

Satori's Report on the Susan Hood Trophy Race 2026

As you SOLers know we are again “buddying” with the Lake Ontario Offshore Racing in a SOL Lake Ontario Series of 2 races, the Susan Hood Trophy Race and the Lake Ontario 300. The Susan Hood is referred to as the “coolest race” on Lake Ontario given it is overnight on the cold May waters of the lake. On-the-water the participants reported that it was a rough going on the lake, cold and very breezy, some seeing 32 knots, with rough seas on some legs. We SOLers are fortunate not to have to contend with sea-state and the occasional blast of wind, but it would make things interesting!

We again had great enthusiasm and participation on SOL with 81 boats from over 20 countries registered. The Directors of Lake Ontario Offshore Racing must continue to be pleased to be able to tell their Sponsors that their Race has such an international reputation.

52 boats left the SOL starting line using the Polar of a Jeanneau Sun Fast 3300 sailing the Delta course. The 3300 was Sailing World's Boat of the Year in 2020 and is a spartan racer/cruiser downwind flyer designed for short-handed sailing.

The on-the-water LOOR Race had 66 registered entries from 18 yacht clubs. The monohull line honours went to **Afterburn**, a Soto 40, of the Port Credit Yacht Club with an elapsed time of 9h 44m 16s. This compares with our SOL winner, **KaSToR** of France, who ranks 2nd in the SOL world rankings and finished in 8h 28m 47s. A faster finish in the 3300 with the SOL winner averaging 7.7 knots.

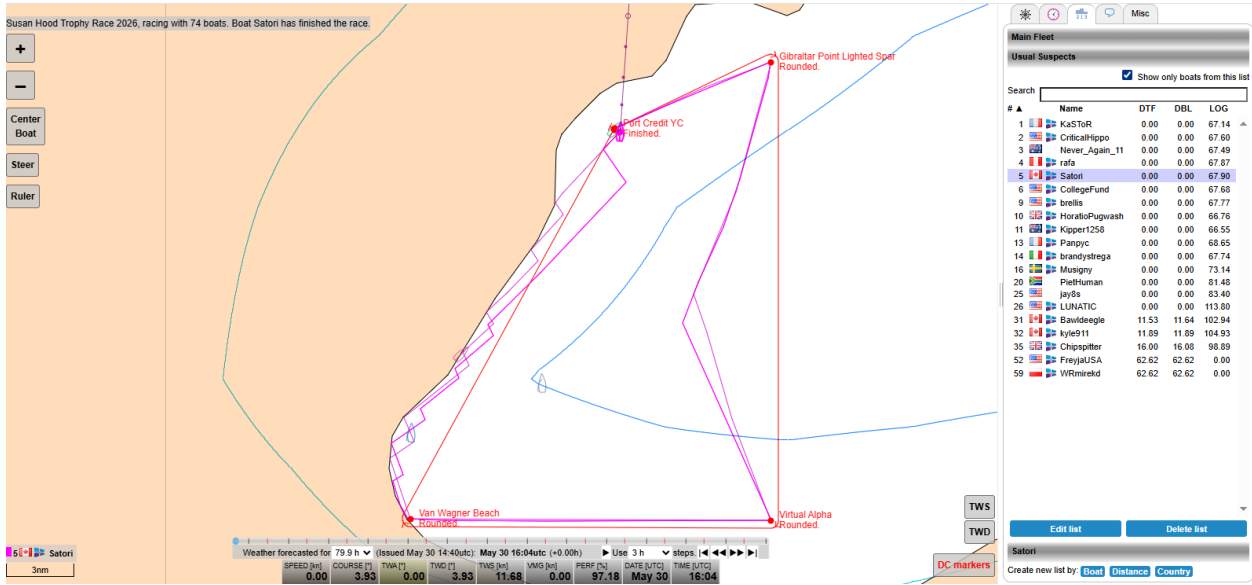
Our SOL race was extremely close with the Top Ten boats finishing within 7 minutes and 24 seconds and included boats from the France, USA, Australia, Peru, Canada, South Africa and England. Only 49 seconds separated the Podium, **KaSToR** of France, **CriticalHippo** of USA and **Never_Again_11** of Australia. **Satori** finished 5th just 31 seconds behind **rafa** of Peru and 2 mins 19 secs behind the leader. Not as good as last year when **Satori**, who has been on the hard for 11 months, finished 2nd a mere 1 second behind **Freyja USA** who did not race this year.

