

Regata al Sol

Thursday, 01 May 2014

Last Updated Sunday, 18 May 2014

Regata al Sol XXVII - May 7-15, 2014

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ISLA MUJERES, MEXICO - Just a minor

correction, I am not the leader of this adventure. I am here learning from RC Brierre, Dr. Boos (Melb runs this show, Eddie drives the cart), Robin, Wallace, Bill Parsons and Chris. I have enjoyed visiting with the owners of Lady Gray, Bob and Howard. I viewed the tender, Hello Dolly, brought by Walter. Gray Air has been shuffling return crew and trophies from SYC for presentation. Quite a production orchestrated by Guy et al.

It is a lesson for me to listen to the strategy of this race. When to cross the Gulf Stream...the overlay of wind direction on the current. It is an illustration of the depth and dimension of our sport. Is this the same sport that gives us a 15 minute team race?

This race was an upwind slog. Hard on boats and crew. Blown mains and ripped jibs. Dr. Boos gave a lot of seasickness treatment to sailors who had never had it before.

As I write this Radio Flyer is still racing. That's over a week in the race. They broke their bow sprit on the first day. Return to Pensacola, hauled the boat, fixed it, and restarted the race. Now that is "Tenacite".

The real stars of this show are Enrique and the people of Isla. The hospitality is phenomenal. This is the 50th year of the Mexico Race. The bond between SYC and these people is stronger than ever. The little faces in the crowd catching beads in the parade is worth the price of admission.

The Rock House is special. It is where Enrique's dad lived. I originally saw it on HGTV a couple of years ago as one of the most spectacular views in the world. Watching Enrique's now grown daughter casually walk the concrete beam to take our photo made me wonder what it must have been like when she was four years old walking on it while visiting her grandfather.

I spoke with the crews of Kativa, Tickler and Decision. Most are twenty and thirty somethings. They understand that this is tradition and history. Without these events, we would be a golf club. Hopefully, they will replace us and this regatta will go on

another 50 year. Â

Have fun at GYO. Â I will be there for the proposed member eventÂ tomorrow night.

CFN