



Regata del Sol al Sol Newsletter

February 2012

The Entry deadlines are accelerating!

The Entry fee of \$900 (early entry is closed) 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:

\$900 - February 1 through March 10, 2012
\$1,000 After March 10 through April 7, 2012

Final entry deadline is April 7, 2012

The following article was written for the Regata del Sol al Sol by Dave Ellis, a well-known and now retired cruising instructor. Dave has raced competitively, has been a US SAILING certified instructor and has written many articles for *Southwinds*.



Thoughts on Getting There in One Piece

The race to Mexico is no mere jaunt across the Bay. Those who have sailed the route know that unexpected things happen when days, rather than hours, are spent sailing. Anticipating problems is a good way to mitigate them when they do happen. And they will!

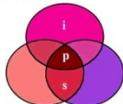
Chafe becomes a problem over time. Check the halyards, all of them, where they go around the sheave at the top. If there is wear there now, there will be more after days at sea. The spinnaker especially wears up there and also at the tack of an asymmetrical and the sheet near the spinnaker where the pole attaches on a symmetrical chute. Having the spinnaker suddenly fly out in front of the boat, only to be run over, usually in the middle of the biggest gust of wind in the middle of the night is not fun or fast. One way to keep halyard chafe to a minimum is to raise or lower the spinnaker an inch or two every few hours. This makes that bearing spot that is sawing back and forth not in the same place for very long.



Hotel Panorámico ISLA MUJERES



The jib/genoa sheets also may become chafed in their usual upwind configuration, since they are bearing in the same place all the time. The St. Pete Sailing Center acquired a really nice long heavy line years ago when a maxi boat, *Ondine*, discarded a jib sheet that had one chafe mark six feet from the jib end. A broken sheet on that sized boat could kill.



*Hotel Cabañas
María del Mar*

If a reef is taken in the mainsail, and if you think you should reef, then reef, especially at night, consider a separate safety line around the boom and through the grommet at the new clew of the mainsail. (Don't tie up your mainsheet in the process!) At Offshore Sailing School this was mandatory. The one instructor who did not do so lost his job when the jiffy reef line came uncleated and the sail ripped in the middle while the boom fell onto the bimini. *Ouch...*



Gear Design and Eng. Enthusiastic Supporters



Most boats in this race carry gear not usually stowed aboard. Before setting off, check to make sure the gear is not in the way when actually sailing. One competitor lost his Man Overboard pole in the first jibe of the day. *Oops*. The life raft you rented may be more expensive to return if there is line chafe through it at the end of the event.

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Experienced sailors make sure no crew member resides in the inside of the 'V' of a loaded sheet, like the genny. Most injuries occur when crew gets tired. Fingers in lines around a winch are something a day sailor knows very well not to do. But after many hours of sailing, our brains don't seem to function as well. More deliberate actions are needed than casual sailing in shore. Jacklines, especially forward for working on the foredeck, should be rigged early and used, at night even in light air and smooth seas.

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

Have a great sail! It is an adventure, which always entails risk. That's what makes it an adventure.

**Don't Forget the February 28th, 2012
Regata del Sol al Sol Kick-Off Party
6:00 PM Waterfront Room St. Petersburg Yacht Club
11 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg, FL
All Participants and Sponsors are invited to attend**

Skipper & 1 Guest Ticket complimentary, if full entry has been paid.

Sponsor & 1 Guest Complimentary

All others - \$25.00 Each (Tax & Tip Included)

Previous entrants and competitors are invited.

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED!!!!!!

No tickets at the Door

**Make reservations by calling the Yacht Club or e-mailing
chairman@regatadelSolalSol.org**

We request that you make reservations in groups so that everyone can be seated properly.



ONE More Thing!!

When making room reservations please use the Regata website Reservation form to obtain the reservations, no matter which Lima family property you are using, and

Please request family and friends to do so also.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter

Regatta Committee

Time is getting short!!!

So make sure you get entry in now and finish completing your vessel and crew preparations. Skippers' Packets with your to do list for entry into Mexico will arrive on or before April 1, 2012. If your e-mail changes please let us know asap.