

Satori's Report on the Susan Hood Trophy Race 2024

As you SOLers know we are again “buddying” with the Lake Ontario Offshore Racing in a SOL Lake Ontario Series of 2 races, the Susan Hood Trophy Race and the Lake Ontario 300. The Susan Hood is referred to as the “coolest race” on Lake Ontario given it is overnight on the still cold May waters of the lake.

We again had great enthusiasm and participation on SOL with 83 boats from over 20 countries registered. 54 boats left the starting line again using the Polar of a Beneteau 36.7. The Directors of Lake Ontario Offshore Racing must be pleased to be able to tell their Sponsors their Race has such an international reputation.

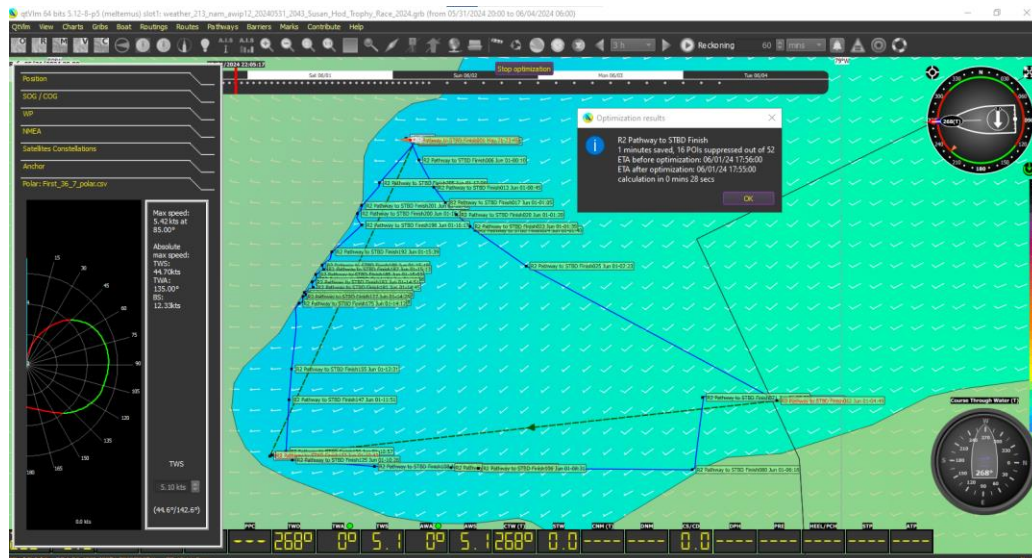
The on-the-water LOOR Race had 78 registered entries from 22 yacht clubs, including 8 sailing Beneteau 36.7's. **Air Force** of the Mimico Yacht Club had the best time of the 36.7's and finished in 15h 45m 40s. This compares with our SOL winner, **WRmirekd**, who finished in 15h 36m 32s. Remarkably close and speaks well for our SOL Beneteau 36.7 Polar.

Satori, with a 9th place finish, did not do as well as I would have liked as a result of an early server crank when rounding the Burlington Weather Tower which necessitated a recovery and rerounding. Last year **Satori** finished 4th but that was good enough, when combined with her Lake Ontario 300 finish, to win the Series Championship for the second year in a row. A 9th place finish is not likely to result in another successful defense. As **bonkhoot** said in the Chatroom “..it happens!”

As participants know this 75 nm triangular clock-wise course is said to be like 3 sprints combined. We had 3 SOLers, who will remain unnamed, who started the race thinking they were in the southern hemisphere with the race going down the drain counter clock-wise!

