

# BAJA HA-HA XXIII – 2016

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

## BAJA HA-HA XXIII RALLY NOTICE OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 12, 2016

The Baja Ha-Ha is the cruiser rally from San Diego to Cabo San Lucas, with stops at Turtle Bay and Bahia Santa Maria. The legs are approximately 360 miles, 240 miles, and 180 miles. When you sign up for the Ha-Ha, you get the opportunity to have an adventure — not a guarantee of happiness.

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

**Crew.** The minimum number of crew is two. Each crewmember must be in good physical condition and willing to face any challenge the sea might provide.

**1. Rules.** The rally shall be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing 2013-2016 — except where amended by the Grand Poobah — with the prescriptions of US Sailing (available from <http://store.ussailing.org> and elsewhere)

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

There will be a roll call every morning via SSB and/or VHF — although not all boats are always able to hear and/or get through.

**3. Divisions.** Entries shall be grouped into divisions based on the number and type of boats entered. It's assumed that all boats will carry gen-

nakers or spinnakers, unless otherwise noted in your entry forms.

**4. Cautions & Responsibilities.** All entrants are reminded that the ocean between San Diego and Cabo San Lucas exposes mariners to all the perils of the sea. The region is subject to extremely adverse weather capable of overwhelming even the best-designed and best-built yachts. Furthermore, entrants are reminded that they must not expect the skippers or crews to be professionals or even greatly experienced ocean sailors. Also, Ha-Ha boats may not be adequately outfitted or professionally maintained. **All boats must have a working radar OR an AIS receiver, or both.**

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

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

**There will be no inspection of boats, boat gear, or safety gear by the Rally Committee.**

Baja Ha-Ha, LLC, strongly recommends that every boat owner obtain a copy of the *The World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations for 2016 – 2017* (aka ISAF Special Regs) and follow its prescriptions.

Find it at [www.sailing.org/specialregs](http://www.sailing.org/specialregs).

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

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

Motoring will be allowed, but with penalty. Because different size boats motor at different speeds, each entry will also be given a motoring handicap.

Entries shall be permitted to appeal their handicaps by bringing a case of Corona beer or fine wine to the Rally Committee — if they can find them — the night before the start of the rally. Caution: It's not wise to make too big a stink about a rating.

**7. Protests.** Protests must be announced to the Ha-Ha Rally Committee on the dance floor at Squid Roe, Cabo San Lucas, at midnight November 13 — the night *after* the Awards Ceremony. So you probably don't want to waste your time with a protest.

**8. Prizes.** There will be all kinds of prizes — including a trophy for every boat that makes it to Cabo. However, none of the prizes will have anything more than symbolic value. The Baja Ha-Ha is foremost about fun rather than competition and winning 'pickle dishes'.

**9. Your Part.** Everyone who enters will be expected to help out in some way or another, be it

assisting with radio relays, gathering fire wood, organizing a beach party, policing the beach, playing in the Baja Ha-Ha band or whatever. If you're not willing to help make the Ha-Ha a fun event, don't bother entering.

**10.** There shall be **no whining!** And no **sniveling** either!

## PLEASE NOTE:

**Specifics regarding starts, finishes, radio protocol, etc. will be announced at the October 30 Skipper's Meeting.**

**See Important Dates online.**