

SATORI'S REPORT ON THE PANTAENIUS SHETLAND RACE 2024 – LEG 1

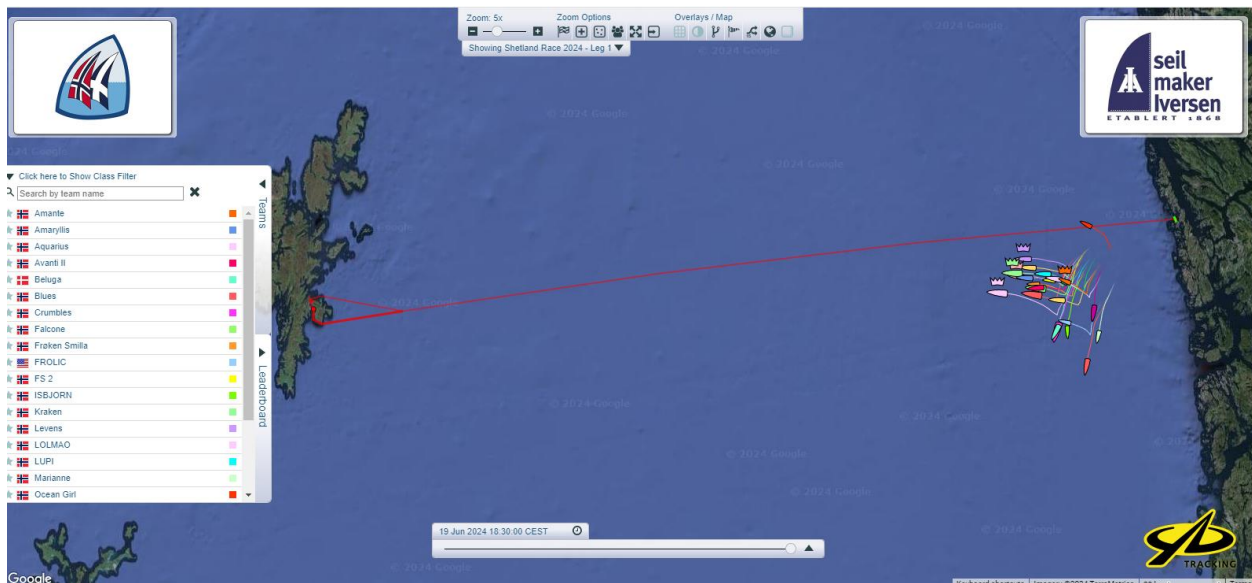
First, we SOLers have to thank Patrick for assisting in managing this race. When he asked me to submit a report, I thought, oh, oh, I did not finish keeping Satori's usual Log. I did not know that you SOLers actually read my reports! This race had an early morning finish here in Canada and racing to Shetland from Korsfjorden, Norway, is also all about the finish in Lerwick Harbour. Helming Satori in the Harbour turned out to be more important than keeping the Log, particularly when you have high-ranking SOLers, TarassBoulba, WRmirekd and bonknhoot all within close sight of my Finngulf 43! I think I could actually see the breath of the helmsmen!

Shetland has always fascinated me after visiting there in 2010 on one of our annual trips with a group of Scottish Country Dancers. Yes, we danced there after having danced on the Sundeck of the Royal Yacht Britannia in Edinburgh. Our return to the mainland was on the commercial ferry from Lerwick to Aberdeen. That was a very rough passage. Its run had been cancelled for a few days before because of the sea conditions but resumed because the Royal Mail must get through! Grivol was the flavour of the evening and few passengers were to be seen! I would say the ship's heel was sometimes approaching 35°.

I see the Northlink Ferry and scenes of Lerwick and its Harbour once a week when I am watching one of my favourite Brit mystery TV series, "Shetland", based on the 9 Shetland books of Anne Cleaves. I have read them all!

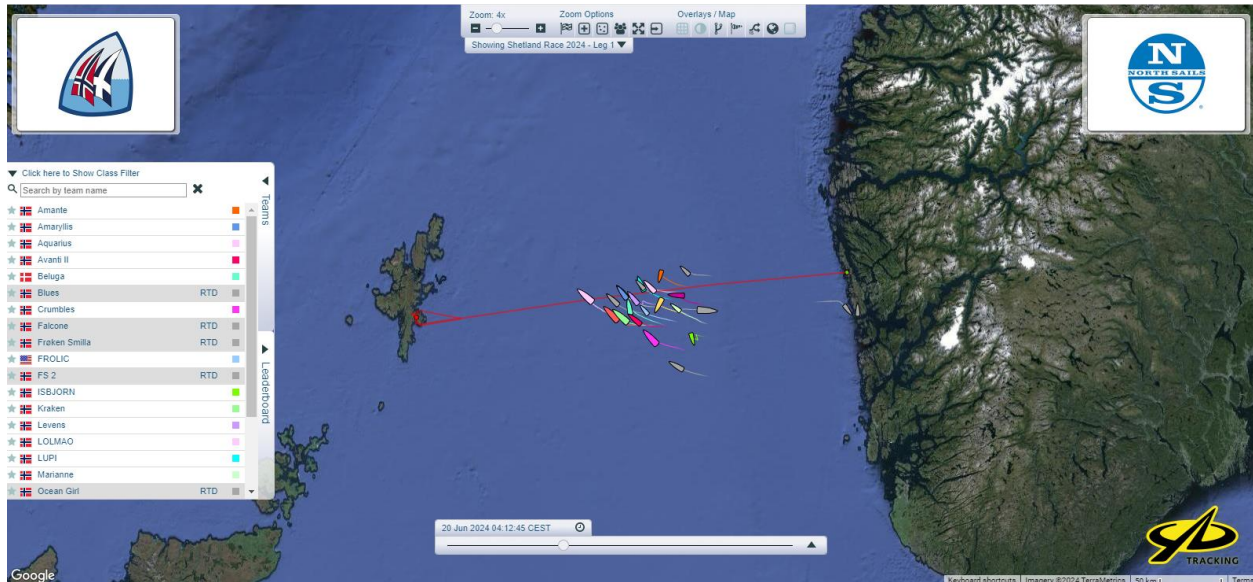
If you were tracking the boats on-the-water, there were 7 double-handed boats and 19 fully crewed boats. 7 boats retired and, as you heard in the Chatroom, 4 of these boats were unfortunately dismantled due to the wind and sea conditions. No wonder the Vikings stopped in Shetland for a rest with time to leave some DNA behind!