The leaders where becoming evident after the rounding of the Gibraltar Point mark and the Top 5 were established after rounding the Virtual Alpha mark being 0.12nm ahead of the rest of the fleet and within 0.12nm of each other. After rounding Virtual Alpha **Satori** was placed 3rd and the order changed for all 5 before the finish. **Satori** made a very sloppy rounding of the mark at Van Wagner Beach, overrunning it by 0.11nm and came extremely close to BBQing on the west shore. There was momentary panic when I got back the helm! After the rounding of Van Wagner the fleet scattered in the headwinds everyone obviously thinking that they had a better way to the finish.....slightly higher winds to the east....maybe fewer tacks! However, no one broke into the Top Five with the 6th place boat, **CollegeFund** of USA finishing 55 secs behind **Satori**.

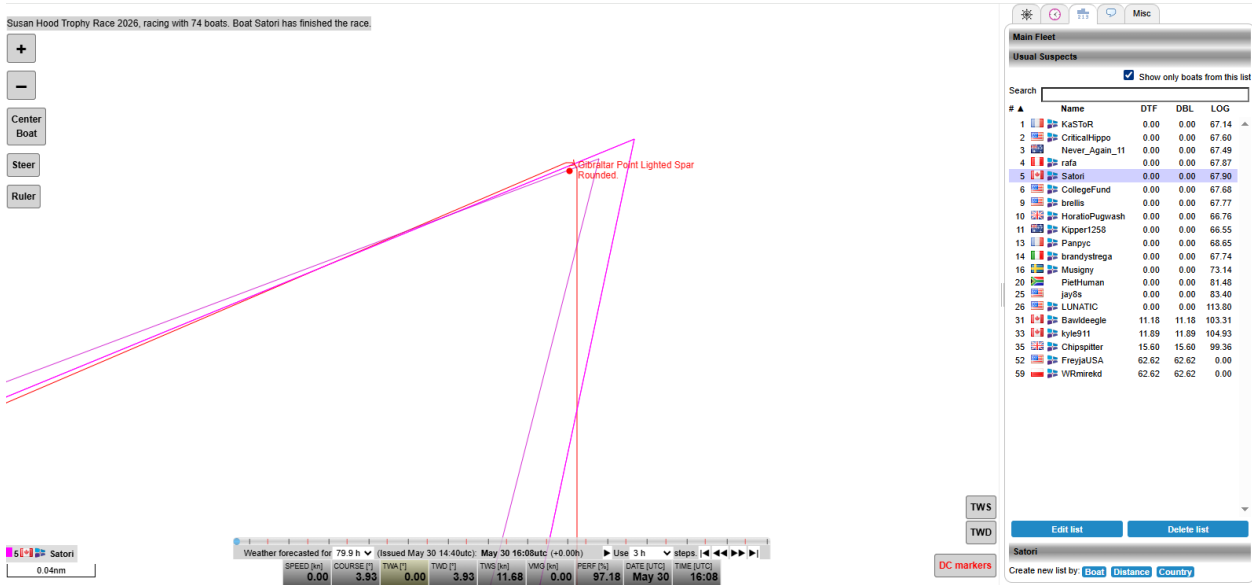
Should you be interested, a commentary on **Satori's** race follows. You may see your boat on the course! As usual I was using QTvlm and AGL but I am competitive enough to try and stay by the helm watching the competition and making adjustments. All-nighters are getting harder to do at 86 and I did take naps and that is what almost did me in at the Van Wagner mark!

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The following SOL screen print shows the courses of the winner **KaSToR** and **Satori** as well as the Delta clock-wise course rhumbline. As you can see the courses are very similar. **Satori's** course is the slightly darker magenta course.

