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— CRUISIN' TO THE CAPE —

If you're reading this, you are probably participating in the 31st 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.

Many of 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!  
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# CRUISING TO THE CAPE

Welcome to the 2025 Baja Ha-Ha 'Meet the Fleet' guide.

Please understand there are going to be inaccuracies in the guide because there will have been changes in crew and even boats between the time the guide was published and the 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' on board. 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 gennaker.

Years such as (2024) 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) 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.

## \*\*\*\*Aeries — CAL 2-46 (W) Haley & Selva Kumar San Pedro / Whitefish, MT

Selva, 50, is an Engineer of some sort, while Haley doesn't list an occupation. Their crew will be children Melvin, 12; Murugan, 8; Sorona, 6; and Kobe, 3. All the offspring are Students of Life.

Selva reports he's been sailing for 15

years, during which time he's owned five sailboats. He bought *Aeries*, the family's classic Cal 2-46, from an owner who returned after doing the Ha-Ha in 2023.

His longest passage has been an overnigher to Catalina. After the Ha-Ha, the family plans to continue on to La Paz and hang out there.

Selva's dream destination is "the Indian Ocean". There is a lot of wind in that ocean.

## Aisling — Contest 46 (W) Edward & Martha Kaufman Santa Barbara

Edward, 78, is a retired Healthcare Executive, while Martha is also a retired Healthcare Executive. Their crew includes their daughter Kate Kaufman Barklow, an Emergency Room Doctor at LA County Medical Center, and Luis Araujo, 72, a retired Cardiologist.

"Luis is a longtime friend and sailing companion," reports Ed. "He and I have sailed my boat, *Aisling*, back and forth to the Caribbean from the Chesapeake, have done the same on his boat, and in 2010, Luis, his wife, and I sailed his Mason across the Atlantic. He has no previous experience with the Baja Ha-Ha, but he currently lives in Todos Santos.

Our daughter Kate was on her college sailing team and has sailed with us on *Aisling* in the Caribbean and on the California coast. Not much in the way of long passages as an adult (BVI to St. Maarten), but she crossed the Pacific with me on a previous boat when she was three!

Edward has been sailing for 65 years, which means he's been at it for eight more years than the Poobah.

The couple previously owned a Cheoy Lee Offshore 40, but in 2001 purchased their Contest 46 on the East Coast. Contest Yachts are built in the Netherlands and highly respected. The couple kept *Aisling* in the Chesapeake Bay except for six winters when they cruised the Caribbean. When they moved to Santa Barbara in 2015, they brought *Aisling* along with them.

This is their first Ha-Ha, but they have done two Caribbean 1500s, which are much more challenging.

Edward's longest sail was way back in 1977, when he sailed 3,300 miles from San Diego to Hiva Oa. That's back before all conveniences.

The couple's goal is to explore the West Coast of Mexico and maybe Central America.

*Aisling* is an Irish language feminine given name meaning "dream" or "vision". It refers to an aisling, a poetic genre that

developed in Irish poetry during the 17th and 18th centuries. There is no evidence that it was used as a given name before the 20th century.



*Alruna - Mark & Marzena*

## Alruna — Passport 470CC Mark & Marzena Hojsan Gdansk, Poland / Johnson City, TN

Mark, 58, is a retired Photographer, as is spouse Marzena. They will doublehand.

Mark has been sailing since age 16 but has been doing it "semi full time" since 2020.

*Alruna* is their first boat. They have owned the Bob Perry design for five years.

While this will be their first Ha-Ha, Mark once did a 39-day, 5,200-mile passage, although he didn't mention from where to where. But that's a long, long passage.

While Patagonia tops the couple's list of dream destinations, they will be headed to French Polynesia in the spring. Being content is one of the most underrated qualities in life, so it's nice to know the couple already own their dream boat. She was designed by the prolific Bob Perry. Ha-Ha Quiz: How many boats has Bob Perry designed? Answer below.

Sailing author and adventurer John Kretschmer is the Hojsan's sailing hero.

According to AI, Bob Perry has designed 360 different boats, of which 6,000 boats have been built.

## Amanzi — Lagoon 42 Andrew & Leigh Tosh Newport Beach

Andrew, 58, is in Sales, while Leigh, who is from South Africa and has a lovely accent to prove it, is a Homemaker.



**Amanzi - Leigh & Andrew**

Andrew's Baptist mother would like him to say that the couple met at a fine dining establishment, but it was actually a bar. They will have three crew: Brother Taylor Tosh, 55, a DJ; Chris Jester, 53; and Dan Warner, 48, a Business Owner with a background in mountaineering and scuba, happiest with salt in the air and a little risk on the horizon.

Having sold their printing and packaging business, Andrew and Leigh have officially traded paper boxes for compass roses and launched themselves into the cruising life, starting with the Ha-Ha. Why? Because spreadsheets are overrated and the ocean has far fewer staff meetings. It's also helped that the twin daughters are off the dole, so it's time to set sail at a slower pace of life. Roughly six knots, give or take a squall.

'Drewsie' and Leigh recently proved their salty chops in the 2024 Newport to Ensenada Race, where they "crushed" their class, finishing 1st in class. Rumor has it Andrew screamed "Woooo!" as they surfed down a swell at a spicy 12.8 knots. It was less of a cruise and more of a champagne spray at the finish line.

Practically born with a tiller in hand, Andrew cut his teeth racing Sabots at BCYC in Newport and later helmed Harbor 20s with salt in his veins and competitiveness in his soul. He was essentially Neptune's intern. He's also a passionate surfer and fisherman.

Leigh, ever the adventurous co-captain, is diving into sailing with a lifejacket full of good humor and Google searches. She's fully 'on board' with Andrew's dream of sailing around the world — or at least to the Caribbean, her current definition of 'the world'.

With enthusiasm, experience, and just the right amount of 'winging it', the

Amanzi folks are "ready to ride the trade winds, chase sunsets, and maybe even remember what all those little buttons on the chart plotter do."



**Amuninni - Grant**

### **Amuninni — Lagoon 46 Grant Mitchell Los Angeles**

Grant, 62, is in Real Estate Investment and Management. Crew include Francesca Corrado; Winston Elting, 55; Dan Riordan, 65; and Tohoru Masamune, 65.

"I have been handling both power and sailboats since I was about 12 years old," reports Grant. "I spent a good part of my late 20s doing search and salvage work as well as working as a Marine Coordinator on motion pictures. During that time, I obtained my USCG "six-pack" license.

"And during the past 30 years I have owned four boats while operating dozens of others.

I have owned my current boat for 5 years. I've done a number of three and four day offshore coastwise passages on both the east coast and west coast of the US and have bareboat chartered three times, once in the Caribbean and twice in the Mediterranean.

What does Amuninni mean? It's the Sicilian way of saying 'Let's go!' Just as the Italians would say Andiamo or the French Allons-y or the Mexicans Vamanous.

### **Angelique — Columbia 57 Andy Kurtz World at Large / Sebastopol (2023, 2024)**

Andy, 67, is a retired Entrepreneur and Boat Captain. He'll have five crew: Jordan Stewart, a female Charter Captain; Kaz Jones, a female retired from Real Estate; Scott St. Clair, age and occupation unknown; and one other yet to be determined.

"This will be my second Ha-Ha," says Andy. "I did it in 2023, and it was super fun. I was going to do it again last year, but on my way back from Japan, I got hung up in Hawaii with boat repairs. So after Hawaii, I sailed to Fiji. This year I got back to Hawaii from Fiji in just enough time to sail to San Diego for the Ha-Ha.

"After this Ha-Ha, I'll return to the Bay Area for a short refit. Since this will be the last Ha-Ha, I'll head to Hawaii and then back to Fiji. But this time I'll stay longer, as there won't be another Ha-Ha luring me back."

Do you get the idea that Andy is all-in on the long-distance cruising life? The Poobah wants to hear all about Japan.

"My dream destination," Andy says, "is any tropical island with clear water, a great anchorage, and nobody on it. My dream boat would be one that is maintenance-free but big enough to be comfortable and carry all my toys."

*Angelique* is a classic Bill Tripp design from the 1970s, when Columbia and Cal (Jensen Marine) were the two huge boat names battling for dominance in West Coast sailing. In a curious way, the Poobah thinks the 57 resembles what would be a nautical version of a 1955 Chevy convertible.

Way back when, Irving Loube, who was a member of the St. Francis YC and part of the pantheon of the most successful yacht owners in the United States, campaigned a Columbia 57. He was so enthusiastic about racing that he'd do a race in Northern California one week, have the boat delivered to Southern California for a race the next, then back to Northern California, then back to Southern California, etc. etc.

### **\*\*Atargatis — Catana 472 Matt & Elyse Korwel San Diego / Sequim, WA**

Matt, 44, is in the Software world. Elyse is a retired Teacher. Their daughters, Ruth, 15, and Ava, 10, both Students of Life, will be their crew.

"Having grown up in a cornfield in the



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**Atargatis - Matt, Levi, Elyse & Ava**

Midwest, there wasn't much in the way of water besides my grandpa's catfish pond," says Matt. "That was full of snapping turtles, so we didn't do many water sports.

"Our family moved to the Pacific Northwest 10 years ago and started working through all the things we'd never done before: camping, 4x4ing, skiing, climbing, etc. Just before the pandemic hit, we started renting small powerboats. We quickly realized we loved the water but didn't like burning all that fuel. (So now we motor around less efficiently on our sailboat).

"We got our first sailboat and spent a few years playing in the Puget Sound before heading south to Mexico in 2023 and got as far as Barra. We weren't part of the Ha-Ha. Our girls grew faster than our Hunter, so we sold her in La Paz and found our cat the following summer. She fits us much better."

"For the last few months we've been in San Diego doing little things to our 23-year-old cat. Swapping out the engines, the electrical, and the rigging."

"In 2022 I crewed on a friend's boat and did San Diego to Cabo in six days," reports Matt, "my longest passage. The others did a slow three-night sail from San Jose del Cabo to La Cruz.

"Obviously the best quote of all time is 'The best way to find out, Kitty, is to get her out on the ocean. If anything is going to happen, it's going to happen out there.' 'Why do the Ha-Ha? We're most interested in connecting with other 'kid boats!'"



**Athena - Kevin**

**Athena — Beneteau Oceanis 46 (W)  
Kevin Grant  
San Diego / Encinitas**

Kevin, 54, is in the Construction business. His crew will be his son, Grayson Grant, 20, who is a Professional Surfer. With any luck, the point at Bahia Santa Maria will be going off for Grayson during the second stop of the Ha-Ha.

Kevin has been sailing since 1999, during which time he's owned three boats. He's owned his Beneteau Oceanis 46 *Athena*, his dream boat, for two years. She's one of the most popular sailing designs of her size, as over 500 of them had been built by 2023. His is one of the last ones.

Although Kevin hasn't done a Ha-Ha yet, he has done numerous trips up and down the California coast and a five-day passage in New Zealand's Bay of Islands.

After the Ha-Ha, Kevin plans to continue south to mainland Mexico, which his son Grayson can tell him is home to some great surf. The north shore of Banderas Bay is one such place. But Kevin's ultimate sailing destination is Italy. And why not, as Italy is home to Portofino, Elba, Capri, Sicily, and numerous other islands. Italy doesn't have any surf, but they do have gelato, Kevin's favorite dessert.

Kevin's sailing hero is the often funny and often acerbic America's Cup legend Dennis Conner, who the last time we checked was said to own 34 boats.

Being in the construction business, it's no surprise that KG's favorite expression is 'Walk it off!' But he also advocates "being polite".



**Athena - Katie & Joe**

**Athena — Custom Solent 44 (W)  
Joe Maciorowski  
& Katie Oitzinger  
Loch Lomond / Sebastopol**

Joe, 66, is a retired Firefighter/Paramedic while spouse Katie is a retired Teacher. Their crew include Lucas Hernandez, 28; and Oriana LoCicero, 27.

"I've had a few different forks in my trail work-wise," reports Joe. "I was a Mechanic/Engine Builder, a Scuba & Swift Water Rescue Instructor; a Firefighter/Paramedic, a General Contractor, and most recently I taught Auto Shop and Construction in high schools. I just retired."

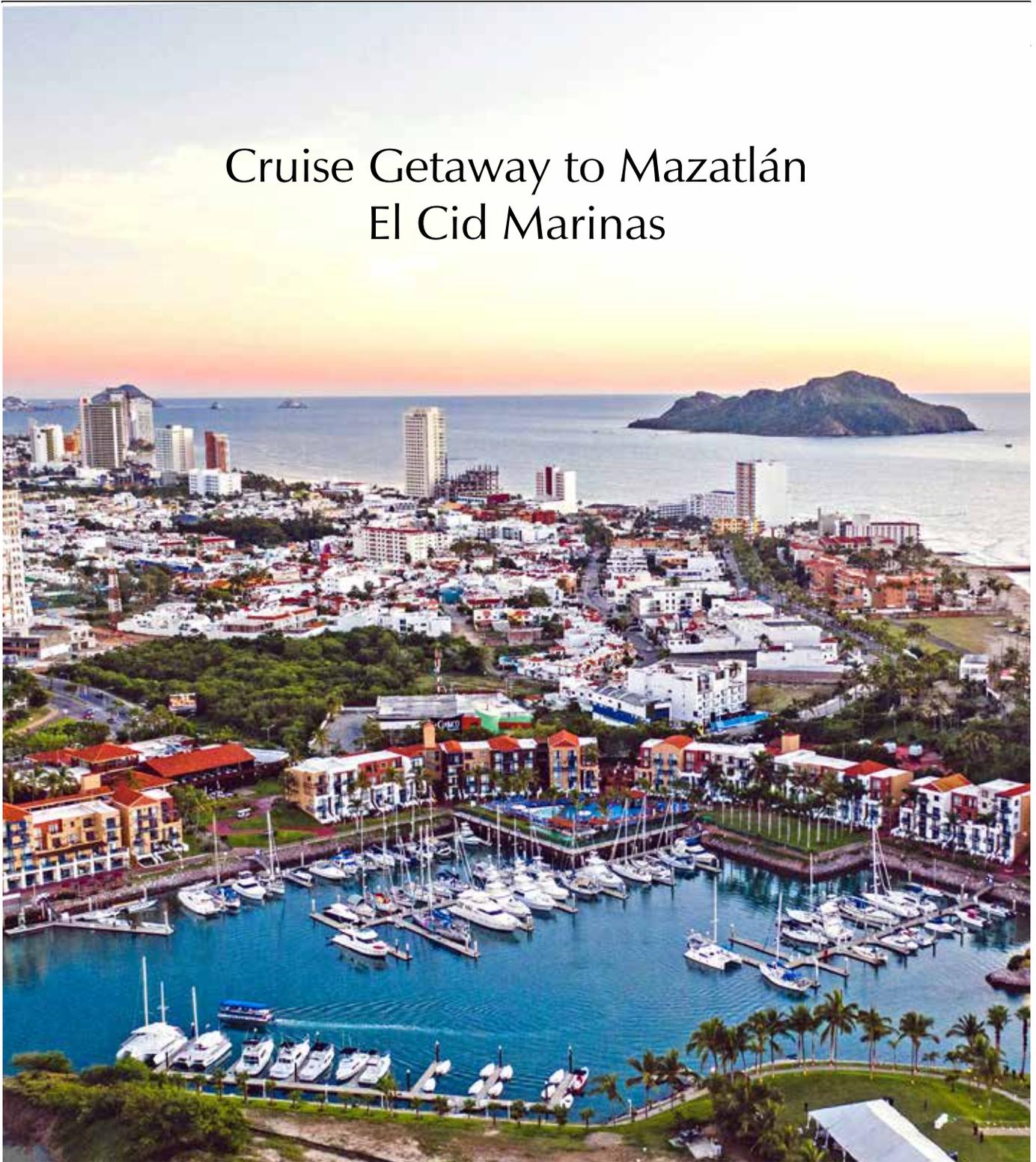
Katie has been a Restaurant Owner and a High School Science Teacher with a big focus on AP Environmental Science. She also retired this year.

Joe learned to sail on a 17-ft Gruman Canoe and Hobie Cats in his single-digit days. For a few summers I was a whitewater rafting guide and scuba instructor, getting paid to have fun. I sailed on a wooden replica of Joshua Slocum's *Spray* out of Bar Harbor, Maine. Ed Davis, the owner, built her by himself using mostly traditional methods. My father and I spent four months welding a steel version of *Spray* in the 1980s.

Left-handed Katie grew up on Long Island, New York, where she sailed Blue Jays as a kid. "I enjoy exploring the pockets and slots of San Francisco Bay in all her moods. I like chocolate and making bread, as well as turtles and all beautiful things in nature." She's excited about the couple's next chapter living on and in the water.

"We got back into sailing with a MacGregor 25 with a cast iron keel, then moved up to *Nepenthe*, a Pearson 30.

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# BAJA HA-HA XXXI

Now we sail on our dream boat, *Athena*, a 44-ft custom aluminum Expedition Boat, which we've owned for 2.5 years after buying her in Tahiti. She's named after our incredible Great Pyrenees dog who barks no more."

Not surprisingly, Joshua Slocum, the first person to sail around the world singlehanded, is the couple's sailing hero. Slocum wrote a terrific book about the adventure.



*Athena - Kristy & Steve*

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## **Athena — Spencer 1330 Steve & Kristy Whale Vancouver BC / Revelstoke BC**

Steve, 48, is an Avalanche Technician and Mountain Rescue Guy. He's the first Avalanche Technician we've had on the Ha-Ha. Spouse Kristy is a Heavy Equipment Operator. I believe she's the first female Heavy Equipment Operator we've had on the Ha-Ha.

"We've been sailing for five years," report the couple. "While we're fairly new to sailing, we've spent the last three summers on our boat/boats full-time. We're flying at the sailing life with reckless abandon.

"Our first boat was a Hinterholler 31 Niagara, which we owned for two years. We've now owned our 1976 Spencer, with the cool baby blue hull, for three years."

Least anyone think that a quality boat from 1976 is too old to cruise on, the Poobah points out that *Restless*, a Cal 40 built in 1966, just took overall honors in the ultra-competitive TransPac from Los Angeles to Honolulu.

"While this will be our first Ha-Ha, last summer we circumnavigated Vancouver Island.

"Our plan is to winter in Mexico, then

head across the Pacific in April, with New Zealand being our ultimate destination. Steve is from New Zealand.

"While *Athena* might be 49 years old, she is our dream boat. A beach with surf in Tahiti would be our ultimate destination.

"Kiwi sailing legend Peter Blake is our sailing hero, and our favorite dessert is strawberry milkshakes.

"We've quit our jobs, rented out the house, and are trying to sail across the planet on a budget of cheap beer, beans, rice and fish. We're looking forward to meeting the group and having a few laughs on the Ha-Ha. We're guided by our favorite quote: 'What's the worst that can happen?'"

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## **Audeamus — Bavaria Vision 42 Sue Evans San Diego / Denver**

Sue will be sailing with Greg Knight, 56; Tim Preston, 62; and Cate Thero as crew.

She reports that she started sailing in the early '80s. "The first time I walked onto a sailboat was at Old Saybrook, Connecticut. I got off seven days later in Camden, Maine, having fallen in love with sailing during that trip. I continued to sail through the '80s, but moved to Denver in 1990 and never really took to lake sailing. I got back into sailing when I retired in 2016."

*Audeamus* is the only boat Sue has owned. She bought her eight years ago. Sue's longest passages have been "typical seven-day charters".

Her dream boat would be a Hylas 54. It's actually one of the first boats she looked to buy. "But my broker said it really wasn't a smart idea to get one as my starter boat! How right he was!" Her dream destination would be the classics: the South Pacific or the Med.

Sue is neither left-handed nor into sailing heroes, but she does have a favorite quote: "You can have it all; you just can't have it all at the same time!"

The Lava Cake lover plans to bring her boat back to San Diego after the Ha-Ha — unless she can find a slip for her in La Paz over the winter. Poobah tip: While you might not be able to reserve a slip in La Paz, if you show up, there is a good chance you'll be able to snag one.



*Aurora - Chuck*

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## **Aurora — Valiant 40 Chuck Raby Port Townsend, WA (2024)**

Chuck, 67, is retired from the world of Finance. Crewing on *Aurora* are retired police officer Buffy Kester, 59; and Brian Andrews, 56. Brian and Chuck sailed *Aurora* on the 2024 Ha-Ha.

During his 57-year sailing career, Chuck has owned four boats: a Laser, a Cal 20, a Caliber 33, and, for the past 5 years, the Bob Perry-designed Valiant.

*Aurora* was built for one of the founders of Valiant and was taken on a 14-year circumnavigation that started in 1986.

In addition to his 2024 Ha-Ha, Chuck has done a 23-day Hawaii-to-Seattle delivery as well as a 13-day trip from Hampton, Virginia, to the Caribbean as part of the Salty Dawg Rally in 2013.

"I learned to sail on Gallinas Creek in San Rafael, which leads past China Camp to San Pablo Bay," Chuck says. "I started reading *Latitude 38* as a teen. Between those two things, the cruising bug bit me hard."

"My sailing hero is the legendary French sailor Bernard Moitessier. My dream destination is the one just over the horizon."

Chuck has two favorite quotes. The first is from Harvey Mackay: 'A dream is just a dream. A goal is a dream with a plan and a deadline.' The second is the more famous one from Kenneth Grahame's "Wind in the Willows": "Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing — absolutely nothing — half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats."

After a winter in Mexico, Chuck plans on setting sail for the South Pacific in the spring.



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**Bacchanal - Tiffany, Matt & Mason**

**\*Bacchanal — J/133 (W)  
Hop Guy  
Sausalito / Saratoga**

Hop, 68, works in IP Law. His crew will include his 29-year-old twin sons, Will and Sam Guy; Matt Zarem, 53, a licensed captain and former sailing instructor who has raced J/105s on San Francisco Bay for 25 years and now runs the Spaulding Marine Center; Matt's son, Mason Zarem, 12, a Student of Life, dinghy sailor, and all-around water kid; and Matt's wife, Tiffany Zarem, a marketing professional. Matt and Tiffany have chartered all over the world. There may also be one more crewmember named Will.

Hop has been sailing for 54 years during which time he's owned five boats between 17 and 43 feet, "plus a dozen small ones." He's owned *Bacchanal* for eight years. She took second in Class A in this years' St. Francis Big Boat Series — though Hop claims, "it was no thanks to me."

Hop's longest sails have been from Monterey to San Francisco and Santa Barbara to the Channel Islands. He dreams of one day sailing a Swan 50 in the Caribbean.

Right-handed Hop's favorite dessert is French apple tart with ice cream. "I'm doing this with my sons," he adds, "and I'm very excited about it."

**Beach House —Lien Hwa 50 MV  
Tom & Cathy Hilliard  
Port San Luis / Atascadero**

Tom, 57, is a self-employed Contractor, as is Cathy. Crew member Jeremiah Perry, 57, a retired Contractor, brings extensive boating experience and a Recreational Captains license to

the group. Additional crew are Brooks Andie, 49, another Contractor, and Kristy Andie, yet another Contractor, and Ty Andie, 18.

Cathy and Tom have been motorboating since 1995. "We've owned pontoon boats, ski boats, and, for the last five years, our ocean-going motor yacht. In February of this year, we both completed our sailing instruction with Nautilus Sailing School. We have our certificates for ASA 101, 103, 104, and 114.

"There is nothing unusual about our boat — unless you count us!

We have never joined the Ha-Ha before, but we are looking forward to this journey. Our longest trip so far has been to the Channel Islands off of Santa Barbara and back again."

"Our plans after the Ha-Ha are to continue south down to Panama, thru the Canal, and up into the Caribbean. Our dream destination would be the Fijian Islands. Short of that, we're going to settle for Honduras as a final destination with this boat.

"By the way, my husband is crazy, and this is all his idea," says Cathy. "My dream boat would be a Nordhavn 80. I don't have a sailing hero other than Popeye and all desserts are my favorite. I'm an equal opportunity desserter."

**Bluebird - Mirror Offshore 19 (W)  
Tom Carr**

**Santa Cruz / Watsonville  
(2015, 2016, 2018)**

Tom is a retired Marine Metal Fabricator. His crew will be Gayle Ross, a retired Accountant.

In his 50 years of sailing, Tom has owned seven sailboats, including *Bluebird* for the last 25 years.

He reports that his Mirror Offshore 19 is unusual in that she's very seaworthy for being such a small vessel. As the normal default for Ha-Ha boats is that they have to be 27 feet or longer and have been designed, built, and maintained for offshore sailing, the Poobah was very reluctant to grant him special dispensation. What turned the tide in Tom's favor is that he'd already sailed a sistership from Santa Cruz to Hawaii. He'd also sailed his Dreadnought 32 3,000 miles from the Galapagos to the Marquesas and done a bunch of long distance deliveries.

The Poobah also remembered that Serge Testa, an Aussie who lived in Berkeley, did a circumnavigation in 1987 with his 12-ft *Acrohc Australis*. And that Swiss sailor Yvan Bourgnon

did a 30,000-mile circumnavigation in 2014-2015 with a cabin-less beach cat.

As it turned out, Tom successfully completed the 2015 and 2016 Ha-Ha's, but had to drop out of the 2018 Ha-Ha. After this year's Ha-Ha, his plan was to sail up to La Paz and then trailer *Bluebird* home to Santa Cruz. Alas, an illness in the family makes it unlikely he'll make this year's starting line.

**Bluefin —Sabre 426  
Scott Laskey  
Santa Cruz (1999)**

Scott, 58, is an Electrical Contractor. His three crew will be Craig Kazan, 64, a Master Boat Captain; Scott's son Trace Laskey, 22, a Marine Scientist; and Scott's stepfather Denny Mosher, 79, a retired Engineer and experienced cruiser and racer from Napa, who did the Ha-Ha in 1999."

"I've been sailing in Northern California and been up and down the coast of California a few times and am now ready to take the 'training wheels' off and make the jump to Mexico."

"I've owned *Bluefin* for about four years now, and she's looking forward to stretching her legs. I've pulled together an experienced, fun-loving crew to make the trip. After the Ha-Ha, I plan to keep the boat in La Paz for the winter, where I will be joined up by the "meet-cha-there" crew of my wife and daughter. It's gonna be a fun and great trip."

"My dream destination would be the clear waters of the South Pacific. Warm clear water, is NOT overrated, and the sailing and surfing would be awesome. Maybe that's the next trip."

As Sabre Yachts are built in Rockland and Raymond, Maine, they aren't well known on the West Coast. Sabre was founded in 1970 and built sailboats and motor yachts until about 2010. Given the greater profitability of motor yachts, they reverted to only building motor yachts as large as 58 feet. They are known for excellent craftsmanship and holding their value more than most boats their size.

**Boaticus — Downeast 38 (W)  
Alan & Trudy Connors  
Vancouver, WA**

Alan, 64, is a retired Safety Manager, while Trudy is a retired School Bus Driver.

"I started sailing when I was in my 30s with formal lessons and sailing on friends' sailboats, and even dreamed of sailing around the world," says Alan. "But Trudy and I only purchased our



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## **BAJA HA-HA XXXI**

boat a few years ago. Our thoughts on retirement are not to retire, but to go on an adventure.

Our idea of an adventure is to see the world, or at least parts of it, and maybe sailing is the way to do it. We took a trip to the Philippines to get a feel for life outside the States, and that convinced us that traveling is 'the' way to spend our retirement.

We're not seasoned sailors, just spent enough time and lessons to know how to get there, and now we want to get going for adventures beyond the horizon. The Ha-Ha will help us answer a big question: is a slow boat to Europe or even a circumnavigation in our future? Only time will tell. For now, Mexico calls, with the Pacific Puddle Jump on our to-do list for next year.

We love coffee in the morning to kick off walks, sightseeing, museums, and general camaraderie and hope to meet like-minded sailors on the Ha-Ha. I like to scuba dive. Trudy doesn't dive. We like Sci-Fi movies. Trudy likes reading, crossword puzzles and crochet. We have enjoyed hiking and tent camping with our kids throughout our lives, so a sailboat is like a moving condo for us.

My sailing heroes are too numerous to count. The first author that I really enjoyed was Hal Roth with his book, *After 50,000 Miles*. I've also read most of Lyn and Larry Parady's books. Jim Moore's books, such as *Swan: The Second Voyage*, I really enjoyed as he set out on his circumnavigation just across the river from us."

### **Camelot — Islander 32 Daniel Conley Oceanside**

Daniel, 66, is the Owner of a Pool Company. His crew will be son Alex, 31, Manager of the Pool Company; and Micah Beagleman, 29, an Automotive Tech and Leather Artist.

Daniel has been sailing since he was 16. He's owned four boats over the years. He has owned *Camelot*, his Bob Perry-designed Islander 32, for five years.

"I've worked with my son Alex and friend Micha on making our boat a true cruiser. She's got new electronics and a new refer, oversized rigging, davits, and a radar post.

"I dreamed about sailing around the world when I was younger, but then life — in the form of meeting a beautiful girl and having kids — got in the way. My son Alex also wanted to sail away, but his baby girl has captured his heart. So, the Ha-Ha is the sailing adventure for us.

"My dream destination would be Tahiti, on my dream boat, a Swan 65."



**Capricorn - Lisa & Simon**

### **Capricorn — Halberg Rassy 42F Simon & Lisa Lilley Seattle, WA**

Simon, 53, is retired Actuary, which the Poobah presumes means he used mathematics, statistics, and financial theory to assess the risk of potential events in the goal of helping businesses and clients develop policies that minimize the cost of that risk. Lisa continues to work as a Software Developer. The two will have Shyah Miller, 32; Teri DeWalt; and Jeff Dubrule, 49 for crew.

