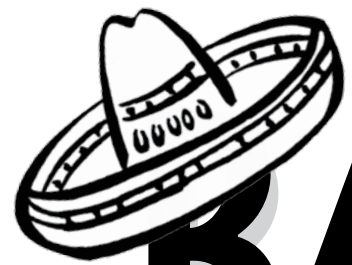




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If you're reading this, you are probably participating in the 30th annual Baja Ha-Ha cruisers rally — and by doing so, you've escaped from the rat race, at least temporarily. So, congratulations!

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

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

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

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

Wishing you fair winds, sunny skies and excellent health!

— Baja Ha-Ha Rally Committee

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Welcome to the 2024 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 (2023) 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.

**Ale er Ron* — Hunter 460 (W) Ron Johnston & Holly Hall San Diego / Lake Tahoe

Ron, 68, is a retired Test Pilot, while his Main Squeeze Holly is a retired Executive. Their crew will be Tyler Wilson, 44, an active Test Pilot; Emily Prewitt, an Engineer; and Gabe Wilson, 4, a Student of Life.

'Capt Ron' stated sailing at age 17 while in high school in Guam. He's owned several boats, including the Hunter 460 he bought in San Diego in 2007. "She's been my love and joy since I purchased her," he says.

This is his second attempt to do the



Ale er Ron - Ron & Holly



Amazing Grace III - Kim & Lena

Ha-Ha. He was one of about seven skippers unable to obtain a Temporary Import Permit because of a snafu in the Mexican system. "I'm doing the Ha-Ha this year," Ron insists, "even if I have to buy a different boat." That's commitment.

Captain Ron lived aboard in Seattle for 12 years until retiring as a test pilot for Boeing in 2017. During those years he got off the dock nearly every week, summer and winter, to explore the Puget Sound or participate in the weekly regatta.

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

After four wonderful summers in Alaska, Captain Ron and his First Mate decided to try cruising in warmer and dryer climates. After a winter haul-out in Anacortes, where numerous maintenance tasks were accomplished, he headed down the West Coast and is currently in San Diego. He and his crew had some interesting weather, with winds to 35 knots and 10-ft seas at 11 second intervals. The boat and crew weathered the conditions well, and are unlikely to see anything like it on the Ha-Ha.

Ron is the primary maintenance technician, and only rarely reaches out to a mechanic for help. During the four summers the USCG boarded *Ale er Ron* three times, and each time the vessel, crew and captain received the "gold standard" of inspections, with a perfect inspection report.

Did you hear the one about the woman who came to an Air Show and asked a test pilot how often planes crashed? "Just once," he replied.

Amazing Grace III — Island Packet 440 (W)

Kim Eddy & Lena Fluharty Seattle, WA ('19, '20, '22, '23)

Kim, 71, is a retired Service Technician. Spouse Lena, a retired Teacher, has done the 2022 and 2023 Ha-Ha's. Kim and Lena met when Kim recruited her on the 2022 Ha-Ha Crew List and were married the next year. Sailing with Kim and Lena will be Robert Kent, 67, Jennifer Oleson, and John Rausch, 73.

Kim started sailing in 1976 and, over the years, has owned five boats. For the last five years, he's owned *Amazing Grace III*, with which he's done three Ha-Ha's and the Nada Ha-Ha during the Covid year. Lena started sailing in 2005 and still has a boat in San Diego.

The couple's last return to the Pacific Northwest from Mexico was via the offshore Clipper Route, non-stop from Puerto Vallarta to Victoria, B.C., after they spent time sailing up to Juneau, Alaska. Next, Kim and Lena plan to sail west from Puerto Vallarta in 2025.

The couple's dream destination is wherever they are, and their Island Packet is their dream boat.

"We have no sailing heroes, and our plans are written in the sand at low tide," they say.

Andiamo — Jeanneau 54DS Nino Garrolini Channel Islands / Camarillo

Nino, 67, is a Small Animal Veterinarian. He'll have four crew: Rob Kaufman, 68, also a Vet; Tom Watson, 77, another Vet; Dave Moser, 71, yet another Vet; Dave Vance, 67, who is not a Vet but a retired Business Owner and Dirk Yelnek, 65.

Nino explains how he came to know the members of his crew:

"I first met Rob in Vet school 45 years ago, and we have been close friends ever since. I have known David and Tom, who are also veterinarians, for almost 35

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years, as we are all members of a professional veterinary ski association (SVMA), and have traveled all over the USA and Europe skiing together. Tom joined me in 2020 on the Ventura to Honolulu leg of my Pacific Loop, and Rob was my First Mate from Seattle back to Channel Islands last summer. He missed out on the first leg to Hawaii because he was busy doing the Great Loop on his own boat for a year. Dave Moser sailed around the Hawaiian Islands with me while *Andiamo* was there in 2021. David Vance was on the Honolulu to Seattle and San Francisco to Channel Islands legs of my trip.”

“I started sailing when I was 5-years-old on a 38-ft ketch in SoCal,” reports Nino. “When we moved to Singapore in 1969, my father, brother and I built a heavy 16-ft wood catamaran that we sailed all around Singapore and its outer islands. When we moved to Manila, we built a 25-ft sloop, and sailed out of Manila Bay.

During my undergrad years in Long Beach, my brother and I owned a Columbia 28, which we sailed extensively all over the Channel Islands. Upon graduating from Vet school, we traded up to a Challenger 42 sloop for half a dozen years. I was then boatless for 25 years, although I chartered in Australia, New Zealand, the Caribbean, Greece, the Pacific Northwest, Channel Islands, and sailed on a 115-ft square rigger from New Guinea to Cairns, Australia.

“I’ve owned *Andiamo* for five years. She’s a beauty and very comfortable. She’s my dream boat — although I narrowly missed out on purchasing a Tayana 65 during my quest to acquire my current boat.

“My dream destination is the South Pacific, but after the Ha-Ha, I’ll intermittently cruise the Sea of Cortez for the season, then most likely sail back to Hawaii and do another loop. Or do the Baja Bash back to Channel Islands. Or head south through the Panama Canal to the Caribbean. I’m still undecided.

“My other passion besides sailing is amateur wine-making with grapes from my small vineyard at my home in Camarillo. So, it’s no surprise my favorite dessert is wine and cheese.

“You only live once, but if you live right, once is enough’ is my attitude.

“Nickname? I once had a client call me ‘Captain Crew-Shit’ because of all the anterior cruciate ligament surgeries that I do.”

Apogee — Mickelson 43 Sportfisher MV Ed & Wendy Thomas Lake Elsinore / San Diego

Ed, 71, is the retired owner of a ‘finger lickin’ good’ Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise. Wendy is the couple’s Chief Financial Officer.

Ed reports that he’s been boating for 60 years, during which time he’s owned 12 boats, some sail and some power. “We’ve

owned *Apogee* for three years. She’s a solid vessel, and I love having a watermaker. But I’d love having a Mickelson 57 because of that design’s longer range.

“My longest passage to date was crewing from Cabo to San Diego aboard a 62-ft powerboat, but I have taken my various boats on many 60 to 200 mile offshore fishing trips.

“Although I’ve been boating for decades, I’m excited to learn more from others and develop new friendships. I’ve already been enjoying the Ha-Ha adventure by preparing for the last two years.

“My sailing hero is my father-in-law, who taught me to sail, navigate, and respect the sea.

My dream destination is the Upper Sea of Cortez, with my Love, where the water is clear and warm.”

“When it comes to desserts, it’s hard to beat ice cream,” says the right-hander, “unless, of course, there is strawberry shortcake beneath it.

Ed’s favorite nickname is ‘Papa’, as he and Wendy have been blessed with 15 kids and grandkids. In fact, the whole bunch were at Catalina in July to help Ed and Wendy celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

Aquario — Hunter Passage 420 (W) Derrick Reyes San Diego / Las Vegas, NV

Derrick, 42, is an Audio Engineer. His crew will be Leslie Lewis; Evan Peebles, 42, a Systems Administrator; and Alec Tyre, 38, a Software Engineer.

Derrick has been sailing for about 10 years, during which time he’s owned three boats. The most recent is *Aquario*, which he recently purchased. His longest passage is a return delivery of a TransPac boat from Hawaii. After the Ha-Ha, which will be his first, he plans to continue cruising in Mexico.

“My dream destination is the Caribbean, and I’d like to do it aboard either a Gunboat catamaran or an Excess catamaran.

My sailing hero is Matt Rutherford, who is best known for his 2011 circumnavigation with a humble Vega 27.”

Derrick enjoys a dark chocolate bundt cake for dessert while pondering his favorite quote: ‘There is more money to make than there is to save’.

Aquavit — Jeanneau 42 Michael Hutchinson & Nitin Karkhanis Santa Cruz (2023)

Michael, 70, a retired Distinguished Professor of Economics at UC Santa Cruz crewed on the 2023 Ha-Ha. Boat partner Nitin, 54, is a Software Dabbler.

Their two crew will be their spouses Greta and Sayoni.

The partners take their Jeanneau 42, launched in 2006, out on Monterey Bay for day sails, whale-watching, and

regattas, but have also make trips to San Francisco and the Channel Islands. But their biggie was doing the Pacific Cup race to Hawaii in 2016, where they took honors for ‘best food’ in the *Latitude 38* Division. “That sums up our approach to sailing,” they write.

Michael claims to “look much younger and fitter than his chronological age would suggest”, while Nitin wishes he looked younger and fitter than his chronological age.

The two men are “on an eternal quest to get our respective wives, Greta and Sayoni, as excited about sailing as we are.”



Aurora - Janice & Ray

Aurora — Oyster 435 Ray & Janice Taylor White Salmon, WA

Ray, 70, is a retired Plant Operations Consultant, while Janice is a retired Administrative Assistant. As of press time they hadn’t determined who would crew for them.

“I’ve been sailing since the mid ‘60s,” advises Ray, “and my first keel boat was a Santa Cruz 27 ultralight in 1976. Together, my wife and I have owned three sailboats, including *Aurora*, a 1996 Kim Holman design.

“We purchased her in late 2021, when she was located in Papeete, Tahiti. We enjoyed three months sailing in Polynesia, then brought *Aurora* home to Hood River, OR. Our passage from Raiatea to Astoria was just under 5,000 km or 2,700 nautical miles, our longest passage to date. We had varied weather conditions. We only made one stop, a short one in Hawaii for Twinkies, and 40 gallons of bad diesel. Since then, we’ve sailed her in the Pacific Northwest.

“While we’re smitten with *Aurora*,” confesses Ray, “we wouldn’t turn down a new Oyster 495.”

“After the Ha-Ha and time in the Sea of Cortez, we’ll probably head back to



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"After just finishing a book about him, our sailing hero might be Capt James Cook. We can't even begin to fathom what the British explorer, cartographer, and naval officer accomplished. But he was most famous for his three voyages of exploration in the Pacific between New Zealand and Alaska in the 1768-1779 time period. Cook was murdered by natives on the Big Island of Hawaii, his body was retrieved thanks to the efforts of the notorious Capt Bligh.

Aurora - Valiant 40 Chuck Raby

Port Townsend / Brinnon, WA

Chuck, 66, is retired from the world of Finance. He will have three crew: Sonia Arnold, Brian Andrews, 66, and one more not determined as of press time.

"I learned to sail out of San Rafael 56 years ago," reports Chuck. "I previously owned a Caliber 33 that I sailed to the Caribbean and a Cal 20 I sailed on San Francisco Bay. I have owned *Aurora* for four years. She was originally owned by the first president of Valiant Yachts. She was also used for a 14-year circumnavigation by her previous owners.

"This will be my first Ha-Ha. My longest passage to date was 12.5 days from Hampton, Virginia, to the British Virgins. After the Ha-Ha, I plan to spend the winter in Mexico, then go where the wind blows.

"I haven't decided on what my dream boat would be, but my dream destination is the Tuamotus, the chain of 80 atolls and low-lying islands in the South Pacific between the Marquesas and Tahiti.

"My sailing heroes are Bernard Moitessier, Lin and Larry Parady, and Sir Francis Chichester. It was *Latitude 38* magazine, founded by the Poobah in 1976, that was instrumental in fostering my dream to go cruising. Now that I'm retired, I can realize that dream."

"My favorite quote is from *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."

"I'm a right-hander who loves peach pie. You can call me anything you want, just don't call me late for dinner."

Avventura - Caliber 38 Ken & Patty Hall Redwood City (2023)

Patty is a retired Professor of Childhood Education while Ken, 65, is a retired Architect. Both have been sailing most of their lives, and both are vets of last year's Ha-Ha. They will have two crew Paul Herbert, 71, and Dean Cooper, 61.

Ken started sailing at nine years of age on a Kool boat, which was a 9-ft lateen-rigged Snark marketed by the Kool cigarette company. They cost \$88 and



Avventura - Ken & Patty

the end of a carton of Kool cigarettes. He sailed the boat on Bear Lake in Bear Valley, and got hooked on sailing rather than cigarettes. He later talked his dad into buying an old Sailfish, and three years later a Catalina 22 that they sailed out of Pete's Harbor in Redwood City. After graduation from Cal Poly, Ken moved to Newport Beach and sailed a Hobie 16 for seven years.

Patty started sailing on a friend's Islander 30 between New Haven, Connecticut and Nantucket Island, MA. Once she experienced summer gunkholing on the East Coast, she promised herself that she would always find a way to sail.

Their lives together began on a morning in 2003 when Ken invited Patty to sail his Catalina 22 out of Redwood City. While it was calm in the morning, the afternoon wind began to howl like it always does. Getting back into Coyote Point Harbor is dicey, even when you have an engine and sails. Unfortunately, the motor died like it had done in the morning. And then the wind shut down.

Almost on the breakwater, Patty offered to hail passing boats for help. But manly Ken insisted there wasn't a problem, and jumped into the water to keep the boat off the breakwater. Ken soon got cold but continued to play it cool until a light breeze and incoming current enabled them to return to the harbor.

Ken fell for Patty when, despite the ill-fated first sail, she wanted to go sailing with him again. But when they went sailing the next day, they brought a paddle.

The couple have subsequently chartered in the Bahamas, the San Juan Islands, Turkey, the Grenadines, and on the Bay. This will be the third time they've sailed down the Baja coast, and the second time on the Ha-Ha, having done it aboard Ara last year.

Avventura - Kelly Peterson 44 Dan & Linda O'Dell

San Diego / Swall Meadows (2012)

Linda is an active Attorney who did the 2012 Ha-Ha, while Dan, 66, is a retired CPA. They will have four crew: son Ryan O'Dell, 34, a Merchant Mariner; daughter Jessica, 30, an Environmental Consultant; Kimberly Shirer, a Nurse; and Robert Atlee, 66, a Friend.

Dan and Linda have both been sailing since childhood, and Dan has his USCG 50-Ton Captain's license. They both sailed the 2012 Baja Ha-Ha aboard their Catalina 36 *Magic Carpet*. "We loved it, just loved it!"

Magic Carpet is still in La Paz, and the couple's plan is to sail *Avventura* there and switch the boats. They'll leave *Avventura* in La Paz, as she is a better blue-water sailer, and bring *Magic Carpet* back to San Diego, which is a better home base for her.

Dan and Linda have owned many boats and have sailed out of San Diego, as well as on freshwater lakes in the Eastern Sierra and in Michigan. They currently love sailing a Hobie Tandem Island Mirage — which they claim is "fast and fun!" But the couple are not quick to change boats, as they've owned their Catalina 36 for 21 years and their Kelly-Peterson 44 for 11 years.

Linda's dream destination is French Polynesia and the Society Islands, while Dan's is Tahiti, smack-dab in the middle of the Society Islands. Their dream boat would be the one they chartered in Tahiti, the Catana 55 cat *Carbon Infusion*.

Linda's sailing hero is Tania Aebi, famous for being the first American woman and the youngest person, to sail around the world. But there is an asterisk, as she had a companion for one 40-mile stretch and because she used the Panama Canal.

Dan and Linda are both right-handed, but Linda likes rhubarb pie for dessert, while Dan prefers ice cream.

"One of the things that we are both proud of, and that makes us the happiest, is that we seem to have successfully passed our love of sailing and the ocean on to our three kids.

Swall Meadows? It's halfway between Mammoth Lakes and Bishop and has a population of 176.

Balance - Hunter Legend 33.5 Jon & Kathy Berhow-Rivera Channel Islands / Savage, MN

Jonathan, 45, no occupation listed, will be sailing south with his 22-year-old son, Michael Buchanan.

"I've been sailing on Minnesota and Iowa lakes and rivers since I was young," advises Jon. "I bought *Balance* a few years ago and have put a lot of tech and labor into her. She's a small but very capable vessel. In fact, someday I hope to take her

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across the ocean. To that end, I've upgraded all the electronics during a massive refit last year.

"In doing the Ha-Ha, I'm looking to gain more offshore sailing experience and make great memories.

"My dream sailboat is a 40 to 50 foot aluminum catamaran that could go anywhere in the world, no matter how hot or how cold the destinations might be."

The Poobah isn't sure why there aren't more sailing catamarans built of aluminum. After all, it's a pretty common material for catamaran ferries and such.

Bat Rocket — Hallberg Rassy 40C Jimmy Hormel Sausalito

Jimmy, 63, is an Investment Manager. He'll have two crew: Glenn Goldin, 63, a Teacher; and Art Rodarte, 73, a Contractor.

"I grew up sailing in the Chesapeake Bay out of Deltaville Marina," reports Jimmy. "I bought my first sailboat, a Seafarer 30, in the early '90s and have owned several other boats since. *Bat Rocket* is all but new, having been launched last year. She's rarin' to go, too, and I think she's my dream boat. I'm looking forward to both the sailing in the Ha-Ha and meeting other folks.

"My longest passage to date has been from San Francisco to Anacortes, which took 4.5 days of motoring. I've also sailed from Tampa to Hilton Head, which took 10 days with stops on the way.

"After the Ha-Ha, I plan on sailing around the Sea of Cortez and exploring for a few months. But my dream destinations are Patagonia and Tahiti. My favorite saying? 'Get Shit Done!'

The Swedish company Hallberg-Rassy has been one of the most successful yacht builders since the 1940s. You can even order a 360-page book — in either Swedish or English — telling the story of the company that produces such distinctive yachts. One of their claims to fame is that they have delivered all 9,400 boats on time. Since 1989 all Hallberg-Rassy models have been designed by Argentinian German — it's pronounced 'Herman' — Frers.

Beagle Spirit — Hallberg Rassy 46 Brett & Kay Hunt Seattle, WA / Boise, ID

Brett, 55, is retired from Technology Services, while spouse Kay is a retired Physical Therapist. They will have friend Michael Stewart, 58, as crew.

After spending most of their lives in Boise, where they met, married, and raised two kids who also like to sail, Brett and Kay are embarking on the cruising lifestyle.

"While we had occasional sailing experiences growing up and on trips over the years," the couple report, "we had our



Beagle Spirit - Brett & Kay



Better Together - Byron & Lisa

first official education in sailing in 2008 in Anacortes. It was at that time the seed was planted for full-time cruising.

