

The 2016 Texas 200 By Leon Jones

My decision to drop out was not a total surprise. When I started planning for this event I built in contingency plans that I felt I could LIVE with. The event is quite challenging for the “young pups” and being 68 with some personal health challenges I was not surprised to find this year’s extreme heat was taking it’s toll on this old man and that the wise thing to do was to bail out.

My vessel, Wendy, had NO ISSUES.

I had plenty fluids & food.

I was under a full length bimini and wore full length clothing & a wide brimmed hat, all weather and conditions appropriate.

I maintained constant, as constant as possible, contact with my support crew that was available to provide aid if necessary.

As the heat began robbing me of energy & strength, I began to realize I might not be able to take care of an emergency situation, should one materialize and that bailing out @ Port Aransas would be the wisest choice, for SAFETY’S sake.

With SAFETY being first & foremost, the decision was made to tie up In Port Aransas on Wednesday night(after a fashionably late lunch @ Snoopy’s) and put Wendy on her trailer on Thursday morning.

Hindsight is 20/20 & the Monday morning quarterback can always make the best calls. As I look back on the event & my personal situation, I feel i made the best decision for me and that I will LIVE to play some more.

Next year’s “plan A” is to join the event as the group passes the Port Aransas ferry landings and continue on to Maggie Beach and the shrimp boil.

The TEXAS 200 is but one item on my personal bucket list and I will complete it, even though it will take me 2 years to do it.