Simon fell in love with cruising while chartering with family on the coast of Scotland, and couldn't wait to move to Seattle and enjoy the cruising grounds of the Pacific Northwest, where they have lived for 20 years.

"I started with a 22-footer," reports Simon, "then went on to enjoy a Catalina 30 for almost ten years. Now Lisa and I have just finished refitting our Frers designed Hallberg-Rassy for big cruising adventures."

"We're equally keen sailors, and it's been a dream of ours to cruise Mexico and hopefully beyond into the Pacific. Our dream destinations include the Marshall Islands, New Zealand, and the west coast of Scotland.

"As I get older, my dream boat starts looking more like a Nordhavn motorsailor," says Simon, "although the new Hallberg-Rassy looks pretty sweet."

The Poobah loves Simon's favorite quote, which is from Dylan Thomas: "When you burn your bridges, what a pretty fire it makes."

### **Carpe Diem — Norseman 447 Marek Schindler Ventura / Krakow, Poland**

Marek, 66, self-identifies as a "retired Nerd". His crew will be Donald Woodhouse, 69, a retired Firefighter; and Greg Calusen, 65, also retired and Charles Court, 66.

Marek has had a bit of sailing experience since he started at age 12. There was crossing the Atlantic, sailing California to Hawaii, sailing Papeete to Tonga, and many other offshore trips.

Marek's favorite quote is 'Be curious, not judgmental'. That was the Poobah's favorite quote, too, until he became curious if a certain pit bull liked to bite or not.



**Christina Marie - Chris & Philip**

### **Christina Marie — Catalina 36 (W) Chris Barth & Phil Schreffler Marina del Rey / Bend, OR**

Chris, 47, is an active Pilot, as is Phil, 40. Their crew will include David Ortlund, 42, a Smokejumper; Phil's brother, Barret "Bear" Quashen, 30, a Welder; and Ralph Sweeny, 51, a Firefighter.

Chris and Phil are two former Marines turned pilots who, as Chris puts it, "figured the next logical step in their midlife crisis was to partner on a sailboat and then take that vessel, which neither can fully operate, into foreign waters, eventually transiting the Panama Canal and landing on a beach in the Caribbean."

Their boat, "their trusty steed," *Christina Marie*, is Chris's fourth boat and Phil's first. Combined, they have about 15 years of sailing experience, including "a couple of 2-week trips in the Caribbean and a nonstop from Fort Lauderdale to Pensacola."

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"This will be the crew's first Ha-Ha. La Paz will be *Christina Marie's* home after the Ha-Ha for about a year, until we refit and continue south, destination unknown."

As for the adventure ahead, Chris adds, "Expect strong teamwork until someone forgets to tie a knot correctly, and they drift into a shrimp trawler, or someone misreads the chartplotter, and they end up in Guatemala."

"Arguments will be passionate, heartfelt, and possibly overheard on channel 16. Luckily, joining us will be a crew consisting of 2 firefighters and a welder. So, any and all inevitable emergencies caused by sheer incompetence will be quickly corrected by the crew utilizing axes, hoses, and blowtorches. Though there is still the possibility that the *Christina Marie* drifts into Cabo mastless, smoking, and powered by oars."



*Comedy Act - Joe & Lin*

## **Comedy Act — Beneteau First 36.7 Joe Harvard**

**Ventura / Birmingham, UK**

Joe, 74, is a retired Residential Appraiser, crewing for Joe are Lin Vieira, in Marine Sales; and Shelly Rison.

"When I first came to the U.S. and California in the late '60s, a family friend asked if I wanted to go sailing on San Francisco Bay. That was all it took for me to fall in love with sailing. My first boat was a Westsail 32, and my childhood sweetheart and I were going to go cruising with our newborn. However, a divorce soon followed and ended my cruising dreams of the time.

"A midlife career as a partner in Bay Yacht Service in Sausalito found me commissioning new Nordics and Swans, as well as rigging and racing IOR

warhorses. We delivered boats up and down the California coast and to Kauai and back. Fast forward 60 years, and I just can't procrastinate any longer. With the last Baja Ha-Ha fast approaching, we're on a full-court press to get the boat and crew ready. We have no plans after the Ha-Ha except to come back so Lin can continue working at West Marine.

"Lin has two years of sailing experience, having sailed with a friend on a small cat for two years. She's also sailed with the Channel Islands Women's Sailing Association and raced with me on *Comedy Act* to claim a first place on Wet Wednesdays. In 2024 she sailed to Two Harbors on Catalina Island for the Safe Harbor Catalina Rendezvous on *Comedy Act*. This will be her first Ha-Ha.

"My dream would be to experience the South Pacific Islands aboard my Beneteau First 36.7, which I love. My sailing heroes are the guys I've raced with and against, such as Don Ahrens and Vince Cassalaina.

"Voltaire's 'Tant que les gens croient aux absurdi-tés, ils continueront à commettre des atrocités,' is my favorite quote." Google translate renders it as: 'As long as people believe in nonsense, they will continue to commit atrocities.'

Right-handed Joe is partial to gelato.

Crewmember Portuguese Lin's dream would be to return to Portugal, and particularly the little village of Ferragudo on the Algarve coast. She's a Cordon Bleu-trained chef and claims to have salt water in her veins, so she loves sailing.

She has two favorite quotes. 'Make the work week worth it!' and 'Keep calm and carry on.'

## **Conejo Blu — American Tug 34 MV Jim Love & Daniel Jaquez**

**San Diego**

James, 57, is a VP of Manufacturing, while spouse Daniel, 67, is a Theatre Director. They will doublehand.

"I have been sailing my entire life," reports James. "At age seven I learned to sail a Sunfish, and by the end of summer I was sailing it myself. I quickly learned to sail larger boats on the Great Lakes and Atlantic Ocean. Daniel crewed on a sailboat in the Caribbean for four months."

"We purchased our American Tug 34 in 2023 and have really been enjoying her. She's our dream boat."

"The name of our boat is unusual. So, translate it and see if you get the joke!" The Poobah tried but failed. He's not so smart, so maybe you can get it.

"After the Ha-Ha, we will spend a

few weeks exploring, going where the currents and our moods take us. Our dream is to spend our summers boating in Alaska, then take our boat to Mexico for the winters."

Not to discourage anyone, but the Poobah notes that it's nearly 3,000 sea miles from Puerto Vallarta to Juneau. And the distance is only part of the problem, as if you leave Cabo at the end of winter, it's likely you'll face often punishing upwind conditions all the way to the Strait of San Juan de Fuca. It's something that can be done, but you might not want to do it in a single season. Especially if you want to return to Mexico for the winter.

In any event, James and Daniel are looking to make new friends on the way to Cabo, which, given the hundreds of people in this year's Ha-Ha, shouldn't be difficult.



*Constellations Spirit - Tom & Tony*

## **Constellation's Spirit — Catalina 385 Tom Hammons**

**San Diego** ('02, '10, '14, '15, '16, '24)

Tom, 75, is a retired Navy Captain and a vet of three Ha-Ha's. He will have three crew. Vet of six Ha-Ha's Tony Van Houweling, 76, also a retired Navy Captain; Tom's brother Mark Hammons, 64, a Long-Haul Trucker; and Tom's son TJ Hammons, 51, an IT Professional. The latter two are Ha-Ha virgins.

"We sold last year's Ha-Ha to our wives as 'Tom & Tony's Last Great Sailing Adventure', but since the 2024 Ha-Ha events were truncated by a bad weather forecast and we didn't get our third-place fish trophy, we sold this one as "Tom & Tony's Last Great Sailing Adventure Part Deux". The cost to us — 10 days in an all-inclusive resort in

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Cabo with our wives after the Ha-Ha.”

“Our plans are to take my 2004 Gerry Douglas-designed Catalina 385, my dream boat, to Costa Baja Marina in La Paz to recover. After that we anticipate a leisurely Bash to San Diego to be home before Christmas.

“We’re looking forward to champagne sailing and an opportunity to spend time with great friends and family — and maybe recruit new sailors.”

Tom’s favorite quote is from the movie *In Harm’s Way*: ‘When in harm’s way, command!’

## **Coquita — Hanse 458 (W) Erin & Gary Stypulkoski Sausalito / Tiburon**

Gary, 62, is retired from “Payments”, while Erin is a Realtor. Their crew will be their daughter, Keilah, 24.

Erin has been sailing since she was 10, while Gary started in his early 30s. They met while racing on San Francisco Bay.

“We’ve owned three sailboats, including *Coquita*, which we bought in 2019. The name of our boat is a nickname for our eldest daughter.

“This will be our first Ha-Ha. Our longest passage to date has been from San Diego to San Francisco. After the Ha-Ha, we plan to continue on to Puerto Vallarta.”

Tip from the Poobah. Vallarta, located on the shore of Banderas Bay, is one of the finest pleasure sailing venues in the world. Why? Warm water, flat seas, and the wind comes up at noon and dies at 5 pm. But mariners do have to dodge the many whales.

Erin and Gary dream about sailing to Greece, home to 6,000 islands, although only 227 are inhabited. They’d love to cruise there aboard an Oyster 805.

The couple’s sailing hero is Peter English. The Poobah is not familiar with him.

The two like the adage, ‘Smile, people will wonder what you’ve been up to’. That’s a good one. So is cheesecake, their favorite dessert.

## **Crescendo — Island Packet 485 (W) Ted & NancyLee Van Zwol Seattle, WA**

Ted, 58, is a retired Software Engineer and retired CIO of Mission Aviation Fellowship, while Nancy Lee is retired from teaching English and History in middle and high schools. They are “thrilled” to be a part of the last Ha-Ha.

The couple have only been sailing for a little more than a year, although



*Crescendo* - Ted & Nan

they have owned “too many” small powerboats over the years. “*Crescendo* is our first sailboat,” reports Ted, “although we enjoyed owning smaller water-ski boats when our kids were young and had cruising experiences on my parents’ powerboat. But sailing is fairly new to us.”

Water has always been Ted’s happy place, and Nan is a fan of adventure and travel. With their three sons moving into adult lives of their own, the longtime couple started looking for their next adventure.

The call of cruising grew stronger for Ted and Nan during the Covid years, leading to following cruiser YouTubers such as Sailing Totem and 59 North. Immediately after dropping their youngest son off for his first year of college in 2023, the new sailors enjoyed a weeklong liveaboard sailing class with San Juan Sailing. It was such a great time, they began searching for the next step in their journey, even visiting the Annapolis Sailboat Show.

The couple acquired *Crescendo* in December 2023. She’s unusual in that she’s one of few IP 485s on the West Coast.

“We celebrated our 37th anniversary by selling our Boise home and moving aboard *Crescendo* full time just last summer,” Nan enthused to the Poobah. “It was chilly enough in Puget Sound over the winter that we decided to join the Coho Hoho rally and the Baja Ha-Ha rallies the very next year. Spring and summer have been spent training, taking classes, and practicing newfound skills, as well as completing a giant list of preparation projects.”

Both Nan and Ted are excited with how much they have grown and learned

already, and they look forward to meeting new people and seeing new ports of call in the coming years!

“Our longest passage to date was 900 miles from Grand Canary Island to Cape Verde with 59° North Sailing. That was five days of some spicy sailing mixed in with a lot of motoring in calms.”

“After the Ha-Ha, we hope to spend a year or so in Mexico and Central America, then either turn left at Panama or head west to Indonesia and beyond. We live on our dream boat, and it would be our dream to sail her to Raja Ampat, Indonesia, where there is great diving.”

## **Crosswind — Moody 54 DS Steven Brown Tucson, AZ**

Steven, 66, is a retired Business Owner who was still putting a crew together as of press time.

“I have been sailing most of my life in Puget Sound, the East Coast, and in the Caribbean,” Brown reports. “I have owned two powerboats, an Ocean Alexander 42 and a Grand Banks 49. I’ve also owned a number of sailboats, including a C&C 41, a Soverel 33, a Beneteau 45, and others, and now a 2016 Dixon-designed Moody 54.

“This will be my first Ha-Ha, and I’m really looking forward to it as 350 miles is my longest passage to date. Before returning to San Diego, I’d like to experience some of the Sea of Cortez. But my dream destination would be anywhere in the Caribbean, and any Nautor Swan would be my dream boat.”

“Christian Williams is my sailing hero. He was crew on Ted Turner’s *Tenacious* when she won the tragic Fastnet Race of 1979, the race that claimed 15 sailors, five boats, and at least 75 turned turtle. Williams later became an editor for the Washington Post and has a YouTube Channel called Christian Williams Yachting. Check it out.”

‘Do right and fear no man’, is Steven’s favorite quote, although it’s not clear who came up with it first.

Brown’s favorite desert “for sure” is Key Lime Pie. For the record Mexican Limes are the name for Key Limes in Mexico and Central America. And there are lots of them in Mexico. Key Limes have more of a pucker factor than normal limes.

“I’m right-handed and some call me ‘Brownie,” Brown concludes.



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*Discovery - Mason & Lane*

**Discovery — Saga 43  
Lane Tobin & Mason Wolters  
Seattle, WA**

Lane, 30, is a Product Manager, while spouse Mason, 29, is a Software Engineer. Their three crew are Troy Dean, 29; Bethany Haddad, 30; and Rebecca Mendelsohn, 29.

“Mason and I grew up sailing as kids on Lake Michigan and Long Island Sound respectively,” Lane reports. “We’ve both owned dinghies, but the Bob Perry-designed Saga 43 is our first time owning a larger boat. We bought the Canadian-built boat in May 2023 and have lived aboard her in Seattle ever since.

“There is nothing crazy or out of the ordinary about our Saga 43, although the original owners influenced the build, so unlike others, our Saga has just a single head, a full nav station, and an extended galley. She’s perfect for a couple.

“This will be our first Ha-Ha, but I did a six-day passage from Bermuda to St. Martin in the Caribbean, while Mason did a five-day passage from Bermuda to Long Island Sound.

“We plan to cruise the Sea of Cortez for the winter, and hopefully our parents will fly in for the holidays.

“Our dream destination is Glacier Bay, Alaska. Our dream boat would be a racing boat.

“I know it’s cheesy, but my dad is our sailing hero.

“Mark Twain has a lot of great quotes, including our favorite: ‘Be good and you’ll be lonesome’.

“Collectively we go by the nickname ‘Layson’, and we are super pumped to join the rally and experience Mexico from the sea!”



*Dr John - Susanna, Sydney & Cliff*

**\*Dr. John — Hubecky 40 Ketch (W)  
Cliff Clark & Susanna Mahoney  
Fairfax (2004)**

Cliff, 67, is a Contractor. His crew will be spouse Susanna Mahoney, a Contractor and Dietician. Their crew will be daughter Sydney Clark, 10, a Student of Life.

“Susanna and I will be taking a break from our Marin construction business to chaperone our daughter around the Pacific for the foreseeable future,” says Cliff. “This is my second Ha-Ha with *Dr. John*, the first being in 2004 with my previous wife Courtney and daughter Maddie. If this wasn’t the last Ha-Ha, I’d plan on returning for the 2045 Ha-Ha with yet another wife and daughter.”

Cliff’s last Pacific cruise ended in French Polynesia. This time he’s hoping to make it to New Zealand or Australia and will probably leave the boat in one of those countries.

Daughter Sydney learned to scuba dive to 50 feet at age five, so her goal is to dive every reef on the way — and at her namesake city. Cliff, Susanna, and Sydney are all avid divers and longboard surfers, so they can often be found above or below the surface. “If we’re late to an anchorage, the surf must have been great.”

Cliff and Susanna consider themselves nomadic cruisers more than performance cruisers and thus have a few hard and fast rules: Trim for comfort more than speed. Always try to set a personal best for staying on the same tack. Avoid winter as long as possible. Be a benevolent visitor as you travel the world.

Hopefully the *Dr. John* trio will periodically be supplemented by their seven other children, their spouses, and



*Dragonslayer - Katy & Cliff*

11 grandchildren.

*Dr. John* is a custom cold-molded ketch “itching to get back out there. She’s spent too many years at the dock while we were gallivanting around the Caribbean on bareboat charters behind her back. She got a pretty hefty refit this year, even losing her beloved SSB for Starlink. The move was partially our contribution to sending Elon to Mars. But no matter where I was in the Pacific during my first cruise, I enjoyed the connections made with the SSB as well as the great conversations and weather routing from Don Anderson of *Summer Passage*.”

“Our plans are to work — if you can call this work — casually down to Costa Rica before Puddle-Jumping from there, with a stop at Isla Cocos and the Galapagos. But we can’t imagine starting off this adventure without the Ha-Ha, as its intoxicating vibe and encouraging camaraderie continue with sailors far beyond the Full Moon Party.”

**Dragonslayer — Beneteau  
Oceanis 45  
Cliff Newell & Katy Jacobs  
Sausalito / Nevada City (2019)**

Cliff, 69, is a retired District Attorney, while spouse Katy is a DA Prosecutor. They will have two crew. John DuPerry, 50, a Captain and Camel Trainer. That’s right, a camel trainer; and Barbara DeHart.

“I have been sailing for 40 years,” reports Cliff, “and I have owned too many boats to list. But we’ve owned *Dragonslayer*, launched in 2017, for eight years. She’s a very popular Finot-Conq/Nauta design that is our dream boat.



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"My longest passage has been 30 days. After the Ha-Ha we plan to moor our boat at our home on the East Cape of Baja.

"My wife Katy is my sailing hero, but so is Ernest Shackleton, who was a great leader despite being a megalomaniac.

"Persist in your delusion," wrote Cervantes. I'm with him. The *Man of La Mancha* was a real dragon slayer.

"To dream the impossible dream, that is my quest," is one of my favorite quotes.

"Another is, 'I've always heard the old folks say that if you don't know how to enjoy good luck when it comes, you shouldn't complain if it passes you by.'"

Cliff responds positively to chocolate with sea salt.



*Elävå - Troy & Laura*

## **Elävå — Sirena 44 Troy Johnson & Laura Suarez Half Moon Bay / Lafayette**

Troy, 57, is a General Contractor, while Laura is an Environmental Engineer. Their crew will include three daughters: Cassandra Johnson, 28, an Electrician; Aprile Johnson, 32, a Doctor; and Sierra Johnson, 29, a Fitness Coach. Additional crew will be named later.

Troy has been sailing for 25 years, during which time he has owned five boats. The family has owned *Elävå* for eight years. The name means animated, lively, vivacious, perky, and peppy. All good things, unless everyone is trying to sleep.

Although Troy and Laura plan to spend the season in the fabulous Sea of Cortez, Troy's dream is to circumnavigate, preferably on a Hallberg-Rassy 49.

Their favorite quote is a good one. "A bend in the road is not the end of the

road unless you fail to make the turn."

Rhubarb Pie is the family's favorite dessert. A lot of people think rhubarb is a fruit, but it's actually a vegetable that is often put to the same culinary uses as fruits. When cooked with sugar and used in pies and crumbles, it has a strong, tart taste. It's rarely paired with sashimi.

## **Elizabeth Heather — Hardin 45 (W) Jody Mortimer Los Angeles / Venice**

Jody, 57, is a retired veteran of the Navy and the Film Industry. He'll have a crew of four, including Karl Korsgard, 80, a retired Marine and Jody's sailing sensei; James Alexander, 67; and Donald Schneck, 80. The other crew has yet to be identified.

"I have been sailing for five years," reports Jody, "and *Elizabeth Heather* is my first boat. I've owned her for over one year. This will be my first Ha-Ha, but afterward I plan to start on my dream, a circumnavigation, with my ketch."

Jody's *Hardin 45*, his dream boat, is a staysail ketch that was built in Taiwan in 1987. The beauty of a staysail ketch is that if the wind suddenly comes up strong, you can quickly drop the main and headsail, leaving just an easy-to-handle staysail and mizzen. The Poobah did that one memorable night about 30 years ago on the way from Greece to Turkey. It made life so easy.

"My sailing heroes are the members of Fairwinds Yacht Club out of Marina del Rey. Ice cream, of course, is my favorite dessert."

Quality Love is Jody's nickname, so naturally everyone will want to know how he earned it.

## **Epic Aweigh — Gemini 105Mc (W) John Freyder**

John 67, is a Venture Builder, whatever that is. His crew will be his son, Kaiyo Freyder, 22, a Student; and Devan Mullins, 62, a Boat Captain and Lawyer who has often sailed with the Poobah.

"I sailed as a kid," reports John. "Then in my thirties I lived on and sailed a Hurley 27-ft monohull. Just three months ago I purchased *Epic Aweigh* and began sailing again.

"I've never participated in the Ha-Ha before but have heard all the 'horror' stories, so I am really excited. My longest passage was probably my most uneventful: from Panama to Key West. I plan to continue cruising the Sea of Cortez through winter and spring."

"My dream boat would be a 41-ft catamaran that glides across heavy seas and requires no maintenance. I don't have a sailing hero, but I do have a sailing nemesis — the legendary Buddy Melges. He actually lapped me during a race in Chicago."

"Yes, I am left-handed and left-hearted. Actually, all the boys in my family are left-handed and all the girls are right-handed."

## **Espiritu Santi — Atlantic 57 Cat Santiago Becerra San Diego**

Santiago, 53 will be sailing south with 5 crew including Peter Larsson, 53; Gigi Barbes; Domingos Dias, 61; Nicole Pitteloud; Alex Marquez, 27; and Kevin Schmeichel, 53.

"I first learned to sail as a teenager in Miami, sliding around on Sunfish and Hobie Cats. While in college and drinking cheap beer with friends, we decided it was obvious we needed a large catamaran to hunt for uncrowded waves. Step one: Pool our first paychecks and buy a 26-ft S2 8.0 monohull. We lived aboard, sailed around Catalina, and somehow survived on ramen and bad decisions.

"My career in software development quickly found its true north: save up for a globe-trotting catamaran. The dream boat? A Chris White-designed Atlantic cat. For motivation, I actually called Chris and asked for a blueprint — which I framed and hung in my office like some people do with diplomas. After years of grinding in tech, working with incredible teams, and a healthy dose of lady luck, the callback to Chris wasn't for another piece of wall art. Two years later, *Espiritu Santi* was launched — the very first Atlantic 57 built at Alwoplast in Chile.

"*Espiritu Santi* turned out to be everything I hoped for: fast, comfortable, seaworthy, and blessedly simple compared to the gadget-heavy later models. She's timeless — after 20 years she still turns heads at the dock. I can honestly say I don't lust after any other boat.

"Family life meant *Espiritu Santi* was mostly a California commuter cruiser, with bonus seasons in the Sea of Cortez. In 2011 I got the itch for something bigger and entered the TransPac. I'm not a racer, as I prefer the autopilot, engines, and coffee over hand-steering at 3 am, but it was a blast. We crossed in 12 days, which wasn't too shabby for a 'comfort over speed' skipper, and took first in class.

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"Those years were magic. Raising my kids with salt water in their veins — sailing to Catalina, exploring the Sea of Cortez, diving and spearfishing — have been some of the best parts of my life. Today, they're ocean fanatics and conservation advocates, which makes me ridiculously proud.

"With the kids off at college, *Espiritu Santi* is stretching her wings. She's gearing up for longer passages, including the South Pacific, surfboards strapped on deck, spearguns tucked away, and a lot more adventure in store. This year's Baja Ha-Ha will kick things off, followed by a season in Mexico. After a return to SoCal for a refit, we'll be off on a proper Pacific crossing in search of a deserted tropical island with a good reef pass, waves and good spearfishing."

Thanks to quotes like the following, Bernard Moitissier is *Santi's* sailing hero: "I am a citizen of the most beautiful nation on earth, a nation whose laws are harsh yet simple, a nation that never cheats, which is immense and without borders, where life is lived in the present. In this limitless nation, this nation of wind, light, and peace, there is no other ruler besides the sea."

**Exhale — Leopard 50 (W)  
Beat Naef & Cynthia Ringo  
Palm Springs / Zurich,  
Switzerland**

Beat, 67, is a retired Engineer who has also been in Business and Tech. Spouse Cynthia is retired from Business and Venture Capital. Their crew will be Ed Gogel, 53, who is an Engineer and Bill Lard, 77.

"I have been racing on San Francisco Bay and as far south as Monterey for 25 years," reports Beat. "I've also done a Pacific Cup to Hawaii, a couple of deliveries from Hawaii to California, and a Los Angeles to Puerto Vallarta Race.

"I previously owned a SC 27 and was a part owner of a SC 40 for six years.

"I have owned *Exhale* for five years, and have sailed her up and down the coast of California, with stops at the Channel Islands and down to Ensenada.

"My Leopard 50 is my dream boat, and my dream is to sail her all the way to the Mediterranean and Genoa, Italy in particular.

**Finest Kind — Hunter 49  
Dick & Gail Fennell  
Half Moon Bay / Ralston, WY**

Dick, 69, is in Manufacturing. So is Gail. Their crew are Stephen Grimshaw, 64 and Tom Rice, 37.

Dick has been sailing for 52 years, and



**Exhale - Beat, Cynthia & Pecky**

they've owned *Finest Kind*, their second boat, for five years. They note that their boat name just happens to be the brand name of a quality marijuana outfit out of Waldoboro. Where's Waldoboro? Maine.

The couple's longest passage to date has been the nearly 4,500 open ocean miles from San Francisco to Hawaii and back. The 750-mile almost surely downwind Ha-Ha, with two rest stops, should be a breeze for them by comparison.

After the Ha-Ha, they plan to sail up into the Sea of Cortez, although their dream destination would be the Drake Passage through the tip of South America. Although that might be Gail's dream more than Dick's. After all, he says, he enjoys "a minimum amount of adventure while my wife is wild". Maybe Dick would enjoy that dream adventure more if they did it aboard a luxurious Oyster 54.

Sir Robin Knox is their sailing hero. A Brit, he was the first man to do a solo non-stop circumnavigation. He later was co-skipper with Peter Blake in winning the Jules Verne Around the World trophy in '92 with the big catamaran *ENZA*.

'Diamond Dick' and Gail like raisin pie with butterscotch ice cream and contend that 'if you argue for your limits, they shall be yours'.

**Free — Cheoy Lee 53 (W)  
Mike Robichaud & Jane Keyes  
Vancouver, BC / Squamish, BC**

Mike, 69, is a retired Investment Banker, while spouse Jane doesn't list an occupation. Their crew will be Steve MacDougall, 69, retired from Sales; and Mike's brother Marc Robichaud, 67, a retired Dentist.

"I have sailed a lot of places," reports Mike. "Throughout the Caribbean, the ABC Islands, through the Panama Canal, and around Central America, Mexico, the West Coast of the United States, and West Coast of Canada. Our current plans are to sail to Mexico, then on to French Polynesia, Hawaii and Alaska.

"I have owned four sailboats over the last 45 years, and have owned *Free* for nine years. *Free* catches everyone's attention because of her expedition motorsailer style. Our longest passage to date has been over 1,000 miles.

"My dream destination in the higher latitudes is the Pacific Northwest waters, and closer to the equator would be French Polynesia.

"Mark Twain's classic quote is my favorite: "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

Mike and Jane are yet two more content boat owners, as *Free* is their dream boat.

**FriendShip — Beneteau 45  
Brent & Cameron Bilger  
San Francisco / Los Altos**

Brent, 67, retired, did not list a former occupation, nor did his retired spouse, Cameron. They will have six crew. Scott Gordon, 60, a Chemical Engineer; Nicole Gordon, a PR Princess; Chris Menke, 50, a Computer Consultant; and Katrina Decker, an Attorney.

Brent has been sailing for 50 years, during which time he's owned five boats. He's owned the couple's Beneteau 45 for the last eight years. He says there is nothing unusual about her.

What's unusual about Brent? He once beat the #1 Karate Sparring champion of the world in karate.

While this will be Brent's first Ha-Ha, he's done a Transatlantic. Assuming he left from the Canaries and arrived in the Eastern Caribbean, that trip would have been about four times as long as the Ha-Ha will be.

After the Ha-Ha, Brent and Cameron will head to La Paz, gateway to the magnificent Sea of Cortez, and just a couple of hours sail from the unique and spectacular anchorages at *Espiritu Santo* and *Isla Partida*.

## CRUISING TO THE CAPE



**Frisky - Dave & Linda**

### **Frisky — Maverick 400 Cat David & Linda Witham Ventura**

David, 80, is a retired Engineer, while Linda is a retired Financial Planner. They will have two crew. Dean Prophet, 69, a retired Teacher; and Cathy Lewis.

David has been sailing for 65 years, which is longer than most Ha-Ha participants have been alive. That means he started in the days before radar was common on boats, before EPIRBs, before SatNav let alone GPS, before AIS, and before Starlink, before electric winches, etc.

In those 65 years he's owned 20 boats. He and Linda acquired *Frisky*, which was built in South Africa in 2017 to a Phil Southwell design. David's longest passage is 3,000 miles from Ascension Island in the South Atlantic to Trinidad in the Caribbean. But that only hints at the couple's offshore experience. They cruised for nine years, during which time they spent three years in the Med, and crossed the Atlantic three times.

*Frisky* is the couple's dream boat, and they intend to spend the winter in the Sea of Cortez, although their dream would be to cruise around Tahiti.

Ice cream is their favorite dessert.