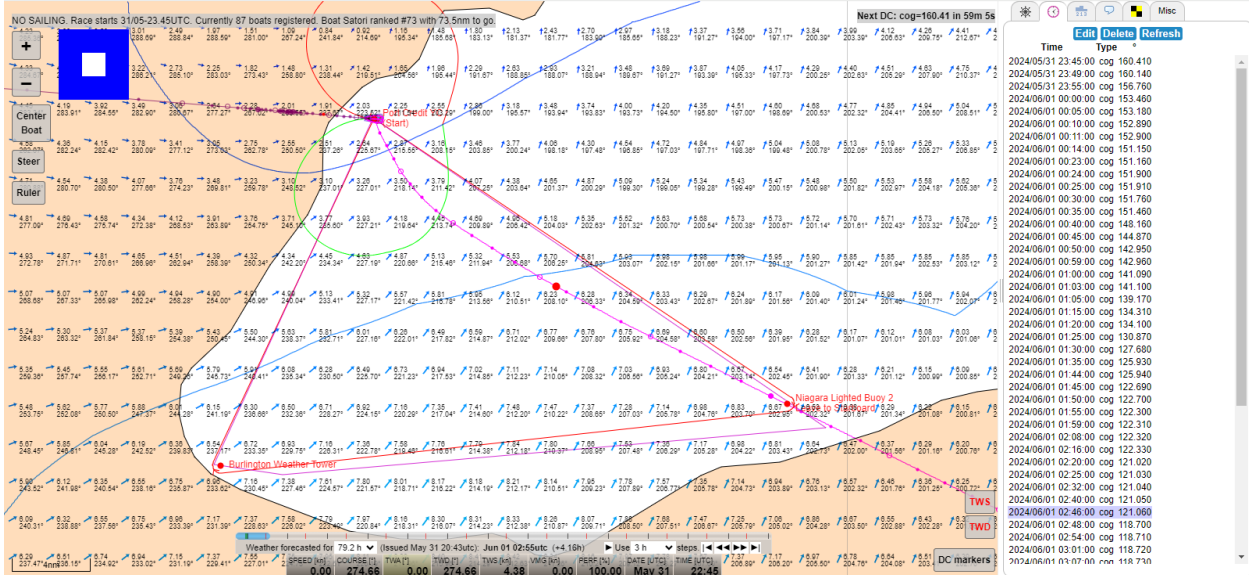
Should you be interested, a commentary on **Satori's** race follows. You may see your boat on the course! As usual I was using QTVlm and AGL.

I created an initial routing in QT using a Pathway with POI's at each of the two marks and the finish based on the last WX before the start. The last Leg, from the Burlington Weather Tower to the Finish, looked like a “zipper” with multiple tacks and gybes with the resulting Performance Loss. The mark rounding's also needed editing in AGL. I hoped that subsequent WX's would get rid of these T&G's.

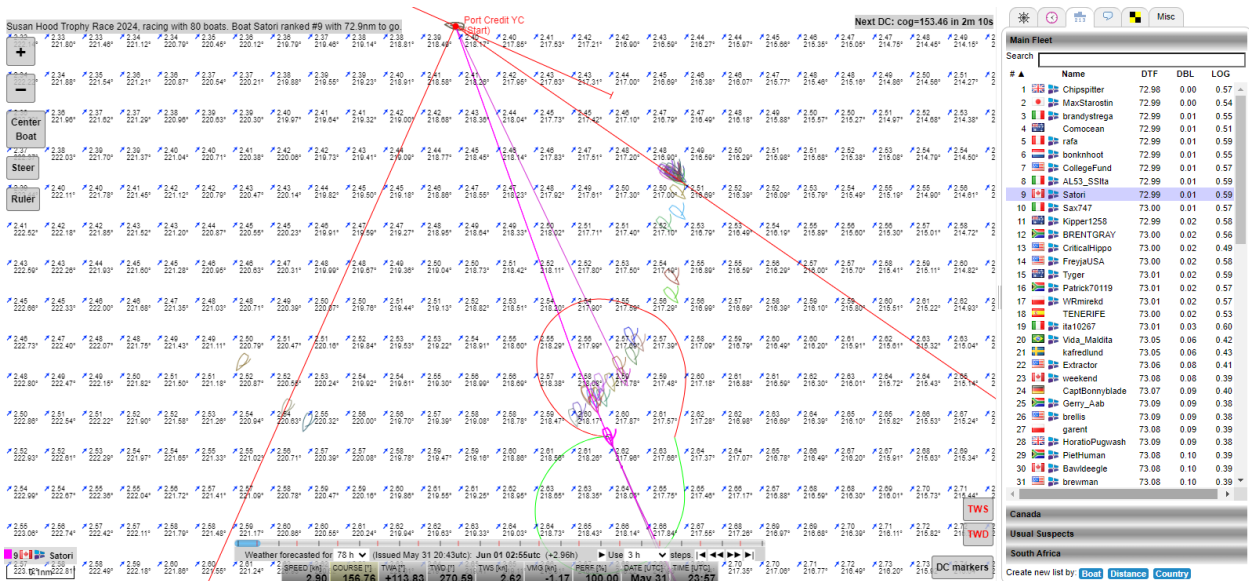


Satori's Report on the Susan Hood Trophy Race 2024

So I decided to create a routing in QT to the first mark at the Niagara Lighted Buoy and manually produce DC's for the rounding and the initial routing to the second mark at the Burlington. Here is that course. The Red Dot using the SOL weather slider shows the weather at the first WX after the start and the timing of the WX.

