

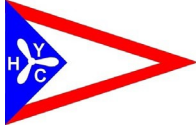


UPDATE: 16 July 2020

## Topic: Contingency Planning

Howdy all! This is today's news regarding the HYC Offshore. Sorry for spamming y'all daily, it's just that this is a fast-moving game and we want to keep you informed. So, regarding:

- 1) The Signal (charter) Boat: We may have our Race Committee chestnuts pulled out of the fire by one Chuck Wielchowski. He has connected us with a friend in Matagorda who may be able to help. Plus, Gerhard Wittich has a Freeport connection he is working, more to come. We would prefer a local source close to Freeport. The Royal Barges up at HYC cost over a thousand dollars in fuel to get to Freeport. Plus, they take damage in the chop! This crushes our budget...
- 2) We are encountering new, uncontrolled variables which impact our event. Previously it was only weather. Now we must consider:
  - a) Will the Governor shut down the State of Texas (his pronunciation...)? We studied Greg Abbott carefully last night on the evening news. He is clearly communicating that we have a LONG way to go before he pulls the plug, BUT... it could happen. In our opinion, it's not likely to happen in the next week.
  - b) Will Brazoria and Galveston Counties close the beaches to enforce social distance? If they do, we have figured out a way around this; beach starts and finishes are a key part of this regatta. If this happens:
    - i) In Galveston: Today we discovered a very interesting place. The Galveston Fort San Jacinto Historic Point Park. It is at the far East end of Seawall Boulevard and features the concrete mount for a 90mm gun. When you stand at the safety wall one has a fine view of.... Our old friend, Red 12. The line between the gun mount and Red 12 is almost due North at 14°. **Our new Galveston Start/Finish line will be this line and the portion crossing the HSC will be off limits – an obstruction.** This change gets us off the beach (a dangerous place...) and we will not be vulnerable to beach closings.
    - ii) In Surfside Beach: We met with the City Secretary and learned that when Brazoria County closed the beach over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, they did it by closing the two bridges. If they issue the warning of imminent closure, we will dispatch the Race Committee to a cheap and hellish motel in Surfside Beach, safely across the bridges. There they will remain, like a sleeper cell, until it is time to do their work (take finishes or possibly operate a start).
  - c) What if the charter skipper wakes up sick Saturday morning?
    - i) Then we will have no boat. So, we will come up with a method of starting with the race committee on foot at the end of the North Jetty, which does not violate our promise to the Freeport Pilots that there will be NO RACING inside the jetties. More to come on that....
- 3) The HYC Web server is fouled up, so we cannot post current documents until it is fixed. This vexing situation is beyond our control and we will update you all directly by email....



## 2020 HYC OFFSHORE REGATTA FAQ'S

**NOTICE:** We have unexpectedly lost our charter boat and Captain, today 15 July. One of the features of this event is the Rule 26 start off Freeport. If we can't replace him, we will have to get creative with the start, perhaps a pursuit or beach start which degrades the quality of the event in our opinion. So, the NOR as posted may need some adjustments. We will advise all registrants of what options we come up with. And remember, we are very easy with refunds...

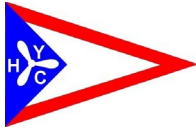
Q: What's new with the COVID restrictions in place?

- A. Well, we have waited – and what we see today, 15 July is that Governor Abbott will stick to his resolve to keep the State open. We all know how to navigate these hazardous waters, so we will press forward and go sailing offshore! The tools we need to keep in mind are Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Best Practice.
- a. The marina manager, Timora Pole has a new email: [timora@freeportmarina.com](mailto:timora@freeportmarina.com)
  - b. PPE: We the Race Committee respectfully request that all participants wear face masks when on the dock in Freeport, in the marina building, or at our dinner destination - Captain Ken's Port of Call. The Race Committee will have a small supply available for you as will Captain Ken.
  - c. Best Practice: We all know about social distancing and hand washing.
  - d. Thursday night in Galveston you cannot get into the Tremont House unless one is a guest of the Hotel. The Race Committee will stand by at the lobby bar. Text or call 832.428.0785, and we will meet you out front to review the sailing instructions.
  - e. Captain Ken is setting us up in his back yard so there is sufficient space to comply with social distancing. Ken is a member of the Freeport City Council and knows the rules well.
    - i. We will cancel the Karaoke feature of the event as that is a virus spreader. We will replace it with an outrageous dance mix which you may enjoy at your tables.
    - ii. On our end we will have 2 (normally we have only 1) 15-passenger vans as well as a Suburban available to shuttle people between the marina and the hotel area. We will limit capacity to 6 passengers per trip. The drivers will wipe the van down with a commercially prepared cleanser between trips.

