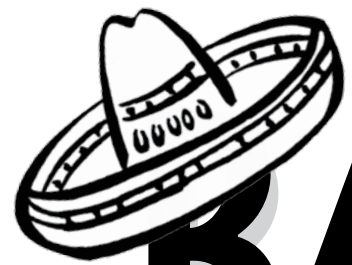




**MEET THE FLEET**



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— CRUISIN' TO THE CAPE —

If you're reading this, you are probably participating in the 29th annual Baja Ha-Ha cruisers rally — and by doing so, you've escaped from the rat race, at least temporarily. So, congratulations!

The Rally Committee produced this "Meet the Fleet" program as a memento of a bold adventure. If you are like most participants from years past, it will serve as both a souvenir and a resource for getting acquainted with other fleet members. We suggest that you keep it handy so you can read about the boats and crews you'll see out on the ocean during your voyage to the Cape, and later, in anchorages and marinas.

The mini-bios included here were first published in *Latitude 38* magazine, the Baja Ha-Ha's founding sponsor, and are used here with permission.

The *Latitude* staff joins the Rally Committee in wishing every participant a safe and fun-filled voyage through the sunny latitudes of Mexico. And the editors encourage you to keep in touch as you wind your way farther down the Central American coast or around the world, so that future cruisers can learn from your experiences.

We'd love to feature you, your photos and adventures in an upcoming edition of *Changes in Latitudes*. You can email your story and hi-res photos to: [editorial@latitude38.com](mailto:editorial@latitude38.com)

Wishing you fair winds, sunny skies and excellent health!

— Baja Ha-Ha Rally Committee

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Welcome to the 2023 Baja Ha-Ha 'Meet the Fleet' guide.

Please understand there are going to be many inaccuracies in the guide because there will have been many changes in crew and even boats between the time the guide was published and the October 30 start of the rally. We appreciate your understanding.

Many of the mistakes in this publication will probably be the fault of the Grand Poobah, although in some cases he was given incorrect, vague, confusing or contradictory information. He did his best with what he had to work with and appreciates your understanding.

In some cases, the Poobah paraphrased words to sentences in the interest of clarity and frivolity. In all cases, the Poobah did his best to adhere to the author's intent.

## CODE:

\* Each asterisk means there is a 'kid' onboard. We define a 'kid' as someone chronologically, not just emotionally, 16 years or younger.

(W) Stands for white sails only, as opposed to sailing with a spinnaker or genaker.

**Years**, such as (2013) indicate at least the minimum number of times the skipper or crew has done a Ha-Ha.

**Cities**. In cases where two cities are listed, the first is the boat's homeport, the second is where the owner(s) receives mail and most likely lives or used to live.

**Triggers**. When the words 'wife', 'husband', 'spouse', 'children', and such are used in this guide, they are terms of endearment and respect, not ownership or lesser status.

If the male's name appears first, it's because that's how it appeared in the registration form. In cases where only the man's name was given, the Poobah, whenever it seemed called for, added the name of the wife/partner/significant other. More than a few of you guys 'owe' him.

**Ages**. The Poobah publishes the age of the men when available, but doesn't publish the age of women unless they are 35 or younger. This is sexist, of course, but the Poobah did it out of respect for women who are sometimes sensitive about their age.

## **Adrenalin — Santa Cruz 50** **Mark Howe** **Richmond (2017)**

Mark, 67, is a Developer. He'll have three crew: Ann Thomas; Mark Thomas, 73, a retired Engineer; and Laura Parent, a Professional Captain.

"I've been sailing since I was a 10-year-old junior sailor in Santa Barbara," reports Mark.

He has a lot of ocean experience, having done six Pacific Cup races to Hawaii with *Adrenalin*.

"My dream vacation," Mark advises, "is sitting on my boat at the Riviera Nayarit Marina in La Cruz near Puerto Vallarta."

*Ha-Ha Fun Facts: About 25 years ago Ann did an Antigua Sailing Week with the Poobah aboard his Ocean 71 Big O. She can surely tell some stories, as the 'racing crew' of 35 was at the apex of wholesome debauchery. Some years later she and her husband Mark joined the Poobah and Dona de Mallorca aboard Profligate for a pleasant circumnavigation of Catalina.*



*Ale er Ron - Ron & Holly*

## **\*Ale er Ron — Hunter 460 (W)** **Ron Johnston and Holly Hall** **San Diego**

Ron, 67, is a retired Test Pilot for Boeing. Holly is Retired from an unspecified career. Their crew will be friends Emily Prewett and Tyler Wilson, 39, and their 3-year-old son Gabriel.

'Captain Ron' started sailing at age 17 while in high school at Guam. He has owned and sailed several boats. Ron bought *Ale er Ron* — the name a play on an important aircraft component and his name — in 2005, and it's been his "love and joy" ever since.

Captain Ron, whose nickname has been 'Taco' for 40 years, lived aboard in Seattle until retiring from Boeing in 2017. During the 12 years living aboard in Seattle, he got off the dock nearly every week, summer and winter, to explore Puget Sound or participate in a regatta. Taco is proud to say that he is the one primarily in charge of his boat's maintenance, and only rarely needs to bring in a mechanic.

The day after retiring he started cruising by heading up the Inland Passage to Alaska with numerous stops in British Columbia. Intending to stay in Alaska for only that summer, he and his First Mate fell in love with it, so they ended up spending four summers there. While there he shared numerous beautiful small anchorages with friends and family. The usual segment was a 10-day adventure, leaving one port that had airline service and dropping the friends off at a different port with airline service.

During the four summers, the USCG boarded *Ale er Ron* three times. Each time the vessel, crew, and Captain received the 'gold standard' of inspections, with a perfect inspection report.

After four wonderful summers in Alaska, Captain Ron and his first mate Holly have decided to try cruising in warmer and dryer climates. After a winter haul-out in Anacortes, where numerous maintenance tasks were completed, Captain Ron headed down the West Coast and is currently in San Diego.

His overnight offshore experience includes a one-night voyage from Astoria to Neah Bay, where he and his crew of three weathered 25 to 35 knots of wind and 10-foot seas at 11-second intervals. The boat and crew came through fine. This past summer Captain Ron and a crew of four made a two-night passage from Coos Bay to San Francisco Bay, including rounding Cape Mendocino in 7-foot following seas. Three of those four crew members will be on the Ha-Ha, one of whom is an instructor for his local sailing club in Seattle.

## **Amazing Grace III — Island Packet 440** **Kim and Lena Eddy**

**Seattle / San Diego (2019, 2020, 2022)**

'Master and Commander' Kim, 70, fell in love with sailing while serving in the US Navy in the early '70s. While doing the last Ha-Ha he fell in love with Lena, one of three crewmembers he recruited from the Ha-Ha Crew List. "On July 1 Lena and I drove to Las Vegas, wrapped the anchor chain around each other, and both said, "I do." Lena has retired from Teaching to become a full-time cruiser with me.

"My additional crew will be Peter Morris, 74, a retired YMCA Director; and Dave Craig, 71, also a retired School Teacher. I've had the privilege of sailing with both of them during the last 30 years. This will be Peter's second Ha-Ha and Dave's first. Our youngest crew member will be Lena's niece, Sarabelle Parra, 28, from Minot, North Dakota. She's a Vehicle Maintenance Technician who is very excited to be doing her first long-distance sail.

"If you counted the semi-unofficial 'Nada Ha-Ha' hosted by Assistant Poobah Patsy Verhoeven in the Covid year of 2020, this will be *Amazing Grace's* fourth Ha-Ha since 2019. In past years I've also sailed back to the Pacific Northwest, but this year we'll be exploring Southern California. My longest passage to date has been a solo non-stop passage from Cabo to Seattle in May of 2020. It took 28 days — and a real toll on my body!

"My dream destination is wherever the boat happens to be, although going west is something Lena and I are contemplating. I'm certainly not left-handed as it makes simple tasks so much more difficult."



**Amizade - Mike, Wren & Jennifer**

**\*Amizade — Bavaria 47  
Mike and Jennifer Ward  
Port Townsend, WA / Tonasket, WA  
(2008)**

Michael, 56, is a Fisheries Ecologist, while spouse Jennifer is an Educator. Their crew will be Leia Ward, 10, a Student of Life.

"The motivation for our current cruising adventure comes from a conversation on a dock in Auckland's Westhaven Marina in 2010 at the end of our last Pacific crossing. I was telling a Kiwi sailor "The best thing I've ever done is go cruising on a bluewater sailboat."

"That's the second best thing I've ever done," responded the father of a couple of grown kids. "The best thing is cruising with kids. You should try it!"

"Since then Jennifer and I endeavored to do just that, by getting married, starting a family, and working hard to find and buy our next boat. Finally, here we are, ready to start an epic kid-cruise. Naturally, we are very keen to meet and buddy-boat with the other kid boats in the fleet."

Mike has been sailing his whole life, and Jennifer has been sailing since she prepared to join Mike in Tahiti on his previous boat, the Kelly-Peterson 44 *Thin Wolf* at the end of the 2009 Pacific Puddle Jump. Jennifer then cruised the next 5,000 miles from Papeete to Auckland with Mike. Wren is being raised as a 'boat kid' by sailing, white-water rafting, and canoeing ever since she was a toddler.

"We purchased our 2000 Bavaria 47 *Amizade* in Puerto Vallarta in January of 2023," reports Mike, "then sailed her uphill in preparation for the 2023 Ha-Ha. Alas, relentless conditions north of Point Conception turned us back. Unable to find a suitable slip in Southern California, we berthed in Ensenada for the summer.

In addition to *Amizade*, we previously co-owned the Kelly Peterson *Thin Wolf* with acclaimed artist Luke Tornatzky. We

sailed her in the 2008 Baja Ha-Ha and the 2009 Pacific Puddle Jump. Mike's most recent rally was double-handing in the Salish 100 in 2022 with a Compaq-16. The Wards have also explored the San Juan Islands on charter boats and try to take an annual multi-day whitewater rafting trip on one of the rivers in the Pacific Northwest.

Mike's longest passage was 3000.0 miles — to the tenth of a mile! — from Puerto Vallarta to Hiva Oa in 2009. Jennifer's longest sailing passage was a 1,500 mile passage from Tonga's Ha'apai Islands to the Bay of Islands in New Zealand — but that doesn't count her thousands of miles at sea on fishing boats in Bristol Bay and the Gulf of Alaska. Wren's longest passage so far was across Georgia Strait from the Salt Springs Islands to Vancouver, although she's planning to cruise out to the Island of the Blue Dolphin next month.

"After the Ha-Ha, we plan to cruise Mexico until the spring of 2024. If all goes well, we'll follow our dream of crossing the Pacific as a 'kid boat'. Otherwise, we'll either gunkhole back to the Southern California bight or sail to Puget Sound via Hawaii."

Jen is a lefty. Both Jen and Mike are meditators.

Wren's favorite dessert is *helados de yogurt*, which she recently discovered in Ensenada.

**Angelique — Columbia 57  
Andy Kurtz  
Lahaina, Maui / Sebastopol**

Andy, 64, is a retired Business Owner and Captain. He expects to have a crew of five including Kazuko Jones, Kim Brazeau and Michael Scott, 67.

"I've been sailing and a boat owner since I was 8," reports Andy. "I can't keep track of all the boats I've owned, but I believe *Angelique* is number eight. I've owned her for 16 years, during which time I've rebuilt everything but her hull.

"My longest singlehanded passage has been 27 days from Samoa to Hawaii, but I did a passage as the captain of a 151-ft square rigged ship with a crew of about 30.

"I have no plans to return to anywhere after the Ha-Ha, so I'll go wherever the winds and my mood take me. I did have a photo of exotic Raja Ampat, Indonesia in my 'in box' for the last 10 years I was working, so I guess I'll eventually go there. Raja Ampat is considered to be the global center of tropical marine biodiversity.

"If I had a sailing hero it would probably be Captain Ron, a happy-go-lucky goof with a heart of gold. Of course, the late Jimmy Buffet is every sailor's hero or should be.

"Having ice cream 1,000 miles from

shore is the height of decadence, so I guess that's my favorite dessert. While I'm not left-handed, I do seem to still be on the wrong side of a lot of stuff.

"I may be the only guy on the Ha-Ha who has actually been attacked by a pirate. The G-rated version of that story will cost a beer. The R-rated version could only be told after I've had a few beers.

*Ha-Ha History Lesson: When introduced in 1973, the William Tripp designed Columbia 57 was the largest production yacht in the world. Twelve of them were built, one of which was owned by Bay Area sailing legend Irving Loube of Bravura fame. Loube used to have his 57 shuttled between Northern and Southern California in the summer so he could do a maximum number of races. He later went on to great success with a series of custom racing yachts named Bravura.*

*Columbia Yachts was started as Glass Laminates by Dick Valdes and Maurice Threinen in 1958 when the company made camper shells and canoes for Sears. Eventually, they began to produce sailboats in almost every foot range. By the late 1960s Columbia was the biggest sailboat manufacturer in the world, with plants all over the globe. The founders eventually sold Columbia to the Whittaker Corporation, with Valdez staying on as president. Whittaker would later acquire Bertram Yachts, Trojan Yachts, Riva, Desco Marine, Kettenburg, Balboa Marine, and Frank Butler's Coronado Yachts. Valdez left in 1972, after which Whittaker's marine interests went into steep decline. After a year at Whittaker, Butler started what was to become the wildly successful Catalina line of sailboats.*



**Annies Song - Emily & Will**

**Annie's Song — Catalina/Morgan 440 (W)  
Will and Emily Blake  
Channel Islands / Flat Rock, N. Carolina**

Will, 28, is in the Software field. Emily



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is — get this — a Pipefitter. The Poobah salutes women in the Trades. William and Emily will doublehand.

“We have been sailing together, always with our four-legged companion Ludog, for the past 12 years,” they say. “So far our sailing has been on the East Coast, in the Caribbean, and on the Great Lakes, so we’re eager to see what the West Coast has to offer. The bonfire story we like to tell is of when we had no option but to go the wrong way through a Force 8 gale in the Exumas during the off-season. What a ride that was!

“Early this summer we purchased the most recent of the three boats we’ve owned, the spacious Catalina/Morgan 440. We are very proud of her. We have not done a Ha-Ha before and are signing up after many personal recommendations. After the Ha-Ha we plan to explore the Sea of Cortez for the remainder of the fair weather season. After that, who knows?

“Our dream is to circumnavigate, and the more we are looking into all the potential destinations, the harder it is to say which one represents the most dreamlike. French Polynesia is a likely candidate.

“Our dream boat is the Sirius 40DS with the lifting keel, but in all honesty, we think our 440 is right up there. Skip Novak, who did four Whitbread Around the World Races and for the last 20 years has been doing charters in Antarctica, is our sailing hero. The fictional Martin Harvey being the second.

“A nicely made Tiramisu is our favorite dessert. Both of us are right-handed and neither have fun nicknames, but we have an infinite number for our dog.

“We are really looking forward to the Ha-Ha!”

*Ha-Ha Factoid: Retired Navy fighter-pilot Roger Can't Remember his last name, was a fixture at Two Harbors on Catalina with his Catalina/Morgan 440 about 12 or 15 years ago. Then he did a Ha-Ha with her, then a circumnavigation. He met a woman in the Canaries the day before he was going to cross the Atlantic, and apparently believing in love at first sight, and asked her to marry him. She said 'yes'. They crossed together and got married. Anybody know where Roger is now?*

### **Another Cheeseburger in Paradise Hunter 41 Terry Wasik Verdi, NV (2019)**

Terry, at the ripe old age of 75, same as the Poobah, is still Building Luxury Custom Homes in the Reno area. As his wife Barbara will not be making the trip, his First Mate will be daughter Kendra Doyle, a Graphic Designer at Palisades Tahoe Ski Area. She has worked extensively with Terry on all aspects of the *Cheeseburger's* systems.

Other crew will be Linda Humphrey, a retired Anesthesiologist and Realtor who has joined Terry and Barbara for sailing expeditions to Tahiti, Tonga, the Grenadines, the San Juan Islands, and other places. Rounding out the crew will be Patrick North, 75, an Accountant who is a longtime friend and who has sailed many places in the world as well as having done a Baja Bash.

Shortly after retiring from military service in 1969, Terry found himself living in Hawaii. He obtained a captain's license and ran fishing charters out of Honolulu. While he learned many skills during that time, the one voted most appreciated by the crew was his ability to pull a tuna from the water and turn it into sashimi on the spot, complete with wasabi and dipping sauce.

A subsequent marriage and move to Reno prompted a change in direction, although Terry never lost his love for the sea. He has owned, maintained, and operated a sailboat — this one is *Cheeseburger #2* — on Lake Tahoe for 25 years. You can find him there every weekend, and often on weekdays between Memorial Day and Labor Day, working on his many projects or taking his numerous friends out for a cruise. Winters bring frequent trips up to the Lake to shovel the snow off the deck, although mysteriously not as many friends come along.

Terry has been sailing for 50 years, during which time he's owned four boats. He's had his Hunter 41 for 14 years and considers her “a great boat”. Terry has plenty of offshore chops, having done two Puddle Jumps to Tahiti and back to Honolulu, as well as five Baja Bashes. After the Ha-Ha he plans to hang in La Paz for the winter.

Terry's dream destination is Tahiti, and he'd love to do it aboard a Jeanneau 50. His sailing hero is Jock McClain. Jock from long ago at the San Francisco Boat Works?

“Work hard and play hard” is Terry's philosophy. He's a left-hander who enjoys rum for dessert.

### **Aquila of Vancouver — Young Sun 43 Aaron Sugrue and Linda LaFontaine Vancouver, BC**

Aaron, 59, is a retired Critical Care Flight Paramedic. Spouse Linda is a retired Paramedic Supervisor. They will be sailing with Shayne Price, 52, and with Nova, their 5-year-old 73 lb. Bernedoodle who loves to sail but loves beaches and hikes even more.

The Ron Amy design from 1978 was handed down from Aaron's parents, who sailed the world with her for eight years.

“The boat was then stored in a shed for roughly 13 years before she was gifted to us.” Aaron and Linda have been restoring her for the past 11 years including living aboard the past 3 while sailing and



**Aquila of Vancouver - Linda & Aaron**

exploring the coast of British Columbia. They intend to circumnavigate with her.

“We crewed from Los Frailes to San Blas, Mexico in January 2023 on a friend's boat, and recently circumnavigated Vancouver Island.

“Our plan called for us to depart Neah Bay on September 8, en route to the Ha-Ha. After the Ha-Ha we intend to enjoy Mexico for a while then head south, either through the Panama Canal or off to the South Pacific, we haven't decided yet.

“We are a very late entry,” reports the couple, “we'll have to tell everyone about it over sundowners.”

### **\*Ara — X-Yacht 46 (W) Nigel and Yulia Beck San Francisco**

Nigel, 53, is an Executive, as is Yulia. Aaron, 7, is a Student of Life. Crew will be Kenneth, 64, and Patty Hall. Yulia and Nigel are the only married couple in the Ha-Ha who met in a Georgian restaurant in Moscow. Yulia was born in Ukraine and Nigel in Canada. They spent five years on opposite sides of the Atlantic before moving to San Francisco in 2011 and getting married.

The couple started sailing together in 2006. Since then they've been up and down the East Coast from Rhode Island to Maine and in both directions between Florida and New York. The latter is their longest trip to date. Nigel and Yulia have also sailed in the Caribbean, while Nigel has sailed the Arctic, and Yulia has raced on the Solent in England.

In the spring of 2021, the couple brought *Ara* down the coast from San Francisco to Oxnard with young Aaron, 5 at the time, as crew. Yulia's dream destinations are Mexico and the Caribbean, while Nigel pines for the Arctic. Talk about conflicting dreams.

Their favorite quote at the moment is, “To the victor, the spoils.” But only in ancient Greek.

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# BAJA HA-HA XXIX

Nigel and Yulia eschew nicknames, but the right-handers agree that chocolate is best for dessert.

The word 'Ara' has at least 30 different meanings, the most common being 'king' and 'brings rain'. But it's also a constellation in the southern hemisphere.

The couple's hero is "nutcase" H.W. Tillman, often considered the greatest explorer and adventurer of the 20th Century. Tillman served with distinction in World War I, and fought behind enemy lines in World War II. Between the wars, he explored and climbed the remote peaks of the Himalayas. He didn't take up sailing until after World War II, when he bought the ancient gaff-rigged Bristol Channel Cutter *Mischief*. He sailed that classic little yacht for 20 years, often in the Arctic and Antarctic waters. Noted for being self-effacing, Tillman wrote 15 highly respected travel books. He was lost at sea while sailing aboard a poorly-maintained yacht headed toward another mountain he hadn't climbed.

## **\*\*Attitude — Hans Christian 4750 Alex and Susan Jordan Alameda / Oakland**

Alex, 58, is a Principal in Blue Pelican Marine, having previously worked for West Marine when there were only three stores, and later Svendsens for 17 years. Susan is a retired CPA partner who specialized in trusts and estates. One of their crew will be son Brendan, 23, who is a student at Laney College in Oakland. The rest of their crew will be Doug and Pollie Robbins, and their offspring Will, 12, and Margaret, 11. The Robbins live aboard their Catalina 42 in Sausalito.

"I've been sailing since I was six years old," says Alex, "and spent much of my life sailing an Islander 30 that my father bought new in 1974." Susan has been sailing since she met Alex in 1995, and over the years they have sailed together in the Exumas, Bahamas, and the Caribbean from the BVIs to Grenada. She just completed the US Sailing BK and BC courses at Club Nautique.

"Attitude is the fifth boat we've owned," Alex says. "We bought her in Newport Beach last year and have been retrofitting and upgrading her ever since. Previous owner Neil Farley did the Ha-Ha with her in 2010."

When you think of Hans Christian yachts you probably think of heavy boats with massive amounts of exterior wood. Not the 4750 *Attitude*, a blue-hulled beauty launched in 1999. On the outside she's a very modern-looking center-cockpit yacht, but with a rich wood interior typical of previous generations of Hans Christians.

Alex's favorite movies are *Tommy Boy* followed closely by *Captain Ron*. His favorite singer David Bowie, his favorite food is a good rib-eye. He is a huge history buff who loves Shakespeare, Delac-

roix, and author Dumas. Susan's favorite movie is *The Wizard of Oz* and her favorite music group is Earth, Wind, and Fire. Brendan likes Bob Marley and is a fan of UFC mixed martial arts fighting, especially Connor McGregor. He is also an off-grid prepper who likes Bushcraft. His favorite movie is *Fox and the Hound* and his current favorite series is *Breaking Bad*.

Spider, a two-year-old mixed Chihuahua terrier is the ship's dog. She likes left-over rib-eye and her favorite movie is *Puss 'n Boots*.

After the Ha-Ha, the Jordans will be joined by their daughter Tori, and they will head north to Marina Puerto Escondido just south of Loreto on the Sea of Cortez. But the Bahamas is their dream destination.

The Jordans live in the Oakland hills, an area the Poobah knows well as his high school stomping grounds. They even attended the same high school as the Poobah, although nearly two decades later.



*Audreyanna Hope - Jim*

## **AudreyAnna Hope — Catalina 42 MKII Jim Ephraim Oak Park, IL / Sugar Grove, IL**

Jim, 61, is an Engineer and General Manager of a manufacturing company in Chicago. His crew will be John Santon, who did the Ha-Ha last year on his Hunter 356 *Wild Grace*; they are looking for a third crewmember.

Jim learned to sail in 1988 while in grad school in Boston, and crewed on racing boats off Cape Ann. He also sailed an Ericson 30 out of Chicago in the 1990s and lived and sailed in and out of San Diego with his family for over 12 years. He's always dreamed of longer voyages.

"Because *AudreyAnna Hope's* past owners focused on racing, she was in need of my help preparing and outfitting her for open waters," Jim says. "The start of the Ha-Ha gave me both the inspiration

and a deadline to get her ready. My longest passages up to this point have been across Lake Michigan, so I am grateful to be able to make the Baja journey with such an experienced group of sailors.

"After the Ha-Ha I hope to keep the boat in the Sea of Cortez throughout the winter, visiting her as often as possible, and with my boat partner Steve Brodt planning our next leg to — well, we don't know where. This brings us to our favorite quote, which is by David Bowie: "I don't know where I'm going from here, but I promise it won't be boring".

"Our favorite poem is *One Ship Sails East* by Ella Wheeler Wilcox. The Poobah was not aware that people still had favorite poems.

"The *AudreyAnna Hope* is our dream-boat come true," Jim reports, "and the Ha-Ha will be the start of fulfilling our dream of a journey to Mexico, along the Central America coast, and through the Panama Canal."

## **August Dream — Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 439**

### **Jason and Alyssa Bowman Long Beach / Star, Idaho (2022)**

Jason, 55, is Self-Employed as is his spouse Alyssa. Their crew will be Michelle Hamilton, who is Self-Employed; Mike Clark, 57, a Sales Manager; and Rich Landaal, 59, a Mechanic.

"My husband and I have been sailing for a relatively short time," reports Alyssa. "We've co-owned *August Dream*, our second boat, for 3 1/2 years. Our first boat was a daysailer since we live in Idaho and only have access to nearby lakes.

"Jason sailed his first Ha-Ha last year with our boat partner. This year he and I will be doing it with some great friends from Arizona. After the Ha-Ha we're taking the boat to La Paz, which will be her base for exploring a second winter in the Sea of Cortez. To date, my longest passage has been from Long Beach to Ensenada.

