Ahoy PPJers:

Because *Latitude 38* magazine is located in San Francisco, it is not practical for us to organize radio nets nor act as net control for the fleet. However, every year capable sailors step up to act as net controllers. Usually there is a net for boats leaving out of Mexico and another one for boats leaving out of Panama.

Below is some info on the topic (suggestions from Chris Harry, one of net controllers who left from Mexico in 2015), with a sample Net Control Script:

**Radio Nets:**

1. Via local radio nets in Banderas Bay (and possibly La Paz), Mexico, and in Panama at either Shelter Bay or Balboa, elect or recruit a shoreside Net Manager.  The Net Manager can back up the offshore Controllers and run the second part of the check-ins which consists of boats waiting to go after the Net Controllers move offshore and out of range. The Manager should proxy (via email) for boats without SSB but that have satellite email.

2. Elect or recruit at least seven Net Controllers. This spreads the workload so that no Net Controller has to do the job more than once a week and gives six other people the confidence to do relays or take over if there is an issue with the designated Net Control of the day.

3. Have the Net Controller's work from a script, using an alphabetical roll call. It should start with singlehanders, then boats underway with a call at the end for new boats to join, and finally a call-in for boats still onshore waiting to go.

4. The Net Controller of the day should take the finished Roll of boats that check in with each boat's position, weather and sea states and email it to the Net Manager ashore for compilation and redistribution to the fleet via email for those who have a desire for this information.

5. Make sure that new Net Controllers are willing to take the job from the back of the fleet, as the seven original Controllers roll out of range in the Marquesas. We had a strong first month with the original participants, but the net fell into disuse because no one leaving late wanted to be a Controller. If possible elect more than seven controllers with an eye for distributing the departure times.

6. Pick a back-up frequency that is sufficiently far away in the spectrum to insure different propagation. Say 8B and 12A.

See online link (on PPJ website) for a sample radio 'script' used by net controllers last year.

*** *Please let us know when net times and frequencies have been established.*

- Andy Turpin & the PPJ event team

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