### **Gokuraku — Tartan 4600 Wly Anderson & Bob Nadeau Sausalito / San Francisco**

Wly, 69, is a retired Contractor and IT Professional, while Bob, 65, is a retired Airline Pilot. They have been together since 2002 and married since 2015. They will have one other crew.

"Both of us have been boating since the 1980s," they report. "Bob learned to sail in high school, and later we both completed ASA 101-106 along with



**Gokuraku - Bob & Wly**

Coast Guard safety classes in Santa Barbara. Over the years we've had our share of boating adventures. Wly once co-owned a large cabin cruiser in the Sacramento Delta and San Francisco Bay, while Bob gained open-ocean experience sailing out of Santa Barbara. Together, we first shared a Fantasia 35 named *Epiphany* before buying our own Catalina 34 *Barbary Breeze*, which carried us happily around the Bay from 2015 to 2019. For the last six years our sailing has been aboard our Tartan 46 *Gokuraku*." As everyone knows, *Gokuraku* is the abode of Amitabha Buddha, or paradise.

The Tartan 46 is their dream boat, and why not? A centerboarder, she's set up for both comfort and safety. She has a furling main, furling 110% genoa, and an asymmetrical spinnaker, all backed up by a 75 hp Yanmar diesel, Panda generator, new solar array, and new house batteries. Her electronics suite includes a Raymarine autopilot, a new chart plotter, a new color Doppler radar, AIS, VHF, and Starlink for fast wifi.

Wait, there is more. Hanging off the aft davit is an 11-foot dinghy with a 10 hp engine. Comforts onboard range from thick memory-foam berths, an enclosed shower, a dodger and bimini, bean bags for the foredeck, a galley with a large freezer, fridge, propane range, microwave, and BBQ, plus plenty of music and video games and streaming video. Safety is a priority, too. Offshore PFDs, hydrostatic life raft with a fully equipped survival kit, locator beacons, jacklines, AED, first-aid and medical kits, and more.

"Beyond the technical details, we're pretty chill guys, both just slightly left-of-center with passions for the sea, adventure, and nature. We love travel,

mellow music, cocktails, and good company. As members of the Encinal YC and the Barbary Coast Boating Club (an LGBT-oriented group), we've always believed that boating is best when it's shared with friends."

"We look forward to sailing, laughing, and swapping stories with you all on the way down the coast. Please come say hello—we're always up for sundowners, music and new friendships.

Joining the Ha-Ha has been on our horizon for years. Now retired, we're thrilled to finally make the passage and meet others who share the same spirit of adventure. After Cabo we'll continue on to Puerto Vallarta, where *Gokuraku* will become our winter retreat south of the border.

Both men are right-handed and like Baked Alaska for dessert. The concoction is made of ice cream placed in a pie dish lined with slices of sponge cake. Baked Alaska was created to celebrate the purchase of Alaska from the Russian Empire in 1867. For those keeping track, the favorite Mexican desserts are Tres Leches Cake, Churros, Flan, Sopapillas, Arroz con Leche, Mexican Wedding Cookies, Sopapilla, and Cheesecake Bars.

### **Hemisphere Dancer — Jeanneau SO 490**

### **Deborah Bessolo & Doug Lombard Seattle / Bainbridge Island, WA (3 Ha-Ha's)**

Deborah is a retired Software Development Manager, while spouse, Doug Lombard, 63, is a retired Yacht Broker and Sailing Instructor. Their crew will be Sam Jarvis, 35; and Megan.

"I've been sailing on and off since I was a child," reports Deborah. "My father was a sailor and owned a 50-foot boat."

"Doug is a long-time sailor, racing as a teenager and teaching. He has a captain's license, has been a yacht broker, has sailed down the coast 13 times and participated in the Ha-Ha three times."

"*Hemisphere Dancer* is my second boat. I've been sailing in earnest since my retirement a few years back. I have not participated in any Ha-Ha's to date; my longest passage has been sailing from Seattle to San Francisco with friends last year."

"Doug and I plan to join the Pacific Puddle Jump and head towards New Zealand and Australia after a season in the Sea of Cortez."



*Heure Bleue - Dave*

**Heure Bleue — Hans Christian 38T  
Dave Gilbert  
Chula Vista**

Dave, a 65-year-old live-aboard, is a Stem Cell Scientist for cancer. Dave will be sailing with Pat Williams, 61; Greg Barton, 63; and Anette Schol-Bermel.

"I learned to sail on San Francisco Bay while in graduate school at Stanford in the early '80s," he says. "At the time I lived aboard a Columbia 36 with a lady friend and later a Ranger 26 by myself. For the next 30 years I was married to a landlubber who forbade me to sail. Eventually I was allowed a Venture 17, followed by a Compac 16 that I sailed all over the forgotten coasts of Apalachicola, Port St. Joe, and Mexico Beach on the Florida Panhandle.

"After becoming single again, I did a fair amount of chartering before purchasing my Hans Christian 38, a design I've been in love with since the '80s. In July of 2023, I sailed *Heure Bleue* from Green Cove Springs, FL, to her home in Chula Vista. I have a Box Turtle pet named Indy who sails with me and probably hates it. He's getting close to 100 — just middle-aged for a Box Turtle — but doesn't have any choice. My daughter will take him when *Heure Bleue* arrives in port with no captain aboard. LOL.

"I've always said I was going to do a Ha-Ha, and since this is the last one, I have to go. My longest passage has been Florida to Puerto Rico, which took nine days. What I do after the Ha-Ha depends on what the current Administration has planned for the National Institute of Health. If biomedical research keeps getting slashed, I will sail off into the sunset and leave the few remaining jobs to younger people. If it's all a bluff,

I may see as much of the Sea of Cortez as I have time for and then slosh back up to Chula Vista.

"My dream destination depends upon how much I've had to drink. When sober, winter in La Paz and summer in Chula Vista sounds like heaven. After a few drinks, Tahiti, Fiji, and all of that South Pacific stuff is tops, with the Mediterranean as a distraction. I own my dream boat. I first saw a Hans Christian 38T in a boat show in 1984, and I promised myself that someday I would own one. I'm very stingy making promises because I always keep them.

"My sailing hero is Michael Attridge, my late best friend. He taught me everything I know and had so many more stories than I do now, even when we were both young. May he rest in peace.

"I like the Clint Eastwood line in *Mule*: "The only people who want to live to be 100 are people who are 99."

"I'm left-handed and have been 'DNA Dave' since 1984. I had a lot of non-scientist friends at Stanford, such as those who started Apple and stuff, and a lot of them were named Dave. To distinguish me, I became 'DNA Dave', so I got that as my California license plate. I also had that plate in New York and Florida, and now I have it in California again. You may hear other people say they are DNA Dave, but I am the original. But Dave is just fine with me. Depends on how many Daves you have around.

"I'm left-handed and love any dessert with dark chocolate. Like a chocolate mousse with those 90% dark chocolate cacao chips in it. And maybe some chocolate dust on top of it.

"If I haven't shared enough already, I'm a damned good harmonica player and have written many songs on two CDs. I play guitar pretty mediocly, but good enough to lay down 300 songs or so to a drunken audience. And I sing and tap my feet.

"What else? I play basketball with people less than 1/3 my age, and I used to garden when I had dirt. Oh yeah, I have been a professor for over 30 years and started a field of science. I raised a family, recorded music, run a non-profit music production company to support kids with broken homes, played and coached basketball, pumped gas and fixed cars, and studied philosophy (how to think and write 101). Unfortunately, I've also lost a child and a marriage.

"I don't feel like I have enough money yet to safely retire, so I've started DNA DAVE LLC to help others disrupt the status quo in science while I'm sailing and maybe do some fiction or non-fiction

writing and publishing. I'm taking a course. If all that works, I just might be able to make the sea my home. Or, as I said, if the current anti-science attitude is the new world, I'll just move to Mexico."



*Hey Jude - Rich*

**Hey Jude — Beneteau 47 (W)  
Rich LeBlanc  
Berkeley / Bear Valley (1995,  
2002, 2015)**

Rich, 78, is a retired Engineer/Project Manager. His crew will be brother Jack LeBlanc, 60, a Software Engineer; Jeff Lusareta, 75, a retired Firefighter who did Ha-Ha's in 1995 and 2002; and Robert Campbell, 58, a Locksmith.

"I've been sailing my whole life," reports Rich. "I started sailing on Sunfish in my youth and progressed to sailboards in my 30s. *Hey Jude* is my third ocean-going sailing vessel. I had previously doublehanded *Mind Design*, a 1987 Hunter Legend 40, in the 2015 Baja Ha-Ha. I have also sailed and crewed on the Pacific Coast from Canada to La Paz and have done both coasts of the Sea of Cortez. I've also done the Atlantic coast from Maine to the Bahamas, then sailed from the Caribbean to the Panama Canal.

"My crew has a lot of experience, too. Jack has 20 years of experience on the Atlantic coast from the Caribbean to Maine on his own 40-ft boat. Jeff has been sailing his own 30-ft boats on San Francisco Bay for 30 years. And Robert has done about six months at sea crewing on boats from 32 to 70 feet.

"After the Ha-Ha I plan to sail *Hey Jude* back to San Francisco."

"I am a dyslexic, left-handed old salt



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# BAJA HA-HA XXXI

and world traveler. I would like to be remembered by my youngest students of both sailing and skiing by the name of 'Richie', the way I was known in my youth. I'm always in search of another dream and adventure."

## **Hokulani — Tayana 48 Tony & Julie Rogers**

**San Diego / Encinitas (2023)**

Tony, 56, is a retired Business Executive. Spouse Julie is a retired CPA. They will have two crew, Lucinda Wood Amorosano and Ken Amorosano, 64.

Tony has been sailing for 30 years, during which time he's owned just two sailboats. "There's nothing unusual about the Bob Perry designed *Hokulani*," says Tony, "which I bought in 2021. She's just a good, old-fashioned, awesomely well-built boat." Indeed, Tayana is one of the most respected boat brands to come out of Taiwan.

Having done the 2023 Ha-Ha, Tony has also sailed Chesapeake to Bermuda and bashed La Paz to San Diego. "After the Ha-Ha, our plans are to sail to the South Pacific, although we're not sure when."

Tony is another Ha-Ha participant whose sailing hero is John Kretchmer.

Hoku mean star in Hawaiian, and lani means heaven. So Hokulani translates to Star in Heaven.

## **Indefatigable — Hallberg-Rassy 43 MKI**

**John Hess**

**San Francisco / Berkeley**

John is a 59-year-old Network Engineer who plans on sailing with five crew including Naval Architect Paul Kamen, 74; Gwen Rodgers; Stacy Cronin; Suzy Garren; and River Pember, 29.

John's been sailing for 53 years, during which time he's only owned one boat, the Hallberg-Rassy 43 he's owned for 10 years. In his dreams he'd own a Hallberg-Rassy 50. Hallberg-Rassy owners tend to be extremely loyal to the brand. As for Hallberg-Rassy, they claim to have never missed a delivery deadline in all their decades of business.

While John hasn't done a Ha-Ha yet, he's done a trip from San Francisco to Hilo to Hanalei Bay and back to San Francisco. That's close to 5,000 ocean miles. He's also done a round-trip to San Diego.

John, who doesn't mind the nickname 'Hans,' thinks of Moorea, the island in French Polynesia, as his dream destination. The right-handers' sailing

heroes are the fictional Jack Aubrey and Horatio Hornblower.

'In the Service, you must choose the lesser of two weevils!' is his favorite quote. His favorite dessert is a Rocky Road Mai Tai float!

## **Invictus — Pearson 33-2 (W)**

**Jon Johnson**

**Alameda / Reno, NV**

Jon, 57, is a retired Fire Captain. If there is a fire on the Ha-Ha, we're going to have a lot of professionals to solve the issue. Jon will be sailing with Kenneth Wallace, 64.

"I've been sailing for 33 years," he says, "during which time I've owned six boats, four of them sailing dinghies. I've owned *Invictus* for eight years. The unusual thing about her is that she's 33 feet but has a 6'4" keel.

"My longest passage has been 800 miles from San Francisco to Oak Harbor, which is near Seattle. After the Ha-Ha we'll Bash back home."

"I dream about sailing the Caribbean aboard a Seawind 1160 cat perhaps with the ghost of Joshua Slocum, my sailing hero."

"I like cheesecake, and I live each day like it's my last because one of these days it will be."

Jon has a Coast Guard six-pak license and since 2017 has done 100 charters on San Francisco Bay.

Technology Leadership careers and have been living life on the water in the Pacific Northwest with their labradoodles Penny and Sailor. Jason Mihok, 56 will be crewing for the couple.

"This is the last winter we'll spend on the hook in the Pacific Northwest," they declare. "After the Ha-Ha, we'll be heading further south to cruise Latin America, then the Caribbean."

At the age of sixteen, John and a friend impulsively pooled their money and bought a beat-up Hobie Cat. It ignited a lifelong journey for all things sailing and maritime.

"That beat-up cat was only the first of many boats I've owned, from racing dinghies to powerboats to blue water cruisers. I've had over 40 years of experience sailing in hundreds of races, often on winning boats, crossing oceans, and cruising many of the world's most beautiful destinations and waters.

"While in semi-retirement, I've worked as a professional Merchant Mariner (holding a USCG/STCW 500 Ton Masters License) and as a boating educator. I love sharing my passion and knowledge.

Jennifer has been sailing for 15 years, with the 2019 Van Isle 360 being her longest offshore jaunt. She earned her 50 Ton Masters License and OUPV NC in October 2024. She relishes living small and off-the-grid in beautiful natural places and has a passion for treating folks to delicious things from the galley.



**Iris - John & Jennifer**

## **Iris — Jeanneau 51**

**John Sheppard & Jennifer Beard  
Seattle, WA**

John, 59, and spouse Jennifer are both retired from Outdoor Retail and

## **Jolie Rousse— Lagoon 42 Gerald & Mayder Gainant Clayton / Bordeaux, France**

Gerald, 52, is a Software Engineer, while spouse Mayder, is in Accounting. Their crew will be Jean Pierre Carjuzaa, 62, a Chemistry Engineer; and Laurent Martin, 58, a Car Trade Manager.

"Mayder and I purchased our 2021 Lagoon 42 in Sausalito in 2023," reports Gerald. "We didn't have any experience sailing, so we immediately took every possible ASA class. Since then we've been sailing several times a week on the Bay, including mooring and anchoring overnight at different spots. Our skills with sailing, rigging and DIY fixes are fresh, but growing.

"Our Lagoon 42 is our first boat, so fortunately she's in perfect condition. Our longest trip so far has been to Monterey and back. After the Ha-Ha, we might plan to sail to Hawaii and to La Paz as often as possible.

"A Seawind 1160 cat, which offers a little more performance, would be our



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Y CRÉDITO PÚBLICO

dream boat.

"Our dog, who gets seasick sometimes but is super respectful, is our sailing hero."

Gerald, who also responds to 'G', has an interesting favorite quote: "Could you attach this dock line a little faster, please?" It's his even more favorite in crosswinds.

He is right-handed. "I don't see the point in being left-handed," he explains.



**Josie - David, Jo, Eliza & Lindsay**

**Josie — Dehler 39  
Jo Sandry / David Sandry  
Sausalito / Boulder Creek (2021,  
2022)**

Siblings Jo and David are co-owners and co-captains of *Josie*. Jo is a Therapist, while brother David, 51, is an Auditor. 'Be audit you can be'. Their crew this year will be Ha-Ha first-timers Eliza Karlson and Lindsay Guetschow, two adventurers who are silly and salty to the core.

Jo and David have been sailing since they were kids on the South Coast of Devon in the United Kingdom. They tease their parents that they often risked their lives crossing the English Channel, and have many sea stories from those times.

Since living in the Bay Area for 20+ years, they've both primarily sailed smaller boats. Jo owned a Pacific Seacraft 25 for many years, while David owns and frequently races the classic wood Bear Boat *Puff*.

Jo has made bluewater deliveries across the Atlantic and in the Pacific Northwest. David taught sailing at Cass' Marina in Sausalito, "initially did it to pick up women". But before long he was to meet his partner and eventual

baby mama. These days he gets his adrenaline pumping by practicing Public Accounting.

Right after doing their first Ha-Ha, David and Jo Bashed back up to the Bay. "It was tough with just two people," they remember, "but we did it again, so it couldn't have been that bad. Or maybe we have amnesia." True to form, they'll be sticking with their turn and burn tradition this year. Ouch!

**Just Passing Wind — Sundeer 60 (W)**

**Jeff Wahl  
Yankton, South Dakota  
(2005, 2019)**

Jeff, 70, is retired from the Hotel business. A vet of two Ha-Ha's, he hasn't selected his crew yet.

"I have been sailing since 1990," says Jeff, "and have owned way too many boats. Four of them were sailboats. I purchased my 1995 Sundeer in December of 2015.

"I fell in love with my Sundeer the moment I saw her. She's a sailor's boat, as everything is where it is supposed to be and there is easy access. She was designed by Steve Dashew, so she's a two-person boat built for a couple to globe-hop around the world.

"I sailed *Just Passing Wind* from L.A. to Puerto Vallarta to Panama, to the Galápagos Islands, to the Marquesas, to Tahiti, and Bora Bora. I wish I had kept going. I plan to spend the season in Puerto Vallarta after the Ha-Ha, then go on from there.

"I own my dream boat, and Australia is my dream destination. Now I just need to get my butt in gear and go.

"My favorite quote is the classic: "All cruising plans are written in the sand at low tide."

"I love all desserts. Life is uncertain,



**Just Passing Wind - Jeff**

so I always eat dessert first."

Jeff has been a great friend of the Poobah's for decades, so the Poobah can express his distaste for the Sundeer's name. Why?

*Passing Wind*: "Coast Guard, Coast Guard, this is *Passing Wind* with a pan."

Coast Guard to vessel calling. "You are passing wind?"

*Passing Wind*: "That is correct."

Coast Guard: "I have that problem sometimes too. So does my elderly mother. Have you tried not eating so many beans? Or maybe taking some Beano?"

*Passing Wind*: "Coast Guard, you don't understand."

Coast Guard: "No, no, I understand; I eat too many carbs, too, and have empathy for you. Stand by while I get the Coast Guard doctor for medical advice."

First-time boat owners often give their boats very unusual names. The longer people sail, the more they realize the benefits of having a short, clear, common name.

**Kanumera — Spindrift 43PH  
Doug Villepique**

**San Diego (1998, 2019)**

Doug, 62, works at Yachtfinders/Windseakers brokerage and is a vet of the '98 and '19 Ha-Ha's. His crew will be Brian Ramos, 47, who also sailed with Doug in the 2019 Ha-Ha.

Doug learned to sail on the Hudson River when he was a kid almost 50 years ago.

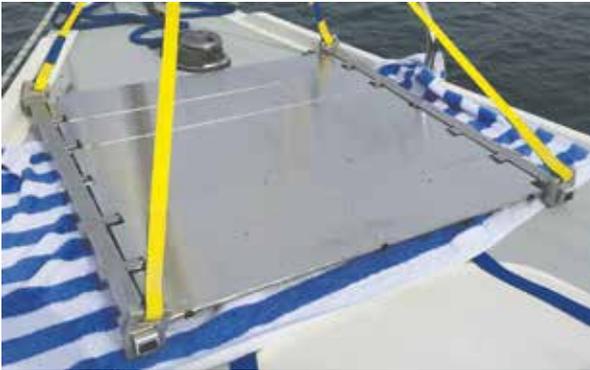
His first Ha-Ha was in 1998 on his old Cheoy Lee Alden 32, *Endless Summer*. Stuff happens, and that Ha-Ha evolved into a two-year South Pacific adventure aboard that handsome boat. He ended up in Australia, where he sold the boat so he could save up for something larger.



**Kanumera - Doug & Brian**

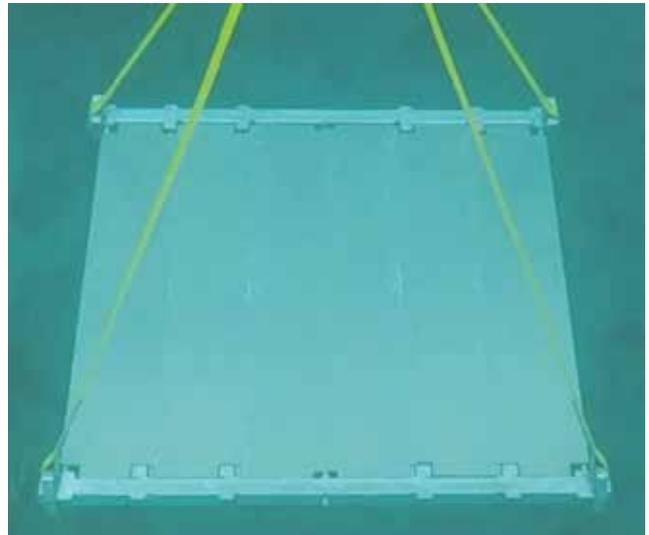
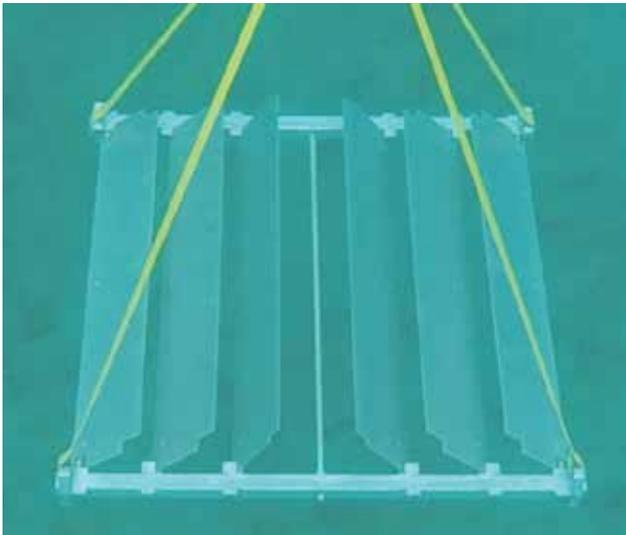
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## BAJA HA-HA XXXI

He's owned three other boats since then.

"I've had my Ron Amy-designed Spindrift 43 *Kanumera* for 12 years now," says Doug, "and really love her. We had a great time on the 2019 Ha-Ha, but that adventure unfortunately got cut short by the pandemic."

"My dream is to get back to the South Pacific before too long, because like Capt Ron said, "if it's gonna happen, it's gonna happen out there."

What's in a name? *Kanumera* is derived from indigenous words meaning 'heart of the ocean' or 'an island of peace'. Owners who choose this name often demonstrate a love of adventure, exoticism, and nature. In a word, *Kanumera* is a name that carries with it the promise of discoveries and mysteries while being anchored in values of peace and conviviality.

### **Kranich — Ericson 38-200 Jana Olias & Peter Buettner San Rafael**

Peter, 58, is a Software Engineer/Manager. Partner Jana is a retired Psychotherapist. She was born in East Germany, while he was born in West Germany. They have been living in the Bay Area since the early '90s. Their crew will be Oliver Silverman, 24 and Zoe Onderdonk, 24.

Peter learned to sail with the then Sausalito-based Sailing Education Adventures in 2006. Jane learned to sail with the same outfit 10 years later after it had moved to San Rafael.

After owning kayaks, rowboats, and a few smaller sailboats, the couple bought *Kranich* in 2009. They have lived aboard her since 2019 and have done 95% of the work getting her cruise-ready.

While the couple haven't done a Ha-Ha, they have done a lot of more challenging ocean passages. Last year they did a six-month cruise from San Rafael to Hawaii, then on to Alaska, and down the Inside Passage. After stopping in Seattle and Portland, they returned to San Rafael after an impressive 8,000 miles.

The couple plan to keep sailing south after the Ha-Ha. They own their dream boat, and their dream destination is the Med. If they make it, the Poobah recommends a long stop at the island of Porquerolles off the South of France.

Lin and Larry Pardey, who did incredible long voyages with small, engine-less boats they built of wood, are Jana and Peter's worthy sailing heroes.

Peter goes for tiramisù, while Jana prefers strawberries with cream.

The couple thinks there are three



**Kranich - Peter & Jana**

kinds of people. 'The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist trims the sails.' The question becomes what do you call someone who trims the sails while explaining the wind isn't getting more favorable fast enough?



**La Vida - Joyce, Jeanne & Pati**

### **La Vida - Catalina 27 (W) Pati Royce San Diego / Augusta, GA**

Pati is a Carpenter, her crew will be Jeanne Disney, a retired Teacher; and Joyce Shanahan, a retired Attorney.

"I've owned a Laser, a Piver trimaran, and leased an Endeavor 32," reports Pati. "I've owned four boats in all, including *La Vida*, which I only recently purchased."

Catalina Yachts built an astounding 6,662 Catalina 27s, which can commonly be found selling for less than 10k. Are they suitable for doing a Ha-Ha and cruising in Mexico? All we can say is that in 2009 Steve Baker and his wife sold their comfortable home in Santa Rosa, bought the Catalina 27 *Willful Simplicity*, and without any problems sailed her in the 2009 Ha-Ha, perhaps the windiest ever. But that was just the beginning. After the Ha-Ha, they lived aboard her

in the Sea of Cortez for many years. So while a Catalina 27 might not be the cruising boat for every couple, it has been for some folks.

Pati's longest sail has been from Fort Myers to Key West to the Dry Tortugas, then back. Her dream destination is the Panama Canal, and she wouldn't mind transiting on a larger boat, say a Jeanneau 51. But in the near term she plans to enjoy time with her sailing friends in La Paz.

Pati loves to "Live, Laugh, and Love" — and loves Tiramisu. While there are countless cheap imitations, a proper Italian Tiramisu is made of ladyfinger pastries dipped in coffee, layered with a whipped mixture of egg yolks, sugar, and mascarpone, and topped with cocoa powder.

Patsy Verhoeven, Assistant Poobah of the Ha-Ha for nearly forever, is Pati's sailing hero. Given her decades of cruising accomplishments, sometimes singlehanded, Patsy should be more famous in the greater sailing world.



**Legacy - Kimberly, Fortune, Chance, Violet (the dog) & Colleen**

### **Legacy — Cal 36 (W) Colleen Clay & Chance Vernon Long Beach**

Coleen is retired from Emergency Management, while spouse Chance (Karen) is a Development Grant Writer. Both are Coast Guard Master Captains. They will have two crew. Their daughter Fortune Vernon-Clay, 28, a Sailing Instructor; and Kimberly LeVern, a Yacht Salesperson with Shoreline Yachts.

"Chance and I have been sailing for over 30 years together," reports Colleen,

# cruisin' to the cape

"both on small boats and on our Cal 36 *Windward* which we live on. We've owned four sailboats together and have owned *Legacy* for only a couple of months."

Colleen and Chance's longest passages have been on charters out of Tahiti. After the Ha-Ha, they plan to stay in the Sea of Cortez for a few months.

According to Colleen, their dream destination is Tahiti, and dream boat is "the one I'm sailing. Robin Lee Graham was my first sailing hero. Now all the women breaking records and engaging the next generations are my heroes. My favorite dessert is coconut cream pie. I am not left handed, and my nickname is Kermit."



**LiaH<sub>2</sub>O - Jody & Lane**

## **LiaH<sub>2</sub>O — Hunter 460 (W) Jody & Lane Hughes Brookings, OR / Burney**

Jody, 51, is a retired Firefighter, while spouse Lane has retired from Nursing. Their crew will be brother Evan Hughes, 49, retired from Railroad and Retail Management; and Annaleis Groh, 33, a Nurse.

"Lane and I, high school sweethearts who have been together for 33 years now, are new to sailing, having only indoctrinated ourselves three years ago with ASA sailing classes and a couple of charters in the Florida Keys to 'make sure' this was what we wanted. Both of us have been water dogs our entire lives, growing up houseboating and skiing on local lakes. We have owned several ski boats, but *LiaH<sub>2</sub>O* (Lee-Ah-Ho) is our first sailboat.

"After four long months of traveling to Southern California, we surveyed and purchased our sailboat in October of 2023. *LiaH<sub>2</sub>O* is a well-maintained

2000 Hunter 460 that had some of the typical issues after 25 years of cruising. We have personally fixed those issues and outfitted her to be the perfect ocean cruiser for our needs.

"This will be our first Ha-Ha, having learned about the rally when we first began sailing. Our longest passage to date has been 5 days, motoring north on the west coast from Long Beach to Crescent City. After the Ha-Ha, we plan to spend several months in the Sea of Cortez, scuba diving, relaxing, and sailing around while enjoying the Baja culture. Then it's south for the Panama Canal, where we will spend the next year cruising through the Caribbean and Bahamas.

"Our dream destination is anywhere we can have epic scuba dives, such as French Polynesia. We haven't had enough experience to have a dream boat yet, but the Delos 2.0 catamaran would be a nice platform.

"We don't have any sailing heroes, but we love Kenny Chesney's saying, "Live a life worth living." Our favorite dessert is ice cream. Dark chocolate for Jody and something minty or peanut buttery for Lane. Lane is left-handed, while Jody is right-handed.

"Jody and Lane are actually our nicknames, as we were christened Joseph and Lelania.

"We retired this summer and have two kids who both served in the Army. We'll be cruising with our Chocolate Labrador Piper, named after our Piper Cherokee airplane that we had to sell to make room for sailing.