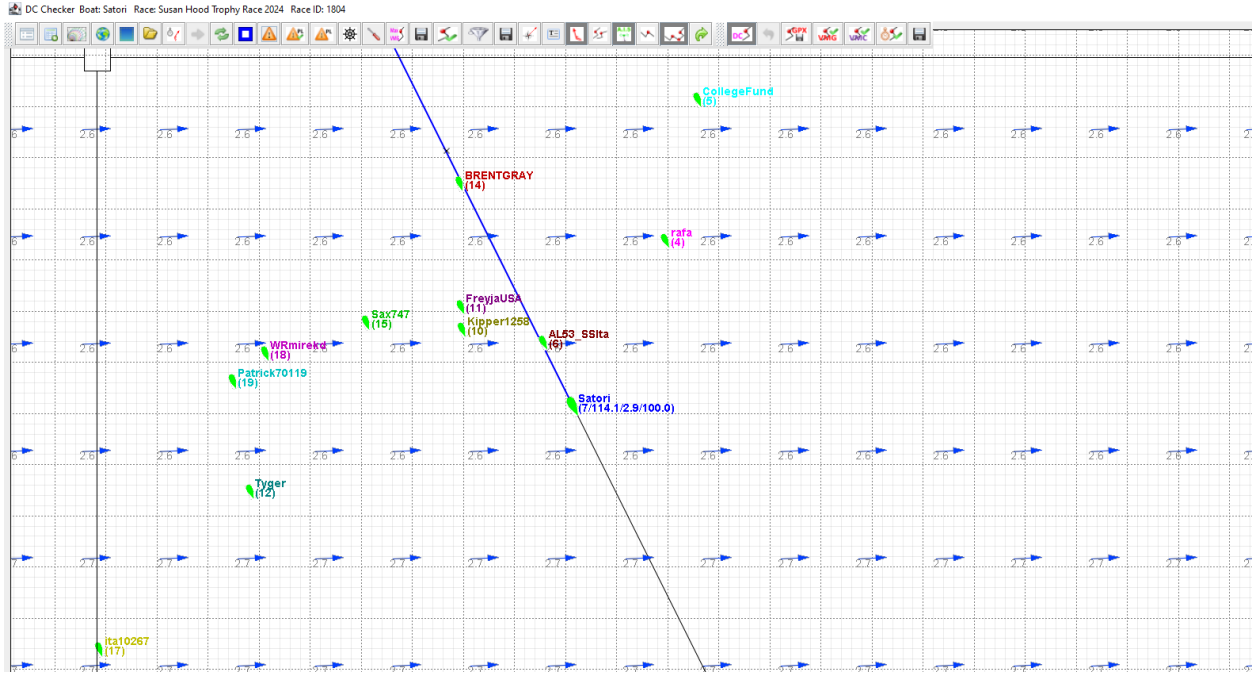


13 minutes into the race here is the distribution of the fleet. A number of boats are sailing the rhumbline to Niagara. Satori is in a good position to the west and windward notwithstanding the server placement, which is based on the DTM Niagara.

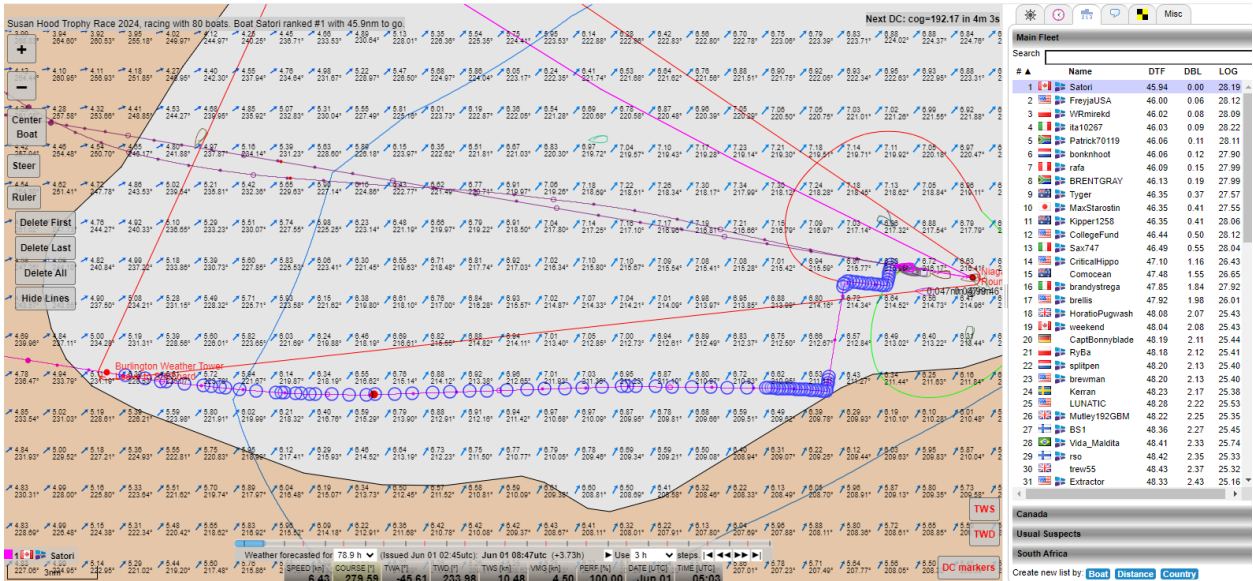


Satori's Report on the Susan Hood Trophy Race 2024

Here are the early leaders. Are you among them? I always get some comfort when I see the high ranking SOLers in proximity. Unnervingly they are even slightly farther west and to windward of Satori.

