

**UPDATE: 03 May 2021**

**Topic: Last Year's COVID precautions**

Well, what a difference a year makes. We see no undue restrictions on our activities. Please continue to exercise common sense approaches to personal safety and have a good time!

**2021 HYC OFFSHORE REGATTA FAQ'S**

**NOTICE:** We have a new, excellent charter boat arrangement for our Signal Boat. However, he is not available Friday to drop and pick up our finish line pin. So Friday, we MAY be finishing between Freeport Channel markers red "8" and red "6". In this event, the Race Committee will be at the end of the jetties observing finishes. PLEASE. After you finish – you are NO LONGER RACING. Please bear off!!! For the love of God - do not cut in front of the ammonia ships! We have committed to the Freeport Pilot that there will be NO RACING IN THE CHANNEL. Please help us keep this promise.

Also, if anyone knows of a nephew or niece in Freeport with access to a center console, we will pay them to drop a proper finish pin in our normal location. That way, we can have a normal finish line off the beach, not between channel markers. They will drop Friday before 1400 hours and pick up after 1800 hours. Please ask them to contact [billvanrav@gmail.com](mailto:billvanrav@gmail.com). Plus, we are looking for two shuttle drivers for hire. They will work between 1700 to 2100 hours Friday, and 5:30 to 7:30 Saturday. Good money to be made...

**Random Question: 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.

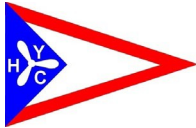
**Q: Will there be changes to the posted NOR?**

A. Unlikely at this point. 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.

**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 finalized Sailing Instructions.

DRAFT ONLY. FINAL WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER REGISTRATION CLOSSES

Ver. 5/3/2021

Course length: 42.1 nm
Scratch start time: 8:00 AM

However, for planning purposes the table to the left, below may be useful...

2019 REACH DOWN THE BEACH (RDTB) PHRF FRIDAY START TIMES					
Start	BOATNAME	SAIL #	NAME	RATING	FLEET
8:00:00	Endless Summer	37447	Dmitriy Yegorov	177	PHRF Non-Spinnaker
8:20:21	Jubilee	14	Thomas Keenan	148	PHRF Non-Spinnaker
8:28:04	Other Woman	1	Brantly Minor	137	PHRF Non-Spinnaker

**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.

ORC START TIMES - FRIDAY PURSUIT RACE									
All Purpose				Harvest Moon Regatta					
Single Number:	BOAT	#	Δ	Start	Single Number:	BOAT	#	Δ	Start
	Bella Vita	536.6		10:00:00		Bella Vita	476.4		10:00:00
	Outrageous II	514.0	22.6	10:15:51		Outrageous I	454.9	21.5	10:15:05
	Hamburg II	505.5	8.5	10:21:48		Hamburg II	445.3	9.6	10:21:49
	Deja Vu	504.1	1.4	10:22:46		Deja Vu	440.6	4.7	10:25:06
	Bear	490.9	23.1	10:32:03		Bear	429.0	25.9	10:33:15

MULTIHULL CLASS - Club Handicap			
BOAT	RATING	Δ	Start
ChatEau	159.0		8:30:00
Team America	27.0	132.0	10:02:37
Try Me	(24.0)	51.0	10:38:24

Bimini's 'n Barbecues Offshore		
BOAT	PHRF	Starting window is 8:00 to 11:00. We will capture your times.
Renaissance	199.0	
Slow Lane	180.0	

Note: ORC - we must decide on a Single Number factor for a pursuit race.

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

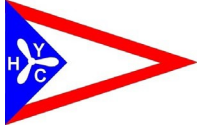
A. It provides maximum flexibility to our racers. Some want to have a leisurely cruise. So, they plan an overnight in Galveston Thursday night. Some sail direct to the Friday morning start line. They set out from HYC at 2:00 am and sail Harvest Moon-style, sleeping in shifts. We know of at least one 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..

**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 we will circulate Sunday pm.
- B. The B&B Class will Reach (hopefully...) directly back to Galveston.

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

A. Tremont House (409.763.0300); takes you directly to the hotel in Galveston. **SADLY, THEIR**



**EXCELLENT SHUTTLE SERVICE IS TEMPORARILLY SUSPENDED.**

- B. If you use Uber or Galveston Taxi, be aware that 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.
- a. 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 likened the mosquitos to 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 rooftop bar at The Tremont House between the hours of 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm. If the Rooftop Bar is closed (due to weather) the race Committee will valiantly stick to their gun... and relocate to the Lobby Bar. 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 vans schedule?**

- A. Friday night: 5:00 pm to 9:30 pm. Saturday morning: 5:30 am to 7:30 a.m. The drivers are, as of yet, unknown. BUT – there WILL BE shuttles – maybe driven by members...