Here is a screen print of the YB Tracking 6 hours into the race and LOLMAO a VO 60 was leading.

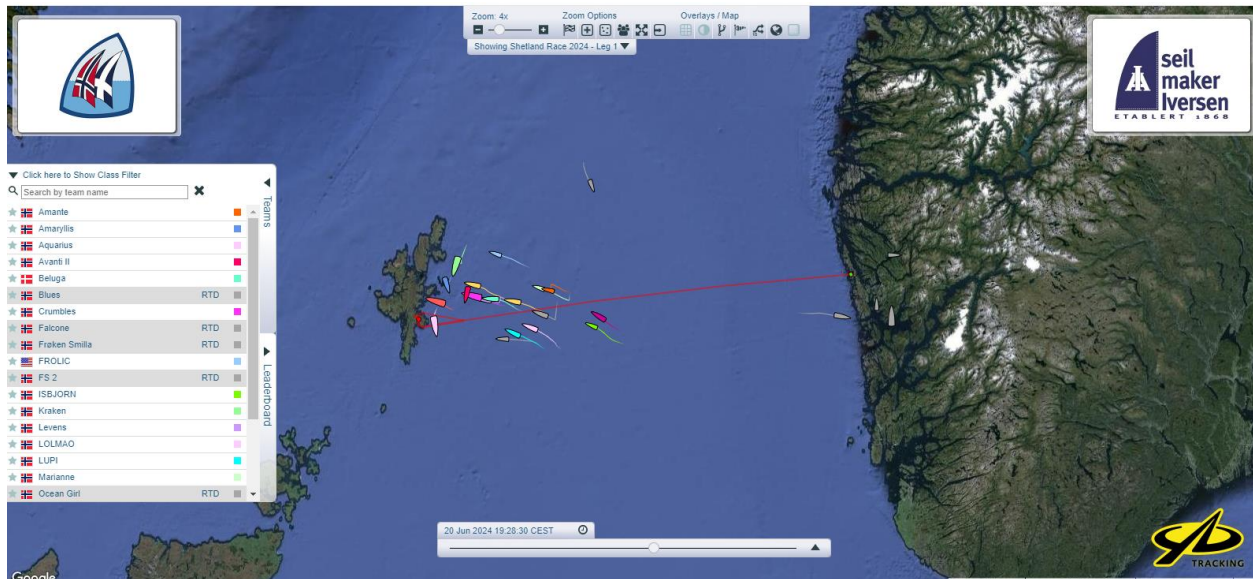


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Here is a couple more, the middle and the end. You can still watch the whole race on YB Tracking <https://cf.yb.tl/shetland2024#>.



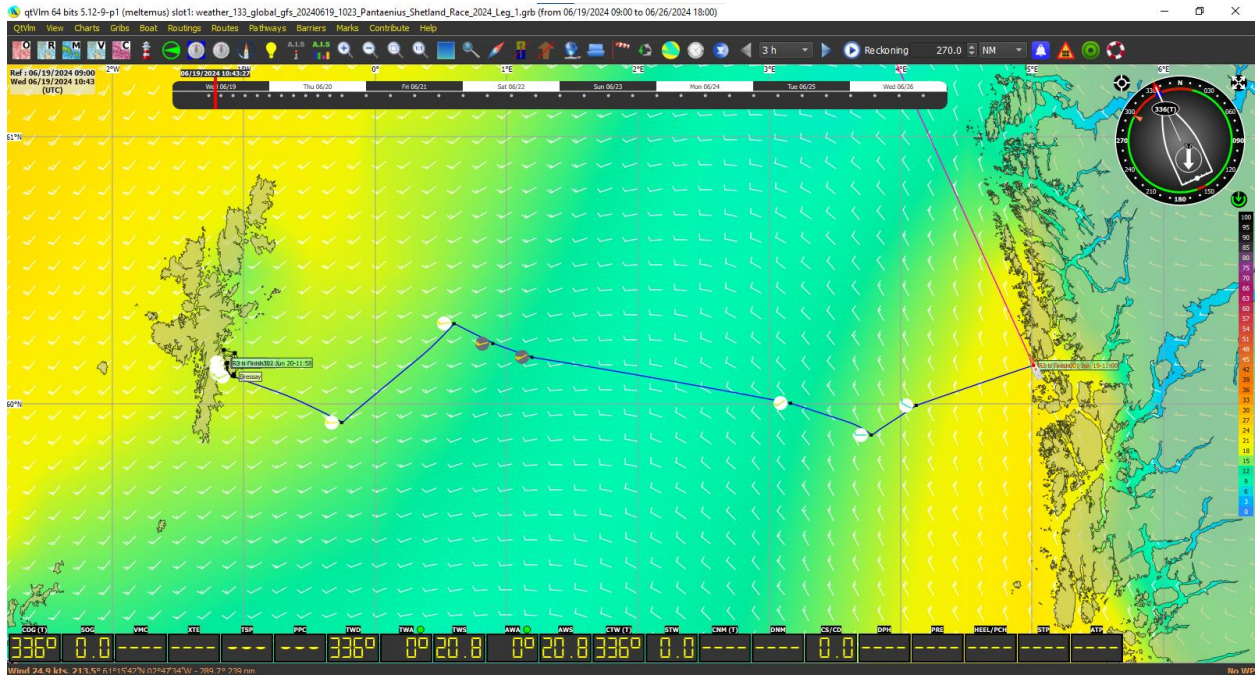
LOLMAO received Line Honors in 1d 7h 46m 37s and had the best corrected time. So the sea conditions resulted in this VO 60 taking 7 hrs longer to finish than the best time for our Finn Gulf 43.



