

Close but no cigar!

They say close only counts in horseshoes and hand grenades but there is some satisfaction in knowing where your toss went wrong.

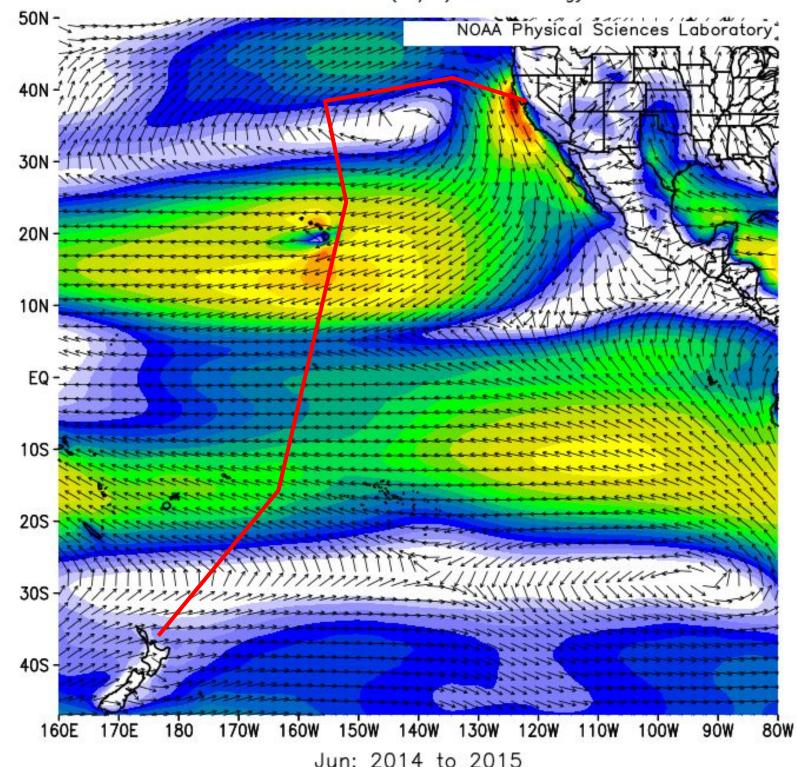
Let's go to the videotape!

My pre-race process for ocean races typically focuses on historical GRIB analysis, study of similar previous races and reports, and the use of LuckGrib to quickly explore targets using various weather models.

At right, the historic analysis from NOAA shows a strong southerly off the California Coast with the Pacific High the blocker to get over and around.

The red path was my plan despite last year's drubbing!

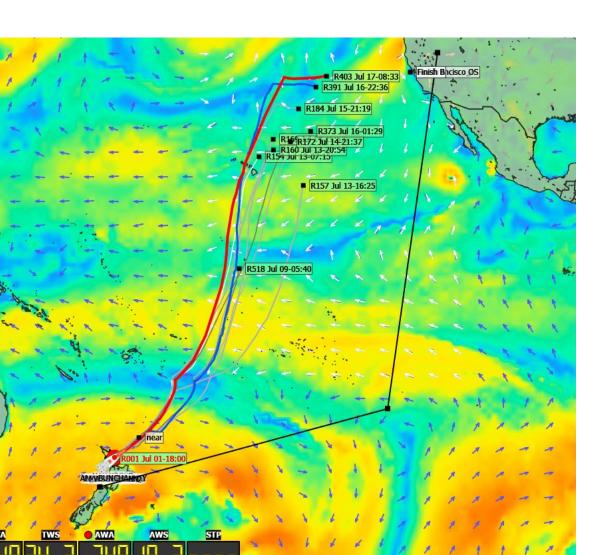
20th Century Reanalysis V3 Vector Wind (m/s) Climatology

