

TIMED races give me a chance to learn how to sail a course, so on 13 July school was back in session for brellis!

Not having any routing software, I'll program DC's to test if a run looks like it will be a contender. I noticed a favorable return wind starting late morning of 22 July. The catch was I'd need to do a lot of zig-zags straight into the wind to get out there in time.

I decided to start under green arrows blowing at my boat almost all the way to Kotkan Pt., when the wind angle turned favorable - but not all that strong.

The zig-zags heading East fell pretty well around the WX updates, and I had a chance to play around with the rhythm on my DC's to get a decent pace. It still took a long time to reach Kotkan, so I wasn't surprised the big guns hadn't started a run when I did.

On two earlier attempts my DC's fired a bit early around Suursaari S and at Helsingin kasuuri on the return - so, I babysat my boat with safe DC's and tightened up the COG in real-time at those points.

Sure enough, the WX shifted pretty much as had been predicted when I began my run. I was able to keep a nice TWA all the way back. I kept my last few DC's pretty safe, as I was playing beach volleyball while my boat bonk'ed at the finish line!

-Brad (brellis)