


Christmas to Christmas 2025

As anticipated in CHAT, after 12 years of trying (P8-37-38-5-5-8-4-5-6-2-20 as bonknhoot, and P4 as part of TeamTurkey together with Kipper1258, limesinferior and dear departed psail), I actually won it, which, given that I have ever only won two other ocean races (Tokyo San Francisco in 2014, Cape Town to Auckland in 2020), is wonderful (i.e. full of wonder!). Moreover, in 2025 I never made the Top Ten once in any of the ocean races, so really [won-one-wonderful!](#)

Now back in 2020, when the pandemic raged, and I merely was a helper of RainbowChaser's in the SOL Race Office, I SOLed myself silly, and wrote reports as often as I could, including on that year's X2X, to which five years on, there is little enough to add.... 

As in 2020, I went over the top of Luzon. Perhaps this super-speedy Maxi Tri made that option more dominant. Perhaps not, but certainly the higher average speeds meant that nearly immediately routing the 15-day forecast got you all the way to the finish, thus providing more assurance that the luck would be with Luzon.

But unlike in 2020, this time I experienced no come-uppances, and instead it was my rivals who one-by-one experienced, often imperceptibly-so, little slip-ups, excepting Garagiste, who, once we were in the China Sea, kept the pressure up, overtaking my nearer rivals BRENTGRAY, pepsPV5 and Flamingo (who took a flyer), steadily closing on my lead to finish second.

As we entered the Indian Ocean, it was nice to not that some of you were watching over me as well, with calls in CHAT of 'I don't want to jinx him, but bonk might have pushed the envelope too far' and 'Hope bonkie knows what he is doing'. But he did and he didn't get jinxed.

Meanwhile I have got to p. 544 of Theodore Dreiser's 'An American Tragedy' with another 150 or so to go. It's heavy-going but despite its rather formal verbosity a surprisingly gripping tale. I'll have to think hard before I download any of his other oeuvre's though.

Thank you all for racing!

bonknhoot/December 2025