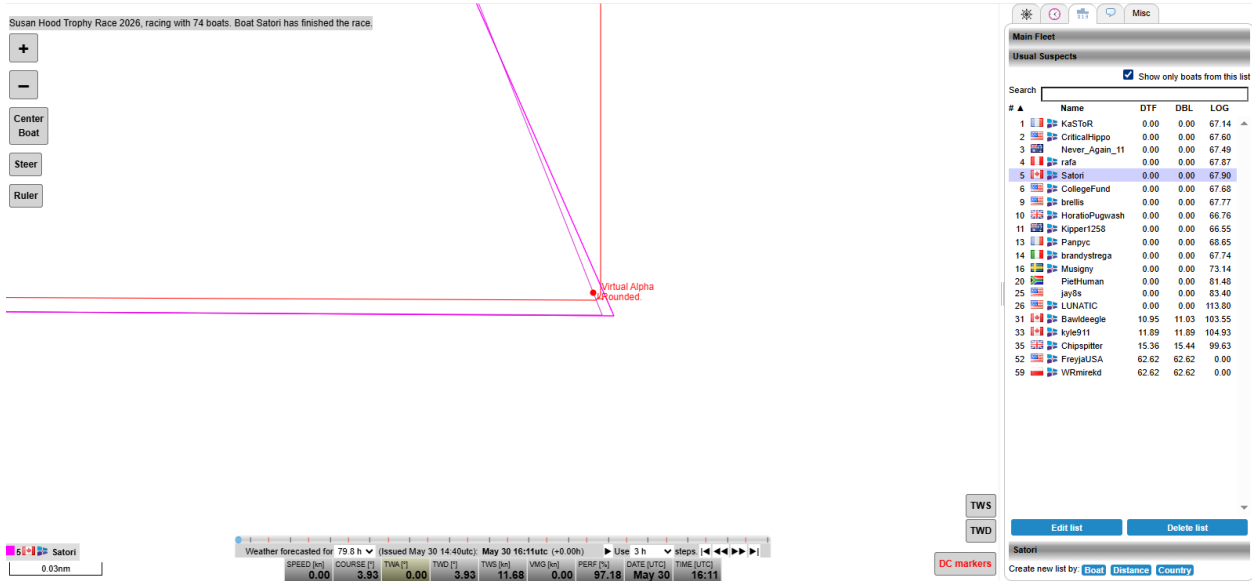


Gibraltar Point rounding – **KaSToR** made a much tighter rounding than **Satori** and Leaders were starting to emerge at this rounding.