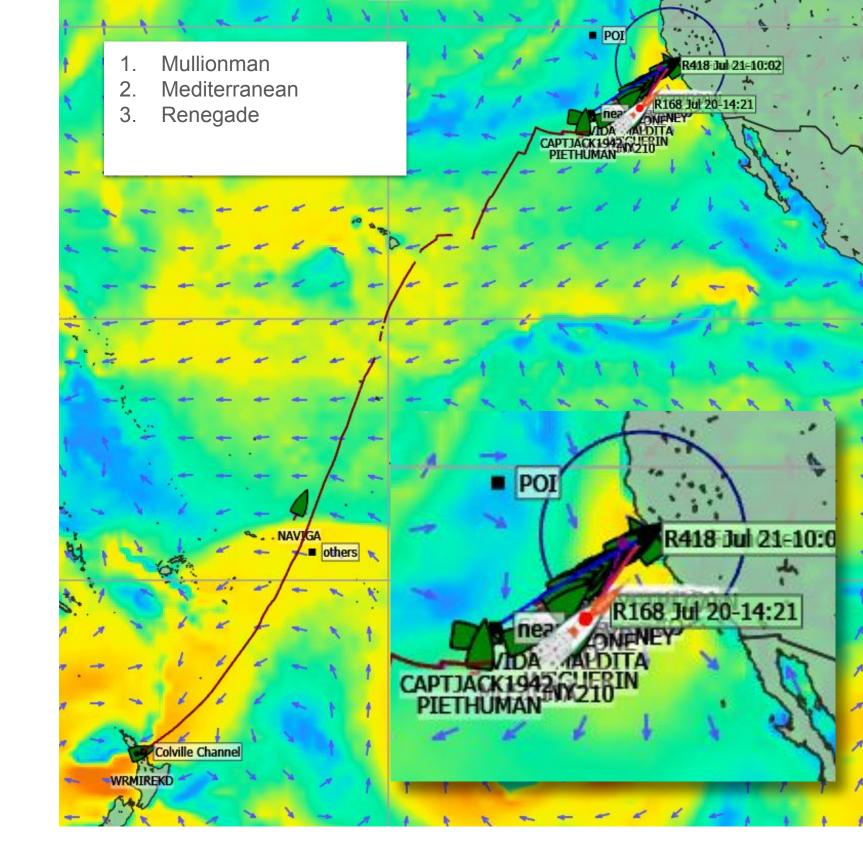


The 2023 Race

2023 routing showed a quick race up through Hawaii then east to SF. At right, near the end of the race, you can see how that worked out, a not so good 49th place - but at least I made page 1!

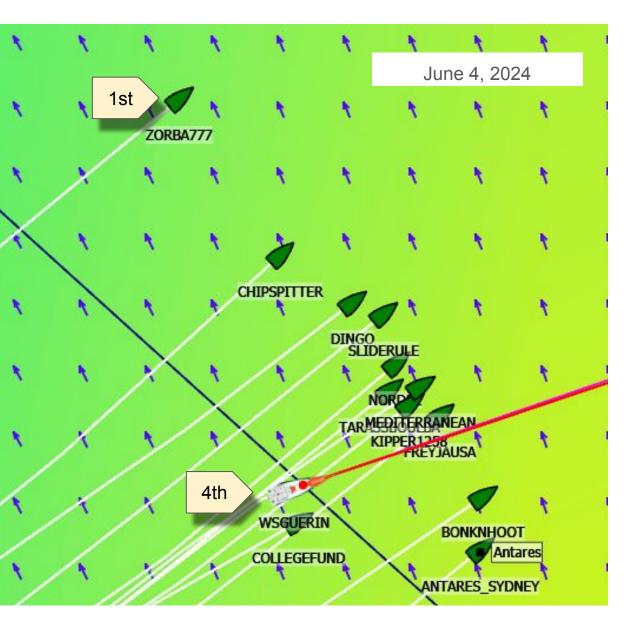
It must've been a crap shoot of a race as many top dogs were sprinkled down the <u>leaderboard</u>.

