

Race Report
Casey Station to Neumayer Station
March 14th

We all assembled at the line decked in fur lined parkas and boots and watched icebergs carving off the Antarctic shelf.

On the starters gun the fleet started the 2600nm adventure in uncharted waters where the common navigation tools (QT) did not match the landscape of the SOL client – apparently due to ice flows.

As a serial poor sailor, I rely on watching the pros but was confused when @wsguerin took a sharp turn to the South into a low pressure area. The rest of the fleet headed in a more Northerly direction, and I decided to follow.

After some days in a compacted configuration the fleet began to drift apart with @CriticalHippo, @Skovser and @Siaki sprinting North hotly followed by @TarassBoulba, @HappyHour and @Sassy63. @Zorba777 followed but stayed lower on the course having an each way bet.

The remainder of the fleet headed South to follow the contours of the continent. Forward routing at varying times showed @CriticalHippo and Co ahead but alternating with the southerners depending upon the latest wx.

Before long @bonknhoot started to stamp his authority on the race by coastal hugging that would have thrilled Beyonce for a tight-fitting shape with DC tweaks and polar hops that none could match.

Towards the last third of the race it became clear that the North was not going to be successful and that cohort rapidly closed the gap to join our procession.

I was by then, in my best position so far in SOL being in 2nd place and looking at some way to make an impact. On the second last day @Bonknhoot made a mistake (wrong grib) and sailed further South than intended. I pounced and set a route that seemed at odds with his and his followers but despite multiple test routes, seemed to be better. To my dismay I dropped from 2nd to 9th and assumed that was all over.

However, during the course of the next 24 hours or so I pulled it back and looked as though I might be ahead of @Bonknhoot on the last outcrop. But it was not to be as I awoke the next morning 0.75nm behind and he covered to finally relegate me to 2nd 1.2nm behind. The struggle for 3rd place was between @HappyHour and @Siaki with @Sassy3 trying hard to make up ground.

@Siaki held out to take a well-deserved 3rd place and I was content with my first 2nd and a feeling of “coulda been different”.