

Overview of the Race

Robert Hunkins

2026 HMR Principal Race Officer (PRO)

Website

www.harvestmoonregatta.com



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The 39th Annual Race to Port Aransas

The Harvest Moon Regatta® is a must do for the average cruiser to the
extreme racer. There is a class for everyone!

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Important Dates

• HMR Safety Day	Saturday, September 26	
• Late Entry Cutoff	Friday October 10	11:59 PM
• Skippers' Meeting	Friday, October 16	7:00 PM
• First Start –Galveston	Thursday, October 22	2:00 PM
• Finish Deadline	Saturday, October 26	1:00 PM
• Welcome Sailor Rum Party	Saturday, October 26	4:00 PM
• Food Trucks Open	Saturday, October 26	5:00 PM
• Awards	Saturday, October 26	7:00 PM

General Info

- Rating Certificate

- All monohulls must have a valid 2025 certificate from ORC or Galveston Bay PHRF www.phrfgb.com

- Registration

- HMR website
 - If staying at Port Aransas City Marina, must pay Docking Fees as part of registering
 - Docking Fee based on boat size

Offshore

THIS IS AN OFFSHORE RACE

- It takes more preparation
- It takes more experience
- There are unlit structures and may be missing navigational aids
- There are rules to be followed, for your safety, and for those around you
 - *The rules in the Racing Rules of Sailing book*
 - *Class rules (including the cruising class rules of PHRF-GB)*
 - *The Notice of Race*
 - *The Safety Equipment Requirements*
 - *The Sailing Instructions*
 - *International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea*
 - aka the Col Regs

Skipper's Meeting

Skippers' Meeting: Friday, October 16 7:00 PM

Pick up:

- Registration Packet
- YellowBrick (YB) devices
- Purchase HMR merchandise
- Before the Skippers' Meeting, verify:
 - You have added all crew to your registration; and
 - Each of your crew has signed crew waiver electronically (NOR 4.5)

Sailing Instructions

2026 HMR Sailing Instructions will be posted online no later than 9pm Wednesday, October 14.

Read the Sailing Instructions

We make some changes to the sailing instructions every year. Be sure to read them carefully before the Skippers' Meeting so you can get any questions answered at the meeting.

Safety Inspections

- US Sailing Safety Equipment Requirements, as modified (SERs)
- SI's : The SERs are adopted for your safety and for the safety of your crew. A violation of the SERs may result in disqualification
- Any boat may be inspected, randomly or otherwise
- **Pre Race Inspections**
 - Any time after skippers' meeting and before race day
 - May be request for video evidence of compliance with specific SERs.
- **Post Race Inspections**
 - The Race Committee may inspect a boat any time after her finish prior to the awards ceremony. If the boat is not made available for inspection within a reasonable time after request, there will be a presumption that the boat would not pass the safety inspection. Boats not intending to berth in the vicinity of Port Aransas after the finish shall make prior arrangements with the Principal Race Officer.

Interfering w/ Commercial Traffic

1.7 **Interfering with Commercial Traffic:** A boat is subject to disqualification if the Race Committee receives a report that the boat interfered with commercial traffic while transiting to the race area, while *racing*, or while transiting to her mooring after *finishing*. **ANY BOAT AND SKIPPER SO DISQUALIFIED WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER ANY FUTURE HARVEST MOON REGATTA® or LAKEWOOD YACHT CLUB EVENT.**

Communications -- Important

- VHF:
 - Monitor VHF 16 and RC Channel at all times
 - Use house radio (masthead antenna) – turn up volume – monitor throughout race
 - Make sure mic not keyed
 - MMSI must be in registration information
- EPIRB
 - Beware of accidental engagement
- If attempts by Race Committee, USCG or other authorities to reach via VHF is not answered, may be grounds for protest / disqualification

Race Tracking

Notice of Race 14. MANDATORY RACE TRACKING

14.1 Race tracking utilizing YB Tracking devices will be mandatory. Failure to have the Yellow Brick aboard and active during the race will result in the boat being scored DNF without a hearing. YB Tracking device rental is included in the registration fee for the race. Trackers will be distributed at the Skippers Meeting at Lakewood Yacht Club. Rental devices must be turned in at the Check-in Table in Port Aransas pavilion (unless using for the return trip; see below). A credit card number will be required as a deposit; there is a charge of approximately \$920 by YB Tracking for any Tracker that is lost, damaged, or not timely returned.