"Our dream destination has changed so many times over the last two decades that we now only think about the next six months. By the time we set sail for Cabo we should be Empty Nesters, so I assume we'll continue to update our dream destinations on the way down Baja.

"Here's some big sailing news. Jared, our boat partner, and we have ordered a Moody 54DS. She's to be delivered in Germany in December. But that's a long story.

"I'm currently listening to a podcast on the history of pirates. I'm really impressed with Sir Francis Drake."

## **Barramundi — Seawind 1000 Cat Steve and Pam Ellsworth San Diego / Lake Havasu (2010)**

Steve, 70, is the retired President of an Unspecified Company, while Pam, bless her altruistic heart, was a Nurse before



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she retired. Their son Jeff, 48, a Production Manager, will be along as crew.

Steve and Pam have been lake boating since 1978. They started sailing on friends' boats on the ocean in 1990 and joined the Windward Sailing Club in 1997 in part to get instruction.

In 2002 they purchased *Barramundi* new. She remains their dream boat, having already taken her on the 2010 Ha-Ha and seven months of cruising in Mexico, as well as many trips in Southern California. After the Ha-Ha they plan to explore the Sea of Cortez.

Their dream destination is La Cruz, and their sailing hero is Josh Slocum, the first person to circumnavigate single-handed and a terrific author. Jeff likes the nickname 'Jefe', Crème Brûlée for dessert, and the quote, 'Live half your dreams, dream half your life.' Pam is left-handed, so watch out.

*Barramundi* aka Asian sea bass, is a species of tropical marine fin fish. The species is widely distributed in the Indo-West Pacific region from South Asia to Papua New Guinea and Northern Australia. The fish is known as *pla kapong* in Thai and as *bhetki* in Bengali. Something to remember.

### **Bear North — Hans Christian 48 Frank Kortbeek and Judy Townsend Edmonton, Alberta, Canada**

Frank, 61, is an Orthopedic Surgeon; spouse Judy Townsend is a retired Physiatrist. A what? Physiatrists are specialist physicians who treat patients who have had injuries or suffer from disabilities that affect physical and cognitive functioning. Their two crew will be brother and co-owner of *Bear North* John Kortbeek, 63 a retired General Surgeon; and sister-in-law Vici Kortbeek, a Nurse. *Bear North* is going to be like a floating health center where any and all ills can be treated.

"My brother John and I were taught to sail by our father on Lake Wabamun, a prairie lake just outside Edmonton city limits," reports Frank. We started with dinghies such as a Laser and 505s, then small catamarans. We have raced locally, provincially, and at odd international events ever since. We slowly moved on to bigger boats doing charters on the coast.

"In 2010 we began our big boat project with a Hans Christian 48 that had been started in Thailand and was the last 48 hull the company laid. She was eventually finished eight years later by First Yachts in Vancouver.

"While we have some offshore experience circumnavigating Vancouver Island and up to Observatory Inlet near Ketchikan, and my brother to Hawaii from Victoria, we've never done a Ha-Ha. We're really looking forward to it. Afterward, we plan to spend some time in the Sea of Cortez, then cross the Pacific a couple of years later.

"As long as we're sailing, we think we're living our dream. In addition to the normal sailing heroes such as Shackleton and Slocum, we've also always admired local Bill Norrie, who did a circumnavigation via the five Southern Capes.

"Of course I'm left-handed, but the rest of the crew can't seem to adjust. That's why they've put me in charge.

"Our nightly ritual involves anything chocolate. It's also noteworthy that after 60+ years, brother John, thanks to computer recipes and modern technology, now has outstanding culinary skills with a crock pot."



*Ber Necessity - Wendy & Berah*

### **Ber Necessity — Columbia 41 (W) Wendy and Berah Taylor Los Angeles / Lake Forest**

Berah, 59, is a Construction Estimator at Kaiser. He's known there as the 'Berah of Bad News!' "We met online," says Wendy. "I knew he was the man for me when he picked me up on his Harley wearing a kilt. After all, you can kiss the Irish, but it's a Scotsman you want to take home."

Their crew will be Miles and Kathy Tralle, who met about 20 years ago. Within three months Kathy moved in with Miles on his Cheoy Lee 32, and they became a big part of the Bay Area Sailing scene.

"My Ber is a soft-spoken nerd, but he's my nerd," says Wendy. "Berah is an amazing Skipper and a MacGyver of the sea. He has his ASA 101,103,104 certificates, we both have our California Boater cards, and we've both logged tons of time on the water.

"We have been sailing together ever since we met in 2012. We first bought a Catalina 27 named *Sea Lass* and sailed her all up and down the coast from LA Harbor to Dana Point and all points in between. We loved that little boat!! Right before Covid, we found Ber's new favorite girl, his necessity, our Columbia 41 ketch we call *Ber Necessity*. She's been his project and she's an amazing boat. She's big

and sturdy, very fun to sail, and roomy and comfy. We found her in Santa Barbara and have sailed her all over the Channel Islands and up and down the coast from Santa Barbara to San Diego.

"Although I turned 60 last November," says Wendy, "I feel as though I'm 40 even though I made a career of partying with the Marines on my birthday — and their birthdays. My real career is IT, but now I own a small real estate agency. I also love watching dogs, helping the less fortunate, and volunteering. With my red hair — I soak it in the blood of my enemies every night — most people think I'm Irish. My green eyes and wild child streak reinforce that impression. But I'm actually Lebanese. I'm a pretty darn good sailor who loves to take the boat in and out of the slip and just being at the helm. Ber and I make a great team.

"We have sailed the Kingdom of Tonga with the amazing world sailor and author John Kretschmer. We both love all of his books and we both love all desserts. Ber's dream is to be cruising Kiribati and the South Pacific, but I'll be happy anywhere he is. Eewww, isn't that sappy? As you can imagine, I'm especially excited to participate in the Here to Eternity Kissing Contest in the surf at Cabo San Lucas. Woo-hoo!

### **Bibi — Cal 3-46 Eric Mizrahi**

#### **Marina del Rey / Redondo Beach**

Eric, 60, is a Physician. His crew will be Andy Fraga, Jr, 44, a Musician/Realtor; Gary Novak, 50, another Musician; and Marty Danhi, 50, a Mechanic.

"I started sailing in 1979 at the age of 16 at UCLA," reports Eric. "I took and taught all of the dinghy sailing classes, which included the Advanced level. I also completed the ASA 101, 103 and 104 courses, and obtained my Bareboat Skipper's license.

"My first boat was *Oliver's Travels*, a beautiful and nimble Newport 30 designed by Gary Mull. I mainly sailed her to Catalina for about 10 years. I sold her to a retired Naval Officer and bought *Quiet Times*, which I have renamed *Bibi* after my sister.

"Originally a ketch, I re-rigged *Bibi* as a cutter for future singlehanded bluewater sailing. Built in 1977 her previous owners sailed her to the Pacific Northwest, the Caribbean, and the South Pacific. After buying her, I sailed her down from San Francisco and took her to Catalina before starting a two-year retrofit. She's my dream boat.

"That sail from San Francisco was my longest passage to date, and the Ha-Ha will be my next adventure. After that, I plan to singlehand her to La Paz. Eventually, I hope to head for Hawaii and French Polynesia, or directly to French Polynesia. (Poobah Tip: Unless you like sailing hard



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on the wind, direct to French Polynesia is 'more betta'.)

The right-hander who is sometimes called 'The Chosen One' or 'Kiki' "feels blessed and infinitely grateful that he has "amazing friends and sailing in my life". An aspiring singlehander, it's no wonder his sailing hero is Bernard Moitessier. When Eric gets to Cabo he'll get to see the beach where Bernard lost *Joshua* in 1981 and sold her for \$1. Fortunately, *Joshua* has been completely restored and is now actively sailed off France.

'Don't let others judge you by their own limitations,' Eric will tell you between spoonful's of either vanilla Swiss almond ice cream or bites of "great" watermelon.

## **Blue Safari — Leopard 40 Cat Mark and Lisa Wolford San Diego / Escondido**

Mark, 53, is an Engineer, while Lisa is a Finance Director. Both are still working. Their crew will be Tom Priest, 60, who has a bundle of ocean miles to his credit, Jeff Cerjan, 51, and Shelley Morton.

Mark has been sailing for 30 years and previously owned a 1990 Hunter 42. But he and Lisa fell in love with catamarans and the sailing lifestyle during several sailing vacations in the British Virgin Islands. So in November of 2017, they purchased *Blue Safari*, a new Leopard 40 cat. Their dream was always to take a two to three-year sabbatical and sail the South Pacific. What better way to start than with the Baja Ha-Ha?

"We want to sail 'everywhere' on *Blue Safari*, which is our dream boat. Cats aren't inexpensive," they say, "but the real cost of anything is the amount of life you exchange for it.

"We love cheesecake, and use forks with our right hands when we eat it."

## **Boat Bum Gal — Nicholson 38 Sandra Barnes Long Beach / Bakersfield**

Sandra lists her Occupation as a "Tap Dancing Fruit Cake". She'll have two crew. Drew Bielawski, 64; and Bryan Hail, 45, a Laboratory Manager.

"I've been sailing for approximately 10 years, during which time I've owned two boats. I have owned my beloved John Alden designed Nicholson 38 ketch for seven years. I was off the boat for a little over a year because of a boat custody battle. I'm happy to say that I won her back.

"Although I have never participated in the Ha-Ha, I have always contemplated engaging in this death-defying activity. So this year I thought, 'What the heck?'

After Cabo my plans are to head to La Paz, and then see where the wind takes us. My dream destination is the Caribbean, and there is a good chance that I will ultimately achieve my goal."

"I have my dream boat. It has been a lot of work, but it's been worth it.

"My sailing hero . . . *Capt Ron*, of course. "Don't worry," he said when on a collision course with a ship, "he'll get out of the way. I learned that driving the *Saratoga*.

"But I'd like everyone to know that I am so happy to be participating in this year's Ha-Ha, and am very fortunate to have two great guys joining us in the adventure."



*Boundless - Naiby, Dan & Belina*

## **\*Boundless — Shannon 43 Dan Chase and Naiby Hilton Venice Beach / Punta Uva, Costa Rica**

Dan, 57, is a semi-retired Producer/Engineer in the music biz and is now a Contractor/Property Manager on the Westside of Los Angeles. He is also an ABYC certified Electrician and owns a Yacht Management company. Naiby is a classically-trained Private Chef from Costa Rica. They're doing their first Ha-Ha with their second daughter, Chief Medical Officer and Ambiance Coordinator Belina, 8, a Student of Life. A third-grader, Belina will be homeschooled on the boat.

Dan is also an accomplished drummer and DJ, and the whole family has regularly attended the Burning Man Arts Festival in Nevada. They have helped design and fabricate large interactive art installations. "The Burning Man festival involves principles that we find are related to sailing and cruising culture," says Dan. "Radical self-reliance, communal effort, civic responsibility, leaving no trace, immediacy, and so forth. We see these as a reflection of the cruising community's ethos."

Dan started sailing during the years he lived in the Virgin Islands and has continued chartering catamarans with extended family members over the years in the BVI's, Belize, Bahamas, Thailand, and French Polynesia. After the Ha-Ha they

will be continuing south to cruise the Pacific Coast of Mexico, Central America, and eventually go through the Panama Canal. They plan to visit the lush Bocas del Toro and San Blas Island cruising grounds of Panama.

From there their plan is to head to Cartagena, before going north on a beam reach up to Jamaica, and then to the Turks & Caicos. But who knows, there's no schedule on this trip so they will be making it up as they go along. In any event, they think it will be a nice change from always heading to Catalina for a few days and then returning to Marina Del Rey.

Naiby loves to cook, loves the ocean, and is looking forward to slowing down in the cruising life for a while. She comes from the Caribbean side of Costa Rica and trained in the Culinary Arts in New York City.

Belina loves art and science and is squealing with delight about the opportunity to live on a boat and explore. She has been attending a Spanish immersion elementary school and speaks fluent Spanish, which will certainly help for this cruise.

"Aside from the major subjects Belina will study for third grade," says Naiby, "we've used an AI program to create an engaging Earth Science and Biology curriculum incorporating all of the unique locations we'll be visiting during our trip. It took the program about 15 seconds to do that.

"We've been preparing for this trip for years, upgrading much of the major gear on the boat. We've got new sails coming in, new rigging, a wind vane, a new anchor plan, and better fishing gear. The refit is going well, although there will certainly be some items that we won't get to before the Ha-Ha start. We can't wait to put our boat and ourselves to the test."

## **Buttercup — Jeanneau SO 43DS (W) Ryan Sabin and Megan Lilly Salt Lake, UT**

Ryan, 48, is a Software Engineer who can't be any more specific than to say he works in Cyber Security. Megan, who had "the best night of my life" attending a recent Taylor Swift Eras show, is an Executive Assistant. "A distant second to that Swift show were the nights I spent raising four ginger children".

The couple will have three crew, two of which are offspring. "Alek Sabin, 30, Sells Toothpaste for a living, and likes to eat oysters and tell stories. Amber Sabin, 21, is a Full-Time College Dropout. "When she's not busy being a Dropout she works as a River Rafting Guide in the Summer and a Ski and Snowmobiling Guide in the winter." The third crewmember is Huston Evans, 30, who takes photos of little girls. "Not those kind, you creeps," he says, "I'm a dance photographer. I'm also a vir-



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gin by choice, but prefer you don't ask me about it. I'd rather talk about the fact that I've turned 30 every day for six months straight."

The Poobah suspects that Ryan — "I'm trying to come up with a good drag queen nickname" — and his crew will be the smart-asses of the fleet. As such, the Poobah considers all their bio info to be suspect.

"As a group we are stronger and stranger than our parts," say the *Buttercups*. "One unique thing is that we've all lived in Australia at some point in our lives. We'll also be producing a music video for a very high-profile artist during the Ha-Ha, so if anyone wants to be in it, they'll have to sign a waiver."

The Poobah notes that Taylor Swift has a gap in her Eras tour during the Ha-Ha dates. Coincidence?

"We all love pineapple on our pizza," says Ryan, "but are divided on anchovies. We concur on desserts. Bring yours by our boat and we'll prove it, especially if it's fruit pie. If you do bring desserts we can reciprocate with libations. That's because *Princess Buttercup* is licensed as a booze cruiser in the state of Utah, which you probably thought — mistakenly — is a dry state.

"We have been sailing for more than 20 years, during which time we've owned six boats," continues Ryan. "But as of this writing, we've only owned *Buttercup* for one night! After the Ha-Ha we will not be coming back from Mexico."

### **California Stars — S&S Benello 44 Brad Hunter and April Turnbull Huntington Beach**

Brad, 63, is a retired Civil Engineer, while April Turnbull, the love of his life, is an Administrator. Their crew will be Chris Paavola, 56, who is not only a retired Rocket Engineer but also used to play saxophone in the University of Wisconsin Marching Band.

Brad has been sailing for about 45 years. He sailed to New Zealand via Hawaii, Samoa, and Tonga in 1980, but on three different boats. It was on those trips he learned to use a sextant, and hopes to pick the skill up again on the Ha-Ha.

"April has been with me for all my boats," Brad reports. "She does all the small things that make boat life easier. She'll steer, pull lines, grab the mooring wand, share the cooking, organize, ask me what I want, and provide the encouragement we often need. Most importantly, she is there with me."

A boat owner for 15 years, *California Stars*, which Brad has owned for seven years, is his second boat. "She is a Sparkman & Stephens design that was built by Benello in Livorno, Italy in 1970," he says. "She did a circumnavigation and also competed in the 1977 TransPac. She

also appeared in a Time-Life book about boat handling way back in 1975.

"I first met her in San Diego in 2012 and took the opportunity to buy her in Loreto in 2017. I cruised her to La Paz and then over to Mazatlán before bringing her up to California in November of 2018.

"I own my dream boat. She is nowhere near perfection, but I've added some cruising amenities and she's functional. She sails well, makes water, provides hot showers, and keeps the beer cold. And she is reliable with a comfortable motion.

"I'm a right-handed Ultimate Frisbee player in case anyone wants to get a game going, and I like peach cobbler.

"No definite plans after the Ha-Ha except to be in Mazatlán on April 8, 2024. My dream destination would be Long Beach — after a cruise that satisfied my cruising desire."



*Chat de Mer - Eve & Steve*

### **Chat de Mer — FP Belize 43 Cat Steve Lindley and Eve Carlson Oyster Point / Mountain View**

Steve, 61, is a Psychiatrist, while spouse Eve is a Research Psychologist. They will have Nancy Ibisson as crew.

Steve has been sailing since he was a child. Before acquiring their Fountain Pajot 43 cat he owned a 22-ft monohull and a 30-ft monohull. Eve has been sailing with Steve for about 20 years.

"What's unusual about our cat is that she was built in France in 2002, so we have extra fun sourcing spare parts." This even though over 200 of the FP 43s were built and can be found in all corners of the world.

"Our longest passage to date was from Oyster Point Marina, near SFO, to the Channel Islands. This will be our first Ha-Ha.

"After the Ha-Ha we plan to sail to Puerto Vallarta, which will be *Chat de Mer's* home for the foreseeable future.

"We own our dream boat, but our

dream destination would be French Polynesia."

The Poobah will have to find out how Steve and Eve pronounce the name of their boat. In 'American' it looks like 'chat', as in talking to someone, 'duh', 'mare'. In French it's more like 'shah' 'duh' 'mare'.

Given their fields, the Poobah thinks they may get a chuckle out of Katherine Harvey's famous line in *Captain Ron*: "We'll be spontaneous when we have time."



*Circe - Dave & Kelly*

### **Circe — Islander Freeport 41 Dave and Kelly Kendall Owl Harbor, Isleton (2009, 2013)**

Dave, 57, will be the only Underwater Bridge Inspector in this year's fleet. Kelly is a retired Registered Nurse and Health Inspector. Friend Leslie Skarshaug, an Accounting Officer, as well as an adrenaline junkie and 'adventure firstie' will be their crew.

Dave has been in or under the water most of his life and isn't happy if his fingers aren't wrinkly. He has sailed extensively on San Francisco Bay and in the Delta. He's also crewed on other people's boats on two Ha-Ha's, the Ha-Ha route at a different time of year, and one "adventurous" Tehuantepec crossing that involved jumping overboard to clean the waterline and swim with a turtle.

Kelly has sailed with Dave on San Francisco Bay and in the Delta, and was with Dave on the Tehuantepec crossing to El Salvador, and has done the Ha-Ha route on a friend's boat. But this will be her first Ha-Ha. Kelly's nursing specialty was a Health Facility Evaluator Nurse with the State, a title that sent other nurses running to the break room with their 'illegal' water bottles. "If you know, you know," she says. Kelly doesn't care about that anymore but will happily serve it up during sundowners. Please stop by!

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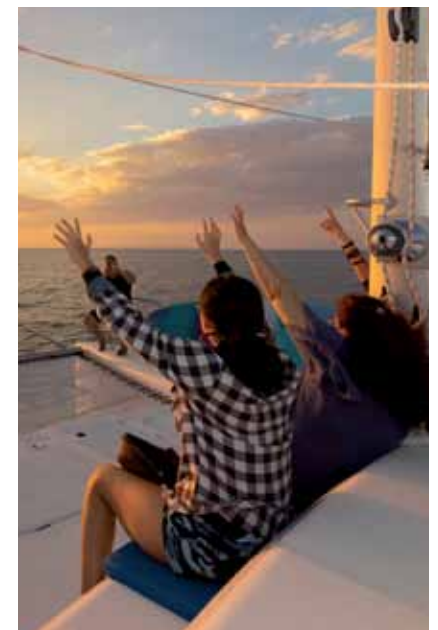
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Kelly loves roller coasters, baking, reading, and naps.

Dave and Kelly have owned seven sailboats. "At one point we owned three boats at the same time," remembers Kelly, "and I had to tell Dave I never again wanted to hear the words 'boat' and 'investment' in the same sentence." They've owned *Circe* for five years. They particularly like that she has a drop-down swim ladder built into the transom.

The dream boat for both Dave and Kelly would be a Passport 40. Dave would like to take one to the dive paradise of Palau, while Kelly would prefer the San Blas Islands of Panama. Dave's sailing hero is Tania Aebi, who did a 99% solo circumnavigation on a 26-footer. She started as an 18-year-old and finished three years later in 1987. Kelly's hero is Holly Martin, the Wind Hippie sailing blogger.

Dave's favorite quote is from Eleanor Roosevelt: "You must do the thing you think you can't do." Kelly's favorite is: "I'm always disappointed when liar's pants don't actually catch on fire."

Dave goes for Tiramisu, while Kelly is a Crème Brûlée girl. *Circe*, no relation to Cersei Lannister of Game of Thrones fame, was a minor Greek goddess and powerful female sorceress able to concoct powerful potions, and the power to hide the sun and the moon as she willed. While we won't be calling on her powers any time soon, we do hope she carries us safely on our explorations of the Sea of Cortez and beyond.



*Contagious - Declan & Tracy*

### **Contagious — Beneteau Oceanis 46.1 Declan and Tracy Sacre Vancouver, BC**

Declan, 53, is in Sales, while Tracy is, bless her heart, is a Registered Nurse. Their four crew include Dave Ryley, 40, Thomas Wood, 37 and Victoria Wood.

Declan has been sailing his whole life, first on the Great Lakes with his family,

then after moving to Vancouver at a young age he started racing out of the West Vancouver YC in a number of events and has raced around Vancouver Island twice. Tracy accompanied him on many of these races as crew.

*Contagious* is a 2019 Beneteau 46.1 which they bought spanking new in 2019.

"We haven't done a Ha-Ha yet, but are excited about the adventure. When we finish the race we plan on cruising up into the Sea of Cortez until April." "Race"? The Ha-Ha is more of a rally where the idea is to sail with friends, not beat them. But times are taken and awards given.

Capt Declan is a left-hander who, like Tracy, would like to cruise the world aboard their dream boat — which they now own. The Beneteau 46.1 is an upgrade of the Beneteau 45, which was Beneteau's biggest seller in the world.

Not a common name in the United States, Declan means 'messenger' in Greek, and 'man of prayer' or 'man of goodness' in Irish.

### **Convergence — Wylie 65 (W) Randy Repass & Sally-Christine Rodgers Santa Cruz**

Randy, 79, describes himself as a "Crowd Pleaser". Sally-Christine identifies as "the Captain's Care Giver", although she's also the author of *Convergence: A Voyage Through French Polynesia* and several other books. Their three crew include son Kent-Harris Repass, 28; Grant Smith, 27; and Emily Brouwer.

Perhaps Randy should be better known for selling nylon rope out of his garage in 1968, and eventually turning that enterprise into West Marine, which now has 247 marine supply stores. He took the company public after a number of years, and in 2017 it was acquired by private equity for \$338 million.

The Poobah remembers meeting Randy for the first time in 1977. It was after hours at the first West Marine store in Palo Alto of all places, and Randy was busy at the grunt work of putting price tags on marine knives. The Poobah was selling ads for the just-founded *Latitude 38*. Those were the days.

Like a lot of people who have become wealthy, Randy and Sally-Christine have two homes. But here is where they differ from most affluent people. Instead of a mansion, their first residence was an 850 sq ft, one-bedroom, one-bath cabin. They milled the wood for it, raised the walls by hand with a bunch of sailing buddies, and finished it off with the help of a carpenter. They still live in the cabin except in the summer. With an expanding family, they eventually had additional living quarters built on their land.

More recently they built another cabin on a very small island in the Pacific Northwest. They cut down the trees, and while

they had a contractor, they did as much design and hands-on work as they could.

But get this, they've been proudly living off the grid at both their residences since 1989 — 24 years of solar power.

More importantly, between them Randy and Sally-Christine have owned over 10 boats over the years, the biggest and latest being the unique Wylie 65 *Convergence* built by Westerly Marine. Among her unusual features are that she has a free-standing carbon fiber mast with a wishbone boom, no jib, a big windowed pilothouse with inside steering, and a 'beach deck' where the dinghy can be stored. She's plenty fast, too.

Randy and Sally-Christine started a circumnavigation in 2004, and 19 years later all they have left to complete the loop is the Barra de Navidad to Santa Cruz leg. But first Randy and *Convergence* are intending to buddy boat north with the *Poobah* and *Profligate* in early October to get to the San Diego starting line.



*Counting Stars - Rosario & Denis*

### **Counting Stars — Whitby 42 Denis Heinrichs and Rosario Passos Port Moody, BC**

Denis, 55, is a Computer Programmer while spouse Rosario is an Instructional Designer.

Their crew will be Jennifer Handley and Campbell Good, 67, a very experienced wife and husband team. Jennifer and Campbell sailed their boat *Camdeboo* to the South Pacific in 2006 with their two daughters, a niece, a nephew, and Jennifer's brother. By the time *Camdeboo* returned to Victoria in 2011 she had visited 14 countries, had 25,000nm under her keel, and had welcomed 27 people aboard as crew.

"My wife Rosario and I have been sailing for about 15 years," reports Denis. "Our first boat was a Catalina 27. Our Whitby 42 ketch is a slow but solid and comfortable Brewer design from 1980. These days she's a bit unusual because



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# BAJA HA-HA XXIX

she has two masts. Two are better than one, right?

"We've done quite a refit on *Counting Stars* over the last eight years. We re-wired and re-plumbed her. This spring we re-did the standing rigging, installed mast pulpits, built and installed a watermaker, and added a Hydrovane self-steering system. We did all the work ourselves, although we did get advice from experts.

