



Notice to Competitors No. 5

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Communications Plan and Information

INTRODUCTION

This Notice outlines the non-emergency communications procedures to be used by the Communications Vessel (CV), Lahaina Yacht Club (LYC), all boats, and the Race Committee.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

The Canadian or U.S. Coast Guard should be contacted for all emergencies. See Section 12 (last page) of this Notice for reference information.

DAILY ROLL CALL

A daily Roll Call will be conducted during the race. Refer to Sailing Instruction 7.

The Roll Call is principally used for exchanging daily reports of positions and conditions, but may also be used for the exchange of official notices or unofficial information between the Race Committee and boats.

A simplified, informal Roll Call will occur on the first day of each start to establish communications contact between boats, without position or weather reporting. Formal Roll Calls will commence on the second day of each start and continue daily until the time limit specified in SI 9.3.

Note on Time Zones

- Unless other noted, times in this bulletin are in HST (Hawaiian Standard Time).
- Hawaii does not use Daylight Saving Time.
- HST is equivalent to UTC/GMT/Zulu minus 10 hrs (also equivalent to PDT minus 3 hrs).

Section 7 - Finishing Procedures - describes additional communication requirements for each boat's final Roll Call and approach to Hawaii and the finishing line. Refer also to SI 8 - Finishing.

For the convenience of competitors, this Notice also provides reference information on:

- Communications Equipment and Operations
- Weather and Other Information
- Emergency Communication

This document is not part of the Sailing Instructions.

1. COMMUNICATIONS CONTACT INFORMATION

1.1 Communications Vessel ("CV")

Boat: *Red Sheilla* Call sign: CFN5335, Skipper: Jim Innes, Navigator/Radio: Jim Innes
Satellite telephone number: +8707-764-06706;
Onboard email: refer to "roll call logsheet" in skipper's binder.

Alternate CV: *Kinetic*, Call sign: CFG7437, Skipper: David Sutcliffe, Navigator/Radio: David Sutcliffe, Satellite telephone number: +8816-315-65731;
Onboard email: refer to "roll call logsheet" in skipper's binder.

1.2 Race Committee Emergency Officers (see section 12 for emergency communications)

1.3 Race Committee LYC (Lahaina Yacht Club) Finishing Line, located at Aston Kaanapali Shores, Room 802. Cell phone numbers:

808.283.6975 - Bob Hofmann; email: Vic-Maui@hofmannperformance.com

253.370.3530 - Frank Shriver; email: banditwa@msn.com

alternate: via Hotel Switchboard - telephone number: 808.667.2211, Room 802

1.4 In the event of unforeseen radio communications difficulties affecting CV, alternates may be designated and communicated to competitors.

2. COMMUNICATIONS WATCHES DURING THE RACE

2.1 Cruising Division starts on July 5th, 2012 and Racing Division starts on July 7th. On the day a class starts each boat in that class, plus CV, shall maintain a listening watch on HF 4149 kHz from 1750 HST until an informal Roll Call is complete.

2.2 Commencing on her second day of racing, (i.e. July 6th for Cruising and July 8th for Racing) and continuing each day until she has completed her last Roll Call prior to her estimated time of finishing, each boat, including CV, shall maintain a listening watch on HF 4149 kHz (or HF 8294 kHz as conditions warrant) from 1750 HST until ten minutes after Roll Call is complete.

2.3 Commencing no later than 1500 HST on July 16th and continuing each day until the time limit has expired (refer to SI 9.3) LYC shall maintain 24 hour watches by telephone, and on VHF channel 16. Communication may also be possible on HF 4149 kHz.

2.4 Race Committee Emergency Officers will be available by telephone 24 hours, after the start of race. See section 12 for emergency communications.

2.5 Per Sailing Instruction 16.3, boats that retire shall notify the race committee upon retiring, and upon arrival at destination following retirement. It is recommended that any boat that has retired from the race continue to participate in daily Roll Call until the boat has reached destination.

2.6 Per the USCG permit and State of Hawaii DLNR, all boats shall monitor VHF Channel 16 at all times while operating within 200NM of the Hawaiian Islands.

3. ROLL CALL – DAILY REPORTS

3.1 CV shall make best efforts to coordinate roll calls at least until she has finished racing, after which the duty may, on request from CV, be assumed by another boat still racing.

3.2 The protocol set out below shall be used for making contact with boats.

4. BEFORE ROLL CALL

4.1 At 1700 HST each day, from the second day a boat is racing onward, each boat shall accurately record its:

- position
(whole degrees, whole minutes),
- weather
(barometric pressure in millibars,
wind direction in degrees true, true wind speed in knots),
- debris observed
scale of 0 to 5:
0=no debris,
1=occasional small and medium debris,
2=regular small and medium debris,
3=regular medium debris, occasional large debris,
4= regular debris of all sizes,
5=constant medium and large debris.

4.2 At 1750 HST, boats shall tune their SSB radios to the initial frequency. The initial frequency for each Roll Call shall be HF 4149 kHz and, if conditions warrant, this may be followed by communications on HF 8294 kHz.

