Regata al Sol XXVIII
May 7-8, 2014
Pensacola – Isla Mujeres

Sponsored by:

Southern Yacht Club

FOUNDED 1849

Pensacola Yacht Club

Club de Yates Isla de Mujeres

Club de Yates
Isla De Mujeres

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NOTICE OF REGATTA & SAILING INSTRUCTIONS
REGATA AL SOL XXVIII
PENSACOLA - ISLA MUJERES
MAY 7-8, 2014
www.regataalsol.org
www.southernyachtclub.org or www.pensacolayachtclub.org

The REGATA AL SOL XXVIII from Pensacola, Fl. to Isla Mujeres, Mexico again offers the challenge for all eligible skippers and boats to race to the Yucatan for sun, fun & hospitality.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

1.0 ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible, a yacht must have a minimum deck length of 30', and must be self-righting, properly rigged and ballasted with enclosed cabin, watertight, self-bailing cockpit and positive closures on all through hull fittings. Exceptions to the minimum length may be granted by the organizing authority upon application and consideration of the vessel's soundness and the experience of the entire crew.

The Regata al Sol is not a race for novices. Every Competitor should have experience sailing a yacht offshore and be prepared to encounter heavy weather.

2.0 MANAGEMENT

The regatta is organized by Southern Yacht Club, Pensacola Yacht Club, and Club de Yates Isla de Mujeres and is to be administered by the Regata al Sol Race Committee which has full power to interpret and enforce these general conditions. The decision of the Regata al Sol Race Committee (RASRC) regarding eligibility is not subject to protest.

3.0 CLASSES / RATINGS / ENTRIES

PHRF Handicap System will be used for all divisions and all yachts must have a GYA-PHRF Certificate valid through the yacht's finish which can be obtained by making application to the chairman of the GYA PHRF Board of Handicappers, Commodore Thomas D. Beery, Jr., 1001 Sea Cove, Pascagoula, MS 39581. There must be at least 3 boats registered in each division in order to have separate divisions. The fleet will be divided into two Divisions (RACING & CRUISING) with intentions of having two or three classes in each division provided sufficient entries are received. Power driven winches will be allowed in all Divisions and Auto-pilots will be allowed in the Cruising Division only. This changes RRS 52.

Any boat wishing to enter the Cruising Divisions must have a Sail Area to Displacement (SA/D) ratio less than or equal to 20 using the 100% foretriangle criteria (regardless of the size headsail used). Boats with a SA/D ratio higher that 20 may appeal to the Race Committee for inclusion. There are no sail limitations (other than PHRF rating sail limitations). In addition, the Race Committee reserves the right to ensure only cruising type vessels are eligible for entry in the Cruising Division. The Decision of the Race Committee will be final. We encourage participants to help recruit boats similar to their own so as to allow the committee to break divisions into classes of similar boat type.

Entrants in the Racing Division may also register to be scored using the IRC scoring system using either a valid Standard Certificate (based on ratings assigned to sisterships) or a valid Endorsed Certificate (requires measurement by an authorized IRC measurer). These racers will be eligible for both PHRF and IRC trophies. *We must have a minimum of 5 boats registered by the early entry deadline to offer IRC Trophies*. For further information on the IRC certificate process and the differences between the certificates please visit: www.ussailing.org/offshore/IRC/index.asp.

Divisions and Classes are to be split at the discretion of the Race Committee. In an effort to group boats more by performance type, classes may not be divided simply by rating bands. There shall be a minimum of 3 boats per class.

Entry shall be on the official form (attached) and shall be accompanied by a valid GYA PHRF certificate as well as an entry fee of $425.00 (members of U.S. Sailing $400.00). The entry fee does not include port fees and agent fees to clear vessel in and out of customs and immigration in Isla Mujeres. An additional charge is to be paid for port fees, agent fees & customs fees with boat/crews to be cleared by Club de Yates Isla de Mujeres which also includes escort service from finish line into harbor as well as ice & beer upon arrival. Twenty-five dollars (subject to change) per crew member will be required for each crew member visa.
NOTE: Entries received by February 1, 2014 will be entered in a drawing to have 100% OF THEIR ENTRY FEE REFUNDED!