"Six years ago we crewed on a friend's boat from La Paz to the Galapagos. Even though it took 21 days, we are still friends.

"We've had our offshore dream for most of our 15 years of sailing. Our crew for the Ha-Ha have been our inspiration for sailing offshore, as they have sailed the South Pacific with their family. They are our sailing heroes. This will be our first Ha-Ha, and we're really excited. When it's over we plan to enjoy the Sea of Cortez for several years.

"Our favorite quote is 'Live your dreams, don't dream your life'.



*Courage - John & Kristine*

## **Courage — Tartan 4100**

**John and Kristine Slater**

**San Francisco / Marin County**

John, 57, is a retired Management Consultant and is now a Business Owner. Kristine is a retired Child/Adult Psychiatrist who was in Leadership at Kaiser. The couple will doublehand. They met at MIT in Boston. He was studying engineering while she was pre-med.

"We have a lifetime of adventures on land and sea," they report, "including technical and high altitude climbing, dive instruction, Burning Man rangering (which requires a libation to get the full story), and a multitude of sailing trips into Mexico along the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. We've also chartered in a lot of locations that start with a 'T'. Tonga, Tahiti, Turkey, and Thailand. Our longest trip was two months, and the punch list

created after that trip was longer than the length of our boat. We all know how that goes.

"We've been sailing 'our whole lives'," the couple report. "We've owned two boats, a Sea Ray Sundancer on the Great Lakes many years ago, and our Tartan 4100 for the last 22 years. There is nothing unusual about our boat, she's just awesome — particularly after her four-year refit from John and KKMI. She's better than any of the dozens of boats we've chartered over the years."

"John helped form and was on the board of OCSC Sailing in Berkeley for over a decade, and has a lot of experience with yacht chartering and the business side of owning, servicing, and providing instruction for sailing vessels. As we've both just retired, and with three daughters now out of the household, we are looking forward to a much-needed break and time to reflect on the next chapter of our lives together."

John has recently graduated from Fuller Seminary with a Master of Theology, so no doubt there will be kingdom-building in their future. Following the Ha-Ha the two will continue by joining the Panama Posse, with landing in Key West in May as the most likely destination. But who knows where their winds of change will ultimately blow.

"Neither of us has done a Ha-Ha yet, but we can't wait. We've done two two-month cruises to date, one to Southern California and another to Mexico. We've also done a two-week charter on the East Coast and sailed in half a dozen countries around the world.

"We're known as Ranger Ice Cream and Ranger Trinity. There is a story worthy of a cocktail."

For those of you cruising to France, 'courage' is a frequently used word. But unlike in English, it connotes 'hang in there' or even 'good luck' more than it does bravery.

## **Dark Horse — Beneteau 49**

**Brian Downing**

**San Diego / Henderson, NV**

Brian, 65, is an Electrical Engineer and learned to sail as a boy at a summer camp in Quebec, Canada. He bought his first boat, a Venture 17, in 1991 to get back into sailing. Since then he's owned a McGregor 25, a Beneteau 43, and in 2007 purchased *Dark Horse* new. He and his wife have been preparing the boat for cruising for the last several years.

"So far my wife Angela and I have been to Catalina, the Channel Islands several times, and Ensenada. *Dark Horse* has kept us safe and comfortable in all conditions. Alas, Angela won't be doing the Ha-Ha but rather joining the boat in Cabo. Our further shakedown will begin by cruising the Sea of Cortez and then work-

ing our way toward the Caribbean. A few years down the road we want to cross the Atlantic."

Brian's crew will be Roy Hubecky, 73; Mark Delin, 67; and Jacques Guilloton, 67.

Brian and Angela's dream destination is the Med, where they intend to explore ancient history. Their dream boat would be a performance trimaran, such as a Neel or a Rapido.

Among Brian's heroes are those who have done solo circumnavigations. This would include Webb Chiles, who recently completed his fifth circumnavigation with a Moore 24. Brian has read many of Webb's books and had the chance to meet him.

An Inventor as well as an Engineer, Brian "likes designing parts that I can 3D print and use on my boat, and if possible do the same for others." Given his occupation, his favorite quote is not surprising. "A designer knows he has achieved perfection not when there is nothing left to add, but when there is nothing left to take away." It's from famous French pilot Antoine de Saint Exupery.

No one has "dared" to give Brian a nickname, and the "mostly" right-hander favors bread pudding.

## **Day Dreams — X Yachts Xp44**

**Robert Day**

**Laguna Beach ('10, '16, '17, '19, '21)**

Robert, 62, is a "Reformed BMW Dealer". His crew will be Wayne Harvey, 62, a Yacht Broker and Licensed Captain; Jeff Kaiser, 60, who runs ATM machines in Maui; Wayne Harvey, 62; Stan Gibbs, 69 and Grant Wooden, 64.

"I've been sailing since 2007 when I bought a J/122 from Norman Davant. We did the Ha-Ha four times on that boat. I bought a Danish-built Xp 44 in 2019 and sailed her in the 2021 Ha-Ha. The Ha-Ha's have been my longest passages to date, but my wife wants to do the Great Loop on her 27-ft Ranger Tug next year!

"We'll probably head back to SoCal at the end of the Ha-Ha.

"My two dream sailing destinations are the Galapagos Islands and Horta in the Azores. And I'd like to sail on them aboard a HH 50 catamaran.

"Josh Slocum is my sailing hero. I think he'd agree with my favorite sentiment: "Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you *choose* to deal with it."

## **Dreamer — Catalina 36**

**Nicole Pittleoud**

**San Diego**

Nicole, originally from Switzerland, is a Realtor and will have Cayetano Valero, 59, a Business Owner, along as Skipper. Her additional crew will be Lisa Mason, a Director of Property Management; Do-





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# BAJA HA-HA XXIX

mingos Dias, 59; and Ehsan Amozegar, 35, an Engineer.

"From growing up in Switzerland sailing has always been a dream of mine," reports Nicole, "but it took me quite a few years to make my dream a reality. But once I got my first boat three years ago I really caught the sailing bug, and have been sailing every single week since. I started with a Catalina 22, upgraded almost immediately to a Catalina 250, and a year later I bought *Dreamer*."

"In May the three of us will have been sailing in Spain for 10 days, which should be good preparation for the Ha-Ha. Cayetano is a seasoned sailor and will guide us in Spain as well as during the Ha-Ha. We are very excited to participate in the Ha-Ha."

"Europe is my dream sailing destination. My dream boats are in the Beneteau Oceanis line. Kirsten Neuschäfer, the brilliant South African woman who just won the Golden Globe Singlehanded Around the World Race is my hero. Modern electronics weren't allowed in that event."

"I'm right-handed, love caramel ice cream, and 'Mama Africa' used to be my nickname. I may get a new one sailing."

"I have two favorite quotes. The first is by E. E. Cummings, the American poet. 'For whatever we lose (like a you or a me), it's always ourselves that we find at sea.' But also this one from Rumi: 'You are not a drop in the ocean. You are the entire ocean, in a drop.'"

*Who is Rumi? His real name was Hanafi Faqih, and he was a 13th-century poet, Islamic scholar, Maturidi theologian, and Sufi mystic originally from Greater Iran. Though long dead, Rumi remains a best-selling author in the United States. A bastardized version of him also appears in the Poobah's tome on buffoonery, The Secrets of St. Beats.*

## **Elusive — Grady White Marlin 30 PB Ryan Evans and Molly Molina Morro Bay / Avila Beach**

Ryan, 49, is retired from Retail Sales. Significant Other Molly, 33, is in the Entertainment world.

Ryan has been on and in the water all his life while growing up in Southern California and having grandparents with a place in Lake Havasu. He started boating in 1981 at the age of seven and still has the original lake boat his grandfather gave him — although it's 'garden art' these days.

After one horrible Memorial Day weekend Ryan decided the lake was not for him anymore. So in 2000, he bought a 27-ft 1979 Sea Ray Sundancer, his first ocean-going boat. She lasted until 2011 when he purchased his current boat, a 30-ft Grady White Marlin.

*Elusive* was bought with fishing in mind, however shortly after the purchase



*Elusive - Ryan & Molly*

Ryan learned of the nude beach at Pirates Cove. That was the end of his fishing for about a decade as he concentrated on beach volleyball. Three-and-a-half-years ago Ryan was at Pirates Cove when he saw Molly, the most beautiful Mermaid he'd ever seen. She turned out to be the nicest, too!"

Molly had grown up on the central coast of California. Her fondest memories are with her grandmother at Shell Beach and with her uncle John aboard his 1970's Maurader out of Santa Barbara. Both have passed now, but Molly does her best to let their spirits live on through boating, fishing, diving, and loving her family and friends. She doesn't know what life without a dog would be, as we have two, Lucy a 15-year-old Cairn Terrier with no eyes, and Leo, a 7-year-old boxer-Shepherd mix.

Ryan's dream destination is anywhere warm on the ocean with his love Molly 'Beach', Molly's is anywhere warm on the ocean with her love Ryan 'Beach'! "We're Ryan and Molly, the 'Beaches'."

Molly's favorite quote is, "Life is a game for the fools a game for the wise." Either there is some sort of misprint or it's too profound for the Poobah. Ryan's is easier to understand: "Never grow up!"

Ryan's sailing hero is his father, who sails a 1972 Gulfstar out of the Shoreline YC in Long Beach. "And yes, I tried to get him to go on the Ha-Ha."

*Elusive* has a freezer because Molly loves ice cream. Ryan prefers Nerd's Medicated Ropes, i.e. weed candy.

## **\*Empty Space — Seawind 1160 Lite Cat Hank Boland Salt Lake City, UT**

Hank, 69, is a retired Tech Consultant. His core crew will be his son, also named Hank, 39, who is an Engineer; and Hank Jr's son, Hank, 4, a Student of Life and a Construction Equipment Expert. "We call the young one Henry," says Hank Sr, be-



*Empty Space - Hank, Henry & Hank*

cause it gets confusing when everybody has the same name. I will be looking for additional crew, but they can't be named Hank.

"I backed into sailing," says Hank Sr. "At age 22 I needed just a half credit to graduate and get my first degree, so I took a sailing class. I'll never forget the first time I pulled in the mainsheet on that little Sabot. OMG! I've never looked back. The Caribbean, Greece, Belize, Mexico, San Francisco, the Channel Islands, and San Diego, I've sailed at all of them. But my favorite thus far is the remote and beautiful Great Salt Lake. There's lots of one-design and PHRF racing on the lake, too!"

To show you how imaginative Tech Consultants can be, Hank Sr has owned five boats, the last three of them all named *Empty Space*. Never say never. "I swore I would never buy a new boat," reports Hank Sr, "but that's exactly what I did. A brand new Seawind 1160 Lite Cat. She's so cute and a real sweetheart."

"My son Hank has sailed most of the destinations listed above and loves PHRF and one-design racing as well. This will be our first Ha-Ha. My longest passage so far has been Seattle to San Francisco. After the Ha-Ha I plan to cruise the Sea of Cortez and mainland Mexico."

"My favorite quote is 'Eat dessert first.' My favorite dessert is chocolate."

## **Endless Summer — Catalina 42 MKII Dave and Michelle Opheim Alameda (1999)**

Dave, 57, a vet of the 1999 Ha-Ha on the Lagoon 37 cat *Aida*, is a retired Network Engineer. Michelle is retired from the Dentistry Field. Their crew includes Manny Rubio, 61; Max Perez, 58; Joe Lepine, 58; and Jim Schulz, 56; as well as Bosun, their five-year-old black cat.

Dave's dad taught him how to sail when he was eight, so let's just say it's been a long time. Michelle's parents introduced

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*Endless Summer - Michelle & Dave*

her to boat life at age one, and she's been sailing with Dave since 2006. That was the year they met at a yacht club in Marin County. They then moved across the bay and have been Oakland YC members for 7 years.

*Endless Summer* is the couple's third boat, which they've owned for "13 wonderful years", and is the last boat they'll ever own. Previously Dave owned a Catalina 27 and an O'Day 27.

"Our plans are to cruise the mainland and southern Mexico in the winter, then head back north into the Sea of Cortez in the spring. The boat will spend the summer on the hard in the extreme northern Sea at Puerto Penasco until we return the following fall. We intend to cruise the Sea of Cortez for a number of years, as we've been dreaming about it for a long time. But like all sailors, ours are written in the sand at low tide.

"When it comes to desserts, it's hard to pass up a good bread pudding *a la mode*," says Michelle. "But Dave is of the opinion that there is no reason to ruin a perfectly smooth vanilla ice cream, so no pudding for him."

Dave is such a common name that he goes by 'Dave O', so Michelle goes by 'Michelle O'.

*The Poobah's tip for all sailors planning to spend summer months in the Sea of Cortez: Professional bee suits from Amazon are only \$30.*

### **eXcape — X Yachts XC45** **Carl Bertelsen**

#### **Marina del Rey / Los Gatos (2010)**

First things first. X Yachts is not owned by Elon Musk, hero to some, anti-Christ to others. The Danish yard was founded in 1979, builds about 150 yachts as long as 65 feet each year, and has built 6,000 sailboats to date.

Carl, 70, is a retired Surgeon. His crew will be Arnstein Mustad, 61, a Delivery Skipper; Mark Dahlen, 44; Klaus Porzig, 76, a retired Physician; and brother-in-

law David Henegan, 67, retired from Various Occupations.

"I took delivery of *eXcape* in late 2019 with plans to participate in the 2020 Pacific Puddle Jump," reports Carl. "Covid delayed that adventure until last year. The 2022 Puddle Jump turned out to be a fabulous sailing adventure during which I covered nearly 10,000 miles.

"I did the 2010 Ha-Ha with my previous boat, and as this is likely to be the last Ha-Ha, I couldn't pass up the opportunity. After the Ha-Ha we plan to spend a few weeks in the Sea of Cortez before returning to Marina del Rey.

"I visited my dream sailing destination, French Polynesia, last year by participating in the 2022 Pacific Puddle Jump."

### **Fantasy — Hunter Legend 375 (W)** **Nicolas Molinelli** **Alameda / Jackson**

Nicholas, 36, is in Construction and is a Heavy Hauler. His crew will be his father John, 67, and friend Nathan Bellamy, 31, occupation Unknown.

"I have been sailing for two years, having started in December of 2020," reports Nicholas. "The only boat I have ever owned is *Fantasy*, the one I own now. I bought her two years ago, and she's a floating Fantasy Island.

"My longest passage to date was across the Sea of Cortez. After the Ha-Ha I plan to return to the Sea, visit some of the islands, then possibly head south to find some waves to surf."

"I think Antony Bourdain had it right when he said, 'Travel is about the gorgeous feeling of teetering in the unknown'."

Since *Fantasy's* bio is a little thin, the Poobah has decided to flesh it out with some classic dialogue from *Captain Ron*, when the boat was lost in a storm.

*Captain Ron*: The boss is right. We should be okay. 'Cause I know we're near land.

*Martin Harvey*: Great, Cap. Great. Ya hear that, everybody, we're almost there. Explain to the kids how you know that, Captain Ron. Someone translate for General Armando.

*Captain Ron*: Alright, now stay with me: When we left, we had just enough fuel to make it to San Juan. And now... we are out of fuel!"

### **Fantasy — Prout CS 33 Cat** **Nick Ratto and Andrea Cook** **Alameda (2010, 2017)**

Nick, 56, is retired from the Salvage World, while Andrea works in Marketing.

Nick has been sailing for 36 years and has owned more boats than he can count. Andrea began sailing after meeting Nick. It was, however, an inauspicious first overnight sail, as a storm that hadn't been forecast ruined Thanksgiving dinner

and the seasick cat fell overboard at anchor. But the cat was rescued and Andrea didn't give up sailing.

"This will be our third Ha-Ha," reports Nick, "our second on *Fantasy*, and our first as Empty-Nesters. We are looking forward to making new friends, warm sunshine, cold beers, catching fish, and visiting beautiful places. Our plan, which changes daily, is for me to move *Fantasy* to San Blas for the holidays. Andrea gets a four-week sabbatical in March, and we intend to drift down as far south as we can, hopefully with our daughter along for at least part of it. After that, who knows?"

"It was in the 2017 Ha-Ha our then 13 year-old-daughter Pari Ratto won the Master-Baiter award for her dramatic retelling of how we caught a shark on the way to Turtle Bay.

"Within a few weeks of returning home from that Ha-Ha, we quit our jobs, rented our house, invested in a homeschooling curriculum, and headed back to the boat for the rest of the season."

Nick's dream is to sail through the canals of France, Andrea's is to go through the Panama Canal. Both can be done with a Prout 33. They are happy with their Prout, but there are so many drool-worthy boats out there that Nick is no longer allowed to go to boat shows.

"Our favorite quote comes from *Ferris Bueller*. "Life movies pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around every once in a while, you could miss it."



*Fio - Barbara*

### **Fio — Jeanneau SO 54 (W)** **Jay Dozier and Barbara Benson** **San Diego / Kerrville, TX**

Jay, 54, is a Small Business Owner, while "Life Partner" Barbara is a Kitty Cat Owner. Their crew will be Melanie Benson, Barbara's sister who is — bless her heart — a Nurse/Midwife; and James Immer, 64.

Jay crewed on a ketch in the Carib-



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bean in the '80s and has day chartered boats, but *Fio* is his first boat, which he's owned for two years. "*Fio* had been in a rental booze cruise fleet in the San Diego Bay area since the day she was born in 2005," reports Jay. "But she believes she was born for more than that meager legacy. Her previous two owners did not listen to her requests for adventure, but with new sails and rigging, she would like to see the open ocean, some whales, and whatever else is out there."

"More about our crew," says Jay. "I'm a three-time poison ivy survivor and make biscuits and sauces. Barbara, who prefers cats and naps to managing a restaurant, does not like musty half-dried towels but does love my biscuits. Neither of us really knows how to sail, but Barbara has watched some YouTube videos."

"Barbara's sister Melanie has sailed some, but it's unlikely Jay will hear her suggestions over the JBL speaker playing Swans or Gorillaz — music Barbara considers "so weird". However, if anyone gives birth during the passage, Melanie will know what to do. As for Abe, he'll add to the sailing of *Fio* as much as you would imagine any 17-year-old screen-ager would. He will, however, be able to silently hold his gaze on an unspecified point on the horizon longer than the rest of us."

"Our dream destinations would be Panama and the Galapagos, but we'll return to San Diego after the Ha-Ha, then do the Ha-Ha again in 2024."

### **Forever Friday — Lagoon 380 Cat Roy Silliker San Diego**

Roy, 58, is still active in the Merchant Marine. His crew will be Michael Page, 61, Clint Smith, 40, and Brent Klemm, 46, who is retired from Construction/HVAC. The Poobah has to constantly remind himself that HVAC means Heating/Ventilation/Air-Conditioning. And thank god for those workers.

Roy grew up sailing on the lakes of Maine and completed ASA sailing courses to 114 in 2005. *Forever Friday* is Roy's first boat, which he has owned for seven years. His longest small boat passage to date has been Portland to San Diego aboard a Hunter 45. But he's spent a lot of time on the ocean as he was a USN officer for four years and has spent 30 years in the US Merchant Marine. He's a Chief Engineer for Unlimited HP Steam, Diesel, and Gas Turbine engines. And he has a 100-ton Master certificate.

Roy's dream destination is the Galapagos, which he'd like to visit while aboard a big Gunboat cat while having Key Lime Pie for dessert.

The fictional Jack Sparrow is Roy's sailing hero, and he believes Captain Ron's belief that "If it's going to happen,

it's going to happen out there." One of the greatest, and most accurate, quotes ever.

*Ha-Ha Factoid: Key Limes are different than 'regular' limes in that they are more acidic and have a more intense, tangy taste — more "lime-y," if you will. They also have a floral aroma that is more noticeable than regular limes. Here's some good news. Key Limes are not just found in the Florida Keys, as they are also known as Mexican Limes. So yes, you can easily find ingredients to make Key Lime Pie everywhere in Mexico.*



*Grace - David, Kekoa, & Jen*

### **\*Grace — Catalina 36 (W) David and Jennifer Lane Oxnard / Tom's Place**

David, 51, is Self-Employed. Jennifer is an Acupuncturist. Their son Kekoa, 15, is a left-handed Student of Life. Friend Matthew James, 52 will be joining them.

"Ours is a very active family as we're into Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, rock climbing, skiing, surfing, mountain biking, and skateboarding. David is a certified Mountain Guide and has a storied history of guiding technical rock climbing on El Cap and Half Dome in Yosemite National Park. Jen has won Jiu Jitsu competitions against competition 25 years her junior! Kekoa is a competitive junior big mountain free skier.

"Our family has been sailing together for seven years," the Lanes report. "The captain has a convoluted history of sailing and boating as a kid growing up on the Chesapeake Bay. He decided sailing would be a great family activity, so we are now on our fourth boat, having worked our way up from a 13-ft Capri on Crowley Lake in the eastern Sierra.

"We've had *Grace* for three years now. While we've never done a Ha-Ha, in 2017 David crewed on a boat from Ensenada to La Paz.

"After the Ha-Ha we plan on exploring a bit in the Sea and then heading over to

La Cruz and Puerto Vallarta on the mainland for the winter.

"Our dream destination is the South Pacific, and in our dreams, we'd do it with something like a Kraken 50 or maybe a cat like an HH44."

You want to know what the family's favorite motto is? "You don't know until you know."



*Gratitude - Chickpea, Nina & Martin*

### **Gratitude — Hylas 46 Nina Lesowitz & Martin Eggenberger Los Angeles (2015)**

Martin, 52, is a Software Architect and All-Around Handyman. Nina is the author of several non-fiction titles, including *Living Life as a Thank You*, and *The Grateful Life* — hence the name of their boat. Both are vets of the 2015 Ha-Ha and the 2019 SoCal Ta-Ta. Their Frers-designed Hylas will be one of the few ketches in the Ha-Ha.

Nina and Martin's crew will be Mike Trotter, 55, a Manufacturing Design Engineer; and Jennifer Trotter, a Staff RN at Kaiser who worked the ICU through the darkest days of Covid. Rounding out the *Gratitude* crew will be Chickpea, Nina and Martin's maltipoo. Members of the breed are particularly affectionate and loyal but subject to separation anxiety.

"When we did the Ha-Ha seven years ago we had to haul back north a few days after arriving in Cabo," reports Martin. "This time we plan to stay in the Sea of Cortez, and then sail to other destinations yet to be determined."

Martin is a big fan of watching any sport when he's not working on the boat or building or fixing something in their homes in Alameda and Northeast Los Angeles. He often sports his "The Dude" t-shirt in honor of his favorite movie, *The Big Lebowski*.

For Martin's pleasure, the Poobah will recall the ten best lines from that terrific movie: "He's a good man . . . and thorough." "Forget it Donny. You're out of





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your element.” “Nobody f--ks with The Jesus.” “Over the line. You are entering a world of pain.” “The rug really tied the room together.” “This aggression will not stand.” “Well, you know, that’s just, like, your opinion, man.” “Do you see what happens when you f--k a stranger in the ass!” “Her life is in your hands, dude.” And, of course, “The dude abides.”

Nina loves rock ‘n roll, especially REM. “Moses went walking with the staff of wood / Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah / Newton got beamed by the apple good / Yeah, yeah, yeah / Egypt was troubled by the horrible asp / Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah / Mister Charles Darwin had the gall to ask / Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah” Great stuff from the band that came from the same town as the B-52s.

This year Nina and Martin went to JazzFest in New Orleans where they endured extreme heat and storm conditions to listen to gospel, blues, zydeco, R&B, and funk, and where they ate a lot of crawfish. Nina loves animals, and recently rescued Flips, a five-inch turtle who now lives in a large tub with lots of his favorite turtle chips.

“Our previous pup hated all things sailing,” said Nina. “When she sadly passed, we got Chickpea, who seems completely relaxed on the boat. She has no idea that she’s going to embark on this journey, but she loves a good party, so she should fit right in.”

*Ha-Ha Factoid: The Poobah would like to salute you, Jean, and every other medical professional who worked, and too many of whom died, on the front lines of the Covid epidemic during the darkest days when nobody really knew what the heck was going on. The Poobah believes your fearlessness and altruism, so uncommon in the modern world, make you among the most unsung heroes in the history of the United States. He salutes you and your colleagues.*

## **Here Comes The Sun — Jeanneau SO 37 Mark Spector and Kim Lazaroff San Pedro**

Mark, 69, who also goes by Spec, is a Realtor. Kim is an Enrolled Agent. The Poobah looked it up and it means she’s certified to represent taxpayers in disputes with the IRS. Their crew will be Kenneth Reiss, 66, a Property Management Broker.

Mark has been sailing for 69 years during which time he and perhaps Kim have owned a total of eight boats. They have owned *Here Comes the Sun* for three years. To date, their longest passage has been three days. After the Ha-Ha they will continue up into the Sea of Cortez.

Their dream destination is the South Pacific, during which time they’d like ice cream for dessert.

Mark’s sailing hero is his father.

## **Hogfish Maximus — Chris Morejohn 38 Carol and Chris Curtis Seattle, WA / Sandpoint, ID**

Carol, a left-hander, is retired from the Real Estate World, while Chris, 60, who is “normal”, is a retired Engineer.

“Carol and I have been sailing on and off for 15 years,” reports Chris. “We don’t consider ourselves to be very experienced, but we’ve had some great and exciting times aboard our boats and those of others.