## **Libertas — Jeanneau 42 Bob & Charlotte McKenzie Marina del Rey / Riverside**

Bob, 61, is a Realtor as is Charlotte. Please remember that while all Realtors are real estate agents, not all real estate agents are Realtors. Hopefully Bob and Charlotte will tell us the distinction. Their crew will be Tom Deegan, 62, who is in the IT world; and Philip Brisk, a professor.

"I have been sailing vessels over 35 feet for over five years," says Bob, "and have previously owned Hobie Cats and other small vessels. We just purchased our 2011 boat in November of 2024. She's a typical Jeanneau 42, of which many were made. But what distinguishes her from many other 42-footers is how spacious she is.

"I helped do the Baja Bash in 2022, leaving Cabo San Lucas for Long Beach," says Bob. Perhaps this is why he and Charlotte plan on leaving their



**Libertas - Charlotte & Bob**

boat in the Puerto Escondido area for six months, with monthly visits. The Sea of Cortez is normally fabulous in November, but if the Northerners start blowing it can get cool in December and the rest of the winter.

"Living in Southern California, we have great access to fresh citrus and other ingredients," says Charlotte, "so I always enjoy cooking with the seasons, which is spectacular. We both love decadent desserts, and I will be making and bringing down frozen cookie dough."

The couple's favorite quote is a good piece of cruiser wisdom: 'No man is entirely worthless; he can always serve as a bad example.'

## **Luna — Island Packet 380 Mike & Tammy Evans Redwood City / Reno, NV**

Mike, 57, is still an active Pilot, while Tammy is a retired RN, a noble calling if there ever was one. Their crew will two retired Firefighter/Paramedics: Kevin Green, 57; and Carol Green.

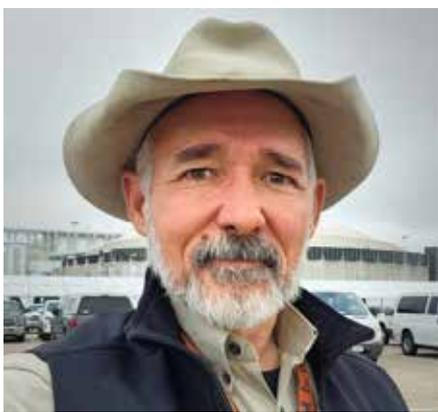
Mike and Tammy have been sailing *Luna*, their first sailboat, together for the past five years. Their longest sail to date has been from Redwood City to Coos Bay, which was almost certainly more challenging than the downwind Ha-Ha is likely to be.

Seeming to be gluttons for punishment, Mike and Tammy have already left Coos Bay for more challenges on their way to summer cruising in Puget Sound.

"Our dream destination is the South Pacific," the couple says. "Our Island Packet 380 is our dream boat, as she's just perfect for us."

Like so many others in the Ha-Ha fleet, the couple from Reno are right-handers and prefer cheesecake for dessert.

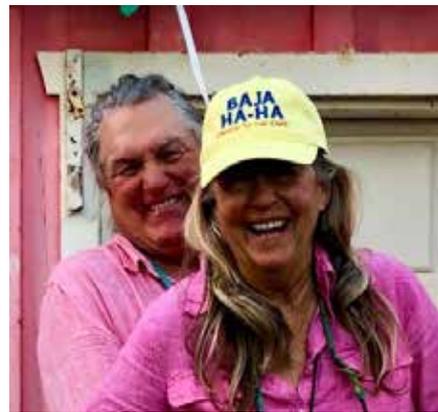
The couple have come up with what the Poobah thinks is the best martial advice in the history of the Ha-Ha: 'I'm sorry for what I said when I was docking the boat.'



**Makai - Scott**



**Makara - Anna & Peter**



**Malama Kai - Christian & Lynn**

**Makai — Herreshoff 50  
Scott Armstrong**

**Anacortes, WA / Navasota, TX**

Scott, 59, is a retired Entrepreneur in “Metals to Manure”. He has four crew. William Pigors, 69; Terry Latham, 58; David Henry, 68; Skyler Lighthall; and Timothy Geistlinger, 55.

“Like my son, who flies for the Marines here at the NAS Kingsville, I, too, am a Pilot — as well as a Welder, Ranch Worker, Hay Hauler, Music Minister, Fire Commissioner, and, in the ‘90s, an Elected Constable. I’m also a singer of old country classics and drunken sailor songs.”

“I was born and raised on Trinity Bay in Baytown, Texas, and can’t count the number of powerboats and sailboats I’ve owned. But *Makai*, which I bought in 2017 in Anacortes, is my first offshore sailboat.

“I’ve never done a Ha-Ha, but I have a lot of dream destinations. After Mexico, I hope to sail west and meet friends as I sail to Bora Bora, Cairns, South Africa, the BVIs where I’ve sailed many times before, and my ultimate dream destination of Texas and the Gulf of America.

My favorite quote comes from Charles Spurgeon, who so eloquently said, “Kiss the waves that throw me against the Rock of Ages.” Who? Charlie was a Particular Baptist minister in London in the 1800s who produced powerful sermons of penetrating thought and precise exposition. His oratory skills are said to have held his listeners spellbound in the Metropolitan Tabernacle, and even today many Christians hold his writings in exceptionally high regard.

**Makara — Passport 470 (W)  
Peter Rumsey & Anna Edmondson  
Emeryville / Oakland**

Peter, 64, is an Energy Engineer, while spouse Anna is a retired Planning Consultant. Their crew will be Martin Stephen, 53 and Marty Gilmore, 75.

Peter has been sailing for seven years, mostly in California, while Life Partner and First Mate Anna has been sailing for 18 months. *Makara*, which we bought two years ago, is our first boat.

“We’ve heard a lot about the Ha-Ha, but never done one,” they say. “Our longest passage has been from San Diego to San Francisco Bay. After the Ha-Ha our plan is to take a Christmas break, then head through the Panama Canal.

“Our dream would be to sail *Makara*, our dream boat, to the Caribbean and then on to the Med. Our two grown sons are marathon runners and one of them is moving to Madrid.”

Peter’s favorite quote is, “Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results”. His favorite dessert is chocolate mousse, while Anna’s is cheesecake.

Peter is left-handed, but Anna isn’t. Neither have nicknames. But Anna is a bit of a mermaid, as she’s an open water, cold water swimmer on San Francisco Bay. So, it’s going to a while for her to get used to swimming in tropical waters.

For those of you who are a little rusty on your Sanskrit, *Makara* is the name for a mythical water beast. Although to the Greeks, *Makara* means blessed or happy.

**Malama Kai — Westsail 42 (W)  
Christian Holm & Lynn Ringseis  
Seattle / Ma’alaea, HI / Santa Cruz  
(23 Ha-Ha’s)**

Christian, 65, is an Aerial Firefighter, while partner, Lynn, is a former Caribbean Charter Yacht Owner/Operator, multiple transatlantic vet, and author. Christian has done eight Ha-Ha’s as crew aboard mothership *Profligate*, while Lynn has done 15! Small surprise that they met aboard the Ha-Ha mothership.

Their crew will be Gail McMorran, an Entrepreneur and Consultant to Woman-owned Businesses and Chris Barry, a 2015 Ha-Ha vet and circumnavigator on his boat *Spill the Wine*. He and his wife ended up buying a house on the beach outside of Barra de Navidad.

When working as a firefighter in San Diego in the 1980s, Christian lived aboard a Columbia 38 and sailed at every opportunity. He hasn’t stopped since. Lynn learned how to capsize a Sunfish in San Diego many years ago and has been trying to keep boats upright ever since. She hitchhiked transatlantic from Marseilles to Martinique on a GibSea 33 in 1984 and did a second transatlantic in 2004 on a Lagoon 410 with her late and beloved husband, Johnny Portfolio.

Seasonally Christian can be found at the helm of a four-engine jet flying through billowing clouds of smoke and bouncing in turbulent air while precisely dumping 27,000 pounds of bright red retardant next to raging wildfires. His day job in the aerial firefighting industry is pretty exciting, but he looks forward to a six to seven-knot life.

Lynn is the quintessential water woman whose love for the ocean knows

# cruisin' to the cape

no bounds. If she is creating a crew favorite in the galley, you better alert her to any observed marine life in a timely manner. Failure to do this will subject you to an untimely departure to the depths of Neptune's graveyard. For you will not find anyone more interested in all things related to the ocean.

Christian has owned *Malama Kai* for 10 years. His dream boat would be a fast catamaran, while Lynn's would be a slow catamaran. The worst days of the year in the 15 years Lynn did Ha-Ha's aboard *Profligate* were always the last day of the Ha-Ha. She hated to have the adventure end.

A couple of years ago, Christian and Lynn volunteered aboard a former U.S. Coast Guard cutter that was repurposed by Sea Shepherd. They traveled from San Felipe, Mexico, to Lima, Peru, via Mazatlán and the Galápagos Islands, while they retrieved discarded fishing nets and saved sea life. In the process, Christian was upgraded from Pollywog to Shellback by jumping in and swimming across the Equator.

The couple's sailing hero is Mau Pialug, a Micronesian navigator and teacher of traditional, non-instrument wayfinding methods for open-ocean voyaging. Mau shared his knowledge with the Polynesian Voyaging Society to test lost Hawaiian navigational techniques on the Hōkū'ea, a modern reconstruction of a double-hulled Hawaiian voyaging canoe.

Christian, aka DJ Smoke, has a favorite quote: 'A mile of highway will take you just one mile, but a mile of runway will take you anywhere.' Lynn, aka Lynnard, prefers, 'Not all storms come to disrupt your life; some come to clear your path.'

## \**Malilia* — Hylas 63

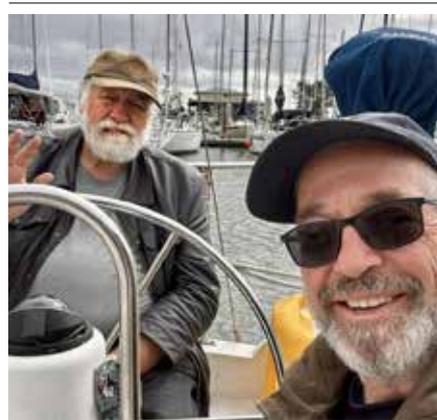
**Nick Green & Franziska Moritz**  
San Pedro / San Juan Capistrano / England

Nick, 61, is a retired CEO, while spouse Franziska didn't list an occupation. They will have three crew, David Andrews, 69, retired Sales Director; Kay Andrews, a retired Housewife; and son Benjamin Green, 6, a Student of Life. That makes three British Americans, one Canadian, and a young Bristish/Cerman/Canadian/American. What could go south, particularly with home-schooling?

"Nick is our captain," reports Fran, "who commands the boat with complete authority in the course of following my orders."



**Malilia Crew**



**Malolo - Patrick & Stev**

The couple have been sailing for 15 years, during which time they've owned two boats. They bought their Hylas 63, their dream boat, in 2019 with the intention of sailing her around the world. "We are using the Ha-Ha as the kick-off for a sail around the world.

After spending some time in the Sea of Cortez, we will sail down the west coast of Central America and South America to Ecuador, where we will hang a right to the Galápagos Islands and beyond. Our dream is to come back here after our circumnavigation," says Nick, "but I also would like to sail Patagonia and around the Horn."

"We are all looking forward to joining the Ha-Ha and meeting everyone," the crew reports.

## **Malolo - Newport 33 (W)** **Steven Rosing**

**Berkeley (1996, 2007, 2011)**

Steven, 63, is a retired Professor of Latin American Studies. His crew will be Captain Patrick McKenna, 67, a Marine Mechanic and Engineer; and another to be named later.

Born in Chicago, Steven learned to sail in high school and cruised the shores of Lake Michigan.

After getting a good feel for Hobie Cats, he managed to barter with three retiring doctors for their wooden-hulled Steans 26, which had been built on Lake Superior.

In his youth, Steve was an underage taxi driver as well as the 'token white boy' in three Chicago blues, funk, and lounge bands. He concurrently studied language and composed a series of short stories, titled American 557, about those adventurous nights. His writings were instrumental in his being accepted at

UC Berkeley.

"I spent much of my early working life vagabond traveling and funded my countless trips to Latin America, Asia, and elsewhere with an import business, storefronts, and a mobile wing that did every kind of street vending from the Santa Cruz flea market to the Haight Street Fair. I later signed on to the largest of nationwide tours of jam bands and heavy metal rock 'n rollers."

"During my travels, especially while extensively combing the Andean countries, I mastered Spanish, which became a marketable skill. Even with decades of fluency, my lingering gringo accent sounds funny to natives. Nonetheless, I've been capable of communicating in Spanish all my adult life."

After quite a few years on the beach, Steven got back into sailing with great enthusiasm with the *Nimbus*, a San Juan 28 out of the Berkeley Marina. More recently, he's been excited to learn more from Patrick. "Meeting Patrick last year was a glorious, key moment in my life. He's kicked my butt into being a 'real' sailor, better in every respect than I have ever been. He's a legend already, my hero, never to be disrespected or forgotten."

'Stev', as close friends refer to him, is eager about his bucket list voyage that will start his ex-pat life split between Panama's Chiriquí and Colombia's Magdalena and Guajira Departments. He likes them because they are close to Parque Nacional Natural Tayronone, one of the world's most pristine biodiverse wilderness areas. So this is a voyage of no return, because while he intends to make visits back to the 'old country', *Malolo* is never coming back to the northern hemisphere.

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# BAJA HA-HA XXXI

Poobah's Note: Here are three common mistakes that many people make about geography: 1) When you transit the Panama Canal from the Pacific to the Caribbean, you are counterintuitively traveling east to west, not west to east. 2. New York City, at longitude 74.006 West, is to the west of some parts of the Pacific Ocean, including the coastal town of La Chimba, Chile, is at 71.23 West. 3) That Panama and Colombia are in the Northern Hemisphere. Only a small part of southern Colombia is in the Southern Hemisphere. But don't feel bad; even AI got #2 wrong, saying, "No, New York City is not west of any part of the Pacific Ocean." Wrong!

Captain Patrick McKenna, who among many, many other things was the Chief Engineer aboard the 145-ft topsail tall ship *Californian*, has done the Ha-Ha several times and met Steve at his teaching retirement party at the Berkeley YC in the summer of 2024. Almost immediately they made a pact with him to captain *Malolo* on a trip to the western Caribbean via the Panama Canal, San Blas Islands, Cartagena, and Santa Marta, Colombia, beginning with Baja Ha-Ha XXXI.

## **MaMaLu — Pacific Seacraft 34 Mark Shriner Seattle, WA**

Mark, 59, is a Business Consultant. Crewman Tomoyuki "Tomo" Sasama, 59, is the retired "Head of Dow Chemical" in Vietnam. Tomo has done a lot of sailing off Japan.

"I have been sailing off and on since my teens," says Mark, "mostly in the Puget Sound area. During this time I've owned three sailboats, the current one being my Pacific Seacraft 34. I purchased her in June of 2024 and recently sailed her from Seattle to San Francisco. That's been my longest offshore passage."

"My dream destination is a place with a Mediterranean climate, good sailing breezes, and lots of delicious food options. I have my dream boat."

"My sailing heroes would include Larry and Lin Pardey, British multihull pioneer James Wharram, naval architect Bill Crealock, the various Herschoffs, sailor and sailing journalist Christian Williams, and the notorious but talented Captain Bligh."

"My favorite motto? Retirement is when you stop sacrificing today for an imaginary tomorrow. When today is complete, in and of itself, you're retired." So said "Raval Navikant."

"I enjoy all types of outdoor sports but also love to read. After the Ha-Ha, I plan to stay in the Sea of Cortez until April of 2026."

## **Mamaseata — Lagoon 420 Joel Munoz Encinitas**

Joel, 56, is a Developer. He will have five crew: Richard Cano, 56, a retired Teacher; and Connie Beabout, also a retired Teacher, Robert Chisholm, 68; Roxane Wilson; and Paul Brady, 77.

"I've been sailing for over 30 years and have owned smaller sailboats before the Lagoon. I have racing experience and look forward to continuing my trip down the mainland of Mexico, surfing and fishing along the way.

"My dream destination would be sailing the fjords of Chile, climbing and surfing my way through Patagonia. I am a lifelong lover of Baja and am very much looking forward to the rally. We plan on continuing on to our final winter destination of Huatulco."

*Mamaseata* was built in 2008, one of 270 original Lagoon 420s. It was replaced by the 420-2 in 2012, which has sold an astonishing 1,000 units. Lagoons are often criticized for poor performance, but there is a YouTube video of one cruising along at a steady 16 knots under a big spinnaker.

## **\*\*Manitou — Oyster 56 Richard Delateur Incline Village, NV (2002)**

Richard, 67, is retired from the world of Finance. He'll have five crew. Mark Covec, 55, a Nurse Practitioner; Mark's son Griffinn Covec, 11, a Student of Life; Greg Houghton, 48, a Physician; and Greg's son Parker Houghton, 15, a Student of Life.

"I've been sailing for 50 years," reports Richard, "during which time I've owned too many boats to remember, but about 10. I've owned *Manitou* for four years."

"I did the 2002 Ha-Ha," says Richard, "and afterward continued on to the East Coast." Since Richard didn't mention the name or type of boat, we looked it up in the Ha-Ha records. The boat was a Valiant 40, and her name was *Mariposa*.

"Mark, our First Mate, has extensive sailing experience, including being a Captain in the Caribbean. He crossed the Atlantic with his parents when he was 10. Now it's time for his 10-year-old to get his feet wet in the ocean.

I don't know if I have a dream



**Manitou - Rich**

destination, but I always vowed that I would never go to the South Pacific unless I sailed there. So, we'll see."



**Marisol - Marisol & Stephen**

## **Marisol — Hunter 410 Stephen Ronk & Madeline Fontillas Marina del Rey / Los Angeles**

Stephen, 60, is a Lawyer, while spouse, Madeline, didn't list an occupation. Their crew will be daughter Marisol Fontillas Ronk, 24, a Law Clerk; Doug Estill, 62, a Fire Department Captain; Julia Estill, 31; and Ron Bossert, 59, occupation not provided.

"We've been sailing for 20 years and have owned three boats," report the couple. "We have owned *Marisol* since 2007 and have made many trips into Mexico on her, including 20 to Ensenada. While we haven't done a Ha-Ha, we have made the trip down to Cabo on the Ha-Ha route, then continued on



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## BAJA HA-HA XXXI

to Mazatlán, San Blas, La Cruz, and Manzanillo, with all the usual stops along the way. After the Ha-Ha, we plan to continue down to La Cruz for the winter.

“Our dream destination is Tahiti via the Galapagos, while my dream boat is whatever boat is under me when we are in that quiet anchorage at sunset.

“I don’t have a sailing hero,” says Stephen, “but I’ve followed Cole Brauer’s Global Solo Challenge run. I’ve found her to be awesome and inspiring.

“I have a firm non-discrimination policy regarding desserts. They are all my favorite.”

Hear that bell? It means it’s time for a Grand Poobah History Lesson. Since Frank has been sailing the coast of Mexico many times, I wonder if he, and everybody else in the Ha-Ha, knows that it’s been part of an important transpacific trade route between Manila and Mexico for 450 years. That’s right, it started in 1565 and lasted for 250 years!

Most of the Manila galleons were built in the Philippines and — sit down for this tidbit — carried as many as 500 people! The vast majority of the galleon’s crew consisted of Filipino natives, many of whom were farmers, street children, or vagrants press-ganged into service as sailors. The officers and other skilled crew were usually Spaniards, many of them Basque.

The galleons mostly carried cargoes of Chinese and other Asian luxury goods in exchange for New World silver. Silver prices in Asia were substantially higher than in America, leading to an arbitrage opportunity for the Manila galleons. Every space of the galleons was packed tightly with cargo, even spaces outside the holds like the decks, cabins, and magazines. In extreme cases, they towed barges filled with more goods. While this resulted in slow passage, the profit margins of the typically twice-a-year passages were so high that it was common.

These trade goods included Indian ivory and precious stones, Chinese silk and porcelain, cloves from the Molucca Islands, cinnamon, ginger, lacquers, tapestries, and perfumes from all over Asia. In addition, slaves — collectively known as ‘chinos’ — from various parts of Asia were also transported from the Manila slave markets to Mexico. The slaves were mostly bought from the Portuguese slave markets or were Muslim captives from the Spanish-Moro conflict. Free indigenous Filipinos also migrated to Mexico via the galleons, and comprised the majority of free Asian

settlers in Mexico, particularly in regions near the terminal ports of the Manila galleons.

How about them tacos?

### **Maybe Tuesday — Cal 34 Jack Edgerton San Pedro / Inglewood**

Jack, 64, is a retired Teamster but, most of all, a Proud Father. His crew will be his sons Aki Edgerton, 35; and Eddy Edgerton, 29.

“Aki got into rowing and won the Youth National Championship in 2006 in the quad with three of his mates. After six years in the Navy as a corpsman, he now works as a Nurse, Husband, and Father. Eddy, my youngest, was a swimmer and water polo player in high school, got a degree in Environmental Studies, and is now a captain on the 71-ft *Condor Express* whale-watching catamaran out of Santa Barbara.”

As for Jack, “my dad started me sailing when was about five, almost 60 years ago. Most of that sailing was done on the Santa Monica Bay, starting with racing in Junior High and carrying on through High School. Subsequently, I’ve sailed to and landed on six of the eight Channel Islands.”

“Over the years I’ve owned three small powerboats and five sailboats. I’ve owned *Maybe Tuesday* for about 25 years now and have had five of the happiest days of a boat owner’s life with her. Even though I love her and have poured my heart into her, I’m sensing another breakup. I just can’t keep my wandering eye from the larger and sleeker boat next door.”

“I’ve never done a Ha-Ha, but my brother and I helped a couple bring a MacGregor 65 up to San Diego from Cabo. It was not an easy trip. The prop strut broke, so we removed it and the prop so we could still use the engine to charge the batteries. We would then tack offshore at night and back inshore during the day until we made it to San Diego. It was helpful that we just had a delivery main and small headsail, as it made the boat easy to handle in typical 20 knots of wind we had. It took us nine days and nine nights, making it my longest passage.”

“After the Ha-Ha, we’ll go to Vallarta or La Paz, then back up to San Pedro by January. My dream destination would be the South Pacific, and I’d like to do it aboard something like a Beneteau Sense 50. No matter what boat I go on, I could fix whatever broke.”

Jack likes the quote ‘Hoist the bilge pump’ and flan

“drenched” in Kahlua for dessert. The right-hander does have a nickname, “but it’s reserved for my wife.”



**Merriweather - Laura & Dennis**

### **Merriweather — Island Packet 420 Dennis & Laura Calvin Sparks, NV**

Dennis, 53, is a retired Correctional Officer while spouse Laura, is a retired Medical Underwriter. They will doublehand.

While Dennis previously owned several small fishing boats, *Merriweather* is the couple’s first sailboat. They didn’t have any sailing experience when they bought her in 2021 but have lived aboard her the past couple of years while cruising the Pacific Northwest, British Columbia and Alaska.

“Our most harrowing passage was when we picked *Merriweather* up in Victoria, BC, after she was shipped up from San Carlos, Mexico,” they remember. She was a couple of months late arriving, so we didn’t get her until mid-October. We had to get her down to Crescent City, which meant we had to go through a series of weather bombs. We were too stupid to understand we had no business being out there, but our Island Packet is bulletproof and took good care of us.

“Our current plan is to spend a season or two in the Sea of Cortez, then cross to our dream destination of French Polynesia. Our dream boat would be a Hylas, but we’re being tempted by the comfort and living space of catamarans.

“We like the quote that ‘our boat is slow for a boat but fast for a house.’

Is there a better dessert than raspberry brownies?”

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# BAJA HA-HA XXXI

## **Midnight Sun — Hunter 36 Wesley Willow & Amber Stanford Long Beach / Indio**

Wesley, 40, is a Scientist, while co-owner Amber, is a CPA. The couple will doublehand.

"I have been sailing in the Great Lakes from as early as I can remember," reports Wesley, "from spending my summers at a sailing school in Erie, PA and crewing on my parents' sailboat on Lake Erie. I have owned a few day sailboats and jet skis, but just purchased *Midnight Sun* in the fall of 2024.

"My wife Amber and I had been thinking of getting a cabin in Big Bear when she mentioned maybe we should get a sailboat. She was surprised when I already had boats in mind to show her. Sometimes great minds think alike.

"We are out on *Midnight Sun* almost every weekend escaping the heat in the Coachella Valley. We like cruising around Catalina and the Channel Islands. We are looking forward to the Ha-Ha for our first experience sailing south of the border!

"Our dream destination is somewhere with warm water, refreshing air, and where the rum flows. Our dream boat would be a 40-45-foot cat that we can live on in the Caribbean.

"Our sailing hero is Captain Ron, and our favorite quote, 'Don't worry, they'll get out of the way, I learned that driving the *Saratoga*'.

My favorite desert is Key Lime Pie."

## **Minami Kaze — Beneteau 361 Antoin Russell & Tammie Sims- Russell**

### **Redwood City / Mountain View**

Antoin, 58, is an Electrical Engineer, while spouse Tammie, bless her heart, is a Nurse. They plan to doublehand.

"We have only owned one boat, our Beneteau 361, which we've had for seven years," reports Antoin. "I sail regularly on the Bay and outside the Gate to Half Moon Bay, Bodega Bay, the Farallones, and Drakes Bay. I have passed ASA 101, 103, 104, 105, 106 and 114, while Tammi has passed ASA 103. We have also been on flotilla vacations off Naples and Tahiti.

"My longest passage has been to Bodega Bay, but prior to the Ha-Ha, I'm planning on overnights to Santa Cruz and Monterey.

"Our boat is equipped with a life raft, Hydrovane self-steering, solar panels on an arch, a small water-maker, two EPIRBs, Starlink, a ham radio, and other goodies. I'm in the process of getting new sails and have tools for everything.

Our 24-year-old *Minami Kaze* has been well-cared for. For example, all thru-hulls and hoses have been replaced, as well as the engine mounts, exhaust, and heat exchanger. The engine only has 1,000 hours.

My dream boat would be a Tartan 400, and in my dream, I sail her to Mauritius, an island off the east coast of Africa. It had been colonized by the Dutch, the French, and the Brits before declaring independence in 1968.

My sailing hero is Erik Anderra, who chronicles his adventures of sailing the North Atlantic and Norwegian Sea aboard his Contessa 35, *Tessie*.

"I believe that 'if you can think it, you can do it' — and I think I'll have something chocolate for dessert. I'm starboard-handed and my nickname is an unusual one: 'Would You Like a Beer'.

"*Minami Kaze* means southerly breeze, which I'll be hoping for when we return home after the Ha-Ha."

Although you don't hear it so much anymore, in the old days Northern California sailors used to boast, 'If you can sail on San Francisco Bay, you can sail anywhere in the world.' That's nonsense, of course, because while it can get windy on the Bay, it's still protected waters without the potentially major challenges of open ocean conditions. A more accurate aphorism would be, 'If you can sail in the Gulf of Farallones, you can sail anywhere in the world.'

Crewing for them this year will be Turtle Bay professional baseball star Sarah Stenson, who obtained her professional status in the 2023 Turtle Bay Baseball game. Also onboard will be Steve Mueller, 53, retired from Cal Fire, and Kris Mueller, a nurse. Having done numerous Ha-Ha's and Bashes aboard *Profligate*, the couple decided to try life on a monohull.

"This will be our 13th Ha-Ha," reports Myron. "Our first was in 2000. We were very young and really didn't know much more than to follow the boat ahead of us. Now 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.

"We updated to a new diesel for the last Ha-Ha, and this year have a new mainsail, a Starlink, and, in view of the fact we've aged a bit since 2000, a few more creature comforts.

"Over the years the best thing about the Ha-Ha has always been the friendships we've made with other participants. We still visit with people we met on the Ha-Ha years ago."



**Mykonos - Marina & Myron**

## **Mykonos — Swan 44 Myron & Marina Eisenzimmer Sausalito / San Geronimo (12 Ha-Ha's)**

Myron, 71, is retired from the world of Finance, as is his spouse, Marina.



**Mystic Wind - Meggie & Steven**

## **Mystic Wind — Catalina 350 Meggie Woodfield & Steven Naler San Diego**

Meggie, 35, is a Product Manager at Microsoft and owner of *Mystic Wind*. Her crew will be Life Partner Steven Naler, 38, who is a Licensed Captain and the Junior Fleet Manager at the Southwestern Yacht Club.

Originally from Provo, Utah, Meggie moved to San Diego in 2021. Despite little sailing experience, she was invited to go sail racing and immediately became hooked. She bought *Mystic Wind* in early 2023 with aspirations to go cruising internationally. She met Steven around the same time, and they have been together since.

Steven has lived in San Diego for most of his life and has a lot of sailing experience. He is the winner of annual CRA sailing awards with his J/24 crew aboard *Wharf Rat* and has done multiple boat deliveries including to Cabo, Puerto Vallarta and north to Port Townsend, WA.

Maggie reports there is nothing unusual about her Catalina 350. As for herself, she's not left-handed, doesn't have a nickname, and doesn't have any sailing heroes. But she does love cake and pastries. And she really loves her first boat. "I'm very attached to *Mystic Wind* and not sure I'll ever give her up."

"After the Ha-Ha we plan to keep *Mystic Wind* in La Paz and explore the immediate area for a few months," says Maggie. Because she's able to work remotely, she and Steven are considering the possibility of cruising part-time while working. "But we need to see how well Starlink works in Mexico first!" (Poobah Tip: I've had five Starlinks on boats in Mexico/California, the Caribbean, and France. Starlink kills it. It only takes a couple of minutes to set up and has only failed during the height of the most intense tropical downpours. It's been the biggest game-changer in my 50 years of sailing offshore.)