4.3 At 1750 HST, boats shall commence monitoring VHF Channel 16.

5. DURING ROLL CALL

5.1 Roll Call will commence at 1800 HST each day. On Day 1 of each start Roll Call is a non-mandatory, informal process with no position or conditions information, to establish radio contact. From Day 2 onward (i.e. July 6th for Cruising Division and July 8th for Racing Division) the formal Roll Call will commence at 1800 HST.

5.2 Daily reports will be taken from boats in ascending order of time allowance, as listed on the Roll Call Logsheet forms.

5.3 The reported position and conditions will be those recorded at 1700 HST.

5.4 Each boat will be hailed in order by CV. If no response is heard to an initial hail, the boat will be hailed a second time. Each report will be acknowledged and read back by CV to ensure that it was accurately received. This procedure will also give other boats a second chance to hear each report. Any boats not heard after the first two hails will be given a final chance to report at the end of the sequence.

5.5 During Roll Call, boats shall keep their reporting as brief as possible to minimize the overall time requirement for the exercise. Avoid superfluous (parenthetical) words and phrases that are implicit in the report, such as latitude, longitude, etc. To assist those receiving and copying transmissions, please speak clearly and conclude each number group with the word "Break".

5.6 Example Roll Call segment:

Vic-Maui fleet, Vic-Maui fleet, Vic-Maui fleet,
this is Communications Vessel Red Sheilla CFN5335
Roll Call is commencing now Break.

(Red Sheilla hails) Scratchboat— Scratchboat— Scratchboat, this is Red Sheilla

(Scratchboat replies) Red Sheilla, this is Scratchboat WAB1234
Position (latitude) THREE SIX ONE EIGHT Break
(longitude) ONE FOUR TWO FIVE ZERO Break
Barometer ONE ZERO TWO ZERO Break
Wind (direction) ZERO FOUR ZERO Break
(wind speed) TWO FIVE Break
Debris TWO Break
Scratchboat Over

5.7 If a report is not received from a particular boat, other boats participating in Roll Call may be asked to assist in making contact. If no contact is made, the race committee will be advised.

5.8 Radio communications difficulties and radio equipment failure are a constant possibility. If a boat cannot complete Roll Call by radio, it may report (subject to the time requirement of SI 7.2) by telephone or brief, plain text email to either CV or LYC (or both) at the numbers or addresses listed under section 1, Communications Contact Information. The penalty for not submitting a timely daily position report is stated in SI 12.2.8.

6. AFTER ROLL CALL

6.1 The CV will determine and advise when Roll Call has been completed.

6.2 Boats with email capability may send anecdotes or longer stories, photographs, etc. to share with waiting wahines at home or in Hawaii. Any emails that are sent to dailyreports2012@vicmaui.com may, subject to editing, be posted on the Vic-Maui website.

7. FINISHING PROCEDURES

7.1 On the last Roll Call before a boat expects to finish the boat shall, in addition to the position and conditions report, give her ETA, expressed in HST.

7.2 At a point 25 miles from Finish, boats shall contact the race committee in Lahaina via SSB on HF 4149 kHz, or via phone at 808-283-6975 or 253-370-3530.

7.3 When the light at Hawea Point is abeam, boats shall contact the race committee in Lahaina via VHF Channel 16, or via phone at 808-283-6975 or 253-370-3530. Boats shall then stand by on VHF Channel 72 for further communications .

7.4 When approximately one mile from the finish, boats shall contact the race committee in Lahaina via VHF Channel 72, or via phone at 808-283-6975 or 253-370-3530, and provide the name and or sail number of boats within visual contact either in front or behind.

7.5 If the above methods of communication fail, boats are allowed to use relay communication to contact the race committee.

8. COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND OPERATIONS

It is recommended that each boat:

8.1 Before the race, ensures;

- that the boat's VHF and SSB radio systems (including radio, tuner, cabling, connectors, power supply, ground, primary and emergency antenna, RFI suppression) are of high quality, are working properly and that the instruction manuals are onboard,
- that appropriate spare parts, including co-axial cable connectors, are on board
- that at least two crew members have completed appropriate radio operator training and are familiar with using the boat's particular VHF and SSB radio systems,
- that the boat participates in a pre-race radio schedule to test the SSB radio system and to identify onboard sources of radio interference; the latter will best be determined by trial and may include the engine, alternator, regulator, sailing instruments, navigation equipment, inverter, generator, water heater, water maker and other electrical or electronic equipment,
- that a daily radio schedule plan, including Roll Calls and weather updates, is prepared and posted in the navigation station and that times in this schedule are expressed relative to UTC and HST in order to minimize confusion;

8.2 And during the race, ensures;

- that a full charge of the batteries is completed before each Roll Call, and
- that, for the duration of each Roll Call, any non-essential equipment that causes significant radio interference to the SSB radio system is turned off.

9. WEATHER AND OTHER INFORMATION

9.1 Weather information is available through US Coast Guard radio broadcasts. The following representative frequency and time schedules are for guidance only. Competitors are advised to research and verify their own weather information sources.