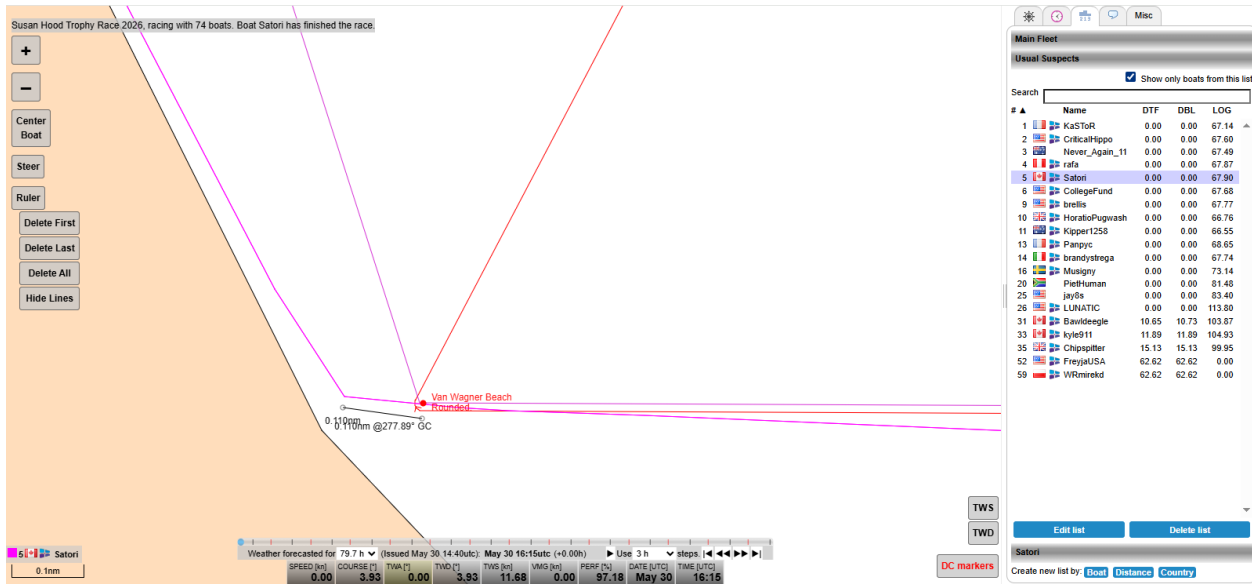


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Virtual Alpha rounding – **KaSToR** placed closer to the mark before rounding. The Top Five had been established but not their finishing order. **CriticalHippo** was leading, with **KaSToR** 2nd, **Satori** 3rd, **rafa** 4th and **Never_Again_11** 5th who successfully made it to the Podium. They had a 0.12nm lead over the fleet.

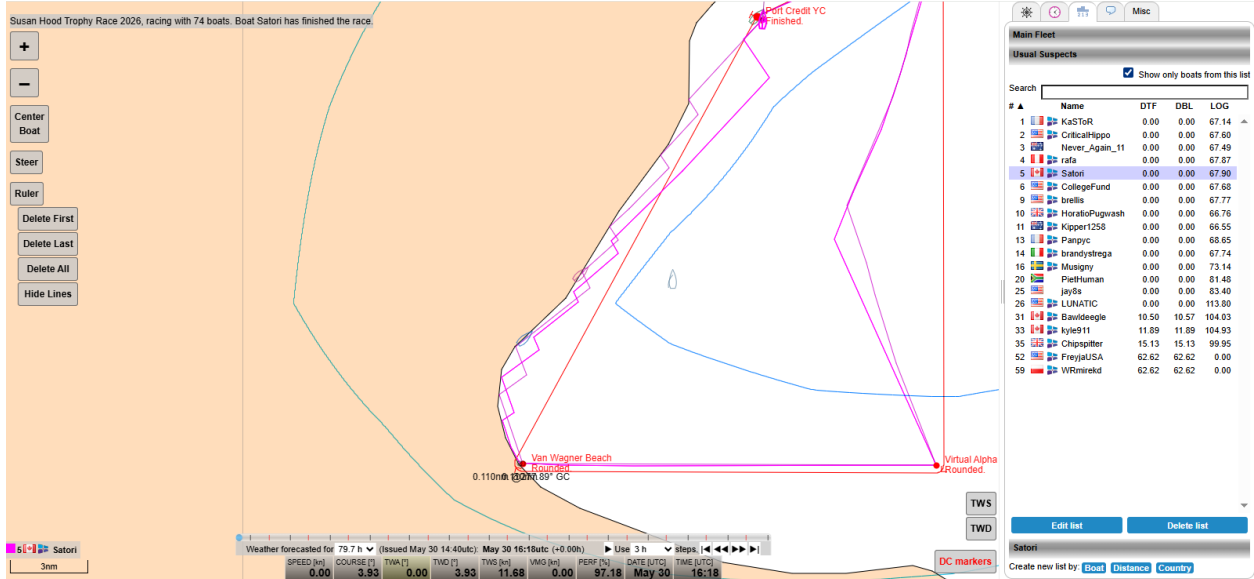


Van Wagner Beach rounding – **KaSToR** had a very tight rounding and being farther east had slightly higher winds to the Finish. **Satori** had a very sloppy rounding overrunning the mark by 0.110nm. (I was asleep at the helm! There was a bit of panic correcting the course to prevent a BBQing!)



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As a result of overrunning the Van Wagner mark **Satori** ended up closer to the western shore in slightly lower winds. Both **KaSToR** and **Satori** put in 11 tacks to the Finish Line but **KaSToR's** tacks were longer and would have resulted in a better overall recovery from the tacking Performance Loss. **Satori's** average BS was 7.734 knots over 67.90nm compared to **KaSToR's** 7.691 knots over 67.14nm.



Here is an AGL screen print of the spread the 10 leading boats on the last leg to the finish and their course tracks.