“We’ve owned too many boats to list, but most have been sailboats under 23 feet. We have owned *Hoggy* just over two years now. We have not sailed her enough by any standard, but that started to change once I moved aboard, and Carol subsequently joined me.

“The most unusual thing about *Hoggy* is that there is hardly anything usual about her. She’s probably going to be the biggest freak in the rally, although that was not my intention or why I bought her.

“My longest passage has been three days, St Augustine to Ft Lauderdale. We hit a storm overnight and got to experience gusts to 30 knots and surfing at 13 knots.

“Our dream destination is anywhere we have yet to go. We believe everywhere has something to offer, even if it’s not very much! Carol and I hope to head south toward Panama after the Ha-Ha. From there who knows? But we have our dream boat.

“Lyn Parady may be my sailing hero. I’ve met her twice, and she’s an amazing woman in so many ways. I’m not sure if she likes ice cream, but we do.

“My favorite sailing quote is ‘If it’s gonna happen, it’s gonna happen out there’, and my favorite non-sailing quote is ‘It’s better to ask forgiveness than permission.’”

## **Hokulani — Tayana 48 Tony Rodgers San Diego / Leucadia**

Tony, 56, is a Business Executive. His crew will be Ken Amorosano, 62, a Publisher; and Paul Hendry, 53, a Detective. Dona de Mallorca, Chief of Ha-Ha Security, will want to hear detective stories from Paul Hendry. She’s always wanted to be a ‘Private Dick’/‘Gumshoe’/‘Sleuth’, and went so far as to briefly attend the Dick Tracy Detective School in Hollywood.

Tony has been sailing for 27 years. Prior to acquiring his Tayana 48 three years ago, he owned a Cape Dory Typhoon. *Hokulani* is cutter-rigged and has a center cockpit, neither of which is the most common configuration.

Tony’s longest sail has been from Maryland to Bermuda, which took just over six days.

“I tried to do the 2021 Ha-Ha,” says Tony, “but my crew was ravished by Covid in late October. I’m determined to make it this year. I’m not sure what I’ll do

after the Ha-Ha, but I’m leaning toward returning to San Diego.”

New Zealand is the dream destination of Tony, aka ‘T-Bone’, and he’d like to do it on his Tayana 48 because it’s his dream boat. John Kretchmer, who leads hands-on offshore sail training, is his sailing hero.

“If not now, when?” is his favorite quote, while his favorite dessert is pie à la mode.



*Hypnaotic Crew*

## **Hypnaotic — Lagoon 440 Cat Mike and Debra Rosen San Diego / Point Loma (2022)**

Mike, 67, is retired after a career in Biotech and Medical Devices. First Mate and Social Director Debra, who identifies as a “Saucy Silican”, spent 15 years working in the Newspaper World at the *Union-Tribune*, then spent the last 18 years heading up two non-profits. Both Mike and Debra retired earlier this year. Their crew will include son Jay, a 34-year-old San Diego native who loves the ocean and water-related activities — fishing, surfing, snorkeling — as much as his parents do.

Also crewing on *Hypnaotic* will be Frank Colson, 49, a Software Engineer who builds AI systems for the Medical and Financial fields, but who also gets hands-on with electrical systems and diesel engines. The fifth member of the crew will be Tara Cottam Colson, a Medical-Oncology Registered Nurse at Scripps in San Diego. Both Frank and Tara crewed on last year’s Ha-Ha. They own a Freedom 39PH and hope to take off cruising soon themselves.

Mike and Debra have been boating for 38 of their 41 years together but only took up sailing in the last five years. Mike obtained a 100-ton Coast Guard license shortly after retiring.

“We’ve owned four boats,” says Mike, “the most recent being *Hypnaotic*, a





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# Baja Ha-Ha XXIX

stock Lagoon 440 that we bought in Australia on July 4, 2019. We've since cruised her in the Channel Islands, and now get to use her for the reason we bought her — retirement travel." They plan to cruise the Sea after the Ha-Ha.

Together with their lab Cooper, Mike and Debra think of themselves as "an unstoppable team, creating memories and navigating the seas of life with unwavering love and joy." Fabulous champagne helps.

## **Iguana — Beneteau 411 Michael and Esperanza Eusebio Sausalito (2008, 2009 and 2021)**

Do you believe in love at first sight? Esperanza and Michael had their first date on Super Bowl Sunday in 1996 and were married just four months later. "Esperanza was smitten with me," says Michael, "saying she couldn't believe an American would rather go sailing with her and her sister than watch the Super Bowl. But it was the best decision of my life. Honestly, what guy would rather watch a football game than go sailing with a beautiful Colombian hottie?"

Michael, 68, is a Business Owner and Repo Man. The Poobah bets he has some stories. Spouse Esperanza is a retired Business Owner and Repo Woman. The Poobah bets she has some stories, too.

"We lived on our Catalina 38 in Marina del Rey for three years," says Michael, "having our son, Ian, and my daughter, Shelley, four at the time, aboard with us. In 1998 we sailed to Grand Marina in Alameda, where we started our repossession business on May 1, 1998.

"Our crew will be Susan Richter, a retired Accountant who did Ha-Ha's in 2009 and 2021; Simon Holmes, 62, a retired Business Owner and Estate Manager; and Paul Sanden, 64, a retired Flight Captain for Delta. Simon and Susan have been married for 28 years, and I've known Susan for 50 years. In fact, it was her family who got me hooked on sailing in 1973, with a Santana 22 at the Isthmus at Catalina.

"Esperanza, whose nickname is Pucci, and I met Paul through Susan and Simon, who live in Park City, Utah. They are good friends. Since retiring Paul has jumped headlong into sailing and looks forward to building a partnership with Susan and Simon on a 44 to 46-footer."

Michael has been sailing for 50 years during which time he's owned seven sailboats, from a Hobie to their current Beneteau, but also a 1965 Stephens flat-bottom boat.

"We bought *Iguana* in 2016 specifically to do the 2018 PacCup. We had a great time even though we were all first-timers crossing an ocean — except for Jack Vetter, who we needed aboard to meet the insurance requirement. He has turned out to be a dear friend. Our trip included our

son, Ian and Simon and Susan. We finished respectfully somewhere in the bottom middle of the whole pack, and 6th in our fleet of 10.

"This will be our first Ha-Ha, and we are so excited we've been talking about it ever since sailing to Hawaii. Our plan after finishing the Ha-Ha is to leave *Iguana* somewhere to be determined in the Sea of Cortez, then return to Sausalito by early spring.

Michael's favorite quote: "I would rather be ashes than dust! I would rather that my spark burn out in a brilliant blaze than it should be stifled by dry rot. I would rather be a superb meteor, than a sleepy and permanent planet. The proper function of man is to live, not to exist. I shall use my time."

With all due respect, the Poobah is not sure about that sentiment, as it could have been expressed by Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin and Jim Morrison, all of whom died at age 27. Both Mick Jagger and Paul McCartney, 80 and 81 respectively, burned very bright, but not too bright, and have gotten another 53 years and counting.

## **Iliohale — Lagoon 450S Cat Allan and Rina Alexopoulos San Diego / Box Elder, SD (2006, 2008, 2018)**

Allen, 63, is a Managing Director of a consulting company, while Rina is a Benefits Administrator. Crewing with Allan and Rina are Corey Wurzner, 60; Bernice Hanczak; Shaun Wurzner, 58; and Michelle Beck.

"We've been sailing since 2003, during which time we've owned two boats," the couple report. "First, a Hunter 466 for 17 years, and now *Iliohale* for two years. Our longest passage has been 26 days from Puerto Vallarta to the Marquesas.

"We can't believe this will be our fourth Ha-Ha. In 2006, after learning to sail three years before, we joined Orange Coast College's *Alaska Eagle* in the Ha-Ha to learn the ropes and build confidence. We then joined the Ha-Ha 2008 on our Hunter 466 *Follow You*, crossed the Pacific to New Zealand, brought the boat back, and did the Ha-Ha again in 2018.

"As a good friend told us recently, "You guys have retired more than anyone I know!" This year we're retiring for the third time in order to sail the Pacific Coast of Mexico for two years, then cross the Pacific again to join up with our daughter Alyssa. She sailed to New Zealand several years ago and has since made it her home.

"Looking at our 2018 Ha-Ha bio, we have to chuckle. If it wasn't for Covid, we would be in New Zealand right now. But Covid chased us home in 2020, and I went back to work as Managing Director of a consulting firm. We sold our Hunter in late 2020 and started shopping for a

catamaran. We found a well-maintained cat whose owner had planned to cruise but fell to an all-too-common circumstance: aging parents and a sense that his window of opportunity had closed. We decided then and there not to wait another year, as we aren't getting any younger either.

"We've also enjoyed becoming grandparents to one-year-old Esmeralda, with Rina providing daycare full-time for the last nine months.

"Fatu Hiva will again be our dream destination. A catamaran is our dream boat.

The great Jeanne Socrates, noted for being the oldest person to do a solo circumnavigation, is our sailing hero. Now 80, she just took off for the South Pacific.

Our favorite quote is based on our now significant amount of cruising experience. "Never sail on a schedule!"

*Ha-Ha Factoid. An astonishing 850 Lagoon 450s have been built.*



*Jambo - Nicole & Jamie*

## **Jambo — CT 44 Jamie Gull Marina del Rey / Aspen, CO (Two Ha-Ha's)**

Jamie, 39, is a Software Entrepreneur. He is a former SpaceX engineer who worked extensively on the Falcon 9 reentry program and then co-founded Talyn Air. Talyn is creating an electric-powered aircraft that can take off and land without runways, and fly without a pilot.

One of Jamie's crew will be his "younger but arguably more mature" brother David, 37, an Architect and Serial Tech Entrepreneur with multiple exits under his belt. He recently started Ogimi, an AI-generated meditation app. David is only mildly upset that Jamie is taking *Jambo* south for a season rather than her staying berthed in Los Angeles.

Another crew will be friend Ryan St. Onge, 40, who like Jamie and David grew up as an Aerialist Skier. Ryan was on the



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# BAJA HA-HA XXXX

US Olympic Team and competed in the 2006 and 2010 Winter Olympics. Rounding out the crew will be Eric Breuhaus.

*Jambo* is actually owned by Evan Gull, 76, Jamie's father. Evan will not be making the trip.

Jamie's wife Nicole, a Research Scientist at Cedars-Sinai studying the genetic factors underlying cancer, and their 22-month-old son Emerson, were on the original crew list, but have decided to fly to Cabo with the family dog to meet the boat and cruise. Emerson already has 10 overnights to his credit aboard *Jambo*, and Nicole regularly skips the CT-44 on trips to Catalina.

Although Jamie grew up in Aspen on skis and hockey skates and still likes to get out in the mountains when possible, he has been sailing all over the world since he was three years old. Much of it while a teenager aboard the family's *Jambo*, including in Mexico. Jamie, who always jumps at the chance to get out on the water, regularly charts around the world with large groups of friends. He's looking forward to spearing some fish while free-diving in remote coves, and to teaching Emerson about sailing. His favorite meal onboard is Tuna Melts, which are burned "just right" on the upper burner of the boat's stove.

Following the Ha-Ha, various Gulls will work their way south to Zihuatanejo for Christmas, then back up into the Sea of Cortez in the spring.

Jamie's sailing hero is his dad, Evan. His dream boat is a Balance 526 cat.

## **\*Jolly Rodger — Catalina 42 MKII Blake Maxwell and Rodger Maxwell Newport Beach / Costa Mesa (2021)**

Blake, 38, is an Insurance Broker. His crew will be his dad, Rodger, 67, the boat's co-owner; and one more crew member unidentified at press time.

"I started sailing with my family from birth aboard the family Catalina 27," reports Blake. "We later moved up to a Catalina 38, and more recently our Catalina 42 MKII. She's named *Jolly Rodger* after my dad. After buying the boat in Anacortes, we — meaning Kimberly, our nine-month-old daughter, and me — cruised to Alaska.

"We joined the Ha-Ha in 2021, then Bashed back to Newport the following summer. We had so much fun on the Ha-Ha that we're back doing it again." Nonetheless, their dream destination is the South Pacific and they'd like to sail there aboard a catamaran.

Blake's hero is Robin Lee Graham, who as a teenager in the 1960s became the youngest person to singlehand around the world. He did most of the circumnavigation, which was written about extensively in National Geographic, with the 24-ft *Dove*.

The left-handed Blake's favorite quote

comes from Mark Twain: "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did. So throw off the bowlines, sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails."



*K2 - Nancy & Bryan*

## **K2 — Corsair F36 Tri Bryan Martin and Nancy Virostko Santa Cruz (2015, 2018, 2021, 2022)**

Bryan, 68, is a Designer/Builder. Girlfriend Nancy is a Psycho Therapist who sometimes practices remotely from Mexico. Their crew will be Jacqueline Anignoni, a Small Business Owner. Bryan has done four Ha-Ha's, Nancy has done three, and Jacqueline has done one.

Bryan has been sailing for 50 years, beginning as a child on his father's boat. His longest passage has been from the South Pacific to Hawaii. Bryan has owned at least six boats, all monohulls, until he bought an F31 in 2006. He is now a committed trimaran owner. Nancy doesn't have as extensive sailing experience as Bryan, but she makes up for it with enthusiasm. Jacqueline is a long-time sailor.

"We bought *K2* in Massachusetts in 2021," reports Bryan. "We are often asked the significance of her name. For a short while we had two trimarans. The F31 was called *Kailani*, and our intention was to name the F36 *Kailani II*, but we started referring to them as *KI* and *KII*, and *KII* stuck. The name has nothing to do with *K2* being the second-highest mountain on Earth.

"We had a great time sailing in the Ha-Ha last year, especially the last night when we had one of our best sails ever. It was double digits all night long. After lots of fun events in Cabo, we headed to Isla Isabella and then over to La Cruz. We spent the next five months cruising mainland Mexico, where we met up with friends that we had made in the 2021 Ha-Ha.

"The unusual thing about our boat is that she folds up and can be towed on a trailer. As in other years, we eventually sailed up to the top of the Sea of Cortez and pulled her out in Puerto Penasco. We decommissioned *K2* and had all of her annual bottom work done. We really like the boatyard in Penasco and enjoyed getting to know Salvador Cabrales Jr. and Sr. better. From there we flew home and got our truck and big boat trailer. With our wide-load permit, we had *K2* home in two days.

"Our plans for Mexico this year are similar to last year, although we may travel further south than Barra. After Mexico our plan is to transport *K2* to Seattle and from there sail to Alaska."

Bryan's favorite quote comes from legendary multihull designer Dick Newick: "People sail for fun, and no one has yet convinced me that it's more fun to go slow than it is to go fast."

## **Karma — Baba 40**

### **John Foster and Rochelle LaRose Pleasant Harbor, WA / Brinnon, WA**

John, 54, is a retired Software Engineer, while Rochelle is a retired Human Resources Director. The couple will doublehand.

John has worked on projects ranging from video games to government systems. He is a recent graduate of the Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding, where he earned his ABYC Master Technician Certificate. He definitely prefers working on boats to working on computer code. Rochelle is retired from her career as the Human Resources Director for an elected official in Washington State. She is pleased that there are no employees to manage aboard *Karma*.

John grew up sailing on Lake Erie, and when 18 he spent two weeks on a 30-foot longboat in Maine with Outward Bound. He is happy to have more comforts, such as a bed and a head, aboard *Karma*. When he suggested to Rochelle that they retire early, sell their farm, and buy a boat to sail the world, she indulged in his crazy idea. She thought the dream would fizzle out, but it gained momentum instead. She took her first sailing classes in 2019. After an exhaustive search for a boat with enough headroom for John's 6'7" stature, they purchased *Karma* in 2021, and have made non-stop progress toward sailing to Mexico ever since.

"We plan to cruise in Mexico for a year before heading to Central America, through the Panama Canal, and on to the Caribbean."

Rochelle would love to turn right from Mexico and head to French Polynesia, but John has his heart set on the Caribbean. We guess where they end up will depend on who is at the helm the day they depart.

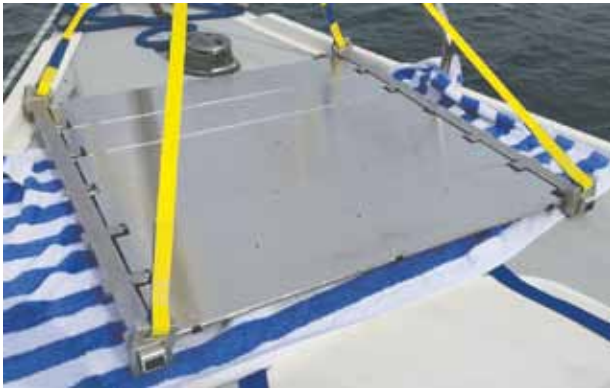
Their favorite quote is: 'Do or do not.



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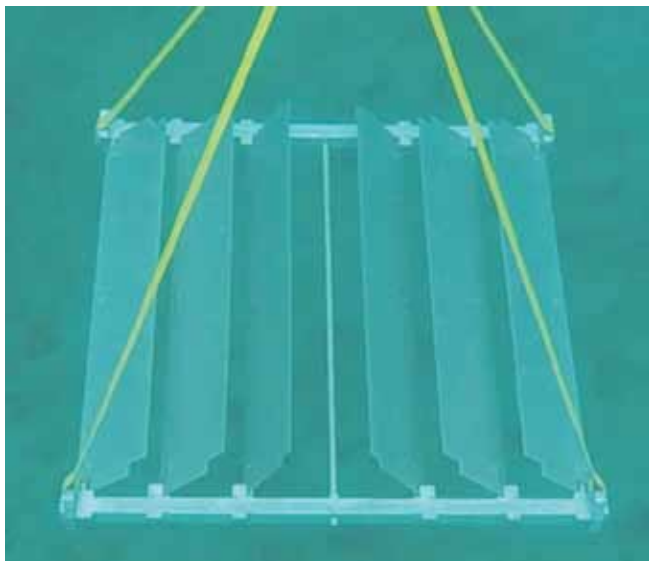
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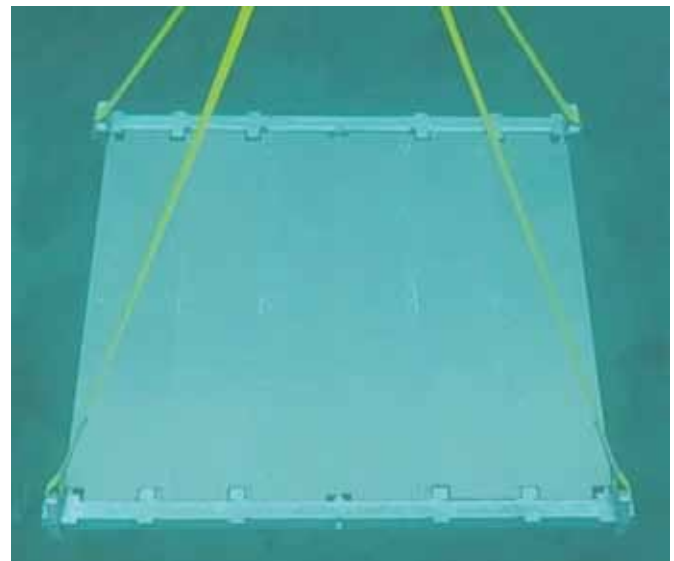


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# BAJA HA-HA XXIX

There is no just trying.'

John's favorite dessert is Apple Kuchen. Despite being married to John for 10 years, Rochelle didn't know that until filling out their bio. She had never eaten or made Apple Kuchen. She'd never even heard of it!

John and Rochelle are both southpaws.

People instinctively call John 'Big John' because of his height. Rochelle's nickname has always been Rockie.

**Ha-Ha Geography Quiz:** Who can complete the line from the famous Seinfeld episode describing the fictitious movie *Rochelle, Rochelle*: "A young girl's strange, erotic journey from . . . to . . . ."



*Kitabu - Ali & Joe*

## **Kitabu — Morgan Out-Island 41 Joe Seraphin and Ali Divita Berkeley**

Joseph, 38, is a Solar Professional, while Alicen, 34, is a Health Coach. Their crew will be Teena Roshini, 27, a Medical Researcher running Clinical Studies; and one other not determined as of press time.

Joe is a Coast Guard certified skipper, with six years of sailing experience in San Francisco Bay, including many single-handed day and night sails, four offshore trips to Point Reyes, two trips to the Farallones, four trips up the Sacramento Delta, and a three-day non-stop passage from Berkeley to San Miguel Island in Southern California. He's been a full-time liveaboard for over two years on *Kitabu*, his third boat.

Alicen has two years of sailing experience and has double-handed with the captain to Point Reyes, the Sacramento Delta, and all around San Francisco Bay on the couple's previous boat, a 1970 Ericson 35. Alicen was formerly involved in the sport of Equestrian Vaulting. "Think Cirque du Soleil, aka gymnastics on horseback," says Joe. "She has discovered there are many parallels between

that sport and sailing, such as occasional moments of soul cleansing terror.

Crew Teena Roshini has five years of sailing experience and was a full-time liveaboard for 2 ½ years, she has multi-day offshore experience and has extensive double-handing experience on San Francisco Bay.

"I purchased *Kitabu*," Joe says, "which means 'wide girl' in Hawaiian, during Covid when boats were scarce. The running joke was 'I bought a very expensive anchor windlass with a boat attached to it.' After a year of serious restoration and two additional years of repair and upgrades, she is now a capable offshore machine with decent off-grid self-reliance.

"This will be our first Ha-Ha," reports Joe, "and we plan to continue the adventure around to La Paz and Loreto to hide from the cool winter San Francisco Bay temps. When spring comes or we run out of funds we'd Bash home.

*Poobah Tip: Once the first or second Norther blows in early December, the Sea of Cortez becomes too cold for swimming until April or May. The air temps are fine. But if you want warm water, you have to continue south to Banderas Bay.*



*Lady Anne - Beth & Todd*

## **Lady Anne — Beneteau 473 Todd and Beth Winkler Portland, OR**

Todd, 57, retired as a Mechanical Subject Matter Expert/Project Manager for a Social Media company due to MS. He specialized in Emergency Power Systems and water systems including RO and UV treatment. Beth retired from a career as a Medical Records Analyst so they could cruise while still physically able to do so.

Todd's parents joined a sailing club on the Columbia River to learn to sail, after which his dad purchased a Newport 28 new in 1975. The family cruised the Columbia River from the Bonneville Dam to Astoria for years until his father sold the boat in 1981. Then a teenager, Todd

was no longer interested in sailing, except for televised Americas Cup races and the Whitbread Around the World Race. But in the summer of 1993, while attending his brother's bachelor party at the Hayden Island Sailing Club, he was once again bitten by the sailing bug.

In 1996 Todd convinced Beth, his non-sailing wife that they needed to join the Hayden Island Sailing Club. To his surprise, she reluctantly agreed. For the next year, Todd formalized his experience with ASA courses and teaching Beth to sail. In the spring of 1997, they purchased their first boat, a San Juan 7.7. Unfortunately, they could only keep the boat until the spring of 1998, as Todd was faced with a career decision that once again pulled him away from sailing.

This time the no-sailing gap lasted until fall of 2015 when Todd coerced Beth into attending a Cruise and Learn course in the San Juan Islands. Beth agreed but was concerned because she never cruised for more than three nights. After the week-long class on a Catalina 42 MKII, she was ASA Bareboat certified and in love with cruising. All Todd could do was smile because his gamble had paid big dividends. They began to charter boats in the San Juan Islands as well as the BVI's.

Fast-forward to February 2019, when they found their current boat, a 2006 Beneteau 473 named *Lady Anne*. Due to Todd's diagnosis of MS in 2017, and the COVID shutdowns, Todd and Beth's cruising plans had to be delayed and modified. This year the couple and their cat Tigger are ready to venture into warmer waters and new experiences in Mexico.

## **L'avventura — Catana 471 Scott and Jill Stephens Channel Islands / Studio City (2009, 2011, 2015)**

Scott, 60, is a Filmmaker. He'll be sailing south with spouse Jill; son Julian, 31; and Dino and Jeannie di Pasquale, crew he poached after their many years aboard *Profligate*. They will have two other crew members.

"After 25+ years, 150+ episodes of television, and a handful of films, I am done with Hollywood!" reports Scott. "It's time to move on and live a different life, one that involves more sailing, more cruising, and more living. After three Ha-Ha's as crew on *Profligate*, I think it will be a blast to be part of the fleet and experience it from the cruiser side. And yes, my cruising dreams are a result of doing the 2009 Ha-Ha aboard *Profligate*.

"Jill and I started sailing in our early 20s. When you are young and broke, a friend with a sailboat is a great thing. *L'avventura* is our fourth sailboat, not counting Sabots and dinghies, and our second Catana catamaran. We purchased her in France in 2019 and took her to Sicily. Then Covid hit and we brought her



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back to California. Now we want to take her back to the Med, our dream destination, and Sicily in particular. Anchoring in the lee of a castle with French wine and cheeses, with cheesecake for dessert, never gets old.

*L'avventura* is our dream boat. She is everything we want and need. What's sort of unusual about her is that she's only had two owners in 23 years.

"Our sailing hero is Bernard Moitessier, a sailor, poet and vagabond. His prose is a love letter to sailing.

"Jill and I have made our way across the Western Mediterranean together and made numerous shorter multi-night passages. Our longest continuous passages have been the Ha-Ha's I've done. After the Ha-Ha we'll do the mainland coast of Mexico, then the Sea of Cortez after the weather warms."

