

# Haida Gwaii 2024

## CriticalHippo

This was a race where strategy was much more important than execution. I don't usually do particularly well on the all-around races as they seem to be the ones where it's most important not to miss a weather update, and I am late to 2 updates every day because of work and sleep.

In preparation for the race I had looked at the routing in QT, and with the default settings it wanted to pass south of Stephens/Prescott Islands (merged into 1 island on our map). However, I recognized that going to the north might be better and indeed it did look better when I forced it to choose that way. I also noticed the wind was very weak near the start and with a weather change happening before the gun I was worried about starting the race on DC's. Therefore I took a simple approach of max VMG at the start and used my lunch break to find the right place to tack, making a straight line from there. This left me in about the middle of the northern group of 11.

The north route was indeed faster by a couple hours, so I was pretty much guaranteed a top 10 at this point with a clean race. With multiple races going at the same time, including a couple runs in the timed race, I wasn't focused very closely on this one, mainly just following the router and being around for point roundings if possible.

About a day into the race Doug (FreyjaUSA) and I ordered McDonald's to our boats (aka met up IRL for lunch). Doug lives just a few blocks from my mail route. I must have been the one that ate too many fries this time because I couldn't keep up.

There's not much else to say. Zorba had a BBQ, Tarass abandoned the helm, and I was able to stay ahead of rafa to clinch my 4<sup>th</sup> podium!