In that same year we purchased our first sailboat, *Flying Beagle*, a Catalina Capri 22. For 15 years we enjoyed sailing her on Payette Lake in McCall, Idaho, as well as on great family sailing adventures on Lake Tahoe, Flathead Lake, Pend-Oreille Lake, and Coeur d'Alene Lakes. Those trips, along with fantastic sailing charters in the San Juans and BVIs, further convinced us to pursue a goal of full-time cruising.

"Now for the beagle! Archie is our intrepid mascot and boat dog! He is the original *Flying Beagle*, and the name *Beagle Spirit* celebrates the nature of Archie and the beagle breed. Although as an aging Beagle Archie has now been moved off the boat to live with Grandma and Grandpa, his spirit continues to inspire us. Beagles have deep love for their family, for exploring new places, and meeting new people and animals. They also face the wind, bask in the sun, and are ever ready for a comfy rest after an exciting day.

"If things go well, we plan to transit the Panama Canal and head to the Caribbean. We own our dream boat, but our dream destination would be Greece. Yes, we're left-handed, John Kretschmer is our sailing hero, and we love gelato for dessert."

Better Together — Catalina Morgan 440 Byron & Lisa Wise Rancho Murrieta (8 Ha-Ha's)

Byron, 55, is an Electrical Contractor, while Lisa is a Software Designer. They will have one crew member Craig Russell, 66. This will be Craig's 8th Ha-Ha.

"We're high school sweethearts, still married after 36 years. We've grown up together while raising three kids, doing pretty much everything together, and feel

that everything, including sailing, is better together. After considering dozens of names, we agreed that the Jack Johnson song is a perfect theme for our life — and name for our boat."

Byron and Lisa were complete beginners who started taking US Sailing classes at OCSC in Berkeley in 2018. They finished their bareboat certification the following year.

Their Catalina-Morgan 440, which they've had for three years, is the only boat they've owned. "She was designed specifically with retired couples in mind," they say, "and has lots of creature comforts such as a washer/dryer — and recliners!"

As of May, their longest passage has been six hours from Alameda to Half Moon Bay, but they have big plans. "After the Ha-Ha we intend to continue down the coast of Mexico to Panama, then across the Caribbean Sea to the Lesser Antilles.

"Lisa would love to magically transport our boat to the Mediterranean," says Byron, "as cruising there is her dream, while I think the South Pacific would be amazing.

"Our current boat was chosen because Lisa fell in love with the deck salon concept she saw in a Moody DS 54. But a one-level boat, such as a catamaran, would be her dream. I, on the other hand, would love a high-end Oyster monohull.

"We both have a sweet tooth, so there aren't many desserts we don't like. But at the top of the list are chocolate chip cookies, carrot cake, and apple pie or pastry."

Fun fact: Byron would order dessert with every meal out, and pretty much did when the couple toured Italy.

Beyond — Passport 47 Brady Gunther

Avalon / Redondo Beach (2023)

Brady, 54, is a Business Owner, his crew will be Jack Spriggs, a Broker who skippered the 2023 Ha-Ha aboard *Maserra* a Freedom 45, and Jessica Del Monaco, 30,



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who is also a Business Owner of some type.

Brady has been sailing for 35 years, during which time he's only owned two boats. And he only acquired the 30-year-old Bob Perry-designed Passport 47 a year ago. To date, his longest passage has been 17 days. After the Ha-Ha, Brady plans to cruise Baja for three months.

French Polynesia is Brady's dream destination. Can you name the five archipelagos that make up the semi-autonomous French Territory? Answer below.

Brady would love to do French Polynesia aboard a Spirit DH76, which was *Yachting World's* "most stunning yacht of 2023". The DH76 might look stunning, she's kinda small for her length, is low slung, and her helm is a long way from her salon. To the Poobah it seems like a curious choice for a cruising boat. But to each their own.

'BG', as he's sometimes called, is a big fan of crème brûlée, which is a rich, creamy vanilla custard with a crunchy, caramelized topping. Thanks to all the cream, sugar, and eggs and about 470 calories per serving, it's not considered a weight loss food. But it sure is delicious!

The five archipelagos that make up French Polynesia are: Society, Tuamotu, Marquesas, Australs, and Gambier.

Beyond the Stars — Hanse 411

John Schnellback & Mary Connaughton Maple Bay, B.C. / Duncan, B.C.

John, 66, is a retired Business Owner, while partner Mary is a retired IT Project Manager. They will have one crew Steve Williams, 67.

"I've been sailing for 30+ years," reports John, "primarily in British Columbia. During that time, I've owned four sailboats and one powerboat.

"I've owned *Beyond the Stars*, which stands out because of her bright yellow hull and navy canvas, since 2018.

"My longest passage so far has been a six-night offshore training passage with the Canadian Yachting Association. Prior to starting cruising, I was an avid racer, winning the heavy division of the 2019 Swiftsure International Yacht Race.

"Mary cruised on her own boat for 12 years, throughout the East Coast of the U.S., the Caribbean, and from Boca del Toro, Panama to Roatan.

"After the Ha-Ha, our loose plan is to explore Mexico before heading through the Canal and on to Europe. Indeed, my dream voyage is to cross the Atlantic and make landfall in Europe. My dream boat is a Deerfoot, while Mary and I both like anything sweet for dessert."

Bibi — Cal 3-46

Eric Mizrahi

Marina del Rey / Santa Monica

Eric, 63, is a retired physician. He'll have three crew: Gary Brazina, 77, a still active Physician/Surgeon; Pawell Litwinski, 46, a Photographer; Verity Spencer, 35, who Sells and Collects Cars; and Gary Novak, 50, a Drummer. Every yacht can use a drummer.

Not surprisingly, Eric is often referred to as 'Doc'. "I have been sailing on and off since age 16 and have owned two boats," he reports. "The first was *Oliver's Travels*, an amazing Newport 30 which I loved, even though she didn't even have a dodger or instruments.

"When I decided to move up three years ago, I chose a 1977 Cal 3-46, designed by William Lapworth and built by Jensen Marine, the duo responsible for the legendary Cal 40. I bought her in San Francisco and my longest sail to date has been bringing her to Southern California. I have upgraded her to modern standards.

"I signed up for the Ha-Ha last year, but wasn't able to make it. So, Ha-Ha XXX is going to be epic. I have an amazing crew, so the Ha-Ha is shaping up to be the trip of a lifetime. My post Ha-Ha plans are flexible. Maybe I'll Bash back to L.A. or maybe I'll spend the season in La Paz and get ready for next year's TransPac.

"I own my dream boat, and after Hawaii my dream destination is Tahiti.

"I have sailed with my idol Dennis Conner, but my current sailing idol is Nikki Henderson. She's the professional Brit sailor who at age 25 became the youngest skipper of a boat in the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race.

"My favorite quote is, 'It's better to be a late bloomer than no bloomer'.

Big Friend — Jeanneau SO 49

Wiley Rogers

Berkeley (2023)

Wiley, 38, is a Therapist and a Wine-maker who will have six crew. They are Skipper Nancy Ibison, a Coast Guard Captain who did the Ha-Ha in 2023; Efe Akmen, 42, a Charter Captain and Musician; Wiley's dad Will Rogers, 74, who is retired from Land Conservation; Noah Youngs, 38, a retired Data Scientist; Levent Celebi, 42, a Film Maker; and Anthony Kleppe, 60.

Wiley first started capsizing dinghies at Cal Adventures in Berkeley. He's owned two boats. The first was a Seafarer 26 he purchased with three friends when he was 25. The Jeanneau 49, which he bought a year ago, is a big leap up in size. She's a vet of two Ha-Ha's under other owners.

"I sailed as a teenager from Maine to Nova Scotia," reports Wiley. "More recently I helped deliver *Big Friend* up to San Francisco Bay from Marina Del Rey.

"My dream boat would be a tall ship

that required very little maintenance but could accommodate all my friends. A dream indeed. My dream destinations are Greece and Turkey. Although I was always a Star Trek fan, so it would be Deep Space if that was an option.

"I really like the documentary *Around the World with Jean-Du-Sud* for the beautiful poetics and film shots. As a kid my hero was Horatio Hornblower, a fictional officer in the British Royal Navy during the Napoleonic Wars. Ultimately my hero is Nathaniel Bowditch Rogers because he's an ancestor of mine. He was a legendary mathematician, navigator, astronomer, and in the 1800s wrote the original version of the *American Practical Navigator*.

"I plan to cruise the Sea of Cortez with new and old friends until April or May. I also would like to spend more time kite-surfing at La Ventana in Baja.

"I'm 100% in the Creme Brûlée camp, and encourage people to come by *Big Friend* for a glass of home-made wine and Berkeley honey.

Boaticus - DownEast 38 (W)

Alan & Trudy Connors Vancouver, WA

Alan, 63, is a retired Safety Manager, while Trudy is a retired School Bus Driver.

"I started with sailing lessons in 1994," says Alan, "but our DownEast 38 *Boaticus* is the first boat we've owned. We've had her for three years."

"We've done most of our sailing on the Columbia River and the Puget Sound area. After the Ha-Ha, we're thinking about either Hawaii or Costa Rica. But our dream destinations are tropical islands and maybe a circumnavigation. But at the moment, we're in the Philippines, kicking off our retirement. Retirement is so much fun!

Our sailing heroes are Lin and Larry Pardey. Their classic books prompted my dreams of sailing around the world one day when I got older. Well, I'm older now.

"Our dream boat is one that's ready to go. Our favorite dessert is ice cream. One of our big hopes on the Ha-Ha is to meet other individuals who dream of sailing to distant shores."

While working at *Latitude 38* years ago, the Poobah interviewed a couple who had done a seven-year circumnavigation with a DownEast 32, the little sister of the DownEast 38. They said the most exciting thing happened just 50 miles from their finish in San Francisco. "We got rolled 360 degrees." They didn't seem to think it was a big deal.



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Bonnie Vie - Mack

Bonnie Vie — Hunter 38 Ian 'Mack' Mackenzie

Alamitos Bay / Long Beach (2013)

Ian, 65, is a Software Engineer. His crew will be Fred Hass, 78, who did the 2013 Ha-Ha and who is retired from Auto Sales; Simon Rose, 57, a Self-Employed Business Owner; and Tom Brooks, 68, a retired Pharma Rep.

Capt 'Mack' has sailed solo from Channel Islands to Dana Point, with stops in Marina Del Rey and Alamitos Bay. He's also made many trips between Alamitos Bay and Catalina, one of them solo. He also crewed on a power cat going from San Diego to Florence, Oregon, but had to drop out in Monterey because of boat problems. It was on that trip that he met crewman Fred.

First Mate Fred Haas lives in Tacoma, WA, and has about 5,000 miles of offshore sailing experience. He's also done a solo circumnavigation of Vancouver Island. Simon is an avid surfer and adventurer. He recently traveled to Mentawai Island, Indonesia for a surf camp. Tom sails a Cal 31 out of Tacoma and has signed on to avoid getting assigned home chores by his wife.

Ian first sailed as a teenager but has only been doing it regularly for 10 years. Prior to owning his Hunter 38 for five years, he had a Hunter 22.

Ian's sailing hero is Josh Slocum, the first solo circumnavigator. His dream boat would be a Seawind 1260 cat. He claims a sailor's plans are cast in jello, but he plans to start by anchor-hopping and scuba diving in Mexico. But he dreams of French Polynesia.

Semi-ambidextrous, Mack thinks it's better to be lucky than good, is totally jazzed by the thought of the Ha-Ha, and likes Hula Pie at Duke's on Maui.

Calypso — Hunter 420 CC John & Susan Koesterer Oxnard (One Ha-Ha)

John, 76, is a retired Sales Manager, while Susan still works as a Municipal Manager. Their crew will be Eric Walker, 71, a retired Engineer. Eric was the skipper in a previous Ha-Ha.

"I've been sailing for 50 years," reports John, "during which time I've owned five sailboats. I've owned my year-2000 *Calypso* for four years. Unlike a lot of 42-footers, she has a built-in generator as well as a watermaker."

John's longest passage to date was uphill from Mazatlán to San Diego. The Poobah assumes he will find the downhill run from San Diego to Cabo more to his liking.

"I don't have any sailing heroes," says the right-hander, "but I have my dream boat and dream of sailing to Barra de Navidad."

John likes ice cream for desert, Corona for beer, and some people call him "Biscuit Boy".

Not liking to stall his boat, John's favorite quote is a good one: "When in doubt, let it [the sails] out."

Carmelita — Catalina 42 Christian Lewis Point Richmond

Christian, 59, is retired from Construction and is now a Boat Captain, and Port Captain for the St. Francis YC. His crew will be daughter Alexis Lewis, 31, a Lawyer; Michael Rohrs, 37, who is in Online Security; and Natasha Rohrs, 30, whose occupation was not specified. All are Ha-Ha virgins.

Christian reports *Carmelita* is docked behind the home once owned by the 'notorious' Clay Bernard, who had a great sailboat racing run with *Fun*, the Davidson 50 *Great Fun*, and the Swan 55 *Swan Fun*.

"I grew up in a small southeast Iowa town on the Cedar and Iowa Rivers," reports Christian. "I spent my summers and weekends on a johnboat playing on the rivers as I grew up. I moved to the Bay Area in 1986 where I started as a laborer on a construction site.

"My wife Angie and I have owned three boats. A Catalina 27, which we only owned for 18 months as my wife said it was "like camping on the water". As she does not like to camp, she said we needed a bigger boat. "Yes, dear," I replied. "After three years on a Catalina 34 with two growing daughters, my wife said we need a bigger three-cabin boat. "Yes, dear," I said. So, in 2004 we purchased *Carmelita*.

"Our 1990 Catalina 42 has been in our family for over 20 years," says Christian, who now does all the work on her.

With a US Coast Guard 50-ton license, he is now also doing deliveries and charters.

"*Carmelita* has been sailed and raced on the Bay for many years, and our family has taken her on several trips up and down the California coast. But this year we'll take her farther south than she's ever been.

"My two daughters have grown up sailing and racing on *Carmelita*. Alexis, my oldest, will be joining me for the Ha-Ha, along with our Pt. Richmond neighbors Michael and Natasha Rhors. Michael races with me and crewed last year when we took *Carmelita* down the coast. The Rohrs just bought a Catalina 34, their first boat.

"I am planning on a quick turn around after the Ha-Ha," says Christian, "leaving just after the Thanksgiving weekend. My younger daughter Brittany, an RN living in Santa Rosa, will be joining me for the Bash back to San Diego. She and I have double-handed *Carmelita* through some of the Channel Islands, to the Isthmus and Avalon, to Newport, and down to San Diego.

"Once *Carmelita* is in San Diego, she will likely stay there a couple of months for rest and relaxation before I bring her all the way back to San Francisco Bay.

"My dream destination? Doing Baja Ha-Ha XXX. I intended to do Ha-Ha 29, but in January of that year my dock steps slipped out from under me while getting off *Carmelita*. That sent my legs up in the air. I came down and tore two rotator cuff tendons off the bone of my right arm, and suffered a concussion. After surgery in March and a few months of recovery, we sailed *Carmelita* to San Diego in October, then I singlehanded her back to San Francisco. I was still recovering and didn't get almost full use of my arm back until January of 2024.

Cetaces et Amis — Lagoon 421 David Potts & Denis Marconette San Diego / Las Vegas, NV

David, 70, is a retired Accountant, while spouse Denis, 72, is a retired Computer Information Professional. They've been a couple for 28 years. They will have Chandler Moore, 35, along as crew.

"We have been boaters since 2004," the two report. "We both lost our employment around the same time, so we decided to head south to San Diego and purchase a wonderful Defever 40 trawler. We became liveaboards for many years, with plenty of trips to Catalina and Ensenada.

"Our most recent purchase has been our Lagoon 421. This has been our dream vessel for many years. The name of the boat is unusual. *Cetaces Et Amis* is French for marine mammals, including whales, dolphins and porpoises. We added the



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Constellation's Spirit - Curt, Tony Eric & Tom

'friends' part to include all the ocean's inhabitants.

This will be our first Ha-Ha, and we are so excited. After the Ha-Ha, we do plan to winter in the Sea of Cortez between La Paz and Loreto.

Our dream destination is French Polynesia, so we best be practicing our French. We are both right-handed. We go by 'D2' because both first names start with the letter 'D'. We have five children and eight grandkids between us."

**Christina Marie — Catalina 36
Chris Barth, Philip Schreffler
& Mike Francis
Marina del Rey / Bend, Oregon**

Chris, 45, is a Pilot, while co-owner Philip, 39, is also a Pilot, as is third co-owner Michael Francis, 35.

"I've been sailing for six years," reports Chris, "and *Christina Marie* is the fourth boat that I've co-owned with two others. We've owned the Catalina 36 for one year."

"None of us have done a Ha-Ha before, but we'll all super-excited about the adventure. We've previously done some multi-week long charters in the Bahamas. Assuming we don't murder each other on the way to Cabo, we plan to leave the boat in Mexico for a year. Our eventual goal is to continue south, transit the Panama Canal, and make our way to the Bahamas. But the dream destination for the three of us would be the South Pacific.

"We're all pilots," Chris continues, "so we're very confident in our abilities. But in reality, *Christina Marie* will probably be a flaming ghost ship upon arrival in Cabo."

Being a pilot involves a lot of waiting around for things like maintenance issues and other planes to get out of the way, so they tell a lot of jokes. Here's one of the Poobah's favorites:

Airline Pilot to passengers: "Ladies

and Gentlemen, I have good news and bad news. The bad news is we're lost. The good news is we're making good time."

**Compass Rose — Hans Christian 38T
Mike Gram & Angie Frausto Gram
Ventura**

Mike, 72, is retired from Diagnostic Imaging and Teaching Radiology Tech. Angie recently retired from a career in Histology/Immunohistochemistry/Medical Research. Levi, the boat dog and a Student of Life, will be their crew.

"The Ha-Ha has been on our Bucket List for many years," report the couple, "and we have been particularly looking forward to it for the last year. We can't wait to meet everyone out there. We are avid sailors, and after the Ha-Ha, we plan to do whatever makes the trip more exciting — as well as some longer passages to Central America.

"We are especially interested in celestial navigation, cultural aspects of those living on the coast, and stories from the past. Of Hispanic heritage, Angie speaks fluent Spanish and hopes to learn the similarities in the southern dialects."

Having had both hip and shoulder surgeries, Mike looks forward to meeting the physical challenges the trip will offer. But his favorite quote is a little ominous: "Does anyone know where the love of God goes when the waves turn the minutes to hours?"

Thanks to tan bark colored sails, *Compass Rose* will be one of the more easily identifiable boats in the Ha-Ha.

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

San Diego (2014, 2016 +)

Tom, 74, is a retired Navy Captain who did the 2014 and 2016 Ha-Ha's. He'll have three crew: Tony Van Houweling, 75, who has done four Ha-Ha's; Curt Synder, 73,

who has done two Ha-Ha's; and Eric Tow, 66, a geologist.