4.0 SAFETY, RESPONSIBILTY AND LIABILITY
Please refer to the General Regata al Sol Safety Requirements attached. In addition please note:
SPECIFIC ATTENTION IS DIRECTED TO THE FOLLOWING FUNDAMENTAL RULES:
RRS Rule 1.1 – Helping Those in Danger: *A boat or competitor shall give all possible help to any person or vessel in danger.*
RRS Rule 4 – Decision to Race: *The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.*
Advances in safety equipment and techniques have been incorporated into the US Safety Requirements developed by US Sailing's Safety at Sea Committee:
http://media.ussailing.org/AssetFactory.aspx?vid=22457

The Regatta Committee requests that every skipper/owner review these Regs and determine which elements best suit their individual boat as well as the competency of the crew for a race of this sort. The Regatta Committee STRONGLY RECOMMENDS that each owner comply with these additional regulations.
Each entrant must also comply with the appropriate US Coast Guard requirements for their vessel.
All captains/owners/Persons in Charge are solely responsible for the structural integrity of their yachts, its ability to undertake a safe ocean voyage and the abilities of their crew.
Neither the establishment of minimum equipment standards nor any inspection that may be performed by the Race Committee shall in any way limit the Captain's, Owner's and/or Person in Charge's responsibility or confer any such responsibility on the Committee.

Competitors participate in this race entirely at their own risk, see RRS 4 above. The RASC, SYC & PYC bear no responsibility for accidents, damage or injuries to yachts or their personnel arising from any cause during the race or related activities. As a condition of entry the owner or charterer and the skipper of each yacht shall submit a signed Waiver Form by the Mandatory Skippers Meeting.

The entry form constitutes the Skipper's certificate of compliance with these conditions, and disqualification for any breach or violation of these requirements is not subject to protest and/or redress.

Finally, both Pensacola Yacht Club and Southern Yacht Club have hosted US Sailing sanctioned Safety at Sea Seminars in 2010-11. We highly recommend that at least two members of each crew have Safety at Sea Certification within the past 5 years. Please visit the US Sailing Safety at Sea website for excellent additional information and the schedule of upcoming seminars: http://offshore.ussailing.org/SAS.htm

5.0 SKIPPERS' MEETING

There will be a **mandatory** Skippers' Meeting for the Cruising Divisions at 1900 hours Tuesday, May 6, 2014 at Pensacola Yacht Club. There will be a **mandatory** Skippers' Meeting for the Racing Division at 1900 hours Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at Pensacola Yacht Club. **ALL PARTICIPATING YACHTS MUST BE REPRESENTED AT THEIR RESPECTIVE SKIPPER'S MEETING OR THEY MAY BE DISQUALIFIED.** A cocktail reception will be held after the skippers meeting. Pensacola Yacht Club will be available after skippers meeting for "Dutch Treat" dinner. Reservations need to be made at Pensacola Yacht Club telephone 850-433-8804.

6.0 START / COURSE

6.1) Starting Dates

May 7, 2014 CRUISING Division

May 8, 2014 RACER Division

6.2) Starting Times

a) Starting signals will be given in accordance with racing rule 26 (RRS).

b) The Cruising Division will start at 1100 on Wednesday May 7th. The Racing Division will start at 1100 on Thursday May 8th. Further details will be provided at the respective skipper's meetings.

6.3) Starting Line

The starting line will be between an orange flag displayed on a staff located on the race committee boat and a nearby temporary mark (orange tetrahedron) whose location will be further described at the Skippers Meeting.

6.4) Check-in

All yachts shall sail past the stern of the committee boat prior to their warning signal and hail their vessel name and sail number until acknowledged. Yachts not complying with this rule shall have a minimum of one hour added to their elapsed time, at the discretion of the Race Committee.

6.5) Course

a) After starting, Pensacola Pass buoys "14" and "12" are to be left to port and sea buoy "1" to starboard.

b) Isla Contoy and Contoy light shall be left to starboard, thence to the Finish.

7.0 RECALLS

7.1) Individual recalls will be signaled in accordance with RRS 29.2. The race committee will attempt to hail on VHF channel 68 the sail number(s) of the yacht(s) recalled. Failure to hear a hail is not grounds for redress. Any yacht not returning and properly starting will be assessed a time penalty by the Jury not less than 1 hour.