### **Let it Be — Lagoon 450 Cat (W) Sebastien and Julie Robert San Diego**

Sebastian, 47, is a Trader, while Julie owns a Retail Shop. They will have three crew. Sister Lucie Herrmann, a Photographer; brother Benoit Herrmann, 45, a website designer; and Sylvain Lacante, 40, a painter.

Sebastian has been sailing his whole life, but *Let it Be* is the first boat he's owned. This French family has been sailing their cat for five years, many of them in the Eastern Caribbean from the British Virgins to Curacao. "The weather is way too cold for our boat in San Diego," they say. "She loves sailing in clear and warm seas, so it's time for us to head south again! We plan to cruise the Sea of Cortez for a year or two, then continue on to French Polynesia."

Their longest non-stop passage has been 500 miles. Papeete is their dream destination, and their dream would be to do it with a Gunboat catamaran.

Eric Taberly, the soulful father of French sailing is their hero. Taberly did it all, with style and grace. If you ever get to Lorient, France, you must visit the excellent Taberly Museum.

"*La vie est trop courte pour boire du mauvais vin*", is Sebastien and Julie's favorite saying. It means 'Life is too short to drink bad wine.' "But considering the quality of the California wine," Sebastien says, "I am not sure it really makes sense in English." The Poobah is not sure if he's criticizing or praising California wines.

### **Libertad 3 — Oceanis 41.1 Alejandro Garcia San Diego / Irving, TX**

Alejandro, 72, did not specify a career. He'll have two crew: Len Shaw, 68 a retired CPA and Robert Guajardo, 59.

Alejandro reports that he's been sail-

ing for 30 years, during which time he's owned seven boats. He's owned *Libertad 3* for three years, but in his dreams would have an Outremer 55 performance cat that he would sail around the Marquesas, his dream destination.

Alejandro, whose nickname is Alesandro, sailed from Valencia, Spain to Croatia in 2008, his longest passage to date. It was there he probably indulged in his favorite dessert, Cheesecake Malbec.

The right-hander's favorite quote is, "If you fail to plan, you're planning to fail."

That wouldn't be true of his sailing hero, Robin Knox-Johnston, who won the first Golden Globe Non-Stop Single-handed Around the World Race with his 32-ft Atkins design *Suhaili* after leader Bernard Moitessier famously decided he had better things to do than finish the race. Knox-Johnston donated his winnings to the family of Donald Crowhurst, the contestant who faked participating before committing suicide. Teaming up with Sir Peter Blake, Knox-Johnston won the second Jules Verne Around the World Race, and then at the ripe old age of 67 became the oldest person to do a solo non-stop around the world race. Truly a sailing hero.

### **Life is Short — Catalina C350 (W) George Poe**

#### **Santa Barbara / Goleta (2020, 2021)**

George, 66, is a retired Systems Engineer who retired in part in order to be able to do the Ha-Ha. His spouse Silvia is a retired Software Engineer who will join the boat once she is safely tied up at the dock in Nuevo Nayarit (formerly Nuevo Vallarta). The *Life Is Short* crew will include Mike Haden, 67, a retired Software Engineer who did the 2021 Ha-Ha with George as crew; and Alan Harper, 71, a retired Mechanical Engineer who George says "will be well known by the time we get to Cabo."

"I have owned three boats over a 27-year span," reports right-handed George, "but *Life is Short* is our first sailboat. Silvia and I have owned her for 11 years.

"I have participated in one-and-a-half Ha-Ha's. I crewed on *Tranquilo*, a veteran of many Ha-Ha's, in 2020 and 2021.

The Poobah wonders if George and Silvia know that for over 100 years their hometown held the record for the highest temperature ever recorded on earth. 134 degrees. Google it.

*Ha-Ha Fun Factoid: George and Silvia's hometown is also very closely associated with the reason the Japanese were interned during World War II. Here's the story. Prior to the outbreak of the war Japanese tankers used to come to the Ellwood oil refinery in Goleta to get oil. During one such visit, the captain of a Japanese tanker slipped on a hillside and landed butt-first on a cactus. The locals thought it was hilarious. But the Japanese skipper lost*

*face, which was a very serious matter for the Japanese. It just so happened that the captain of the tanker was given command of a submarine at the start of the war, and on February 23, 1942, his command shelled the Ellwood oil field. Revenge!!! It was the first time the U.S. mainland had been attacked in over 100 years, and the only time it would be in World War II. As it came less than two months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Americans were understandably very edgy. So edgy that one night later members of the Civil Air Patrol in Los Angeles thought they detected as many as 12,000 Japanese planes flying overhead in the infamous Battle of Los Angeles. So everybody who could let loose with their anti-aircraft fire. But oops, there was nothing up there but a single United States weather balloon. Nonetheless, this general freakout, combined with U.S. vessels on the West Coast being sunk, prompted FDR to intern all the Japanese in the States.*



**Lightning - Dean**

### **Lightning — Ocean Alexander 46 PB Joe, Kirk, and Dean Portland, OR (2016, 2018)**

Three friends will be onboard *Lightning*. Joe Tanner, 76, retired from the Medical Devices field, Kirk Lance, 49, a Yacht Broker and Delivery Captain and Dean Sutherland, 69, a retired Electrician, Utility Manager, and former Elected Official.

Kirk, or 'Capt Kirk' as he likes to be called, is a USCG Captain from Portland with a 100-ton rating. He loves cruising and all things boats! This year's Ha-Ha will serve as a fantastic adventure and a relocation cruise for the boat. *Lightning* will find her permanent home in and around Baja, with primary moorage being in Puerto Vallarta.

When he isn't playing with boats, Kirk is busy selling and delivering them. Kirk owns Following Sea Marine, which is a yacht brokerage located in Portland.





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Kirk's wife, Tiffany, is a family practice attorney licensed in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. She stays busy with her practice and being a soccer mom. Kirk and Tiffany have owned quite a few boats, and when they are not in Mexico, they love spending time on their 58-ft Hatteras motor yacht. This will be Capt. Kirk's first Ha-Ha.

Joe recently sold his company and decided to dip his toe into retirement. Although he has had many successes over the years, retirement has not been one of those. So he's back doing what he loves, which is building teams and businesses. After serving in Vietnam, Joe went on to graduate from Harvard University. He then spent a few years in private legal practice, but ultimately went into politics, serving in both the House and Senate of Washington State. Politics filled a large part of Joe's life, but ultimately, he ended up in private business where his team took two companies public. After losing his wife of 47 years, Joe slowly began to get back out into the world. He ultimately found Catherine, a new life partner. In addition to *Lightning*, Joe owns his "pride and joy", a fully-restored 1955 Chris Craft 36.

Dean Sutherland is a veteran of the 2016 and 2018 Ha-Ha's and the Nada Ha-Ha in 2021. He's also done three Baja Bashes. Dean has significant boating experience, with 30,000 nm of cruising, including the Caribbean, Panama Canal, and west coast of Central and North America up to Southeast Alaska. He is 69 years young and retired. During his working years, he spent time in Utility Management, was an Electrician, and also an elected official in Washington state. Dean is looking forward to cruising the Ha-Ha again, making more cruising friends, helping other cruisers — and fishing!!!

Kirk loves Tres Leche cake, and says "If you're gonna be dumb, you gotta be tough". Even though he was a diver, not a sailor, Jaques Cousteau is his sailing hero.

Joe's dream destination is an African Safari, his favorite dessert is cherry pie, and he believes "You get what you work for."

Dean, aka 'Clean Dean' likes ice cream and suggests that skippers 'Never approach a dock faster than they would like to hit it.'

**Luna — PDQ Antares 44 Cat (W)  
James Patterson & Theresa Todoroff  
Pleasant Hill**

James, 56, is a retired Mechanical Coordinator, while spouse Theresa is a retired Clinical Laboratory Scientist. They will doublehand. They have been sailing for a little over a year now. Purchased in November of 2021, *Luna* is their first sailboat.

"This will be our first Ha-Ha. After-

wards, we plan on exploring the Sea of Cortez.

"At the moment, our dream destination would be Fiji. Since this whole thing is a dream, we own our dream boat."

**\*\*\*\*Lyrae — Outremer 49 Cat  
Mike and Laura Jean Miller  
Orcas Island, WA**

Michael, 47, is a Physicist, while Laura Jean is both a Geologist and a Mom. They have two sets of twins to crew for them. Forrest and Sierra, a boy and a girl who are both nine; and Aurora and Coral, two girls who are six. A couple has one chance in 70,000 of having two sets of twins.

Laura Jean, aka LJ, grew up circumnavigating in the 1980s with her parents out of Falmouth, ME, aboard a 42-ft ketch. She instilled the love of sailing in her husband Mike. Now they live on the water on Orcas Island, WA, where they've owned a series of five boats, culminating in their current cruising catamaran.

Like all Outremer cats, *Lyrae* is a high-performance cruiser that will sail circles around typical charter cats. Mike and LJ have spent the past three years refitting their cat for extended cruising. It will be interesting to learn how they do with four little ones.

"We have sailed down the coast from the Pacific Northwest and plan to cruise the Sea of Cortez into the spring, and then cross for French Polynesia on an extended cruise that may last 1-4 years.

"Our longest passage on this boat was Seattle to San Francisco, a mere six days, but LJ has done extensive passage-making as a kid and adult. This is our first Ha-Ha and naturally, we are eager to meet other boats with kids.

"Our boat is named after Epsilon Lyrae, a double-double — which is two binaries orbiting each other — in the constellation Lira. We think that's fitting since our surprise twin-making started on a Jeanneau 38 in Sausalito. Per doctors' orders, I had to force-feed LJ double-doubles from In-N-Out!

"We're not left-handers, but we have traveled extensively, love anything chocolate, kind of think we have our dream boat now and are mostly eager to see how the kids react to extended cruising.

"Coral is the lead singer in our family; AJ will race anyone anytime; Forrest will be found juggling a soccer ball on the trampoline; and Sierra will be trying desperately to find personal space away from her sisters and muttering 'Serenity Now!' Mike and LJ will be constantly wondering if they are about to fly a hull by mistake.



**Mamacita Crew - Robert**

**Mamacita — Corsair 31R (W)  
Steve 'Esteban' Green  
Golden, CO**

Steve, 68, is a Lapidarist, which means he shapes stones, minerals, or gemstones into decorative items such as cabochons, engraved gems and faceted designs. His crew will be his friend, Robert Clark, 63.

"I grew up in Mexico, am fluent in Spanish," says Steve, "and even have some friends who live and fish out of Tortuga Bay, the first stop in the Ha-Ha."

"I first sailed in the 1980s in Acapulco on a rental Hobie cat," recalls Steve. "After that, I chartered boats and joined clubs in the San Diego area. But when my kids were born in the late 90s I pretty much stopped sailing. My kids are now grown and I bought a 2003 trailerable Corsair 31R trimaran for some more adventure. I bought her three years ago and she's the first boat I have owned.

"I haven't done any Ha-Ha's before, and my longest trips have been around the Channel Islands and from Lauderdale to the Exumas.

Steve's crew Robert started sailing on small boats. Robert will be doing the Atlantic Rally for Cruisers in 2024, and if his dreams came true it would be aboard an Oyster 495.

"After the Ha-Ha is over we plan to sail or trailer back up to San Diego," says Steve, "and hopefully be home by Thanksgiving. I look forward to meeting everyone and the company of other boating folks on the trip south to Cabo."

You can call him Steve, but once the fleet crosses the border, Esteban would be more appropriate.

**Mambo — Islander 36  
Chris Fearon and Aaron Ingebritson  
Oakland/Canton, OH/New Ulm, MN**  
Chris, 47, is an Engineer. So is Aaron, 51.

It was Aaron, with his brother Tom, who helped infect Chris with a love for sailing in 2008. This was aboard the Westsail 32

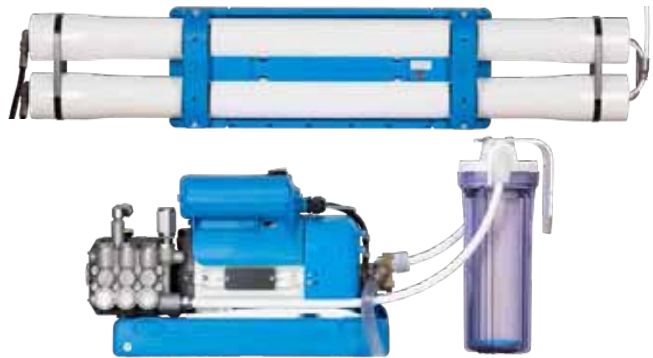




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**Mambo - Chris & Aaron circa '08**

*Argo* while they both lived in Washington, D.C. They sailed along the Atlantic Coast and in the Chesapeake Bay for a few years. Eventually, life events forced Chris to move to California and Aaron to sell *Argo* and move to Sweden. Fast forward to 2023, and these old friends are reuniting to sail the Baja Ha-Ha on Chris' Islander 36 *Mambo*.

Originally co-workers at a civil engineering firm in Washington, DC, Chris and Aaron went in different career directions. Chris now works as an Independent Consultant, providing Emergency Telecommunications Solutions after natural disasters. Aaron runs his own International Development Consulting company.

After the Ha-Ha Chris plans to spend time in Mexico to improve his Spanish, work on his salsa dancing, and generally enjoy the culture. Eventually, he hopes to continue sailing down the coast and pass through the Panama Canal. When he's not responding to natural disasters or delivering training, his goal is to bounce around the Caribbean. Aaron will return his wife and two boys in Sweden.

*Mambo* is named after Chris' favorite style of salsa music and dancing. It's a symbolic combination of his two favorite pastimes, sailing and salsa dancing!

**Mañana — Dix/Harvey 550 Cat (W)  
Jay Prince  
Seattle / Yuma, AZ**

Jay, 55, is a Software Developer. His crew will include Bryan Wingo, 34, a Carpenter; Jon Raney, 71, a retired Lawyer; Steve Schwartz, 72, a retired Film Maker / Computer Engineer / Trike Business Owner; and Bowen Walker.

"*Mañana* is a 55-foot catamaran built with Phil Harvey. He was the original builder of Gunboat cats, who teamed up with Dudley Dix to design this 'Gunboat for family cruising'. *Mañana* has similar proportions to the Gunboats of that era, but vastly less carbon fiber. There was

hope that this would be a commercial line of cats, but only four were built before the endeavor failed. Subsequently, several more were built by various yards during the past decade.

"About the name. When being built, Phil Harvey's boat took priority, so *Mañana* was a 'nights and weekends' project. Everyone kept asking when she would be finished. The answer was always 'mañana', so that became the cat's name."

"After a year in California for a refit," says Jay, "we're eager to get back to the Sea of Cortez and continue exploring."

We all need to remember what John Lennon said, "Life is what happens when you are busy making other plans".

**Maserra — Freedom 45  
Lorraine Willgress and Jack Spriggs  
Victoria, B.C. / USA**

Capt Lorraine is retired from British Columbia Hydro, an electrical company. She's also a RYA/ISPA certified Sailing Instructor. Jack, spouse and co-captain, is a yacht broker. Kurt Gurtunca, 69; and Deborah Canon are their two crew.

The couple have owned *Maserra*, a Gary Mull design that features a free-standing mast, for 20 years awaiting retirement. And now their time has come. This will be their first extended sail. Their dream destination is not a place, but a state of relationship, specifically "getting somewhere without keel-hauling each other". Only well-adjusted people would say something like that.

Both Lorraine and Jack have had the privilege of sailing with their sailing hero John Guzzwell. In fact, Lorraine, aka LoLo, saw the green flash for the first time while sailing with Guzzwell off the west coast of British Columbia.

For younger sailors not familiar with Guzzwell, he was a maintenance carpenter in Victoria for the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1953 when he decided to build the 21-foot Laurent Gilles yawl. He used hand tools in a rented shed behind a fish & chips joint. John launched *Trekka* in 1954, and in September of 1955 took off for Hawaii at the beginning of what would be a legendary four-year circumnavigation. At the time it was the smallest boat anyone had gone around on.

**Memento Vivere — Oceanis 46  
Paul Deem and Annette Leavelle  
Seattle, WA**

Paul, 31, is a Software Engineer, while co-owner and spouse Annette has an Unspecified Career. Milton Schell, 30 will be along as crew.

"We've only been sailing for two years," says Paul. "It's been a really crazy learning experience so far, but very rewarding and satisfying. *Memento Vivere*, launched in 2019, is our first and only boat. We have Starlink on her and I regularly work from the boat.

"We got into sailing as a result of need-



**Memento Verve - Paul & Annette**

ing something new to do during the pandemic. After a week 'learn to cruise' course in Puget Sound, we were hooked. We're doing the Ha-Ha because we met a couple in the San Juans who had done it years ago and couldn't stop raving about it.

"The most unusual thing about our boat is that she's a bit of a zoo. We have two dogs and a cat that we couldn't leave behind."

Annette's dream destinations are small tropical islands. "We had our honeymoon on Bora Bora, which really cemented our love for those islands. Between the perfectly clear water, beautiful wildlife, and amazing reefs, it's hard to imagine a place better. Too bad French Polynesia is so hard to get to, but I guess that's where some of its appeal comes from."

Paul grew up in the mountains of Colorado, so naturally, he watched a lot of ski films. His favorite quote comes from Warren Miller: "If you don't do it this year, you will be a year older when you do."

Paul intends to work from the boat in the La Paz area over the winter, flying back to Seattle occasionally "to appease the powers that be". Eventually, they will Bash back up the coast.

**\*\*Merlin — J/42  
Jason Chu and Deandra Wildflower  
Seattle / Kirkland, WA**

Jason, 42, is a former Site Reliability Engineer for Google. Deandra, is a former Doula. A what? According to the company Jason used to work for, "a doula is a trained, non-medical companion who assists a woman before, during and after childbirth. A doula provides support and advocacy, mediating between the woman and her maternity-care providers. They also serve as advocates for the mother if she feels she needs it."

The couple's crew will be John Boyle, 10, a Student of Life; and Lilly Wildflower, 8, also a Student of Life.



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# BAJA HA-HA XXIX

Jason was introduced to sailing on his grandparent's Laser as a teenager. He spent many summer days sailing around the lake they lived on. Deardra and the kids were introduced to sailing in January 2020, just before Covid, when they joined a local sailing club and started taking ASA lessons.

Canadians Jason and Deardra, the latter a self-identifying 'Pacific Northwest Girlie', have three favorite movies: *Bladerunner*, *Princess Bride*, and *A Scanner Darkly*. They also like video games and podcasts.

The kids like most Disney movies, Taylor Swift, emo, and Disney movie soundtracks. What is emo? According to Jason's former employers, "Teenagers use this slang term to characterize sensitive kids who follow emo music, dress in black, and have self-destructive tendencies. The slang term is derived from fans of emotive hardcore punk rock. A variation is screamo, emo music punctuated with ear-splitting screams."

"Johnny enjoys acting, video games such as Minecraft, Undertale, and Stray, and video game YouTube videos. He also loves bean burritos and pizza.

Lilly also enjoys video games such as Minecraft, Raft, Satisfactory, Infraspaces, Oxygen Not Included, and YouTube videos about video games and other science. Sushi and ramen are her preferred meals.

"We're taking off on a three-year trip. After building confidence coming down the West Coast and doing the Ha-Ha, our next big step will be the South Pacific. *Merlin* is the first boat we've owned, and she's been great to learn on because her systems are simple and straightforward. So far we've done a few trips through the San Juan and Gulf Islands with her, and a month-long trip up to Desolation Sound in 2022. Her previous owners took her down the East Coast to the Caribbean.

*Ha-Ha Factoid: The last video game the Poobah played was Tetris while crossing the Med 30 years ago aboard Big O. Has he missed anything?*

## **MerSea — Catalina 30 (W) Kendall and Matt Watson Santa Cruz**

Kendall is an Interior Designer who also runs an Airbnb, while Matt, 48, is a Property Manager. The couple plan to doublehand with assistance from Zephyr, their "seriously cute" dog.

"We grew up sailing," reports Kendall, "but didn't get serious until 2019. *MerSea* is our second boat, and we've owned her for two years. The most unusual thing about her is that the previous owner outfitted the boat with new fuzzy brown interior cushions! As an Interior Designer, I can't stand them. But they do hide the dirt."

"Last year we sailed *MerSea* from Santa Cruz to Catalina and back, a distance of



**MerSea - Kendall & Matt**



**My Fair Lady - Jeff**

600 miles. And we just did the Newport to Ensenada Race. After the Ha-Ha we'll cruise the Sea of Cortez until April, although our dream would be to sail the South Pacific, Indonesia and Southeast Asia." Matt is sure it will be a long and difficult passage even on their dreamboat a Seawind 1370 catamaran.

Matt reports his sailing hero is "my wife after the autopilot broke and she was at the helm for over 16 hours, cold and wet in high winds and heavy seas while I was repairing the bilge and trying to figure out why water was getting in the boat." Go, Kendall!

Kendall's sailing hero is surfer/sailor Liz Clark, who after graduation from UCSB acquired the Cal 40 *Swell* and took off for Mexico and the South Pacific, often sailing solo. The Poobah hasn't heard from Liz in years, but at last word, she'd pretty much gone native in French Polynesia.

Kendall's favorite quote is from Anais Nin: "And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom." Good one.

Matt's favorite dessert is chocolate cake while Kendall loves coconut ice cream and is open to "earning a good nickname".

## **My Fair Lady — Crealock 37 Jefferson Asbury San Pedro**

Jefferson, 67, who crewed on a previous Ha-Ha, is a retired Graphic Designer. His crew will be Josh Blublitz, 36, a Machinist and Rigger. The other two crew will be Jeff Anderson, 51, and his wife Marie-Eve Laroche of Boise, who trailer sail their Columbia 23 on the lakes of Idaho.

"I learned to sail as a kid, first in Redding, then on Puget Sound with my family after my dad purchased a new flush deck Islander 33. The eldest of five kids, I was always Dad's first mate. As Mom and my siblings slowly lost interest in sailing,

Dad and I continued to have many sailing adventures around Puget Sound and Vancouver Island. In 1975 Dad downsized to a Bayfield 25 full keel pocket cruiser but became so busy as the Editor of the *Seattle Post Intelligencer* that I was using *Scrimshaw* more than he was. I made several trips up into BC on my own with friends.

"When Dad retired in 1991 he single-handed *Scrimshaw* to Alaska. My sister Sarah and I flew up to Ketchikan and joined him, and sailed into the Tonga National Forest and the Misty Fjords. What an adventure that was! Dad continued to cruise Alaska for a couple more years, but when he returned home Mom insisted he sell *Scrimshaw* as it was not within their retirement budget. That was when I decided to look for my own boat in SoCal.

"I found a used MacGregor 22-2 trailer sailor for \$1500 that was in rough shape. I restored her and sailed out of Oxnard for a couple of years — until I got my ass kicked sailing back from Santa Cruz Island in Santa Ana conditions. It was gusting to 45 knots, but my crew and I survived.

In 2002 I upgraded to a 1973 Ericson 27 I named her *Pride Of Cucamonga* after an old Grateful Dead song. I made my home port San Pedro. The Ericson 27 was much better suited for sailing to Catalina and the Channel Islands. I owned her for 14 years and made more Catalina trips than I can remember. I can't say enough about how great that boat was! Over the years I had restored her to bristol condition, with new standing rigging, new sails, radar, new electronics, a rebuilt Yanmar, new upholstery, and more. I organized a gathering of Ericson yachts at Catalina in 2009 and became the Facebook administrator of the Ericson Yacht Owners group and the Ericson 27 Owners group. I sold my Ericson in 2016 to save up for a liveboard that would be my retirement home.

"In 2020 I was laid off from my job of



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18 years as Graphic Designer with Packaging Corp. of America. I kind of freaked out at first as I wasn't ready to retire. But then I looked at my investments and decided I could retire, so I went boat shopping. I had been looking at Pacific Seacraft yachts for years, mostly 34s, never thinking I could afford a 37. That's when I found *My Fair Lady*.

"She's a very custom early 37 that was finished from hull and deck by owner Robert Dozie. In December of 1981 Robert and a crew of three cast off on an adventure that took them to Mexico, Hawaii, French Polynesia and ultimately New Zealand. What is custom about *My Fair Lady* is that she is keel-stepped vs. deck-stepped. She also had a midship Beta Marine 38 hp with only 330 hrs. The windows are much larger than the production models. Since purchasing her I have replaced the standing and running rigging, added furling staysail, all new electronics, an inverter/charger, solar panels, new batteries, a chart plotter, radar, depth, wind and AIS. For the Ha-Ha I have added a six-person life raft and water-maker.

"I've now owned *My Fair Lady*, my dream boat, for 2 1/2 years. My plan is to cruise the Sea of Cortez and mainland Mexico, although I'd love to cruise Southeast Asia."

The right-handed Key Lime Pie lover has a favorite quote from Actor/Adventurer Sterling Hayden who played Brig General Jack Ripper, who set off World War III in the great 1964 black comedy *Dr. Strangelove*: "I've always wanted to sail to the South Seas, but I can't afford it," people say. What these men can't afford is not to go. They are enmeshed in the cancerous discipline of 'security.' And in the worship of security, we fling our lives beneath the wheels of routine — and before we know it our lives are gone."

**Mykonos — Swan 44**  
**Myron and Marina Eisenzimmer**  
**San Francisco / San Geronimo**  
(11 Ha-Ha's!)

Myron, 71, is retired from the world of Finance. So is Marina. "We're both left-handed, both Scorpios, both have the initials MJE and are both married — to each other."