"This will be my third Ha-Ha, but the first in our new-to-us 2014 Catalina 385. My crew consists of two retired Navy Captains, a retired Navy Master Chief Petty Officer to keep the Captains in line, and a geologist to keep us all rock steady.

With over 150 years of collective sailing experience — good, bad, and hilarious — but none bad enough to turn us into landlubbers, and nine collective Ha-Ha's — all good except for that one evening in Bahia Santa Maria — *Constellation's Spirit* is set for the next great adventure south to Cabo. After the Ha-Ha, we plan to cruise as far south as Barra. Then we'll Bash back home in January.

My favorite quote? "When in command, command from in harm's way."

Any Navy guys heard this one? "Three men were stiffly sitting side-by-side on a long commercial flight. After they were airborne, and the plane had leveled off, the man in the window seat abruptly said, in a distinct and confident, loud voice, "Navy, Admiral, retired. Married, two sons, both surgeons."

After a few minutes the man in the aisle seat stated through a tight-lipped smile, "Navy, Admiral, retired. Married, two sons, both judges."

After some thought, the fellow in the center seat decided to introduce himself. With a twinkle in his eye, he proclaimed, "Navy, Chief Petty Officer, retired. Never married, two sons, both Admirals."

**Counting Stars — Leopard 45 Cat
Bob & Melinda Curtis
Bremerton, WA**

Bob, 55, is a retired Senior Director, while spouse Melinda is a retired Director. They will doublehand.

"We began our sailing journey nearly 10 years ago, inspired by some very good friends. So, we learned to sail, and con-



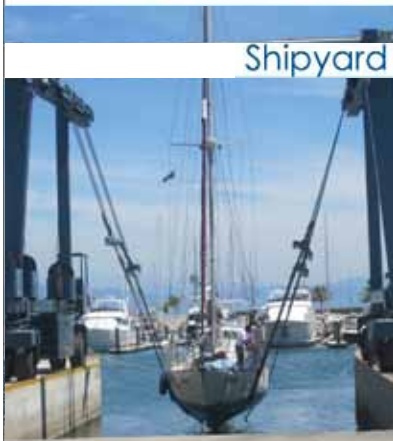
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tinued to build our knowledge, skills and confidence. We have subsequently sailed in Florida, Cuba, the BVIs, the Pacific Northwest, and elsewhere. We have aspirations to travel to distant shores, beginning with sailing south from Puget Sound to Panama.

On May 9 of 2019 we loaded our *Counting Stars* on the cargo ship *MV Kraszewski* in Port Everglades, Florida for the trip through the Panama Canal to Nanaimo, British Columbia. A month later we unloaded her and sailed her down through Puget Sound to her new berth in the Port of Bremerton."

For readers keeping score, there are two models of Leopard 45 sailing cats. The first round was built between 1997 and 2000. The Poobah has one in the Caribbean. The more recent Leopard 45s went into production in 2016 and are still being made today. The increase in useable space and comforts in the newer models is astounding. So is the price.



Coyote - Scott & Mary

**Coyote — Beneteau First 42
Scott Smith & Mary Culley
Santa Cruz (2021, 2023)**

Scott, 64, is a Technology Engineer who finds current work "too interesting and too plentiful" to retire now. Mary is "nearly retired" as a Business Strategy Consultant with a boutique Silicon Valley firm. Their crew will be Jason Lauer, 48, a Technology Consultant; and Denise Denia, a Physical Therapist. All did the 2021 Ha-Ha, while Jason also did last year's Ha-Ha.

"We both have been sailing since childhood," the couple reports. "Mary grew up sailing Hobie Cats on the Finger Lakes in New York and Hilton Head. Scott sailed a Sunfish in the Delta and local reservoirs from the age of 5 and raced a Cal 2-30 and a Cal 34 on San Francisco Bay as a teen. Once we were a couple, we raced our Santa Cruz 27 through our 20s and 30s.

Scott's longest passage was California to Hawaii in the 2015 TransPac. Mary's was the 2021 Ha-Ha.

"In addition to sailing, we are avid cyclists and hikers. Before we depart for San Diego with the boat, Mary is planning a five-day trek in the Dolomites with her sisters. In June, Scott competed in a 5-day, 300-mile gravel bike stage race in the Cascade Mountains of Oregon. He took 4th of 30 riders in his age division in two of the stages.

"We are both longtime residents of Santa Cruz and are very active locally. Mary is currently the president of the Santa Cruz County Land Trust board of directors. Scott serves on the board of another non-profit called Digital Nest, which helps under-served youth cross the digital divide. We are both on the board of the Santa Cruz YC.

"In addition to the 2021 Ha-Ha, *Coyote* is a Pac Cup veteran. In 2014, she placed second in her division — when owned and skippered by Steve Hill, who will be doing this year's Ha-Ha with *Soiree*, his current boat. We purchased *Coyote* from Steve and Connie in January of 2015.

Jason and Denise will be spending 10 days in the Sea of Cortez with us following the Ha-Ha. We will cruise the Sea until early January, then cross to the mainland until March. At that point, Scott will bring some willing SCYC members down to help him do the Bash back to California.

"Francis Chichester has been Scott's sailing hero. However, he has to say that Randall Reeves is dangerously close to supplanting Sir Francis following his singlehanded 'figure eight of the Americas."

In the spirit of being here now, our dream boat is *Coyote*, the boat we have! After the 2021 Ha-Ha, we considered getting a larger boat so we could host guests on longer trips. But we concluded that the projects involved with getting to know a new boat, and dialing it to our tastes, was not worth it. In a conversation with another cruiser, we decided that no matter how big a boat is, there is only ever room for two."

As the Poobah's current fleet includes boats that he has owned for 28 years, 19 years, and 10 years, he too has resisted changing boats because of the hassles. On the other hand, he believes that at a certain point, say a 63-ft cat, there's not only room for two, but 12 or 14, even for extended periods of time. Of course, there are downsides to size, too. Like cleaning.

**Dancy — Kelly Peterson 44
Dwain & Nancy Lentz
San Diego / Tempe, AZ
(2015, 2016, 2017, 2019)**

Dwain, 68, is retired as a HVAC contractor, while Nancy still works as a Medical Lab Administrative Director. Their crew will be Bob Salvucci, 64, a retired



Dancy - Dwain & Nancy

Medical Quality Control Engineer, and his friend Claudia Estrada. Bob sailed his Buckman 44 to Puerto Vallarta in 2019, where he and Claudia now both reside.

"We've owned *Dancy* for 18 years and have done lots of refitting," says Dwain. "But aren't all of us boat owners constantly working on our boats?"

This will be the fourth Ha-Ha for *Dancy*, as the previous owner did the 2003 Ha-Ha with her. It was also Dwain and Nancy's fourth Ha-Ha, as they did the 2019 Ha-Ha on her sister's boat."

"We enjoy the Ha-Ha and Mexico," the couple say. "Our open-minded plan for this year is to sail on to Puerto Vallarta in November, then return home to finish up with work, and then move onto the boat in March/April for as long as it's enjoyable."

Among *Dancy's* go-slow equipment is a washer/dryer, two heat pumps, and a Weber grill.

**Danza Vento — Jeanneau SO 39i
Carl & Rebecca Neilson
Victoria / East Sooke, B.C.**

Carl, 57, is a Software Developer, while Spouse Rebecca is a retired Teacher. Their crew will be Rob, Carl's brother, 60, who is a retired Professor, Nigel Mott, 63, and sister-in-law Kathy Neilson, a Mechanical Engineer.

"I have been sailing since the age of 10," reports Carl, "almost all of it on keelboats, mostly on the family Spencer 31 in and around the Pacific Northwest. My first sailboat was a 34-inch radio-controlled sailboat. After that came a canoe, an aluminum car-topper, an inflatable Zodiac, a runabout, a Cal 20, a kayak, another kayak, two more kayaks, a competition ski-boat, and finally a proper-size sailboat.

"The proper size retirement sailboat is our *Danza Vento*, which we bought in Spain in 2017. We cruised her in the Med for a couple of summers.

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“Our longest trip has been from Cadiz, Spain, to Fort Lauderdale as part of the process of bringing the boat home from the Med. The boat ended up on a freighter in Ft Lauderdale for the remainder of the trip. We would have brought her through the Canal and up the West Coast ourselves, but one needs to get back to work before your employer notices that you are gone. Now that we are retired, we want to get the boat back to the Caribbean, which we pretty much missed last time.

“Our Jeanneau is pretty much a standard production boat with a bunch of accessories. She did come with one of those Parasailer spinnakers, the one that has an inflatable wing in the middle to supposedly keep the sail from collapsing. But the concept of having a spinnaker with a monstrous hole in the middle of it kills me every time I think about it.

“We almost did the Ha-Ha last year, but my back went out the day before we were to leave British Columbia. It was super good timing, as it would have been so much worse if it happened a couple of days later while we were offshore, with me lying on the floor in agony.

“We will start with a season in the Sea of Cortez and then see what we want to do. My dream destination is the Galápagos, but Rebecca would prefer the Caribbean. My dream boat would be a Garcia 45. Something that sails well, is capable of high-latitude sailing, and gets into shallower anchorages. But is not too large. Forty-five feet is about as large as I would want to go.

“Root beer floats are our favorite dessert, especially if the root beer is nsfw.” What, the ignorant Poobah wonders, is nsfw?

De Laiceps — Mariner Mayflower 48 Edward & Julia Watland Los Angeles

Edward, 60, is retired from the State Disability Insurance organization, while Julia is a retired Medical Assistant. They have been sailing 40 years, during which time they've owned three boats. They've owned *De Laiceps* for 11 years. For crew they will have Mick Haven, 56.

Until the Ha-Ha, their longest passage was 190 miles, after the Ha-Ha, they hope to do the Puddle Jump. Neither are left-handed, and their dream might be to sail around the world once or twice, “We will see”.

If you knew what ‘*De Laiceps*’ means, you're hipper than the Poobah. According to the Urban Dictionary, it means ‘a person who thinks they are special, but is the opposite’.

Dolce Vita — Beneteau 47 Manny Fortes & Karen Alexander Emeryville / Danville (2022)

Roberto, 65, who goes by ‘Manny’, was crew aboard *Zeus* in the 2022 Ha-Ha. He'll have Karen Alexander and two additional crew.

“I have been sailing for 40 years,” advises Manny, “during which time I've owned three sailboats. I've owned the 2002 Jean-Marie Finot designed *La Dolce Vita* for one year.”

Manny's, dream destination is the Cape Verde Islands, where his grandparents immigrated to the States from. He has a longest passage to date of 1,000 miles. After the Ha-Ha, he, like a lot of other folks in the rally, will head up to La Paz, where each year there is a big welcome party for Ha-Ha participants. Later, Manny will cruise the Sea of Cortez.

Manny's Beneteau 47 is his dream boat. There's nothing like contentment, is there?

Manny's sailing hero is Sam Holmes, a solo sailor best known for his YouTube sailing channel. Holmes has documented numerous sailing feats, including sailing from California to Hawaii in a Ranger 23 and crossing the Atlantic to Europe in his Cape Dory 28.

Dragonfly — Seawind 1370 Stan Sprenger & Dawn Kingston Point Roberts, WA

Stan, 66, is a “Business Person”, as is his spouse Dawn. Their crew will be Erik Austin, 66, and some others not identified as of press time.

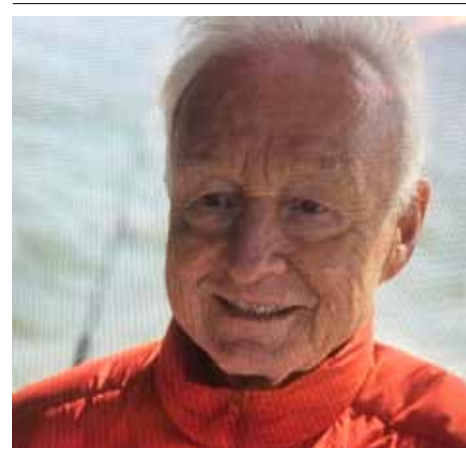
Having been sailing for more than 30 years, Stan has owned five boats. The most recent is *Dragonfly*, which is just several months old, and is the couple's dream boat.

Stan's longest passage to date has been from the Bahamas to Annapolis. Once he and Diane finish the Ha-Ha, they'll head up to La Paz, then over to Puerto Vallarta for Christmas. They plan to head back up to the Sea of Cortez at the end of January, then put *Dragonfly* on the hard for the summer. But they have big plans for 2025 and 2026. First to transit the Panama Canal, then cruise the Caribbean, where Stan has sailed before. But wait, there's more. They intend to eventually head to the Med.

‘Live every day to the fullest’ is the couple's motto, and Key Lime Pie is their dessert of choice. Stan answers to ‘Hoolio’ and ‘Stanimal’, a couple of excellent nicknames.

The Poobah wants to remind everyone that the waters of the Sea of Cortez typically become too cold for comfortable swimming sometime in early December. While it's hard to believe it, the water doesn't really warm up again until late April or even May. From Vallarta south,

the water stays warm all year, particularly as far south as Zihua.



Ebenezer III - Richard

Ebenezer III — Catalina 36MKII Richard Schaper Mill Valley ('07, '10, '13, '14, '15)

Richard, 79, is a retired Episcopal Priest who did the most recent of his five Ha-Ha's in 2015. His crew will be Julia Schramek, Leslie Daigneault, and Pierre Daigneault, 65.

“I am the son and grandson of commercial fishermen,” reports Richard, “and have been sailing since my dad built a sailing dinghy for me when I was eight years old. I have sailed a Catalina 30 and a Catalina 36 on the West Coast. I also did the Pacific Puddle Jump from Puerto Vallarta to Hiva Oa in French Polynesia — and failed to catch a single fish!

“*Ebenezer*, my boat's name, comes from the sloop that my Dutch grandfather sailed and fished out of Nantucket. It is derived from the Hebrew for ‘Thus far have I come by God's help’.

“I am an active member of the Cruising Club of America and have served as Rear Commodore of San Francisco Station.

“I seek to follow the one who calmed the seas, fell asleep in the stern of the boat, and looks after us all.”

For the record, over 1,700 Catalina 36s were built. When it came to building ‘big bang for the buck’ boats for decades, few could compete with Frank Butler's Catalinas.

Emerald Sea — Lagoon 450F (W) Jeff & Becky Hare

Brookings, OR / Cave Junction, OR

Jeff, 61, is retired from Computer Sales, where he was presumably better at this job than Lloyd Braun. Becky is a retired Administrator. The couple will have two crew: niece, Cindy Hare, an Office



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Emerald Sea - Jeff & Becky

Manager; and nephew Jerame Hare, 49, a Heavy Equipment Operator.

Jeff has been sailing since before he was a teen and remembers starting this way: “In the early 1970s, while canoeing in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, now Voyagers National Park, I convinced the kids in the canoe next to me to strap a tent fly to two paddles. Viola, our first sailing experience.”

Becky and Jeff have owned dozens of boats, starting in the ‘80s with a Fanatic Cat windsurfer, next a Hobie 16, then some motorboats, next as part of a sailing club for a decade, and for the past five years *Emerald Sea* and two smaller boats.

Emerald Sea was originally purchased by a man in Lankawi, Malaysia in 2014, who sailed her most of the way around the world with his family. Their story can be found on www.saillogs.com by searching for *Emerald Sea*.

“We were a couple of weeks too late for last year’s Ha-Ha, so we sailed to Ensenada on December 6 and spent the subsequent six months cruising the Pacific Coast of Mexico,” the couple report. “We met dozens of great people.

“Having mostly sailed *Emerald Sea* between Seattle and San Francisco for five years, we’re looking forward to cruising Mexico again before possibly going further west next year. But we have elderly parents who need our care, so we’ll probably return to the United States for the summer. Then we’ll possibly head back to Puerto Vallarta and wait for a weather window to cross the Pacific. And once we’ve found some crew and a weather window.

“*Emerald Sea* is our dream boat, and our dream destination is anywhere we’re aboard her.

Friends always ask where we are going to go with our boat. The answer is ‘anywhere we want’.

What does Jeff find sexy about his wife? That she not only tolerates, but embraces his crazy ideas.

The couple like Crème Brûlée for dessert, think Richard Spindler comes close to being their sailing hero, and like the way Warren Miller used to close most of his skiing films: “Do it! Do it now, or you’ll just be one year older when you do!”

****Encore — Andrews 56
Zac & Karina Singer
La Cruz, Mexico (2022)**

Zac, 37, is a Tugboat and Charter Captain with many barge-pulling stories to tell. His family members will include spouse Karina, who also did the 2022 Ha-Ha; Sofia, one, who was conceived aboard *Encore* during that Ha-Ha; and Zachary Singer Guanabana, five. Among other members of the crew will be Francisco Ramos, 45, a Wastewater Engineer, who along with Zac is the co-founder of Sail MS.

“As any of us with the ocean in our blood,” says Zac, “must have truly lost it at some point along the way. My evidence is buying the 56-ft *Encore* as my first — and hopefully last — sailboat. Only a real psycho would buy a 56-foot sled for their first, but hey, we only get one shot at this, so I figured I might as well swing for the fences.

“Besides, I’m one of two of us aboard who has multiple sclerosis, and we use the boat for my non-profit Sail MS program.”

“After the Ha-Ha, we plan to return to our current home port of La Cruz and begin our charter season. We’ll offer whale-watching, sunset, and adventure sailing around Banderas Bay. We will also be taking 36 people living with MS on week-long sailing excursions throughout the upcoming sailing season.

“Three days into an offshore trip,” Zac has observed, “it’s inevitable that the crew conversations digress into talking about poop.” (In more than 50 years of offshore sailing, the Poobah is not famil-



Encore - Zofia

iar with this phenomenon. He wonders what food is being served on Zac’s boats.)

Fun fact: Zac and Karina learned that she was pregnant with Sofia one hour before the start of the 2022 Ha-Ha awards ceremony.

***Epifania* — Ta Chiao CT 54 (W)
David & Allison Shuttleworth
Alameda**

David, 56, is a Captain and a True Renaissance Man. A former Paratrooper, he has a background in Emergency Medicine but is now a full-time caretaker of his two divas, Allison, his loving wife and partner in shenanigans, and his demanding and often times punishing mistress *Epifania*.

Allison is an ER nurse, novice Priestess, Death Doula, Reiki Practitioner, and all-around Witchy Woman. Want to have your cards read? She’s your girl. Need a love spell? Yup, she’s got you. Need to appease the temperamental Poseidon? There’s a ritual for that, too. In addition to her spiritual work, Allison is known for inspired treats from the galley, from innovative tiki drinks to her famous banana fritters. Her background in the culinary arts will not disappoint, and she can save your life, too.

Captain Kyle will be joining them aboard as crew, as may others yet to be determined. Kyle Siler, 53, is an ER pharmacist working in Monterey. When he’s not working, he lives part-time in Ensenada, Mexico where he focuses on his art. Kyle loves a good dress-up party — give him wigs, feather boas, funky sunglasses, and a cocktail, and watch him go! He is the artist who designed and built the Westport Whale, an impressive concrete whale sculpture in Westport, CA. He also used to DJ before becoming a pharmacist.