Ultimately Maggie and Steven would love to cruise in the South Pacific.

## **Nammu — Pearson 36-2 (W)**

**Mick Haven  
Long Beach**

Mick, 57, is a Professor who lives aboard his 1985 Bill Shaw design. The Navy vet — '86 to '90 — will have crew Jess Haas, 41; Jason Smith, 51; and Ajae Clearway aboard.

He's been sailing for five years, during which time he's owned two boats. The most recent being *Nammu*, a classic Pearson 36 that he's owned for three years. Despite her age and modest size, she's his dream boat — although he'd also be happy with a Malo 36.

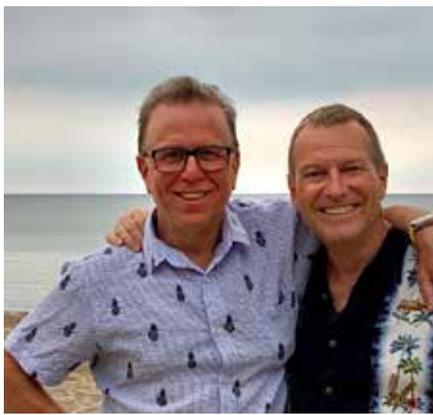
This will be Mick's first Ha-Ha. He was set to crew on the last two Ha-Ha's, but the boats he was going to crew on

didn't start. His longest passage to date is 250 miles. He'll cover more than six times that many miles between doing the Ha-Ha and returning home to Long Beach.

Mick's dream destination is the South Seas, and his favorite quote comes from Hal Roth's book *How to Sail Around the World*. 'The big secret of world travel is to do it in a sailing yacht. It's by far the best way to see the globe. You take your deluxe hotel with you, which gives you everything you need to exist pleasantly and comfortably. You have a snug berth, a writing desk, a navigation center, and a compact little galley, plus a few favorite books and clothes. All in a small and neat package'. By himself and with his wife, Roth spent the second half of his life racing and cruising, and twice did the BOC race with a Santa Cruz 50.

Mick's favorite dessert is Ben & Jerry's Chocolate Fudge Brownie.

A lefty, Mick's pirate name is Sikk Mikk.



**Nauti Miss - Dave & Bruce**

## **Nauti Miss — FP 47 Power Cat MV Dave Bliss Marina del Rey**

Dave, 60, is a Pediatric Surgeon who lived in Mexico as a child and is fluent in Spanish. His crew will be friends Derek Daw, 61, an Electrical Engineer; and Bruce Johnson, 60, from Wasaga Beach, Canada.

Dave grew up on or near the ocean and has owned and operated a variety of boats since childhood. Most recently he fell in love with catamarans. "And I'm the one friend crazy enough to buy the boat."

In addition to being an active

sportsman — tennis, mountain biking, road-biking hiking, camping — Dave has traveled to six of the earth's seven continents. And in addition to being a surgeon he is a businessman involved in renewable energy and microgrids.

His longest passage has been Seattle to Alaska, but he has done many passages of relatively short distances.

Dave describes his crew Derek as a "talented electrical engineer who can fix anything". He and Dave have been friends since high school. As for his other crew, Bruce Johnson, he's an inveterate traveler who has ridden bicycles and motorcycles from the Arctic Circle to the tip of South America. Not just once, not just twice, but three times!

Dave's dream boat would be a sustainable all-electric blue water catamaran, similar to a Sunreef Eco 60. His dream destination is the South Pacific.

Homer's Odysseus is Dave's sailing hero. Odysseus is renowned for his intellectual brilliance, guile, and versatility and is thus known as Odysseus the Cunning.

Dave's regular favorite dessert is chocolate Oreos, but on special occasions he'll go for a crème brûlée.

The right-hander's nickname is Blisster, and the book that has recently influenced him the most is Bill Perkins' *Die with Zero*. The book offers a provocative philosophy as well as a practical guide on how to get the most out of your money — and out of your life. It's intended for those who place lifelong memorable experiences ahead of simply accumulating money for one's so-called Golden Years.

## **Nelson's Folly — Catalina 42 MKII Nelson Yape**

**Avalon / Rancho Mirage**

Nelson, 65, is a retired Software Engineer. His crew will be son Brian, 40, also a Software Engineer; and Larry Haynie, 70, a retired Delivery Skipper.

"I was lucky enough to have grown up in Southern California, where playing and working on bikes, skateboards, motorcycles, cars, and boats was normal," says Nelson. "To pay for my fun I cleaned greasy diners, delivered papers, delivered auto parts, worked in gas stations and worked at a TV repair shop. All relics of the past. After high school I worked for companies such as Microdata, ADP, Intel, Panasonic, and some start-ups along the way. I also had

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# BAJA HA-HA XXXI



**Nelson's Folly – Nelson & Brian**

my own software engineering company for 10 years. Most of those are all relics of the past, too.

“We lived in Oregon for 30 years, where I took sailing lessons as a member of the Astoria YC. I sailed our Catalina 27 and then a Catalina 34 on the Columbia River, and raced two seasons there on a San Juan 24.

During the height of the pandemic, I bought a Catalina 350, *Zephyr*, in Richmond, and hired Larry Haynie to help me bring her down to Oxnard. We enjoyed two alternator failures, blocked raw water cooling, and other fun. We left Morro Bay during perfect weather, but by the time we got to Point Conception, there were Small Craft Warnings, and we were hit by as much as 49-knot winds from astern. Fun stuff. Off watch, it was like sleeping in a clothes dryer.

We sailed the Oxnard area and Channel Islands for a couple of years, and then I bought *Celerity*, a 1990 C&C 34+ in San Diego. My son and I sailed her from San Diego to Long Beach. He now owns her, so I bought *Nelson's Folly*, a Catalina 42 MK2, in order to do the last Ha-Ha.

“I am currently updating *Nelson's Folly*, the latest of a long line of insane projects. In the past we have also restored a 1910 house in Astoria, a 1974 Lotus Elite, a 1972 MG BGT, a 1965 MG Midget, etc. etc. I have had more cars and motorcycles than I care to count. As you can see, the insanity has persisted for a long time.



**New Perspective - Tom, Dianna, Simone & Randy**

**New Perspective — Catalina 36 MKII  
Dianna Carter  
Santa Cruz (2026)**

Dianna is retired from Marketing and Finance. She will have three crew: Randy (Rusty) Sparks, 71, a retired Mechanical Engineer; Tom Lang, 69, a retired Computer Engineer; and Simone Olivetti, 44, a Data Analyst for NOAA.

Dianna grew up day sailing with her family out of Duxbury, Mass. Later she drove powerboats along the south shore, set a few lobster traps near Boston Light, and motored through the harbor locks to the Charles. She left her bank job in Boston to work in marketing at Hewlett-Packard in the Bay Area while she raised twin boys.

After retiring, Dianna moved to Santa Cruz, took sailing classes, and bought her Catalina 36 that she keeps in Redwood City while crewing on other boats in Santa Cruz. She's hoping the Ha-Ha will be the first of many cruises.

Crewman Randy's father called him 'Rusty' because he spent so much time in and on the water in Newport Beach. A former ASA instructor, he has a 100-ton ticket. Randy has made two trips to the South Pacific and New Zealand, as well as Brazil to the Azores, and from Gibraltar to Italy, not to mention two trips to Cabo and many Bashes back, and has done two TransPacs. After doing the 2006 Ha-Ha, he continued on through the Canal to Cartagena. Randy lives and sails near Santa Cruz and is a docent at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. “Any time spent fooling around on boats is time well spent,” he says.

Crewman Tom started sailing as a kid on a Sunfish on a lake in northern New Jersey. He bought his first boat in 1980, a Catalina 22, which he sailed on

a lake near Austin, Texas. After moving to California, he started sailing and racing out of Santa Cruz harbor. He also has sailed and raced extensively on the Great Lakes.

Simone was born and raised in Rome and grew up fishing with his dad on the Tyrrhenian Sea. He attended a public naval high school in Rome, where he obtained his Nautical Technical Institute diploma and also his offshore sailing license. His early sailing experience was mostly in the Mediterranean Sea, as he crewed on deliveries from France to Italy and on leisure sails between the Tuscan islands. Since moving to Santa Cruz in 2019, he has been sailing in the Monterey Bay, participating in regattas, and delivering sailboats across the bay. His most memorable sailing experience was crewing on *Buona Sera*, a Santa Cruz 70, on a delivery from Santa Cruz to Los Angeles.

After the last Baja Ha-Ha party in La Paz, the boat and crew will remain for several weeks and sail in the Sea of Cortez.



**Nirvana - Morgan, Teresa, John & Dylan**

**Nirvana — Taswell 49 (W)  
John & Teresa Koontz  
Santa Barbara**

John, 61, is a recently retired Account Manager specializing in Test & Measurements for the likes of Space X, St. Jude Medical, Raytheon and Northrup Grumman. Teresa is a retired Teacher and Special Program Coordinator, who after living in Spain, is passionate about speaking Spanish.

John has sailed since childhood, including a 12-month trip to the South Pacific on his father's 40' ketch. Teresa

grew up on the water spending summers deep-sea fishing and water skiing on a Skipjack. John introduced her to sailing, and there was an immediate connection. Their family has cruised together since the kids were born, first on their Tayana 37 ketch *Cherokee* and now aboard *Nirvana*, their much more luxurious Taswell All Seasons 49.

Their crew will be sons Morgan Koontz, 28, a Technical Sales Engineer; and Dylan Koontz, 21, an Aircraft Mechanic Assistant. The sons love cruising so much that they will drop everything to join any trip from their home port in Santa Barbara. Fishing, scuba, snorkeling, paddleboarding, hiking, card games, and guitar are a few onboard pastimes for the crew. The family has dreamed about the day they would sail together beyond California waters, and at last that day has come!

No couch potato, John's passion is boat work, including renovation, fabrication, electrical, and brightwork as well as system design and installation. Following the purchase of *Nirvana* in 2019, he spearheaded a comprehensive refit. In addition to extensive diesel service, all 23 thru hulls, all plumbing, and many of the electrical and systems were replaced. Recently John designed and built a custom fiberglass hardtop and partial hard enclosure. The year before he was the Commodore of the Santa Barbara YC.

Teresa is no couch potato either. She's a health and workout enthusiast who instructs water aerobics at two different Santa Barbara health clubs. She also volunteers at the Santa Barbara YC as a photographer, a member of the entertainment committee, and vice president of the Women's Group.

The family has their dream boat. Their dream destination is Tahiti, the largest of the Society Islands and the economic, cultural, and political center of French Polynesia.

### **No Reservations — Beneteau 430 Matt Crews San Diego**

Matt, 47, is retired from Program Management. Crewing for Matt will be Terrin McCormack and Madeline Mulligan, 27.

"I've been sailing for almost five years," he reports, "and *No Reservations* is my only boat. I bought her shortly after I started sailing.

"My longest passage so far has been from San Diego to Catalina. I plan to



**No Reservations - Matt**



**Obelix - Magdalena & Greg**

continue on to the Sea of Cortez after the Ha-Ha, but my dream destination is anywhere in the world the wind blows me." The Latin phrase 'non desistas non exieris' — meaning "never give up, never surrender" — is Matt's favorite quote. The right-hander loves gelato and is "looking forward to sailing, fellowship, and fun."

Matt's nickname is Hatchet Bear, the significance of which is lost on the Poobah, who hopes to be clued in.

### **Nomad — Rival 36 Robert Cohn & Margo Louwerse Pt. Richmond / Sebastopol (2019)**

Robert, 71, is retired from Business, while Margo is a retired Occupational Therapist. Margo crewed on *Capricorn Cat* during the 2019 Baja Ha-Ha.

The couple have owned their popular and well-respected Rival 36 for 18 years. They have lived aboard her for 10 of those 18 years, three of which were in the Sea of Cortez.

Their plans include a Puddle Jump in May and possibly New Zealand and Australia.

"Tiramisu, please," they say.

### **Obelix — Garcia Exploration 45 (W) Greg & Magdalena Theisen Bellingham, WA**

Greg, 62, is a retired Engineer, while spouse Magdalena is a Chef. Crewing on *Obelix* will be Kurt Sasse, 64; Tina Hoban, also a Chef; and Etjen Mack-Palmer.

Greg reports he's been sailing for about 45 years — "if you consider flying to be sailing in the sky, on the water, 13 years."

*Obelix* is the couple's fourth boat,

which they have owned for five years. "She was designed for high-latitude sailing, which means she has an insulated aluminum hull, an inside watch station, hydro, solar, and wind generation, and looks like a naval warship."

Greg's longest passage has been 500 miles from Newport, Oregon, to Sausalito. But after the Ha-Ha, he's going to fly to the Canary Islands to deliver a new Garcia Exploration 45 across the Atlantic to Brazil. Talk about low-latitude sailing on a high-latitude boat. Then he'll return to Mexico to spend the winter in Puerto Vallarta.

The dream boat for Greg is pretty much what he has, although he sometimes dreams about a nearly complete opposite, such as a big Gunboat or HH catamaran. His destination would be unknown, as long as he'll be able to get a massage and a cold beer.

Having come from an aircraft navigator profession, Greg has a special appreciation for Frank Worsley, Ernest Shackleton's navigator.

Greg has trouble coming up with a single favorite quote. He likes both, "The ox is slow, but the earth is patient", and 'A flute with no holes is not a flute, and a donut with no holes is a danish'. Both come from the movie "The High Road to China".

Greg is not left-handed, but he does have a left-handed brother; he's lived a left-handed life vicariously. Right-hand down, cheesecake is his favorite dessert.

### **Occasio — Jeanneau SO 49 Kevin & Terry Johnson**

**Vancouver, BC / Nanoose Bay, BC**

Kevin, 68, is a retired Business CEO. While Terry, and this is a first for the Ha-Ha, is a retired Equine Insurance Broker.

# BAJA HA-HA XXXI



**Occasio - Murray, Georgie, Terry & Kevin**

The Poobah bets she has some stories. Their crew will be Murray Swayze, 65; and Georgie Swayze.

"We have been sailing since 2009, and have owned a Cal 29, a Beneteau 393, and our current boat, a Jeanneau 49. We have owned *Occasio* for just over two years, during which we have done a major refit, including standing rigging, electronics, batteries, solar and sails.

"This will be our first Ha-Ha, but in the past two years we have circumnavigated Vancouver Island, a trip of 1,000 miles, and have just completed a voyage from Vancouver to Haida Gwaii and back." While Haida Gwaii sounds like an island in Indonesia, it's actually the name given to what used to be the Queen Charlotte Islands off the coast of British Columbia.

"We plan to cruise the Sea of Cortez for a couple of seasons, then who knows as our dream destination is always the next one. We're not chasing a specific port or anchorage on a map and have never been the type to say, 'Once we get there, we'll have made it'. Because for us, 'there' keeps moving, both in sailing and in life."

"At the end of the day, Terry and I just want to look back and say, 'We did that' rather than 'We wished we'd done that'. There's no Bucket List pinned to our fridge. Just a growing logbook and a slowly expanding list of places we've touched lightly, and people we've shared an anchorage or a story with. And we're okay with the uncertain bits — the fog, the engine troubles, the tides that never seem to line up quite right. That's all part of it."

"If I have a sailing hero, it's sailor, author, storyteller, and wanderer John Kretschmer. He's lived it — crossing oceans, chasing storms, and found beauty in both the chaos and the calm.

He once wrote something that's stuck with me: 'Time is the currency of our life. How we spend it defines our existence'. I've thought about that quote more than a few times when I'm soaked through, the autopilot has stopped working, the dog needs to go to shore, it's getting dark, and we are still nowhere near the anchorage."

Occasio means 'opportunity'.



**Ondina - Liz & John**

## **Ondina — Cal 29-2 John Walsh & Liz Newkirk Richmond YC / Mendocino**

John, 49, works in the Repair and Maintenance realm, while spouse Liz doesn't have a listed occupation. The couple are planning to doublehand.

"I grew up sailing on San Francisco Bay, junior sailing at Richmond Yacht Club, Big Boat racer, with some recent but limited blue water cruising. Our plans after the Ha-Ha? Ha, Ha, ask me later!"

John and Liz's dream sailing destinations include the Med, Croatia, and the Maldives.

## **Orca — Cartwright 44 Pat Fryer San Rafael / Novato**

Pat, 69, is a retired Utility Service Rep. He'll have three crew. Jeremy Shima, 53, an Entrepreneur; Michael Hecket, 62; and Geoffrey Doempke, 46.

In his 35 years of sailing, Pat has owned five sailboats, including the Jerry Cartwright-designed *Orca* for the last four years. She was launched in 1993.

While this will be Pat's first Ha-Ha, he has considerable sailing experience,



**Orca - Pat**

having done the '96 and '00 Pacific Cups. He's also sailed to San Diego twice and Santa Barbara and Catalina once each.

After the Ha-Ha, Pat plans to cruise the Sea of Cortez and beyond. His dream destination would be Hamburg, Germany, because "it's close to our flat in Hannover."

A Wally 150 would fit the bill as Pat's dream boat, despite the fact that the humble Bernard Moitessier is his kind of sailing hero. A right-hander, ice cream "satisfies my savage sweet tooth".

To be what we are and to become what we are capable of becoming is the only end in life' is Pat's favorite quote. It comes from the great Robert Louis Stevenson, who wrote *The Wrecker*, which just happens to be the Poobah's favorite book. *The Wrecker* is a rollicking tale where Art and Business collide and takes place in Paris, Edinburgh, San Francisco, Sausalito, Sydney, Midway, and Honolulu. The spirit of the Ha-Ha actually comes from the late 1800s-day trips from San Francisco to Sausalito described in the book.

Orcas, aka killer whales, are toothed whales that are the largest member of the oceanic dolphin family. While found all over the world, in recent years they've become known for clearly intentional attacks on sailboats off Spain. They are seen from time to time along the coast of California and Mexico.

## **Orion — Sabre 42 Frank Fernandez San Diego**

Frank, 60, is the CFO of an unspecified company. His crew of three includes Casey, Pip, and Greg. According to Frank they are "Four guys and a boat, representing Finance, Marketing,

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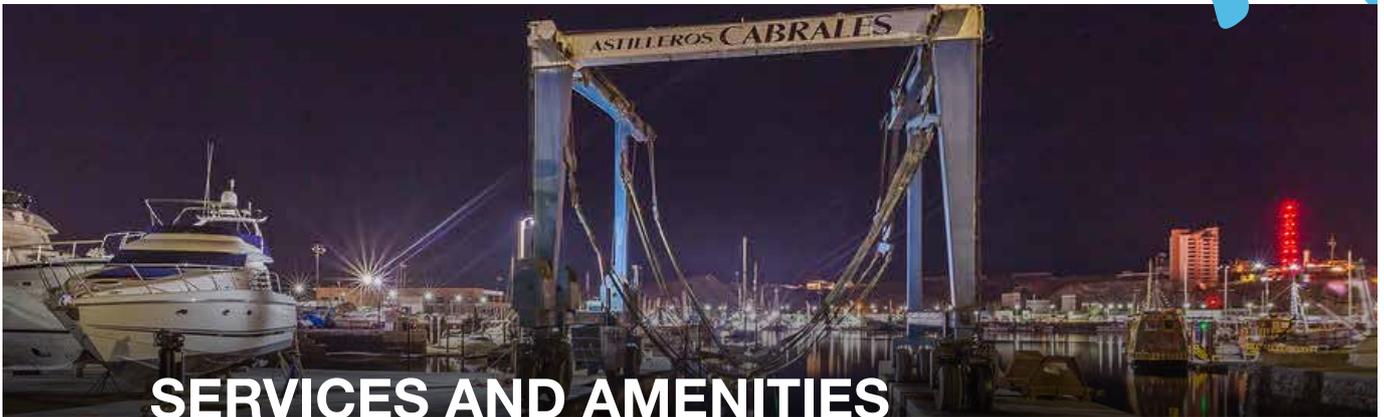
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**CABRALES**  
BOATYARD



# BAJA HA-HA XXXI



**Orion - Casey, Pip, Greg & Frank**

Education and Engineering. We're looking forward to meeting everyone along the way."

During the 25 years Frank has been sailing, he's owned four boats, including the 1989 Sabre 42 he's owned for five years now. *Orion* is named after a prominent set of stars visible during winter in the northern celestial hemisphere, which will be clearly visible during the Ha-Ha. Of course, Orion is also a hunter in Greek mythology.

Frank's longest passage to date has been two weeks, although he didn't provide details.

His 1989 Sabre, well respected for quality, is his dream boat. His dream destination would be Spain, which has great cruising, although very different on the Med from on the Atlantic. One caution: There has been a well-documented problem with killer whales attacking and sinking sailboats in the region. They go for the rudders.

'Franco', as he's sometimes called, likes honey for dessert.

**Patty Ann — Island Packet 370 (W)  
Charles Emig  
San Diego**

Charles, 77, is retired from Public Works where he made sure potable water was always available. His crew will be Bob McCall, 68, a retired Civil Servant. They will doublehand.

"In my younger years, before I got married, I started sailing with an 8-ft Sabot, then moved up to a Lido 14, and finally a Victory 21. Now that I'm a single man again, I want to live my dreams. Since I bought my Island Packet 370, my dreams have come true."

Fun Ha-Ha Fact: Doña de Mallorca,

Chief of Ha-Ha Security, started her sailing career sailing Victory 21s out of Marina del Rey.



**Pearl - Maxi & Maxim**

**Pearl — CMS 41 (W)  
Maxim Oustiougov & Maxi  
Polihronakis  
Seattle, WA**

Maxim, 50, is a Software Engineer on sabbatical. Maxi, a Program Manager, is also on sabbatical. Their crew will be Sophie Quagebeur and Sean Durnan, 57.

"I started sailing in 2017," says Maxim, "got the cruising bug that same year, and started preparing for 'making the left turn'. It is now becoming a reality! My partner Maxi started sailing in 2019, the year we met, and slowly warmed up to the idea of melting butter with a little bit of salt.

"Before *Pearl*, I had a Choate 27 racer/cruiser for four years. We've now had *Pearl* for two years and have lived aboard for more than a year. I like to think my CMS is an improved version of a Valiant 40, with better accommodations and a taller rig. She's gotten quite a few upgrades over the last year, and we love her! She's our dream boat.

"I've done quite a few long-distance races in the Puget Sound area, including two Van Isle 360s, which are races around Vancouver Island. I also helped a friend deliver his boat from Seattle to San Francisco. Maxi is about to do a passage from Bermuda to Rhode Island, which will be her longest trip."

"My dream destination is the South Pacific, while Maxi's is the somewhat different Patagonia. So, we're going to have some destination discussions over margaritas. But after the Ha-Ha, we'll

be doing the Sea of Cortez for at least a season."

"We both went to the Marine Technician School in Anacortes for nine months and are both certified ABYC Advisors. While we don't have a ton of experience, we do have some knowledge, so we could potentially lend a hand with electrical or mechanical troubles."

"Our favorite quote comes from Lin and Larry Pardey: 'Go small, go simple, go now'. Well, we may be a little over the quota of small and simple, but we are going now."

"We go bananas over banana bread for dessert."



**Pendragon - Jennifer & Scott**

**Pendragon — Valiant 40  
Scott & Jennifer Brigham  
Ventura / Whitefish, MT (2023)**

Scott, 62, is retired as a VP of Sales of Consumer Products. Jennifer is a retired Medical Assistant in the Dermatology field.

Their crew will include Bill Perry, 73, who is retired from being in Commercial Title Insurance "for too many years." He now lives in Durango, Colorado and Columbia Falls, Montana, and is believed to have become a cross between a ski patrolman and a ski bum. The other crew is Scott's brother Mark, 65, who is retired from Residential Home Sales and lives in Boulder, Colorado and Auburn, Alabama. "He knows more than he should about buying and selling expensive stuff," says Scott. Rounding out the crew will be Camille Ostergren.

"Jennifer and I have been sailing for 55 years," reports Scott. "Racing J/24s, J/22s, and a Mumm 36 for over 30 years. We have owned eight sailboats

and numerous powerboats.”

“We are the third owners of our Valiant and have owned her for 21 years. She has sailed all the Great Lakes, the East and West Coasts, Europe, the Caribbean, transited the Panama Canal twice, and crossed the Atlantic twice. She’s a very capable offshore girl. We’re currently getting her ready for the Puddle Jump in 2026.”

“We did the Ha-Ha in ‘23 and raced in the Banderas Bay Regatta. We had a blast! Our longest passage on *Pendragon* was the ARC from Hampton Roads to Tortola, BVI. I did the PacCup to Hawaii on a Cal 40 in 2016, where we won our division and took third overall. After the Ha-Ha, we are going to hang in Puerto Vallarta for a month, then return to Ventura to keep getting *Pendragon* ready for the Puddle Jump.”

Scott’s dream destination is the Marquesas, and while their Valiant is his dream boat, he’d pick an Outbound 46 if he had to choose another. His sailing heroes are yacht designer Bob Perry and great American solo racing circumnavigator Mike Plant, who was lost at sea after the keel came off his boat mid-Atlantic. “I knew Mike’s family and sailed the same lake as he did,” says Scott.

Right-handed Scott’s favorite dessert is rum with rum cake, and goes by Scotty or Dude.

“We think the management of the Ha-Ha is second to none,” the Brighams report. “We had a blast and want to share the experience with some of our friends and family.” The Poobah, Patsy, Doña, and *Profligate* crew are humbled. Thank you.

## **Pennyann III — Endeavour 43 (W)**

**Joe Miller  
Sparks, NV**

Joe, 53, is in the Trucking business. His crew will be Mike Gingerich, 72, who is retired from Trucking; and Andres Domingez, 54, who is in Boat Services; and Anna Berger, 35.

“I grew up in San Diego and sailed for CCYC starting at the age of six. I have owned several boats over the years. The name for my ketch comes from my mom, Penny, and Ann, my grandma.”

“*Pennyann III* is new to me this year but formerly did the Ha-Ha as *Sea Note*. I tried to do the Ha-Ha in 2023, but boat problems set me too far behind.”

“After the Ha-Ha I plan to base out of La Paz.”

Joe’s favorite song is Truckin’ by the Grateful Dead, and his favorite cartoonist

is Robert Crumb, whose beloved Mr. Natural was always encouraged everyone to ‘Keep on Truckin’. While it’s true that Crumb is alive and well in Paris, the Poobah just made up the business about Joe’s favorite song and cartoonist. But it could be true.

## **Peregrine Spirit — Ericson 38**

**Thomas Fistic**

**San Diego (2006, 2021, 2024)**

Thomas, 68, is a retired Business Manager. He’ll have three crew: Robert Peek, 73, a Business Owner; Gary Law, a Farmer; and one other yet to be chosen.

“I’ve been sailing about 25 years now and have done two Ha-Ha’s,” he reports. “My current boat is an Ericson 38, the second boat I’ve owned. Up until 2019, I had a Ranger 33.”

“After last year’s Ha-Ha, my crew and I sailed to La Paz and joined the Ha-Ha Welcome Party there. I then planned to Bash back to San Diego and had to wait for my crew to join me.”

“When he arrived, he asked, ‘Why go north? It’s getting cold. Let’s go south to Puerto Vallarta.’ It sounded like a better plan to me. So we headed to Mazatlán in mid-January and arrived in La Cruz on January 25. I made many new friends there and even got a chance to sail aboard *Profligate*.”

“We Bashed back north in May. I’m signing up for the ‘last’ Ha-Ha, hoping it won’t really be the last. After this Ha-Ha, I plan to sail to Puerto Vallarta again.”

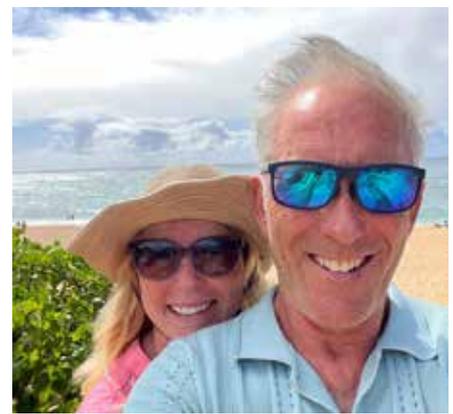
Poobah’s Note: This indeed will be the last Ha-Ha for the Poobah, Doña de Mallorca, and *Profligate*. But the Poobah is working with some vets of numerous Ha-Ha’s to continue with a similar event, although with a slightly different name.

## **Pie in the Sky — Krogen 38 (W)**

**David & Judy Ray  
San Diego / Yelm, WA**

David, 63, is a Pilot who has retired twice. Judy is a Scientist. Their crew will be John Uckele, 63, a retired Physician and Randy Acree, 63.

“Although I spent my entire adult life flying Navy turboprops and jets and other fun things with wings,” says David, “my first love was sailing. I self-taught myself to sail on an 8-foot pram on the shores of Lake Erie. At age 13 I moved up to my first ‘yacht’, a 14-ft sloop, and as a young naval officer, I sailed Prindle and Nacra cats. I met the woman who would become my bride at almost the exact moment I was about to buy a Pearson as a liveaboard. I chose marriage instead.”



**Pie in the Sky - Dave & Judy**

“Two college-bound children later, that same bride came to me and said, ‘I bought you a boat.’ I told her to quit teasing me with ‘pie in the sky’ dreams. That’s how our Krogen 38 got her name 13 years ago.”