Over the years Myron and Marina have had great success getting crew from the Ha-Ha Crew List, and this year will be sailing with crew they'd previously selected from the Crew List. "We'll be sailing with Karen Miller, who is both a repeat offender and Baja Basher; and Jim Painter, 65, another repeat offender from Stockton. Also joining us will be my niece, Sarah Stenson, a first-timer from Horace, North Dakota. Ask her about her forced landing in Uzbekistan.

"We're somewhat older than when we did our first Ha-Ha in 2000," say Myron and



**Mykonos - Marina & Myron**

Marina, "but we still have a passion to do as many of them as we possibly can. The most interesting thing about the Ha-Ha is the friendships we've made with other participants. We still visit with people we've met on the Ha-Ha's over the years.

"We're sailing smarter and faster than ever. Well, at least smarter because we don't fly the spinnaker in 35 knots of wind anymore. If the wind comes up over 15 knots, we douse the chute and sail wing-on-wing. It's much more comfortable than with a chute, and we get to Cabo almost as fast."

*Ha-Ha Factoid: Most years the Ha-Ha coincides with Marina's birthday.*

**Narnia — Westsail 42**  
**Nicholas and Annie Kaczor**  
**Seattle / Bainbridge Island, WA**

Nick, 34, is Self-Employed in an unspecified career, but despite his young age has lived in 17 states and cooked in a number of fine dining establishments. Annie, also 34, is also Self-Employed in an unspecified career, but she was a college hockey player and an RN. "Right now it is just us and our dogs, but we may be open to crew later."

"*Narnia* is a 49-year-old Westsail 42, hull #8, that we bought in June of 2020 after selling our home in Spokane and most of our possessions. Not only is *Narnia* the first boat we've owned, she's the only boat we've ever sailed. We bought her from an awesome group including Ha-Ha alum Randy Mathers of Bainbridge Island.

"After two years of living and working on *Narnia*, and around 1500 nm sailed all around Puget Sound, we decided to head south. We came down the Pacific Coast in September of 2022. We harbor-hopped down the coast with our longest passage being 47 hours. This will be our first Ha-Ha, and we plan to eventually head towards Panama, the Caribbean, and beyond.

"Our dream sailing destination is the

Caribbean, but honestly everywhere we have had the pleasure of sailing to so far has been a dream.



**Natasha - Zelix & Emma**

**Natasha — Hardin Sea Wolf 41 (W)**  
**Zelix Slocum and Emma Williams**  
**SF Bay Area**

Zelix, 32, is a Landscape Contractor and Stone Mason. Emma, 30, is a veteran of a Circumnavigation and has already visited remote Pitcairn Island, famous from the *Mutiny on the Bounty*, twice.

"Emma started sailing as a child on San Francisco Bay. Zelix picked up sailing quickly with the purchase of our first boat, an Ericson 27, at the beginning of the Covid 19 quarantine. In the summer of 2021, we purchased *Natasha*, a 1969 ketch, and we've spent the past two years refitting the boat and sailing her around the Bay. *Natasha* completed a four-year circumnavigation in the early '70s with the Bercaw family and has participated in several previous Ha-Ha's.

"Our trip down the coast to San Diego will be our longest passage with *Natasha*, our dream boat. We plan to explore the Sea of Cortez and continue further south into Mexico after the Ha-Ha. Our dream destination is anchorage hopping in the Mediterranean.

"Our new sailing hero is Kirsten Neuschäfer who is the first woman to win the Golden Globe, completing the around-the-world race, minus modern electronics, in under 235 days.

Emma's favorite quote is Henry David Thoreau's "Most men lead lives of quiet desperation".

Zelix's favorite dessert is mango sticky rice. Since you are wondering, Zelix means unpredictable, adorable, and confident.





*Noctiluca - Jessica & Ben*

**\*Noctiluca — Tayana Vancouver 42 (W)  
Benjamin and Jessica Eberle-Erwin  
Half Moon Bay**

Benjamin, 43, is a Pilot for Deep Sea Remote Operated Vehicles and for Drones. Jessica, 30, is a Marine Biologist, George Constanza's imaginary occupation. Son Finnegan, 2, is a Snuggle Master Student of Life.

The two of us have been associated with boating and sailing most of our lives, but we've only been sailing a bluewater cruising boat for about six months. Prior to buying our Tayana, we had a Catalina 27. The most unique thing about *Noctiluca* is that she transforms into a large talking alien robot named Noctilus Prime.

"Our longest passage to date was from Half Moon Bay to Long Beach, four days and three nights on our Tayana. So we are extremely excited to meet and learn from the many experienced sailors in the Ha-Ha.

"After the Ha-Ha we'll continue sailing to sharpen our skills, then cross oceans. Our dream destinations would be the South Pacific and the Med, aboard *Noctiluca*, our dream boat.

"Our sailing heroes are YouTubers who are living at sea as cruisers. We don't think we'll be YouTubing ourselves. Much. Maybe Only Fans. Just kidding. Come on, just kidding!

Our favorite quote is from Lin Pardey: "Waiting until you can afford to live in the style you'd like to become accustomed to is a curse against setting sail for distant horizons."

"Ben is left-handed, I'm not, but we both love chocolate cake with marzipan. And more chocolate."

***Odyssea* — Newport/Lancer 40  
Scott Fortner**

Scott, 44, is retired from the United States Marines. He will have three crew Katie Hamlyn, John Dame, 47; and Joe Kovacs, 61.

"I plan to sail around the world, beginning with the Ha-Ha," says Scott. "I've been sailing passionately for about two years now, and I bought *Odyssea*, my first boat, in November of 2022.

"I've been retrofitting her for the last year, and will likely have the only fully electric boat in the Ha-Ha. I repowered with a 20Kw electric motor and got rid of the propane for cooking. The only fuel I'll carry is for the dinghy motor and the backup portable generator.

"The Ha-Ha will be my longest passage to date, but I'll have experienced crew with me. My goal on the Ha-Ha is to learn as much as I possibly can and to enjoy the company of positive people.

"I wish I could afford something like an Island Packet 55, but I'll do with what I have.

"Capt Ron is my sailing hero, of course, and 'If it's gonna happen . . .' is my favorite quote.

"For dessert, I prefer peanut M&Ms or whiskey. Homer was my call sign in the Marines."

***Okisollo* — Island Packet 485  
Dan and Jeanne Blair  
Edmonds, WA**

Dan, 51, is a mortgage banker who is shifting work to his partner so he'll only have to work when he feels like it, yet still be able to pay the bills. For five years prior to retiring, Jeanne was in the Tech World. "As Chief of Staff in Human Resources, my job was to be a 'fixer' for tech execs who got into Human Resources trouble during the COVID crisis."

The couple will doublehand with their cat Leia. "So far she's gotten seasick every time we go on the ocean, and thus has been useless except to keep our feet warm at night. We have no idea what her purpose will be in Mexico. The couple will not be joined by their son because they believe he's in college. "All we know for sure is he says he's attending and we're paying for it."

Dan and Jeanne have been sailing together for 30 years, during which time they've owned at least six boats. When they were young and restless they sailed from Seattle to New Zealand on a Swan 44. Dan also did a 30-day delivery from New Zealand to French Polynesia. "It was epic," he recalls, "and Jeanne spent a lot of time with the New Zealand Coast Guard. It's a good story."

Still restless, most recently they moved aboard their Island Packet 485 *Okisollo* and set off for a summer in Alaska. But hopefully, the Ha-Ha will show them the way to winter in warmer places.

"We've been sailing since college, and have owned many dinghies and six boats. We bought *Okisollo* in 2021, and she checks all our boxes. *Okisollo* is much more modern than the Swan was, although our dream boat would be an Oys-

ter 885. After the Ha-Ha we'll figure out if we do another South Pacific run or go to the Caribbean."

Either the Caribbean or South Pacific are fine with Jeanne, who loves anchoring where there's sun but no mosquitos. Dan's dream destinations are "the Northwest Passage or anywhere it's cold".

Jeanne agrees that not all who wander are lost, while Dan doesn't like dessert.

The Poobah presumes *Okisollo* is named after the Okisollo tidal rapids near Quadra Island in British Columbia, where in the right conditions a tidal wave is formed that can be ridden for hours with a board or kayak.



*Ola Nani - Charlie & Barbie*

***Ola Nani* — Catalina Morgan 440 (W)  
Charlie and Barbie Quinones  
Honolulu, HI / Kaaawa, HI**

Charles, 57, is a retired Automation Project Manager, while Barbie is a retired Property Manager. The residents of Kaaawa — which is on the Kam Highway in northeast Oahu and is correctly spelled with a vowel three times in a row — plan to doublehand.

Charlie is an avid North Shore surfer, and Barbie has been racing outrigger canoes with Kailua Canoe Club for the last 10 years. They are ocean lovers looking forward to sailing adventures.

"We are new to sailing, having taken lessons during Covid, as we were looking for a new way to enjoy the ocean. We purchased *Ola Nani*, our first sailboat, in Chula Vista a year ago. Since then we've been sailing her up and down the Southern California coast. We are hoping to spend some time in the Sea of Cortez after the Ha-Ha, then continue south and see where the wind blows us.

"Our dream destination is to the Med, but we're not in a rush and will take it one anchorage at a time. We have recently left our jobs and are taking a break, hoping to ride this sailing adventure into retirement. We have three grown sons and are

ready to enjoy the empty nest.”

*Ola Nani* means ‘beautiful life’ in Hawaiian, sort of like *mooi leven* in Dutch; *bella vida* in Catalan, *bella vita* in Corsican; *belle vie* in French; and *hermosa vida* in Spanish.



*One Eyed Jack*

### **One Eyed Jack — Express 37 Suzie Grubler**

**Lahaina / Maui, HI (2010, 2013)**

Suzie is retired from an Unspecified Career. Her crew will be First Mate Kati Hedden, a School Teacher; Mariana Lowy-Gerstmar, a Lawyer; Chad Gerstmar, 41, a Boat Captain; Jenna Caplin, a Landscape Architect; and Brian Lewis, 66, a ‘Man of Mystery’.

Suzie has been sailing for more than 30 years during which time she has owned six boats. For the last five years, she’s owned her dream boat, the Carl Schumacher-designed Express 37. But unlike most Express 37s, which remain popular racing boats after all these years, hers has a windlass and a radar arch.

Suzie has done multiple Pacific Cups to Hawaii and sailed through the South Pacific to New Zealand. After the Ha-Ha she plans to sail back to Maui.

Suzie is a right-hander whose dream destination is Scotland, and agrees with Capt Ron that ‘If it’s gonna happen, it’s gonna happen out there’.

Curiously, Suzie’s sailing hero is her ex-husband, the semi-legendary architect, cartoonist, and sailor, Jonathan ‘Bird’ Livingston.

### **Paieka — Jeanneau 49 Steve Berl**

**Alameda / Piedmont (2017)**

Steven, 65, is a retired Software Engineer who put in time with Cisco and Apple for a total of 30 years. He’ll have three crew, including younger brother Neil, 62, a retired Financial Consultant who splits his time between Portland and Skamania County, Washington. He’ll be the fishing

coach. Another crew will be Justis Fennel, 66, who not only built Moore 24s back in the day on ‘the Reef’, but has sailed the Bay and Delta his whole life. He also did the 2017 Ha-Ha aboard *Taliesin Rose*. A rigger, he lives aboard his Beneteau 423 in Alameda. And last but not least, Lance Berc, 62, a retired Software Engineer and an active Bay racer since the mid-’80s. He likes weather routing and navigation.

Steve started sailing at age 12 with an O’Day Daysailor on the south shore of Long Island, New York. He can remember owning six boats. A Sunfish, a Hobie 16, and since moving to the Bay Area, a Searunner 31 trimaran, the Soverel 33 *Good & Plenty*, and now the Jeanneau 49 *Paieka*, which he bought during Covid in September of 2020.

“I have also sailed a bit in the South Pacific on other peoples’ boats,” reports Steven, “and visited Hawaii, Fiji, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Australia, and New Zealand. My longest passage was 21 days from Oahu to San Francisco.

“I eat almost anything, but not uni, beets or oatmeal. I love chocolate ice cream and chocolate cake for dessert, and just about anything else chocolate. My favorite desert is the Mojave. My favorite band has to be The Grateful Dead, but I listen to lots of different music. I like dogs, but cats make me sneeze.

“After this, my first Ha-Ha, I plan to commuter cruise the Sea of Cortez and the mainland coast of Mexico. After that, who knows? But my dream destination is the South Pacific. Of course, I also love the Caribbean and the Med.

My favorite quote was written by a pilot but applies to sailors as well: “A superior pilot uses his superior judgment to avoid situations which require the use of his superior skill.”

“I’m left-handed, and lots of people call me by my last name ‘Berl’, when I was a kid it seemed like it was rare to be the only Steve in the room”.

### **Pendragon — Valiant 40 Scott and Jennifer Brigham Ventura / Whitefish, MT**

Scott, 60, is the retired Vice-President of Sales for a food company. Jennifer is a retired Dermatology Medical Assistant. Their crew will be Karl Freienmuth, 70, who is retired from the Jet Leasing field; Mary Beth, Freienmuth, a Yoga and Wellness Studio Owner; and brother Walter Smith, 62, a Commercial Real Estate VP.

There will be a lot of racing experience on *Pendragon*. Starting in Minneapolis, Scott and Jennifer have raced continually for over 20 years with a Mirage 24, J-22, J-24, and finally a Mumm 36. And Jennifer has participated in a Women’s Rolex Regatta. In addition, they have eight Chicago to Mac’s between them, have done a Caribbean 1500 Rally, and crossed the Atlantic as part of an Atlantic Rally for

Cruisers. Oh yeah, Scott did the 2016 Pacific Cup on the class-winning Cal 40 *Redhead* owned by Jennifer’s brother.

The crew doesn’t lack sailing experience either. Karl and Merry Beth, also from Minneapolis, own a Pearson 39.9 and sail her on Lake Superior. Karl is a pilot, a licensed Coast Guard Captain, and an expert radio operator. Merry Beth has raced J-22s, J-24s and Mumm 36s, and has participated in a Women’s Rolex Regatta. Both Mary Beth and Karl have participated in an Atlantic Rally for Cruisers and the Caribbean 1500 aboard *Pendragon*. Walter Smith, from Fresno, is a lifelong sailor who has raced his Cal 40 *Redhead* in numerous major offshore races. He took the Navigator Award in the 2016 Pacific Cup when his Cal 40 took 1st in Division and 3rd overall.

Scott and Jennifer purchased *Pendragon* in Puerto Vallarta in 2004. They then Bashed her up to San Diego and put her on a truck to Lake Superior for a refit and inland cruising. In 2011 they transited the Great Lakes to the Erie Canal to New York. They participated in the Caribbean 1500 Rally to Tortola and continued as far as St. Lucia before heading back to Tortola and Key West.

They shipped the boat home to Lake Superior from Tampa and trucked her to Ventura when Scott retired in January. Scott and Jennifer now live in Whitefish, Montana, and split their time between Montana and Ventura.

The couple’s plan is to stick close to Cabo, La Paz and the Baja side of the Sea of Cortez. Jennifer is going to practice her ever-more fluent Spanish and Scott is going to learn how to kiteboard at Los Barillas. They are hoping for at least one ski trip home to get some turns through the white stuff on Big Mountain!

“Our dream boat is our Valiant,” the couple say. “We’ve owned her for 20 years now, and know every screw, nut, and bolt on the girl. We’ve sailed her through some very serious weather on our trip to Tortola, and she took the waves with ease. Our kids believe *Pendragon* is their home since we’ve owned her longer than any of the houses we’ve lived in.

Scotty and Jen are our nicknames, and we’re also known as Belts and Suspenders. If anybody needs a certain bolt, nut or wire, come by our boat, which is known as ‘The Chandlery’.

### **Pennyann II — Fantasia 35 Joe Miller and Anna Berger San Diego / Sparks, NV**

Joe, 51, is in the Trucking business. His sweetheart, Anna, 35, fishes commercially in Alaska! Their crew will be Helder Romero, 33.

“I started sailing at age six,” reports Joe, “racing Sabots and Lasers off San Diego for the Coronado Cays YC. I have owned too many boats to count, from jet





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# BAJA HA-HA XXIX

boats to cabin cruisers to sailboats to river driftboats. *Pennyanne II* is new to me this year, but I also have an Islander 36 in La Paz.

Bruce Bingham designed the *Fantasia 35*, and 75 were built starting in 1976. One unique feature of the center-cockpit boat is that she has 7-ft headroom.

"I've never done a Ha-Ha before," says Joe, "but I have done the trip to Cabo a couple of times, and Andres has done it professionally countless times.

"After the Ha-Ha I plan to base out of La Paz and sail the Sea of Cortez, then haul the boat for a refit. I'm a Mexican citizen. I spend about half the year in Mexico, where I own Del Marco Yacht Services, a charter and boat services company.

"My dream destination is the South Pacific, and I will sail there in the future. My *Fantasia 35* is my current dream boat, and with the help of my crew in La Paz, I will restore her to better than new.

"I am left-handed and Dennis Conner is my sailing hero."

## **Perception — Lagoon 42 Cat Jim and Melinda Hall Boise, ID**

Jim, 53, is an unspecified type of Engineer. He'll be sailing with Melina, who is retired from Campaign Management. Their crew will be Grace Hall, 22, their daughter. She is a Student.

Jim and Melinda have been sailing for eight years. *Perception*, which they've owned for 2 ½ years, has been their only boat. Their longest passage has been from Seattle to San Francisco, where they likely encountered more weather than they'll see in the Ha-Ha.

The couple own their dream boat and would love to sail her in Europe, their dream destination. Their heroes are a couple of legendary singlehanders. Josh Slocum for being the first person to sail singlehanded around the world, and Sir Francis Chichester, who not only was the first person to singlehanded around the world non-stop but who came up with the Hall's favorite quote: "Any damn fool can navigate the world sober. It takes a really good sailor to do it drunk.

The couple are fond of chocolate coconut pie.

## **Pooino Roa — Kelly Peterson 44 Jerry and Kathy McGraw Newport Beach (1999, 2004)**

Kathy is the Captain and husband Jerry, 76, is a retired Deputy Sheriff of the Harbor Patrol. They have both done two Ha-Ha's. Janet Griebel, a retired Real Estate Broker who cruised Mexico on and off for nine years "and loved it", will be their crew.

"We have been cruising for 23 years," reports Jerry, "and before that Kathy raced and taught sailing. Our first boat

was an Ericson 32, and we did one season in Mexico with her. The rest of our cruising has been aboard *Pooino Roa*, a Doug Peterson classic that was launched in 1979. Our boat's name means 'very crazy in the head' in Tahitian.

"We did the Ha-Ha in 1999 with our Ericson, then did it again in 2004 with our Kelly-Peterson.

"Our longest passage has been from Pohnpei, Micronesia, to Long Beach. It took 62 days of non-stop sailing to cover 6,000 miles." The Poobah is going to guess that's the longest non-stop passage of any sailors in this year's fleet.

"After the Ha-Ha we plan to end up in Barra for the winter," the couple report.

Jerry is the only southpaw, but we both like ice cream.

## **Profligate — Surfin' 63 Catamaran Richard Spindler and Doña de Mallorca Riviera Nayarit Marina, La Cruz, Mexico (27 Ha-Ha's)**

Richard, 75, was the founder of *Latitude 38* and the Editor/Publisher for 40 years, and was the founder and has been the Grand Poobah of the event for its entire history. Doña is a Captain and Registered Nurse who has done 26 Ha-Ha's and 23 Baja Bashes. An eight-year former resident of Mallorca, Spain, Doña has sailed across the Atlantic twice, while Richard has only done it once.

Richard and Doña met very briefly during an Antigua Sailing Week in the 1980s and were so enamored with each other that they didn't meet again until 10 years later. After a 24-year courtship they got married a few years ago, although neither can remember exactly when or why. They live three months a year each on boats in Paris, St. Barth, La Cruz, and Southern California. Hey, it's less expensive than owning a house and living in Coastal California, and the scenery is always changing.

The *Profligate* crew will include Jim Drake, 65, a retired Professional Captain and Yanmar Dealer, who helped finish *Profligate* and who was the Captain of the Ocean 71 *Big O* from California to Turkey and back to the Caribbean. Jeanette, Jim's wife, is retired from Facebook and other Silicon Valley companies and doublehanded across the Pacific to Australia with Jim after the 2021 Ha-Ha.

Chris Hunt is a Contractor in Sacramento who has done 20 Ha-Ha's on *Profligate*; Chuck Skewes owns Ullman Sails in San Diego and Seattle, and has done five Ha-Ha's along with countless races to Hawaii; Paul Ludgate, from Newport Beach, owns a 44-ft cat, leads llama tours in Colorado, and has done five Ha-Ha's. Christian Holm Bombs Forest Fires from jets and has done five Ha-Ha's; Lynn Ringseis, a former Charter Cat Owner/Operator in the Caribbean, and currently a Socialite,

has done 15 Ha-Ha's aboard *Profligate*. Steve Mueller, retired as a Fire Chief from Cal Fire is a Ha-Ha virgin, although he's done two Bashes aboard *Profligate*. Kris Mueller, a former helicopter Medic who is about to retire as a Registered Nurse, and is a vet of a Bash on *Profligate*, will be doing her first Ha-Ha.

There may be other crew, but that's all the Poobah can remember at this time.

*Profligate* was built by DENCHO in Long Beach in 1996. She is based on a Kurt Hughes 60-ft charter cat but stretched three feet and the interior modified tremendously by the owner. *Profligate* is basically an ocean-going day cat that can sleep 14. She has done 25 Ha-Ha's as well as a trip through the Canal to the Eastern Caribbean and back. She's mostly made of Divinycell and Vinylester resin. Before she got loaded down, she hit 25 knots on both San Francisco Bay under white sails, and again under spinnaker on the Ha-Ha.

Richard has owned 19 boats over the years, including three Olson 30s and an Ocean 71 that he kept in the Caribbean except for a trip across the Atlantic and Med to Turkey and back. Having done six Antigua Sailing Weeks back when it was a huge week-long international event with over 200 entries, he's inordinately proud of his Ocean 71 *Big O* being declared 'Party Boat of the Week' three times in a row by legendary Joel Byerly, the 'Voice of Antigua'. The Poobah has since matured.

Richard and Doña are both proud to be 'regular people'. While they have been very fortunate to have been able to do a lot of things over the years, they don't consider themselves any different than anybody else.

Richard's motto: "The reason I was put on earth was to try and help others have a little fun before departing this vale of tears," says the Poobah.

## **Rampant II — Cal 9.2 Eric Taylor Channel Islands / Somis**

Eric, 69, is in the Real Estate business. He'll be sailing south with Mark Hamlin, 71, a retired Software Developer and Lawrence Abele, 59.

"I've been sailing for 55 years," says Eric, "first in the New York/New England area then. After college, I built cruising sailboats in Costa Mesa, during which time and sailed and raced my own small boats. I had a 39-foot wooden sloop in San Diego in the 1980s when I met a woman carrying a grinder across a boatyard. We got married, and two kids and a long hiatus later we bought our current boat. That was five years ago and I've been doing a refit ever since. I've upgraded *Rampant II* for longer cruises with more tankage, a rebuilt mast, new rigging, modern electronics, and safety gear.

"I haven't done a Ha-Ha before, but I'm familiar with much of the course from



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being on fishing pangas. My longest sailing passage to date has been Dana Point to the Cojo anchorage and back via the outside of San Miguel Island. And I did it solo.

"My wife will meet me in Cabo after the Ha-Ha, and we'll cruise up in the Sea of Cortez for about a month. Then I'll Bash home.

"The Ha-Ha and the Sea of Cortez are my dream destinations. Over many years I've traveled along both sides of Baja, but never in my own sailboat."

### **Refuge — Pearson 37 Jerry Aberle Brookings, OR / Fallbrook**

Jerry, 58, is an Aircraft Business Owner. He'll be sailing with Gordy Cox, 60, who is a Helicopter Pilot; Brad Ihde, 72; and Clifford Webb, 62.

"I've been on the water all my life, on boats with and without sails," reports Jerry. "I've owned quite a few boats, which is probably why I'm not retired. I've owned *Refuge*, designed by Bill Shaw, for two years. She was built in 1982 by Pearson Yachts, one of the most respected names in the industry.

"My dream is to retire and sail around the world, but I still haven't found my dream boat."

Jerry is his own sailing hero. Why? "We survived the Boxing Day tsunami in Southeast Asia because I stopped our boat four miles offshore. We caught a sailfish and a huge dodo that ultimately got away."

For those who don't recall, the Boxing Day tsunami, which was the result of a 9.1 quake off the northern tip of Sumatra, Indonesia, is believed to have been the most deadly natural disaster in history. It's estimated that 230,000 people in 14 countries lost their lives. In many cases, the difference between life and death was a matter of 100 feet or less. If you were on a boat in deep enough water, you weren't affected. If you were in too shallow water, the tsunami broke and you didn't have a chance. The Poobah is not sure if Jerry stopped four miles offshore to catch the sailfish or some other reason.

'Get 'er done' is Jerry's favorite expression, and would apply when someone is preparing Crème Brûlée, his favorite dessert.

### **RMantaSea — Manta 42 MKII Cat Brian Stanton and Monique Cordray Channel Islands / Oxnard**

Brian, 62, is retired from the IT world while spouse Monique is a retired Lawyer. Their crew will be Gordy Cox, 60 and Clifford Webb, 62.