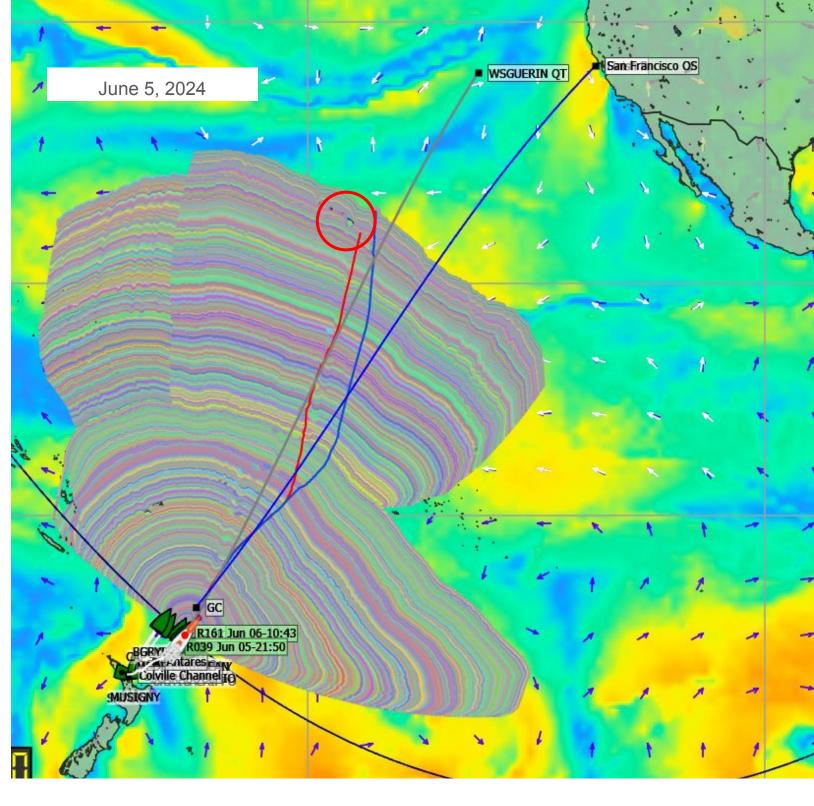




Act One

After getting out of the Coleville channel, by June 4th, (below) Zorba already was way out there while I dithered in the middle moving slow. Routing on June 5th in QT and Luckgrib convinced me to stay the course to a target 100nm east of Hawaii (circled)

