

Cape to Rio Race 2021

January 2 to 14, 2021

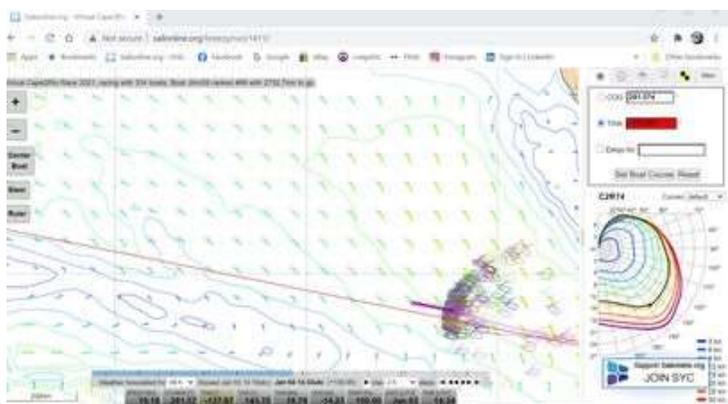
by: John Lincourt (JLinc)

Virtual Cape 2 Rio race update 1/2/2021

After 4 hrs of racing, I'm in the middle of most of the fleet (Jlinc58) Love to watch how the fleet's so spread out already I'm not worrying about my 116th ranking right now because conditions will change over the course of the next 9 or 10 days - the question is will my brain match the efficiency of computer aided routing that many of the top racers use... I've done well against them before - how will my routing decisions do this time????

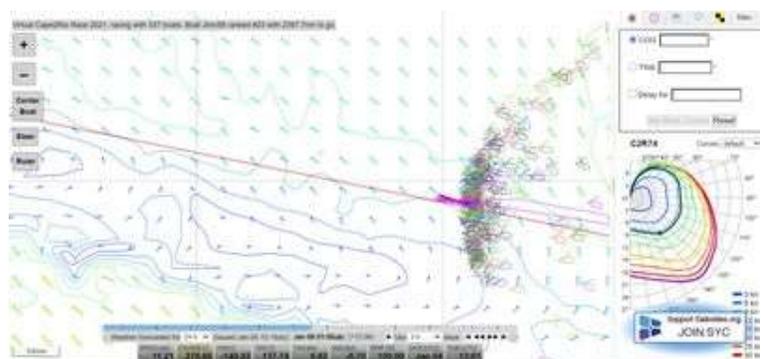
Virtual Cape 2 Rio race update 1/3/2021

Looks like I adjusted my course to a more southerly heading before the leaders.... when I went to bed last night I was up to position #46. When I woke up this AM I was closer to #100 & the leaders are to the south of me again. More importantly, there is a growing area of light air just to the south, & as the wind shifts in front of me over the next 48 hrs, I'm going to have to make an agonizing decision, break through the light air while its still small, or gybe north and hope the blue doesn't expand and engulf me as is my usual fate..



Virtual Cape 2 Rio Race update 1/4/2021

Well, I've made my decision, I'm heading south.... Many of the boats I watch are also heading south. They are already into the lighter winds, so my ranking is steadily improving as I plan on staying in the better pressure for a little longer. We'll see if the hole in the light air is as good as I hope...



Virtual Cape 2 Rio Race update 1/5/2021

I was hoping to wait another 12 hrs before turning south, but I've been forced to turn



north for a couple of hours.... if I kept going I'd have hit the center of the high (or is it a low) anyways, I'm noticing some boats that headed south sooner that are already starting to overtake us in the middle.... do I see a hole that will allow me to escape to the north????

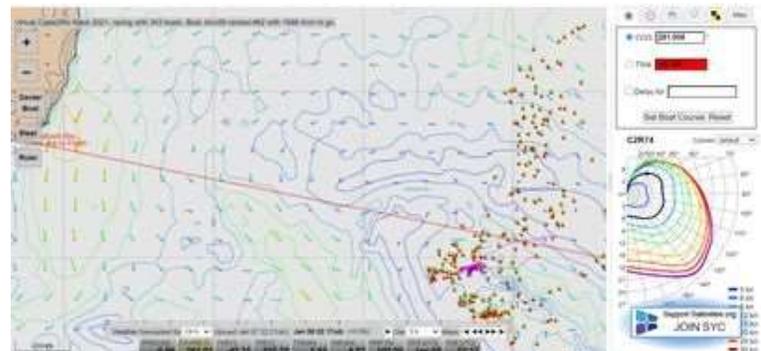
Virtual Cape 2 Rio Race update 1/6/2021

Well, the blue has overtaken my path whether I go north or south.... My path to Rio is now to the south...



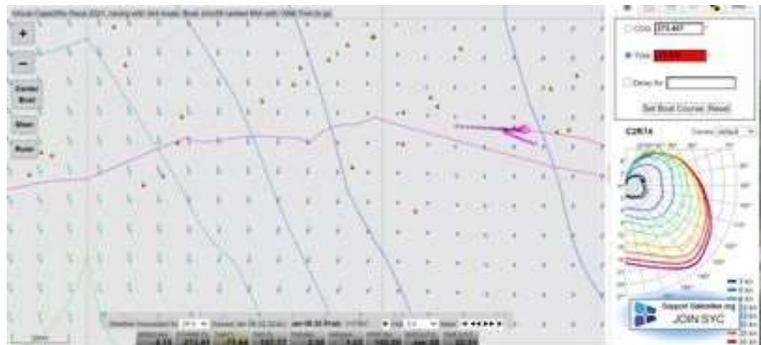
Virtual Cape 2 Rio Race update 1/7/2021

I'm currently in 62nd place, as it stands right now, I see decent pressure 18 -24 hrs west of me. The only problem is that the wind will be on my bow for at least a couple of days after I get into it... I see a lot of boats well south of me, will that be any better than my middle course??? Will the boats going north be on the favored course??? I do know that any hope of getting to Rio in 9, 10 or even 11 days isn't going to happen, not for me anyways ...



