



Regata del Sol al Sol Newsletter

Just a Reminder - the 44th Regata del Sol al Sol is set to start April 27, 2012 and it's not too early to start planning. The Entry fee of \$800 remains unchanged from last year and includes \$275 Mexican government fees and customs charges, transponder rental, six regatta shirts and six regatta event tickets.

Entry deadlines are:

\$800 January 31, 2012

\$900 February 1 through March 10, 2012

\$1000 After March 10 through April 7, 2012

Final entry deadline is April 7, 2012

An Interview

**With Regata del Sol al Sol legend,
Fred Deuel, Past Commodore of the
St. Petersburg Yacht Club.**

**When was your first
trip/boat/crew/specifics of that first trip?**

I can't recall the year but on my first Regata del Sol al Sol, I crewed for Bill Hough on his boat *Celerity*. I bought *Madonna* after that race. She was a Sparkman & Stephens designed IW 31 built in Sweden with a PHRF rating of 174. Sam Cary, a yacht broker and former member of the St. Petersburg Yacht Club, worked with the founder of the Cracker Barrel restaurant who owned *Madonna* at the time and sold it to me. The first year I sailed *Madonna* in the Mexico race was 1981. I had a crew of six on board including a Mexican. His name was Rafael; he was a member of Mexico's Fisherman's Union and needed to get back to Mexico. That same year the Coast Guard took an air compressor, donated by St. Petersburg Yacht Club, down to Isla Mujeres for the Fisherman's Union. The Coast Guard would accompany the racers as support for about 10-15 years of the race and later changed to helicopters for race support. I remember that Isla Mujeres would fire rockets every hour at night to help the competitors find the finish line. Our finish boat at that time was an ancient Mexican Navy gun boat. During that first race on *Madonna*, we spotted a

whale shark very close to us just off the Yucatan coast. We ran out of wind that year and the current carried us north. That same year, Loran had just become the popular aid to navigation. I handed my navigator, Langston Holland Jr., the newly purchased Loran and told him to figure it out en route to Isla!



During those early years, Cancun was just being developed and I remember Senor Lima would take the racers over there to wine and dine us in a hotel and to promote tourism. Sr. Lima's two sons, Estafan and Enrique were actively involved at that time in the Regata del Sol al Sol.

**Christopher G. Nelson, Jr. MD
Diseases and surgery of the skin**





How many times have you raced/ same crew/weather and winds?

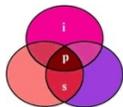
I have raced *Madonna* for 25 years and generally with the same crew of 5 or 6. My core crew included Paul Bumiller, Ed Darlington, Keith Newman and my daughters, Leslie and Tracy. We experienced all kinds of weather from heavy winds to no air. On average it would take us 4 days. One year it was really rough weather and one of our crew had to go up the mast to clear a spinnaker wrap. But we took a second place! Another year we hit a squall, we double-reefed the main and lost the jib. I remember another race when we lost a crew member overboard. It was dark and he had gone up to the foredeck to get the jib down. He was fully clothed in foul weather gear and boots but luckily was tied on to the lifeline and we were able to haul him back onboard. The courses we took varied and one year we headed for Cuba and then across to Isla. But we generally stayed east of rhumb line.

sandwich stuff for lunches and I always had a big jar of kalamata olives. We heated the frozen meals stove top. I changed from kerosene to alcohol because I found it easier and less problematic.

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When was your last race?

I believe it was 2006. My 24 year old grandson, Corbin Milligan, sailed with me that last year.



Did you always race in the same class?

During the years I raced *Madonna*, there were only two classes and we switched between Spinnaker and Non-Spinnaker depending on the number of crew.

Talk about your stays in Isla

The first year we stayed at Posada del Mar when my daughter Tracy was a teenager. Later we stayed at Roca Mar and afterward it was always at the Cabanas of Maria del Mar located at race headquarters – the best part of the island. The people of Isla Mujeres are wonderful. The vendors are still there; the island hasn't changed and still has its charm.



Do you have any particular words of advice for the first time racer?

Go as crew!

What about provisions?

My wife, Mary Lou, cooked the meals and froze them. The first night out was always filet mignon – it made the crew feel special! Other meals were chicken and yellow rice, spaghetti,