“Captain Dave and I have been sailing around San Francisco Bay since 2012,” reports Allison, “and purchased our live-aboard CT 54 in 2017. *Epifania* is a classic 1979 ketch that we’ve remodeled into a floating gin joint — in homage to our ancestral history of supplying the masses with ‘shine during Prohibition. And, yes, we do have a working still on board!

“We sailed as far south as Zihuatanejo in 2018 and lived along coastal Mexico until the pandemic. We currently own two boats, the CT-54 and a Lancer 29. We have been land-locked ever since and are looking forward to heading back down to enjoy Mexico again.”

The couple own their dream boat, but their dream destination would be the Med.

“Carlos is my sailing hero,” says Allison. Who is Carlos? Wonders the Poobah.

“If you own this story you get to write the ending,” is the couple’s favorite quote. It’s from Brene Brown, a researcher and storyteller who’s spent two decades studying courage, vulnerability, shame, and



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empathy. The Poobah wonders if maybe Brene knows Carlos.

David and Allison love the classic American dessert, warm apple pie à la mode.

Escape — Nordic 40

Mike Draper

Pt. Richmond / Fresno (2007, 2011)

Mike, 59, is retired from Medical Device Marketing and Sales. His crew will include Ted Miller, 60, a retired Nurse who did the Ha-Ha in 2007 & 2011, and Nicki Bennett, Sales and Marketing Specialist at *Latitude 38*.

Mike learned to sail in the late '70s on San Francisco Bay with friends who owned an Ericson 29 and a Santana 35. "I've owned three sailboats myself," he says. "First was a Catalina 22, then years later I jumped up to a Hunter 49 that we owned in the Caribbean. I sailed throughout the Virgin Islands and Leewards for six years until Covid derailed some future plans. So, I purchased the Nordic 40 in October 2020, staying closer to home because of Covid.

"I'm the second owner of *Escape*. Her previous owner completed the Pacific Cup in 1990, finishing third in division. Interestingly, her time was just ahead of the legendary Stan and Sally Honey on their well-known Cal 40 Illusion.

"Although I've sailed extensively in the North Atlantic and Caribbean, this will be my first Ha-Ha. I've done approximately 12,000 miles of ocean passages and have spent 83 nights at sea. Two of the passages were with the Salty Dawg Rally from the Chesapeake Bay to Antigua, which took 11 days, and one from the US Virgins to Essex, CT, which took 12 days. I did my first trans-Atlantic crossing in 2022 from Antigua to the Azores, then continued on to Falmouth, England. That was 26 total days aboard a Bowman 57 ketch. Lastly, I captained our Hunter 49 from Antigua to Ft Lauderdale in seven days.

"After the Ha-Ha, my plan is to sail over to Mazatlán and keep the boat there through the holidays. I'll return for the new year and head south down to Barra de Navidad, before heading back across to the Sea until early summer.

"My dream destinations are French Polynesia and to cruise Patagonia — in the summer. My dream boat is a Hylas 70, and offshore sailing instructor and author John Kretschmer is my sailing hero."

Crewman Ted Miller has a load of sailing experience, too. He's been sailing for 20 years and has lived on boats in the Bay Area and San Diego. "I've sailed over 19,000 miles," he advises, "and have crossed the Atlantic and Indian Oceans while crewing on the Clipper Round the World Race in 2023.

Even Keel — Catalina 32

Mike & Cindy Meloy

San Francisco / Corvallis, OR (2014)

Mike, 62, is a retired Machinist who had his own business until taking a position at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory for the last seven years. Cindy is a recently retired Pre-op Registered Nurse. The two have been on a life-long adventure since they met 45 years ago at Cubberley High School in Palo Alto. They recently moved to their second home in Corvallis to be closer to their two grandsons.

The couple crewed in the 2014 Ha-Ha aboard *Joyride*. Their niece Michelle French, 27, heard so many great stories about the trip that she, new to sailing and very enthusiastic, will be their crew this year.

The Meloy's have been sailing for 25 years and have owned only one boat, *Even Keel* for 23 years.

Their longest sail on their boat has been 190 miles, but in addition to the 2014 Ha-Ha, they both crewed aboard the Beneteau 423 *Sierra* in the 2015 Pacific Cup. And Mike crewed on a Baja Bash.

Machinist Mike's dream boat would be an aluminum expedition cat. After the Ha-Ha, the couple plan to cruise their dream destination, the Sea of Cortez.

Their sailing hero is Northern Californian Randall Reeves, who did an unusual singlehanded 'Figure 8' voyage of the Americas and Antarctica.

Mike is right-handed, Cindy is left-handed, but they agree that ice cream is the best dessert.

Eventide Defever 53 MV

Jeff & Kerry Gerard

Kensington

Jeff, 63, had a career "Leading Non-Profit Hospitals and Health Care Systems", but now works for a smaller Health Care Technology Company. It allows him to spend more time aboard *Eventide*. Jeff is motoring south with his wife, Kerry; his brother, John Gerard, 58; sister Elizabeth Gerard; and Michael Almquist, 66.

Growing up in rural Central California, in Jeff's early years, boating was limited to small ski and fishing boats on local reservoirs. It all changed in 1989, when his apartment lease was up and a friend had a boat at San Francisco's Pier 39 that he didn't use. A three-month trial lease turned into a "10-year adventure". Jeff later convinced his future wife, 'a saint', to move aboard a bigger boat, the Defever 53 *Eventide*. They would live aboard for nine years.

Eventide was commissioned by Stephen and Esther Newmark, well-known bluewater sailors and yacht brokers in Southern California, and launched in 1963. She's built of steel, displaces 70 tons, has a round bilge, draws 9 feet, and

has a single engine that propels her at eight knots. She carries 4,000 gallons of diesel and 1,000 gallons of water.

Her shakedown was from Los Angeles to Baja, then up to San Francisco, then back south and through the Panama Canal, up the Eastern Seaboard, and back to Los Angeles. Her adventures were chronicled in a dozen articles in *Yachting Magazine*.

Jeff's shakedown with the new-to-him boat was down Baja to Cabo and La Paz for three months. In retrospect, Jeff realizes he didn't get to fully enjoy the adventure because he was still working so much at the time. The Poobah knows the feeling, as does everyone who has a sailing channel. Jeff isn't going to make that mistake again.

"During our ownership," Jeff reports, "we have retraced *Eventide's* steps to Baja, San Francisco, and Puget Sound. Who knows, perhaps someday we'll take her back through the Canal. For now, I'm greatly looking forward to this year's Baja Ha-Ha, an event I have wanted to do for many years."

Evocative II — Beneteau Oceanis 51.1

Terry Copeland

San Diego / Scottsdale, AZ

Terry, 71, is retired from Corporate Finance. He'll have a crew of five: Keith Milne, 70, a retired CFO; Bruce Robertson, 63, retired from an Unspecified Career; Elyssa Robertson, also retired from an Unspecified Career, is probably related to Bruce; and Bob McCrawley, 65, also Retired.

"I'm a lifelong sailor, as I started at age eight sailing catamarans off the beach at Santa Monica. When I moved to the Bay Area in 1975 for school at Cal, I continued my sailing experience on San Francisco Bay, where I raced J/24s. I also cruised from Monterey to Drakes Bay and made several trips to Southern California and back.

"In 1993, I married into a family of three, and since then, we have had a child of our own and started taking the family on bareboat charters in the Caribbean. We've chartered at least annually, almost every year since.

"I relocated to Scottsdale in 2011 and have been sailing out of San Diego ever since. I've owned my Beneteau Oceanis 51.1 for about four years now. I have my 25-Ton Master's license, and I'm a certified ASA Instructor for everything this side of Offshore Passage-Making.

"The Ha-Ha and after will be my first experience with extended cruising, and I'm very much looking forward to sharing it with everyone and making new cruising friends!

"My dream is to take *Evocative II* through the Panama Canal and spend a couple of years sailing the Caribbean



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BAJA HA-HA XXX

and the Eastern Seaboard. In fact, I may relocate to Grenada for an instructor's position with a sailing school and charter company there!"

Exit Strategy — Jeanneau SO 45.2 **Steve Ginder**

Dana Point / Coronado (Four Ha-Ha's)

Steve, 75, is retired from Mortgage Banking, and is the vet of the '03, '10, '19, and '21 Ha-Ha's. His crew of five will include Terry Young, 70, a retired Teacher with two Ha-Ha's to his credit; Kevin Ryan, 55, who sells Nordhavn motor yachts and is a vet of the '19 and '21 Ha-Ha's; Tim Morgan, 39, who is in the Navy Reserve and who did the '19 and '21 Ha-Ha's; Jack Morgan, 33 and Joel Snedeker, 40.

"I've been sailing for 50 years," says Steve, "and *Exit Strategy* is my third ocean-going sailboat. I've owned her for 20 years, and this will be her sixth Ha-Ha, one more than I will have done. My crew and I also sailed in the 2015 TransPac Race.

"After the Ha-Ha, *Exit Strategy* will winter in La Paz with multiple trips into the Sea of Cortez with my crew, family and friends.

"My best friends call me 'El Capitan', and my favorite quotes come from rocker Bob Seeger: 'I live to run and run to live', and 'I wish I didn't know now what I didn't know then'." For the record, Seeger used to own and race a Santa Cruz 52.

Speaking of Mortgage Banking, anybody hear the one about the guy who walked into a bar and ordered a round of drinks for everyone after announcing, "I just made my last mortgage payment, and I'm celebrating."

"Congratulations on paying it off," said a patron.

"Don't get me wrong," says the man, shaking his head. "I still owe \$422,378. But today's payment is the last one I'm gonna make. I've lost interest."

Fairwyn — S&S 42 **Rick Leland**

Emeryville / Chico (2021)

Rick, 70, is a retired Business Attorney. Prior to purchasing *Fairwyn*, his boating experience was limited to dinghy racing and bareboat charters. He'll have two women as crew: Sarah Dime, 35, who works in Boat Maintenance; and Chelsea Greene, also 35, who labors in 'Outdoor Recreation'.

Fairwyn is a 1957 Sparkman & Stephens wood yawl, 47-ft overall and 42-ft on deck. At 67, she'll probably be the oldest boat in the Ha-Ha. She was launched in Scotland to be the flagship for the incoming commodore of the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron. She raced successfully for 25 years, and won the



Fairwyn - Sarah, Rick & Chelsea

1959 Prince of Wales Cup. Her crew was presented the award by none other than Queen Elizabeth. No other entry in the Ha-Ha can make that claim.

After *Fairwyn's* racing days were over, she was purchased by a Vancouver couple. They added comforts for cruising, and lived on her for 14 years, twice sailing across the Atlantic to cruise the Med.

Rick purchased *Fairwyn* in 2017 to coincide with his retirement from law. He cruised her in the San Juan Islands, San Francisco, San Diego, and Mexico.

A classic wood boat is a lot of work, but being in his mid 60s, Rick had no time to start with an easy boat and work his way up. He loves tinkering and has replaced *Fairwyn's* standing rigging, electrical panel, and helped with her engine replacement and electronics upgrade. Rick also does the cooking offshore, so downwind boats may smell tasty flavors from *Fairwyn's* BBQ.

Rick sailed *Fairwyn* in the 2021 Baja Ha-Ha before returning to the U.S. in June of 2022. He will again skipper the wood yawl in this Ha-Ha, joined by Sarah, who spends much of her time delivering yachts and caring for *Fairwyn*, and Chelsea, who lives aboard her sailboat in San Diego.

FIO — Jeanneau 54 DS (W) **Jay Dozier & Barbara Benson** **San Diego (2003)**

Jay, 55, is retired from Finance, while Barbara, who also did the 2003 Ha-Ha, is retired from Restaurant Management. Their crew will be Mike Benson, 62, an Animal Husbandry Assistant; and Amos Barton, 48, a Barrister.

Jay, Barbara, and Bo, the ship's cat, survived the 2023 Ha-Ha on *FIO* and are back for more. They are giving up their slip in San Diego, as after the Ha-Ha they will take the slow route to Panama.

Jay owns enough watches and hoodies for a lifetime, but thinks he'll probably get just one more. Barbara's favorite things are



Fio - Jay, Bo & Barbara

naps and making sure she has enough ice. She once pulled a hamstring, hopping up to see a whale spout. "He's a vibe," is how the couple describes Bob, the boat's cat.

"Wait," the couple writes, "we just added two more crew, Matt and Jessica Hoover. She's so fit, she'll probably get up early and hike at Bahia Tortuga, making the rest of us all look like fat lazies. Jessica, who has owned her own sailboat, reports that she's never gotten seasick. Honestly, none of us are really all that happy for her about that. Jeanette, Jessica's mom, will be crewing on her second Ha-Ha aboard the event's mothership *Profligate*.

'FIO' is an acronym for 'F'ers I'm Out'. And we are."

Float On — Beneteau 473 **Gerald & Barbara St. Amant** **Long Beach / Huntington Beach**

Gerald, 60, is a retired Router. Barbara is retired from Construction Management. Their crew will be John Pittman, 55, Barbara's brother, who is retired from Construction; and Valerie Pittman, John's spouse, who is a Homemaker. Are there many careers more undervalued than Homemaker? The Poobah doesn't think so.

Gerald and Barbara have been sailing for six years, mostly on a Catalina 34 and mostly to, where else, Catalina. But upon retiring, they purchased *Float On*, one of the good-looking Beneteau 473s designed by Group Finot.

"We are so excited about this next chapter of our lives," the couple report, "and can't wait to meet everyone else in the Ha-Ha. We plan on continuing our adventure through the Sea of Cortez for a year or so, then head south to Panama. Our dream destination is the Med — if we're ever able to tear ourselves away from the San Blas Islands."

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Flow - Jeanne & Stuart

**Flow — Dehler 36 (W)
Stuart & Jeanne Horak
North Vancouver, BC**

Stuart, 54, is an Emergency Physician, as is spouse, Jeanne.

The couple have been sailing for 10 years, and *Flow* is their “one and only boat”. They bought her in 2016.

So far, Stuart and Jeanne’s longest passage is from Victoria to Maui and back, a mere 4,600 nautical miles. After the Ha-Ha, they plan to “cruise the Pacific” for six months.

Their dream destination is the Tuamotus, and their dream boat for cruising there is their current boat, the 2006 Judel/Vrolijk designed *Flow*. It’s an interesting choice because most people would want something bigger.

The couple’s sailing hero is Sam Holmes, a solo sailor and vlogger known for “crossing oceans in questionable boats”. For example, he sailed from California to Hawaii aboard a Ranger 23 and crossed the Atlantic in a Cape Dory 28.

Stuart and Jeanne are left-handed but don’t have any favorite desserts or quotes. We don’t know about their senses of humor, but we suspect they leave many of their patients in stitches.

**Folie a Deux — Lagoon 40 Cat
Fred & Amina Bret-Mounet
Berkeley / Orinda**

Fred, 54, works in the critical Cyber-security world, while Amina is a Director of Training. Their crew will be David Jay, 57, and Shelley Hamilton.

“We discovered sailing five years ago and have bareboat chartered every year since. We got our first boat a year ago, and within weeks, my wife learned about the Baja Ha-Ha. She was ready to do the 2023 edition, but I had to be the party pooper as the boat was not yet cruising ready! But we’ll be ready this November”, says Fred.



Folie a Deux - Fred & Amina

“We’ll be staying in Mexico until February to test out the long-term cruising lifestyle and are looking for buddy boats.

“Any beach in the tropics is our dream destination, while our dream boat is the one we can’t afford.”

Fred’s claim to fame? “I hacked solar panels.” What does that mean? It means successful hackers can attack solar equipment and take unauthorized control to reduce the power output by altering the AC current or voltage.” So now the Poobah knows what’s been wrong with his system.

****Freeranger — Beneteau 50 (W)
Larissa Clark & Duncan Copeland
London, England / British Columbia**

Larissa is a Communications Director, while spouse Duncan, 48, is an Executive Director. They will have their two offspring aboard: Eden Copeland, 8, a Student of Life; and Skye-Elizabeth Copeland, 6, also a Student of Life. Both have been sailing since they were babies. There will also be two other adult crew: Alistair Mole, 46, and Theone Mole old friends who are experienced ocean sailors.

Duncan grew up sailing. Indicative of the importance of sailing to the Copeland family, he was taken straight from the hospital nursery to the family boat. Between the ages 9-15, he was raised aboard the Beneteau 38 *Bagheera*, a boat featured in several books that his parents Liza and Andy published during a circumnavigation.

Since then, Duncan has spent time delivering boats in the Med and across the Atlantic, cruised extensively in various parts of the world aboard *Bagheera* which is still in the family, and sailed all over Sweden and Norway.

For over 20 years, Duncan has worked for marine conservation not-for-profits, particularly on the issues of illegal fishing and associated crimes. He has worked in Africa, Asia and South America with

stakeholders from community to ministerial level and across fisheries enforcement agencies. He is a co-founder of, and until recently, spent 11 years as the Executive Director of TMT, an international NGO working with developing coastal states to combat illegal fishing. He is a United Nations Ocean Panel expert, sits on the advisory board of the University of British Columbia’s Sea Around Us, and is a member of the Royal Vancouver YC, the Ocean Cruising Club, and the Bluewater Cruising Association.

Duncan’s longest passage as an adult has been from Guinea Bissau, which you’ll remember from your junior high geography class is in West Africa, to Brazil.

Larissa grew up in London, rather far from the open ocean, and thus didn’t find her sea legs until age 30 during a tall ship passage from Spain to Brazil. She has since cruised in British Columbia and Scandinavia with her family. Inspired by her Transat tall ship experience, she founded the Another World Adventures travel agency to help others realize their own unusual travel ambitions. She runs the business remotely with an international team. Larissa is a member of the Explorers Club, Bluewater Cruising Association, and trustee of Women in Ocean Science CT.

Joining *Freeranger* for the Ha-Ha will be Theone (Theo) and Alistair (Ali) Mole. Theo grew up living aboard and cruising the British Columbia coast on the family sailboat. In her 20s she entered the private yacht industry, where she met the dashing Scot, Ali, who was trying his hand as crew. Together, they worked for many years as a very successful partnership in the private yacht industry, based in Europe but working throughout the world. Now based in Palma de Mallorca, Ali continues to skipper large private yachts, while Theo has become a qualified sommelier and offers wine experiences in Spain and internationally.

