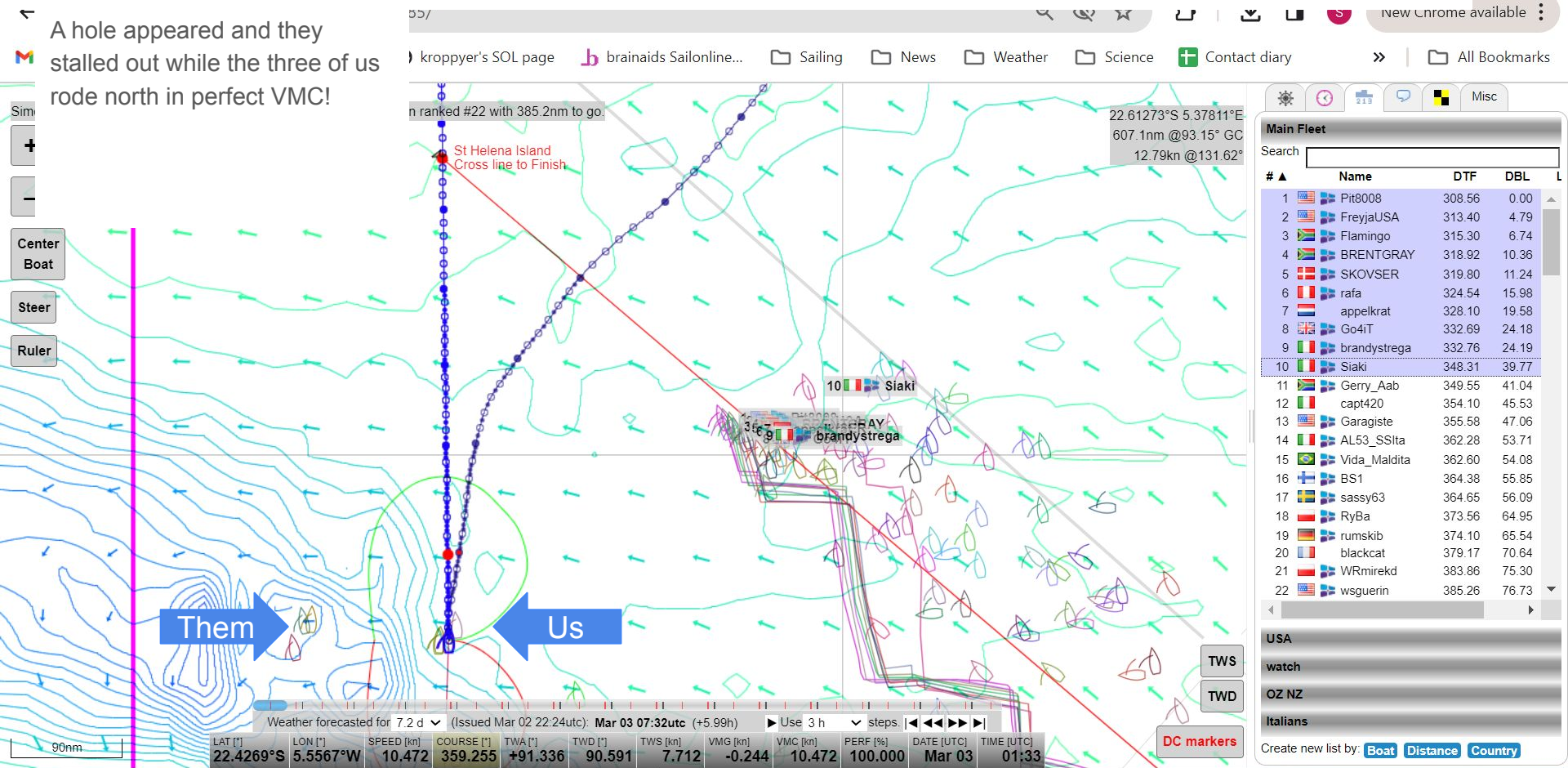


# It was a real nail bite: but at this stage Mirek and Sax had the best of Skib, Sebby, and WSG



# But the fickle finger of fate fell upon Mirek, Sax and the Hippo...

A hole appeared and they stalled out while the three of us rode north in perfect VMC!