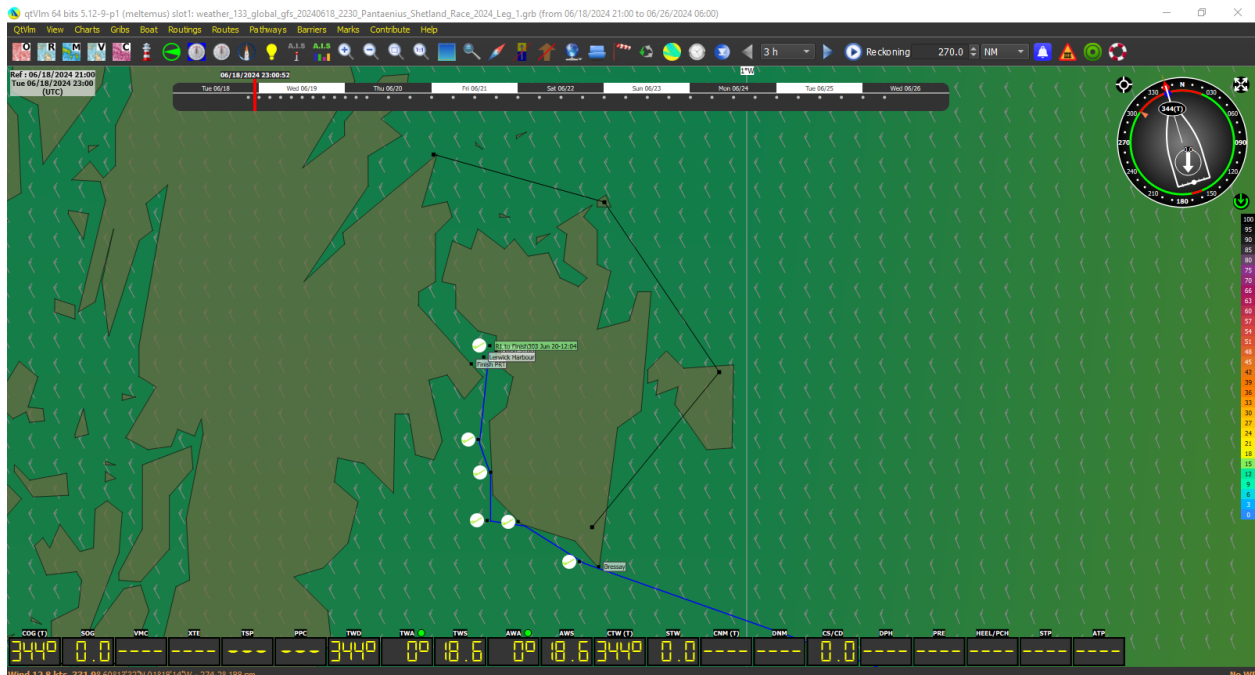
Oh yes you are more interested in our race on SOL!

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Here is Satori's routing in QT based on the WX ½ hour before the race start, June 19th 11:00 UTC. ETA was June 20th 11:58 UTC, a duration of 1d 0h 58m. Satori actually finished at 11:59:04 UTC. What do think? Not a bad prediction!