Brian has been sailing for over 40 years, during which time he's owned four boats. He and Monique currently own two multihulls, their Manta 42 cruising cat and their more performance-oriented



**RMantaSea - Monique & Brian**

Corsair F-28R trimaran.

"We've owned the Manta since 2020," reports Brian. "Under the previous owner she was a buddy-boat for 14-year-old Laura Decker during her record solo circumnavigation with *Guppy*. Our boat can even be seen in *Maidentrip*, the documentary about Dekker's adventure.

"This will be our first Ha-Ha. In fact, our longest offshore journeys to date have been Newport to Ensenada races. After the Ha-Ha we'll head up to La Paz, then figure out what to do next.

"Our dream boat would be any Gunboat over 50-ft, and our dream destination would be Fiji, where we celebrated our honeymoon.

"'Live Your Life with No Regrets' is our motto. So we both enjoy a good glass of wine.

"Neither of us have nicknames. Monique is left-handed, but I haven't held it against her in the 15 years we've been sailing together.

"To show you how important sailing is to me, my first question to Monique when we met was not if she had any kids, but whether or not she got seasick.

"The Ha-Ha will be our first extended journey with our Aussie dog Bandit. We're all looking forward to the adventure."

### **Rocinante — Catalina 36 (W) Joe Cowan and David Henry Moss Landing / Palo Alto (2021)**

Joseph, 80, is a retired Deputy Sheriff. Friend David Henry, 66 will be the Skipper. The three crew will be William Pigors, 67, who did the Ha-Ha in 2021; Michael Sullivan, 69; and Betsy Sullivan.

Joe's dream destination is Palau in Micronesia, where he learned to sail canoes as a kid. His dream boat is his old Solvieg, which is either an auto-correct or a design the Poobah is not familiar with.

"I'm not left-handed," says Joe, "but I'm surrounded by those types. My brother, my daughter, my grandkids — left-

handers are everywhere!"

Known to his family as 'Papa Joe', he's a proud Texan "who grew up traveling the world, who served in Vietnam as a Marine, who was a Deputy Sheriff, and who moved back to California after living in Hawaii for 30 years.

Skipper David, who is known to some as "Meatsss" (Meatass?) because he owned a butcher shop until last year, learned to sail at the Olympic Circle Sailing Club in 2016. Since then he's gotten many certifications, chartered countless boats to 40 feet on the Bay, has done many cat charters in the Caribbean, and raced from Oakland to San Diego on a 52-footer. The owner of an Olson 25 and a member of the Singlehanded Sailing Society, he and his wife are looking to move up to a 38 to 45 footer.

"We almost did the Ha-Ha last year," report Joseph and David, "but at the last minute one of the crew got sick and we didn't think three was enough to safely sail to Cabo.

"It's better to reef early when you first think about it, than when you really have to," is their favorite quote." And good advice.

After the Ha-Ha Joseph plans to keep the boat in Mexico, where he hopes to find soft chocolate cookies.

### **Rode Trip — Catalina 36 MKII (W) Dennis Staggs San Diego / McAlester, OK**

Dennis, 68, is a retired Physician. His crew will be cousin Ernest Staggs, 60, a Lawyer; and Blair Monhollan, 68.

"I have been sailing inland lakes for 30 years," reports Dennis, "during which time I've owned a half dozen small power boats and four sailboats. The boat I currently have was purchased in 2007 and moved to San Diego from Lake Eufaula, Oklahoma in late 2021.

"I have not participated in the Ha-Ha before, but I was crew on a boat from Cabo to San Francisco that did last year's Ha-Ha. That trip from Cabo to San Francisco last year was the longest passage I have made. My plans for after the Ha-Ha are to keep the boat in Mexico for about a month, and then sail her back to San Diego.

"My dream destination is the BVI's. My interest in sailing started when I was a kid reading about Robin Lee Graham's solo sailing adventures in the *National Geographic* magazine." For younger sailors who may not be familiar with Graham, in 1965 the then 16-year-old Orange, CA native left California on a 24-ft sloop for what would become a five-year circumnavigation. At the time he was the youngest solo circumnavigator. A book and a movie, both called *Dove*, soon followed.





*Salty Dancer - J & Crew*

**Salty Dancer — Jeanneau 44 DS  
James Mills  
Incline Village, NV (2006)**

James, 70, is a Marina Industry Consultant. Given that his full name is James McVicar Mills IV, no wonder his friends call him 'J'. That comes from "a strong Viking heritage". His crew will include Tim, 65, and Sally Mueller, who have been sailing together for 23 years and pre-Covid spent four years living aboard their Jeanneau 52.2 at Emery Cove. During Covid, they moved from the Bay Area up to Vancouver, Washington where they subsequently retired. The last crewmember will be Blair Hake, 60, an avid boater and part-time sailor who hails from Stockton, California where he is a Financial Advisor.

J has spent the past 25+ years designing, developing, and managing coastal and inland marinas across the western United States. So we're going to ask him where the berths are going to come from for all the big multihulls that are taking over the sailing world. And what can be done about all the sub-30-foot slips, now that most people buy 35-footers and up for starter boats?

"A recovering/escaping workaholic, I purchased my new-to-me Jeanneau 44 DS this winter in Seattle," says J, "and spent the winter months adding a new asymmetrical spinnaker, a watermaker, and other cruising comforts as well as a life raft. I also renamed the boat. *Salty Dancer* is a homage to the first boat I did an ocean passage on. We tagged along with the 1980 TransPac from San Francisco to Hawaii, and I've been hooked on ocean sailing ever since.

"This will be my second Ha-Ha. My first was in 2006 with my Catalina 470 *Seventh Heaven*, which led to several years of juggling work and commuter cruising to La Paz, and then a year sailing around the Sea of Cortez and down to Costa Rica. Ultimately I Bashed singlehanded back from Puerto Vallarta to Newport Beach.

The boat had been struck by lightning the month before, so all I had for instruments were a handheld GPS and a satphone. The Bash only took me 47 days.

"This time I'm retiring for real. I sold my home in Lake Tahoe, am retiring from work, and aspiring for life. It's going to involve new friends, new experiences, new horizons — and maybe even a circumnavigation.

"At this writing, *Salty Dancer* is cruising the Puget Sound for the month of May, with me getting acquainted with a new boat and systems, and polishing up on my sailing skills. We'll be rounding Cape Flattery in June and heading south, first stop San Francisco Bay and the Delta. Then SoCal and the Channel Islands before posting for the 2023 Baja Ha-Ha.

"My favorite dessert is dark chocolate cake and a glass of port.

"My dream destinations are Tahiti, Thailand, and the Med. My sailing heroes are Gardner McKay and Ulysses — although Gardener had more fun in *Adventures in Paradise*."

*For you young pups, Adventures in Paradise was a television series created by noted novelist James A. Michener. It ran from 1959 to 1962, and there were 91 episodes. The series starred handsome Gardner McKay, who played a Korean War vet who took to tramping around the South Pacific for passengers and cargo with the big schooner Tiki III. The Tiki was the John Alden-designed schooner Pilgrim that had been built for American yachtsman/adventurer Donald C. Starr, who sailed her around the world. McKay ended up owning the schooner, which was tragically lost off Bequia during Hurricane Allen in August of 1980.*



*Seabiscuit - Debbie & Bill*

**Seabiscuit — Watson 48 PB  
William Blumlein and Debbie Lyman  
Yuma, AZ / Oregon (2019)**

William, 67, is a retired Glazier, while spouse Debbie is a retired Printer. Their

crew will be Mike Levesque, 58, retired from Construction; and Tiffany Levesque, an active Flight Attendant.

"I have been sailing and boatin' for 40 years," says William, "on four boats I've owned and on friends' boats. Dan Brenny, Mike Levesque and I did the 2019 Ha-Ha aboard my Hylas 44 *Scout*. Debbie and I have owned *Seabiscuit*, our 2006 steel-hulled powerboat, for six months. The most unusual thing about her is that I haven't been able to find her sails yet.

"My dream," says William, would be sailing off the Philippines and Thailand on a crewed sailing yacht with Fletcher Christian and Bob Seger, living on seven-layer chocolate raspberry cake and beer, hoping to bump into Jimmy B, and helping him go see the lizard. Life is awesome!"

William's longest passage to date has been three days.

William and Debbie's boat may or may not be named after the champion thoroughbred racehorse in the United States in the 1940s when horse racing was the most popular sport in the country. Although *Seabiscuit* was small in stature, he beat the 1937 Triple Crown winner War Admiral by four lengths in a two-horse special at Pimlico. The unlikely champion was a symbol of hope to many Americans coming out of the Great Depression.

**Seaquester — Beneteau 423  
Bill Leone**

**San Diego / Denver, CO (2022)**

Bill, 66, is an Attorney who will have a crew of four including Chris Huggines, 50; Ric Geiman, 60; Michael Pinkerton, 45, a Business Owner; and a to-be-determined 'J World' Coach and Professional Sailor.

The crew are avid sailors and lead the Lake Pueblo Sailing Club in Colorado. They all have significant sailing experience and each has some overnight and offshore experience. They have always had the Ha-Ha on their bucket list and were anxious to do it, especially if this might be the last year for the event. "Because we did it with our boat last year," says Bill, "and are fully equipped for the trip, and successfully Bashed back to San Diego last year, I agreed to use our boat and do the 'Last Ha-Ha. In addition, the crew is anxious to improve their sailing skills, so we are bringing along a coach from J/World in San Diego.

This crew is a really interesting group. They are committed to the sport of sailing and volunteer countless hours to make sailing more accessible to people and grow the sport in the landlocked State of Colorado. Lake Pueblo is an inland man-made lake that is about 9 miles long and 3 miles wide. The crew organizes races on behalf of the Lake Pueblo Sailing Club every other week and conducts training and seminars. They sail practically all year round despite the Colorado weather. They are hosting a trailer sailor regatta there the first week of October. They are adven-

# BAJA HA-HA XXIX

turous trailer sailors and participated in the Sailish 100 in the Northwest in 2023. One crew member cruised the SOC with his spouse for several years. Another has participated in the Chicago to Mackinac regatta. This all Colorado crew was very sad to learn that this could be the last Ha-Ha and feared they would never get a chance to experience what for them had been a sailing bucket list item. Always willing to help dreams come true, and wanting to amortize all the improvements I paid for to do last year's Ha-Ha, and appreciating these guys for all they do for the sport, I was happy to help.

"I have been actively sailing for the past 16 years," reports Bill, "and have owned a Capri 18, a 1947 Chris Craft (a beautiful thing), and the Beneteau 423 for the past three years. I purchased the boat in San Francisco, and she's already been down to Puerto Vallarta and back to San Diego.

"But I have quite a bit of other off-shore experience. I have completed four long-distance races to Mexico, the 2019 TransPac, a Newport to Bermuda Race, and a Palermo to Monte Carlos race. We prepared the boat for the 2022 Ha-Ha and did it. Then we continued on to Puerto Vallarta (La Cruz) where we spent the winter. This year, we plan to do a quick turn and return to San Diego for Thanksgiving.

My nickname is Billy. Seems right for sailing. I know it is politically incorrect, but I still celebrate the Italian-American holiday of Columbus Day! There is no desert but chocolate...and maybe torcetti.

## **Segue — Island Packet 485 Mike and Norma Bongiovanni Spearfish, SD**

Michael, 62, a Mechanical Engineer by training is now a Business Owner. He and Norma, who retired from the Software Industry, currently run a Software Consultancy from their boat. They will have son Chris Betsill, 27 along as crew.

Having grown up on the Jersey Shore, Mike has been a lifelong boater. He's owned both powerboats and sailboats since he was 11 years old. He started sailing with a Hobie Cat 16 and has sailed various boats ranging up to a 39-foot Pearson.

Norma, a lefty, has been on power boats her whole life. She fell in love with sailing after she and Mike cruised Italy's Amalfi Coast last fall.

"Our Island Packet 485 is our dream boat," they say. "We bought her in December 2022, sailed to Mexico in January, and have been getting acquainted with her ever since. We'll be living aboard for the foreseeable future as we explore the coastal waters of the United States, Mexico and Canada. Our dream destination is anywhere our sails take us, but we'd love to take her across the pond. After the Ha-Ha, we'll be exploring the Sea

of Cortez until spring.

"For us, home is where the anchor drops."

## **Shadow Dancer — Hylas 44 (W) Steve and Kerri Smith San Pedro / Rainbow**

Steve, 58, is an Electrician, while Kerri is a Consultant. They will have son Jacob, 25 sailing with them.

Kerri has only been sailing for one year, but Steve has enjoyed it for eight years. Their Hylas 44 is the only boat they've owned, and they've had her for two years.

Spouses often keep secrets from one another. Throughout Steve and Kerri's 30-year marriage, he always talked about getting a sailboat, but never thought he would because Kerri would never see of it. But with their two offspring grown, Kerri let him know that she not only wanted to help him fulfill his dream, she wanted to join in it. "The kids are gone, both of us are still healthy and strong, so there is no better time than the present for us to dive right in and make sailing memories together," says Kerri.

The couple plans to sail the Sea of Cortez after the Ha-Ha, but their dream destination is "the open ocean". They say if their daughter and grandson are still living in New Zealand a few years from now, they would enjoy an epic voyage to go see them.

The couple own their dream boat. While they view the world as their oyster, Steve likes vanilla ice while Kerri prefers anything with chocolate.

Where is Rainbow? Just south of Temecula on the 15 in Southern California.

## **Shoofly — Barnett 42 Christa Goddard and Colin Taylor Sequim, WA / United Kingdom**

Christa, the owner of *Shoofly*, Works on Boats in an unspecified capacity. Colin, 67, her partner of 28 years, also Works on Boats in an unspecified capacity. Their crew will be friends Joe Williams, 62 and Gretchen Williams.

Colin, who is from somewhere in the United Kingdom — which could mean England, Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales — has been sailing for half a century, during which time he's owned seven boats. He's also made numerous trips from California to Hawaii and back.

*Shoofly* was designed by Tim Barnett, launched in 1986, and features an unusual Kauri wood interior. Christa has owned the sloop for a little more than a year.

Given his trips to Hawaii and back as both skipper and crew, it's no surprise that Colin's favorite boat has always been the Santa Cruz 50. His sailing hero is Ken Read, one of the most celebrated skippers in the world of sailing. For years Read was untouchable in J/24s, which led to America's Cup campaigns, which led to Around

the World Races, which led to becoming President of North Sails, which led to being the skipper of Jim Clark's J Class *Hanuman* and his 100-ft *Comanche*.

In addition to Mexico, Christa's dream destinations by water are the South Pacific, Alaska, and Thailand. Christa's favorite dessert is "... oh, there are so many." Colin zeroes in on ice cream.

## **Sierra — Rafiki 37 (W) C. Randy Landis Santa Cruz / Chico**

C. Randy, 66, is an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon. His crew will be Dustin Landis, 27, his son, who is in Construction.

"I have been sailing for 30 years," says C. Randy, "but it was only six months ago that I bought *Sierra*, my first boat." Unlike most boats in the Ha-Ha, *Sierra* has a full keel, a canoe stern, and tiller steering.

"I was signed up to crew in the 2012 Ha-Ha but did not get to go. I did, however, end up sailing back to San Diego from Cabo during Thanksgiving week of that year.

"My dream destinations are the South Pacific, the Caribbean, and the Med. My dream would be to cruise there aboard a Hans Christian 48.

"I don't have any sailing heroes, possibly because my motto is, 'If there is a will, there is a way'.

"For the record, I'm right-handed and love German chocolate cake and sailing.

"I plan to leave *Sierra* in Mexico for the winter, then sail back to Santa Cruz in the spring."



**Solimar - Sonia & Steve**

## **Solimar — Hunter 41 Steve and Sonia Thompson Santa Barbara**

Steve, 67, is a School Administrator who, given the times, might be happy to be retired. Sonia is a retired County Employee. Their crew will be David Wood, 63, a Service Technician.

"I have been sailing on and off for 50



years,” reports Steve, “and Sonia about 20 years. I have owned seven boats, and we’ve owned *Solimar* for 15 months.

“Neither Sonia or I have done the Ha-Ha. My longest passage was as crew from Fiji to Opua, New Zealand, which is about 1,400 nautical miles. My longest passage as skipper was from Bali to Singapore, about 1,000 nautical miles. After the Ha-Ha we plan to explore the Sea of Cortez and Mexican mainland. Then, who knows?

“Our dream destination would be Fiji on our dream boat, an older Outremer catamaran. The spirit of Bernard Moitessier, our sailing hero, would be along with us.” The Ha-Ha ends in Cabo San Lucas, of course, where Bernard famously lost his legendary *Joshua* on the beach.

*Ha-Ha Factoid: Between 2000 and 2012, Hunter Marine built and sold over 100 different designs. Curious.*

### **Stray Cat — Outremer 49 Cat Wayne Keith and Margie Enquist Evergreen, CO**

Wayne, 52, is a retired Firefighter. Margie is a retired Judge. The Poobah bets she has some stories to tell. Crewing with Wayne and Margie will be Lanny Henoch, 71, and Sarah Sing.

“We’ve been sailing for two and five years respectively,” they report. This makes it all the more impressive that they bought *Stray Cat* in June of last year in Tahiti — then sailed her to Hawaii, Victoria, and Seattle. Well done! Mind you, the Outremer 49 is a performance catamaran, not a charter condo cat. Prior to *Stray Cat*, the couple had only owned a Hobie Cat.

“After doing our first Ha-Ha, we’ll explore Mexico, do a bottom job and other work, then either sail back to Tahiti or through the Panama Canal. Our favorite dessert is rum raisin ice cream.”

Because Wayne and Margie’s bio is a little thin, the Poobah is going to add a quote from *Captain Ron* that they might like:

*Benjamin Harvey to Captain Ron:* “Man, what happened to your eye?”

*Martin Harvey:* “Ben!”

*Katherine Harvey:* “Sweetie, asking that is rude.”

*Captain Ron:* “No, that’s alright. Shark attack, swab.”

*Benjamin Harvey:* “A shark ate your eye?”

So what’s your verdict, Judge Margie? Funny or not funny?

### **Sundowner — Californian 45 PB Jeffrey and Lynn Venier Oakland, OR / Queen Creek, AZ**

Jeffrey, 61, is a retired Steamfitter/Welder who likes to spend his days tinkering on the boat or in the shop. Lynn is a retired Engineer. The two, who have been



**Sundowner - Lynn & Jeff**

married for 27 years, will have two crew on their 22-year-old powerboat. Their deckhands will be Marcus and Lacey, vets of many ocean miles who enjoy pizza for breakfast and like swimming while wearing life jackets.

The son of a WWII Navy veteran, Jeff spent his formative years on various vessels exploring the Great Lakes with his family. Later he owned his own boats, canvassing lakes in Colorado, Utah, California, and Arizona. With the encouragement of his wife and family, he began scuba diving. Naturally, this seaward progression led him to open water boating.

Lynn began her water pursuits in Massachusetts, starting as a lifeguard at various beaches before college. Scuba diving was her passion after college and is to this day. She has multiple certifications, including Rescue Diver.

After owning lake boats and challenging deep lakes like Powell and Mead, the call of the ocean became too hard to resist. So several years of piloting a 27-ft Sea Ray ensued and then came *Sundowner*. Coast Guard credentials were obtained, and the arduous process of piloting her from Oregon to San Diego began in the summer of 2022. Lynn now pilots *Sundowner* off the Southern California coast, anxiously awaiting the trip south as part of the 2023 Baja Ha-Ha.

“Our goal is to continue on to Panama after the Ha-Ha, with our dream destination being Bocas del Toro on the Caribbean side of Panama.”

### **Swan Fun — S&S Nautor Swan 55 Joe Heinzmann**

#### **Oakland / Concord (2023)**

Joe, 63, is a retired Power Engineer for General Electric. His crew will consist of Wendy Schuss, Gwen Rogers, Cisco Ramos, 44, Pepper, and his daughter Emelie Heinzmann, 28.

“After completing the Ha-Ha last year I took *Swan Fun* north to La Paz and

Loreto until the cold northerly winds finally knocked some sense into my head. So I headed south to Mazatlán, where I enjoyed Carnival and made a lot of new friends. After shanghaiing some crew in Mazatlán, we stopped at the Isla Isabella Nature Reserve to look at the blue-footed boobies, then continued on to Puerto Vallarta.

While in Vallarta I assembled a great crew, and we had a fun time in the Banderas Bay Regatta and making trips to Punta Mita, Yelapa, and prepping the boat for the trip to Hawaii. We left for Hawaii in May. I found other great crew at the Nawiliwili YC on Kauai, so we participated in the Kauai Channel Race. That requires a 100-mile beat to the start line on the eastern side of Oahu before turning around and heading west downhill back to Kauai. After all this fun we were back in San Francisco by July.

After the Ha-Ha this year, we’ll head straight to Puerto Vallarta to enjoy the southern part of Mexico during the winter. Then we’ll bounce between Puerto Vallarta for MEXORC and the Banderas Bay Regatta, and Mazatlán for Carnival and the TSE in April. After that we hope to repeat our Hawaii to San Francisco route, perhaps leaving from La Paz in May.

“I started sailing 42 years ago with Hal Nelson, then owner of Nelson’s Boatyard, aboard *Axel Heyst*, and did the original Pacific Cup with him to Nawiliwili. I built and restored boats in the ‘80s before heading to the Cal Maritime Academy where I earned degrees in Mechanical and Marine Engineering, and got my Coast Guard certifications.

“I answer to ‘Joker’, love a spinnaker up with a light breeze and a gentle swell, and believe the journey is more important than the destination. I love any desert with rum, and believe I’m living the dream.”

Joseph Conrad’s *Victory* is the source of Joe’s favorite quote: “Woe to the man whose heart has not learned while young to hope, to love — and to put its trust in life!”

*Ha-Ha History: When Joe did that first Pacific Cup aboard Axel Heyst, he raced against Andiamo, later to become his Swan Fun, but at the time was owned by a very young Tom Harney. Harney and Nelson, with Heinzmann aboard the latter’s boat, had a \$1,000 side bet. The Poobah can’t remember who won. Andiamo was later purchased by Clay Bernard and renamed Swan Fun in partial deference to his Davidson 50 Great Fun.*

### **Talion — Gulfstar 50 Patsy Verhoeven**

#### **Portland, OR / La Paz (16 Ha-Ha’s)**

Patsy, aka ‘La Reina del Mar’, has been the tireless Assistant Poobah for the last seven years. She is in charge of all the communications in addition to handling

almost all the details, as the Poobah is a big-picture-only kind of guy.

Patsy is a veteran of the real estate world in Lake Oswego, Oregon, spent some time boatbuilding at Schooner Creek in Portland, and when not working on the Ha-Ha spends time as a webmistress.

Her Ha-Ha crew will include her guy Tim Horne, 65, a veteran Colorado River guide and current employee of the city of Aspen with 10 Ha-Ha's under his belt; Sister Sue Drake, retired from Insurance and a veteran of 8 Ha-Ha's.

Patsy has done every Ha-Ha since 2007 and is legendary for sailing all the way every year and being able to sail her 46-year-old Gulfstar 50 fast and deep. Not many sailors can do both well at the same time, and it's what much of the Ha-Ha is all about. "I have owned *Talisa* since 2000 when I bought her to replace my Columbia 43 that had blown up in a propane explosion. I've sailed north to Alaska, south to Costa Rica, west to Tahiti, and east up seven locks on the Columbia and Snake Rivers to Lewiston, Idaho.

"I've lived aboard for well over 30 years, and for the past 16 years primarily on the hook in Mexico and Southern California. "My dream boat would be one that requires no maintenance and one on which nothing breaks. Ha, ha, ha. "My favorite dessert is red wine with chocolate, and I am left-handed.

"I'm proud to be the Poobah's only employee since he sold *Latitude 38* and married Doña. "My goal," says La Reina, who frequently singlehands her 50-ft boat, "is to do whatever I can to enable others to enjoy the cruising lifestyle."

Be nice to La Reina, she's doing everything she can possibly do for you.

patsy@baja-haha.com

**Talisa — Fountaine Pajot 47 Cat  
Christopher Schwerzler and Mary  
Beth Ludwig**

**Kapaau, HI / Healdsburg**

Christopher, 50, is a retired Programmer who will be sailing south with his "significant other" Mary Beth Ludwig, a Certified Public Accountant. The two "left our lives of running companies in California to try to become pineapple barons in Hawaii." It's unclear how that worked out. Their crew will be Mary's 21-year-old daughter Natalie, who is in Marketing; Asher Holland, 21, who works in Forestry; and John Bridle, 76.

Christopher has been sailing since he was 10, during which time he's owned seven boats. He's owned *Talisa* for five years. His longest passage to date has been from La Rochelle, France to Malaga, Spain. While the Sea of Cortez and Costa Rica are in his plans after the Ha-Ha, the Med is his dream destination. He'd love to do it aboard the queen of the F/P line, the 67.

Mary Beth has excellent taste in music,



*Talisa - Chris & Mary Beth*

and if she had her way they would play Creedence Clearwater Revival all day. So maybe she can explain why a band from El Cerrito, California became the pioneers of Swamp Rock, with songs about bayous, catfish, and the Mississippi River. But she'll also settle for the Yacht Rock channel.

Chris and Mary Beth think New York and Detroit-style pizzas are yummy.

The cheesecake-loving captain's favorite quote is: "Boats are like strippers, they stop working when you stop throwing money at them." He's left-handed, doesn't have a nickname, but would like to live "in world peace."