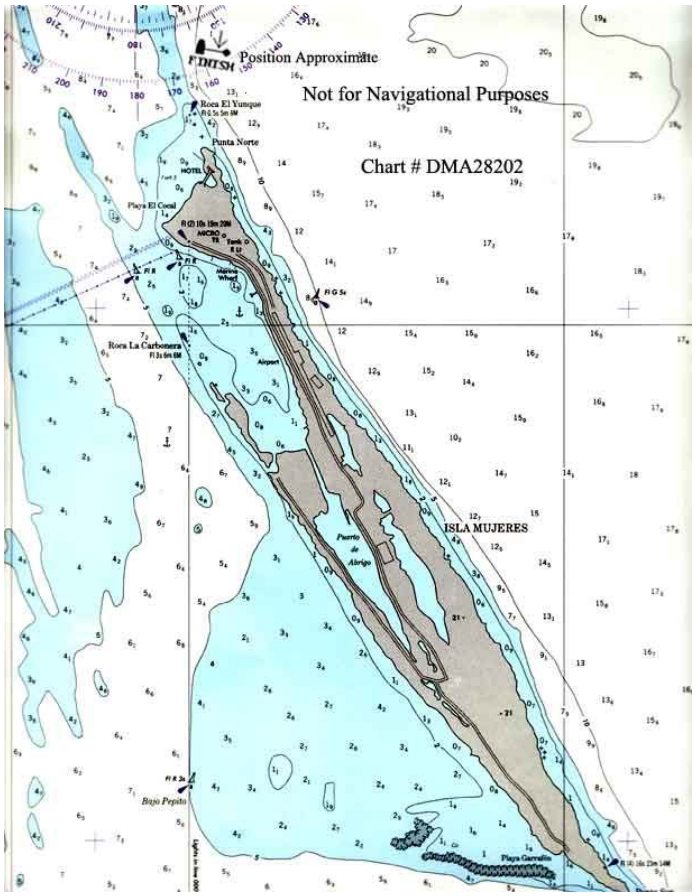
7.2) General recalls will be signaled in accordance with RRS 29.3.

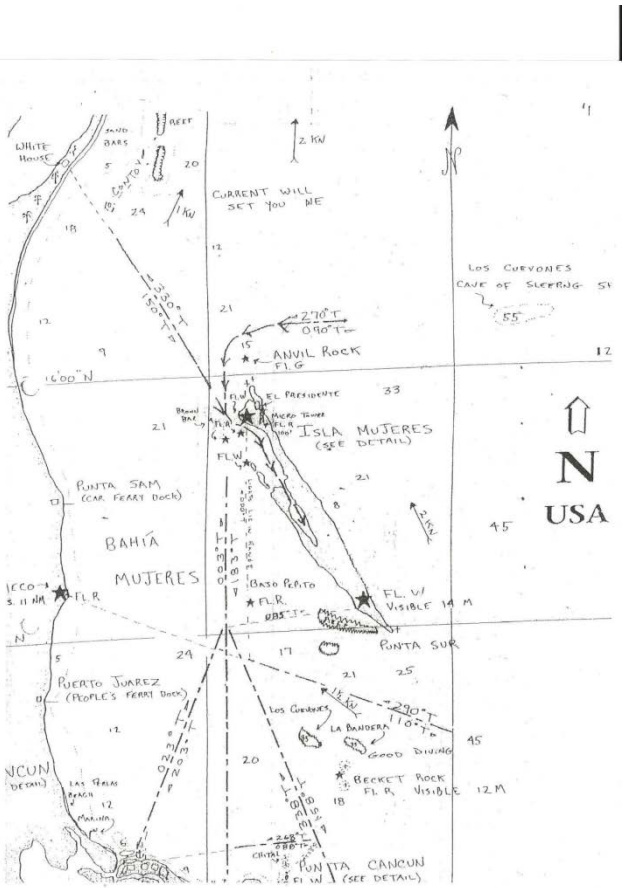
7.3) When a general recall has been signaled, the start for the succeeding class(es) will be postponed accordingly.

7.4) From the first warning signal until they reach Pensacola “A” yachts shall monitor VHF channel 68. See Communications Addendum for more info.

8.0 FINISH LINE

The finish line will be on the eastern side of the north tip (Punta Norte) of the island at approximately 21’ 16.707” N 86’ 45.329” W. The line will be between a Mexican Naval Vessel (Code Name "Echo") displaying a Race Committee flag and a large white buoy with light. The finish line is to be crossed in a northerly / easterly to southerly / westerly direction as it may appear. Should the Naval Vessel have to leave its station it will be replaced by another styrofoam buoy which will be the Western end of the line. In the event naval vessel is not on station each yacht must record its own finish time and report same to the Race Committee within two hours after finishing.