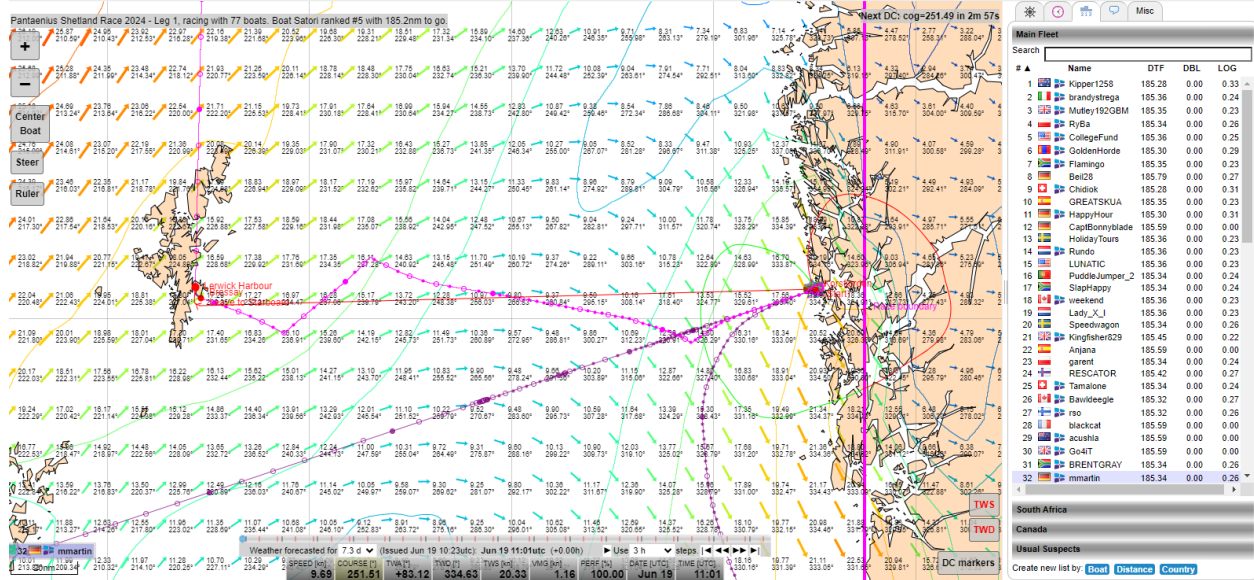


The final concern will be helming the entry into Lerwick Harbour and usually seeing how close you can get to the coastline if the winds favour such an approach. I remembered the 2021 Race when it started in Bergen and Satori finished 15th of the 126 boats registered. Did you check the SOL Archives?

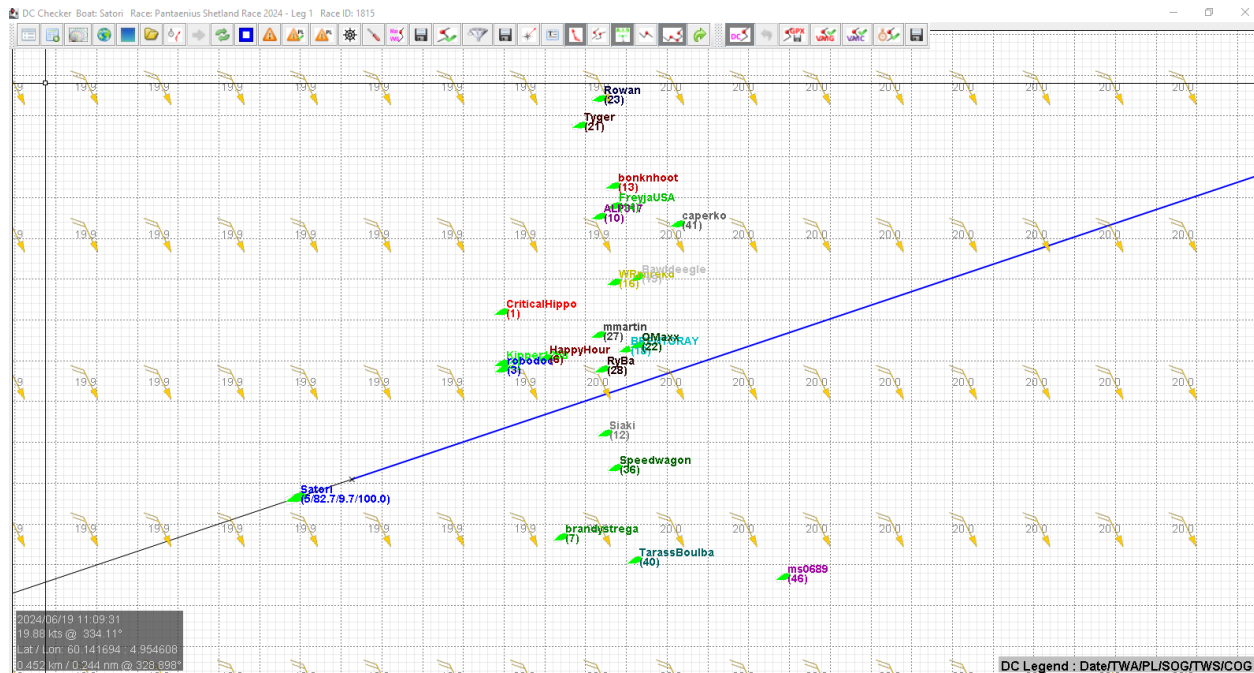


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Here is the start of the race and Satori's routing with TWS of 20.33 knts. Look at the TWA you will remember we were coping with starting an hour into the race!