9.2 WEATHER BROADCASTS FOR THE NORTH AND EASTERN PACIFIC

US Coast Guard Station – "NMC" - Point Reyes, CA

CHANNEL	FREQUENCY	TIMES – ZULU TIME (UTC) (subtract 10hrs for HST)			
424	HF 4426.0 kHz	0430Z	1030Z	-	-
816	HF 8764.0 kHz	0430Z	1030Z	1630Z	2230Z
1205	HF 13089.0 kHz	0430Z	1030Z	1630Z	2230Z
1625	HF 17314.0 kHz	-	-	1630Z	2230Z

US Coast Guard Station – "NMO" - Honolulu, HI

CHANNEL	FREQUENCY	TIMES – ZULU TIME (UTC) (subtract 10hrs for HST)			
601	HF 6501.0 kHz	-	0600Z	1200Z	-
816	HF 8764.0 kHz	0005Z	0600Z	1200Z	1800Z
1205	HF 13089.0 kHz	0005Z	-	-	1800Z

9.3 WEATHER WARNINGS

Pacific Area High Seas Warnings are given on time signal station WWV (Fort Collins, CO) at 10 minutes past the hour. WWV transmits at 10kW on 5, 10 and 15 mHz and at 2.5kW on 2.5 and 20 mHz.

The same warnings are broadcast on WWVH (Kekaha, HI) at 48 – 51 minutes past the hour. WWVH transmits at 10kW on 5, 10 and 15 mHz and at 5kW on 2.5 and 10 mHz.

Time of day and location will affect which of these stations you hear. This information is also available at <http://nws.noaa.gov/om/marine/wwv.htm>

9.4 WEATHER FAX

Broadcast schedules and frequencies from the Pt. Reyes fax station, covering the Eastern Pacific Area, can be found on the Internet at <http://weather.noaa.gov/pub/fax/hfreyes.txt>

Broadcast schedules and frequencies from the Honolulu fax station, covering the Central Pacific Area, can be found on the Internet at <http://weather.noaa.gov/pub/fax/hfhi.txt>

10. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

10.1 A non-profit organization known as the SailMail Association (<http://www.sailmail.com/>) offers HF email service.

10.2 NoR 9.2.1 and SI14.1 prohibit any communication that directly or indirectly benefits an individual boat. Any such communication would be in contravention of RRS 41 'Outside Help'. A specific example of prohibited communication would be weather information not readily available to all boats; regardless of the source and regardless of how well meaning the intent might be in assembling or transmitting the data.

11. RACE INFORMATION POSITION REPORTING

11.1 Race information, including daily position report updates, will be available on the Vic-Maui website at: <http://www.vicmaui.org/>.

11.2 Competitors may access fleet position information in compliance with SI14.3. Yellowbrick position reports suitable for low bandwidth communications links may be available via:

Simple <http://yb.tl/Simple/vm2012>

Expedition <http://yb.tl/vm2012-expedition.txt>
<http://yb.tl/vm2012-boatids.txt>

Maxsea <http://yb.tl/vm2012-maxsea.txt>
<http://yb.tl/vm2012-identifiant.txt>

12. EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

12.1 ALL EMERGENCIES

The Canadian or US Coast Guard should be contacted for all emergencies. These authorities may be contacted or alerted by any available means including VHF radio, SSB radio, satellite telephone and EPIRB.

12.2 CANADIAN COAST GUARD:

- VHF channel 16
- MF 2182 kHz
- JRCC Victoria emergency telephone +1.250.413.8933 or +1.800.569-5111

12.3 US COAST GUARD:

- VHF channel 16
- MF 2182 kHz
- NMC (Pt. Reyes, CA) monitors HF 4125, 6215, 8291, 12290 kHz (24 hours)
- NMO (Honolulu, HI) monitors HF 6215, 8291 kHz (24 hours), HF 4125 (0600-1800Z) and HF 12290 (1800-0600Z)
- Pacific SAR Coordinator emergency +1.510.437.3700
 - RCC Seattle (Washington and Oregon) emergency +1.206.220.7001
 - RCC Alameda (California, Eastern Pacific Ocean) emergency +1.510.437.3700
 - RCC Honolulu (Hawaii, Central Pacific Ocean) emergency +1.808.535.3333

12.4 MEDICAL ADVICE

In the event of a medical situation or emergency at any time during the race, advice is available by contacting the race medical officer: Dr. Cheryl Holmes +1.250.212.9450 – 24 hours. Dr. Holmes is an emergency physician with specific training in medical instruction via radio and telephone.

12.5 Race Committee Emergency Officers

primary Rich Ballantyne +1.604.880.1648; email rballant@telus.net
alternate Greg Harms +1.604.240.2093; email: gharms@loadpath.ca

12.6 After initiating emergency communications with the Coast Guard, a boat should make all reasonable efforts to keep the Race Committee and other boats informed of its situation. Boats are encouraged to continue participation in Roll Call, even if receiving assistance from Coast Guard or diverting to a secondary destination.

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