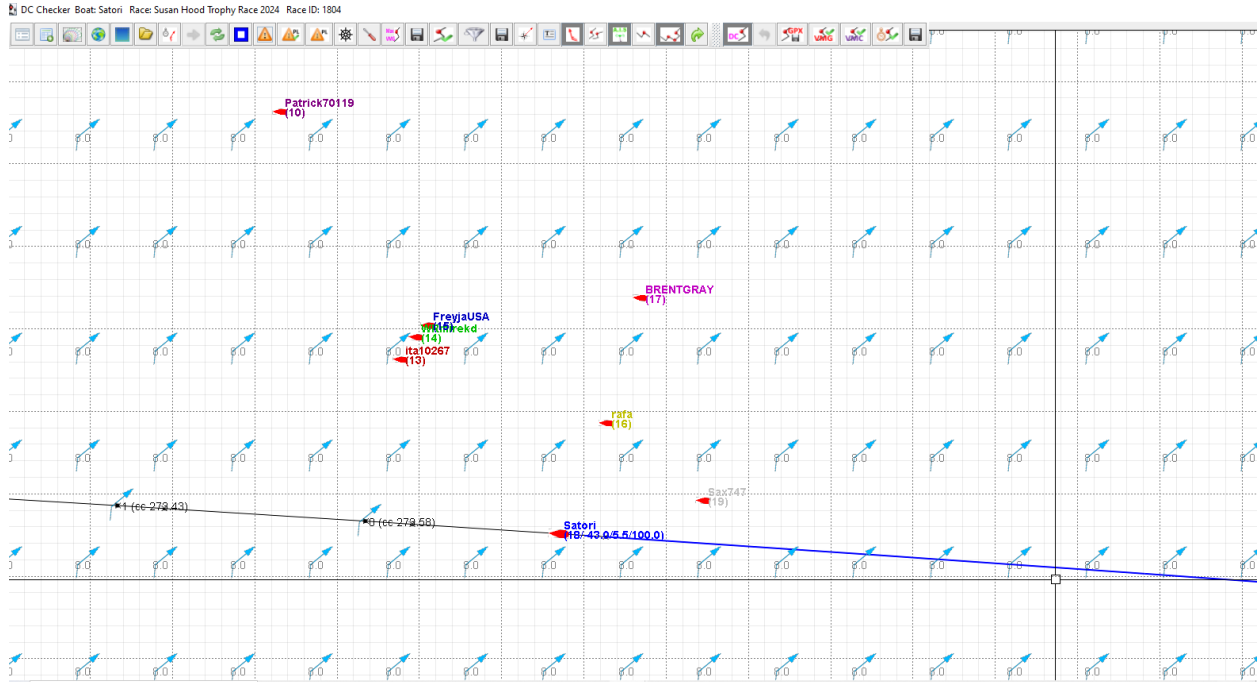


After the rounding of the Niagara mark Satori is sailing a routing to the Burlington mark and is placed 1st but the upcoming tacks represented by her DC markers will impact her placement along the south shore. In retrospect I should have consolidated the tacks, stayed north a little longer and not gone quite so far south. I was counting on better TWA along the south shore.