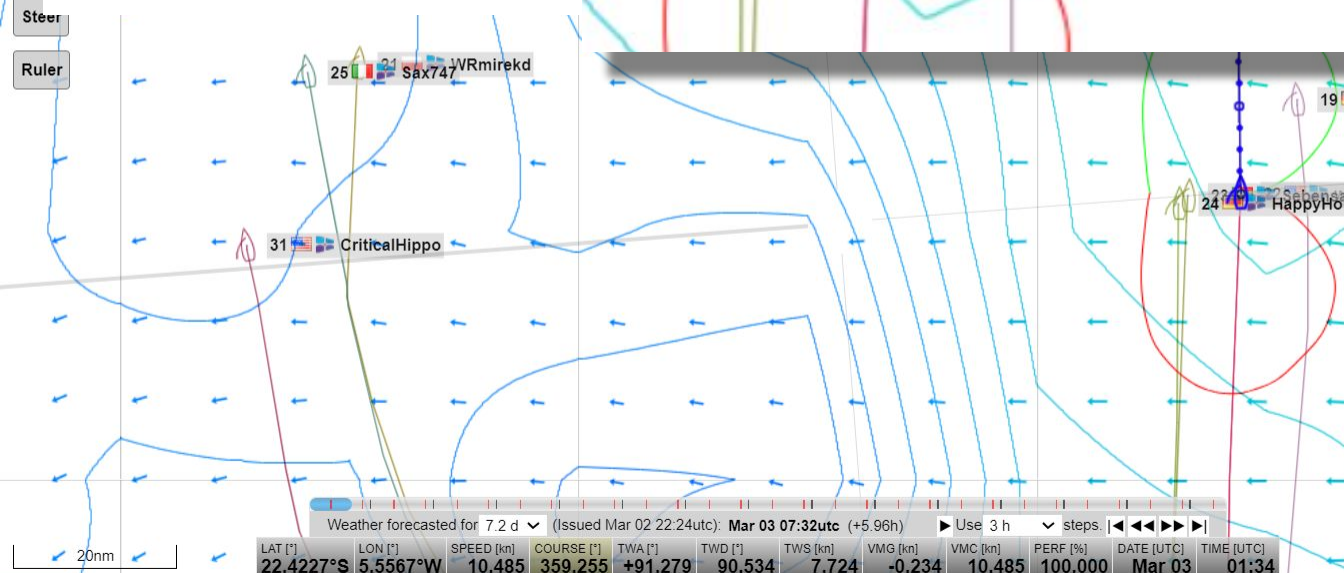
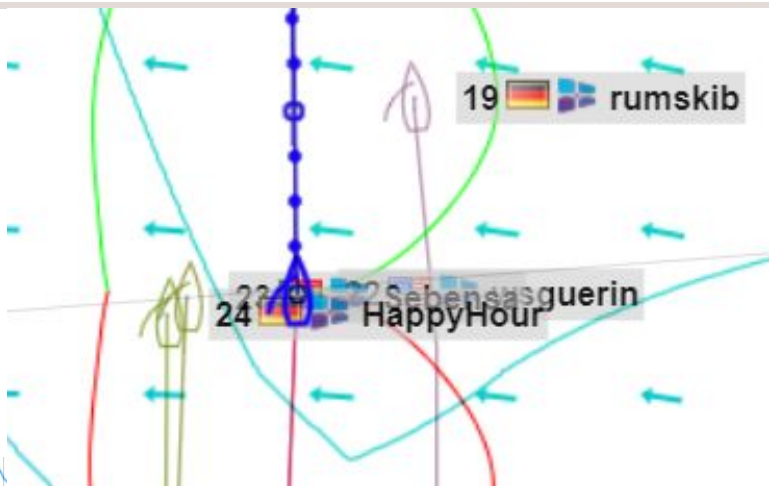


# Nerves...

It seemed we'd put the West of the Westers to bed but Sebensa and Happy had me in their sights.

I had better wind, they, the better angle.

Rumskib called the shot perfectly and was well ahead.



Weather forecasted for 7.2 d (Issued Mar 02 22:24utc) **Mar 03 07:32utc** (+5.96h) Use 3 h steps. |<<<<>>>>|

LAT [°]	LON [°]	SPEED [kn]	COURSE [°]	TWA [°]	TWD [°]	TWS [kn]	VMG [kn]	VMC [kn]	PERF [%]	DATE [UTC]	TIME [UTC]
22.4227°S	5.5567°W	10.485	359.255	+91.279	90.534	7.724	-0.234	10.485	100.000	Mar 03	01:34