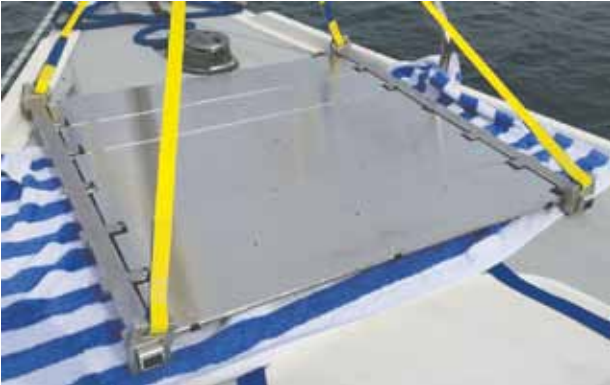


Freeranger - Edén, Duncan, Larissa & Skye

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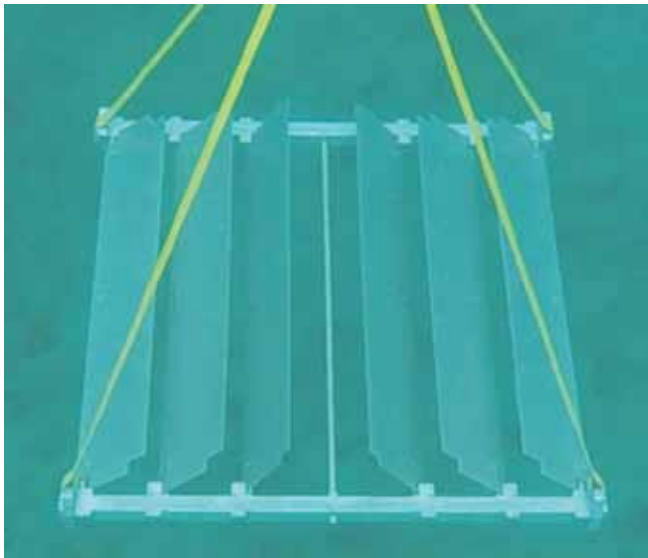
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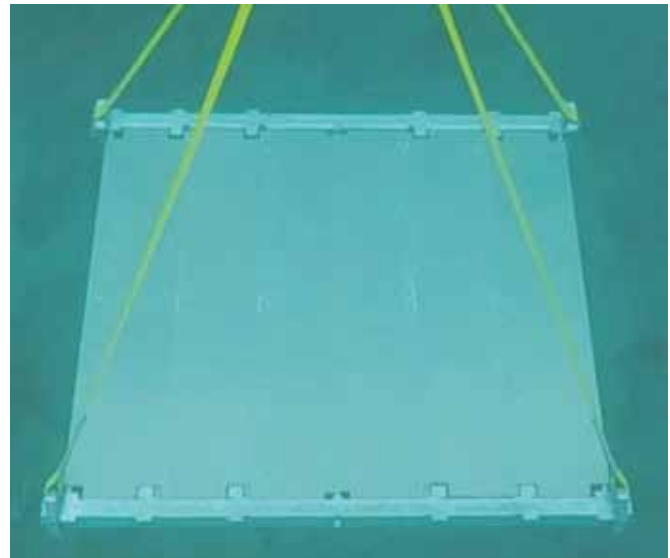
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Duncan ran *Bagheera*, the Copeland family boat, for several years in various parts of the world. In 2020, he and Larissa bought a Bavaria 32 in Norway, and spent a couple of years cruising the southern coast of that country and the western coast of Sweden. Two years later, they upsized to their Beneteau 50.

"We cruised *Freeranger* extensively around British Columbia in 2023, and starting in July of this year, we embarked on a multi-year circumnavigation with the kids. As we write this, we are sailing in the remote Broughton Archipelago in British Columbia. Communications have been difficult — until today when we installed our Starlink.

"Our plan is to enjoy a great family sailing adventure, have a lot of fun along the way, but also voyage with purpose. So, we have set up Free Range Ocean, www.freerangeocean.org, a non-profit to use adventure sailing, citizen science, and storytelling to inspire action for a healthy ocean among boating and coastal communities. We invite everyone to join our efforts."

"Our dream destination is anywhere off the beaten track. Our dream boat would be an aluminum swing-keel sailboat designed and built to sail everywhere.

Andy and Liza Copeland, Duncan's parents, are his sailing heroes. For Larissa, it's her grandfather Sydney Saunter who inspired her love for world travel by, among other things, sailing his small boat *Mizpah* to Libya in the 1960s.

Larissa's favorite quote is "The pessimist complains about the wind, the optimist hopes it will change, while the realist adjusts the sails"

Carrot cake is the favored family dessert. The whole family is right-handed, but Skye is left-footed.

Godspeed — Beneteau 45f5 Dallas & Kim Swenson San Diego / Heber, Utah

Dallas, 68, is a retired Pilot. This is his first Ha-Ha. Kim will not be on *Godspeed* for the Ha-Ha. Dallas will have three crew: his son Eric Frey, 44, Lee Eddington, 66, and David Fillmore, 30 on the trip to Cabo San Lucas.

"I have been sailing since I was a kid, but *Godspeed* is the first big boat that I have owned. We bought her in San Diego a few years ago. Prior to that we always belonged to sailing clubs and used their boats, mostly in the Newport Beach area. When I was in the Navy, we used Navy sailing club boats all over. We've done a lot of bareboat charters, mostly catamarans, in the Bahamas, all over the Caribbean, and our now favorite spot, Tahiti.

"My longest ocean passage to date was from San Diego non-stop to Adak north of the Aleutian Islands chain. I never got off before taking off south on a non-stop

passage to the Philippines. I think it was almost two months total.

"I have to confess it wasn't as bad as it seems, as I was aboard an aircraft carrier. But we must have had 50-foot swells in the Bering Sea in January of 1987. *Wikipedia* says there were 90-ft seas, but I think they exaggerate. Nonetheless, spray from the huge swells engulfed the superstructure of the carrier. The ship was so badly damaged that we bypassed scheduled stops after our exercise in the Aleutians and headed straight to the Philippines for repairs. I was super glad to have been on the carrier and not on one of those destroyers in the battle group that accompanied us.

"Our dream destination is Tahiti. And our belief is that there is no growth in the comfort zone."



Grace - Jeff, Steve & Skipper Rick

Grace — Catalina 445 Rick Lino Marina del Rey / Redondo Beach (Six Ha-Ha's)

Rick, 75, is a retired Engineer. His crew will be Steve Hagberg, 75, a retired Stage Set Coordinator and a vet of two Ha-Ha's; Chuck Dwors, 74, a retired Teacher, also a vet of two Ha-Ha's; Jeff Barnes, 64, an "Equipment Seller"; and Ken Liming, 75, and Menijeh Liming, who have cruised a lot on the East Coast and Caribbean.

"I've been sailing for 49 years, during which time I've owned six boats," says Rick. "I've owned *Grace* for five years, and at age 75, she's definitely my last boat. I named her *Grace* in gratitude for being the only remaining survivor in my immediate family. Her unusual features include four large solar panels on the bimini and all electric winches, which really help at my age.

"I have done something like six Ha-Ha's, but I'd have to dig out the flags to remember which years. But the most recent were in 2017 and 2019. They have all been good adventures.

"My longest passage to date was from Vancouver Island to Marina del Rey, when I was much younger. It was a chance to experience the Washington and Oregon coasts — not something I'm likely to repeat. I especially enjoyed going through a lightning storm off Point Mendocino.

"When I heard rumors that this may be the last Ha-Ha, I knew I had to participate. Right now, I have no plans for after the Ha-Ha. My dream destination would be New Zealand. I have a friend who is there now, and I enjoy tracking him on AIS.

"I go by Cap'n Rick, and my favorite quote is "It's better to be lucky than good."

It's unclear if Ha-Ha XXX will be the last one. The event will continue as long as the Poobah and Patsy, the Assistant Poobah stay healthy, because what could possibly be more fun in early November than a Ha-Ha.

Gypsea Explorer — Sceptre 41 Chris Burrows & Heather Ussery Coos Bay, OR / La Conner, WA

Chris, 54, is a Helicopter Pilot. His Partner Heather is a writer.

"I grew up in New Zealand," reports Chris, "and have some sailing experience." Prior to joining the Ha-Ha, we will have been circumnavigating Vancouver Island in British Columbia for the summer "with lots of love and very few expletives."

"We are both country music, cold beverage, Captain Ron-loving fools. We are full-time liveaboard cruisers, working when we have to and playing when we want to. I live my life by the following motto: 'Adventure B4 Dementia'."

According to Heather, "There are few things Kiwi Chris does not enjoy; pickles and watermelon top that list, while I am a disco music-loving wine ninja and Seinfeld trivia geek."

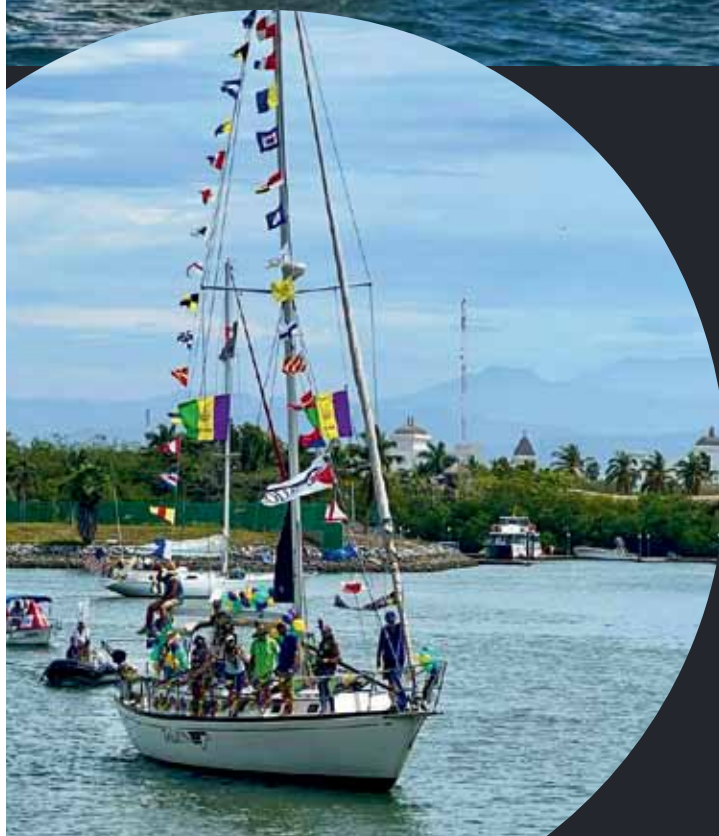
The Sceptre 41 was designed by Hein Driehuyzen. If you can properly pronounce that name, you're a better person than the Poobah.



Gypsea Explorer - Chris & Heather

The logo features a stylized blue and orange wave or sail shape on the left, followed by the text "VALLARTA YACHT CLUB" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

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The Poobah is going to have to add his pilot joke:

Three young co-pilots were in a bar one evening when a grizzled old captain walked in. They started kidding the man about his age.

"Hey, Captain," said one, "when was the last time you made love?"

The captain squinted his eyes, looked up for a moment, and replied, "1957."

The youngsters start laughing. "Jeez, Captain, that's a long time ago!"

For a moment, the captain looked confused, then glanced at his watch. "Well, it's only 2215 now."

Hakuna Matata — Catalina 387 (W) Tracy & Ann Reigelman Two Harbors / Alameda

Tracy, 65, is retired from the "Tech Industry/Sales Ahi", while Ann is still active in IT Software and Security. This will be a family boat, as their crew will be their sons, Michael, 31, who is a Data Scientist in the Alternative Energy Field; and Rob, 24, who works for Sail Time San Francisco.

"We have been sailing as a family for over 20 years," reports Tracy, "chartering in California and the BVI's. I've been sailing for over 40 years, while Mike and Rob taught sailing on Catalina Island while in college.

"Our family has owned a Hobie Cat, a Catalina 35, and now our Catalina 387. But we're also a basketball family. Ann played basketball in college, and still holds a record at USF. Mike is 6'5" and Rob 6'4", two of the reasons we moved up to the 387 and her 6'9" headroom.

"This will be our first Ha-Ha. I've been following it for years and am eager to check it off my Bucket List. I've already done a handful of deliveries up the California coast, and am looking forward to downwind champagne sailing!"

After the Ha-Ha, Ann and Tracy will commuter cruise the Sea of Cortez until Ann retires and Tracy finishes his leadership roles at Oakland YC.

"Our dream destination is the exotic island of Catalina — especially Two Harbors. Tracy's grandmother visited there in the 1930s and must have passed on the genes. Since that time, our family has chartered there for the past 20 years, and lead excursions to Camp Cherry Valley for 10. All three of our boys worked at Camp Cherry Valley.

"We work hard to have a trouble free philosophy in our lives — hence our boat is named *Hakuna Matata*!

"I'm left-handed, but the only one who is politically right in our family. Our favorite desserts are any — as long as they are gluten-free.

"We're excited to be part of the Ha-Ha family this year, and are looking forward to a

great trip."

****Halcyon Seas — Marlow Explorer 70 MV Tobias & Frida Ternstrom Seattle / Redmond, WA**

Tobias, 45, is the Chief Product Officer of an unspecified product, but the Poobah suspects it is software. Frida is a Homemaker. Josephine, 12, is a Student of Life, as is Bertil, 10. Close friend Dennis Johansson, 46, a Software Engineer, will round out the crew.

"I did sailing camps as a kid in Sweden," reports Tobias. "However, I later got hooked on motorboats, starting with a rowboat with an Evinrude 4 hp. I had other motorboats over the years until we moved to the States in 2008. We didn't get into boating again until Covid hit. We started with a Carver 59 exploring Puget Sound. We got even more hooked, and now we are on our Marlow that we bought 2021. We've cruised her in British Columbia for two summers. My seventh boat, she's hard to miss because of her 'Smurf blue' color.

"We have been thinking of doing the Ha-Ha for some time and are finally getting around to it. My longest passage so far was bringing the boat up from Los Angeles to Seattle. We did it in April, which is not the ideal time. With bad weather stopping us a number of times, it took us 15 days to complete the trip."

"*Halcyon Seas*, a trawler-style boat, is our dream boat. But we might be tempted by an Outer Reef or a Nordhavn. Magellan is my sailing hero, and ice cream is my favorite dessert. "There is no compression algorithm for experience," is my favorite saying."

"After the Ha-Ha, we plan to explore La Paz and the Sea of Cortez before heading back towards California and later Seattle."

Insurgente — Oceanis 50 Cory Sanders Long Beach / Spokane, WA

Cory, 55, is a businessman in the Telecommunications field, an Artist, and a budding scallywag sailor. He'll have two friends for crew: Don MacEwan, 55, is in the Lighting Business - when big things happen in Vegas and other places, he's the guy you want. Don is also a USCG Licensed Captain and will be the Captain on *Insurgente* for the Ha-Ha.

Rounding out the crew will be Doug Rust, a full scallywag and Cory's best friend from their hometown, Spokane, WA.

Her previous owner named her *Insurgente*, after *L'Insurgente* a French Navy frigate captured by the *USS Constellation*. She served in the United States Navy as *USS Insurgent*.

Cory Sanders' foundation, Sanders Foundations, owns *Insurgente*. *Insurgente* is the host ship of Sailor for a Day. She

also just joined the Panthers at Sea program. As a boat owner it is Cory's mission to further the cause of maritime safety and enjoyment.



Into the Mystic - Vincent & Elena

Into the Mystic — Jeanneau 41DS (W) Vincent Cirelli & Elena Oulitina Marina del Rey

Vincent, 48, is in the Entertainment business, while spouse Elena is a COO.

"We found sailing seven years ago as middle-aged adults and have become completely addicted. We've owned two boats, the second being *Into the Mystic*, which we purchased earlier this year."

Their long passages to date have been the classic 27 miles from Marina del Rey to Catalina. But the couple's dream destination is "a sandy beach with a steakhouse, mellow music, and sealed off from current affairs or the news." Their dream yacht would be a Kraken. Models from 44 to 66 feet are built in Turkey.

Christian Williams, a local single-hander who still sails long distances at 70+ is their hero.

When it comes to desserts, a Mudslide with vanilla ice cream is their call.

As most people know, *Into the Mystic* is the title of a very fine song by Van Morrison. But the Poobah has to take exception to the chorus:

"When that foghorn blows
You know I will be coming home
Yeah, when that foghorn whistle blows
I gotta hear it
I don't have to fear it."

Van may not have to fear fog if he has radar and AIS, but old geezers such as the Poobah still remember the terror of being in a thick fog and being able to hear the rumble of a nearby ship's huge diesel while not being able to see it.



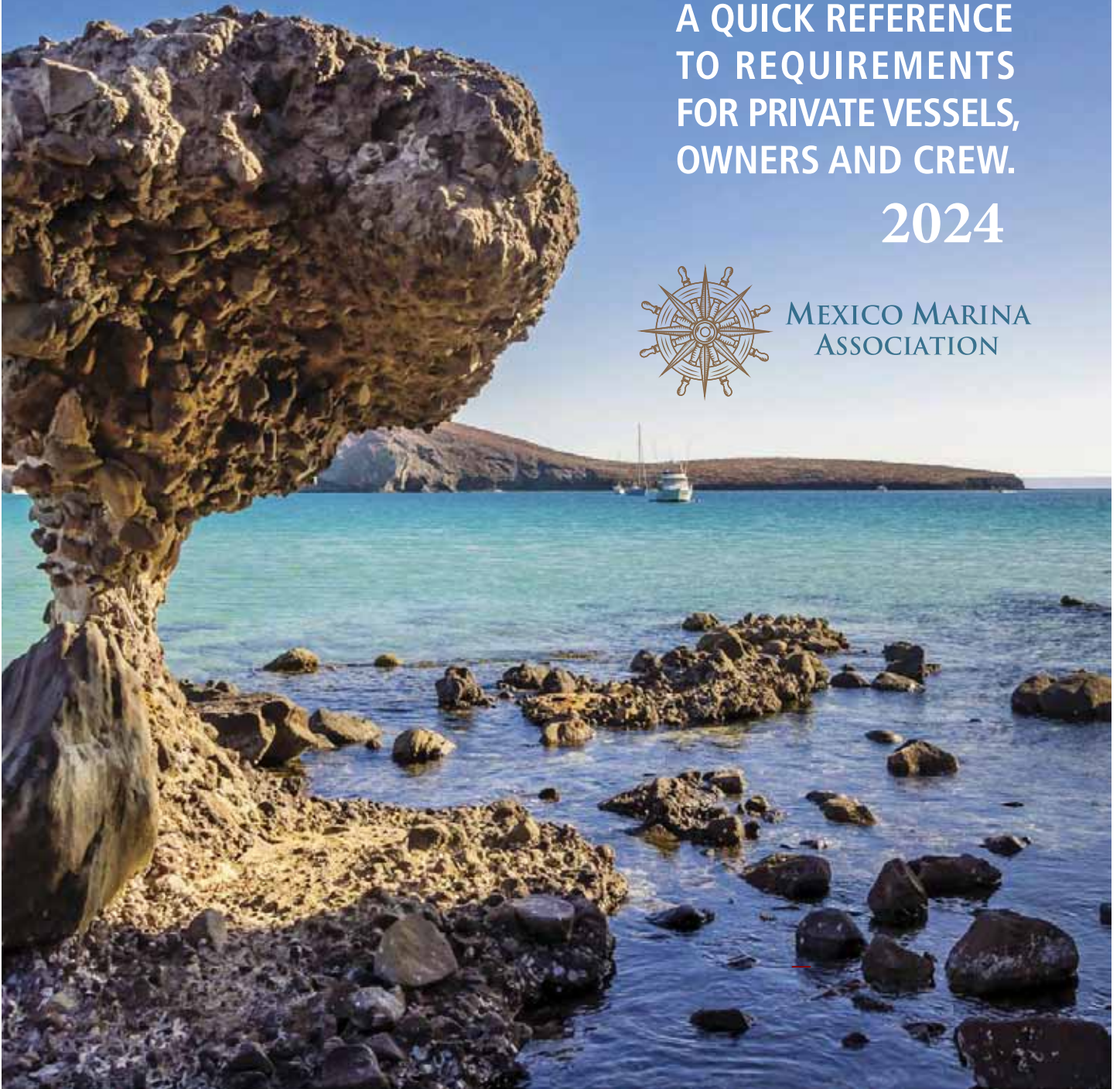
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BAJA HA-HA XXX



Into the Wild - Curt & Steve

Into the Wild — Beneteau Idylle 42 (W) Curt Taras & Steve Grove Alameda / Folsom

Curt, 51, is a Civil Engineer in the United States Air Force, while his neighbor and boat partner, Steve, 55, worked as a San Quentin Prison Guard for four years right after college and is now Chief of Enforcement for the Contractors State License Board. Their crew will be Caroline McCarthy, Barry Curran, 55, a Nurse; and Peter Nelson, 71.