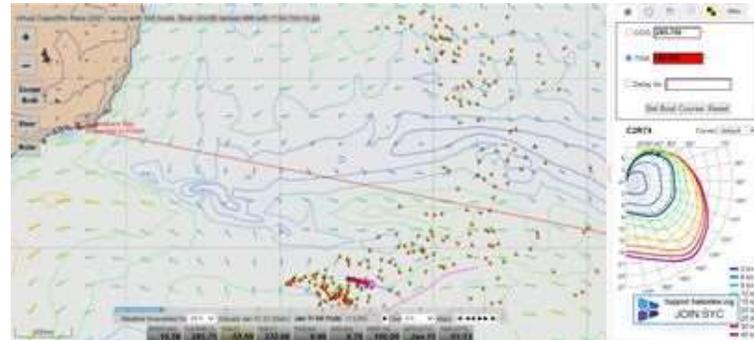
Virtual Cape 2 Rio Race update 1/8/2021

The clean air is so tantalizingly close, but how can I get there? That's the \$64k question.... Thankfully its Friday & I don't have to get up tomorrow morning... The good news, is that I've gained a few places since yesterday, I'm now #54 as I write this.... tells me that I haven't made any major mistakes lately...



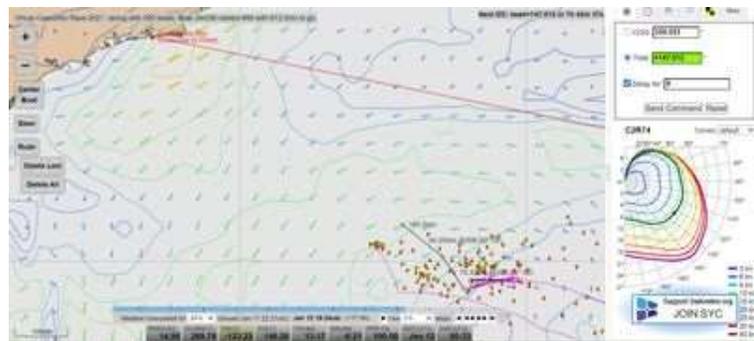
Virtual Cape 2 Rio Race update 1/10/2021

I'm glad I'm out of the light variable breeze. I tacked north this morning & have done nothing but minor course adjustments since... I'm only 260 nm behind the leading pack at this point. With any luck, I'll be in Rio in 4 days.... Current rank is #98.



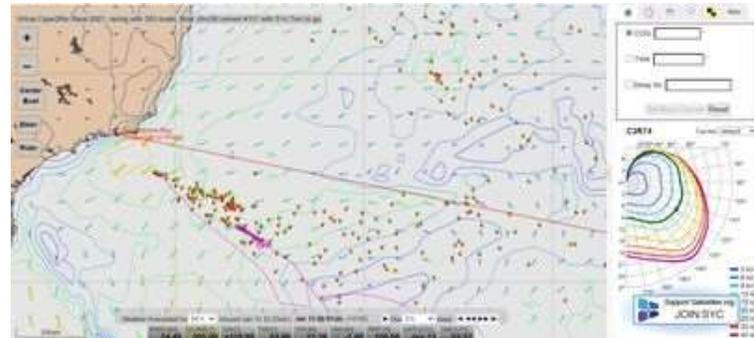
Virtual Cape 2 Rio Race update 1/11/2021

1 more gybe in 7 hrs or so (hope my delayed command works properly) & I'll be on a nice beam reach for most of the rest of the race..... Current rank is 99, yay only lost 1 place since yesterday.... I'm going to go out on a limb right now and predict that I should finish around Jan 14, 10:00 UTC



Virtual Cape 2 Rio Race update 1/12/2021

I guess it's pretty evident that the southern route was the way to go this year... I'll be in Rio in a day and a half & the closest boat in the north is still 130 nm behind me... I'm up to over 14kts & I've been at 101th position all day, so I guess I'm in pretty stable conditions... looks like I'll be in these same conditions up until the very last minute...



Virtual Cape 2 Rio Race update 1/13/2021

First of all **Congrats** to the podium Henrys, Cippalippa & Mullionman for an outstanding performance. For me, I've still got 270 nm to go. I've been down to 10 kts for most of today as that big blue goo has been expanding and almost overtook me today. It looks like I'll be back out of it in 6 hrs or so. I'm still at #101....



Virtual Cape 2 Rio Race update 1/14/2021

I MADE IT! I came in 98th thanks to a couple of people that missed the finish line. As I calculate it, my time was 12days 6hrs 22.19sec. I'm pretty happy with my result since I sail SOTP so I don't use any computer generated routing software. My hesitation to take the extreme southern route cost me an even better result...



I look forward doing the race virtually again next year when I can sail against the boats that are doing it IRL...

Suggestion to the SOL administrators, next year I'd like a couple of options for the boat I'm going to race like you did with the Newport to Bermuda Race earlier this year.