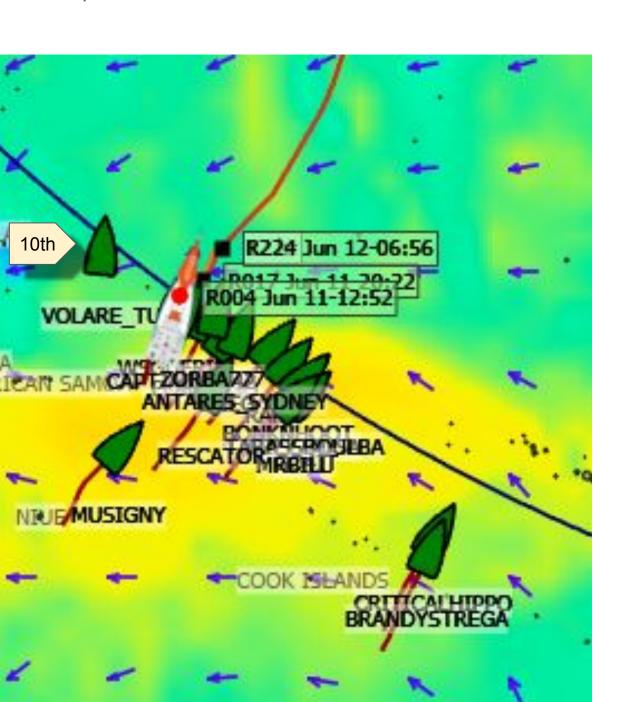


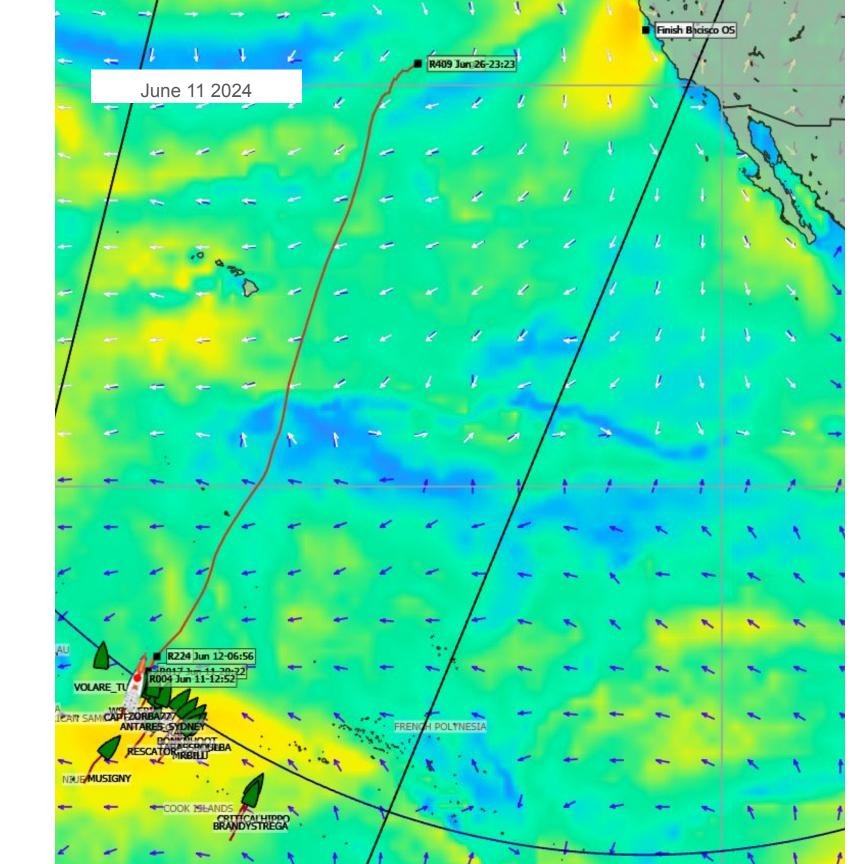


Auckland to San Francisco 2024

That's one long leg

Tackless and gybeless for thousands of miles. Volare Tu peeled off way West and I seemed to have caught up a bit.