According to Steve, “I fell in love with sailing after taking a two-day introductory class on Mission Bay in 2005. My first boat was a Catalina 250, which I sailed out of Oceanside and made several trips to Catalina and even San Felipe where I sailed part way down the Sea of Cortez. In 2010, I moved to Sacramento, and have been sailing on SF Bay and the surrounding coast ever since. In 2021, I towed the boat to Seattle and sailed the San Juan Islands. Other than sailing every chance I get, I like to backpack, snow ski and read in my spare time.”

According to Curt, “Captain Curt Taras, a United States Air Force veteran, is sailing *Into the Wild* from San Francisco to Cabo San Lucas with Co-Captain Stephen Grove, a United States Army veteran.” Thank you for your service.

The pair have years of experience sailing inside and outside of San Francisco Bay while restoring their 1986 Beneteau Idylle 43 in Alameda.

“We work like captains, and then we play like pirates,” say the pair.

Island Dancer — Perry Prestige 43 Daniel & Snjezana Rees Rancho Palos Verdes (2020)

Daniel, 66, is a retired Aerospace Engineer, while Snjezana is a retired Property Manager. Their crew will be son Anthony Rees, 31, who works in Real Estate; and Mark Milutin, 36, who is in Marketing.



Island Dancer - Snjezana & Daniel

Mark did the 2020 Ha-Ha.

First, to clear a couple of things up, *Island Dancer* was designed by Aussie Bryan Perry, not monohull specialist Bob Perry of the Pacific Northwest. Second, Snjezana is a lovely Slavic word meaning Snowy.

Daniel has been sailing for 40 years, during which time he’s owned four boats. He’s owned the Aussie-built *Island Dancer* for five years. In all those years, his longest passage has been 90 miles, so the Ha-Ha will be a big jump for him. After the Ha-Ha, he plans to continue on to La Paz and then probably Puerto Escondido, as he’d then be aboard his dream boat at his dream destination.

The left-hander loves carrot cake and the old Croatian saying, “Praise the sea, stick to the land.”

Sometimes known as the ‘Guacamole Kid’, Daniel’s sailing hero is Richard Henry Dana, a lawyer and politician who gained renown as the author of the classic American memoir *Two Years Before the Mast*. From a Colonial family, Dana was a champion of the downtrodden, from seamen to fugitive slaves and freedmen. Can you name the city in California that was named after him? Hint: It’s not Santa Barbara.

K2 — Corsair F36 Bryan Martin & Nancy Viroso Santa Cruz (‘15, ‘18, ‘21, ‘22, ‘23)

Bryan, 69, does Architectural Design and Construction, and has done five Ha-Ha’s, while partner Nancy is a Psychotherapist who has done four. Their crew will be Mike Lavelle, 68, a Small Business Manager and 2022 Ha-Ha vet on K2.

Bryan has been sailing for half a century, starting on his father’s boat. His longest passage has been from the South Pacific to Hawaii. He’s owned “at least” six monohulls, and K2 is his second trimaran. Nancy, a Clinical Social Worker who sometimes works remotely from Mexico, doesn’t have as much sailing experience as



K2 - Bryan, Nancy & Mike

Bryan, but she matches his enthusiasm. Crewmember Mike primarily sails on an Amel 47 and has cruised the Med, crossed the Atlantic, and sailed in South America and the Pacific.

“After sailing down to Zihuatanejo for Guitar Fest after last year’s Ha-Ha,” remembers Bryan, “we sailed all the way back up the Sea of Cortez to Puerto Penasco, a north-south distance of over 800 miles. From there, we flew back to Santa Cruz, got our truck and trailer, and pulled K2 home.”

“At that time, we were pretty committed to selling K2 because we wanted a bigger boat to accommodate our large families, which now include nine grandchildren between us. But then we realized that we enjoy K2 too much to let her go just yet. We also wanted to be sure that we had a boat with which to do the Ha-Ha 30, as we’ve enjoyed every one that we’ve done and were hearing rumors that it could be the last one.”

“Many people are confused about the origin of the name of our boat. She is not named after K2, the second-tallest mountain in the world. Our intention was to name her *Kailani II* after our F31 trimaran, but at the time, we owned two trimarans and just started referring to them as K1 and K2. The name stuck!

“My favorite dessert is banana ice cream,” says Bryan.

Kalewa — KM Design 50 Cat David & Emily Cuevas

Nawiliwili, Kauai / St. Thomas, USVI
David, 38, is a Charter Boat Captain, while spouse Emily, 35, is a Chef. The two will have Ha-Ha vet Annie Gardener as crew.

The couple started sailing together eight years ago, the day after they met at a happy hour. Their first sail, out of Hanalei Bay aboard David’s Hobie 16, didn’t go as



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Kalewa - David & Emily

David planned, as they flipped and David lost his phone. But it was so much fun that Emily was hooked.

The couple have owned three boats together: a Nacra 20 beach cat in Kauai, a Peterson 44 shortly after they married, and a year ago they acquired *Kalewa*.

Designed and built by Kevin Millett of Kauai, *Kalewa* has already done four Ha-Ha's with Kevin at the helm. The couple accurately describe their cat as "fast, sexy, and one-of-a-kind". She's not as one-of-a-kind as she originally was, however, as her original troublesome electric engines have been replaced with diesels. But she still doesn't have lifelines. Multiple Ha-Ha vet Kevin is currently awaiting the construction of a very high-performance 51-ft cat in Australia, the delivery of which is currently running six months late and counting.

David and Emily have crossed the Pacific three times, the longest taking them 21 days. After the Ha-Ha, they hope to find surf on the way back up Baja, after which it will be time for them to head to work in the Caribbean. The couple run luxury charters aboard Plus 10, a Fontaine/Pajot 59 cat.

The couple's dream destination is the South Pacific, while *Kalewa* is their dream boat — at least until they see Kevin's new boat.

Up until mid-August, their nautical heroes were explorer Ernest Shackleton and whacko Captain Ron. But they have been displaced by San Diego-based Annie Gardner, a lifelong sailor supreme on everything from sailboards to the America's Cup and a charismatic instigator of sailing adventures, particularly for women.

Lime Paletas — lime popsicles — are David and Emily's favorite dessert. Their favorite quote is: 'If you're not living on the edge, you're taking up space'.



Kit - Gaven

Kit — F/P Athena 38 Gavin Gegg & McKay Shaw Ventura

Gavin, 33, is a retired Biotech Project Manager, as is spouse McKay, 32. Their crew will be Colin, 63, who is Gavin's dad and a retired Director of Protein Chemistry.

Gavin has been sailing for 25 years and has made many blue-water passages. He is excited to start a new adventure with McKay, who only started sailing five years ago.

"This is the second boat we've owned, and we've retrofitted her for our adventure," says Gavin. "After the Ha-Ha, we plan on continuing across the Pacific, eventually reaching New Zealand."

The couple's sailing hero is Jimmy Buffett, who really was a good guy. Their dream boat would be a slightly larger cat than the one they have now.

Gavin and McKay's dream destination is listed as a "Donkey Farm in New Zealand". The Poobah doesn't know if they are referring to a specific donkey farm or just any donkey farm.

If you're like the Poobah, you're probably asking yourself, 'donkey farm'? It turns out that farmers in the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand rely on donkeys to protect sheep, goats and even cows. "In most cases, donkeys can keep the herds completely safe from canine and feline predators. Furthermore, a donkey typically lives over 30 years, so they have a longer working life than a dog." The stuff you learn on the Ha-Ha!

Knot Today — Beneteau Oceanis 41 Kevin & Diane Engles San Diego / Cave Creek, AZ

Kevin, 68, is retired from Self Employment, Diane is still Self Employed. Their crew will be James Reiff, 65, who is retired from selling Medical Devices; and Kris Schmeiser, 40.



Kit - McKay

"I have been sailing since I was five on the Toms River and Barnegat Bay," reports Kevin. "Our family owned a Catalina 34 and later a Hunter 45 that we kept at Kona Kai on Shelter Island in San Diego. The family took the Hunter 45 to La Paz one year and Puerto Vallarta the next.

"Diane and I bought *Knot Today* over two years ago, and we're both glad to be back into sailing. We plan to go to La Paz for some months after the Ha-Ha and perhaps head to the mainland before returning to California.

"First Mate James has a house on Lake Sammamish, where he has a small sailboat as well as other water toys. Along with friends, he once owned *Madaman*, a 52-ft powerboat commissioned and originally owned by Elton John. They kept her on Lake Washington."

The Poobah thinks they are referring to *Madman*, a Stephens Brothers 52 launched in Stockton in 1965. My understanding is that she was actually commissioned as *Marabu* for Abe Blumenfield, the owner of movie theaters in Northern California. My son actually went to school with Abe's son in Marin County. It's my understanding that Elton John never owned the boat, but rather bought her for John Reid, his longtime manager and partner. Close enough.

Knot Trading — Lagoon 460 Justin Demko

Marina del Rey / Sherman Oaks

Justin, 49, is a "Ranch Boy turned High-Finance Wealth Manager". He'll be sailing with five crew, including Townsend Bell, a 10-time Indy 500 car driver currently announcing for NBC's IndyCar Series; Dan Spillman, a Surfer and Architect of large-scale projects hailing from Manhattan Beach; and Austrian Paul Fenkart, a Film and TV Director of Photography who is also the licensed Captain who taught Justin to sail.



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BAJA HA-HA XXX

Previously into flying, Justin has only been sailing for two years, but he's jumped in big time, buying a 46-ft cat that was brand new last year. She's his dream boat.

After the Ha-Ha, Justin will be taking *Knot Trading* back up to Marina del Rey.



Lola - David, John & Tina

LOLA — Hunter 45 CC (W) **John Miller** **Tacoma, WA**

John, 65, is a retired Systems Analyst/Administrator. "I don't look my age because I decided to never grow up. I'm single, but looking for a partner for this adventure." His crew will be David Skilstad, 62, an Electrician. Tina Todd, Pete Casey, 28, and Ivy Campbell.

"When I was doing that work thing," says John, "I was in the Air Force for 23 years. I was a Maintenance Crew Chief on the C-5A; a Training Manager; an Instructor and Commandant at NCO Leadership School and Airman Leadership School; then a Computer Systems jack-of-all-trades for a Library Consortium; a Microsoft Certified Trainer for IT professionals; a Systems Analyst and Administrator for the Department of the Army; and finally, for the Defense Health Agency, from which I retired for keeps.

"I have been sailing for over 14 years," says John, "and have owned three boats. The first was a 14-foot Hobie Cat that I sailed in California and raced on Monterey Bay. The second was a 30-foot Catalina that I sailed in Puget Sound and the Salish Sea for 11 years. My current boat is a Hunter 45-foot Center Cockpit that I have owned for about a year. She's the only Hunter I have seen with a hard cockpit cover."

The boat's name has nothing to do with the song LOLA by the Kinks. "It is an acronym for 'Live (you must remember to live, not exist); Overcome (overcome the challenges that will undoubtedly come your

way because you are living); Love (because without it, what good is living?); Adventure (this adds the spice and purpose to living)'. "

"This will be my first Ha-Ha and will eclipse my longest passage to date, which was only 18 hours. I plan to stay in the Sea of Cortez for a couple of years after the Ha-Ha. I want to see as many places as possible in my retirement, but my dream destination would be an atoll in the middle of the Caribbean.

"Whether you think you can, or whether you think you can't, you're right!" is my favorite quote, followed closely by 'You are guaranteed to miss every shot you don't take!'

John likes most fruits and vegetables, even brussel sprouts, but he detests carrot seeds in his rye bread.



Maitime - Jason

Maitime — Catalina 470 **Jason Hancock** **San Diego / Palm Desert**

Jason, 52, is a Contractor. His three crew weren't identified as of press time.

"I've been sailing for 44 years," reports Jason, "in everything from dinghies to a Beneteau 51. During that time, I've owned four sailboats, the most recent being my Catalina 470 — which I love!

"I was a Navy Diver back in the 1990s and am now a Master Diver (NAUI).

"My longest passage was months long, but that was back in the Navy. On a sailboat it's been 11 days.

"My dream boat... that's a tough one. Probably an F/P Semana 59 catamaran.

"Uncle Bill is my sailing hero. When he was 12, he somehow acquired a case of beer and sailed a 16-ft boat from Newport Beach to Catalina. OMG, he was crazy!

"Cheers to everyone, as I'm looking forward to having a great time on the Ha-Ha and making a lot of new friends. After the Ha-Ha, I plan to stay in Cabo for three or

four weeks, then head back to San Diego.

"Live your dreams today', is my motto, along with 'May the winds take you to the places you dream about... with the ones you love'.

"Mud Pie is my dessert of choice, and while I'm left-handed, we rock left and right."

Makara — Passport 470AC (W) **Peter Rumsey & Anna Edmondson** **San Diego / Berkeley & D.C.**

Peter, 64, is a Green Building Engineer, while Anna is a retired Writer and Anthropologist. The couple, who fell in love on a sailboat in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Africa, will doublehand.

While Peter started sailing when he was in grade school with 8-ft wood El Toros, it was only five years ago that he started learning how to sail bigger boats. He completed all the levels of US Sailing, including offshore passage-making at OCSC and Club Nautique in the San Francisco area. He skippered several charters along the way.

It was in December of 2023 that the couple purchased *Makara* with high hopes for adventure and fun. Their dream destinations are the less-traveled islands of Greece. They won't be hard to find, as only 227 of the 6,000 islands in Greece are inhabited.

Anna draws her sailing inspiration from the Romantic period and the 'accidental sailor' story of Jeanne Beret, who sailed for love. She lived from 1740-1807. Together with her lover, explorer/botanist Philibert Commerson, they sailed the world making botanical discoveries, learning indigenous languages, and survival skills.

Peter is inspired by British sailing expert Tom Cunliffe, who ran away to sea after dreary law school. Cunliffe is a very successful sailing journalist, author, and broadcaster.

Right-handed Anna's favorite dessert is cheesecake, while left-handed Peter prefers chocolate torte. "We love cooking and eating healthy vegetarian-oriented food from around the world," the couple say, "as well as reading and fixing stuff."

"We don't really have nicknames," the couple report, "but if we were to have them, it would be: 'ABE' (Ay-Bee-Ee) for Anna, and 'Pete' for Peter.

Mambo — Islander 36 (W) **Chris Fearon** **Oakland / Canton, OH**

Chris, 47, is semi-retired from a career as an Engineer who "worked in the Emergency Telecommunications Industry setting up internet/connectivity for first responders and survivors of natural disasters." This year, he's taking a break to

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Mambo - Chris

focus on sailing, more boat projects, and scuba diving. His crew will be Jim Hood, 69, and Michael Sullivan, 71.

"I bought *Mambo* in 2019 with the long-term goal of cruising," reports Chris, who adds that *Mambo* is his favorite style of salsa dancing, which is also known as 'New York Style'. "Major upgrades to my 1978 boat include the installation of an electric windlass, painting the deck, solar/electrical system upgrades, and the installation of a custom solar arch."

This is the second year Chris has registered for the Ha-Ha. Unfortunately, he had to forgo the 2023 edition to help care for his ailing father, who ultimately passed away last November. "This year's kick-off date of November 4 marks one year since his passing, so it holds a special meaning for me," says Chris. "Without a doubt, dad will be cheering me on from heaven."

In March of this year, Chris sailed from Alameda to Los Angeles, with the intention of continuing on to Mexico in the spring. Instead, he decided to wait in Los Angeles until after hurricane season and join the Ha-Ha. Over the summer, he enjoyed SoCal scuba diving and pursued his PADI Divemaster certification. He looks forward to diving in warmer water as he migrates south!

After the Ha-Ha, Chris intends to continue cruising up and down the west coast of Mexico, eventually sailing south to Costa Rica and Panama. The current 3-5 year plan is to transit through the Panama Canal and island hop in the Caribbean.

For the record, *Islander 36s*, which were extremely popular on San Francisco Bay, were designed by Alan Gurney, who a few years before had designed the legendary 73-ft *Windward Passage*. After designing the 36s, several other boats, and one of the first 100-ft sailing yachts, Gurney became disillusioned with the yachting business and dedicated himself to Antarctic exploration. Before his passing,

he had amassed a collection of hundreds of photographs of every known Antarctic penguin species.

Mandolin — Baba 40 Jim & Jo Gleason San Diego / Mission Viejo

Jim, 67, is retired from a 45 year career as VP of Food Service for an olive oil company. Jim will be doublehanding with Jo who is retiring after a 44-year career as a Pediatric Nurse. A tip of the Poobah's hat to her for such a long stint in a noble career. Their 12 year old Yorkie, Lily, will also be on board as mascot.

Jim dreamed of the cruising lifestyle since before the couple were married 40 years ago, but life had other plans for him. "During our parenting years before owning our own boat," reports Jo, "we were members of the Newport Sailing Club and sailed locally to Catalina and the Channel Islands. We often had our toddler son strapped to the helm in his car seat and our infant daughter tied to the gimballed stove.

"We owned a Ranger 33 for 15 years out of Long Beach, but in July of 2023 graduated to our new-to-us *Baba 40*. She's our dream boat for offshore cruising adventures! At 67 and 65 years of age we ain't getting' any younger, so it's now or never for us. We are newbies to the Ha-Ha and are very excited to join this festive rally of fellow cruisers!

"We don't have a dream destination yet, so for now it's Cabo." As far as heroes, Jim has much respect for John Kretschmer and the Pardeys. Jo, a reluctant First Mate, was recently inspired by following the 2022 GGR and cheering for Kirsten Neuschafer, her new hero. "Of course, we are also big fans of Captain Ron!"

"Jim likes chocolate anything for dessert, while Jo likes a New York style cheesecake and a good cup of coffee.