With the small numbers of boats this year we are confident we can do this safely.

~~A. It's hard to tell right now. Restrictions are supposedly going to be lifted June 30 in Galveston County. Brazoria is limited to 25% restaurant capacity. That will not be an issue for our regatta party as there is lots of space at Captain Ken's. We had a nice lunch in Galveston on June 24, we were required to wear masks when entering buildings. We spoke to the Front Desk at the Tremont House. They are restricting their facility to guests only, to avoid overcrowding. We will have to wait and see...~~

Q: Will R/C conduct vessel inspections?



A. We do not conduct inspections. The skipper is responsible for evaluating the recommendations and assessing their boat and crew's level of preparedness. It is the same judgment call as when evaluating weather conditions. Coping with foul weather is a feature of offshore seamanship. It is the Skipper's call...

Q: Have there been material changes to the sailing instructions since last year?

A. Not major.

Q: Will there be changes to the posted NOR?

A. Unlikely. If there are changes, we will update the footer with a new version number. We will also use the strikethrough function of Microsoft Word to highlight deleted text and any additions. If you are already registered, the Race Committee will email you a copy of the revised NOR. If the changes cause you to decide to withdraw your entry, a refund will be processed ASAP.

If we update these FAQ's we will simply note the new version number and date in the footer.

**Comment: Hotel prices in Galveston are high. It may be best for many of us to not spend the night Thursday – sail down from your home marina Friday morning. To help with this we have changed the start timetable to start at 9:00 am. This gives you all an extra hour...→**

**SAMPLE START TIMES FOR THE HYC REACH DOWN THE BEACH**

| If your rating is... | Your start time will be... | If your rating is... | Your start time will be... |
|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 300                  | 9:00:00 AM                 | 140                  | 10:52:16 AM                |
| 290                  | 9:07:01 AM                 | 130                  | 10:59:17 AM                |
| 280                  | 9:14:02 AM                 | 120                  | 11:06:18 AM                |
| 270                  | 9:21:03 AM                 | 110                  | 11:13:19 AM                |
| 260                  | 9:28:04 AM                 | 100                  | 11:20:20 AM                |
| 250                  | 9:35:05 AM                 | 90                   | 11:27:21 AM                |
| 240                  | 9:42:06 AM                 | 80                   | 11:34:22 AM                |
| 230                  | 9:49:07 AM                 | 70                   | 11:41:23 AM                |
| 220                  | 9:56:08 AM                 | 60                   | 11:48:24 AM                |
| 210                  | 10:03:09 AM                | 50                   | 11:55:25 AM                |
| 200                  | 10:10:10 AM                | 40                   | 12:02:26 PM                |
| 190                  | 10:17:11 AM                | 30                   | 12:09:27 PM                |
| 180                  | 10:24:12 AM                | 20                   | 12:16:28 PM                |
| 170                  | 10:31:13 AM                | 10                   | 12:23:29 PM                |
| 160                  | 10:38:14 AM                | 1                    | 12:29:47 PM                |
| 150                  | 10:45:15 AM                |                      |                            |

**USE THIS TABLE TO HELP PLAN YOUR TRIP DOWN TO GA11 - THE START...**

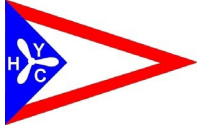
Q: What about changes to the posted Sailing Instructions?

A. We will follow the same procedure as for the NOR above. Plus, please notice that we have allowed ourselves the ability to make changes on the water. If this is needed, the race committee will notify each boat individually by VHF of any changes.

Q: What is my start time for the Reach Down the Beach?

- A. For PHRF boats, your exact, precise start time will be published in the Sailing Instructions. However, for planning purposes the table to the right may be useful...
- B. For the ORC fleet, the committee will produce your single factor handicap table. The three-factor option was withdrawn as we do not have proper support boat participation in this regatta.

Q: Can we fly flags during this regatta?



A. Yes, but with some restrictions. Some people want to promote their business and others simply want to fly Old Glory while sailing offshore with friends on a beautiful summer day. Please note that US Sailing prescribes a boat shall not display flags when racing except for signaling. However, RRS 56 stipulates that a boat shall not be penalized for breaking this rule without prior warning. WE WILL NOT ISSUE THIS WARNING UNLESS, the flag you are flying is solid red or solid yellow. These are protest and scoring penalty flags and should be used as such.