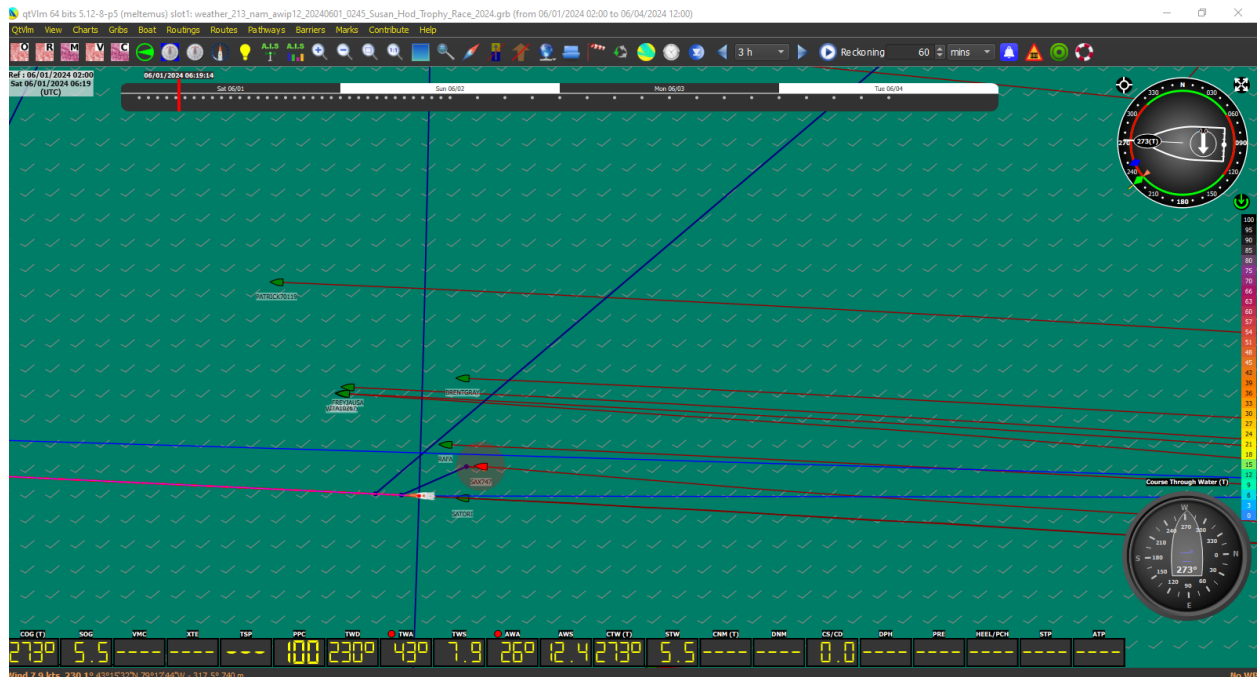


Satori's Report on the Susan Hood Trophy Race 2024

Here are the leaders, notwithstanding the server placement, sailing along the south shore directly to the Burlington mark after the 3rd tack. **Satori** is the farthest south and to windward with equal or marginally better BS. However, it was not high enough to cover the competition who might have to come down to the mark.

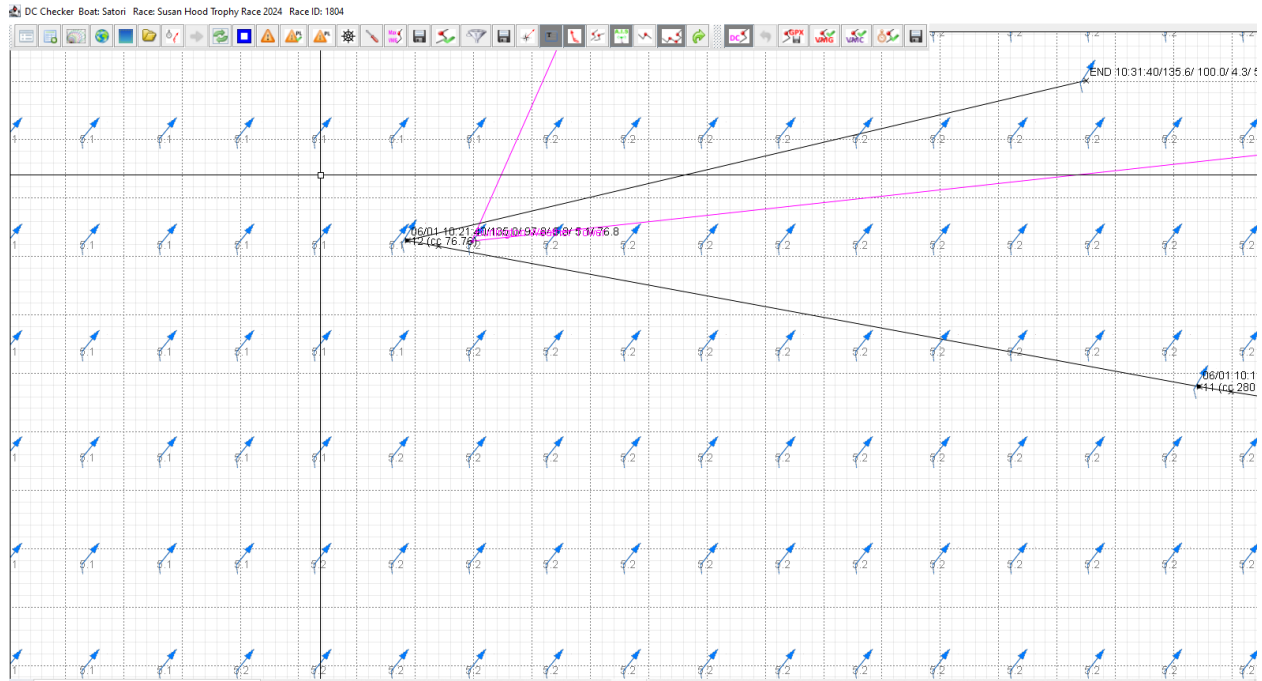


In QT, using the AIS of the leaders, there are only 4 inside **Satori's** GC centred on the Burlington Mark, **Patrick, ita10267, Mirek** and **Freyja** and only **ita10267** has higher BS. Maintained, **Satori** should be no worse than 5th at the Burlington mark.