“The most unusual thing about our boat is that she spent the first 25 years in fresh water on Lake Mead, Nevada. She was pretty neglected back then, but after my bride and I poured our blood, sweat, and tears into her, she is now our pride and joy.”

“My bride and I lived aboard for two years, but we have four parrots and are a perfect case study of why you can’t keep exotic parrots on a boat that has any teak.”

“*Pie in the Sky* is a handful, and my bride likes to lounge, so I’ve rigged her for singlehanded. After the Ha-Ha, we plan to cruise the Sea of Cortez until April, then store *Pie in the Sky* on the hard from May until October.”

“My dream destination is the Sea of Cortez because it is accessible enough for my family and friends to experience it with us. That’s the most important thing to me.”

“My friend Mike Elia is my sailing hero. He sailed his 39-foot ETAP across the Pacific to Fiji with his 16-year-old daughter. They even collided with a whale but never lost their spirit.”

When not scuba diving, the couple like homemade cherry/chocolate chip ice cream. Although David is right-handed, he shoots pool and shotguns left-handed because he is left-eye dominant.

When not on the boat, David flies airplanes for fun and to keep busy while his bride works to buy gas for said airplanes.



*Playtime - Iliana & Chad*

**Playtime — Beneteau Oceanis 46 (W)  
Chad & Iliana Thomas  
Long Beach / Palm Desert**

Chad, 51, is retired from Law Enforcement, while co-owner Iliana is retired from Sales. Their crew will be their son Joshua, 23, who is in the Coast Guard, and his lady friend Ella Ferguson, 21, who is a Barista.

Chad's love for sailing came from his father and grandfather, who started him off on a little Sunflower sailboat at the age of eight. Chad introduced Iliana to sailing when the couple bought a Catalina 38 four years ago. She's been a fan of sailing ever since.

After 27+ years, Chad retired from the California Highway Patrol. His career extended from riding motors in San Diego to flying CHP airplanes in the Coachella Valley. He retired as an Aerial Supervisor in 2023. While Iliana is unemployed, Chad jokes that he hired her to be his bookkeeper, health trainer, nurse, chef and First Mate. Just don't call her Chad's scribe, unless you want to see her spicy side. Iliana is fluent in Spanish and is happy to help translate. Iliana enjoys hiking and taking care of Chad.

The couple's hobbies have included off-roading in their jeep, riding their Harley, and boating in various lakes and rivers. Having recently retired and become empty nesters, sailing aboard *Playtime* and starting the cruising lifestyle has been hobby number one.

"When we bought *Playtime*, we kept her name because it pays homage to the current chapter of our life, as we are enjoying life with each other."

"Our families started calling us Chili because they got tired of saying Chad and Iliana. We're always together, so it makes sense. Don't be surprised to find

a chili pepper or two aboard *Playtime*".

The nickname Chili brings a smile to the Poobah's face because it reminds him of the character Chili Palmer in the hilarious movie *Get Shorty*. John Travolta, with a full head of hair, plays a Miami hit man who moves to Hollywood to collect a debt but, finding show biz isn't much different from the mafia, decides to get involved. The movie was based on a terrific Elmore Leonard novel and co-starred Gene Hackman, Danny DeVito, and Rene Russo. The Poobah gives it an 'F' for Funny and a 'B' for Buffoonery.

**Pour Decisions — Absolute/  
Navetta 68 MV  
Captain Merlin Cormier  
San Diego**

Beth Cormier, is the owner, occupation not listed, while Merlin Cormier, 47, is the skipper. Kevin Masters, 55, is the First Mate, and Aislinn (female) Cormier is the Bosun. *Pour Decisions* was launched in 2021, and since then she's logged over 16,000 nautical miles. Their longest passage has been 900 miles from San Diego to Costa Palmas in the Sea of Cortez last January.

"We're looking forward to meeting everyone at the parties," reports Merlin, "and want to know if there is anything we can do to help." Just bring your smiles.

**Profligate — 63' Custom Hughes Cat  
Doña de Mallorca  
Punta Mita, MX (30 Ha-Ha's)**

Dona, 39-ish, will have many of the regular crew back for *Profligate's* final year as mothership for the Ha-Ha.

Among the 12 crew will be Dino Depasquale, 39-ish, a Painting Contractor who will be doing his 19th Ha-Ha. Paul Ludgate, 53, a retired Car Repair owner turned adventurer who now leads llama treks. Chuck Skewes, 52, owner of Ullman Sails in San Diego and Seattle, and his sweetheart Brit, a vet of cruising the South Pacific. Also aboard will be Mitch Perkins, founder of the wildly successful Sausalito Boat Show, and Nicki Bennett, a liveaboard sailor/surfer who works for Latitude 38. Kevin Millet, 61, owner of the most popular charter boats on Kauai, as well as having just taken possession of a brand-new high-performance 52-ft cat in Australia, is expected to fly in for his sixth Ha-Ha. It's also hoped that Jim Drake, a veteran of the first Ha-Ha in '94, and several others will also join the big cat. Oh yeah, the Grand Poobah will also be expected to be aboard.

de Mallorca started sailing on humble Victory 21s in Marina del Rey, later worked on big yachts out of Palma de Mallorca (they named the city after her) for eight years, has sailed across the Atlantic twice, and delivered *Profligate* 2,900 miles from Panama to San Francisco in just 19 days. She's also transited the coast of Baja over 50 times.

**Proteus — Kettensburg 43  
Tim Chauvel  
San Diego (One Ha-Ha)**

Tim, 65, is a retired Marine Engineer and Environmental Scientist. His crew will be Daniel Kerns, 64, a retired Engineer; and Jean Carmona, a Nurse.

Tim has been sailing for 52 years but has only owned one boat, the 1964 Kettensburg 43 he's had for 21 years. The unusual thing about *Proteus* is that she has an aluminum hull that was built by a subsidiary of McDonnell-Douglas.

Tim's sailing heroes are anyone who has circumnavigated. He believes that 'wisdom comes with age, but age can come alone.' Which means it's possible to grow old and still be dumb.

"Trifle is my favorite dessert," says Tim. "It's a British thing, so look it up." The Poobah did look it up for everybody.

"Trifle is an iconic British dessert from the 18th century. It features layers of sponge cake soaked in alcohol, fruit, jelly, and custard, all topped with whipped cream. The dessert is often served in a clear glass bowl to showcase its distinct layers. It's not a favorite with those trying to lose weight.

Ambidextrous Tim has had a number of nicknames over the years, but doesn't want to share any of them. He has about 10,000 ocean miles, including passages such as Los Angeles to Moruroa Atoll, Japan to Nakhodka, Russia, and then down to Guam.

"I have traveled far and wide," he says, "and once walked to Base Camp Everest."

The owner of coastal property in Bocas del Toro, Panama, he plans to sail there after the Ha-Ha. Bocas is home to many of the old-time crew of St. Barth who were driven out by rising prices and overpopulation.

Jean Carmona and Daniel Kerns, Tim's crew, have been living aboard in Seattle and sailing together on their boat *Holy Grail*. "Between us we have thousands of ocean miles and one Ha-Ha. We are also veterans of numerous costume parties and happy hours, and we generally don't turn down an invitation.

"Jean is a skilled cook and mixologist. Daniel is a retired engineer who has now found his passion in maintaining older boats. Feel free to stop by and say hello or invite us on your next adventure."

**Ran — Beneteau 423  
Bram Arnold**

**San Diego / El Cajon (2019)**

Bram, 68, a retired Pilot, will have three crew. Tad Chamberlain, 80, also a retired Pilot; Jim Ward, 71, another retired Pilot; and Greg Neary, 69, yet a fourth retired Pilot. They should have no navigation problems.

Capt. Bram has been sailing on and off for 60 years, learning to sail from his father off the coast of Maine.

"I have owned *Ran*, my first boat, for 10 years," reports Bram. "I keep her at Fiddlers Cove in San Diego."

"We are all old Navy fighter pilots and Commercial Airline pilots. This will be a reunion trip for us as, we did the Ha-Ha together in 2019.

"Old guys rule!" is the favorite quote of the group.

**Raven — Reinke 13M Special  
Jim & Lisa Osse**

**Everett, WA / Leavenworth, WA**

Jim, 67, is a retired Mechanical Engineer, while Lisa is a retired Technical Writer. Their crew will be Mic Fite, 71, an Electrical Engineer.

"We are relatively new to boat ownership and long passage sailing," report Jim and Lisa, "but not to adventure." No kidding!

"Our first date was a three-day climb of Glacier Peak, and our honeymoon was a 10-month around-the-world bicycle trip.

"It was always our hope to go blue-water sailing, but other activities — mountaineering, kayaking, and motorcycling — got in the way. But the desire did not go away. After retiring it took 3+ years to find the right boat. We bought *Raven* in 2021 and alternated working on her in the winter — Jim did a full systems refit — and sailing in the summers.

Our summer trips took us to Alaska and back, around Vancouver Island, and around Haida Gwaii. Now we are ready to make the Big Left Turn out of the Straits of Juan de Fuca as part of the 2025 Coho Ho Ho Rally and sail to Mexico with the *Baja Ha-Ha*.

"*Raven* is a twin-keel, aluminum hull cutter made in Bavaria in 2001. She has sailed around the world in the hands of



**Raven - Jim & Lisa**

other owners, and we are confident she will get us wherever we decide to sail.

We were going to join the Ha-Ha last year, but on a whim, we decided to take seven months to ride our motorcycles from our home in Leavenworth, Washington, to Ushuaia, Argentina, a distance of roughly 18,000 miles.

"Our sailing dream is to cross the South Pacific, then head to Northern Europe via the Northwest Passage. But first things first. We love Mexico and look forward to spending a winter in the Sea of Cortez and on the mainland west coast.

"For his career, Jim designed underwater autonomous vehicles to gather oceanographic data, including the Seaglider and Deepglider at the University of Washington. He also participated in many Arctic field camps, including three trips to the North Pole, to support scientific operations under the ice.

**Rejoice — Hallberg Rassy 39  
Bob & Cherrie Alziebler  
Valley Springs**

Robert, 61, is a retired Auditor. Spouse Cherrie is a retired Human Resources Specialist. They will be doublehanding this Ha-Ha.

The couple have spent 2.5 years sailing San Francisco Bay and the north coast.

"*Rejoice* is our seventh boat but our first sailboat. We've owned her for almost three years. Cherrie is left-handed while I am not," says Bob. "We both think it would be great to sail to Fiji."

The couple have a favorite quote: "It is not the strength of the gale, but the set of the sails, that determines the way we go."

In case you were interested, Hallberg-



**Rejoice - Cherrie & Bob**

Rassy has built 9,750 boats over the years. They claim that every single boat was delivered on time. Legendary German Frers designed 3,850 of the boats. In chronological order they are the 45, 36, 34, 42F, 39, 31, 53, 46, 62, 43, 40, 37, 48, 342, 54, 372, 310, 64, 412, 55, 44, 340, 57, 40C, 50, 400, 69 and the new model for 2026, the Hallberg-Rassy 370. Please remember this information, as there will be a quiz at the end of the Ha-Ha.

**RoRo Listo — Hunter 460 (W)  
Rob & Rose Benson  
San Diego (2013)**

Rob, 67, is retired from Executive Management. Spouse Rose is retired from Special Education. Their crew will be son Kenneth, 37, a Handyman; and David DeLong, 63. Rob, Rose and Kenneth did the 2013 Ha-Ha with the Bensons other son, Robert, who couldn't make this trip.

Rob began sailing on San Diego Bay at 13 years of age. Rose began sailing with Rob after her 16th birthday. They've been married over 40 years!

While Rob has sailed a lot of boats, they've only owned two, not counting the dinghies. They've only owned *RoRo Listo* since last year, but she's the same make and model as the boat they sailed in the Ha-Ha a dozen years ago. After the 2013 Ha-Ha, which they describe as "a great way to get to a cruising paradise", Rob and Rose continued south and through the Panama Canal and then up to the Chesapeake Bay before heading back down to the Bahamas.

Despite covering a lot of miles, their longest single passage was just 440 miles from Beaufort, South Carolina, to Green Turtle Key in the Bahamas.

# BAJA HA-HA XXXI



**RoRo Listo - Ken, Rose, Rob & Robert**



**Ruthie - Linda & Dustin.**

"After this year's Ha-Ha, we'll likely toss a coin a few times to decide if we head up into the Sea of Cortez, east to the mainland, and then south again, or try the big Baja Bash back to San Diego for the first time. It's great to have the freedom that retirement and sailing provide.

"We have favorite dream destinations depending on the category. It's Mexico for food! Belize for blue water. The Bahamas for beautiful anchorages. And Deltaville, Virginia, for working on the boat.

"We own our dream boat. Of course, it would be nice to buy a boat that thieves or prior owners had not beached or run into a breakwater. One can dream."

"Our sailing heroes are the Grand Poobah and Beth Leonard, as they both showed us the way." Beth and Evans Starzinger are cruising legends who have sailed just about everywhere since the 1990s.

The Poobah likes the Benson's favorite quote: 'You build your luck two tablespoons at a time. You use it up in five-gallon buckets.' Any long-term sailor can attest to it. And there is also the Harrington Rule: "Do not allow external circumstances to compromise your common sense."

Left-hander Rob goes for watermelon at dessert, while Rose prefers A.Z. Akin's Chocolate Cake, which can be found in San Diego.

## **Ruthie — Islander Freeport 41 (W) Dustin Nolet & Linda Haensel Half Moon Bay**

Dustin, 50, is a Non-Profit Operator. His First Mate will be Linda Haensel, a Human Resources Partner.

Dustin reports he's been sailing for 25 years, during which time he's owned more than 10 boats. He's owned *Ruthie* for five years and did a complete refit on her between 2020 and 2025.

Having worked in the oil and gas industry as a commercial diver, Dustin has spent almost two decades of his life at the bottom of the ocean. Which inspired him to become a captain and shipwright up top. He later ran industrial companies until *Ruthie* entered his life in 2020.

Linda met Dustin in high school at an elite basketball camp. Even though they lived in separate states, they maintained a friendship — before Dustin disappeared to the bottom of the ocean. Fast forward 30 years, and Dustin reentered her life by introducing her to the concept of sailing and cruising.

The refit *Ruthie* is now the home needed to sail the globe in support of Dustin's non-profit organization, Project Psamathe. The project's goal is to document the destruction that plastics have caused to beaches around the world. With *Ruthie* and the support of other cruisers worldwide, Psamathe will be able to find, document, and create awareness of how plastics are creating havoc.

Dustin's longest passage to date has been 6,600 miles from California to Palmyra Atoll and back. Palmyra, of course, was the scene of the famous double murder of cruisers Mac and Muff Graham of San Diego. Only one body was recovered. Wesley Walker, an ex-con, was tried and convicted. His girlfriend, 'hippie' Stephanie Stearns, was acquitted after being defended by Vincent Bugliosi. You may remember that Bugliosi, who, like Bob Dylan, came

from Hibbing, Minnesota, had previously been successful in prosecuting Charles Manson. The Poobah thinks Stearns got away with at least accessory to murder. Make up your own mind after reading *And the Sea Will Tell*, Bugliosi's New York Times bestseller about the murders and trial. But don't read it on a dark night when anchored alone in a remote cove.

Dustin and Linda's dream destination is Southeast Asia. Their dream boat is their Freeport 41. Fun Ha-Ha Fact: The Freeport 41 started life as the bland-looking Charles Davies-designed Islander 40 motorsailer, which was also built by Cheoy Lee. Bob Perry really jazzed up the design, and after none other than the Poobah sold hull #4 and at the old Cow Palace Boat Show, sales really took off.

What are Dustin and Linda really like? "We are a couple of long-time goofball friends who are using the Ha-Ha to kick off our trip around the world."

## **Sagata — Burns 45**

### **Bruce Afton**

#### **Gamble Bay, WA / Kingston, WA**

Bruce, 70, is a retired Physician's Assistant. His crew will be daughter Katlian, 29, a High School Science Teacher; and Jared Burreece, 28, a Student; and Ericka Bremer, 27.

Bruce has been sailing for over 40 years, during which time he's owned four boats. What's unusual about *Sagata*, which he's owned for four years, is 1) that she is built of wood and 2) that she was built in New Zealand.

While Bruce hasn't done a Ha-Ha yet, he's sailed from Alaska to the Sea of Cortez as well as from Hawaii to Seattle. After the Ha-Ha he plans to do a circumnavigation or a loop of the South Pacific, which would include a stop at



**Sagata - Bruce, Katlian & Jared**

the Tuamotus, his dream destination.

Curt Ciszek is Bruce's sailing hero. Who? I had to look him up:

"Curtis grew up on a one-acre island in Washington's Puget Sound called Treasure Island. To access the island, you could walk through the mud at low tide or take a rowboat. Later the family of six moved onto a 120-foot pirate ship named *The Unicorn* and started sailing around the world. But one unfortunate Thanksgiving dinner, two new crewmembers couldn't distinguish between the lights on land and the lights of another vessel, resulting in a collision with a 600-foot oil tanker. So, the family moved to Mammoth Lakes, where Curtis started snowboarding at age 10 and became a legend in the sport. Fast forward twenty-plus years, and he is on his dad's boat, the *Emerald*, a boat sailing towards Alaska making a movie in memory of his dad."

### **Salt Shaker — Cape Dory 36 Antony & Sydnee Mau Hilo, HI / Oroville**

Antony, 34, is in Manufacturing, while Sydnee, 30, is in Business Insurance Sales. They will doublehand.

"With very little sailing experience, we bought our first boat, a 1985 Catalina 30 with a busted inboard, in January of 2021. Then we bought the ASA Sailing Course books and learned to sail as we went. We purchased our next boat, *Salt Shaker*, a 1979 Cape Dory 36, in December of 2022. The most unusual thing about her is that she's hull #2.

"We are hoping to circumnavigate, so we imagine this will be our only Ha-Ha. (The other thing is that this is the last Baja Ha-Ha, although an iteration of sorts, without the Poobah, Doña de Mallorca, and *Profligate*, is very likely under the leadership of some Ha-Ha vets.)

"Our longest passage to date is 95 miles from Richmond to Monterey. It was magical as we had a pod of humpbacks join us for nearly an entire day. And when we entered Monterey Bay at 2 am, a pod of dolphins bathed in bioluminescence frolicked just off our bow.

"Once we finish the Ha-Ha, we will cruise the Sea of Cortez until the last week in February, at which time we will meet up with our families in Chacala on the mainland for our wedding ceremony. After that we'll be crossing to the Marquesas." (A caution to everyone heading up into the Sea following the Ha-Ha: come late December, the water



**Salt Shaker - Sydnee & Antony**

is too cold for swimming until April.)

Antony's dream boat is a staysail schooner, something like a Cherubini from the '80s. He doesn't have a dream destination, because it's the variety he enjoys. Sydnee likes the Cabo Rico 42 Pilot, which she would love to have for exploring the Taka Bonerate National Park. "I'm a sucker for a cutter rig, and adding on the pilothouse for comfort is just the icing on the cake."

Wait, the Taka Whata? The Poobah had to look it up. The Taka Bonerate National Park is an unusually rich marine park that stretches south of the main island of Sulawesi in the Flores Sea. That's roughly halfway between Singapore and Papua New Guinea, some 8,400 miles from San Francisco.

Being from Hawai'i, Antony's sailing heroes are the Polynesian Wayfinders, who somehow managed to navigate much of the Pacific without GPS, Starlink, watermakers, or refrigeration. Sydnee's hero is Laura Dekker, who at 14 years of age circumnavigated alone. "If she could do it, who am I to doubt myself?" Sydnee asks.

Antony's favorite quote is a new one on the Poobah: "Any damn fool can navigate the world sober," noted Sir Francis Chichester, the first person to circumnavigate non-stop alone. "It takes a really good sailor to do it drunk." Did Sir Francis really say that?

Right-handed Antony, who goes by Tony, likes cheese for dessert. Sydnee, who answers to be Syd and Squid and who was "ambidextrous for a while," likes cheesecake.

Tony says he's looking forward to personally discovering just how much truth there is to the statement 'If you can master sailing on San Francisco Bay,

you can sail anywhere.' The Poobah can assure Tony that while there is no truth to the statement, it's nonetheless still geographically close to being true. The true statement is that if you can master sailing in the Gulf of the Farallones, you can sail just about anywhere in the world. It's the seas, not the wind, that provide the bigger challenge in sailing, and there are no seas inside the Gate.

### **Scapa Flow — Jeanneau SO 42 Frank Guinn**

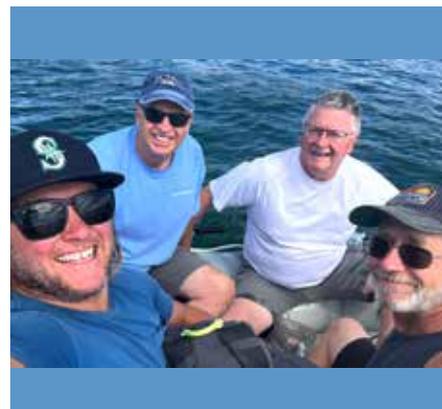
**Santa Cruz / Sunnyvale (2018, 2022)**

Frank, 62, is a Realtor. His crew will be Pat Evans, 63, a two-time Ha-Ha vet; Caelan Bacon, 30; and Bruce Bacon, 67, also a two-time Ha-Ha vet, who is President at WKK America.

Over his 15 years of sailing, Frank has owned two sailboats, including *Scapa Flow* for the last seven years.

Frank, Pat, Caelan and Bruce are longtime friends and experienced sailors who have shared numerous offshore adventures. The four of them joined the Ha-Ha in 2018. The next year, Frank, Bruce, and Pat did the SoCal Ta-Ta, and in 2021 had a very memorable sail from Santa Cruz to Kauai. They did the Ha-Ha again in 2022 and are very much looking forward to this last Baja Ha-Ha.

What makes them a good team is they are all different. Captain Frank has the ability to change his mind five times before breakfast, only to stubbornly defend the final decision like it was etched in stone. Bruce has been known to alter course dramatically at 2 am while everyone is asleep and then deny it until the others finally figure it out. Pat ensures the galley is stocked with more bread and snacks than a Parisian bakery and has mastered the art of retrieving a



**Scapa Flow - Michael,  
Frank, Pat & Bruce**

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# BAJA HA-HA XXXI

spinnaker from beneath the boat. New addition Caelan is the youngest crew member. His is smart, questioning, and keeps the rest of the crew grounded in reality.

Together, they believe life is short, so make it count, have fun, and always sail with friends who stay calm in a crisis and can trim a sail.

Frank's dream destination is Tahiti, and his dream boat is something a little larger. His plan is to leave *Scapa* in a marina in Mexico for a few months.

## **Sea Turtle — Nordhavn 47 PB**

**Michael Bergsma**

**Dana Point / Carlsbad (2024)**

Michael, 67, is a Software Engineer. His crew will be Laurel Harrison, 36 and Scott Lanier, 45, a retired Alaska State Trooper who did the 2024 Ha-Ha on his Hunter 46', *Patriot*.

"The Baja Ha-Ha will be my first big trip after almost three years of preparation," reports Michael. "Although I love sailing, the experience I am looking for now has morphed into a full-on trawler lifestyle. Not to outdo myself, I am making the passage on a 2006 Nordhavn 47 motor yacht that is aptly named the *Sea Turtle*. So, Turtle Bay awaits us!"

"Although Turtle Bay is a coveted destination, one of my long-term goals is to visit my nephew who runs a small marina in Parry Sound, Georgian Bay, Ontario, Canada. Getting there would be an epic adventure, requiring that I travel through the Panama Canal, up the Eastern seaboard of the U.S., entering the inland waterways to the Great Lakes, and up through Lake Huron to the beautiful Georgian Bay. My nephew will be quite surprised to see the *Sea Turtle* come into view."

## **Sea Wolf — Hunter 376 (W)**

**Christopher Mendonca**

**Vallejo (2017)**

Christopher, 56, is retired from the Construction field. Friend Mary Kraybill, a retired School Teacher; and Jeannie Smith, will be crew.

Chris has done two Ha-Ha's and two Ta-Ta's, the latter being the one-week SoCal versions of the Ha-Ha. In addition, he's done multiple trips along the California coast, and in 2013 delivered a Beneteau 48 from San Francisco to Hawaii. Over the years he's also owned two Catalina 30s.

Mary learned to sail in 2010, has owned several sailboats, including her current Catalina 30, and has a Coast

Guard captain's license. But there is more. She's crewed on three Pacific Cup races to Hawaii and has sailed her Catalina 30 to Southern California and back.

"We're both very friendly people who love to sail," says Chris. "We believe in the sailing community helping each other enjoy our sport/recreation by lending assistance, knowledge, and expertise whenever it is requested."

"This trip is sort of a shakedown cruise for the boat, but even more for me," says Chris. "It's my dream to sail down to the South Pacific and island hop for a few years. They say you'll never be ready until you go. So, I'm going. The Ha-Ha, on my own boat, is like stepping down the swim ladder to waist-deep water. After the Ha-Ha, I'll be staying in Mexico for another month or two before returning to San Francisco."

The Catalina 30, of which Chris and Mary have owned three between them, is perhaps the most popular 'big bang for the buck' 30-footer ever. Nearly 6,500 of them were built between 1972 and 2008. They handle well and are spacious compared to peers of her era.

## **Seaquester — Beneteau 423**

**Bill Leone**

**San Diego / Denver, CO (2022, 2023)**

William, 68, is an Attorney who will have three crew: Don Ford, a Journalist; Chris Huggins, 51, an Investor; and Gary Peterson, 70, a Consultant.

"I have been sailing for the past 18 years" says Bill. "During which time I have owned several boats. Currently we race a J/24 in the San Diego fleet and cruise on our Beneteau 423."

"We've owned *Seaquester* since 2020 and have taken it to Puerto Vallarta following the Ha-Ha's in 2022 and 2023. Our Bash back in 2024 was simply fantastic, as we timed our return to coincide with the total eclipse in the Sea of Cortez. It was amazing."

"My longest passage has been Los Angeles to Hawaii on a Santa Cruz 52 in 2019. I love ocean sailing, and this will be my fifth trip down the Baja peninsula. This year, rather than find a slip in Mexico, I think we'll return to San Diego immediately and be home for Thanksgiving. I will likely return to the Sea of Cortez when I'm finally fully retired.

"I have always wanted to sail the west coast of Italy and France. In my trips there, I have seen what look to be fabulous ports of call."

"I love my Beneteau 423 for cruising. She was ranked as number 14 out of the top 40 cruising boats by Cruising World magazine. She fits our needs and has become a trusted partner over several thousands of miles of ocean sailing.

I love chocolate and Moby Dick, "unpainted to the last"



**Sea's The Dream - Rick & Chris**

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## **Sea's the Dream — Jeanneau 44DS**

**Rick & Chris Watson**

**Bellingham, WA / Culesac, ID**

Rick, 68, is a retired Wildlife Biologist, while spouse Chris is a retired Teacher. They will have two crew, including Bill Braden, 70; and Peter Robbert, 60.

Rick reports that he's been sailing "about 50 years", during which time he's owned just three sailboats. He and Chris acquired *Sea's the Dream* 13 years ago.

The last Ha-Ha will be the first for Rick and Chris, but they expect to have done a 15-day passage from Port Townsend to San Diego as part of the Cojo Ho-Ho this summer before then. In 2022, Rick spent three months sailing from Bellingham to Juneau via the Inside Passage and back via the outside of Vancouver Island. As such, the Ha-Ha is likely to be a warm breeze for him and Chris.

"After the Ha-Ha, we will explore the Sea of Cortez and the coast of Mexico to Puerto Vallarta," they say.

"My dream destination is the islands of the South Pacific," Rick says. "While my dream boat is a Hallberg-Rassy 44, my Jeanneau 44 is pretty darn good as a dream boat, too!"

"First solo circumnavigator and author Joshua Slocum is Rick and Chris's sailing hero. Between April of 1893 and 1894, Slocum rebuilt and

refitted the derelict sloop *Spray* in a seaside pasture in Massachusetts. Then he set sail across the Atlantic twice to begin what would become a three-year, 48,000-mile circumnavigation. With the book *Sailing Alone Around the World*, the self-deprecating Slocum proved to be as fine an author as he was a sailor.

**Second Wind — Jeanneau 53  
Rodrigo Basave  
San Diego (2021)**

Rodrigo, 54, is in the Commercial Real Estate Business. The vet of the 2021 Ha-Ha will have four crew: son Juan D Basave, 26, who is in the Design field; Camila Karam, 29, who is in Finance; Jorge Varela, 64, who is in Construction; and Jose Monroy, 68, an Electrical Engineer. But Rodrigo will have a Mexican captain, too. That would be Luis Aleman, 30, who works and lives on boats full time, and who can fix anything. Luis loves fishing even more than sailing.

Rodrigo has been sailing dinghies, J/24s, and Capri 22s for over 30 years. *Second Wind*, a Philippe Briand design, is his second 'big' boat. His first was a very popular Jeanneau 41 DS, which he sailed in the 2021 Ha-Ha.

Rodrigo bought the bigger boat this summer, and he's still getting to know her. "Hopefully," he says, "after a lot of sailing, a couple of trips to Catalina, and with an experienced crew, we should be all right for the Ha-Ha."

Since Rodrigo already has a Jeanneau 53, a fine big boat, the Poobah is surprised by Rodrigo's dream sailboat, a smaller Hallberg-Rassy 44. His dream destination is Rangiroa.