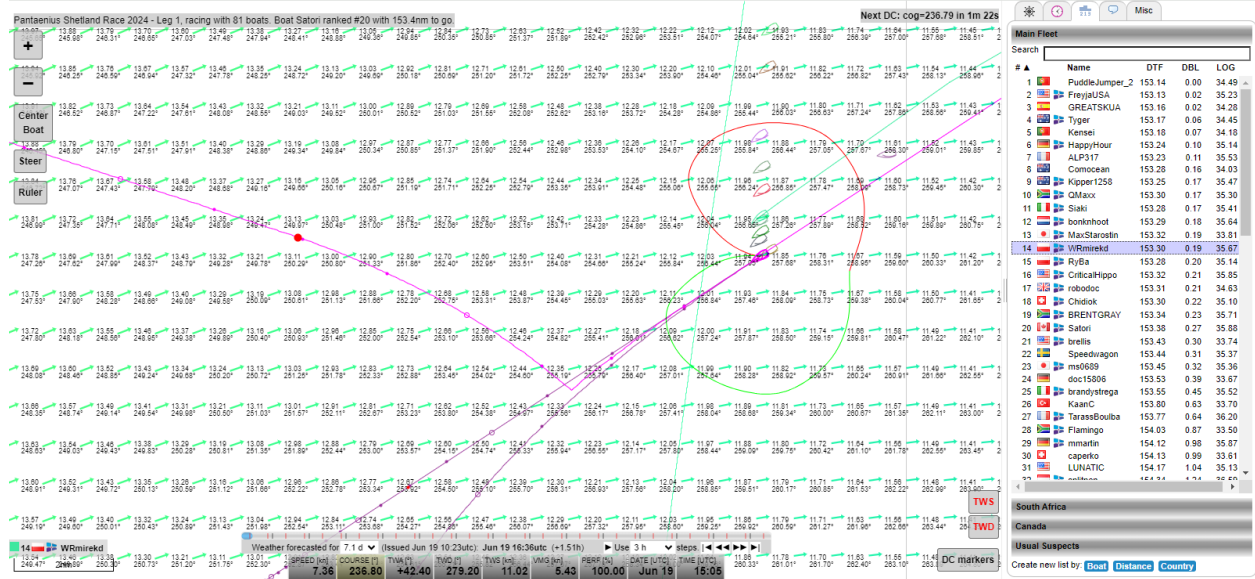


Here are the boats around Satori 10 mins into the race. Are you there? You can see the high-ranking SOLers are north and to windward. I am giving up the windward advantage for better TWA and BS. Will it pay?

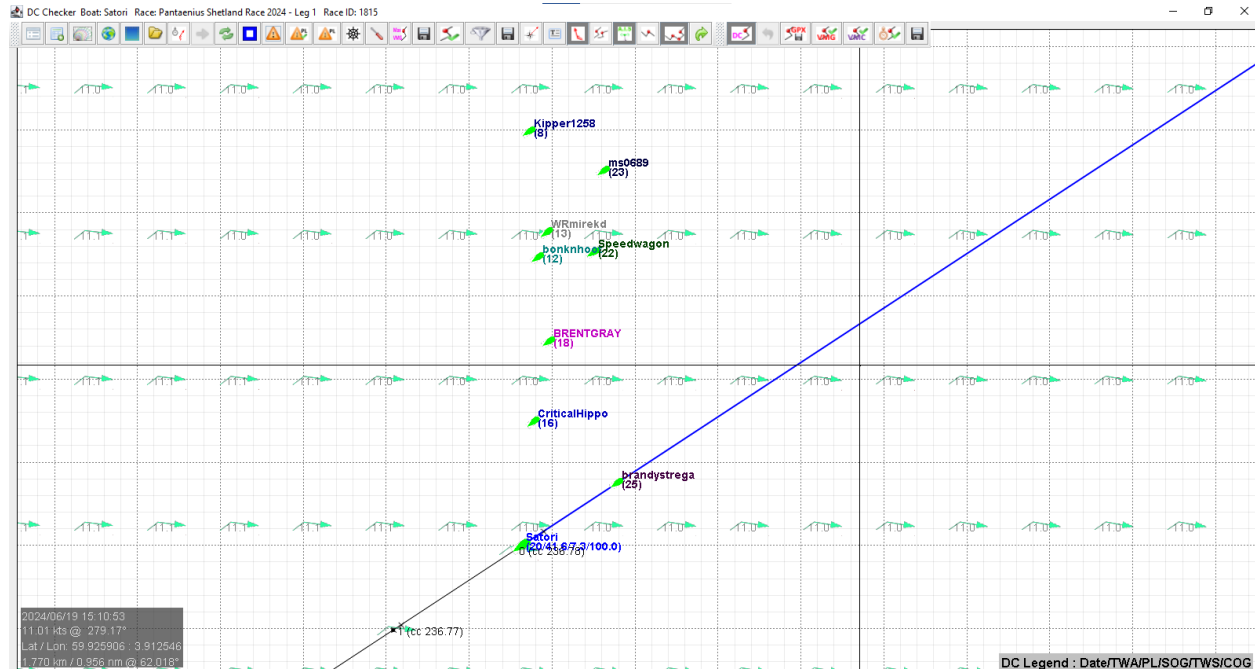


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Here are the “usual suspects” 4 hrs into the race. Mirek is 0.55 nms to the north of Satori’s course with better TWA than Satori’s 42.40°. In any case, I decided to let QT’s DC’s do the sailing. Red dot is the next WX and the winds shown are at that time. I was relieved to see that there were no strange course changes being predicted around the WX which would require my intervention before incorporating the new WX. I will be back at the helm for the WX. The tack has been conditioned in AGL to minimize the Performance Loss.