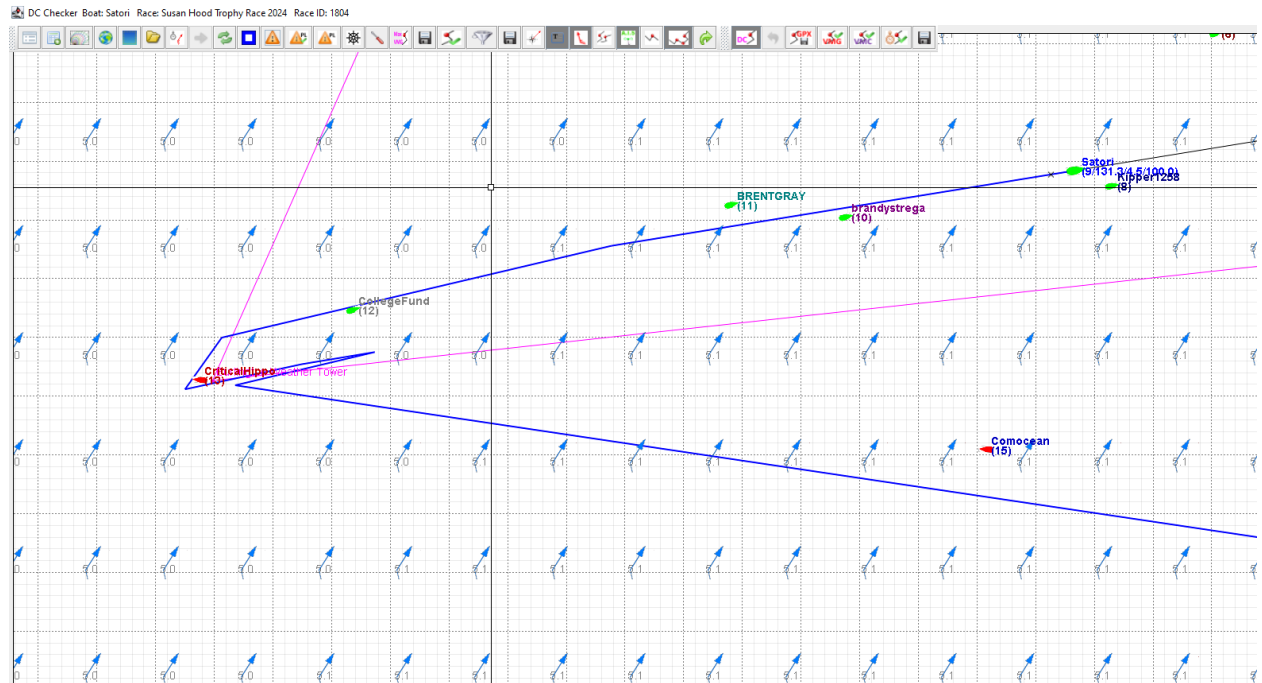


Satori's Report on the Susan Hood Trophy Race 2024

The rounding of Burlington June 1st 10:21 UTC = 6:21 am EDT. I will be at the helm for the rounding to course 76.76° based on a new pathway routing to the finish. I plan on making the rounding as tight as possible. The tiny X represents, in AGL, the required safety margin to allow for the server crank.

