



## LOS ANGELES-HONOLULU TRANSPACIFIC YACHT RACE (TRANSPAC)

### 2017 Fact Sheet

**WHAT:** Transpacific Yacht Club organizes biennial sailing races to Honolulu called the “Transpac.” First run in 1906 after an invitation for a sailing race extended by King Kalakaua who was interested in creating stronger ties with the mainland. 2017 is the 49<sup>th</sup> edition of this race, which is 2225 miles from the start at Point Fermin in San Pedro to the finish at Diamond Head in Honolulu.

**WHEN:** The fleet of 55 boats are divided into 8 classes of roughly equal size and speed, who start in three separate waves in inverse order of speed: on Monday July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Wednesday July 5<sup>th</sup> and Thursday July 6<sup>th</sup>. Starts are at 1:00 PM, except on Thursday when Multihulls start at 1:30.

**WHERE:** Participating boats are moored primarily at Rainbow Harbor in Long Beach, but also in slips in the Shoreline Marina and some in Cabrillo Beach Marina in San Pedro. Others come from personal slips in Newport Beach, Alamitos Bay and Long Beach. All boats assemble near the start area near the Point Fermin buoy, 1 mile off the coast about 1 hour prior to their start.

The finish venue is in the Ala Wai Marina in Waikiki, with some larger and deeper draft vessels moored in Honolulu Harbor. Aloha hospitality starts the moment crews arrive, day or night, with private parties organized for each boat.

**HOW:** The fleet will sail west and must pass north of the West End of Catalina, approx. 26 miles from the start. The race strategy is to sail a route that is as fast as possible over the shortest distance – this is determined by the performance characteristics of the boat, the forecasted weather conditions and sometimes positions of their competition, especially on final approach into the finish.

Crews sail the boats non-stop through all conditions, day and night, using skills acquired in previous races or passages...all have to meet a minimum criteria for offshore sailing miles to qualify to sail this race.

**WHO:** Sailors are of both genders and all ages, with the youngest being 12 years old and oldest in his – uh – probably 70’s. Experiences range from a few hundred to a few hundred thousand sea miles sailing, both as amateur and professional sailors.

Entered boats this year are from the US, Canada, Japan, Australia, Peru, Italy and Norway, and range from 33 to 100 feet in length.

This year's fleet also includes boats that are capable to break the existing course records for monohulls and multihulls. Lloyd Thornburg's 70-foot trimaran PHAEDO set a new course record in May with a time of 3 days 16 hours 52 min 3 sec, and is seeking to break now the course record set in 1997 by the catamaran Commodore Explorer of 5 days 9 hours 18 min 26 sec. Likewise, Jim Clark's 100-foot monohull Comanche is seeing to break the monohull race and course record set in 2009 by Alfa Romeo II of 5 days 14 hours 36 min 20 sec.

**WHY:** Besides the significant challenge of organizing, preparing and then sailing a small sailing yacht unassisted to Hawaii, participants entered in the Transpac are often also fulfilling a dream of being at sea for many days alone with just the elements of wind, sea and sky and enjoying the camaraderie of their shipmates on board. The experience will test each participant's skills in seamanship, teamwork and mental and physical toughness.

The first days of cold and often rough weather sailing away from the California coast gradually turn to being warmer and easier as the wind and seas swing aft for a downwind ride to Hawaii. This has an enduring appeal and is a unique feature of this race among any other in the world, and thereby has been luring participants from many countries every two years this race is run.

Winners of the race come in several categories based on not just their elapsed speed on the course, but using a handicap system their corrected finish times are also recorded and scored. In recognition of the top finishers in each class, the TPYC organizes an outstanding Awards Ceremony at the Modern Hotel where dozens of beautiful and historic trophies are awarded with recognition of the winners inscribed on plaques, in addition to keeper trophies for the skippers and crews.

For more information, visit the TPYC website at <http://2017.transpacyc.com>.