

# 2023 BAJA HA-HA XXIX

THE 'NOTHING SERIOUS' RALLY TO WHERE IT'S WARM IN WINTER

## BAJA HA-HA XXIX RALLY NOTICE

OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 11, 2023

The Baja Ha-Ha is the cruiser rally from San Diego to Cabo San Lucas, with stops at Turtle Bay and Bahia Santa Maria. When you do the Ha-Ha, you get the opportunity to have the adventure of a lifetime, — not a guarantee of happiness.

### SCHEDULE

**OCT 29** — Mandatory Skipper's check-in and meeting in the West Marine parking lot

**OCT 29** — Halloween Costume Kick-Off Party and 'Last Cheeseburger in Paradise' BBQ

**OCT 30** — 10 am Boat Parade off Shelter Island with Mexican officials and fireboats

**OCT 30** — 11 am start off Pt. Loma for 360 miles to Turtle Bay

**NOV 2** — World Famous cruiser and Mexican Turtle Bay 'Ha-Ha style' baseball game

**NOV 3** — Turtle Bay Beach Party

**NOV 4** — 9 am start of the 240-mile second leg to Bahia Santa Maria

**NOV 7** — Beach Party at Bahia Santa Maria. Rock 'n roll in the middle of nowhere!

**NOV 8** — 7 am start of the 180-mile third leg from Bahia Santa Maria to Cabo

**NOV 9** — 7:30 pm 'Can't Believe We Cheated Death Again' dance fest at Squid Roe, Cabo

**NOV 10** — Cabo Beach Party at the Upper Patio at Mango Deck

**NOV 11** — Awards ceremony, Cabo

**1. BOATS** — In order to qualify, boats must be between 27 and 125 feet in length, need to have been designed, built and maintained for rigorous offshore sailing, and must be able to maintain an average speed of at least 4.5 knots under sail and/or power.

**2. COMMUNICATION** — Each boat is required to have two-way long-distance communication via voice (SSB & HAM), or SMS text to an InReach. Texting devices include InReach, Go!, or satphone. Not Zoleo, Bivy, or SpotX as they are not able to send and receive a text to an inReach. Cell phones will not work offshore and away from cell towers. Depending on the actions of SpaceX, Starlink may become a possibility.

**3. CREW** — The minimum number of people on board is two. Each person must be in good enough physical condition to withstand the rigors of the open ocean, wading through the surf, and be willing to face any challenge the sea might present. In order to participate in the Ha-Ha, all participants must be willing and able to sail from San Diego to Cabo San Lucas on their own.

**4. RULES** — The rally shall be governed by the *Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024* — except where amended by the Grand Poobah — with the *Prescriptions of US Sailing* (available from <http://store.ussailing.org> and elsewhere)

**5. MANAGEMENT** — The rally shall be managed by the strictly amateur Ha-Ha Rally Committee. This volunteer group shall have the power to interpret the rules, decide protests, and determine which brand of cerveza shall be the 'official beverage'.

**6. DIVISIONS** — Entries are grouped into divisions based on the number and type of boats entered, and if gennakers/spinnakers are used.

**7. CAUTIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES** — All entrants are reminded that the ocean between

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San Diego and Cabo San Lucas exposes mariners to all the perils of the sea. On rare occasions, the region is subject to adverse weather capable of overwhelming even the best-designed and best-built yachts.

Entrants are reminded that they must not assume the skippers or crews of the boat they might be on are professional or even greatly experienced ocean sailors.

There are inherent risks, both on the water and while ashore, when doing a Ha-Ha. Anyone not seeking a high-risk activity and/or not willing to accept full responsibility for injury and/or death — no matter what the cause — is not eligible for entry.

It is the sole and complete responsibility of each skipper and each crewmember to confirm that the boat they sail on was designed, built and maintained for rigorous offshore conditions. If there is any uncertainty on the part of the owner or crew, it is the sole responsibility of each to obtain a trip survey and crew survey from a qualified marine surveyor prior to starting.

There will be no inspection of boats, boat gear, or safety gear by the rally committee.

Baja Ha-Ha, LLC, strongly recommends that every boatowner obtain a copy of *The World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations for 2022 – 2023* (aka ISAF Special Regs) and follow its prescriptions. [Download a copy here.](#)

**PREPAREDNESS** — The skipper and at least some of the crew should be experienced in rigorous offshore sailing, overnight sailing, and offshore navigation. Furthermore, each crew must be prepared to handle serious breakdowns — such as the loss of the rudder and/or mast — without outside assistance. While entrants won't necessarily be 'alone' on the Ha-Ha, they should assume that they will be.

**8. HANDICAPS** — All entries shall compete under the Ha-Ha Handicap System, created — and probably modified during the rally — by the Grand Poobah. While bribes are not discouraged, they may not necessarily have the desired effect.

Motoring will be allowed, but with a penalty. Because different size boats motor at different speeds motoring is limited to 6 knots.

Entries shall be permitted to appeal their handicaps by bringing a case of Corona beer or fine wine to the Rally Committee — if they can find them — the night before the start of the rally.

Caution: It's not wise to make too big a stink about a rating.

**9. PROTESTS** — Protests must be announced to the Ha-Ha Rally Committee on the dance floor at Squid Roe, Cabo San Lucas, at midnight — the night after the Awards Ceremony. So you probably don't want to waste your time with a protest.

**10. PRIZES** — There will be all kinds of prizes — including a trophy for every boat that makes it to Cabo. However, none of the prizes will have anything more than symbolic value. The Baja Ha-Ha is foremost about fun rather than competition and winning 'pickle dishes'. It is a rally and most definitely not a 'race'.

**11. YOUR PART** — Everyone who enters will be expected to help out in some way or another, which can mean anything from assisting with radio relays to wearing a big smile on their face.

**12. — THERE SHALL BE NO WHINING!**  
And no sniveling either!

**DETAILS** — Specifics regarding starts, finishes, radio protocol and such will be addressed in the Rally Instructions distributed at the Skipper's Meeting the Sunday morning before the start.

[WWW.BAJA-HAHA.COM](http://WWW.BAJA-HAHA.COM)

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