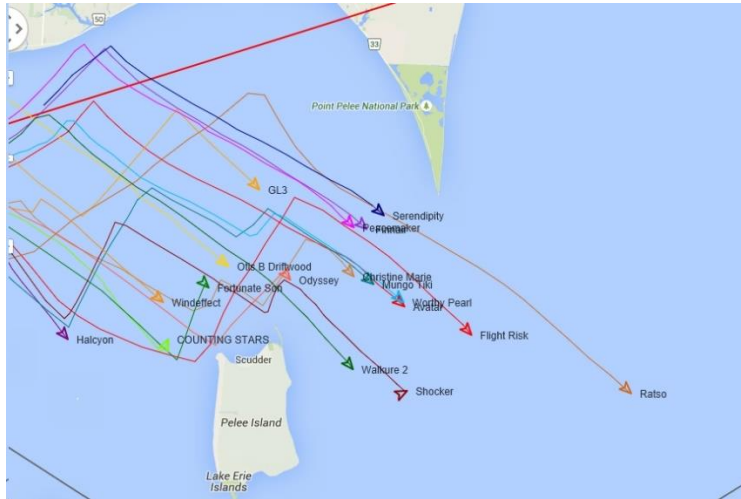


2015 Lake Erie Solo Challenge: Toughest GLSS Challenge Ever

Not to start an argument, but Blair Arden and Dave Evans, both with over 30 GLSS Challenges to their credit, said this was their toughest GLSS Challenge. After an uneventful start the fleet of 21 boats made their way towards the Lake Erie Islands in steady SE winds.

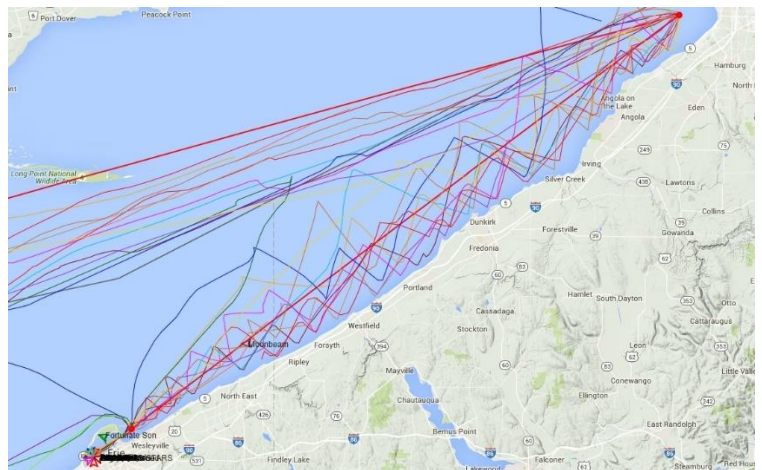


Past the Islands the winds and waves grew and the fleet started to pay attention to the weather forecast. Late Sunday to noon on Monday a cold front was forecast to move through with heavy west winds possibly to 40 knots. Of course the fleet had to endure a couple of windless hours before the transition and the boats wallowed in the left over slop.

As the cold front approached the temps quickly dropped and the west winds built to 20 knots and then more. The ride was tough and the Lake Erie waves did their thing,

building to eight feet. John Lubimir in Flight Risk lead the way rounding Buffalo around 0430 with Mac McKenzie and Joey Baker trying to keep pace knowing well the Buffalo to Erie leg would have the wind on the nose.

The fleet by now had seen several boats seek shelter as going past Erie only to sail back into close to 30 knot winds and big waves did not appeal to all. What they missed was a dead on beat with winds at the weather buoys reading 25 knots plus. Nobody argued that the waves were 8 feet and the boats constantly were flying off the tops of waves into the troughs with a big splash. The fleet was praying for a wind shift but it wouldn't happen and boats were throwing in a dozen tacks trying to stay near the rhumb line on the 16 or more hour beat from Buffalo.



Someone once said Lake Erie wasn't worthy of a GLSS Challenge but he has yet to sail one. Three boats from Lake Ontario left with a great respect for Erie. For the 13 boats that finished this was a challenge to remember forever.

2016 will see the 10th Anniversary Lake Erie Solo Challenge and we hope everyone will come celebrate with us.

Rating	Skipper	Boat Name	271	Elapsed Time	Corrected
86	Scratch PHRF		Finish Time		Elapsed Time
Superior Division					
86	John Lubimir	Flight Risk	19:29:40	57:29:40	57:29:40
110	Martin McKensie	Worthy Pearl	22:25:42	60:25:42	58:37:18
117	Brad Enterline	Peacemaker	4:03:20	66:03:20	63:43:19
90	Dave Evans	Ratso	4:05:30	66:05:30	65:47:26
117	Wally McMinn	Odyssey	6:47:00	68:47:00	66:26:59
Michigan Division					
132	Joey Baker	Shooker	0:28:18	62:28:18	59:00:32
126	Lease Schock	Avatar	2:00:23	64:00:23	60:59:43
145	David Courtney	Better Still	5:11:12	67:11:12	62:44:43
156	Allan Belovarac	Moonbeam	18:48:47	80:48:47	75:32:37
126	Tony Berends	Mongo Tiki	DNF		
138	Greg Gorney	Serendipity	DNF		
144	Jeff Neuhalfen	Christine Marie	DNF		
Ontario Division					
177	John Ollila	Finnair	2:51:23	64:51:23	58:00:22
183	Bill Tucker	GL3	5:01:38	67:01:38	59:43:31
177	Craig Campbell	Windforce	DNF		
177	Mark Smith	Walkure 2	DNF		
177	Aaron Ackerman	Fortunate Son	DNF		
177	Jack O'Neil	Halcyon	DNF		
Erie Division					
225	Blair Arden	Otis B. Driftwood	10:58:55	72:58:55	62:31:06
213	Ron Smallbone	Epiphany	12:23:57	74:23:57	64:50:20
222	Mike Isbell	Counting Stars	DNF		