

CA500 Report by Patrick70119

After almost a year away from the water, I finally managed to free up some time to take part in the CA500. It was a thrilling and challenging race, particularly with the wind conditions constantly shifting and the added complexity of racing in the Maxi Trimaran.

The race began with a strategic decision to head North East towards Farallon Island, seeking a better wind direction and angle. This choice set the tone for a race that required constant adjustments and keen navigation.

Rounding Farallon Island marked the true beginning of the race for me. Navigating the balance between the weather angle favoring the East and the wind pressure favoring the West was no small feat. I opted to stay close to the rumb line to minimize the distance traveled, a tactic that proved advantageous.

After rounding NOAA, it became clear that following the rumb line as closely as possible would be the fastest route to the San Diego Offshore buoy, however, that all changed when the 14:45 WX confirmed that heading South was the best option due to a significant deviation in the wind angle.

Rounding the San Diego Offshore buoy was a pleasant surprise. Despite multiple mistakes, including completely oversleeping for a course change, I found myself in second place. This unexpected position was a testament to the challenging nature of the race and the unpredictable conditions.

A special congratulations to FreyjaUSA and WRmirekd, who sailed a magnificent race as always.

Being back on the water after such a long hiatus was fantastic. I discovered that I was quite rusty in certain areas and had to reteach myself several principles of Sailonline, which I quickly picked up. Despite these challenges, I thoroughly enjoyed the race and am eagerly looking forward to my next race on the water.

Fair Winds,
Patrick70119