"I'm left-handed. Unfortunately, Jim



Mandolin - Jo, Lily & Jim

is not."

Marcelena — Hanse 458 (W) Marcelo Kaidi & Lucia Platt Coronado

Marcelo, 51, is a Printer. His crew will be his lady friend Lucia Platt, 34, a Financial Analyst, and two others who hadn't been selected as of press time.

"I've only been sailing for one year," says Marcelo, "but have dreamed about doing the Ha-Ha for many years. *Marcelena* is my first boat, and I got her in November of 2023. So far, my longest passage has only been a few miles to Mission Bay, but prior to the Ha-Ha I plan to sail to Catalina and Ensenada. After Ha-Ha, I will on sail back to San Diego.

"For now, my dream destination is the Ha-Ha. I really like *Marcelena*, but I'm too new to sailing to know if she would be my ultimate dream boat.

"I'm a right-hander who loves homemade chocolate ice cream. Legendary golfer Gary Player is the author of my favorite quote: "The more I work and practice, the luckier I seem to get."

How to pronounce Marcelo? We're not sure. In the spelling given, it would be 'maa-seh-low, like the Brazilian football player. The Italian version would be Marcello, which is pronounced 'mar-chell-low'. Either one comes from the Roman god Mars, father of Romulus and Remus, and the god of war, murder, and bloodshed. So, look out!

Memento Vivere — Beneteau 46.1 Paul Deem & Annette Leavelle Seattle, WA (2023)

Paul, 31, is a Software Engineer while his spouse, Annette, is a Student. Both did the 2023 Ha-Ha.

The couple got into sailing 3.5 years ago, mostly because they were dying to try something new after Covid. So, they took a course/trip out of Olympia, which consisted of hopping from inlet to inlet around the South Puget Sound for a week. "We instantly fell in love with sailing and bought our *Oceanis 46.1*."

Based on the couple's profile from last year, probably the most unusual thing about their boat at that time was that it was a bit of a zoo. "We have our two dogs and cat because we couldn't leave them behind. And they have proven themselves to be quite the boat animals. "Other than that, we have a high-capacity water maker, a DC-powered A/C, and a ton of battery capacity."

"Annette has always been in love with small tropical islands, and we had our honeymoon in Bora Bora, which has really cemented that love! Between the perfectly clear water, beautiful wildlife, and amazing reefs, it's hard to imagine picking

anywhere else. So, our dream cruising destination would absolutely be French Polynesia. But it's super remote and hard to get to, which is part of its appeal.

"Paul grew up in the mountains of Colorado, watching ski movies during the fall to get stoked for the winter. So his favorite quote is from Warren Miller, "If you don't do it this year, you will be one year older when you do."

**Neener3 — Catalina 42
Jan Grygier & Patti Boucher
Salt Spring Island, B.C. / Richmond,
B.C. (2010)**

Jan, 67, is a retired Engineer/Analyst, while retired spouse Patti, was a Therapist and Pilates Instructor. Both did the 2010 Ha-Ha. Their crew will be David Lyon, 65, a retired Engineer of some sort; Angie Aragon, a retired Nurse; and Lindsey Presson, a retired Vet Tech.

"Jan has been sailing since he was a toddler in England, later in Eastern Canada, and finally in California. His first boat was a Moth, although not the "modern crazy thing". Then he had a Laser, a 24-ft Columbia Challenger, a Santana 22, and finally Neener3 — which is pronounced Neener, Neener, Neener.

Patti first sailed on a Sunfish in the Bahamas in her 20s, but almost killed herself the second time she went out. So she didn't sail again until she met Jan in 1992.

"We have owned Neener3 since 2009," the couple report, "when we did the Delta Doo-Dah followed by the Ha-Ha in 2010. All along, we have been upgrading the rigging, electronics, solar/batteries, dodger/bimini, etc. It's been a busy summer as we've been prepping to put our house on the market. We'll use the proceeds to finance our cruising and our retirement home on Salt Spring Island."

Patti, Jan, David and Angie plan on staying aboard in Mexico after the Ha-Ha, while poor Lindsey has to return home. Neener will be put on the hard somewhere in Mexico for the summer before the crew will return for another season in '25/'26.

Jan has a favorite quote from Richard Steele: "When you have a big adventure and everybody survives, you talk, talk, talk. And when nobody survives, you get very quiet." To the Poobah it sounds like a variation of 'Dead men tell no tales'.

**Ogigiona — Giorgetti & Magrini 45
Emily Dingwell & William Hart
Seattle, WA**

Emily, 31, is a Software Engineer, while spouse William, 33, is a Chemist.

"Ogigiona — Gigi for short — is our second boat," report the couple, our first being a Ranger 33. Gigi is our first liveaboard, which we bought just before the start of Covid. Emily also owned an extra boat, *Caution*, a San Juan 24. She bought her



Ogigiona - Emily & Will

off Craigslist for \$250, then entered her the 2024 Race to Alaska as *Team Loose Screw*.

"We've lived aboard *Ogigiona* for almost three years alongside our dog Malcolm, a German Shepherd mix.

"People will be able to easily spot *Gigi* she's a ketch that's almost a schooner. In fact, she was a schooner until around 1999, when she got completely re-rigged!

"Will's sailing experience started as a dingy sailor as a child, then restarted learning by doing after we bought our first boat. Emily first learned to sail in ASA 101 in 2015, then has just kept doing more ever since. Her longest passage was 55 days across the Atlantic from Southampton to Cape Town.

"While nobody on our boat has done a Ha-Ha, *Gigi* did one or more in the mid-'90s. Our plan after the Ha-Ha is to spend a season cruising around the Sea of Cortez, then head out across the Pacific. Nonetheless, our dream destination would be Antarctica!

"Our sailing heroes include Cole Brauer, the first woman to sail around the world non-stop; Lisa Blair, who, among other things has singlehanded around Antarctica faster than anyone; and Tracy Edwards, who skippered the first all-women crew in the Whitbread Around the World Race — and did really well, too.

"Emily's favorite dessert is cheese. Will's is pavlova, and Malcolm's is peanut butter.

****Pacific Wren — Taswell 56
Dave Marchant & Jenn Fohring
Vancouver, B.C.**

Dave, 40, is a Geophysicist, Jenn is a retired Geophysicist. What exactly is a Geophysicist? "Someone who studies the earth using gravity, magnetic, electrical, and seismic methods. Some geophysicists spend most of their time outdoors studying various features of the earth, while others spend most of their time indoors using

computers for modeling and calculations."

Dave and Jenn's crew will be their parents Bill Marchant, 76, and Norma Marchant and their two boys, William, 8, a Student of Life; and Owen, 4, also a Student of Life.

"I've been sailing all my life," reports Dave. "When I was a kid, I lived aboard my parents' Alberg 37 while cruising the East Coast before moving back ashore in Nova Scotia. My longest passage was a Transatlantic many years ago.

"I'm fairly new to sailing," admits Jenn, "but have scraped a whole lot of boat bottoms. My longest passage has been Vancouver to San Diego 17 years ago aboard a friend's 30-footer. I'm looking forward to more sailing and exploring in Mexico and beyond.

"*Pacific Wren* is our second boat. We've owned her for just over four years. We spent most of three years refitting the 34-year-old boat, followed by a year of cruising the Pacific Northwest. Our biggest hope for the Ha-Ha is to meet other 'kid boats' on their way to Mexico."

The Poobah believes your "biggest hope" will come true, as a month before the entry deadline, a total of 28 kids were on boats that had signed up. That's a record, making this the Ha-Ha of Kids?

Dave and Jenn's dream destinations are Northern Europe or South Africa. Nice and close, eh? Their dream boat is smaller than their 56-footer.

**Pacifica — Beneteau 393
Craig Bianchi
Alameda**

Craig, 73, is a retired Train Operator, which the Poobah has been told can be a really fun job.

"I took sailing lessons in 8-ft El Toros in high school," reports Craig, "then raced sporadically in the decades that followed. My Beneteau 393, which I purchased five years ago, is my first boat. I bought her to liveaboard.

"So far, I've only sailed on San Francisco Bay, and only between stints refitting my boat, which was launched in 2002.

"I'm not sure what I'll do after the Ha-Ha. Perhaps do the Bash home to my two grandsons."

Kirsten Neuschäfer, the first woman to win the Golden Globe Singlehanded Around the World Race since it started in 1968, is Craig's sailing hero. Kirsten is the first woman to win any around the world race by the three great capes, including solo and fully crewed races, non-stop or with stops.

"If I had my dream sailing partner," says Craig, "we would go to Croatia to start an extended left-handed cruise aboard an Oyster 48. That would be amazing."



Panache - Mike & Bill

**Panache — Beneteau First 33.7
Mike Kummer
San Diego**

Mike, 60, is the Principal Architect in a small firm that designs commercial and residential projects. He admits that his wife thinks he has a sailing problem just because, in addition to being the owner, he's the "captain, trimmer, bowman, and tap dancer".

"I was introduced to sailing," Mike says, "through my father on Midwest inland lakes and Lake Superior, where our family would spend time cruising in the summers. In 1998 and 1999, my dad and I lived out one of his dreams by sailing east through the Great Lakes. We met some wonderful people and saw fantastic scenery. The North Channel and Georgian Bay of Lake Huron are highly recommended cruising grounds.

"After college, I moved to San Diego, where my sailing interest continued through owning, racing and crewing on both dinghies and keelboats."

Mike attempts to convince himself that he's not old by attempting to do all the things he did when he was younger, such as climb, ski, occasionally mountain bike ("which is dangerous"), and racing small boats, ("which is painful"). He survives on Ibuprofen.

"Bill Beck, 65, will be my chaperone, skipper, trimmer, bowman, and social media personality on the Ha-Ha. He's a retired Rocket Scientist — really."

"I'm one of those Rocket Scientists turned sailor and painter," confesses Bill. "I spent my career in aerospace, working on composite materials for aircraft and space launch vehicles. I retired a couple of years ago, and now I paint a lot and build composite stuff, such as skis and boat parts, in my garage. That is when I'm not out sailing or hanging with the grandkids.

"Much of my sailing career has been in New England," continues Bill, "where I owned a Pearson 30, then a C&C 38. I

cruised those boats in Maine and Canada. Currently I'm in between boats, so I crew for Mike. After several TransPacs, one TransBac, and oh, so, many coastal races, I can say the Pacific is growing on me.

Rounding out the crew will be Otto, the Raymarine Evolution 200 Sail Pilot. "I'll be responsible for keeping these clowns on course," it says. Finally, there is Celeste, the Celestaire Astra IIIB sextant. "I'll be responsible for telling Otto where to go — assuming clowns Mike and Bill know how to use me!"



Panther - Kent, Riley, Hutch & Lara

****Panther — Outremer 50S (W)
Kent & Lara Grisemer
San Francisco / Oakland**

Kent, 51, is a retired Civil Engineer while Lara is a practicing Attorney. Their crew will be their children, Hutchison, a 10-year-old young man, and Riley, a seven-year-old young lady. The children are Students of Life.

"Kent began sailing as a teen in the 1980s on a Styrofoam Snark, which he won by collecting Kool cigarette cartons. The sailboat was so little, it was delivered to his doorstep. Years later, when Kent graduated from Cal Berkeley, he upgraded, just a tad, to a Catalina 38. He lived aboard until age 30, when he sailed to Australia with a childhood friend.

Years later, Kent was back in the Bay Area, but boatless. He then met and married his now First Mate, Lara. She came into the relationship with no sailing skills whatsoever, but she already owned a boat . . . cue ominous music here . . . a wakeboard boat! As time went by, Kent became captain of the wakeboard boat, too. They then added to their family with Hutch and Riley. They also added a 44-ft monohull before replacing her in May of 2023 with their Outremer 50S performance cruising catamaran.

"As a family, we are setting out on the

Ha-Ha as the first leg of a potential four-year circumnavigation," reports Lara. "It will be our first Ha-Ha, and apart from Kent, the Ha-Ha will be the longest passage thus far for the rest of the family. I dream of the warm tropical waters ahead, while Kent is hoping to make it past Australia this time around. As for the kids, they're just along for the ride, however long it lasts — which could be as short as Half Moon Bay if homeschooling does us all in.

"Panther is our dream boat, and the South Pacific, where we hope to be in 2025, is our dream destination. We don't have sailing heroes, but we like the following quote from Jimmy Dean the Sausage Man: "I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination."

"Kent likes mud pie for dessert, while I prefer crème brûlée."

Kent is the second skipper in the Ha-Ha fleet who reports having learned to sail on a \$99 boat marketed by the Kool cigarette company. The other is architect Ken on *Aventura*.



Patriot - Scott

**Parrothead — Beneteau Oceanis 35
Steve & Karen Kittle
San Diego / Twentynine Palms (2018)**

Steve, who will be 75 at the start of the Ha-Ha, is a retired Contractor and a vet of the 2018 Ha-Ha. Karen "Kaki", who also did the 25th Ha-Ha, is retired from Real Estate.

The couple have owned six boats in their 45 years of sailing and have owned their current *Parrothead*, a 1995 Jean Berret design, for nine years.

It comes as no surprise that their sailing hero is the late Jimmy Buffett. Jimmy once paddled over to the Poobah's cat in St. Barth and spent about an hour. The Poobah and Doña can confirm he was as regular of a guy as could be, especially for

one who went from considering suicide at the Howard Johnson Motel in Mill Valley when his career was going nowhere to eventually being worth a billion dollars. "I'm not a great guitar player, and I'm not a great singer," said the self-aware Jimmy during a talk at the Friends of the American Library in Paris, "but I am a good entertainer." The dude has way more depth than the average pop singer.

"Our dream destination is Tonga," says Steve, who goes by GPS. "Our dream boat would be an Oceanis 42 with electric everything," says Kaki.

The couple's longest passage has been 1,100 miles. Both are right-handers who believe that "life should be a treasure hunt, not a surprise party".

They have no firm plans after the Ha-Ha.

**Passage — Symbol 47 Fast Trawler
Brent Mathews
Long Beach / Prescott, AZ**

Brent, 76, is a retired Asset Manager. His crew will be friend Dana Cottle, retired from the Health Care field; Ric Sanders, 73, a retired Project Manager; and Austin Smith, 45, who is in the Security field.

Brent reports he's been into boats all his life, although he's owned "less than 10" boats. He's owned his Symbol 47 for four years. He seems to remember crewing on a Ha-Ha in the 1980s, but the official Ha-Ha didn't start until 1994. His longest passage to date is Hawaii to Los Angeles.

After the Ha-Ha, he plans to stay in Marina Escondido, about 300 miles up into the Sea of Cortez from Cabo, for a year or more.

Brent thinks "one or two of the boats he owns, or maybe both, are pretty much his dream boat. He didn't mention what other boat he has.

His ultimate destination is Heaven, but he hopes to "not get there too soon".

Brent's favorite quote is, "Don't drink the water because..." He's only left-handed if the fork is on the left hand side of the plate.

The Poobah does not know who Andy MacDonald is, but he's Brent's nautical hero.

**Patriot — Hunter 466
Scott Lanier
Anchorage / Wasilla, AK**

Scott, 45, is a retired Alaska State Trooper who will be doublehanding with friend Joe Livengood, 55, a Doctor. Have you ever heard of a better name for a doctor?

While Scott has been boating for 30 years, he just bought *Patriot*, his first boat this year. While as crew, he has completed the Inside Passage from Bellingham to Ketchikan, as well as other offshore patrols

related to his work.

Scott is still looking for his dream destination, but his dream boat would be a Nordhavn 68 motor yacht.

The Poobah loves his favorite quote: "If we did stuff right the first time, no one would appreciate how difficult it was."



Pelican - Yvonne & Rob

**Pelican — Island Packet 370 (W)
Rob Currie & Yvonne Jenapierre
Emeryville**

Rob, 57, is a semi-retired Software Engineer turned Itinerant Neuroscientist. He will be sailing with friends Jim Atkins, 54, and Paul Weinstein, 58. "I started out in the Valley writing music software for rock stars, and later turned to navigation and enterprise software. I now dream of playing a gig for beer in a beach bar somewhere south."

"I needed to find crew for the Ha-Ha, as Yvonne is going to meet me in La Paz. She's new to sailing, but having been a nomad for many years, is looking forward to exploring the world by sea. We've been living the nomadic life with empty nests between Emeryville, Miami and El Salvador, the latter being where Yvonne grew up.

"I've been sailing since I was four on an Aqua Cat in Saipan, where my parents were in the Peace Corps. I later grew up sailing the Chesapeake, racing El Toros and other boats. I also spent a lot of time sanding my dad's wooden boat. I started sailing the Bay while in college on a Cal 25. I later sailed and lived aboard several boats in the Bay at Peninsula Marina (RIP), South Beach Marina before they kicked out the sneak-a-boards, and now Emery Cove Marina.

"I do have some offshore experience, as I sailed my Ericson 38 from San Francisco to Florida in '94-'95, and sailed a Catana 431 cat from France to the West Indies in '99-'00. I had my newborn son along on that trip. He was born in Barce-

lona and moved aboard 24 hours out of the womb.

"I purchased my current sailboat — I think she's my seventh — in Miami two years ago and had her trucked to the Bay. While I'd gone to Miami to find a boat, I also found Yvonne. She and I are planning to sail the Sea of Cortez for the winter. If all goes well, we'll do the Pacific Puddle Jump in '25 or '26."

**Peregrine Spirit — Ericson 38
Tom Fistic
San Diego (2006, 2021)**

Tom, 66, is a retired Business Manager. His crew will include Rich Farmer, 62, a Logistic Manager who did the 2007 Ha-Ha; Jane Vereen, a Friend who is looking forward to graduating from power boating to sailing; and long-time sailor Bruno Lerebourg, 62, who grew up sailing in Normandy.

Tom has been sailing for 25 years, during which time he's owned two boats, including the Ericson 38 for the last six years. She once appeared on the cover of *Santana* magazine.

"I got hooked on sailing while taking classes at Orange Coast College of Sailing and Seamanship in 2002," reports Tom. "I did many trips with the school on S/V *Alaska Eagle* — Cape Horn, New Zealand Bay of Islands, Friday Harbor to Cabo, and Tahiti to American Samoa."

"I've done two Ha-Ha's. The first in 2006 aboard the legendary 79-ft *Kialoa* when she was operated by OCC Sailing, and on my boat, *Peregrine Spirit*, in 2021."

"My longest passage to date was from Seward, Alaska to San Francisco when I crewed on a 44-ft boat. That was almost 2,000 miles."

After the Ha-Ha, Tom plans to continue on up to La Paz, although Zihuatanejo is his dream destination. He'd like to arrive there on a Valiant 40.

Capt. James Cook is his sailing hero,



Peregrine Spirit - Tom

and carrot cake is his choice for dessert.

**Perla — Passport 40
Brent Piercy
San Francisco**

Brent, 37, is an Engineer. His crew will be Colm Pelow, 70, and Alan Ainley, 68.