For an additional fee of approximately \$40, the tracking device can be available for the return trip. If used on the return trip, the devices must be returned at the LYC reception desk or guard shack no later than 4:00 PM on October 29, 2026.

Before Race Day – Put your Yellow Brick aboard your boat

Race Day - Turn on YB tracking devices before check-in

- A Tracking volunteer may attempt to send a text message to or hail by VHF a boat whose YB tracking device is not reporting properly – please monitor your messages.
- Competitors should ask a friend on land to monitor their track and text the boat if they notice a problem with the track reporting.

Check In

Check in:

- Check in via radio shortly before approaching Galveston Channel Green #11. The Sailing Instructions will give you the proper channel for check in.
- After check in, proceed to the starting area near the Galveston Pleasure Pier
The Sailing Instructions may provide a different channel for the start.



Race Start

Starting Line:

- Weather permitting, the Starting Line will be at the Galveston Pleasure Pier.
- The starboard end of the line will be marked by an orange flag or banner on Pleasure Pier.
- The port end of the line will be marked by an anchored Race Committee boat flying an orange flag or by a large orange tetrahedron.

Start Sequences:

- A total of 5 starting sequences are planned
- RRS 26 – 5 minute sequence

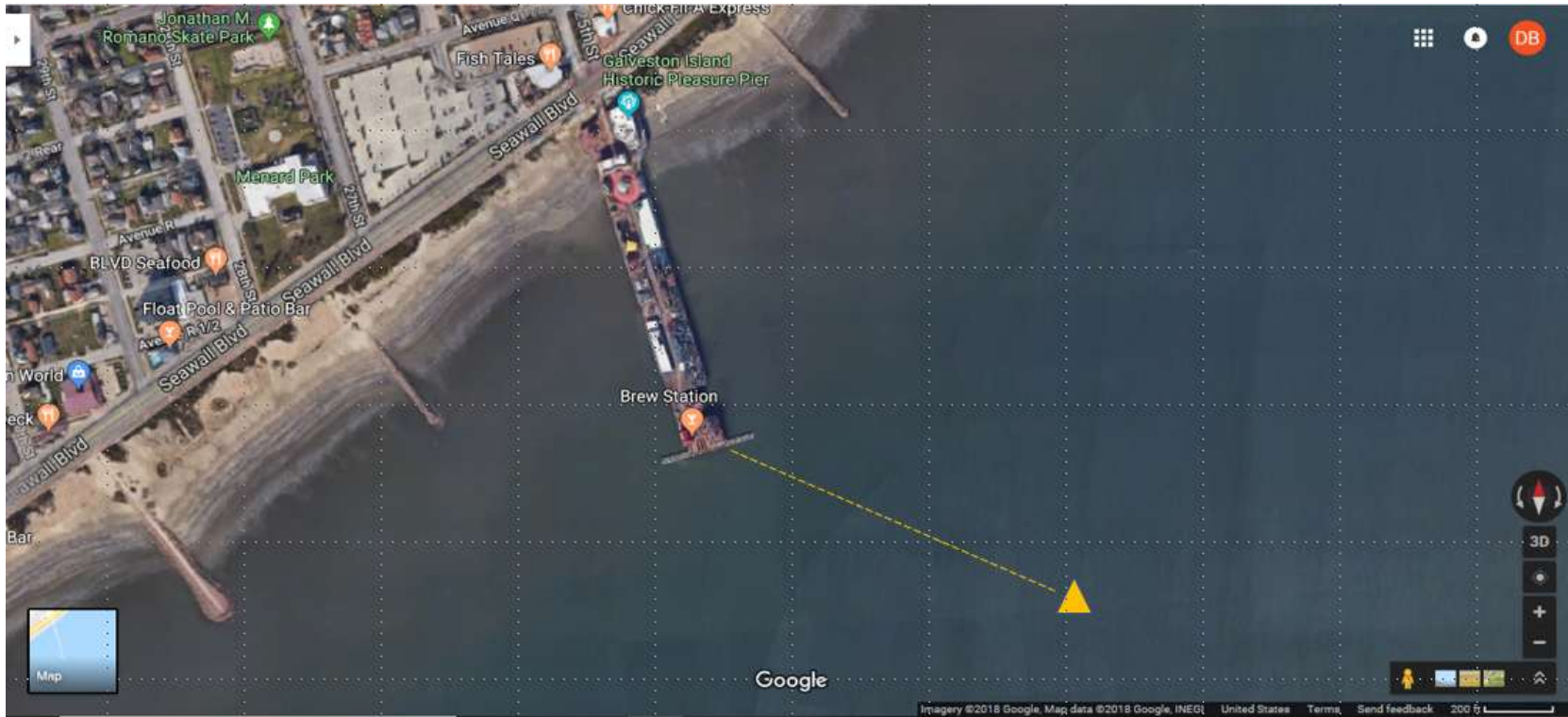
Stay Clear:

- A boat shall stay at least 400 feet outside the starting area until her warning signal, unless all boats from the preceding start have cleared the starting line.

Race Start



Race Start



Race Start cont'd

Radio Communications by Race Committee:

- As a courtesy only, the Race Committee may give a countdown on VHF radio to the raising and lowering of each group's signal flags
- As a courtesy only, the Race Committee may attempt to notify "over early" boats on VHF radio.
- RC does not intend to respond to questions via VHF radio during a Start Sequence

Late Starts:

- Five minutes after the last group has started, the starting pin may be removed.
- Any boat that has not yet checked in and *started* may *start* after the starting mark is removed, so long as the boat was entirely on the pre-start side of the starting line at or after her starting signal.
- The boat shall notify the Race Committee of her late start via VHF radio. In the event the Race Committee does not respond, she shall contact the Principal Race Officer via text or telephone.

Race Start cont'd

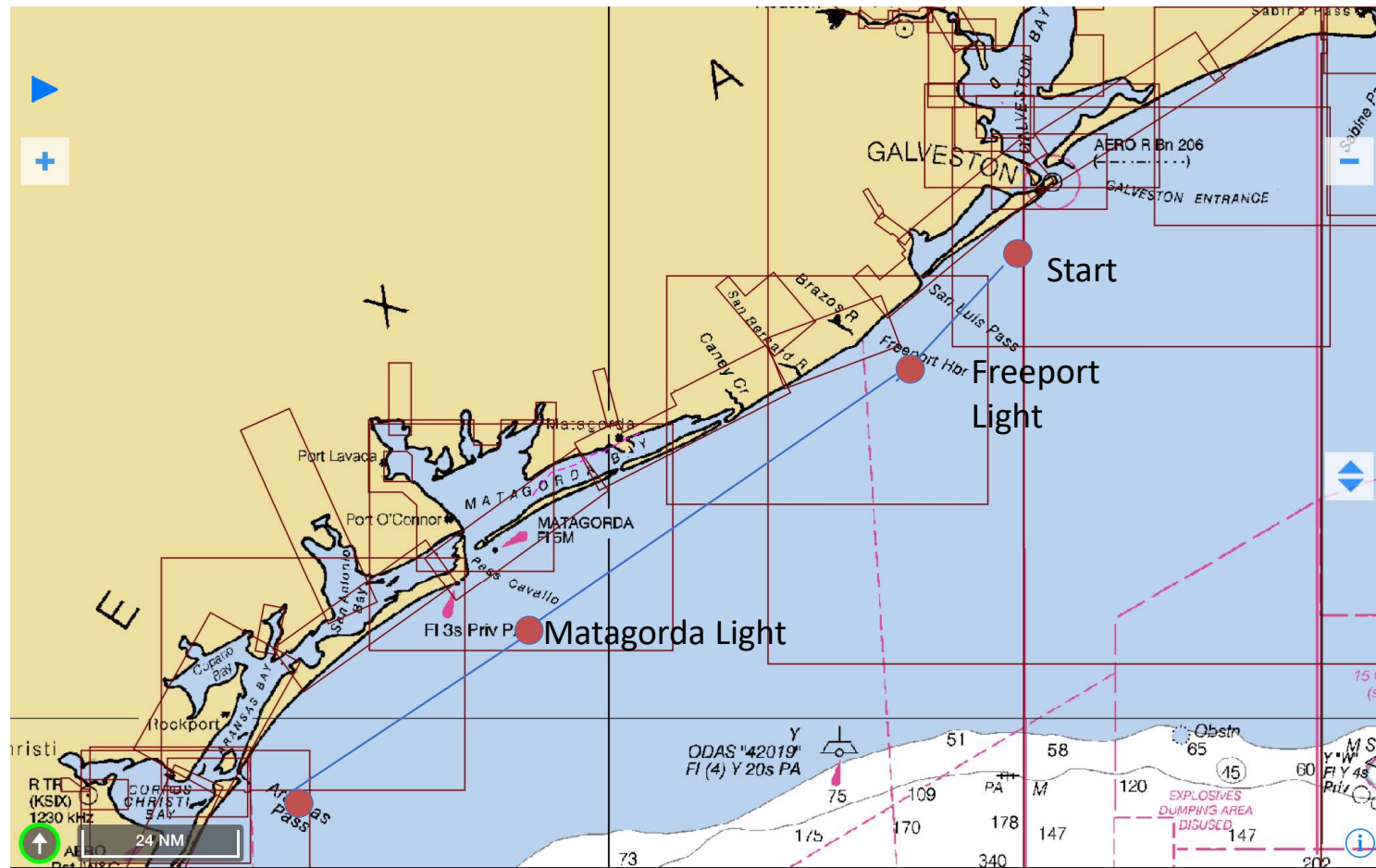
Over Early Boats:

- **No Exoneration Available:**
 - **A boat more than one boat length over the line at her starting signal shall restart in accordance with the *rules*.** Any such boat failing to restart shall be penalized by adding one hour to her corrected time.
- **Exoneration Alternative:**
 - **A boat that is over early by not more than one of her boat lengths may take a penalty after clearing the starting line.** Her penalty shall be a Two-Turns Penalty. After getting well clear of other boats, a boat takes a Two-Turns Penalty by promptly making two turns in the same direction, including two tacks and two gybes. The penalty turns must be started within 5 minutes of her *start*. A boat should note other boats in a position to observe her penalty turns

Sail the Course

- In the event any mark is missing, boats shall use the charted location in lieu of the mark.
- After the start, boats shall sail past the Freeport outer buoy, designated as RW “FP” Mo (A) WHIS or, if missing, a waypoint located at $28^{\circ} 52.634' \text{ N}$, $095^{\circ} 14.139' \text{ W}$
- Past the Matagorda outer buoy, designated as RW “MB” Mo (A) WHIS or, if missing, a waypoint located at $28^{\circ} 22.962' \text{ N}$, $096^{\circ} 16.871' \text{ W}$
- All of the above marks shall be left to starboard.
- Finish before the Ship Channel (more later)

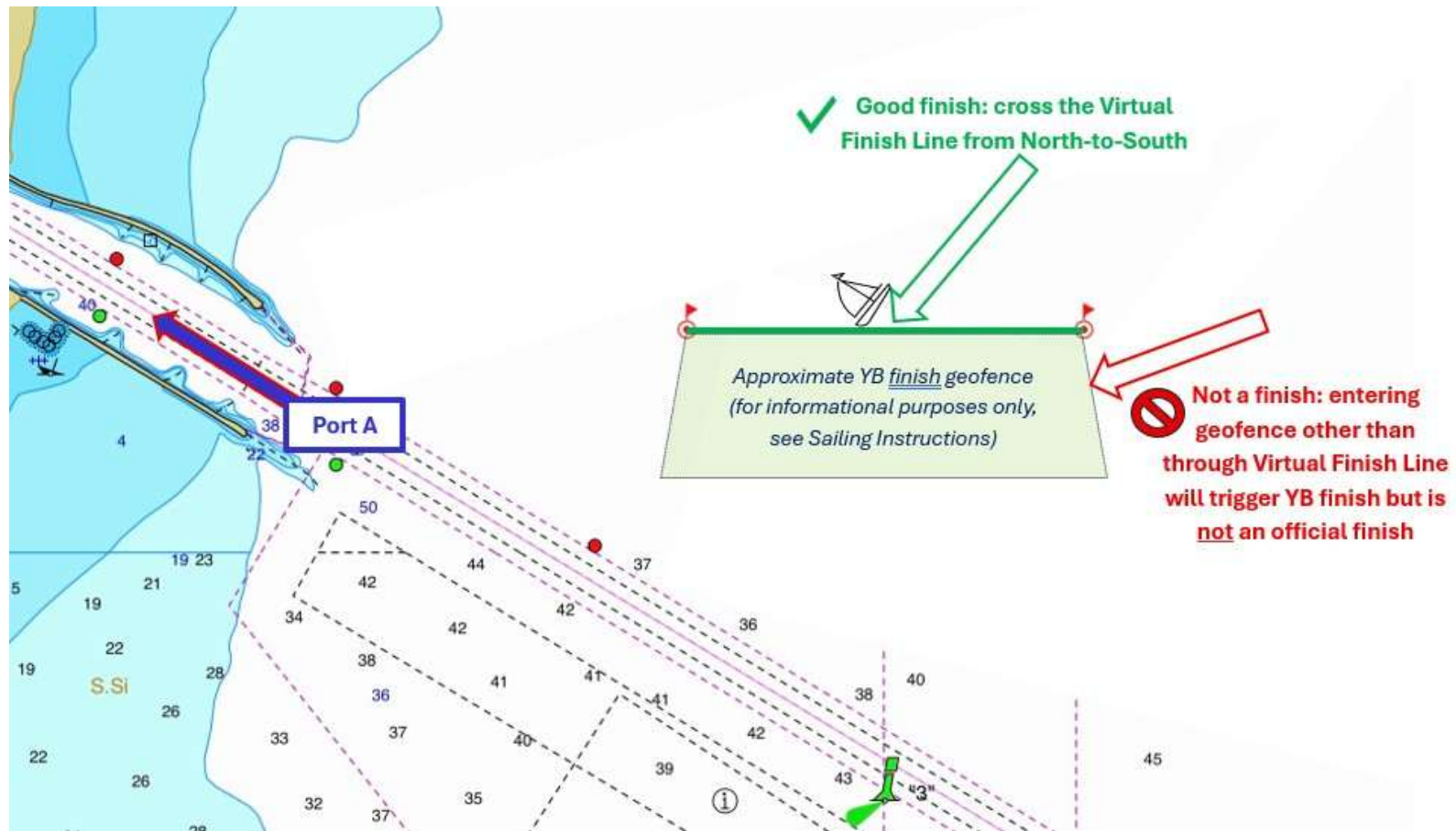
The Course



Withdrawing from the Race

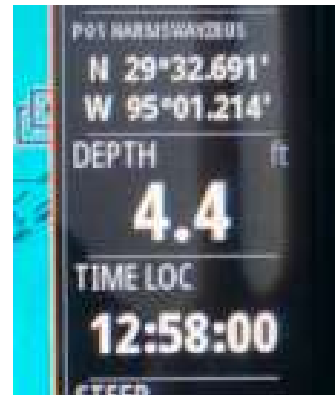
