

# Vic-Maui Skipper Preparations

David Sutcliffe

11 January 2020

# Skipper Preparations – Project Plan

- High level goals & priorities
- High level budgets, boat and personal
- High level schedule – key dates

# Skipper Preparations – Goals & Priorities

- *Vic-Maui theme: Challenge, Adventure, Teamwork*
- *Subtitle: Yes it's a race, but the race is an excuse for an adventure!*
- Why am I / why are we doing this?
- Each skipper/team needs to set their program's high level goals & priorities
- Goals: Winning? Being safe? Having fun? Bucket list?
- Priorities: Which goals are most or least important?
- Goals and priorities provide the context for literally hundreds of decisions

# Skipper Preparations – Budgets

- What is the owner/skipper paying for? What is the crew paying for?
- Bigger ticket items – sails, standing rigging, watermaker, life raft, running rigging, insurance, SSB/Satcomm, haulout, AIS, medical kit, EPIRB, ... contingency
- Personal gear – technical clothing, PFD/harness/tether, AIS-MOB, knife, headlamp, ...
- Team swag, meetings, training, travel to/in/from local events and Victoria & Maui
- Provisions – food & fluids
- Return delivery – crew travel, provisions, shipping race/delivery gear

# Skipper Preparations – Schedule & Key Dates

- Work parties – offloading non-essential gear, sail selection and preparation, inspecting and maintaining key systems, loading race gear and provisions, bottom prep, ...
- Training sessions – MOB, emergency steering, fire, abandon ship, ...
- Dial-up events – Straits, Oregon Offshore, Swiftsure, ...
- Delivery to Victoria and schedule in Victoria
- Race schedule
- Schedule on Maui and preparations for return delivery
- Return delivery schedule
- Wrap-up party, whole team, post return delivery

# Skipper Preparations – Key Roles & Delegation

- Pre-race roles
  - crew prep, provisioning, navigation & weather, medical, logistics & travel, finances, media
- Boat prep
  - major systems: hull & keel, steering, rig & sails, engine & electrical & charging, ...
  - inspection & knowledge, preventative maintenance, tools, spares, plan B
- Race & return delivery roles
  - skipper, navigator, watch leaders, helm, trim, maneuvers; 2IC
  - cooking, cleaning, maintenance, medical, media, etc.

# Skipper Preparations – ~~Why Boats Don't Make the Start Line~~ How to Make it to the Start Line

- Work backwards from the start date when determining the high level schedule
- Develop and communicate the project plan at the outset
- Assemble the crew early, build the crew into a team, address any health / fitness / skills / team fit issues early
- Delegate assignments early, both to offload the skipper and to engage the team
- Tackle the toughest boat preparation issues early, track critical path items, escalate early and aggressively
- Accept now that you will still have items on your “to do” list when you cross the start line – get the critical stuff done

# Skipper Preparations - Appendices