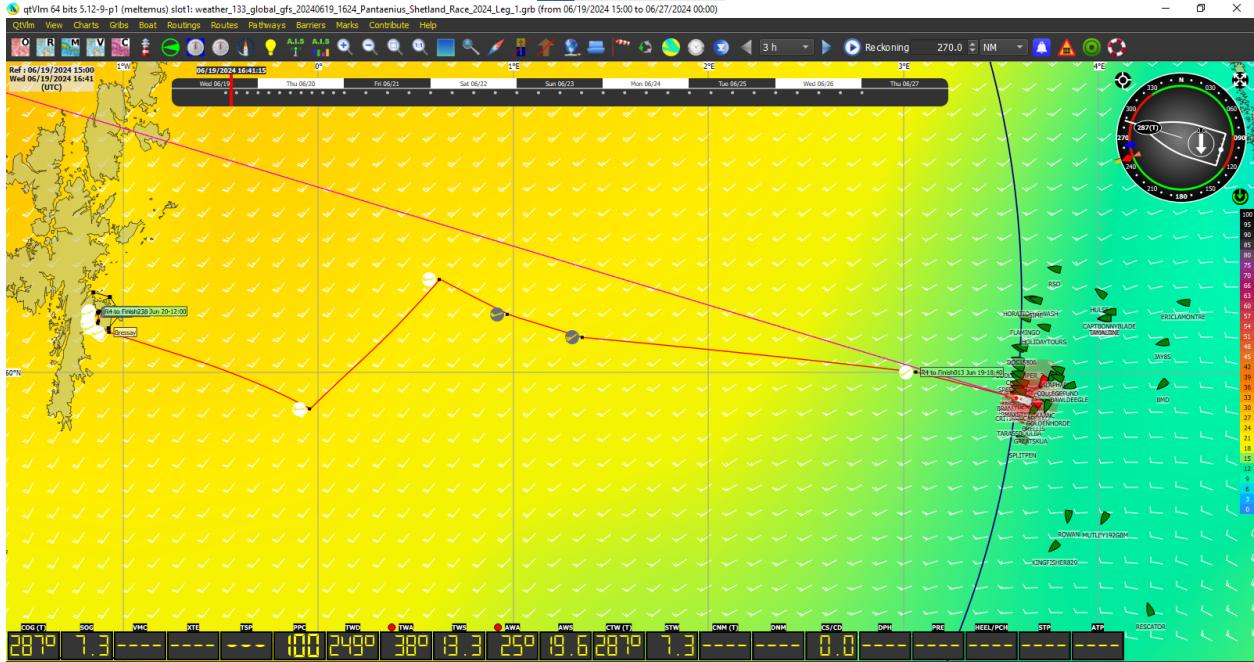


Here are the above boats in the immediate vicinity of Satori as shown in AGL.

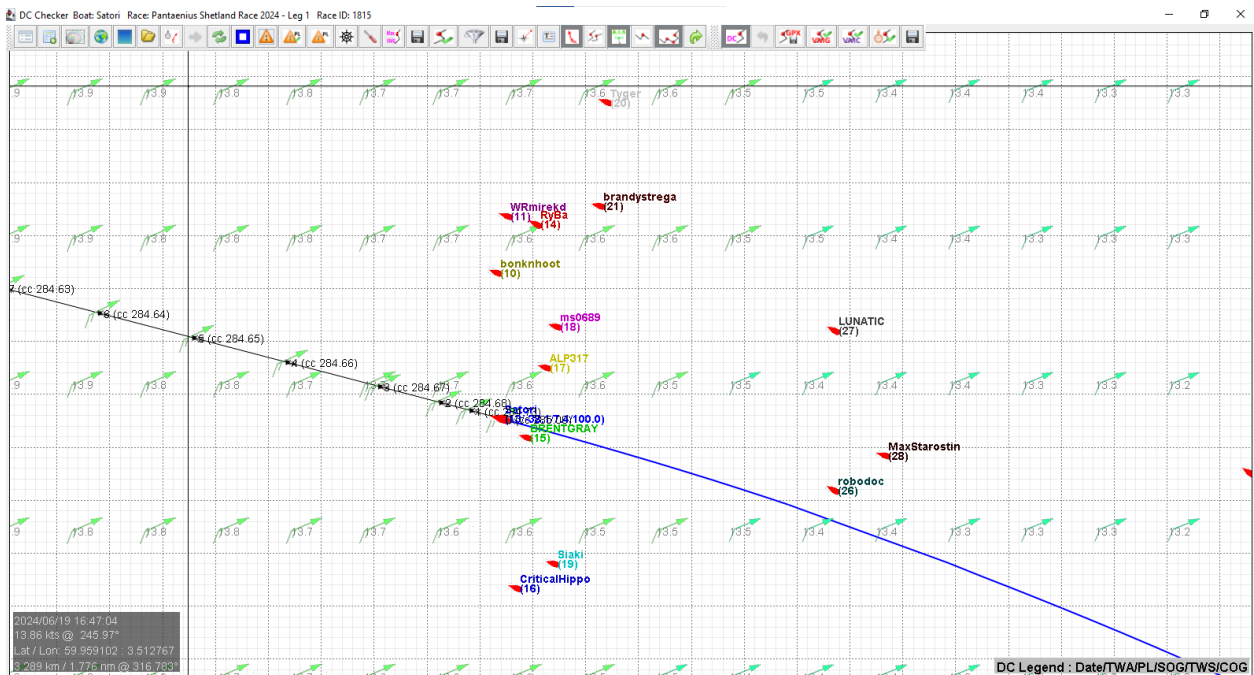


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Here is Satori's course in QT after the WX 16:30 UTC. I have drawn Satori's GC centred on the Bressay Mark. The SOL boats are shown using their AIS. Those inside the GC will be the same as the server placement but, of course, determined as the "crow flies" without regard to the winds. However, I can predict their finishing time, assuming they are also using QT, by placing a POI mark on their boat and producing a routing for them to the Bressay Mark for comparison to Satori. How good is this for knowing if you need to cover the competition? You have to use the tools just as racers are doing IRL!