Science + Contact diary New Chrome available

22 48125°S 6.42912°W  
48.59nm @265.68° GC  
6.87kn @85.67°

**Main Fleet**

**USA**

watch  Show only boats from this list

Search

#	▲	Name	DTF	DBL	LC
19		rumskib	373.90	65.52	2
21		WRMirekd	383.72	75.35	2
22		wsguerin	385.08	76.69	2
23		Sebensa	385.35	76.98	2
24		HappyHour	386.29	77.84	2
25		Sax747	386.41	77.96	2
30		fastpassage39	401.47	93.10	1
31		CriticalHippo	408.65	100.26	2
33		Tyger	414.83	106.45	1
34		HoratioPugwash	415.77	107.40	1
50		brellis	473.85	165.49	1
51		SUD	474.40	166.03	1
66		Tamalone	545.11	236.68	1
69		Chipspitter	564.10	255.72	1
71		GREATSKUA	583.56	275.16	1
75		AndyS172	594.38	286.01	1
119		ita10267	1716.51	1408.06	
120		TarassBoulba	1716.51	1408.06	
122		BadgerOne	1716.51	1408.06	

**OZ NZ**

**Italians**

Create new list by:

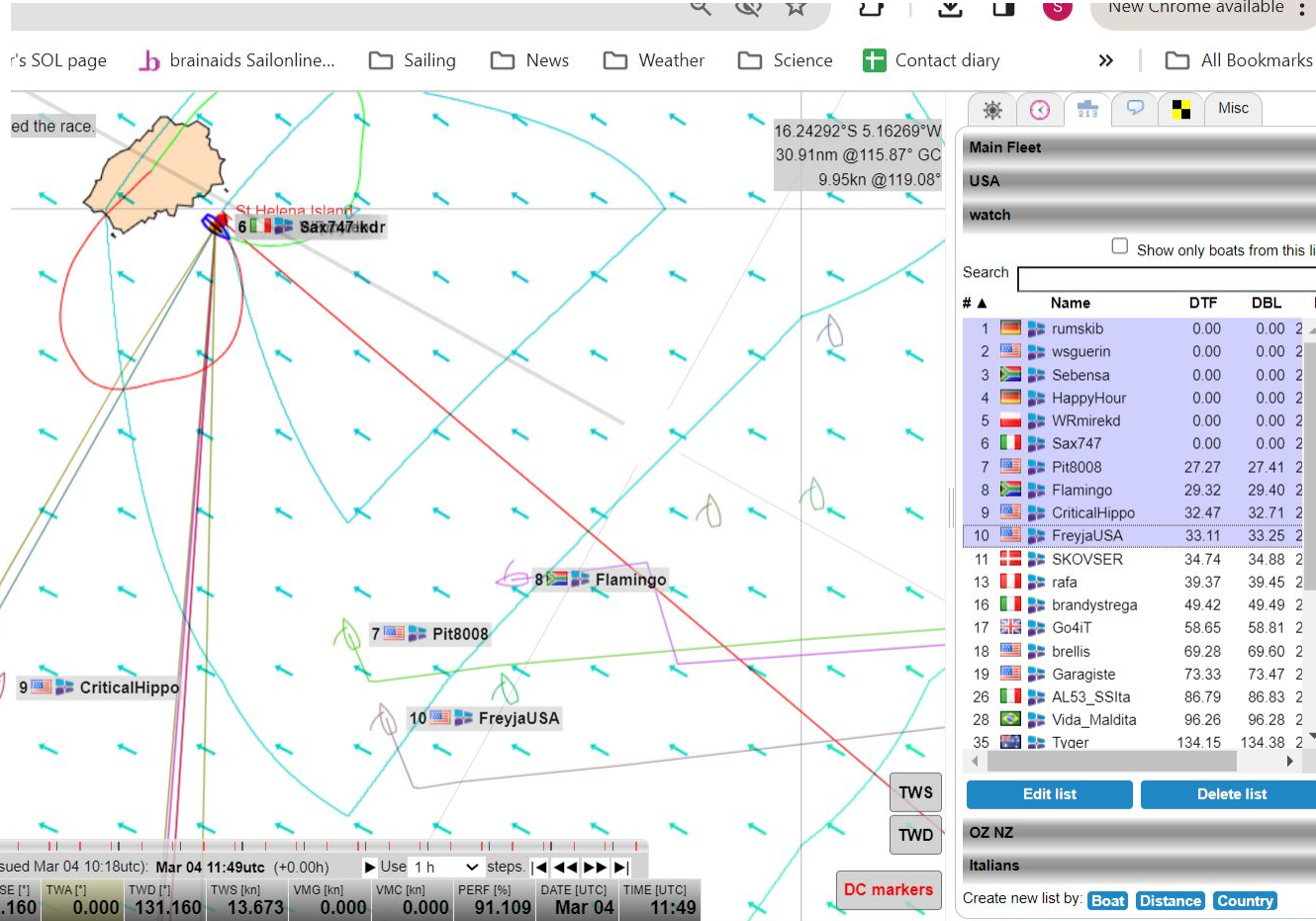
# Champagne

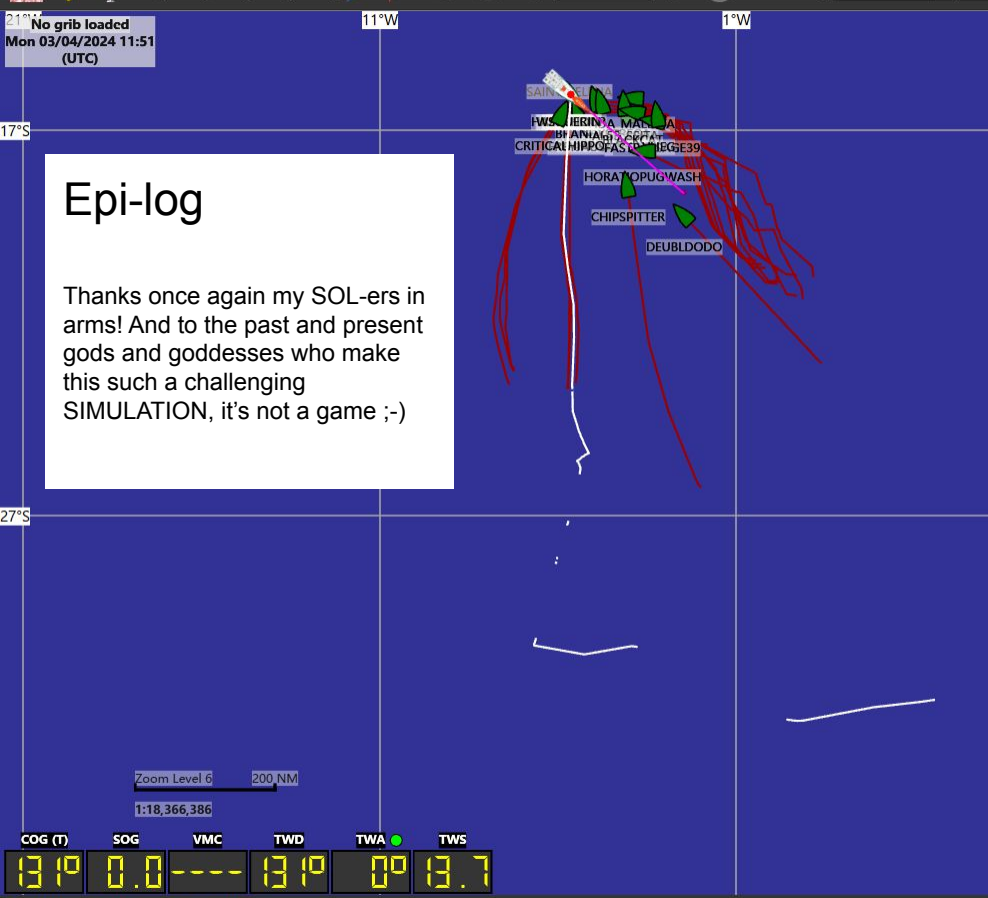
I didn't win but I was surprised and very satisfied with a Silver. A couple of lucky breaks, a little bit of smarts, and a dose of risk is what it always takes IRL and in Digital Life.

