



45th Anniversary

Regata del Sol al Sol Newsletter

December, 2012

Five months to go and the countdown continues:

The 45th Anniversary of the Regata del Sol al Sol is fast approaching. Start planning now and be a part of what promises to be a banner year for competitors with potentially more boats from Mexico joining in on the adventure. The Entry fee deadlines are outlined below and include \$275 Mexican government fees and customs charges, transponder rental, six regatta shirts and six regatta event tickets. An additional \$30 (subject to change) Immigration Tourist Visa Fee per crew member must be paid for each person entering Mexico by boat.

*Hotel Cabañas
María del Mar*



\$900 January 31, 2012

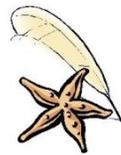
\$1000 February 1st through March 1st 2013

\$1100 March 2nd through April 7th 2013

Final entry deadline is April 7, 2012

No entries will be accepted after this date.

St. Petersburg, he agreed to share his experiences and to provide some insights and memories.



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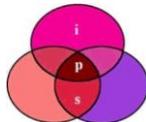
When was your first Regata del Sol al Sol and what was most memorable about that one?

It was a crew of six in 1980 aboard a 40' Valiant skippered by a physician from Bradenton. I had wanted to do this race and had put an ad in Yachting magazine for any skipper looking for crew. I have a couple of good memories of that first race. At that time, we used Loran C for navigation. We were in the Yucatan current with boat speed of 7 knots through the water but Loran was showing only ½ knot over the bottom! After finishing the race, we anchored behind the light at Isla Contoy and were approached by a local boat. I remember we traded a half dozen issues of Playboy magazine for a bucket full of lobsters!

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Some words of advice and wisdom.

Tom Hails, from Panama City, FL is an accomplished offshore sailor who has competed in the Regata del Sol al Sol numerous times. While visiting recently in

In how many of the Regata del Sol al Sol races have you competed? Can you recall any of the boats and did you captain any? What about any trophies?

I've competed in seven races with the last one in 2008 crewing for Randy Swanson aboard his 40' Catalina-Morgan, **D'Lila**. In 1989 I crewed aboard George Eastman's 54' schooner, **Lita**. I have raced my own boat, **Princess**, a 36' Allied Princess four times. We competed in non-spinnaker class and one year we took a 3rd place. There's a funny story about that 3rd place keeper trophy. Somehow, trophies got switched. We were given the keeper trophy from the Houston to Isla Mujeres race and, of course, the Houston 3rd place winner ended up with our trophy!

Did you always race in the same class?
Yes, it was non-spinnaker/cruising class.



Playa la Media Luna

What about provisioning and any words of advice (about provisioning) for a first time skipper/crew who will be competing in the 45th Anniversary?

I have no advice at all – I'm not a cook! I have learned that instant oatmeal and instant coffee is just great, along with an awful lot of canned food. I circumnavigated **Princess** for 9 ½ years, sailed 47,000 miles and accumulated a bushel basket of instant oatmeal box tops. I entered a contest for who had the most box tops and won! The prize was four bicycles – one for my wife, one for me and one for a boy and girl.



What are some of the conditions you have encountered? Again – any advice for the first timer?

There's a very strong current, sometimes of 6 knots running through the Yucatan straits and it tends to undulate. Best advice is to follow the rhumb line. And never give up on the wind. During one race aboard **Princess**, we sat for

six hours without any wind. My son decided to abandon the race, we turned on the engine and two hours later the wind came up. We could have finished under sail rather than abandon race.

Tell us about your stays in Isla Mujeres.

The basketball games are great. One year, I was one of the cheerleaders and wore one of those great shirts! I also enjoy the Wednesday evening affair where the mayor presents certificates to the skippers. It's important that every skipper and crew attend that ceremony.



Christopher G. Nelson, Jr., MD
Diseases and Surgery of the Skin

What would you consider to be the most memorable Regata del Sol al Sol?

The year **Princess** took 3rd place. I also remember one of the Regata Amigos when we had a lot of the kids on board **Princess**. So many that I decided we should motor rather than sail. That year, one of the kids tossed a water balloon at a Mexican Admiral who was aboard the race committee boat. The balloon didn't break and the admiral tossed it right back to the kids!



Any additional thoughts/words of wisdom?

Some see this race as a cakewalk - often it is. But there are times that the boat fails, or the weather is real bad and the skipper and crew must be prepared. Mandatory safety measures should be followed, every crew member should have a safety harness at all times on deck and hooked to jack lines. The life raft should be on deck- not stowed below. Each crew member should understand the essential systems on board; the location and use of every through-hull, the pump systems, backup rigging and anything else the skipper can imagine will need addressing during the race.

Bon Voyage!!