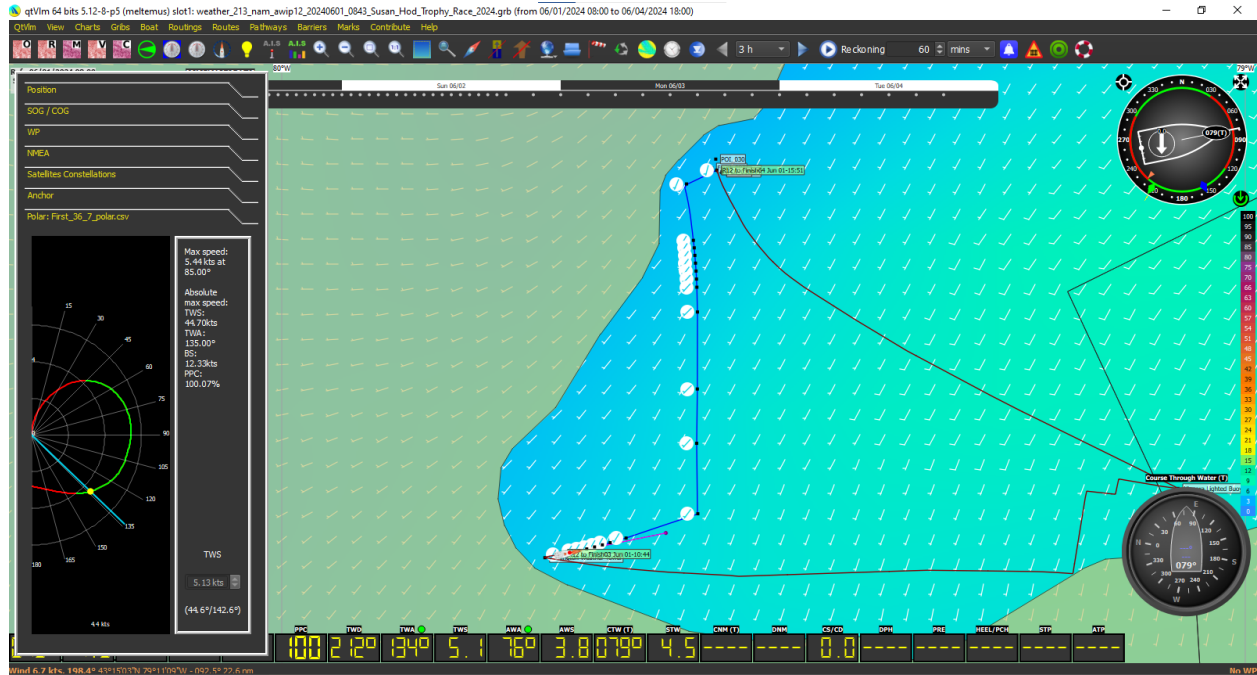


Here is **Satori's** recovery from an early rounding of the Burlington mark resulting from a server crank just seconds earlier than planned. I was too tight on the rounding. I estimated that **Satori**, now placed 9th, lost 3 places instead of gaining 2! Since I was ready at the helm the recovery was pretty quick but required 2 gybes to round. How am I going to make this up on the parade to the finish?

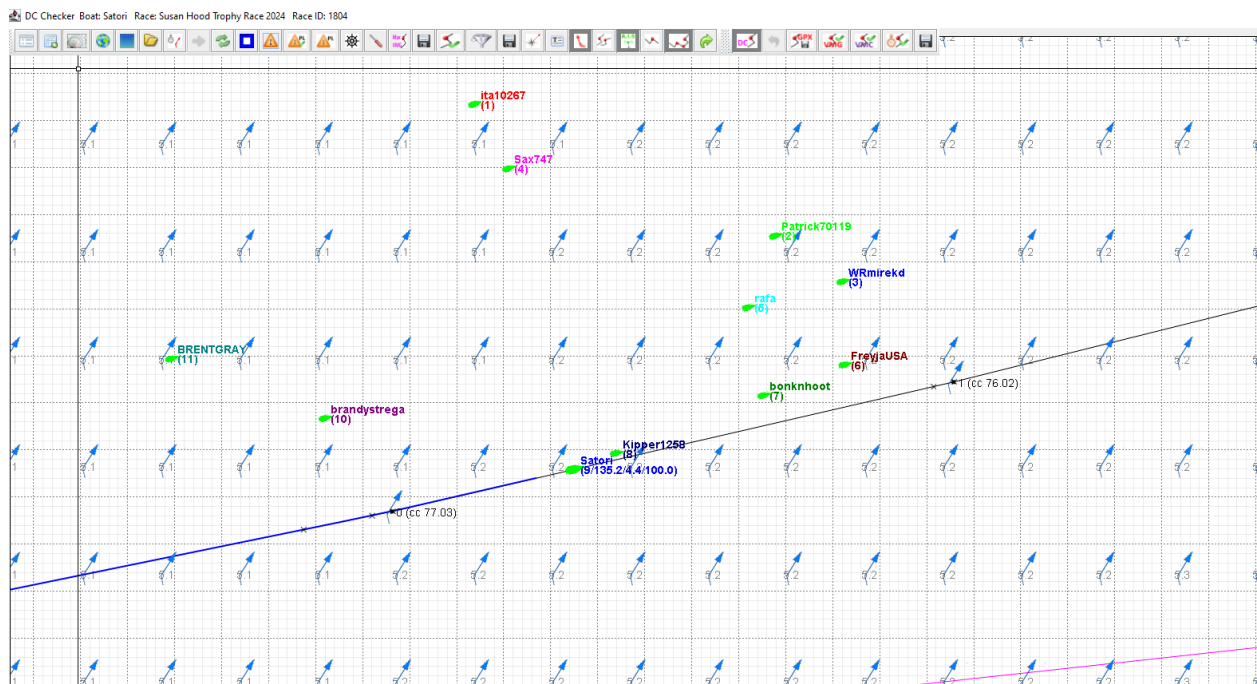


Satori's Report on the Susan Hood Trophy Race 2024

Here is the Pathway routing to the Finish after rounding Burlington. Thank goodness the tacks and gybes along the west shoreline have been eliminated in the recent WX's.

