

Ha, nmr #3 in the most brutal & difficult last leg of the 4 balloon legs in the Indian ocean !

The first 3 legs I wasn't a member, since I thought I would not return to Sol...but with balloon races you can be off grid for a few days, (that does happen here, workwise) it does most of the time not really make a difference in the total race. You *do* need to be at the helm on critical stages, but you never know when it's critical or not ☺ ...and that part I like a lot with balloon races. It's like playing chess whilst you can't play chess.

Also, I think that if i do more than 2 races a year, (any race) one should support the SOL peoples behind it, and pay for the server shizzle behind it..the shareware or donation concept.

Now, about the legs .. Leg 1 had 2 ways..leg 2 was straight forward, leg 3 the same, and then we had leg 4.... My first and initial idea was to go west, pass the Seychelles, go north, and smooth floating east.

On the start day itself , the option to go north, Bangladesh, south was very very tempting...looked good, even on the 16 day wx.

BUT ...remembering leg 1, stick to the plan , and that was west, pick up the monsoon after the Seychelles, and bob should be my uncle. All well..lalallaa, tight twa (150/160) sharks on the left..dolphins on the right... but every day closer to west, the monsoon winds basically left the building. Especially the south wind near Madagascar.

And then Bonkert came with the bad news..the leg's start was basically too late in the monsoon season The monsoon wind flipped, and wind was or gone, or south near Afrika. So...park it, and wait...and wait..

Very slowly picked up the wind towards the east, and off the west group went.. Now, with balloons I hardly watch competition (besides LUNATIC ☺) , but bonk kept rather tight behind me..and that is normally trouble. Bonk went lower, and basically ran away with a 12 hour advance..

But DIKKE does not believe in covering, and sticked to the plan. The plan was enter as high as possible so I could enter the finish @ 90 COG. Also that plan did not work, due to a very instable wx near the finish. And that instability was in my favor at the end. Some will call this luck, and it is.

Parked it, waited for the right direction and boink!

Big applause for jay8s and BS1, they made the perfect entry!

So, and I'm unanimous in this..More balloon races! ☺

Best!