

WEEK 8 MIDPOINT

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Next Week:
Wildlife



Position: -46.4344,
127.847
Time: 2016-12-22
14:24:00 UTC



**By Rich Wilson, Skipper
Great American IV**

A midpoint invites you to look both forward and backward in a project.

Looking backward, are we attaining our goals that we stated at the start? For this project, it was to sail well, to tell the story of the sea to those on land, to deliver all of our promised sitesALIVE content, and to finish the Vendee Globe.

Did we achieve these? Slowly we are sailing better to the capacity of the boat and the skipper is learning that his capacity may be bigger than he thought. We have created some problems of our own to solve (batten car) and we have solved some problems not of our own making (hydrogenerator pump). We have told a detailed story, but perhaps it has been too much on the sailing side and not enough on the life and humanity side of the Vendee Globe. We have delivered our

promised content, but also with the aforementioned imbalance in focus perhaps. We have not yet finished the Vendee Globe.

So for the second half, we shall try to attain a higher percentage of the boat's capacity, while acknowledging that our natural conservatism has served us well so far. We shall work on telling more of the human side of the story rather than just the boat numbers. We also know that chance or luck has a big role to play (Vincent, Kito, Thomas hitting objects in the water) and we hope that King Neptune will continue to smile on us, and the rest of the fleet, and let us all pass.

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Rich's Personal Trainer**

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The middle section of any competition is always humbling. It is the time when your mind wants to drift, your body wants to quit and you may question why you are

doing it. Rich is probably having some of these thoughts right about now but I am confident that because of his preparation, both physically and mentally, he will not question whether or not he can finish but will instead look ahead with excitement to completing his race. He may have a few moments of doubt for that is part of being human but I know that positive thoughts will mainly be filling his mind. I believe that once he passes through that Midpoint of the race he will have a sudden surge of confidence that he is well on his way to a very successful voyage.



NEWS EXPLORER

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