Q: Why are there two separate races, the Reach Down the Beach and the HYC Offshore?

A. It provides maximum flexibility to our racers. Some want to have a leisurely cruise. So, they plan an overnight in Galveston Thursday night. Some sail direct to the Friday morning start line. They set out from HYC at 2:00 am and sail Harvest Moon-style, sleeping in shifts. We know of at least one racer from Dallas who hits I45 at 5:00 p.m. Friday night, sails all night and meets us at the start line in Freeport, skipping the Friday race completely. Plus, racers from the Brazosport Yacht Club typically only do the second race and then go home on Sunday.

Q: Will the handicap classes have a course that includes a short beat to windward?

A. We will do the best we can to assure that the ORC and PHRF class have a beat to windward. This depends on wind direction; the courses will include either the Freeport outer buoy and/or the TABS "B" marker. The TABS "B" Marker is 12 miles offshore. Please see the draft Sailing Instructions posted on the HYC Race and Regatta web page (Race Calendar at [www.houstonyachtclub.com](http://www.houstonyachtclub.com)).

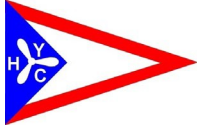
B. The B&B Class will Reach (hopefully...) directly back to Galveston.

Q: When we arrive at the Yacht Basin in Galveston what phone number do we call to arrange for the Tremont House limousine to pick us up?

A. Tremont House (409.515.2154); takes you directly to the hotel in Galveston. Please be very specific as you direct them to your location. If you are behind the big cement wall in the main marina area you need to tell them to go past security on North Holiday Drive to the end of the street. If you are on the floating dock (in one of those strange, stubby little slips where your boat sticks out some 25 feet and you have to work miracles with dock line to secure her) you will be waiting at the corner of Barracuda and 7<sup>th</sup> street close to Texas Gulf Seafood. Mosquito repellent is a fine idea (one competitor commented that the mosquitos are like elephants...). DON'T FORGET TO BRING THE SECURITY GATE CODE! Or you will have an unplanned adventure getting back in...

Q: Are there activities planned for Thursday evening?

A. Not exactly. The Race Committee will make themselves available at the bar at The Tremont House between the hours of 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm. They will have copies of Sailing Instructions and the NOR available and will be prepared to answer questions. You can identify them by their



white shirts, khaki trousers and classic Martini's.

Q: Q: What is the Freeport shuttle van schedule?

A. Saturday night: 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm. Sunday morning: 5:45 am to 7:00 a.m. The driver is Captain Ken's niece. Please tip if she warrants it!...

The specific phone numbers to call are:

If you are docked at Freeport Marina, please call 713.899.8715 If you are docked at Surfside Marina, please call Mike 281.253.0280 If all else fails, please call the event chair at 832.428.0785

Q: What is the Menu at Captain Ken's Port O' Call?

A. The Captain is a master of the deep fryer (and a superb griller...). Either fried fish and shrimp, or a grilled steak (if you have fish allergies...) with Cole slaw, barbecue beans, potato salad, hush puppies and a garden salad for \$20. This is, perhaps, not the best value for the money. However, the good Captain does not charge us for the use of his facility. So, to equalize things – we have reduced the entry fee each way from \$70 to \$50 (a \$40 savings) to mitigate the impact on our competitors. We all buy our dinners directly from Captain Ken – no Regatta Network pre-paid's. Be aware the line gets quite long as the good Captain's credit card processing machine is S-L-O, SLOW! You may want to bring cash. Ken accepts cash and Visa/Master Card.

Q: What drinks will be available at Captain Ken's?

A. The good Captain serves beer and wine (\$4). He will have Budweiser, Bud Light, Miller Light, Corona, Dos X, Michelob Ultra and Shiner Bock. Prefer your own wine? If you want to bring your own bottle of 1938 Chateau Petrus - you need to pay the house a \$5 corkage fee.

A. What about the regatta rum? Good question... The house needs to make money too. So, while **RUM IS FREE**, the set-up (i.e. a cup of ice and a mixer – Coke, Diet Coke and Ginger ale) costs \$3.00.

A. Please do not bring ice chests full of beer to the party.

A. The regatta will provide a meagre gratuity of 15% to Captain Ken's hard-working staff. Regardless, all are encouraged to tip as you see warranted – a dollar and a smile are great feedback!