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

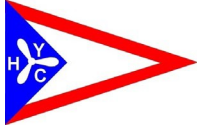
- A. The Captain is a master of the deep fryer (and a superb griller...). Either fried fish and shrimp, or a grilled steak (if you have fish allergies...) with Cole slaw, barbecue beans, potato salad, hush puppies and a garden salad for \$16. We all buy our dinners directly from Captain Ken – no Regatta 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. ~~SADLY, the era of FREE RUM has passed.~~ The good Captain has a new business partner, we all must comply with the TABC and establish an open credit relationship with the house... UPDATE: There will be some free rum. We have purchased three liters from Captain Ken using our regatta budget.

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

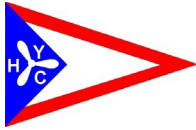
- A. This is a party for YOUR friends and relatives (F&R's) hosted by the Race Committee on the East Beach in Galveston. The Race Committee will bring rum and provide commentary for your F&R's



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?

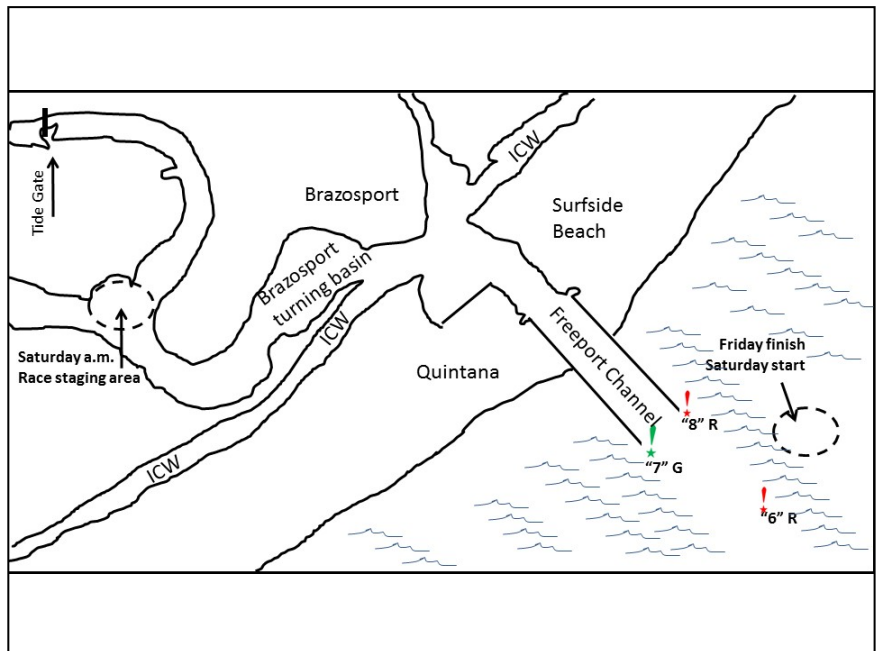
- A. Friday morning. Take two aspirins, wake the indolent crew, check the mini bar for anything missing, check out of the hotel ~~and ride the hotel limo to the marina.~~
- At the marina you have forgotten the gate code. You select your lightest crew, form a human pyramid and drop her on the other side of the gate.
  - Drop your dock lines, hot coffee, engine purring, the crew is happy - 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. 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.
  - Friday afternoon the race committee will be on station on the beach end of the finish line (IF we can get our pin dropped – otherwise we will be on the jetties) 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.
  - 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 on-time at the regatta party.



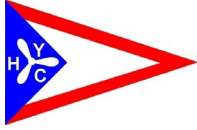
- FACTOID: Port Freeport has added 24-hour dispatch service so you should easily be able to get a response & vessel traffic advisory.
- While they are working vessels, Brazos Pilot stands by on Ch 16 and 14. **Channel 14** is the channel used in Freeport to work tugs and communicate with docks. So, monitoring channel 14 is a good way to monitor ship movements. For your information, the Houston Ship Channel uses channel 13.
- Friday night, 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 from Freeport Marina 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...

- If you are at another marina, please follow our progress on Channels 14 and 68, 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 Green 11. 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 May 09, 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...