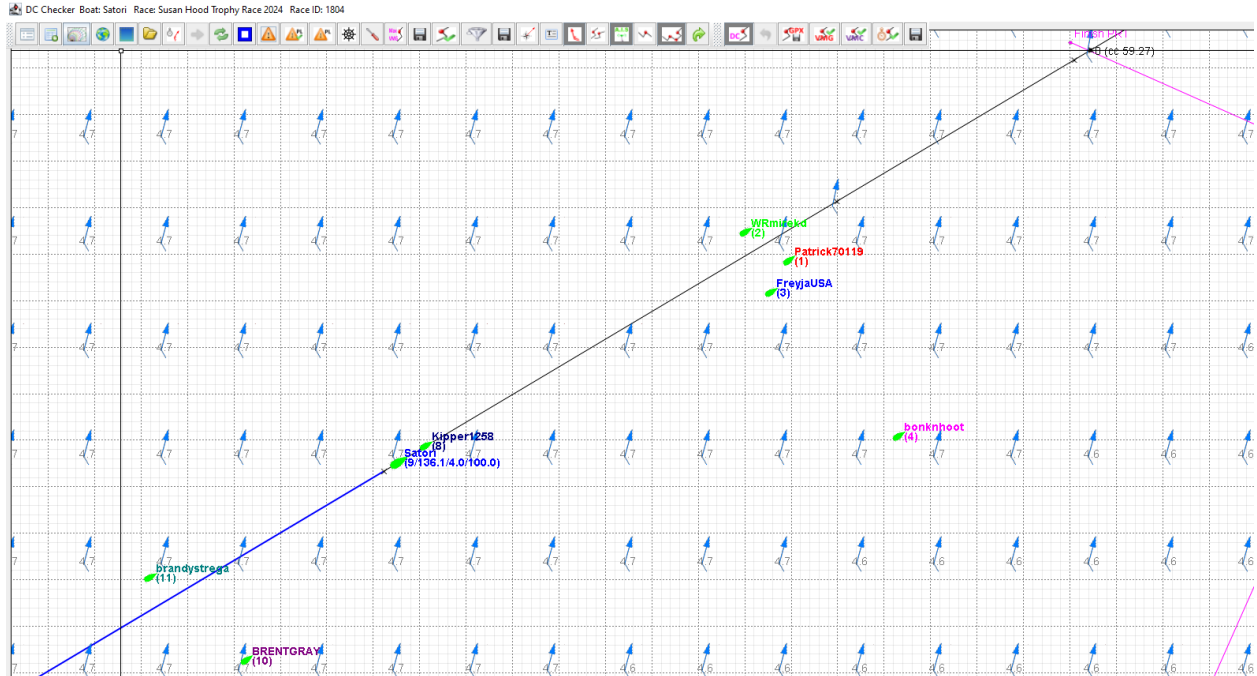


Here are the boats in proximity to **Satori** after rounding the Burlington mark. **Mirek** finished 1st, **Patrick** 2nd, **Freyja** 3rd, **bonk** 4th, **rafa** 5th, **ita** 6th, **Sax** 7th, **Kipper** 8th, **Satori** 9th and **brandystrega** 10th. **ita** said in the Chatroom that he made some mistakes on this Leg. **Mirek**, **Freyja** and **bonk** were clearly ahead and improved their positions. **Satori** was only able to maintain a 9th. **Kipper** beat **Satori** by 30 secs.



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Approaching the Finish. **Kipper**, in 8th place, is 0.04 nms ahead and cannot be covered without losing BS. So, a 9th place it is. Congratulations to **Mirek** who overtook **Patrick** by 8 secs. The other Top Ten finishers are not in this screen print but you can see them in the previous one and they would have finished closer to the STBD end of the line. The Top Ten finished within 6m 20s of the Leader **Mirek**.



Thanks to all of you SOLers for racing and to our Committees of Volunteers for making our virtual sailing a reality.

I do hope to see you in the 2nd and final race of the Series, the challenging “chutes and ladders” Lake Ontario 300, which starts on Saturday, July 13th. It is an opportunity to improve your placement in the overall Series and it will be warmer!

*May the seas lie smooth before you.
May a gentle breeze forever fill your sails.
May sunshine warm your face,
And kindness warm your soul.*

John/Satori