9.0 GENERAL FINISH INSTRUCTIONS -

9.1 Each yacht is to report its estimated finish time to the Race Committee of the Club de Yates Isla de Mujeres as soon as it is within VHF radio range (generally around Contoy Light). Channel 68 will be used for the initial call. R/C will monitor VHF 68 for the finish of the race (but may, on occasion, be on VHF 16 due to other Regatta Duties). In the event of a night finish, the Naval vessel will display a revolving amber light. In addition, the vessel will make an effort to fire a green flare each half hour from sunset to sunrise and will also make an effort to fire rockets when vessels finishing are in sight. Each vessel finishing at night must put a light on its sail numbers while crossing the line to assist in recording their time.

An escort boat (Code Name "Juliette") will guide yachts to the customs docks. You do not need to contact Juliette, they will find you and escort you. Upon reaching the customs docks yachts without previously arranged dockage will be assigned a berth according to its draft and electrical requirements. The use of docks may require a small docking fee and fuel, water and shore power must be paid for. Vessels are to fly the Mexican flag as a courtesy upon arrival, with the "Q" (yellow) flag until cleared by customs.

For your information, the following Code Names have been assigned for radio communications:

Mexican Navy Isla Mujeres Headquarters: "Yankee".
Finish Boat: "Echo"
Mexican Minesweepers: "Delta"
Escort Boat: "Juliette"
Race Committee: “Race Committee”

9.2 Certificate of Race Completion: Each Owner/Skipper must complete the Certificate of Race Completion certifying compliance with engine and auto-pilot usage as well as their finish time. The Certificate must be submitted and received by a Race Official within 4 hours of the yacht’s finish time. **Failure to complete and submit this certification within this time frame may result in disqualification.** Also please see 16.0 below.

9.3 Please be sure that all wastewater Y-valves or thru-hulls are closed when approaching the dock to prevent any discharge into the waters of Isla Mujeres.

10.0 SCORING:

10.1 Distance: For purpose of handicapping, the distance calculated for the race is 555 nautical miles and is not subject to protest.

10.2 Scoring: RRS Appendix A4.1, Low Point Scoring

10.3 Time Limit: Yachts not finishing by Thursday May 15 at 1600 shall be scored DNF.

11.0 RULES

11.1 The race will be governed by the rules as applicable as described in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2013-2016 including US Sailing Prescriptions, the GYA-PHRF prescriptions, the IRC Rule, and by this Notice of Race & Sailing Instructions. **The Notice of Race & Sailing Instructions may be updated, amended and/or supplemented up until the time of the respective Skipper’s Meetings for each Division.**

11.2 RRS Part 2 will be replaced by Part B, the Steering and Sailing Rules, of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) between the hours of local sunset and local sunrise.

11.3 RRS 44.1 (a) and 44.2, the Turns Penalties, shall not apply

12.0 CREW / VESSEL DOCUMENTATION

Racing and Cruising Division vessels shall have a minimum of four crew, of which the skipper and navigator shall be amateurs (as defined by ISAF Group 1). The maximum shall be determined by the boat's PHRF Certificate. Regatta Crew Lists are to be turned in prior to start. Failure to do so could result in disqualification. Lista de Tripulantes are to be given to Immigration by race committee to facilitate clearing of vessel into Mexico.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH SKIPPER TO SECURE PROPER DOCUMENTATION FOR HIS YACHT AND CREW.

13.0 RADIOS, TRANSPONDERS AND SATELLITE PHONES

Please see the Communications Addendum starting on Page 20.

13.1 Once again this year all participants are required to carry and properly mount a transponder on their boat. More information will be included in a future NOR/SI update.

13.2: All boats must have an EPIRB and must give registration information on the registration form. Personal Locator Beacons are also encouraged. If PLB are to be used, registration information shall also be provided.

13.3: All boats will be required to carry a Satellite phone, which shall be capable of being powered by or rechargeable by the yacht's electrical system. It shall remain on from one hour prior to the start until the boat reaches the dock in Isla Mujeres. If a yacht retires from the race without reaching Isla Mujeres, they shall report and receive acknowledgement from the Race Committee before they are absolved of this requirement. Satellite phone numbers must be supplied to the Race Committee no later than the mandatory Skipper's Meeting.