A boat withdrawing from the race shall immediately notify Lakewood Yacht Club by telephone or the Race Committee by radio, and obtain acknowledgement. Failure to do so will result in that boat and skipper not being allowed to enter any future Harvest Moon Regatta®. The Lakewood Yacht Club telephone number is 281-474-2511 and is answered 24 hours a day.

Finish Area



Finish Procedure

1. Finish well between the marks; don't try to cut it close. This may result in a score of Did Not Finish.
2. Take a photograph of the boat's GPS or chart plotter display showing both
(a) GPS location (latitude and longitude) and
(b) The GPS time including seconds (make sure the data in the photo is legible) in a single photograph
3. Retain the photograph and make available to the Race Committee upon request.



After Finishing

Switch VHF Channels and hail the docking committee once inside jetties

- Follow docking committee instructions on docking
- Prepare fenders and lines to raft-up

Mandatory Reporting Sheet

- Turn it in - Check-in station in Port Aransas pavilion

Remember Post-Race inspections

Plan your return trip now....

- Crew to help return
- Passage – ICW or Offshore?
- ICW:
 - Colorado locks schedule for recreational vessels:
 - <https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Navigation-Locks/Colorado-River-Locks/>
 - Or call 979-863-7842 Ext. 2005
 - Brazos River flood gates schedule for recreational vessels:
 - <https://www.swg.usace.army.mil/Business-With-Us/Operations-Division/Brazos-River-Floodgates-Summary/>
 - or call 979-233-1251.

Special Thanks: Philip Kropf

Questions

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