Congrats to all who worked hard in racing this surprisingly complex race. Hope we do it again!

WSG-Germantown, NY

- Delete Last
- Delete All
- Hide Lines





**Epi-log**

Thanks once again my SOL-ers in arms! And to the past and present gods and goddesses who make this such a challenging SIMULATION, it's not a game ;-)

Rank	Boat Name	Boat Type	DTG	DBL	Finish Time (UTC)
1	rumskib	GB 90	0	0	2024-03-04 08:13:17
2	wsguerin	GB 90	0	0	2024-03-04 08:59:02
3	Sebensa	GB 90	0	0	2024-03-04 09:04:17
4	HappyHour	GB 90	0	0	2024-03-04 09:32:38
5	WRmirekd	GB 90	0	0	2024-03-04 09:41:57
6	Sax747	GB 90	0	0	2024-03-04 10:04:48
7	CriticalHippo	GB 90	0	0	2024-03-04 14:29:11
8	Pit8008	GB 90	0	0	2024-03-04 15:22:18
9	Mrbill	GB 90	0	0	2024-03-04 15:59:29
10	FreyjaUSA	GB 90	0	0	2024-03-04 16:12:03
11	Flamingo	GB 90	0	0	2024-03-04 16:35:40
12	SKOVSER	GB 90	0	0	2024-03-04 16:59:21
13	rafa	GB 90	0	0	2024-03-04 17:16:00



Zoom Level 6 200 NM

1:18,366,386

COG (T) 131° SOG 0.0 VMC --- TWD 131° TWA 0° TWS 13.7

27.1788°S 3.7299°E - 143.6° 849 nm