In what surely must be a typing error, he lists the "Grand Poobah" as his sailing hero.

**Segue — Island Packet 485 (W)  
Mike & Norma Bongiovanni  
Spearfish, SD (2023)**

Mike, 63, is a Business Owner, while Norma is retired from the Technology Industry. Their crew will be son Christopher Betsill, 29, a Software Engineer. All three are vets of the 2023 Ha-Ha.

"I've been sailing since I was a child and have owned multiple boats," reports Mike. "We've owned our current boat for 2.5 years. Our longest passage has been from Puerto Vallarta to Marina del Rey, approximately 1,300 nautical miles."

"After the Ha-Ha we will be traveling down to the Galapagos Islands, then back through the Panama Canal. We



*Segue - Norma & Mike*

will spend the winter cruising the Caribbean."

"We are living on our dream boat and will be embarking on our dream destination after the Ha-Ha. It has been our dream to cross the equator and sail through the Panama Canal and explore the islands in the Caribbean."

**Serenity — Hunter 460 (W)  
Richard & Carolyn Mason  
Stockton / Elk Grove (2014)**

Richard, 66, is a retired Information Technology Specialist. Spouse Carolyn is a Para Educator. Richard has been sailing for more than 50 years. Crewing for the Masons are Don and Crystal Quinly, who did the 2014 Ha-Ha on their boat *Brown Sugar*.

Richard and Carolyn have owned seven boats, *Serenity* for the last 10 months. "She's pretty stock."

"Our longest passage is 500 miles, and this will be our first Ha-Ha.

"We'll do the Sea of Cortez after the Ha-Ha, but our dream destination is the Caribbean.

The Poobah says, "Let's talk boat names." According to *Soundings Magazine*, *Serenity* has been among the 10 most popular boat names seven times in the last 10 years. It's currently the third most popular boat name. There are two *Serenitys* in this year's Ha-Ha. Most boats named *Serenity* are sailboats.

The Mason's Hunter 460 reminds the Poobah of Mike Harker of Torrance. In the mid-20s he was riding a bike past a boat dealership in Marina del Rey, stopped in, and walked out owning a Hunter 34. Knowing nothing about sailing, he had friends accompany him on the Ha-Ha a few months later.

Totally hooked on sailing, Mike went to

Florida and bought a brand-new Hunter 460 named *Wanderlust*. His crew bailed at the last minute, so he singlehanded across the Atlantic to the Med. He then sailed back across the Atlantic and thru the Panama Canal to French Polynesia. There the rudder on his boat broke. He got a new one from Hunter.

Next, Mike bought a new Hunter 49 from Hunter and did a solo circumnavigation — in just 11 months! A year or so after completing the circumnavigation, his boat was boarded in the middle of the night while on the hook in St. Martin. He was brutally beaten, being kicked in the head countless times. He died of a stroke six months later in 2011.

Mike, who was half Indian, was an amazing guy. As a youth he won water ski races to Catalina and back. When drafted in the Army, they asked him if he wanted to go fight in Vietnam or run an Army water ski program in Germany. There he learned to hang glide and later opened up a series of hang-gliding schools in Germany. Thanks to a screw-up by an incompetent boat driver, Mike was almost completely paralyzed in a hang-gliding accident in Trinidad that was part of a Presidential celebration. Told he would be bedridden the rest of his life, after a couple of years Mike was taken to Germany for some controversial cutting-edge treatment. After many years of painful physical therapy, Mike was able to stand and walk again, provided he was always able to touch some surface with his hand. It was after all this that he started his incredible sailing career, where he crawled rather than walked around his boat 90% of the time. A very quiet man who always avoided attention, Mike was a great friend of the Poobah and the Ha-Ha.



*Serenity - Anji & Jay*

## **Serenity — Irwin MKI 43 (W) Jay & Anji Manning Vallejo**

Jan, 53, was a Paramedic, then became a Prosecutor, then retired. Anji is a retired Emergency Room Nurse, bless her heart. Their crew will be Kerry Scott, 65, a retired Shipwright and General Contractor.

Jay and Anji have been married for nearly 23 years, sailing together for three years, and retired for about a year. "We have owned two boats. After watching a single YouTube video on how to sail we bought a McGregor 25 and took her to Lake Tahoe for a weekend of sailing. We liked sailing so much that we took the ASA 101 course and then bought our 1986 Irwin 43 Mk I."

"We have owned *Serenity* for a little over a year, and the entire time has been spent converting her from a floating condo to a formidable sailing vessel."

"We have not done any Ha-Ha's before. Our longest passage as of May has been about 12 miles. But by the start of the Ha-Ha in November, we'll have many more miles under our keel, including sailing the boat to the start in San Diego. But our limited experience is why we are bringing Kerri along. He knows how to sail."

"After the Ha-Ha we will sail up the Sea of Cortez or down to the Panama Canal. We're not sure yet.

"Our dream destination is everywhere, but we'll settle for the Bahamas. We're basically chasing 80 degrees and 80% humidity."

A Poobah's note on humidity. Most people prefer the humidity to be between 30 and 50%. Things tend to get sticky and feel warmer above that. For example, 80 degrees with 80% humidity feels like 84 degrees. How bad can it get? In La Cruz/Vallarta in the fall it's often 90 degrees with 92% humidity. That results in a heat index of 122 degrees. If you don't have air-con, you'll die.

"Our sailing hero is our crew Kerri Scott," the couple continues, "who is like Captain Ron, Blackbeard, and the guy from Bumfuzzle all rolled into one. He has taught us everything we know about sailing and only made us cry a few times."

Jay's favorite quote comes from his days as a paramedic 'What did you think would happen?' Anji's favorite is 'It's not the mountain we conquer, but ourselves.'

Jay is left-handed and Anji's favorite dessert is chocolate.

## **\*Sheba VII — Sabre 425 April Bilawchuk & Brian Harrison Nanaimo, BC / Prince George, BC**

April is a Forester for the Provincial Government of British Columbia. Spouse Brian, 68, is a retired Electrician / Instructor. Their crew will be son Daemon, 14, a Student of Life.

"The three of us are relatively new to sailing," they report. "We completed one week of formal training in beautiful Desolation Sound off Vancouver Island, and also had one week of sail training in the St. Vincent & Grenadines waters of the Caribbean."

"Since the purchase of our first sailing boat, *Sheba*, now *Sheba VII*, we are gaining more skills sailing around the coastal waters of British Columbia in preparation for our first Ha-Ha."

"*Sheba VII* is a 1995 Sabre 425 that was trucked across the States by a previous owner so he could play in the Pacific Ocean. *Sheba VII* is excited for the adventure ahead. If all goes well, our dream is to sail her across the Pacific to French Polynesia and beyond."

"If money wasn't any issue, we'd have a big fancy catamaran so our family and friends could enjoy the adventure."

The couple's sailing hero is Tristan Jones, the very unusual British small boat mariner and author. Jones set the record for 'altitude sailing', having sailed his little *Sea Dart* on both the Red Sea and on Lake Titicaca high in the Andes. The story of how he got *Sea Dart* down from 12,000-foot Lake Titicaca and across the Amazon Basin to the Atlantic Ocean in the 1970s begs belief. While there is no doubt Jones did that, he often had trouble distinguishing fact from fantasy.

April, Brian, and Daemon all like pineapple upside-down cake, but we're not sure if they like Forestry humor. For example, how can you learn more about spiders that live in the rainforest? Check out their web site. Or, why don't lumberjacks believe in petrified forests? Because they never saw one.

## **Siesta - Seawind 1000 XL2 (W) Jim & Kent Milski San Diego / Lake City, CO (08, '13, '14, '15, '18)**

*Siesta* is being delivered south by Jim and Kent Milski for Bob Easton, who will have the boat chartering as part of Harmony Adventures in Cabo.

Jim, 79, has a wealth of multihull experience. After owning several multihulls, he decided to build a Schionning 48. Ask him if he'd do that

again. He and his wife, Kent, entered *Sea Level* in four Ha-Ha's, after which they did a circumnavigation. During one rough spell off Africa, they played chess while riding to a sea anchor with green waves washing over the house.

One of the Poobah's favorite Ha-Ha memories was on the second leg of the 2014 Ha-Ha, with *Profligate* and Jim's *Sea Level* cruising side by side at 21 knots in a building breeze just after sunset. Jim reports he was relieved when the Poobah dropped the chute, because he wasn't going to do it first.

Jim continues to teach multihull sailing, deliver boats, and enjoy chocolate gelato.



**Simpatico - Peter, Marlene, Gary, Kyle & Ben**

## **Simpatico — Wauquiez 43 Gary Jones & Marlene Smay-Jones San Diego / Imperial Beach**

Gary, 61, is a retired Marine Technician, while spouse, Marlene, is a retired Information Security Manager. Their crew will be Peter Mayers, 68, a Marine Technician; Ben Rinaca, 39, a Software Engineer; and Kyle Arriola, 29, a Professor of Organic Chemistry.

"I found a photo of myself playing around in an El Toro 50 years ago," says Gary. "I only had dinghy and small boat experience until I started sailing on a friend's Cal 40 *Dharma* out of Sausalito. That's when I got completely hooked on boats. When I found out you can live on a boat, I bought a Lancer 43 and have been living aboard ever since. I wouldn't have it any other way."

"After five years I decided that cruising was in my future, and I needed a smaller and tougher boat. So, I bought a flush-deck Ericson 39, *Traveler*, which I would end up owning for 23 years. I took that

boat from a tired old IOR racer to a fully-found and Bristol condition performance cruiser set up for singlehanding.

"After 25 years of living and sailing in the Bay Area, I sold my small specialty printing business and set off cruising the California coast. During a year of cruising, I spent a lot of time in the Channel Islands and ended up in San Diego in late 2009 with just \$200 in my pocket."

"After driving for a pump-out boat company — we called them 'stool buses' — for a year, I ended up in business with my great pal and Ha-Ha crew Peter "PK" Mayers as First Watch Marine. We grew her from a two-man operation to a thriving Mercury dealership located in Safe Harbor Shelter Island Boatyard. We sold the company to an employee in 2023.

"In 2023 I purchased *Simpatico*, a 2001 Wauquiez 43 Pilot Saloon. A couple of unusual things about her are her well-laid out engineering space, her electrically operated in-boom furling main, genoa furler and electric winches.

"After the Ha-Ha, two of our crew will be flying home, and we plan to go on around to La Paz, where our last crew, PK, will head home. From there Marlene and I will be heading down to Banderas Bay, and after that up into the Sea of Cortez. Our dream destination is the Sea of Cortez, so life is looking pretty good right now. Especially since I'm with Marlene, the love of my life. Although we've been together for 15 years, we just got married six months ago!"

### **Slideout — Jeanneau SO 39i Mike Dykstra San Diego / Coronado**

Mike, 66, is a retired Business Owner. He'll have four crew, including Jon Sanchioli, 65, a retired Firefighter and Paramedic; Keith Dow, 58, an Electrician; Charlie Brown, 53, a US Navy Officer; and Jon Sanchioli, 65.

Mike has been sailing for 23 years and has owned three boats during that time—a Cal 27, a Hunter 36, and his current boat, a 2008 Jeanneau 39i, which he's had for 13 years. In his youth, Mike worked for a couple of weeks on the 60' *Apollo III*, a youth hostel charter, in Whitsundays, Australia.

To date, Mike's longest passage has been San Diego to Catalina. After the Ha-Ha, he'll keep the boat in the Sea of Cortez for a few months, most likely in La Paz.

Crewmember Jon has been sailing since high school and has owned five



**Slideout - Mike**

boats, ranging from a Laser to a Cal 40. With more than 25 years of offshore and Southern California racing experience, he brings a wealth of knowledge to the crew. Jon has also logged extensive charter time in the Caribbean and French Polynesia.

Another crewmember, Keith, shares, "I've been boating and fishing my entire life, mostly on powerboats in the waters around Long Island, NY. I've owned my current boat, a 33' Egg Harbor, for 30 years. My wife and I raised our six kids aboard, spending weekends and vacations cruising from our marina in the Peconic Bay to Montauk, Block Island, Shelter Island, and Mystic, CT."

"Sailing to Cabo as part of the Ha-Ha is my dream," Mike reports.

In the Poobah's opinion, the very notion of Cabo is as much a moving target as St. Barth, as the two places have absolutely exploded since the 1970s and continue to explode. When we first sailed into Cabo in 1977, there were just three hotels, you had to visit different bodegas to get bread, fruit, meat, or veggies, and there wouldn't be a marina for more than a decade. Water came from a series of hoses out to your boat from a farm in the arroyo. By 1990, Cabo was still only home to 16,000 people. Today the population is 202,000, with another 150,000 who live along the Cape. The airport is expected to welcome over 3.5 million passengers this year, including about 20,000 a day when the Ha-Ha arrives in November. So, if anyone went to Cabo just a few years ago, they might have trouble recognizing the place today.

### **Sosiego — Westsail 32 Joe & Debbie Graham**

**Alameda / Vacaville (2006, 2013)**

Joe, 63, is a retired Registered Nurse, as is spouse Debbie. Both did the 2006 and 2013 Ha-Ha's. There is likely to be a nursing shortage in California as their crew will be Kathy Modin, another retired Registered Nurse.

"Joe and I have been sailing for over 25 years together," reports Debbie. "We have owned two boats, a Cape Dory 28 and our Westsail 32. We've had our Westsail since doing our first Ha-Ha in 2006. After doing the 2013 Ha-Ha with her we continued to sail around Mexico for about six months."

"*Sosiego* means calm or tranquility in Spanish. Although it is a Spanish word, her name was originally a combination of Sausalito and San Diego. So, the original pronunciation was Sausiego."

"After the Ha-Ha, we are planning on meandering down the coast of Mexico and Central America, with a destination of Ecuador. After that, who knows?"

"We met the son of the original owners before doing the '06 Ha-Ha, and he told us a funny story. When his parents were in their late 70s they were fishing from the boat near the Coronado Islands. Mom, an avid fisherwoman, had a fish on while they were headed right for the island under autopilot. Not wanting to lose the fish, she stomped on the decks trying to get Dad's attention to come up and take the helm. Unfortunately, he was down below making tea and didn't hear a thing. So, they t-boned the island!"

"The collision broke the bowsprit, but both of them were uninjured and the mast stayed up. They made temporary repairs and made their way back to San Diego. No islands were injured in the making of that movie! But the kids told the parents they were no longer allowed to sail alone."

### **Spindrift – Fuji 40 (W) Fuchsia Saarinen & Mallory Beach San Diego / Parkersburg, WV**

Fuchsia is in the Construction business. Friend Mallory, 31, grew up living aboard *Spindrift* with her family. Mallory and Fuchsia are connected by their mutual love for *Spindrift* and cannot wait to enjoy this serendipitous adventure together.

One year ago, Fuchsia had never even set foot on a sailboat. Despite no first-hand boat experience and no boat friends, she decided to discard conventional wisdom by not going with a 'starter boat'. Based on her own research, she decided to start with a boat

suitable for taking her to the farthest reaches of the world.

After searching for many months and inquiring about dozens of boats, *Spindrift* was the only one Fuchsia looked at. In December 2024, Fuchsia took the helm while *Spindrift* was towed to the yard and re-powered. She's spent the last 10 months becoming a good engineer and skipper.

Fuchsia has taken many sailing classes and made her first shakedown voyage north to Monterey in January. Subsequently she has spent many days on the open ocean, including a singlehanded trip to Catalina. And she has been living on the water ever since.

"I can assure you that I've had some trying and painful times," she says, "but I view them as the necessary early steps in a long journey, hopefully all the way around the planet."

Mallory is an ocean lover who grew up with salt in her hair and the rhythm of the ocean in her heart. She spent childhood summers sailing to Catalina and the Channel Islands with her parents and two older brothers, living aboard the very sailboat that she and Fuchsia will sail in the Ha-Ha. The sea has always felt like home to Mallory, and the journey from San Diego to Cabo San Lucas is more than an adventure; it's a return to her roots.

Fuchsia has a curious reason to want to sail around the world: "I'd like to make it all the way around the planet because then I can get another three-month stay at the San Diego Bay cruiser anchorage with the million dollar view."

### **Stainsby Girl — Catalina 470 Garry & Cheryl Dobson Cold Springs (Seven Ha-Ha's)**

Garry, 74, is a retired Real Estate Developer who did the Ha-Ha in '94, '99, '00, '06, '19, '22 and '24. Spouse Cheryl joined him for the Ha-Ha's in '19, '22 and '24. Their crew will be Jim Painter, 67, a vet of the '22 and '24 Ha-Ha's, who is retired from IT; and Karen Miller, a retired Executive Assistant who did the '21, '22, and '24 Ha-Ha's. "It's great to have Jim and Karen back to 'get the band back together,'" says Garry, "as they are great sailors, good cooks, and low maintenance".

"This will be my eighth Ha-Ha," reports Dobson. "I have owned Stainsby Girl since 2005." Of the 80,000 boats built by 'big bang for the buck' Catalina Yachts, 200 of them have been 470s.

"After the Ha-Ha, the Dobsons will be spending time in La Paz and the Sea of



**Stainsby Girl - Jim, Karen,  
Garry & Cheryl**

Cortez. November is typically one of the three best months of the year in the Sea — as long as there are no early-season Northers.

Garry's favorite quote is a classic truth: "There are wood ships, and good ships, and ships that sail the seas. But the best ships are the friendships, and may they always be."

### **Starship — Chris White Mastfoil 49 Cat Peter Simon Long Beach / Denver, CO**

Peter Simon, 83, is a retired Law Professor. His crew will be Diane Byington, a Novelist and Editor.

"I learned to sail as a kid," reports Peter. "I bought my first cruiser in 2006. I've owned *Starship*, my third cruiser, about a year and a half. A 'xxchoonermaran', she's quite unusual in that she has two jibs and two wings, but no mainsail."

"My longest passages have been Gran Canaria to St. Lucia, Panama City to San Diego, and a solo passage from Fort Lauderdale around Bermuda and then south to Curacao."

"After the Ha-Ha, we expect to spend most of December in Colorado and then cruise Mexico in January and February."

"Anything worth doing is worth doing to excess" has been my guiding principle. I am left-handed, and it's left its mark."

### **Sylvia Af Wasa — Najad 390 (W) Joakim Norrgard & Anna Granberg Vasa, Finland**

Joakim, 48, is an Entrepreneur, as is his spouse, Ann-Charlott Granberg. The two will doublehand.

"We bought our boat in 2015 and have been sailing ever since," the couple report. And have they ever gotten around since!

"We left Finland in 2022 and headed south. The wind has carried us across

the Atlantic, across the Caribbean Sea, through the Panama Canal, on to Mexico, then across to Hawaii, and from there up to Kodiak, Alaska. We are now making our way back down to Mexico with the idea of continuing on to French Polynesia — but our plans are written in sand at low tide."

"We dream of visiting South America, including Patagonia, and like everyone else, we secretly dream of a slightly bigger boat. Our motto is 'Something on a boat is always broken — we just don't know what it is yet.'

"Anna's nickname is AC," reports Joakim. "Does that make me Captain DC?" he asks.

Because Americans have an extremely low geographic IQ, the Poobah wants the Ha-Ha fleet to know that Finland, population 5.5 million, is a Northern European nation bordering Sweden, Norway and Russia. Its capital, Helsinki, population 650,000, occupies a peninsula and surrounding islands in the Baltic Sea. The Northern Lights can be seen from the country's Arctic Lapland province, a vast wilderness with national parks and ski resorts.

According to some metrics, Finland consistently ranks as 'the happiest country in the world' due to its high levels of social trust, excellent public services like healthcare and education, strong emphasis on work-life balance, and a profound connection to nature. The Finnish approach prioritizes a quiet contentment and appreciation for simple pleasures, rather than focusing on individual wealth, contributing to a balanced, low-stress lifestyle and high-quality life for its citizens.

As is the case with other Baltic states, many Americans mistakenly think Finland is 'socialist'. It's not, as the means of production are primarily based on private ownership and free enterprise. That said, 90 of the workers have a union contract.

Finland is home to Swan Nautor, one of the most prestigious names in sailing. They just launched their largest yacht ever, a German Frers 128.

### **Talion — Gulfstar 50 Patsy Verhoeven Portland, OR / La Paz (18 Ha-Ha's)**

Patsy, aka 'La Reina del Mar', has been the tireless Assistant Poobah for the last eight 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

## CRUISIN' TO THE CAPE

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, 67, a veteran Colorado River guide and current employee of the city of Aspen with 12 Ha-Ha's under his belt; Sister Sue Drake, retired from Insurance and a veteran of 10 Ha-Ha's. Rounding out the crew are Mike Rickman, 74, formerly with La Paz Yachts; Shelly Rothery-Rickman, who was also with La Paz Yachts and a vet of the 2013 Ha-Ha; and Nic Molinelli, 39, a Construction Heavy Hauler and vet of the 2023 Ha-Ha & 2025 Pacific Puddle Jump.

Patsy has done every Ha-Ha since 2007 and is legendary for sailing all the way every year and being able to sail her 48-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 *Talion* 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 over 35 years, and for the past 18 years primarily on the hook in Mexico and Southern California. My dream boat would be one requiring no maintenance and on which nothing breaks. LOL. 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.

### **Tardigrade — Tayana Vancouver 42 (W) Maddie Zug & Jeremy Snyder San Francisco (2024)**

Maddie, 28, is a Software Engineer, while spouse Jeremy, 29, is a Photographer and Science Communicator. They will doublehand.

Maddie grew up sailing Sunfish on lakes as a kid and has dreamed of living on a boat since middle school. After meeting Jeremy in college and moving to San Francisco together, the sailing dream became shared, and they got their ASA certifications together in the San Juan Islands for their honeymoon.



**Tardigrade - Jeremy & Maddie**

"*Tardigrade* is our first boat," they report. "We bought her almost three years ago and have lived aboard in the Berkeley Marina while preparing to go cruising." That puts the couple in company with Larry Ellison, recently the world's richest man, who lived aboard a 24-footer in Berkeley while going to Cal.

"We intended to sail *Tardigrade* to Mexico in last year's Ha-Ha, but Jeremy got pneumonia, and we decided we weren't quite ready, so we crewed on the Santa Cruz 52 *Sweetheart*. We had a blast and got such incredible mentorship that we became confident enough to sail north in May.

"We harbor-hopped up the coast from San Francisco and have spent the summer exploring British Columbia and the San Juan Islands. We're excited to keep building our skills — and to sail without having to wear foul weather gear. We plan to cruise the Sea of Cortez after the Ha-Ha, and see where the wind takes us after that."

"After getting a taste of the Pacific Northwest, our dream is to make it up to Alaska someday. We'd love to do the Inside Passage, explore more of the fjords and waterfalls, and hopefully improve our salmon fishing. We haven't had much luck so far. But we might have a Pacific Loop in our future.

"We've been picking as many blackberries as possible this summer for cobbler, our favorite dessert. Especially when paired with ice cream.

"Hopefully we'll catch some good board surfing waves on the Ha-Ha this year. We got some amazing rides last year and always love having surf buddies!"

### **Tazzy — Taswell 43 Larry & Brenda Golkin Channel Islands**

Larry, 59, is a Lawyer, while Brenda is a retired Accountant. The two plan to doublehand.

"We've been boating and sailing together for 35+ years," they report, "during which time we've owned three boats. We've had the Bill Dixon designed *Tazzy* for seven years.

"This will be our first Ha-Ha, but during the last four years we completed America's Great Loop twice aboard our Roughwater 41 Pilothouse trawler. Then we cruised in the Pacific Northwest before returning home via a long cruise down the west coast of the US. After the Ha-Ha we plan to sail through the Canal and on to the Caribbean, Bahamas, the U.S. East Coast and Canadian Maritimes, then Europe.

"Our dream destination is the Med. Our dream boat is whatever boat will take us to where we want to go.

"'Stick to your guns, as what's right for you ain't right for everyone,' is our favorite quote. We don't have any left-handers aboard, but our favorite dessert is any chocolate with raspberries."

Note to Larry and Brenda: If you pass through St. Barth in March, April, or early May, the Poobah will be happy to stand you a couple of drinks. The same goes for everyone in the Ha-Ha. We'll be at Oubli, across the street from Le Select, in a coral shirt at some point most evenings.

"As for the Med, we've got two favorites for Larry and Brenda. Ile de Porquerolles, just off Hyeres, is special. And if you anchor at Villefranche, the home of the U.S. Sixth Fleet before DeGaulle kicked us out after we saved France's ass, you're within just 10 miles of Nice, San Jean Cap Ferrat, Beaulieu-sur-Mer, Eze, and Monaco. The frequent local buses get you between them all for just two euros. Oh yeah, absolutely don't miss Capri. The marina is incredibly expensive, but Marina Piccolo on the back side, which is an anchorage not a marina at all, is fantastic."

### **Threshold — C&C Landfall 43 Neonta Bell & Craig Shaw Portland / Lyons, OR**

( '98, '08, '09, '10, '12, '13)

Neonta is a retired School Teacher, while Partner Craig, 71, is a Yacht Rigger with a wealth of Ha-Ha and Mexico experience. Their crew will be Jim Campbell who did the 2009 Ha-Ha with Craig and one other not selected as of press time.

## BAJA HA-HA XXXI

"I grew up sailing and am a member of Eugene YC on Fern Ridge Reservoir in Oregon. I have owned several boats: a Laser, a Lido 14, a Hunter 26, a Catalina 22, and now my Landfall 33. I've owned *Threshold* for three years.

"My partner Craig and I signed up for the Ha-Ha three years ago, but there was no weather window to get the boat from Portland to the start in San Diego, so we missed the start. But we eventually sailed to Mexico for the winter before Bashing back in the spring.

"My longest passage was 26 days crewing on a Tartan 37 from Hawaii to the mainland. My dream destination is Tahiti, and my dream boat is *Threshold*, although fixed up a little more.

"Dessert? A chocolate raspberry torte."

### Tracy Ann — O'Day 34 (W)

**Shane Black  
Charleston, OR**

Shane, 58, is retired from the U.S. Army. Cody Wolfe will be his crew.

"I have owned several houseboats and fishing boats, but *Tracy Ann* is my first sailboat. My retirement dream is to live on my sailboat and, for starters, sail down to Mexico. I want to spend some time in La Paz and the Sea of Cortez, then maybe continue on to Costa Rica. I might even transit the Panama Canal to get to the Eastern Caribbean and the Bahamas."

"I won't lie, I'm scared to death about the trip down the coast from Oregon to San Diego. But I figure after that I'll have a lot more confidence for the Ha-Ha."

The most unusual thing about Shane's O'Day 34 is that Shane has owned her twice, and has sailed her more the second time. But his dream boat would be a 50-ft plus Leopard catamaran.

### Trouble — Cape Dory 31 (W)

**David Brookes & Olivia Williams  
Berkeley / Oakland**

David, 32, is a Scientist of some sort, while spouse Olivia, 32, is an attorney.

"I've been sailing since I was six months old, when my parents hung my car seat from the salon handrails of their C&C 35," says David, "which we sailed extensively around the Chesapeake Bay for most of my childhood. My experience as a captain started in 2020 when I purchased a Cal 24 on San Francisco Bay. I sailed her for two years before moving to the East Coast for work."

"While back East I frequently cruised the Chesapeake Bay on my parents'

Catalina 27, both solo and with First Mate Liv. We moved back to the Bay Area in late 2023 and purchased our current boat, *Trouble*, in Ventura in March 2024. We did some light cruising around the Channel Islands before sailing her up to the Bay Area last August. The three legs of that trip — Santa Barbara to Morro Bay to Santa Cruz to Berkeley — are the longest passages that we've done."

While the young couple expect to cruise the Sea of Cortez until April following the Ha-Ha and then return to the Bay, David would love to cruise the Caribbean, while Liv would prefer the Pacific Northwest. No matter where they would cruise, they'd like to do it aboard a Vindo 34. "She's a full-keel cruiser with great lines, beautiful details, and a shockingly spacious cabin layout for a 33 ft boat. We would probably want to glass over the teak decks though."

"Our boat name comes from the lyric, 'Don't you wanna see; just what this love can do; don't you wanna see; the Trouble we can get into'. It's from 'Hearts Racing' by The Bones of JR Jones."

Liv goes for chocolate ice cream, while David prefers chocolate chip cookies.

Caution! Liv goes by Liv not Olivia!

### True North — Hunter 33 (W)

**Greg & Jane Garrison  
Stockton Sailing Club / Tuolumne**

Greg, no age provided, is a semi-retired Electrical Contractor and Pilot, while Jane initially wasn't going to do the Ha-Ha, but as of late September had changed her mind. The couple's crew will be Bruce Boese, 78, a Pilot and General Building Contractor; and his wife, Caroline, who is a retired High School Principal. Bruce and Caroline have done most of their sailing in Hawaii, where they own a second home.

Greg has been sailing off and on for over 50 years and currently owns seven boats: *True North* and her dinghy, a Hobie 18, a 26-ft Sea Ray currently in Loreto, a 15-ft fishing boat, and two kayaks. He just sold the Cal 27 he sailed on San Francisco Bay for a couple of years. His longest passage is 19 days, from Long Beach to the Big Island.

The most unusual thing about *True North* is that the couple bought her 18 months ago at an auction. Greg immediately began overhauling her with the intention of doing last year's Ha-Ha. But the plans changed when their house caught fire two weeks after the boat purchase.