14.0 PROTESTS AND PENALTIES

Protests must be given verbally to the Race Committee as soon as possible after the race, and must be filed in writing within six hours of the finish of the protesting yacht. Fouling of another yacht or being OCS (On the Course Side of the starting line) at the start shall be subject to a minimum penalty of one hour at the discretion of the Race Committee. In addition, the Race Committee may impose time penalties for infractions of the rules in lieu of disqualifications. Intentional failure to display proper lights shall result in disqualification.

15.0 ABANDONMENT OF RACE

Due to distance involved and the international character of the race, it is imperative that notice of withdrawal from the race be given immediately upon such action, by radio if possible or other means as available. Notice to be given to Regata al Sol Race Committee (Buhos 011-52-998-877-0301 or in Mexican territory this may change to 001-52-998-877-0301), Southern Yacht Club (504) 288-4200, Pensacola Yacht Club (850) 433-8804 or other authority / persons who would communicate message to Race Committee.

16.0 ENGINES

An engine may be used to recover a man overboard, to render assistance or in any other emergency. If an engine is used in the event of an emergency the yacht shall return to the exact location where the engine was first used and shut down the enginie before resuming the race. The full details of such use shall be reported to the race committee at the earliest practical time but no later than 4 hours after arrival in Isla Mujeres (note: this is in addition to the Completion

Certificate). Engines may be used for battery charging without reporting as long as the propeller shaft is locked / not turned.

17.0 TIME
The official chronometer of the race will be aboard the finishing Naval Vessel. In the event the Naval Vessel is unable to go to or maintain station on the finish line, yachts shall use GPS time. The race will be conducted on Central Daylight Time. (NOTE: This is a change from some prior years – stay on Central Daylight Time.)

18.0 TROPHIES - See Trophy Addendum

19.0 CUSTOMS / PORT / DOCKAGE EXPENSES: All the fees need to be confirmed and are subject to change. A fee of $275.00 (believed correct but subject to change) per vessel needs to be collected as a "CLEAR IN AND CLEAR OUT FEE", (pilotage/escort of vessel to dock, port charges/expenses fees and clearing of vessels on departure by customs), all of which is done by Club de Yates Isla de Mujeres. The $275.00 expense is to be paid by check mailed with entry and a visa/immigration charge of $25.00 (believed correct but subject to change) per crew member will be paid at Isla Mujeres Local Bank by Club de Yates Isla de Mujeres, at Fuel Dock upon skippers request.

20.0 HOTELS – Please make your Hotel Reservations through the Regata al Sol Committee as the Regatta receives credits toward party expenses based on hotel reservations booked through the Regata al Sol. Please complete and return the enclosed form as instructed. First Come First Served so the earlier you make reservations the better.

21.0 MISCELLANEOUS

- After starting, yachts may access weather data only from universally available methods (radio, internet, etc.). Specifically excluded is receipt of data or routing information subscribed to or provided specifically for a vessel. Receiving tracking information available through the Regata al Sol website via internet or relayed via phone is allowed.
- Weapons and/or ammunition are NOT allowed to enter Mexico since September 11, 2001.
- Once again Coral Reef Sailing Apparel is the official source of Regata al Sol shirts, hats, and more. Go to http://coralreefsailing.net/regata_al_sol to get your fashion on! To receive your gear in time for the race you must order by April 28th and if you enter "EventPickUp" in your order form they will deliver to PYC for pickup at the Skipper's Meeting and you won't pay shipping! For a small additional charge you can have your boat name on most merchandise as well. No merchandise will be available in Isla Mujeres except that provided by Club de Yates Isla de Mujeres.
- Amigos Parade - Participants should provide throws, favors and mementos for local children.
- Temporary Regatta Tattoos are required for admittance to all regatta parties and functions. Four tattoos are included with the registration. Additional tattoos for crews & friends will be $45.00 each if payment is received with the entry form. Unless pre-purchased with entry, tattoos will be $60.00 each. Under no circumstances will any person be admitted to any Regata al Sol party or function without a tattoo. If the tattoo

begins to deteriorate to the point it is almost unrecognizable, see any regatta official and a replacement tattoo will be provided at no charge.

- Further Addendums, forms and information will be added to this NOR as available, including documents required by Mexican Customs/Government, etc.

End of Notice of Regatta & Sailing Instructions