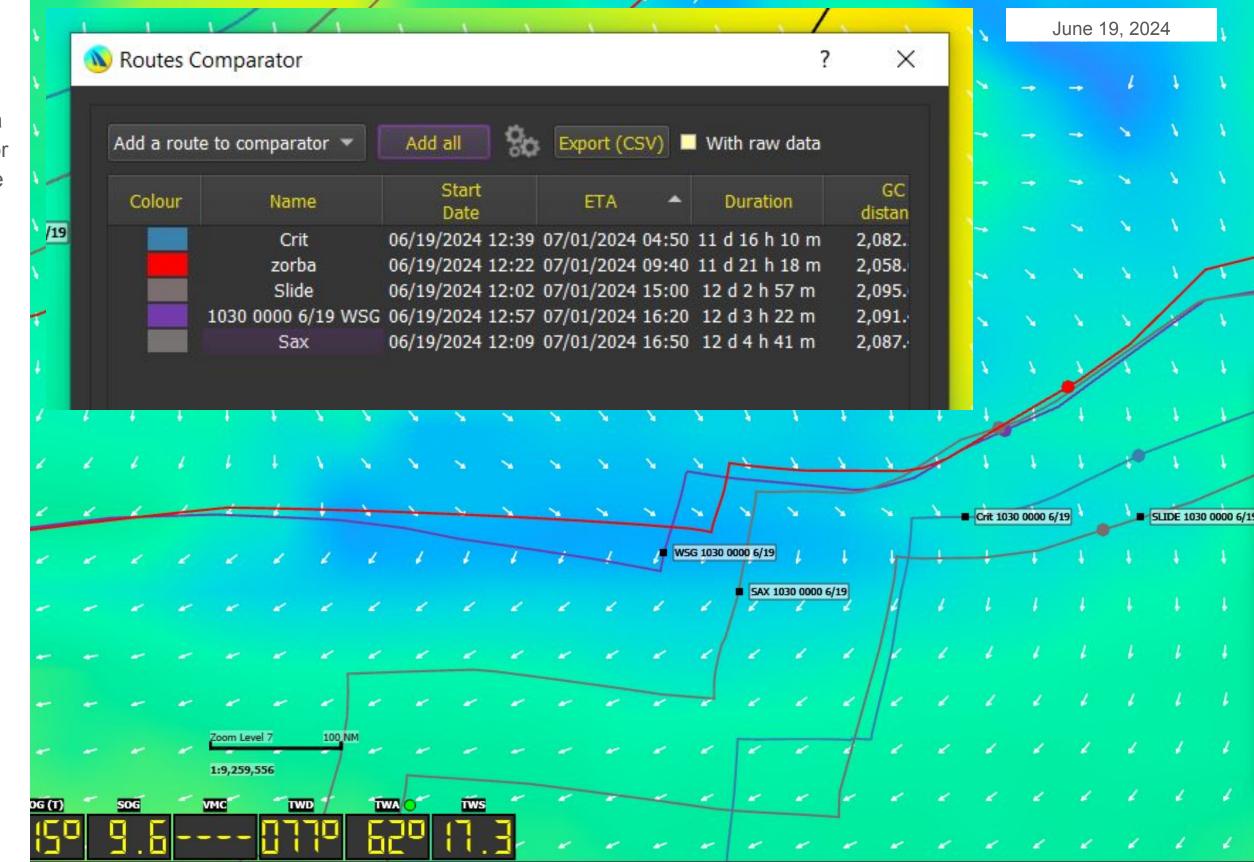


Ooof

However, counter routing was showing a diminishing position for WS but I hung in there

As we passed Hawaii, WS wrote in response to a ditty from Oliver:

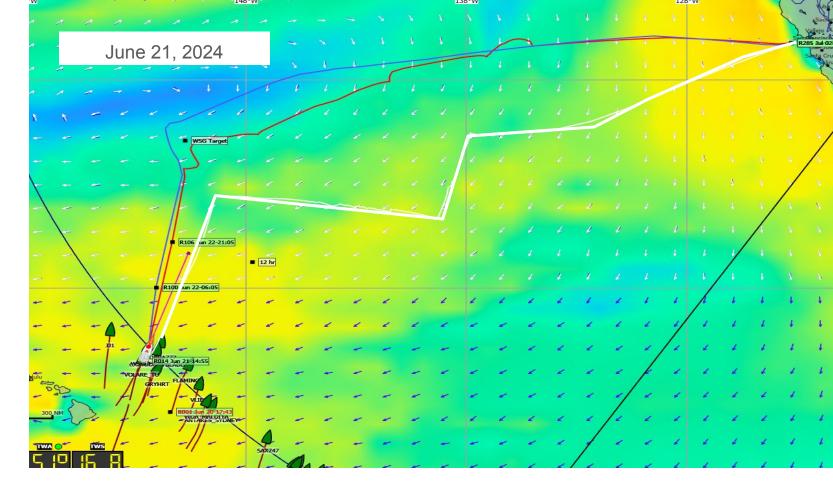
James got cooked In "savage" Polynesia. Torn limb from limb Lest we have amnesia



SOL-stice day

If I recall correctly, there had been a couple days of WTF routes that wanted me to turn very early as shown in white at right. Luckily I hung on. Note JJ1 heading out; smart move!





Not sure where Bonk's left-right analysis happened but I hope he does recreate it in a report which I dubbed a SOL - itical report. Conversation also drifted to the shoulda coulda woulda of the stock market and I wrote:

I can see clearly now the rain is gone,
All of those stocks were cheap, but I bought none.
There is the rainbow with its pot of gold.
Instead I'm just SOL—ing SOL-ing SOL-ing
Because I am old.

