

Race Report

Lake Ontario 300 Challenge 2025

By vida

15 July 2025

This is a race that has all the ingredients I like; short but not too short, variable wind regime and a circuit with all points of sailing. In addition, it just happens that all weather updates fall at reasonable times in my time zone. I was able to be up in front of the computer at all weather updates. This is crucial for a race under light and shifting wind patterns.

The first three short legs set the stage to separate who is taking the race seriously and set the leading pack apart from the rest of the fleet. From memory, we had **rafa**, **Patrick70119**, **WRmirekd**, **vida**, **Satori**, and probably a few other boats.

The biggest break I had was during the long leg between “Ajax” and “LOOR”. That was all downwind with the wind direction slowly turning in a way that a quick two gybes were needed to reach the “LOOR” mark.

I had the fortunate idea to gybe back a few minutes before the leading group, allowing me to approach the mark in a better sailing angle and with slightly more wind speed. Because of that break I took the lead at “LOOR” with almost a half mile to spare. **Patrick**, **Mirek**, and **Satori** followed.

It's not surprising that during the long leg home, all three boats were able to close the gap from me. These guys are good. Unfortunately, both **Patrick** and **Satori** must have missed a crucial weather update and fell behind. Now, it was **vida** and **Mirek** jockeying for the gold.

The last eight hours, maybe the last ten hours of the race were intense. The wind was slowing down to almost nothing (0.20 kts), and there was a 180-degree wind shift coming. With such light and shift wind the router became useless. My **Qt** was giving several options, all with the same outcome, which usually is a sign that even the router is confused. So, it was time to go “old-school” and sail the boat SOTP by hand. That was a long 8 hours stretch.

I remembered an old sailing coach I had back in the day, meaning, in the last century, that in a situation like that it is better to forget the rhumb line and always put your boat between the opponent and the mark, in this case between **Mirek** and the finish line. So, if **Mirek** turned North, away from the rhumb line, I went North as well, and vice versa. I could care less about the rhumb line.

So, for the last hours I engaged in a sort of nautical ballet with **Mirek** that was a sight to see. Evidently, with only one boat to watch it is a little easier. The only complication was the fact that I didn't quite know which point of the finish line he was aiming for. The North pin had a slight advantage, but the advantage was microscopic.

At the end he probably got tired of the dance and pointed his boat square to the line, and I did the same with **vida**, and crossed the line only 32 seconds ahead and took the gold home, my second time winning this same race. My sailing coach was right.

As always, my sincere thanks to all the volunteers that make Sailonline happen.

Antonio (boat: **vida**)