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<http://www.navigamagazin.com/>

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Race of Turkey in the Virtual World

A new race title has opened up in the website named Sailonline.org. Target is to have the all world racers to compete on the shores of Turkey. Start is on August 28, 2010. Come on, speedy racers of the virtual world, this cup should be won by a Turk.

I had written in the February 2009 issue that escaping from the wet conditions of winter sailing I had begun sailing at home sitting at the computer. At the time we had discovered 'Virtual Regatta' and sailing the Volvo Ocean Race. Unfortunately, in the virtually Volvo race we were "turned off" due to inconsistencies and from time to time errors arising from the program. On the other hand having taken pleasure from virtual racing, started surfing the internet to find an alternative, I found myself in the 'Sydney Hobart' race! I had discovered a very educative and delightful website which I liked very much and had recommended it to you: www.sailonline.org

This program can expand your knowledge of navigation, offers the possibility of racing in virtual world while you do your strategic planning. It carries you to a 'deckman' like environment with weather reports received from USGrib and the right to put about 20 waypoints using the polar diagrams of your boat.

By working on the polar diagram you can compete in a very realistic environment... reinforce your knowledge of VMG, offers you to work on scenarios that you can encounter in real life offshore races, and its free.

If you are interested in using electronic instruments, have interest in navigation

welcome to Sailonline Yacht Club. I would recommend you to be a member. Although membership is optional if you like to race and control your boat over the phone you have to be a member. Annual membership fee is Euro 25. However, you can compete without becoming a member. 1000 people compete in races and very exciting races can take place.

Individual ranking system has been established at SYC as well as country rankings are done occasionally.

While writing for the February 2009 issue, we were a total of eight Turks racing, after the article in Naviga others joined the group and we are now more than 40 people. With the growing Turkish interest even the Turkish chat page opened. What makes us happy here is the fact that friends who have no connection to sailing started to enjoy and learn sailing. We became a special group by transferring our knowledge to them. We established a ranking system among Turks and the first trophy was won by Ahmet Çullu. The prize, which was a Bottle of Chivas Regal whiskey was presented to him!

Besides all, last year we had a dream to introduce a Turkey race into this environment! We succeeded this year, Myself, Kaan Çelikel and Ahmet Çullu from the group created a race that will start from Hopa and end at İskenderun with the title of <Sail Around Turkey>. We have converted the course realized by Orhan Özdaş and Kerim Gürçay last year, and to introduce of our country by placing waypoints near the shores of Anatolia moved it to the virtual world.

We are leaving Hopa on August 28th 2010 at UTC 10:00, total of 1430 nautical mile race, our boat Beneteau First 40.7, with sailors from all over the world.

No faux depart, no right-of-way disputes; everything depends on strategy, there is a chat room for those who have the time.

If you want to improve on navigation, please join. We say a Turk should win this race ...