

Challenge I: Hawai'i to Rapa Nui

How will you stay on course?



Crew Name: Sea Girt _____

Vessel Name: The Patriot _____

Date/season of embarkation: July 1- Oct 18 _____

Distance of voyage in nautical miles: 4800 _____

Expected length of journey: about 110 days _____

General description of route:

We will travel as close to the wind as possible while still making good headway. With a NE wind, we should be able to reach to the SE. Estimating for stronger winds in the afternoon and light winds at night, we expect to reach point 1 on our map in about 10 days.

Then we hit the doldrums, where there will be almost no wind. We will be drifting with the current. In July, OSCAR shows some strong southerly circulations in the doldrums area, so we hope to come across one and follow it to the south. This is where we are not sure about our estimations ~ with only current, we think it may take as long as 50 days! From point 2 to Marquesas (pt. 3) should take about 10 days. Then we will island hop as we are carried along on the SE trade winds. It should take about 40 days to get from Marquesas to Rapa Nui.

Methods of navigation:

Celestial navigation
Dead reckoning
Landmarks (island hopping)

Other considerations:

Going in July, there may be strong thunderstorms in the late afternoon. But we can capture rain for fresh water.

If we had more time in class, we want to study the abundance of fish during different seasons. Do we have to carry all our food, or can we count on catching our dinner?