What's for DInner?

Here, the table is set. CaptainBonnyBlade makes it to my watch list, if not my counter routing, and we all stick with pretty meager VMC to get up and around the high.

Start

Date

ETA

WS wrote:

Colour

I can see the styles Of competitors and their wiles Across eleven hundred Fraught nautical miles. It's a toss up. Now everyone make their wish. The Pacific High a deceiver is, Just like a dying fish.

Name

flamingo

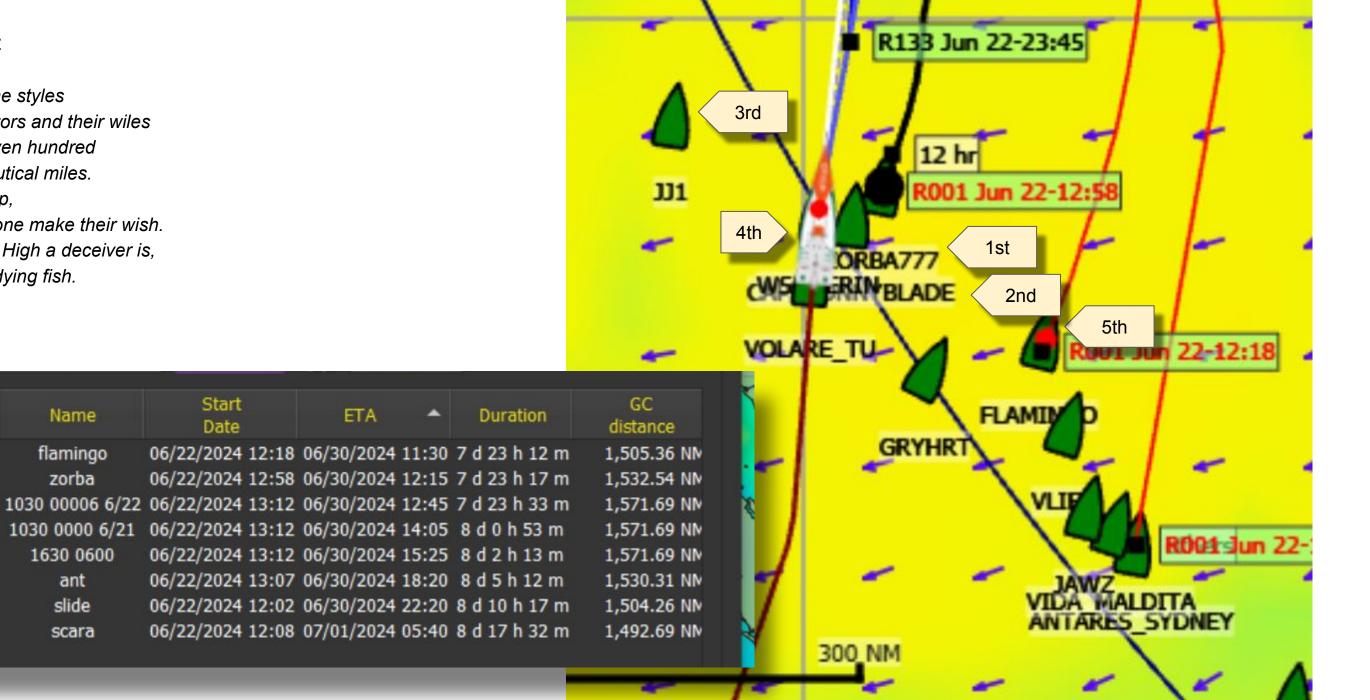
zorba

1630 0600

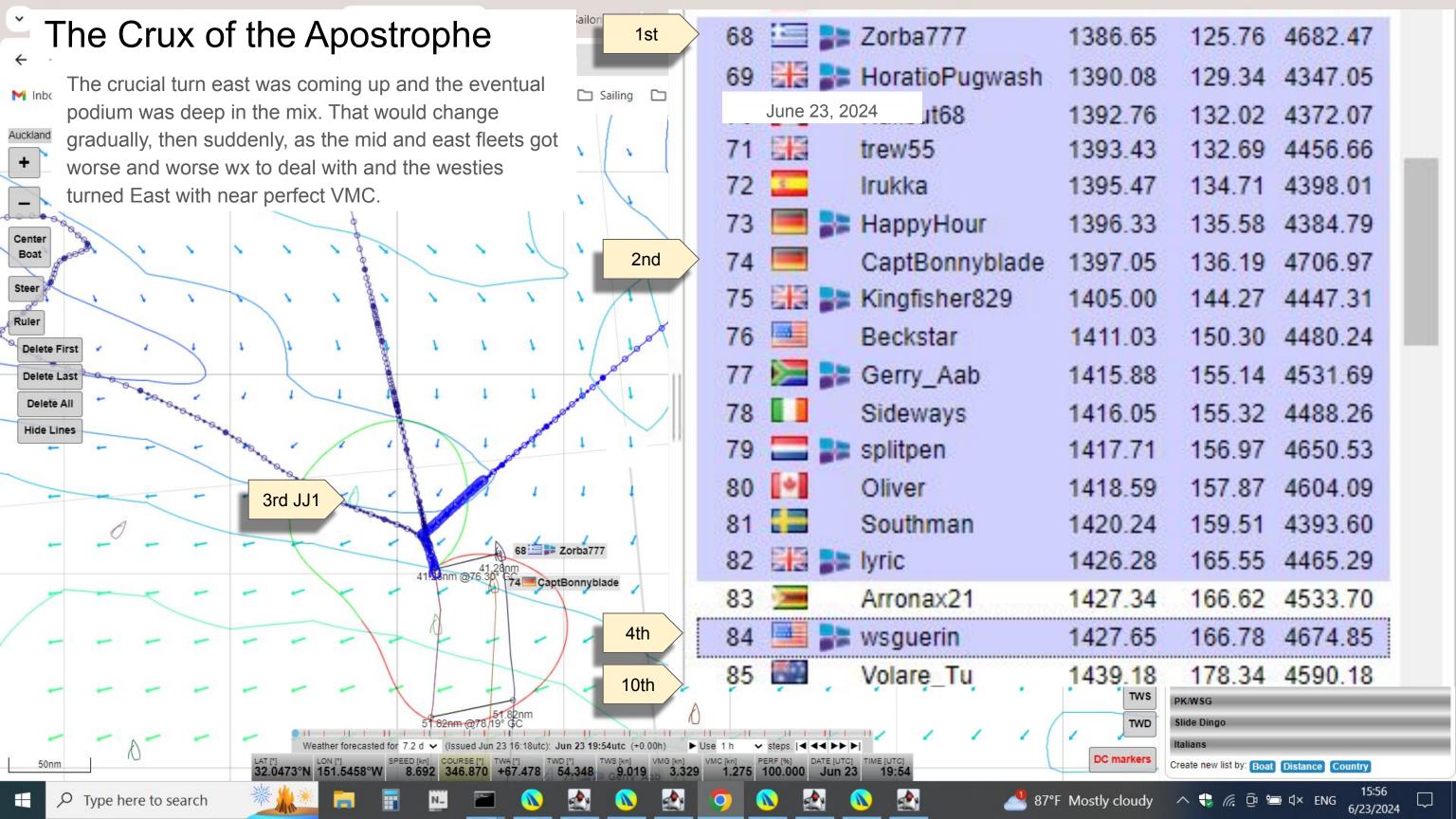