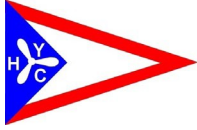
Q: What is the official rum of the HYC Offshore Regatta?

A. Why Cruzan of course. We learned this from our friends at GBCA and it is quite tasty. We will have 30 liters available.

**Q: What is the "HYC Rollicking Beach Party"?**...

A. This is a party for YOUR friends and relatives (F&R's) hosted by the Race Committee on the East

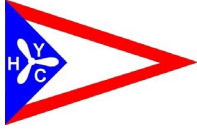
*V5: 16 July 2020*



Beach in Galveston. The Race Committee will bring the leftover rum from the Freeport party and provide commentary for your F&R's as boats cross the finish line. Finishes typically happen between 2pm and 6pm Saturday. All are welcome to bring their handheld VHF's and listen to the race chatter, all greetings on Channel 72 please!

Q: What will the weekend look like – can you draw us a picture of the event?

- A. Friday morning. Take two aspirins, wake the indolent crew, check the mini bar for anything missing, check out of the hotel and ride the hotel limo to the marina.
  - At the marina you have forgotten the gate code. You select your lightest crew, form a human pyramid and drop her on the other side of the gate.
  - Drop the dock lines, hot coffee, engine purring, bride is happily spotting dolphins – everything is cool.
  - You spot the sailing instructions, slightly damp from last night's rain wadded up in the corner. All you care about is your start time. Is it 9:08:09? Or perhaps 8:09:09? Better find out 'cause there is a shivering MADMAN on the beach with binoculars, wrapped in an orange tarp, clutching a GPS and monitoring times.... He knows your start time – you should too!
  - It would be nice if you were to:
    - A. Talk to him – it would be good to tell him who you are and how many souls you have on board – channel 68 please.
    - B. As you cross the start line the race committee will announce your actual start time. No particular reason for this, we value transparency and if we capture data, we like to share it.
    - C. If you cross the line early, we will politely hail you OCS.
    - D. Please stay away from the ships. Please do not cut in front of them. One year we had a J/Boat cut in front of an ammonia ship. The owner's then-fiancée thought the five horn blasts were - friendly finish horns... One year at the Heald Bank we witnessed no fewer than THREE 5-horn incidents, please, let's not do this.
    - E. As you leave the Galveston jetties please leave the 5A mark to starboard – though we know it is irresistibly tempting, no cutting corners please...



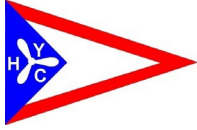
F. Otherwise, there are few hazards between Galveston and Freeport.

- Please notice the timeout feature of the Friday race. Use your GPS and do the math, **IT IS INESCAPABLE**. If you will not make the finish area by 6 pm – it's time to fire up the auxiliary and motor in. There is no dishonor in arriving at the regatta party before the rum runs out. And the rum will not, run out...
- Friday afternoon the race committee will be on station on the beach end of the finish line until 6 pm. They will give you a friendly horn blast as you finish, record your finish position and advise you of any "security operations" (i.e. ammonia ships) in process. Again channel 68 please.
- FACTOID: Port Freeport has added 24-hour dispatch service so you should easily be able to get a response & vessel traffic advisory.
- While they are working vessels, Brazos Pilot stands by on Ch 16 and 14. Channel 14 is the channel used in Freeport to work tugs and communicate with docks. So, monitoring channel 14 is a good way to monitor ship movements. For your information, the Houston Ship Channel uses channel 13.
- After you pass under the heart-stopping storm gate (look up as you pass under...) aka "The Guillotine"... PLEASE announce your boat name and slip assignment on 68 to help the people docking your boats.
- This is a good opportunity to ice (\$2.50 for 20 pounds) and water your boat.
- The party at Captain Kens (see attached map) starts at 5:00 – ish, food will be served starting at 7:00. If there is light air, we will advise Captain Ken to push the food time back an hour.
- The race committee will be pouring rum drinks. Find us inside.
- DJ Anthony will attempt to deafen us with LOUD BLASTS of late 70's album rock.
- Karaoke will be available for those so inclined...
- This is a "La Bamba – free" event. If anyone attempts to sing "La Bamba" please intercept them immediately
- The party MUST wrap up at 9. There will be serious business in the morning...

Saturday morning:

- Prepare yourselves for lots of vertical action. Up 6 feet, down 12, up 4 etc.