*Tivoli - Torben & Judy*

**Tivoli — Beneteau Oceanis 50  
Torben and Judy Bentsen  
San Francisco / Copperopolis**

Torben, 69, is a Yacht Broker for Naos Yachts. Judy is a retired Sonographer. Torben and Judy have been sailing for a combined 115 years, "which means we're older but young at heart." Their crew will

be Chris and Alex Stump, friends from the Richmond YC.

"We both grew up sailing prams," the couple report. "Torben sailed *Optis* in Denmark and Judy sailed *El Toros* on the San Francisco Bay. We're avid racers, so our previous boats have been a Hawkfarm 28, a Moore 24, a Lancer 36, and a Beneteau 42.s7.

"In 2010 we retrofitted our 42s7, surrendered our house keys, and took *Tivoli* on what turned out to be a 32,000 nautical mile excursion of a lifetime. Ten years after setting out, we brought her home from Europe on her own bottom.

"We've owned our current *Tivoli* for 2 ½ years. We purchased her in Grenada, retrofitted her in Charleston, and shook her down on the East Coast as far north as Maine. Last spring we sailed her home via the Bahamas and Panama Canal.

"What's unusual about our boat? Everything works!

"Our longest passage to date has been 24 days from the Canaries to the BVIs when coming back from Europe. Our plan to spend the winter in Mexico, bring her home, then do it again. Mexico is the last leg of our cruising dream. We think.

"When we went on our initial cruise to the Caribbean and Europe, the plan was always to keep the Ha-Ha and Mexico for our old age, as it's closer to home. We're old now!

"We've already been to a bunch of our dream destinations, but sailing the old *Tivoli* into my home port in Denmark was a highlight. Other highlights were Saba Rock in the BVIs, Barcelona, London, and New York Harbor.

"Our dream boat would be a boat we don't have to work on past noon when cruising. Our sailing hero is Scuppers the sailor dog. We think so highly of this hero we named our labradoodle Scuppers, who so far has over 8,000 miles under her paws.

"I don't have a nickname," says Judy, "but I could think of a few for Torben."

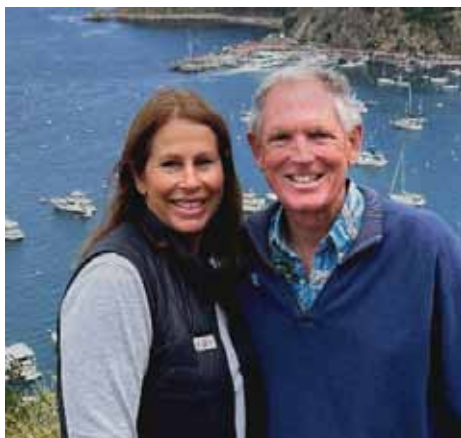
**Traveler — North Wind 47  
Michael and Barbara Lawler  
Newport Beach (2019)**

Michael, 70, is an Estate Planning Attorney, while Barbara, bless her heart, is a retired 7<sup>th</sup>-grade English Teacher. Both have held 100-ton licenses from the Coast Guard. Their two crew are Mark Blackburn, 69 and Gwen Leung.

"I was on the USC Sailing Team in college," reports Michael, "and since then have competed in seven TransPacs and have about 100,000 miles at sea. Barbara has raced in six TransPacs, each time being voted Most Valuable Crew Member. She and I have done five TransPacs together, three on *Traveler*, including a First-To-Finish trophy in the Cruising Class in 2019.

"This will be my second Ha-Ha," says





**Traveler - Barbara and Michael**

Michael, "as I did the 2019 with friends Bill and Owen on *Moonlight Lady*. This will be Barbara's first.

"Back in July of 2010 Barbara and I completed a three-year circumnavigation with *Traveler*, sailing a westabout through the Suez and Panama Canals. We visited 64 countries on six continents. *Traveler* is a North Wind 47 built in Barcelona in 1985.

"Before our fortuitous meeting at the Hawaii YC following the 2005 TransPac, Barbara lived aboard a Peterson 44 for five years while cruising the Caribbean.

"After the Ha-Ha we plan to cross over to the mainland, taking a slip at Marina Mazatlán for a couple of weeks. Then we'll continue on south as far as Acapulco before slowly working our way back up into the Sea of Cortez. We'll spend about eight months cruising Mexico altogether before doing the Bash back to Newport Beach around the first of June."



**Trinity - Suzanne, Sue, Greg & Gary**

**Trinity — Spencer 1330 (W)  
Sue and Gary Stephens  
Bainbridge Island, WA (2003)**

Sue is a retired Legal Assistant, while Gary, 69, is a retired Diver. In addition to both doing the 2003 Ha-Ha, they "unofficially" did the 1993 'Some Like It Hot'

rally, a loosely semi-organized precursor to the Ha-Ha.

The Stephens' two crew will be friends Suzanne and Greg, 65, Fults, who did the 2003 Ha-Ha with their three kids aboard their Newport Beach-based Beneteau 444 *Lemuria*. After becoming fast friends with Sue, Suzanne and Greg are returning for another Ha-Ha, sans children, to help Sue and Gary sail south. Also along for the ride is Sammy, Gary and Sue's two-year-old kitty.

Gary and Sue have lived aboard sailboats for the last 36 years. After buying their first fixer-upper, *Njord*, a Traveller 32, they promptly moved aboard to spend the next six years getting her ready to go cruising. Their no-sailing experience has morphed into 36 years of living aboard and two long cruises.

The Stephens' first cruise was aboard *Njord*. It started with the 1993 *Some Like It Hot* rally and resulted in a two-year Mexico and South Pacific cruise. Their second cruise was in 2003 aboard the Cheoy Lee Offshore 40 *Pegasus*, with seven-year-old daughter Amy. It started with the Ha-Ha and included time in the Marshall Islands and even Midway.

The Stephens' current boat, *Trinity*, launched in 1976, will be one of the older boats in the Ha-Ha. The Poobah is a big fan of properly-maintained older boats.

Gary is anxious to get back to warm water diving, which is his passion. He's always looking for diving companions, and notes he has a compressor aboard.

The Stephens plan to spend winters aboard in Mexico and summers RV-ing the Western States.

The Poobah wonders if the Stephens have read *The Wrecker* by Robert Louis Stevenson. It takes place in Paris, Edinburgh, England, San Francisco, Sausalito, Sydney, Hawaii — and Midway, the atoll they've already visited. It's not the easiest book to read, but it's the Poobah's all-time favorite.

**Ventana — Beneteau 46.1  
Gary and Kelly Troxel  
Richmond / Lafayette**

Gary, 68, is a Business Owner. Unfortunately, his wife Kelly will not be making the Baja Ha-Ha but will meet the boat in Cabo. Gary's crew will be friends Nora and Phil DeGaa, 64.

Gary and Kelly have been sailing since 1978, and have a lot of offshore experience. Having raced in five Pacific Cups to Hawaii means more than 10,000 challenging offshore miles for both.

The couple have owned six boats, including *Ventana* for just the last four months.

After the Ha-Ha they plan to cruise up to La Paz. The weather is normally excellent there right after the Ha-Ha, except that by early December the water often becomes too cold from comfortable swimming. To the surprise of many, the water

doesn't really warm in the Sea again until May.

Their favorite destination? "Our next venture after our current mooring."

The couple "really enjoy" their Beneteau 46.1. They aren't the only ones, as between France and the U.S. over 500 have been built since 2018. Pascal Conq is the naval architect, and Nauta Design did the rest.

"May your joys be as deep as the ocean, and your sorrows as light as its foam." If they made that up, it's a pretty good quote.

'Cap't G' notes that port is not just a place to bring your boat in from the sea, but is also their favorite dessert.

**Walden — Passport 40  
Chuck Gottfried and SusanJo  
Lorincz  
Port Hadlock, WA / Eugene, OR  
(2017)**

Charles, 72, is retired as a Project/Construction Manager for local government while SusanJo is a retired ER Nurse and Charles' Domestic Partner and Supervisor. They'll have Cindy Darling, a Business Owner as crew. All three are experienced coast cruisers from Washington to Alaska during the last 25 years. In addition, Cindy owns a 33-ft sloop she often singlehands.

Chuck and SuzyJo have sailed the Pacific Northwest together for 10 years, and separately for several years more. Chuck has owned close to a dozen boats, including seven he built himself. Truly a hobby run amuck. Most recently they've owned a Channel Cutter and Pacific Seacraft 34.

"We've sailed *Walden* for three years, and anticipating traveling to Mexico and points beyond, we started an extensive re-fit last winter. Changes in family life and retirement mean we now have more time to cruise.

"We're both new to the Ha-Ha, but our crew Cindy did it in 2017. But we all have some offshore experience in the Northwest, including to Alaska. Our trip to Alaska and back was 1,500 miles. We've also spent our summers cruising the San Juans and Canadian Gulf Islands.

"After the Ha-Ha and a winter in Mexico, where we hope to get some work done, we'll strongly consider a Puddle Jump to Tahiti, our dream destination. We already own our dream boat, although we'd rather own a Pacific Seacraft 40.

SusanJo's favorite quote is, 'What's the worst that can happen?' That makes Chuck nervous.

"I'm left-handed," admits SusanJo, "but don't be jealous. We both love Tiramisu, although we enjoy it best when in Tuscany accompanied by a glass of red."

## **Wanderer — Outremer 51 Cat David and Ellie Walsh San Francisco / Alameda**

David, 57, is the CEO of an unspecified company, as is Ellie. They will be joined by David's two talented sailing sisters Ger Walsh and Deirdre Reffell.

Originally from Cork, Ireland, David has been an avid sailor all his life. His love of the ocean was passed down from his parents, who owned a range of boats throughout their lives. Having made his way to Southern California for graduate school, and being taken by the West Coast lifestyle, David ended up staying in the Bay Area to kiteboard, mountain bike, and sail. He has done a number of offshore races and is looking forward to his first Ha-Ha.

Ellie is originally from Southern California, then moved to London for graduate school. After working in Boston for a few years, she found her way to San Francisco. A lover of nature and being outdoors, sailing became a natural extension of her lifestyle after meeting David. Having taken numerous ASA courses and spent many hours offshore, she is looking forward to her first Ha-Ha.

David and Ellie met at a mutual friend's wedding. They didn't remember much about the wedding, but they remembered everything about each other. The rest is history.

"We cruised the Caribbean and East Coast of U.S. for a few years pre-pandemic," the couple report, "but have been land-locked for the last few years. We are ready to get back out again. From now until the start of the Ha-Ha we'll be diligently working on improving our limited knowledge of Spanish — even though our dream destination would be French-speaking French Polynesia."

*Wanderer* is one of the modern breed of French-built Outremer catamarans, which are on the high end of the performance spectrum. Look for her to be near or at the front of the Ha-Ha fleet.

## **Wayfinder — Jeanneau 53 (W) Chad Bremner and Adam Bremner Vancouver, B.C. / Calgary, Alberta**

Chad, 50, is an Engineer. Chad's two sons, Adam, 18, an Engineering Student and Taliesin, 21 will be crewing along with friend Peter Henning, 44.

"I have been sailing for 30 years," reports Chad, "but I only bought my first boat, *Wayfinder*, two years ago. The unusual thing about her is her gold-colored hull. She's easy to pick out.

"My longest passage to date has been 2,882 non-stop nautical miles San Francisco to Panama City when I participated in a leg of the Clipper Round the World Race.

"We have many dream destinations but

no end goal. We plan to travel and let our short-term decisions drive our next adventure. In my dreams, we'd be doing it aboard a high-performance catamaran.

"I admire sailors who have decided to convert their passion for sailing into other adventures, whether it be circumnavigating the world, coastal cruising, or offshore racing. I participated in the Clipper Round the World Race and admire founder Sir Robin Knox-Johnston for creating an organization that enables people from around the world with different skill and experience levels to participate in extreme offshore ocean racing in a relatively safe environment.

"I'm right-handed," reports Chad, "don't have any nicknames that are safe in public, and like Sex In A Dinghy for dessert, which is a popular item at the Dinghy Dock Pub in Nanaimo, B.C.

"My favorite line comes from Milton Berle: "If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door".

"After the Ha-Ha we'll sail down the Pacific Coast, through the Canal, and complete our cruise in Grenada by April of 2024."

## **Weebles — Willard 36 PB Peter Pisciotta & Cheryll Buchynski San Francisco / St. Petersburg, FL (2005)**

Peter, 62, is a retired Management Consultant, while spouse Cheryll is a retired Project Manager. Both did the 2005 Ha-Ha. They will doublehand.

"We have owned our Willard 36 trawler since 1998. We originally planned on taking off for good in 2003, but careers interrupted us until now. *Weebles* will eventually make it to Florida, where we have retired. We will cruise for as long as it's fun."

A past USCG 100T Master, Delivery Skipper and OCC member, Peter has multiple 1000+ NM passages. Together he and Cheryll have cruised the West Coast as far as Ensenada non-stop from San Francisco. *Weebles* was just given an extensive refit and restoration to breathe another 50 years of life into the venerable William Garden designed trawler.

"We are recovering sailors who got tired of being cold, wet, and eating dinner from pet food bowls," they say.

"Cheryll is a voracious reader," they report, "while I am a tinkerer who keeps weird hours."

The Poobah thinks Cheryll is probably too young to remember, but in 1966 there was a fine hit by Al Kooper and The Blues Project called *Cheryll's Going Home*. It had the epitome of the Sixties Sound at the Fillmore Auditorium on Market Street in San Francisco, and some pretty decent lyrics:

*The thunder cracks against the night  
The dark explodes with yellow light  
The railroad sign is flashing bright  
People stare but I don't care  
My flesh is cold against my bone  
And Cheryl's going home  
Come hear me shouting in the rain  
Is there a way to stop the train  
I've got some reasons to explain about  
things I did today  
The whistles blows and I'm alone  
And Cheryl's going home*

## **\*\*Wilder — Beneteau 45 Josh Grillo and Natasha Risovanna San Diego (2022)**

Josh, 48, is Self-Employed while Natasha is a Homemaker. As in the 2022 Ha-Ha their two crew will be their children, Jadson, 11, a Student of Life, and Maxim, 9, who is also a Student of Life. The family's 18-month-old black lab Fin will return for a second Ha-Ha.

"We did the Ha-Ha last year with our 8-year-old son on crutches," Josh reports, "so he saw limited duty. As if that wasn't bad enough, Mama Natasha somehow threw one of his crutches overboard at Bahia Santa Maria. So he was crutchless up until La Paz. But it turned out fine. We're healthy and ready to give it another go.

"We've been sailing for 10 years and have owned *Wilder* for almost two years now. After last year's Ha-Ha, we made it all the way down to Barra de Navidad."

## **Winsome — Discovery 37 Ricky Conway and Jeff Conway Santa Cruz**

Richard, 37, is a Boat Scrubber. His crew will be his brother Jeff, 27, a Financial Planner.

Richard has been sailing for three years, during which time he's owned two boats, including *Winsome* for the last year. The most unusual thing about the 1971 fiberglass boat is that "she was free". There's an old sailing adage that goes, 'Nothing is more expensive than a free boat'. Only time will tell.

Richard's longest passage to date has been Port Townsend to San Diego. He's planning on doing a circumnavigation, but right now his dream destination is Mexico. And his dream boat is *Winsome*.

Ricky's sailing hero is Bernard Moitessier, his favorite dessert is Coffee Affogato, and his favorite quote is, "Wherever you are, there you are."





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# BAJA HA-HA XXIX - ENTRIES BY DIVISION

Please note: This list was provisional several days before the Rally.  
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## AGAVE DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WHITE SAILS ONLY

MerSea	Catalina 30	Kendall & Matt Watson	Santa Cruz
Life is Short	Catalina C350	George Poe	Goleta
Grace	Catalina 36	David & Jennifer Lane	Toms Place
Rocinante	Catalina 36	Joe Cowan	Palo Alto
Rode Trip	Catalina 36 MKII	Dennis Staggs	McAlester, OK
Sierra	Rafiki 37	Randy Landis	Chico
Winsome	Discovery 37	Ricky Conway	Santa Cruz
Fantasy	Hunter Legend 375	Nicolas Molinelli	Jackson
Natasha	Hardin Sea Wolf 41	Zelix Slocum & Emma Williams	SF Bay Area
Ber Necessity	Columbia 41	Wendy & Berah Taylor	Lake Forest

## BURRITO DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WHITE SAILS ONLY

Noctiluca	Tayana 42	Ben & Jessica Eberle-Erwin	Half Moon Bay
Buttercup	Jeanneau SO 43DS	Ryan Sabin & Megan Lilly	Salt Lake, UT
Ola Nani	Catalina Morgan 44	Charlie & Barbie Quinones	Kaaawa, HI
Annie's Song	Catalina Morgan 44	Will & Emily Blake	Channel Islands / Flat Rock, NC
Shadow Dancer	Hylas 44	Steve & Kerri Smith	Rainbow
Trinity	Spencer 1330	Sue & Gary Stephens	Bainbridge Island, WA
Ale er Ron	Hunter 460	Ron Johnston & Holly Hall	San Diego
Ara	X-yacht 46	Nigel & Yulia Beck	San Francisco
Wayfinder	Jeanneau 53	Chad Bremmer	Calgary, AB
Fio	Jeanneau SO 54	Jay Dozier & Barbara Benson	Kerville, TX / San Diego

## CEVICHE DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WITH SPINNAKER

Pennyann II	Fantasia 35	Joe Miller & Anna Berger	Sparks, NV
Circe	Islander 36	Dave & Kelly Kendall	San Diego / Isleton
BoatBumGal	Nicholson 38	Sandra Barnes	Long Beach / Bakersfield
Hogfish Maximus	Chris Morejohn 38	Carol & Chris Curtis	Sandpoint, ID
Walden	Passport 40	Chuck Gottfried & SusanJo Lorincz	Eugene, OR
Pendragon	Valiant 40	Scott & Jennifer Brigham	Whitefish, MT
Kitabu	Morgan 41	Joe Seraphin & Ali Divita	Berkeley
Narnia	West sail 42	Nicholas & Annie Kaczor	Bainbridge Island, WA
Counting Stars	Whitby 42	Denis Heinrichs & Rosario Passos	Port Moody, BC
Aquila of Vancouver	Young Sun 43	Aaron Sugrue & Linda LaFontaine	Vancouver BC

## DESPERADO DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WITH SPINNAKER

Rampant II	Cal 9.2	Eric Taylor	Somis
Dreamer	Catalina 36	Nicky Pitteloud	San Diego
Mambo	Islander 36	Chris Fearon & Aaron Ingebritson	Canton, OH & New Ulm, MN
Refuge	Pearson 37	Jerry Aberle	Fallbrook
My Fair Lady	Crealock 37	Jefferson Asbury	San Pedro
Here Comes The Sun	Jeanneau SO 37	Mark Spector & Kim Lazaroff	San Pedro
Boundless	Shannon 43	Dan Chase & Naiby Hilton	Venice
Jambo	CT 44	Jamie Gull	Aspen, CO

## ENCHILADA DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WITH SPINNAKER

Karma	Baba 40	John Foster & Rochelle LaRose	Brinnon, WA
Pooino Roa	Kelly Peterson 44	Jerry & Kathy McGraw	Newport Beach
Amazing Grace III	Island Packet IP440	Kim & Lena Eddy	Seattle / San Diego
Bibi	Cal 3-46	Eric Mizrahi	Redondo Beach
Attitude	Hans Christian 4750	Alex & Susan Jordan	Oakland
Bear North	Hans Christian 48	Frank & Judy and John & Vici Kortbeek	Edmonton, AB
Hokulani	Tayana 48	Tony Rogers	Leucadia
Okisollo	Island Packet 485	Dan & Jeanne Blair	Edmonds, WA
Segue	Island Packet 485	Mike & Norma Bongiovanni	Spearfish, SD

## FRIJOLE DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WITH SPINNAKER

Odysea	Newport/Lancer 40	Scott Fortner	Rogue River, OR
Iguana	Beneteau 411	Michael & Esperanza Eusebio	Sausalito
Libertad 3	Beneteau 41.1	Alesandro Garcia	Irving, TX
Solimar	Hunter 41	Steve & Sonia Thompson	Santa Barbara
Another Cheeseburger In Paradise	Hunter 41	Terry Wasik	Verdi, NV
AudreyAnna Hope	Catalina 42	Jim Ephraim	Chicago, IL
Jolly Rodger	Catalina 42 MK II	Blake Maxwell & Roger Maxwell	Costa Mesa
Endless Summer	Catalina 42 MKII	Dave & Michelle Opheim	Alameda

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## GUACAMOLE DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WITH SPINNAKER

Courage	Tartan 4100	John & Kristine Slater	Marin County
Shoofly	Barnett 42	Colin Taylor & Crista Goddard	UK & Sequim, WA
Seaquester	Beneteau 423	Bill Leone	Denver, CO
Salty Dancer	Jeanneau 44 DS	James Mills	Incline Village, NV
August Dream	Jenneau SO 439	Jason & Alyssa Bowman	Star, ID
California Stars	S&S Benello 44	Brad Hunter & April Turnbull	Huntington Beach
Maserra	Freedom 45	Lorraine Willgress & Jack Spriggs	Canada & USA

## HUEVOS RANCHEROS DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WITH SPINNAKER

Mykonos	Swan 44	Myron & Marina Eisenzimmer	San Geronimo
Ventana	Beneteau 46.1	Gary Troxel	Lafayette
Memento Vivere	Beneteau 46.1	Paul Deem & Annette Leavelle	Seattle, WA
Contagious	Beneteau 46.1	Declan & Tracy Sacre	Vancouver, BC
Gratitude	Hylas 46	Nina Lesowitz & Martin Eggenberger	Los Angeles
Traveler	North Wind 47	Michael & Barbara Lawler	Newport Beach
Talion	Gulfstar 50	Patsy Verhoeven	Portland / La Paz

## IGUANA DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WITH SPINNAKER

Amizade	Bavaria 47	Mike & Jennifer Ward	Tonasket, WA
Lady Anne	Beneteau 473	Todd & Beth Winkler	Portland, OR
Dark Horse	Beneteau 49	Brian Downing	Henderson, NV
Tivoli	Beneteau 50	Torben & Judy Bentsen	Copperopolis
Swan Fun	Swan 55	Joe Heinzmann	Concord
Angelique	Columbia 57	Andy Kurtz	Lahaina, Maui / Sebastopol

## JALAPENO DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WITH SPINNAKER

One Eyed Jack	Express 37	Suzie Grubler	Maui, HI
Merlin	J/42	Jason Chu & Deandra Wildflower	Kirkland, WA
Day Dreams	X Yachts Xp 44	Robert Day	Laguna Beach
Wilder	Beneteau 45	Josh & Natasha Grillo	San Diego
eXcape	X Yachts XC45	Carl Bertelsen	Los Gatos
Adrenalin	Santa Cruz 50	Mark Howe	Richmond
Convergence	Wylie 65	Randy Repass & Sally-Christine	Santa Cruz

## KILO DIVISION - MULTIHULLS

Fantasy	Prout CS 33	Nick Ratto & Andrea Cook	Alameda
Forever Friday	Lagoon 380	Roy Silliker	San Diego
Blue Safari	Leopard 40	Mark & Lisa Wolford	Escondido
RMantaSea	Manta MKII	Brian Stanton & Monique Cordray	Oxnard
Perception	Lagoon 42	Jim & Melinda Hall	Boise, ID
Mamacita	Corsair 31R Tri	Steve Green	Golden, CO
Barramundi	Seawind 1000	Steve & Pam Ellsworth	Lake Havasu
K2	Corsair F36 Tri	Bryan Martin & Nancy Virostko	Santa Cruz
Empty Space	Seawind 1160 Lite	Hank Boland	Salt Lake City, UT

## LANGOSTINO DIVISION - MULTIHULLS

Chat de Mer	FP Belize 43	Steve Lindley & Eve Carlson	Mountain View
Hypnautic	Lagoon 440	Mike & Debra Rosen	San Diego
iliohale	Lagoon 450S	Allan & Rina Alexopoulos	San Diego
Luna	PDQ Antares 44	James Patterson & Theresa Todoroff	Pleasant Hill
Let it Be	Lagoon 450	Sebastien & Julie Robert	San Diego
Talisa	Fontaine Pajot 47	Christopher Schwerzler & Mary	Kapaau, HI

## MARGARITA DIVISION - MULTIHULLS

L'avventura	Catana 471	Scott & Jill Stephens	Studio City
Stray Cat	Outremer 49	Wayne Keith & Margie Enquist	Evergreen, CO
Lyrae	Outremer 49	Mike & Laura Jean Miller	Orcas Island, WA
Wanderer	Outremer 51	David & Ellie Walsh	San Francisco
Mafiana	Dix/Harvey 550 Cat	Jay Prince	Seattle, WA
Profligate	Surfin' 63 Cat	Richard Spindler & Doña de Mallorca	La Cruz, Mexico

## NO COMPRENDE DIVISION - POWERBOATS

Elusive	Grady White 30	Ryan Evans & Molly Molina	Avila Beach
Weebles	Willard 36	Peter Pisciotta & Cheryl Buchynski	St Petersburg, FL
Sundowner	Californian 45	Jeffrey & Lynn Venier	Queen Creek, AZ
Lightning	Ocean Alexander 46	Kirk Lance & Joe Tanner	Portland, OR
Seabiscuit	Watson 48	William Blumlein & Debbie Lyman	Yuma AZ / Oregon



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