ant

slide

scara



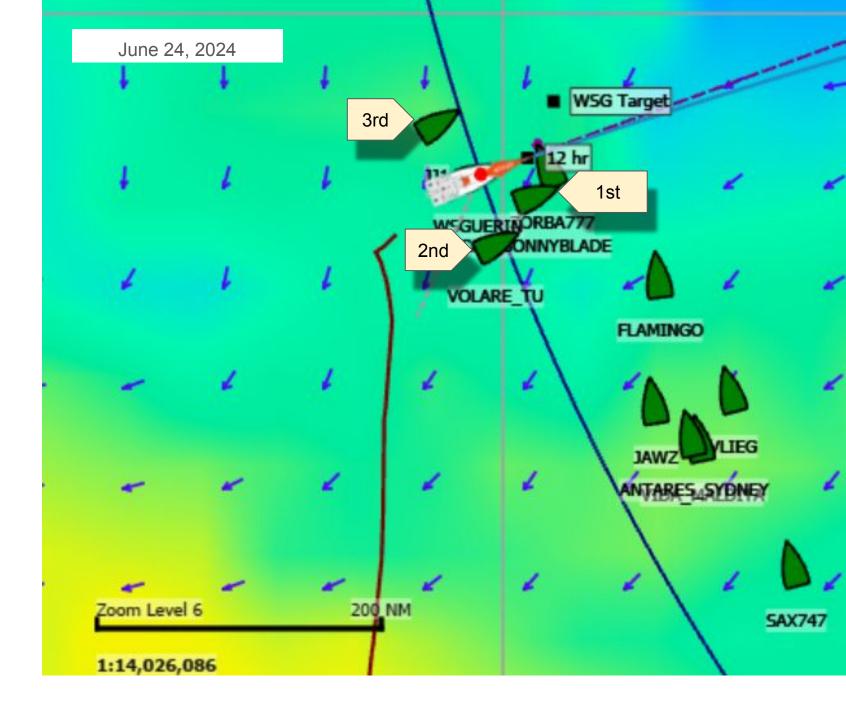
June 22, 2024



OK JJ, bring it on!

By this stage we are still a week out but below one can see that if JJ had gybed, we'd have had a close crossing. Instead they stayed north and we all turned on the 24th shown below, My banana peel lay ahead.



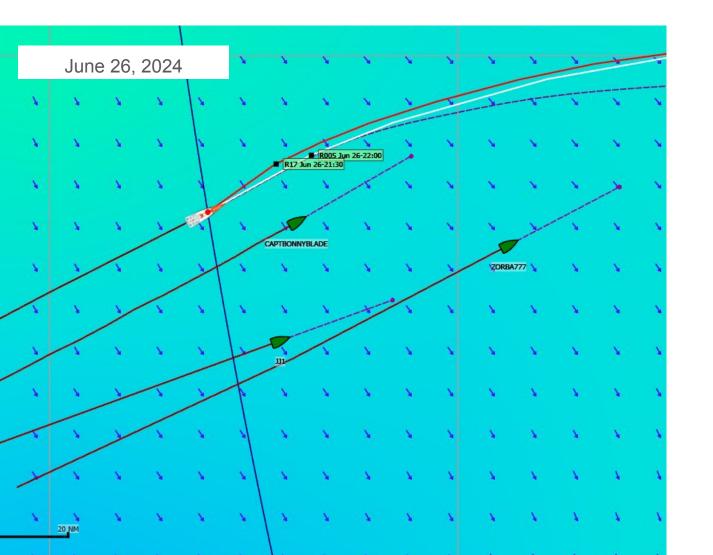


Auckland to San Francisco 2024

The Banana

I was in better wind above but at a worse wind angle and VMC. JJ1 timed their move perfectly and came in under me hot. I then made a decision to drive down over CapitainBonnyBlade (the Silent One) to try to catch JJ1 as seen at right.

I did close the gap but you'll note the wind had shifted right and I was disadvantaged bigly. Whoops, crash!





If I had stayed high and taken the knock to the better VMC and TWA, would I have caught JJ1?

Thank you all competitors, comrades, and especially the admins who worked through a server crash leaving us all blind for awhile. Kipper's AGL patch worked mysteriously but perfectly. Cheers, Scott

Auckland to San Francisco 2024