- We set out at approximately 7:30 am. FYI, we are very laid back – if you have trouble please communicate with us. HOWEVER, we will not impair the fun of many due to the problems of a few. So, talk to us please...

- Proceed to Berth 7 off the container docks (drawing attached), please await further instructions.

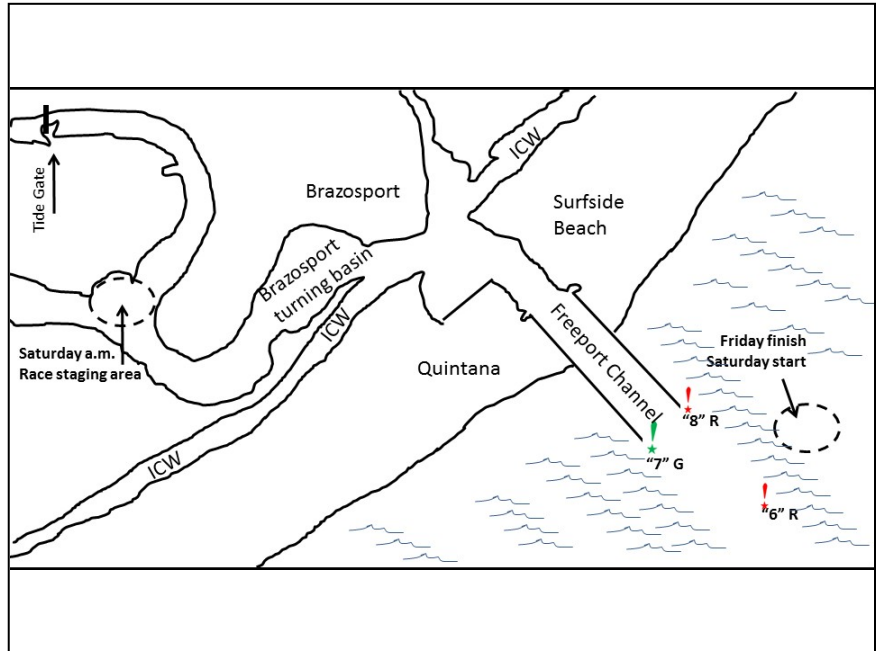
- At 07:45 the race officer (PRO) will hail Brazos Pilot

on VHF channel 14. We will wait for Brazos Pilot's signal to proceed. We will need thirty minutes for all boats to clear the jetties.

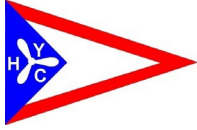
- We plan to set our start line between 1.5 and 3 nautical miles offshore somewhere North and East of the Freeport channel. We should be clear of the area by 09:00.
- When you get to the start line you will see a signal boat and an orange tetrahedron forming a start line.
- You will note that the chop is steep and deep – breathtaking, really. It is always like this. We will set a generous start line so you can safely dodge each other.
- You will note that the signal boat is not anchored. We have given up on that idea after incidents involving significant damage and one near sinking. We will use raw power to stay approximately in place. Consequently, we will be very reasonable regarding OCS (over early) calls. However, when it is obvious someone is abusing our hospitality – we are not shy with the X flag, please be advised...

Now, you are racing...

- You all are probably beating towards the Freeport outer buoy. Again – stay away from the ammonia ships.
- The spin boats and probably the non-spin boats will visit TABS B as their "B" mark. We know TABS B is there because it is broadcasting every 15 minutes and can be seen at ([TABS B](#)).







- OK, now everyone has worked hard and had a fantastic day – it is time to enter Galveston. Please be careful at the 5A mark. We all remember what happened to French Kiss... Please do not aim your GPS directly at 5A – set a coordinate slightly clear of it. Maybe 1,000 yards to Starboard?
- The finish is at GA11. Most boats cross between 2pm and 6pm depending on the wind. The race committee will be on the beach waiting for you.
- Bolivar Roads in the daylight is fun. Blasting through the Port of Galveston under full sail and motor is one of our favorite things to do. At night, at 3:00 a.m. it is a surreal nightmare. Please have rested, experienced crew with good vision available should you arrive aftersundown.

Please notice the timeout feature of the Saturday race. The race shall end at 0800 hours CDT, Sunday July 26, or when the last yacht finishes, whichever is earlier. Yachts that have not finished at the expiration of the time limit will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes rules 35, A4 and A5. The race committee will stay on station until this time and then proceed up to HYC to process protests the next morning.

Awards will be Sunday afternoon at 13:00 hours in the HYC Bar...