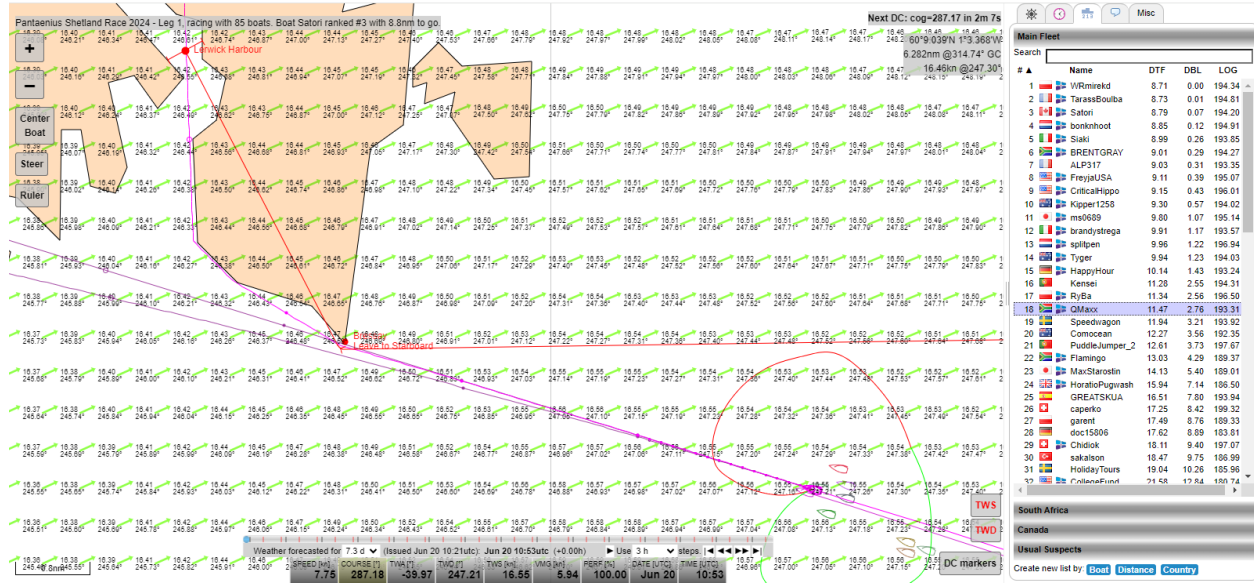


Here are the boats around Satori at 16:48 UTC after the tack and the new WX. Are you there?

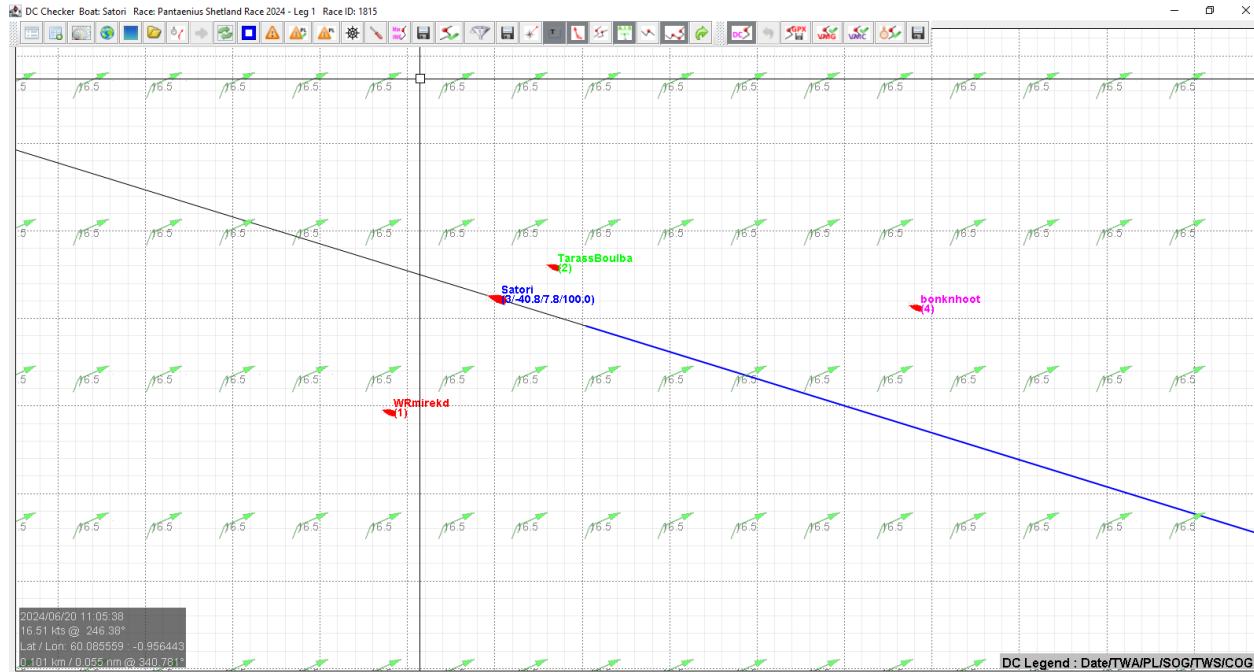


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Here I am, not quite awake, and at the helm after the 6:30 am WX!