"After the better part of a year rebuilding our house," reports Greg, "I



True North - Bruce, Caroline & Greg

finally got to work on *True North*. She has undergone both bottom and top complete strip and paint jobs. She's getting a complete new electronics suite, including a chart plotter, AIS, radar, LiFePO<sub>4</sub> batteries, solar, inverter, and more. She has a watermaker, an autopilot, a wind generator, a 35# Mantus anchor, a Lewmar windlass, and more. *True North's* Yanmar diesel only has 610 hours, which means it should be good for another 10,000 hours. All her rigging has been inspected and adjusted."

"Once we get to the Sea of Cortez, we will mosey our way up to Puerto Escondido, where we will park *True North* for a couple of months. We'll fly home for Christmas, return in March, and then head north or south."

Greg is an advanced scuba diver with hundreds of dives under his belt. He also owned the same airplane for 34 years but recently sold her because he wasn't using her enough to warrant keeping her.

"My dream destination would be somewhere in the South Pacific," says Greg, "probably Fiji. If I could afford it, I would love a 44-ish monohull. Last year we bareboated a Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 44 for 10 days and were extremely happy — in part because the boat was brand new. My dream boat would be something like a Hallberg-Rassy or Amel Super Maramu. A sugar scoop or swim platform would be a must."

"Jeff McConnel, one of my best friends, is my sailing hero. He has thousands of ocean miles under his belt and had me as crew moving his Catalina 380 from Long Beach to Kona.

"I don't have a favorite quote, but I love Chocolate Malted Crunch ice cream. I answer to Hunny Bunny or, per my

wife, Butt Head.”

**Vela - Jeanneau 49 DS**  
**Michael Aaland & Andrea Savage**  
**Seattle, WA**

Michael 46, is in Construction Management and is a Seattle Mariners fan. Spouse Andrea is the Chief Marketing Officer of an unspecified company. Their crew will be Adam Plesha, 43, a Microsoft Analyst; Damion Jackson, 48, a Tour Guide; and Jonathan Rentz, 48, a Fabricator. “All are yacht owners, all with extensive sailing experience, all healthy and fit.”

Michael has been sailing his entire life but didn’t start with keelboats until 2012. “Vela is my 11th boat overall and my third yacht. We purchased her in San Diego in 2020 and sailed her up to Seattle. But the Ha-Ha will be our longest passage. We’ve already started, having left Seattle at the end of June.”

“After Ha-Ha, we are spending the rest of the year in the Sea of Cortez before heading south. Our plan is to eventually head for the equator with our dream destination of the Galapagos. We’ll get there on our dream boat, the Jeanneau 49DS we already own.”

Poobah tip: The Galapagos is not exactly friendly to private boats, prohibiting them from many of the most interesting spots. Check it out in advance to avoid disappointment.

‘Knowing is half the battle’ is their favorite quote, while they’ll go for anything lemon — bars, meringue, etc. — for dessert.

**Venturous — Seawind 1370**  
**David & Robin Gravlin**  
**Granite Bay**

David, 64, is a retired Business Owner, while Robin is retired from a career in Human Resources. They will have Dick Foddrill, 70, and Jasmine Rosig as crew.

“I’ve been sailing on and off since I was a teenager,” says David. “Robin and I have owned several powerboats over the years. Last year, we purchased *Venturous* in Thailand and spent the past year sailing her there. Our original plan was to sail her to the Med, but things happened in the Middle East, so we decided we’d have her shipped to our home waters in the Pacific Northwest.”

Then they found out that shipping would cost 120k, including what seemed like worthless mandatory insurance. But what bothered David even more is that Seawind owners who had shipped

their boats reported damage to them, including a hole in a hull, a keel broken off, and such nasty rust it had gotten through the gel coat.

So, they looked into having the boat delivered and ultimately used PYD out of London. “Maybe we were just really fortunate,” says David, “but after 50 days the boat arrived in amazingly good shape. When I went to meet her three-person crew in Victoria, they wouldn’t let me aboard until they really cleaned her up — including polishing the stainless! When done, David reports *Venturous* was even clean enough for Robin, which he says is really saying something.

Best of all, it had only cost them one-third of having the boat delivered by ship.

The couple says *Venturous* is their dream boat. They had tried Lagoons and similar boats on a number of charters but weren’t that impressed with the performance and quality. Once they chartered a Seawind 1260, they immediately knew it was for them — except it wasn’t big enough. Fortunately, Seawind announced the larger 1370 a short time later, which met their needs.

“Now that we have our dream boat,” they say, “we are looking forward to meeting others with a sense of adventure.” And they still hope to make it to the Med.

**Victoire M — Rival 32**  
**Debbie Elder**  
**San Pedro / Bisbee, AZ**

Debbie is a retired Pilot who at press time was looking for a couple of lady sailors to crew for her.

“While I crewed a bit for a relative 20 years ago, I’ve really only been sailing for five years,” she says. “I’ve owned one powerboat and three sailboats. I just repurchased *Victoire M*, which I’d sold four years ago. I’m now taking care of some neglect.”

Debbie’s classic Rival 32, designed by Peter Brett and built in England, has been across the Atlantic from England to South America and back twice. But she came through the Panama Canal to the West Coast in a container. Hull number 199 of 200, she’s been around.

“This will be my first Ha-Ha, although I’ve done several hundred miles in Puget Sound on a Compac 16,” reports Debbie.

“I speak decent Spanish and plan on cruising the Sea of Cortez next winter. I’d like to continue improving my Rival 32 in Mexico next year, and work on my Spanish as well.

“I’m still doing research on what my



**Victoire M - Debbie**

dream boat might be, but the South Pacific, including Tahiti and Fiji, is my dream destination.

“My sailing hero is the great Jeanne Socrates, who holds the record as the oldest female to have circumnavigated the world single-handed.” A dear friend of the Poobah and the Ha-Ha, at age 82, Jeanne is singlehanded all over the Pacific like ringing a bell.

“I’ve been inspired by the quote of EB White,” reports Debbie. “The world breaks everyone, and afterwards some are stronger in the broken places.”

“There is a tie for my favorite dessert between peanut butter and chocolate ice cream and my homemade carrot cake.

“I’m still waiting for a good nickname, but my husband says I’m ‘The Dog Whisperer’ because canines appear from nowhere to land on my lap.”

**Vision — Tayana 48 (W)**  
**Mike Jones**  
**Owl Harbor / Isleton**

Mike, 72, is a retired Land Surveyor. He’ll be sailing south with friends Dolf Karsemeijer, 66; and Amy Boucher.

“I’ve been boating most of my life,” says Mike, “but didn’t start sailing until 11 years ago. *Vision* is my second sailboat, which I bought in April of 2022.

“I have my dream boat, but my dream destination would be the Philippines,” he says.

The left-hander’s favorite dessert is cookies, and his favorite quote is ‘Guests, like fish, begin to smell after three days.’

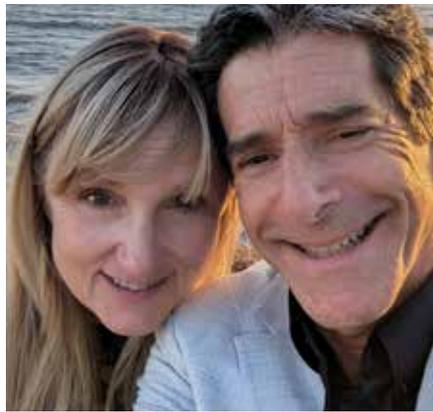
He and his crew plan to cruise the west coast of Mexico until early spring.

Mike’s crew Dolf is from the Netherlands, a sailing-mad country if there ever was one. “I’m 66 years old,

# BAJA HA-HA XXXI



**Vision - Mike**



**Viva La Vida - Linda & Ron**



**Water Dog - Patty & Alex**

divorced, have two fantastic sons and girlfriends, and one lovely eight-month-old grandson.

"I also have more than 20 years sailing experience, including solo, on my boats of 23 to 30 feet in Holland and Croatia. I started life teaching sports, then worked as a manager for four beautiful international companies, and most recently taught economics. I will have started my pre-retirement this summer."

Mike and Dolf met via Facebook, and Mike soon asked Dolf to join him on the Ha-Ha.

### **Viva La Vida — Catalina 470 Ron & Linda Loza Emeryville / Walnut Creek**

Ron, 68, is a retired Business Owner, while Linda is a retired Corporate Executive. They will have Jeffrey Felicetti, 64 and Michele Logan as crew.

Ron and Linda have been sailing for over 40 years, and *Viva La Vida* is their second boat. She's quite a move up from their first boat, a Laser 2, which is just under 15 feet long. Their 470 was bought in November of 2023, and it is #1 of the 200 built.

"We have sailed throughout the San Francisco Bay, as well as the west coast from San Francisco to Half Moon Bay and back. We've also bashed up the coast from Southern California to the Bay. Did I mention we've done five charters in the British Virgins and one out of Grenada?"

"We plan to cruise mainland Mexico this winter and the Sea of Cortez in the spring. We're just beginning our cruising careers, so we hope to travel to many dream destinations. *Viva La Vida* is our

dream boat. We love how she sails and enjoy our time spent on the water."

"Where does life begin? In our opinion, at the end of our comfort zone."

### **Water Dog — Kadey Krogen 58 MV Alex Hamilton & Patty Smith Juno Beach, FL / Milpitas**

Alex, 67, is a retired Electrical Engineer. Patricia is a Veterinarian. Their crew will be Albert Mitchel, 60, a retired Engineer, and Jeanette Mitchel, a Horse Trainer.

Patty and Alex are native Floridians that have boated, mostly sail or smaller fishing boats since their early teens. Alex has had his USCG 100 Ton license since 2015.

Alex is a retired hardware engineer and Patty is a mostly retired veterinary ophthalmologist. "We grew up on the Florida east coast sailing, skin and scuba diving, fishing and surfing. We enjoy hiking and camping and when not boating or working on our 9 acre property (keeps us busy) we take our land yacht (slide in truck camper) and explore the wilds. We both love animals and have had dogs and cats most of our lives."

"We met in Gainesville in 1989 and have been together since. Alex is an avid Florida Gator fan. We moved to California in 1997. We transitioned to power boating when we bought a 37 foot Nordic tug in 2009. We cruised the bay area until retirement and then purchased a Kadey Krogen 58, *Water Dog*. Since then we have cruised in Canada and Alaska and from Mexico to the Bay Area."

"Our current water dog is Holly, a 9 year old yellow Labrador. She pretty

much goes everywhere with us. We all enjoy hiking, camping and boating. Love to be in nature and experience its awe and beauty."

Both are right handed and both think any destination on the water is great!

### **Wolf Mother — Beneteau 423 (W) Aimee Proskine & Tawni Willis San Pedro / Redondo Beach**

Aimee, 35, is in Sales and Marketing while her spouse, Tawni Willis, is a Chef. Steve Steiner, 65, a Yacht Master, will round out the crew.

Aimee and Tawni have been sailing for six years, during which time they have owned two boats, including *Wolf Mother* for 2.5 years. *Wolf Mother*, now there's a boat name!

To date, Aimee and Tawni's longest passage has been the 450 miles from San Diego to San Francisco. Following the Ha-Ha, they plan to stay in the Sea of Cortez and explore.

Aimee and Tawni are the second in this year's Ha-Ha to have a dream destination of the Raja Ampat Islands. This is "the Indonesian archipelago off the northwest tip of Bird's Head Peninsula in West Papua. Comprising hundreds of jungle-covered islands, Raja Ampat is known for its beaches and coral reefs that are rich with marine life." They'd like to visit the area aboard a Swan 58, perhaps with Yacht Master Steve Steiner.

Lovers of Crème Brûlée with fresh fruit on top, their favorite quote is from Galileo: "I have loved the stars too fondly to be fearful of the night." For those who graduated from a typical big city public school, Galileo was an Italian astronomer, physicist, and engineer in

the 15th century. Born in Pisa, he had a big influence on the likes of Newton and Einstein.

Unless the Poobah misread her entry form, Aimee loves “martinis and nice cigars”.

Those familiar with the 21 verb tenses of French will recognize ‘aimee’ as the feminine singular past participle of the verb ‘aimer’, the literal translation of which is ‘loved’.

## **Zephyr — Catalina 36 (W)**

**Taylor Miller**

**Sausalito / Sacramento (2015)**

Taylor, 83, is a retired Attorney. He’s probably the oldest skipper in this year’s Ha-Ha. He’ll have five crew: Jeff Bullock, 61, a retired Fireman; Kim Bullock, a retired Nurse; son Max Miller, 31, a Welder; and Rachel Williams, 29, a Social Worker.

“I’ve been sailing since I was 14 years old in the Midwest,” says Taylor, “on a 19-ft centerboard Lightning and 16-ft Snipes. After moving to California in 1975, I’ve owned a Chrysler 16, a Catalina 22, and now a Catalina 36.

“Prior to getting the Catalina 36 in 2019, I had been sailing boats from Tradewinds in Richmond for 10 years. I have chartered several times in the Caribbean as well as Tahiti and Greece and did the 2015 Ha-Ha on the Jeanneau 51 *Scout*. I met my crew, Jeff Bullock and his family, on that trip, and we’ve become fast friends ever since.”

“That Ha-Ha was my longest passage, and we have no special plans after the Ha-Ha. We’ll probably have to do the Bash, but who knows, maybe we’ll keep going.”

“My dream destination is Martinique,

the French ‘island of flowers’ in the Eastern Caribbean, and one of the only islands in the Caribbean with a freeway. I’d like to go there on a Lagoon 42 catamaran.”

My sailing hero is Cole Brauer, the first American woman to race around the world singlehanded and non-stop.”

“I’m not left-handed, but I like tiramisu, and you can call me Tommy.”

## **Zephyr — Jeanneau SO 479**

**Kevin Boll**

**Tacoma / Puyallup, WA**

Kevin, 72, is a retired Psychologist. His four crew will be Lance Lindsley, 62, a retired Pilot, with offshore cruising experience from Anacortes to San Francisco; Mary Lindsley; Jon Jones, 62, a Counselor who holds a USCG Captain’s License; and Laura Jones, a retired Store Owner.

Kevin has been sailing for 20 years in Washington, Canada and Alaska, during which time he’s owned three sailboats. He’s owned his Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 479, *Zephyr*, for nine years.

“My longest passage was six weeks and 2,500 nautical miles, going up and back down the inside passage to Alaska. Another long passage was from Anacortes to San Diego.”

“I plan to spend two years in Mexico. My dream destination is Tahiti, where I picture myself sailing aboard a *Hylas 54*.”

## **Zephyr — Swan 36-2**

**Bill Killbridge**

**San Mateo / Burlingame**

(2001, 2014)

Bill, 54, is some kind of Engineer,

maybe Civil, maybe Software, maybe Train, he didn’t say. His crew will be Larry Weinhoff, 70, retired from Business and a vet of two Ha-Ha’s; and two others not identified as of press time.

Bill started sailing over 40 years ago at age eight aboard 8-ft El Toros on San Francisco’s Lake Merced. He’s owned five boats over the years, including *Zephyr* for one year. She’s a Frers-designed Swan 36 launched in 1989, not to be confused with the first-ever Swan, a 36 that was designed by S&S and launched in 1967.

The longest passage Bill has completed so far is five days. While he doesn’t know where he’ll go after the Ha-Ha, he would like to both circumnavigate Vancouver Island and cruise the South Pacific.

A big fan of the legendary Jeanne Socrates, a great friend of the Ha-Ha who holds the record as the oldest female to have circumnavigated the world nonstop single-handed and unassisted. Now in her 80s, she’s continuing to sail all over the South Pacific like she was ringing a bell.

Bill’s dream boat is “something Swedish, 40 to 45 feet”.

Warm Bread Pudding is his go-to dessert. What’s that? “Frugal cooks in 11th and 12th century England, where it originated, could only afford to soak the bread in hot water before squeezing it dry and then adding a mix of whatever sugar and spices they had on hand.” Modern Warm Bread Pudding is often a little more sophisticated.

Is there “anything - absolutely anything - half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats”? Not to Bill.



# BAJA HA-HA XXXI - ENTRIES BY DIVISION

## AGAVE DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WHITE SAILS ONLY

Trouble.....	Cape Dory 31 .....	David Brookes & Olivia Williams.....	Berkeley / Oakland
Legacy.....	Catalina 320.....	Colleen Clay & Chance Vernon .....	Long Beach
True North.....	Hunter 33 .....	Greg & Jane Garrison.....	Stockton / Tuolumne
Patty Ann.....	Island Packet 370.....	Charles Emig.....	San Diego
Boaticus.....	Downeast 38 .....	Alan & Trudy Connors.....	Vancouver, WA
Dr. John.....	Custom Hubecky 40.....	Cliff Clark & Susanna Mahoney.....	Novato / Fairfax
Malama Kai.....	Westsail 42.....	Christian Holm & Lynn Ringseis.....	Seattle / Ma'alaea, HI / Santa Cruz
Pennyann III.....	Endeavour 43.....	Joe Miller .....	Sparks, NV
Elizabeth Heather.....	Hardin 45.....	Jody Mortimer.....	Los Angeles / Venice

## BURRITO DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WHITE SAILS ONLY

Invictus.....	Pearson 33-2.....	Jon Johnson .....	Alameda / Reno, NV
Malolo.....	Newport 33.....	Steven Rosing.....	Berkeley
Christina Marie.....	Catalina 36 .....	Chris Barth & Philip Schreffler.....	Marina del Rey / Bend, OR
Zephyr.....	Catalina 36 .....	Taylor Miller.....	Sausalito / Sacramento
Spindrift.....	Fuji 40 .....	Fuchsia Saarinen.....	San Diego / Parkersburg, WV
Pearl.....	CMS 41 .....	Maxim Oustiougov & Maxi Polihronakis.....	Seattle, WA
Serenity.....	Irwin Mk I 43.....	Jay & Anji Manning.....	Vallejo
Aeries.....	CAL 2-46.....	Haley & Selva Kumar.....	San Pedro / Whitefish, MT
Aisling.....	Contest 46.....	Edward & Martha Kaufman.....	Santa Barbara

## CEVICHE DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WHITE SAILS ONLY

Nammu.....	Pearson 36-2.....	Mick Haven .....	Long Beach
Sea Wolf.....	Hunter 376.....	Chris Mendonca .....	Vallejo
Sylvia of Wasa.....	Najad 390.....	Joakim Norrgard & Anna Granberg .....	Vasa Finland
Ruthie.....	Islander Freeport 41.....	Dustin Nolet & Linda Haensel.....	Half Moon Bay
Tardigrade.....	Tayana Vancouver 42.....	Maddie Zug & Jeremy Snyder.....	San Francisco
Wolf Mother.....	Beneteau 423.....	Aimee Proskine.....	San Pedro / Redondo Beach
Athena.....	Custom Solent 44.....	Joe Maciorowski & Katie Oitzinger.....	Loch Lomond / Sebastopol
LiaH <sub>2</sub> O.....	Hunter 460.....	Jody & Lane Hughes.....	Brookings, OR / Burney
RoRo Listo.....	Hunter 460.....	Rob & Rose Benson.....	San Diego
Serenity.....	Hunter 460.....	Richard & Carolyn Mason.....	Stockton / Elk Grove

## DESPERADO DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WHITE SAILS ONLY

Obelix.....	Garcia Exploration 45.....	Greg & Magdalena Theisen.....	Bellingham, WA
Coquita.....	Hanse 458.....	Erin & Gary Stypulkoski.....	Sausalito / Tiburon
Playtime.....	Beneteau Oceanis 46.....	Chad & Ilana Thomas.....	Long Beach / Palm Desert
Athena.....	Beneteau Oceanis 46.1.....	Kevin Grant.....	San Diego / Encinitas
Hey Jude.....	Beneteau 47.....	Rich LeBlanc.....	Berkeley / Bear Valley
Makara.....	Passport 470.....	Peter Rumsey & Anna Edmondson.....	Emeryville / Oakland
Vision.....	Tayana 48.....	Mike Jones.....	Owl Harbor / Isleton
Crescendo.....	Island Packet 485.....	Ted & NancyLee Van Zwol.....	Seattle, WA
Nirvana.....	Taswell 49.....	John & Teresa Koontz.....	Santa Barbara
Free.....	Cheoy Lee 53.....	Mike Robichaud & Jane Keyes.....	Squamish, BC

## ENCHILADA DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WITH SPINNAKER

Ondina.....	Cal 29-2.....	John Walsh & Liz Newkirk.....	Richmond YC / Mendocino
Sosiego.....	Westsail 32.....	Joseph & Deborah Graham.....	Alameda / Vacaville
Camelot.....	Islander 32.....	Daniel Conley.....	Oceanside
Victoire M.....	Rival 32.....	Debbie Elder.....	San Pedro / Bisbee, AZ
MaMaLu.....	Pacific Seacraft 34.....	Mark Shriner.....	Seattle, WA
Maybe Tuesday.....	Cal 34.....	Jack Edgerton.....	San Pedro / Inglewood
Salt Shaker.....	Cape Dory 36.....	Antony & Sydnee Mau.....	Hilo, HI / Oroville
Nomad.....	Rival 36.....	Robert Cohn & Margo Louwerse.....	Point Richmond / Sebastopol
Heure Bleue.....	Hans Christian 38T.....	Dave Gilbert.....	Chula Vista
Luna.....	Island Packet 380.....	Mike & Tammy Evans.....	Redwood City / Reno, NV

## FRIJOLE DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WITH SPINNAKER

Mystic Wind.....	Catalina 350.....	Meggie Woodfield & Steven Naler.....	San Diego
New Perspective.....	Catalina 36 MK II.....	Dianna Carter.....	Santa Cruz
Constellation*s Spirit.....	Catalina 385.....	Tom Hammons.....	San Diego
Aurora.....	Valiant 40.....	Chuck Raby.....	Port Townsend, WA
Pendragon.....	Valiant 40.....	Scott & Jennifer Brigham.....	Ventura / Whitefish, MT
Capricorn.....	Hallberg Rassy 42F.....	Simon & Lisa Lilley.....	Seattle, WA
Kanumera.....	Spindrift 43 PH Cutter.....	Doug Villepique.....	San Diego
Proteus.....	Kettenburg 43.....	Tim Chauvel.....	Los Angeles / Bocas del Toro, Panama
Athena.....	Spencer 1330.....	Steve & Kristy Whale.....	Vancouver BC / Revelstoke BC
Raven.....	Reinke 13M Special.....	Jim & Lisa Osse.....	Everett, WA / Leavenworth, WA

## GUACAMOLE DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WITH SPINNAKER

Zephyr.....	Swan 36-2.....	Bill Kilbridge.....	San Mateo / Burlingame
Comedy Act.....	Beneteau First 36.7.....	Joseph Harvard.....	Ventura / Birmingham, UK
Minami Kaze.....	Beneteau 361.....	Antoine Russell & Tammi Sims-Russell.....	Redwood City / Mountain View
Peregrine Spirit.....	Ericson 38.....	Thomas Fisc.....	San Diego
Kranich.....	Ericson 38-200.....	Jana Olias & Peter Buettner.....	San Rafael
Josie.....	Dehler 39.....	Jo Sandry / David Sandry.....	Sausalito / Boulder Creek
Slideout.....	Jeanneau SO 39i.....	Mike Dykstra.....	San Diego / Coronado
Rejoice.....	Hallberg Rassy 39.....	Bob & Cherrie Alziebler.....	Valley Springs
Marisol.....	Hunter 410.....	Stephen Ronk & Madeline Fontillas.....	Marina del Rey / Los Angeles
Tazzy.....	Taswell 43.....	Larry & Brenda Golkin.....	Channel Islands

# BAJA HA-HA XXXI - ENTRIES BY DIVISION

## HUEVOS RANCHEROS DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WITH SPINNAKER

Ran	Beneteau 423	Bram Arnold	San Diego / El Cajon
Seaquester	Beneteau 423	Bill Leone	San Diego / Denver, CO
Libertas	Jenneau 42	Bob & Charlotte McKenzie	Marina del Rey / Riverside
Scapa Flow	Jeanneau SO 42	Frank Quinn	Santa Cruz / Sunnyvale
Audeamus	Bavaria Vision 42	Sue Evans	San Diego / Denver
Sheba VII	Sabre 425	April Bilawchuk & Brian Harrison	Nanaimo, BC / Prince George, BC
Bluefin	Sabre 426	Scott Laskey	Santa Cruz
Discovery	Saga 43	Lane Tobin & Mason Wolters	Seattle, WA
No Reservations	Beneteau 430	Matt Crews	San Diego

## IGUANA DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WITH SPINNAKER

Merriweather	Island Packet 420	Dennis & Laura Calvin	Sparks, NV
Simpatico	Wauqueiz 43	Gary Jones & Marlene Smay-Jones	San Diego / Imperial Beach
Indefatigable	Hallberg-Rassy 43 MKI	John Hess	San Francisco / Berkeley
Sea's the Dream	Jeanneau 44DS	Rick & Chris Watson	Bellingham, WA / Culdesac, ID
Orca	Cartwright 44	Pat Fryer	San Rafael / Novato
Mykonos	Swan 44	Myron & Marina Eisenzimmer	San Geronimo
Elävä	Sirena 44	Troy Johnson & Laura Suarez	Half Moon Bay / Lafayette
Carpe Diem	Norseman 447	Marek Schindler	Ventura / Krakow, Poland
Dragonslayer	Beneteau Oceanis 45	Cliff Newell & Katy Jacobs	Sausalito / Nevada City
FriendShip	Beneteau 45	Brent & Cameron Bilger	San Francisco / Los Altos

## JALAPENO DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WITH SPINNAKER

Sagata	Burns 45	Bruce Afton	Gamble Bay, WA / Kingston, WA
Gokuraku	Tartan 4600	Wly Anderson & Remi Nadeau	Sausalito / San Francisco
Alruna	Passport 470CC	Mark & Marzena Hojsan	Gdansk, Poland / Johnson City, TN
Stainsby Girl	Catalina 470	Garry & Cheryl Dobson	Cold Springs
Viva La Vida	Catalina 470	Ron & Linda Loza	Emeryville / Walnut Creek
Zephyr	Jeanneau SO 479	Kevin Boll	Tacoma / Puyallup, WA
Hokulani	Tayana 48	Tony & Julie Rogers	San Diego / Encinitas
Finest Kind	Hunter 49	Dick & Gail Fennell	Half Moon Bay / Ralston, WY
Makai	Herreshoff 50	Scott Armstrong	Anacortes, WA / Navasota, TX
Talion	Gulfstar 50	Patsy Verhoeven	Portland / La Paz

## KILO DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WITH SPINNAKER

Bacchanal	J133	Hop Guy	Sausalito / Saratoga
Philosophie II	Beneteau First 47.7	Philippe Beauregard & Sophie Deschenes	Sherbrooke, Québec
Hemisphere Dancer	Jeanneau SO 490	Deborah Bessolo & Doug Lombard	Seattle / Bainbridge Island, WA
Occasio	Jeanneau SO 49	Kevin & Terry Johnson	Vancouver, BC / Nanoose Bay, BC
Vela	Jeanneau 49 DS	Michael Aaland & Andrea Savage	Seattle, WA
Iris	Jeanneau 51	John Sheppard & Jennifer Beard	Seattle, WA
Second Wind	Jeanneau 53	Rodrigo Basave	San Diego
Manitou	Oyster 56	Richard Delateur	Incline Village, NV
Malilia	Hylas 63	Nick Green & Franziska Moritz	San Pedro / San Juan Capistrano / England

## LANGOSTINO DIVISION - MULTIHULLS

Epic Aweigh	Gemini 105Mc	John Freyder	Newport Beach
Siesta	Seawind 1000 XL2	Jim & Kent Milski	Lake City, CO
Frisky	Maverick 400	David & Linda Witham	Ventura
Amanzi	Lagoon 42	Andrew & Leigh Tosh	Newport Beach
Jolie Rousse	Lagoon 42	Gerald & Mayder Gainant	Clayton / Bordeaux, France
Mamaseata	Lagoon 420	Joel Munoz	Encinitas
Venturous	Seawind 1370	David & Robin Gravlin	Granite Bay

## MARGARITA DIVISION - MULTIHULLS

Amuninni	Lagoon 46	Grant Mitchell	Los Angeles
Atargatis	Catana 472	Matt & Elyse Korwel	San Diego / Sequim, WA
Starship	Chris White Mastfoil 49 Cat	Peter Simon	Long Beach / Denver
Exhale	Leopard 50	Beat Naef & Cynthia Ringo	Palm Springs / Zurich, Switzerland
Espiritu Santi	Atlantic 57	Santiago Becerra	San Diego
Profligate	Custom Hughes 63	Doña de Mallorca	Punta Mita, MX

## NO COMPRENDE DIVISION - POWERBOATS

Conejo Blu	American Tug 34 MV	Jim Love & Daniel Jaquez	San Diego
Nauti Miss	FP 47 Power Cat MV	Dave Bliss	Marina del Rey
Beach House	Lien Hwa 50 MV	Tom & Cathy Hilliard	Port San Luis / Atascadero
Water Dog	Kadey Krogen 58 MV	Alex Hamilton & Patty Smith	Juno Beach, FL / Milpitas
Pour Decisions	Absolute/ Navetta 68 MV	Captain Merlin Cormier	San Diego

Please note: This list was provisional several days before the Rally.  
The Rally Committee reserves the right to make Division changes prior to, and even after, the November 3 start.

# WORLD *class* MARINA



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