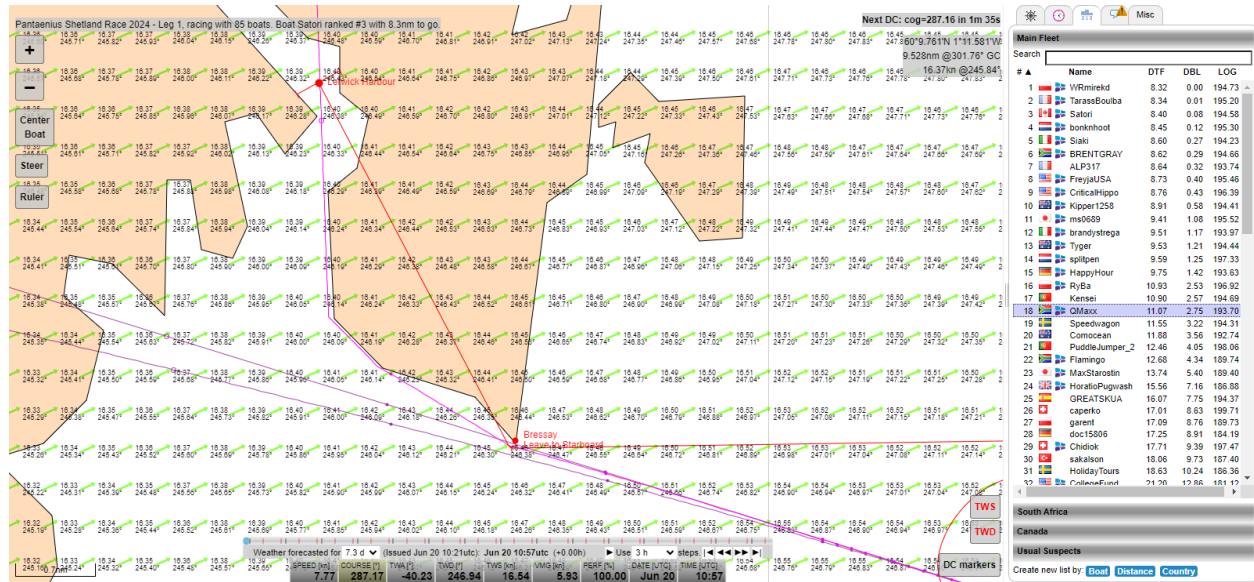


Here are the leaders heading for the Bressay Mark. The top 4, Mirek, Tarass, Satori and bonk have something of a commanding lead and will be vying for podium positions.



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Unfortunately this is where I stopped making screen shots as I focused on a podium position. bonk is 0.04 nms behind Satori. So I will use the next screen shot of Satori's course to describe the finish. You can see that I had edited the QT routing past the Bressay Mark in AGL to get the DC's as close to the coastline as possible. However I was at the helm to punch in the gybe heading as soon as I saw that Satori was cleanly past the turn in the coast. I use the Ruler to get precise headings well beforehand. I have two screens, one in max zoom and one for posting the steering change. Each time I improved on the proximity to the coast. Meanwhile, you see that there is message for me in the Chatroom. It is Mirek and he wants to know if I am awake! Meanwhile, while he is busy messaging, he BBQ's!! I wish I had a screen print of that phenomenon! TarassBoulba is only 0.01 nms behind Mirek and pulls ahead. Mirek recovers quickly and is now abeam of Satori. Bonk was 0.04 nms behind Satori before passing the Bressay Mark and, as you know, no slouch! Tarass has first place well in hand. After the last turn to the finish line Mirek heads down as much as that coastal point before the finish line will allow. Here I am trying to do the math and of course. That is Mirek's vocation! We have all been there. I am not quite awake! The angle of the finish line favours the west and Mirek's course. Satori has better BS. Will it be enough to offset the finish line angle? Should I cover Mirek? Yes, but wait, what about bonk? Satori could be done out of a podium position altogether. So I will try and deal with them both! Mirek beats Satori by ONE second! We are even. I beat Mirek by one second in a Lake Ontario race! I am pleased to be on the Podium with two great racers, Tarass and Mirek, with bonk just 6 seconds behind Satori.



This came to mind. Do you know the song "Run, Rabbit, Run"? I should have been humming it! Notwithstanding that the following is not supported by the lyrics, it is said on Shetland that the song was inspired when the Germans dropped a bomb on the Shetlands on November 13, 1939 and it killed a rabbit!

Run Satori, run Satori, run, run, run.

As I write this I know that I found the 4:00 am start of Leg 2 too early and I had not prepared DC's to start. I did have good intentions but I was up until 1:00 am focused on the Newport Bermuda Race WX.

I hope you all do well in Leg 2 and wish I was with you,
John/Satori