"I've been sailing since 1996, when I started out on small boats such as a Chrysler Buccaneer, Hobie 16, and Sunfish on small lakes in Arkansas, where I grew up. When I moved out to Oregon, I got a Catalina 25 for a racing season in Yaquina Bay. Since moving to San Francisco in 2011, I've been sailing on a Beneteau First 42 and an Express 37.

"After a trip down to Ensenada, I decided I needed to get my own boat. After years of searching, I decided on *Perla*, a 1982 Passport 40. I've been prepping and sailing her for a couple of years now and am ready to do some cruising on her. After the Ha-Ha, I'm hoping to stay in Baja for a little while, then work my way back up the coast. I dream of summers in Desolation Sound and winters in Baja. But who doesn't?

"I'm pretty much following what my dad had always said was his dream: to retire, buy a boat, and sail around the world. He just retired this year, but I don't think he'll get to make his dream a reality. But I'm sure gonna have a good time taking him around on my boat."

**Prana — Hunter 45 CC
Kirt Eckmann & Linda Fincher
Ventura**

Kirt, 62, is an Architect, while his "younger and prettier" fiancée Linda is a Charge Nurse, which means she oversees a team of nurses during a set period of time. But Kirk hopes she'll be retired by the start of the Ha-Ha. Nephew Mike Eckmann, 35, a Property Manager, will be First Pirate.

Kirt has owned miscellaneous boats since he was 19, starting with tournament ski boats to wakeboard boats. At age 24, having never sailed before, he found and bought, *Dreamer*, a Hunter 34 in Sausalito. After hiring a drunk skipper, the two of them set sail on a mid-winter passage to and around Point Conception.

As Kirk recalls, "the trip featured '30-knot winds and 40-ft seas. The most memorable moment was when the entire red glow of sunset disappeared from my mast as we dropped into the trough, then surfed a 40-ft wave on my 34-ft 'board'. That got me hooked on sailing."

Kirk periodically lived aboard in Santa Barbara for two years, then went back to a wakeboard boat. But he always knew sailing would be in his future.

"I bought *Prana*, a vet of a number of Ha-Ha's, in San Diego in February of this year," says Kirk. "It was two days before

hurricane Hillary was forecast to hit San Diego as a Tropical Storm. Realizing that my insurance didn't cover such an event, Linda and I rushed down to ride it out aboard. It was a very disappointing adventure as the storm's path shifted, and no matter what the media said, didn't hit San Diego as a Tropical Storm.

"Linda is a lefty, which is even more important since she is currently recovering from a rotator cuff surgery on her right arm after a spectacular snowboarding accident.

She has successfully completed ASA 101, and has acquired the ability to come back for an overboard captain or pirate, if she so desires. She also makes a killer breakfast burrito.

"First Pirate Mike is the property manager of some of the most beautiful properties in California, including flower gardens and wedding grounds on the oceanfront at Dos Pueblos. He has been sailing the Wet Wednesdays in Santa Barbara for years in order to hone his drinking skills, and is in top form for this Ha-Ha."

**Profligate — Surfin' 63 Cat
Doña de Mallorca**

Punta Mita, MX / Paris, France

Doña, a retired RN and Boat-Worker in the Med with two TransAtlantics to her credit, will be sailing south with a crew of at least 10. They include her boyfriend, Richard, 76, a Comedian and Lapsed Novelist; Chris Hunt, 55, a Contractor; Dino Depasquale, 49, a Painting Contractor; Steve Mueller, 49 a retired Cal Fire Chief; Kris Mueller, a retired RN; Chuck Skewes, 51, owner of Ullman Sails in San Diego and Seattle; Jim Drake, a retired Professional Captain and Yanmar dealer who helped finish off *Profligate* when she was new and who was captain of *Big O* from Sausalito to Turkey and back to the Caribbean; Jeanette Drake, retired from Facebook and other Silicon Valley businesses; Dana Pomykal, retired from an Unspecified Career; Paul Ludgate, 52, retired from an Auto Repair businesses and currently a Llama Guide; and maybe somebody else.

This will be the 26th Ha-Ha in which *Profligate*, based on a Hughes 60, will be the mothership. Collectively, the Ha-Ha crew has made well in excess of 150 trips between San Diego and Cabo San Lucas.

**Punk — Mattia 52 Cat
Wayne Zittel
San Diego (2006)**

Wayne, 56, is a Professional Sailor who owns *J/World* in San Diego. He'll have six *J/World* students as crew. They hadn't been identified as of press time.

Wayne and his happy-go-lucky wife Lisa bought *Punk*, an Italian-built Contreras-designed 52-ft cat, in Italy in 2022.

They sailed her in the Med, across the Atlantic, through the Panama Canal, and up the West Coast to her new homeport in San Diego. A veteran of countless races to Mexico and more than 20 crossings between California and Hawaii, Wayne did the last 1,000 miles from Vallarta singlehanded. Doing the feared Baja Bash solo is what Wayne often does for leisure, having previously done it with the Santa Cruz 50 *Hula Girl*.

"With a fun, new-to-us boat, how could we not do the Ha-Ha?" Wayne asks. "We will be introducing six new sailors to the joys of cruising the Mexico coast."

Wayne's dream destination is wherever he's going next, which in this case means Cabo. He dreams of doing it with a Gunboat cat or a big Wally monohull.

Having been able to sail with a lot of great sailors, he has the utmost respect for his sailing heroes which would be Bernard Moitessier or Yves Parlier. The latter was once voted the favorite sport personality in France and twice held the 24-hour record for solo distance sailed.

Wayne's favorite quote comes from Hunter Thompson: "Life has become immeasurably better since I have been forced to stop taking it seriously."

His favorite dessert is ice cream. "Only because it is so tough to manage on a boat."

**Quid Sea — Norseman 447
Tracy Myers
Portland / Vancouver, WA**

Tracy, 64, is a retired Engineer. His two to-be-crew hadn't been chosen by press time.

"I've been sailing for 18 years, during which time I've owned three sailboats. I've owned *Quid Sea* for two years. I haven't done a Ha-Ha before, and my longest passage to date is four days. But as a Merchant Seaman I have transited both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. After the Ha-Ha, I plan to head west and do a circumnavigation.

"My dream destination is Australia, and I'll be sailing there on my Bob Perry-designed Norseman 447, my dream boat. I don't have any sailing heroes — yet.

Although I'm not left-handed, I always try to look on the bright side of life, and particularly enjoy my daughter's Imperial Stout cheesecake.

"When I was a 3rd Mate, I sailed with a Chief Mate from the South. When I told him I was from New York but had attended the Texas Maritime Academy, he told me, 'Ain't no Yankees went to Texas Maritime Academy... you must be from Alabama'. From then on, I've been 'Bama'.

Greg King, one of the finest and most experienced sailors out there — a nine-year circumnavigation is just the beginning — is currently out in the Pacific aboard his Norseman 447 *Sirena*. A source of endless

excellent information on Norseman 447s and the South Pacific, you should befriend him on Facebook.



Quincy - Jim & Chris

**Quincy — Ericson 38-200
Jim & Chris Schulz**

Seattle, WA / Victor, ID (2023)

Jim, 56, is a retired Flooring Contractor, while his spouse Chris is a retired Teacher.

Jim and Chris both sailed when they were young, but started up again together five years ago. They've owned two boats, including *Quincy*, for the last three years.

Jim did last year's Ha-Ha aboard *Endless Summer*, and both crewed on a delivery from St. Maarten to Newport, Rhode Island, which is an often challenging 1,500 miles.

After the Ha-Ha, they plan to cruise the west coast of Mexico and beyond. But their dream destination would be the Land of the Long White Cloud, New Zealand, and with their Ericson, which is their dream boat.

Their sailing hero is Frenchman Bernard Moitessier, a Hanoi-born cult figure for among other things having all but won The Sunday Times Golden Globe Race, the first singlehanded around the world race, before abandoning it on principle. Moitessier is also famous for losing his boat on the beach in Cabo San Lucas. Full of sand, he sold her for \$1. She's since been completely restored and is in frequent use in France.

Jim and Chris like crème brûlée for dessert, and approve of the following quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson: "What is success? To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate the beauty; to find the best in others;

to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded!"

By the way, did you hear the one about the teacher who asked a student for his correct pronouns. Having not been paying attention, the student responded, "Who? Me?"

**Red Beard — Ericson 32-2
Chris Fowler
Portland, OR**

Chris, 33, who lists his occupation as Dock Crew, will be sailing south with Jon 'Metal Man' Baer, 53, who is retired and living in La Paz and Alan Burns, 32. Penny the Cat will assist.

A sailor of few words, Chris reports that he's been sailing for three years and is already on his third boat, a Bruce King design from 1975. He's owned *Red Beard* for one year. The one unique thing about the boat is that she has party lights.

Four days coming down the Oregon Coast is Chris' longest passage. While he's going to cruise the Sea of Cortez after the Ha-Ha, his dream destination is the Adriatic Sea. He'd like to do it aboard a big Oyster.

He likes "cakes" for dessert.

**Red Rover — Concordia 47 (W)
McKenzie Keith
Santa Cruz**

McKenzie, 57, is an Electrical Engineer. He will have two crew Darron Brackenburg, 67, and Gillian Gray.

"I'm an 'off and on' cruiser who has sailed to Mexico, Hawaii, French Polynesia and Australia, but that was many years ago. While in my late 20s, I crossed the Pacific to Australia aboard the Freya 39 *Candide*.

"My dream boat would be a Santa Cruz 52, and my sailing hero is Joshua Slocum, the first person to singlehand around the world. My favorite dessert is chocolate soufflé.

Red Rover is a Bruce Farr design from 2006 from Concordia Yachts of South Dartmouth, Mass. although she was built by Carroll Marine. The legendary Concordia company is most famous for the 103 Raymond Hunt Concordia Yawls, which were actually built by legendary Abeking & Rasmussen of Germany "on a handshake agreement". Despite their age and being built of wood, most of them are still afloat, and many are in superb condition.



Rendezvous - Tim

**Rendezvous — Ericson 41
Tim Anderson
Santa Barbara**

Tim, 67, is a retired Tradesman. His crew will be Dan Westra, 58, who is in Tech; sister Jayne Pritchard, a Lawyer; and nephew Kolben Pritchard, 34.

Tim has been sailing for 55 years, 31 of them on his Bruce King-designed Ericson 41. She was launched in 1968, when the Beatles' *Hey Jude* was the number one record in the country.

1993 was the first year Tim came to Cabo, where he later ran the 46-ft charter catamaran *Spin Doctor* for five years. He was known as 'Padre Timo' to the locals.

A smart guy, after Cabo, Tim plans to head up to the southern Sea of Cortez until the Northerlies blow and the water gets too cold for swimming. Then he'll head to the mainland for some surfing and "f-king off".

"Sailing is better in warm water," says Tim. So is swimming, surfing, and diving, which is why he "misses Yelapa, Tena-catita, Barra, and Zihau."

"I own my dream boat," he continues, "but my dream destination is a dentist's office in Mexico.

"I enjoy eating tres leche left-handed with a 'live now, die later' attitude," he concludes.

**Resolute — Blue Jacket 40 (W)
Gal Bar-or
Marina del Rey / Belvedere**

Gal, 57, is a retired "Software-related Startup Entrepreneur" who was looking for crew as of press time.

Gal has 32 years of sailing experience, including offshore adventures such as a Doublehanded Pacific Cup, Hawaii to San Francisco, and various coastal deliveries.

"I have a never-ending love of the sea and sailing," he says.

Gal has owned eight boats over the years, all of which were race-oriented. "The Blue Jacket 40 I presently own is the culmination of my cruising dreams," says Gar, "and cruising is what I want to do now, starting with the Ha-Ha. The Tim Jackett design was launched in 2015.

"My dream destination is someplace warm where there are no bugs. Since I know that doesn't exist, I'll take warm."

The Poobah thinks there are lots of places that are warm and don't have bugs. He's never had a problem at Ha-Ha stops in Turtle Bay or Bahia Santa Maria, or anchored off St. Barth.



Sapphire Seas - Bill & Lisa

Sapphire Seas — Lagoon 38 (W) Bill & Lisa Lomax

Long Beach Shoreline / Aliso Viejo

Bill, 69, is a retired Landscape Contractor, while spouse Lisa is "Director of Ministry". Their crew will be Craig Oliva, 63, a Rowing Coach.

"Bill sailed for 10+ years aboard a Catalina 30 out of San Francisco Bay, and chartered many boats in the BVIs.

"Our Lagoon 380 catamaran was purchased in January 2023. Bill sailed her down the coast that July to our new slip in Long Beach. Currently, most of our trips are to Catalina and back. But *Sapphire Seas* is our dream boat, and Bill has dreams of sailing her to the Caribbean. As his First Mate, I'm just getting my sailing shoes wet, so I'm wondering if sailing for a year + will be too much adventure for me. Stay tuned!

"Our plans for the Ha-Ha? To have a blast."

Lagoon has built 5,800 catamarans, more than any other company. Of their various models, which range in length from 35 to 77 feet, the 38/380 has been

the biggest seller.



Satori - John & Nicole

Satori — Jeanneau 53 Jeffrey Alligood

San Diego / Winston-Salem, NC

Jeffrey, 58, is a retired CPA/CFO, while his crew/brother Tyndall, 64, is a retired Customer Compliance Manager. Additional crew will be Thomas Blount, 54, an Engineer; Michael Lee, 57, "Faculty"; and Jeff Boone, 59, a retired Business Owner.

"My wife and I began our sailing adventures together with a Catalina 25 swing keel in the late 1990's," reports Jeffrey. "After several years and a few kids, we bought a Freedom 32 for the family and moved to San Diego. After selling the Freedom in 2019, we moved up to our current boat, *Satori*, a 2011 Jeanneau 53. We purchased her in Seattle, so I flew up there to get her and stopped in San Francisco for a few days on the way down. Sailing beneath the Golden Gate was pretty cool.

"The Ha-Ha will be just the first of several legs of our ultimate journey, as we'll continue down to Panama and then head to Aruba. From there, we're not really sure. Our dream destination is certainly the Caribbean, as we've chartered in the BVI many times. In fact, we're super excited to moor *Satori* near the Willy T and at all of the other awesome anchorages throughout the islands.

"If pressured, I could be convinced to move up to a Jeanneau 60, but for now, *Satori* is our dream boat.

"I have two favorite quotes, the first from the legendary Jimmy Buffett, who died too young:

"I'm growing older, but not up."

The other is Mark Twain's famous observation: "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."

"Wait, there's one more: "I spent most of my dough on booze, broads and boats and the rest I wasted."

Satori — Jeanneau SO 440 John & Nicole Cleary Long Beach

John, 53, is retired from the IT world, while Nicole continues to work as an Environmental Engineer. The two will doublehand.

John has been sailing since he was 10 years old and has owned five boats. He proposed to Nicole while sailing his Lancer 26 off the coast of Malibu.

Since then, the couple have sailed from Washington to California, and from the Mediterranean to the Caribbean to Florida.

"We purchased our newest boat last year and have been busy getting her ready for a trip around the world. After the Ha-Ha, we will be sailing up to La Paz, then to Puerto Vallarta, waiting for the winds to take us to French Polynesia. After that, who knows?!

"Our dream destination has warm water, cool drinks, and great scuba diving!"

Savanna — Gulf 32 (W) Robert Davidson & Joan Mueller Marina del Rey / El Segundo

Robert, 73, is retired after 42 years as an Aircraft Mechanic. Joan, his Life Partner, is a retired Kaiser Administrator. Their crew will be Joseph Justice, 71.

Robert has been sailing since 1965, starting with inland scows. He's owned *Savanna* for 20 years. Buying her and fitting her out as a proper liveaboard cost him 75k, not counting his labor. She has a genset, A/C, a watermaker, radar, sonar, wind instruments, AIS, new standing rigging, an autopilot, a windvane, and much more.

Robert and Joan's longest passage to date is three days, but they are ready for more and have their sights set on Panama.

"Yes, I'm left-handed," Robert says. "And after being an aircraft mechanic for 42 years, I'm pretty good at installing and fixing things."

Scandal — Beneteau 461 Dan Robinson Ventura

Dan, no age given, is a Lawyer. He'll have four crew including: his father, Mike Robinson, 80, a College Professor, his brother-in-law, Todd Warnygora, 53, an Engineer, Drew Bielawski, 65 and Travis Johnson, 53.



Scandal - Dan



Sea Monkey - Harry, Max & Mila



Sea Stock – Howard & Mary Ellen

“I’ve been sailing since childhood, about 50 years,” says Dan, “while my dad has been slightly longer. I regularly sailed on San Francisco Bay until 2017, when I moved to Ventura. I bought *Scandal* a year ago and have been living aboard and regularly sailing offshore. My dad has crewed on countless races on Lake Superior over the years, and on many trips with me off California.”

Dan’s longest passage has been San Francisco to Ventura, while Mike has done Hawaii to Seattle.

Tahiti would be the dream destination for Dan, and his dream boat is usually the one he’s looked at most recently. Especially if there is tiramisu in the frig.

Mariner, Actor, Adventurer Sterling Hayden is Dan’s most recent sailing hero, who is also the author of his favorite quote: “If you are contemplating a voyage, and you have the means, abandon the venture until your fortunes change.”

Dan plans to stay in Baja for at least a few weeks after the Ha-Ha, possibly longer, before returning with the boat to Ventura.

*****Sea Monkey — Fuji 45
Aaron & Elizabeth Correll
Petaluma, CA**

Aaron, 45, is a Registered Nurse; Elizabeth listed no specified occupation. Their crew will be their children, a girl Mila, 11; and two boys Harrison, 9; and Maxwell, 7. All three are Students of Life.

The Corrells have been sailing for five years.

“When I told my wife I wanted to sail off into the sunset with the family for years on end, she said I was going through a midlife crisis,” reports Aaron. “Thankfully, she’s adventurous like myself and went along with the whole idea. So we took ASA classes, sailed boats out of Tradewinds in the Bay for a couple of years, and then we

bought *Sea Monkey*.”

They have owned the 1976 full-keel John Alden designed ketch, the only boat they’ve ever owned, for three years. “She’s a tank, but has soul,” they say of the Japanese built boat. “This beast of a boat that was all set up for cruising when we bought her, but required a lot of deferred maintenance. All Elizabeth cares about is that the toilets work.

“I like to think we have our dream boat,” says Aaron, “but if someone offered me a 50-ft catamaran, I’d take it.”

Their longest passage to date was assisting a boat’s delivery from San Francisco to the Channel Islands and Tomales Bay to San Francisco. After the Ha-Ha, they plan to cruise Mexico and then cross the Pacific. John’s sailing heroes are anyone who has had the courage to do a solo circumnavigation.

John likes the following quote from Einstein: “Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.”

The family likes ice cream or cereal for dessert. Aaron’s co-workers call him Capt A-A-ron.

**Sea Stock — Grand Banks 47 MV
Howard & Mary Ellen Rosenberg
San Francisco / Menlo Park
(10 Ha-Ha’s)**

Howard, 57, is a retired Entrepreneur. Spouse Mary Ellen, who is retired from Marketing, will be meeting the boat in Cabo for cruising in the Sea of Cortez for three or four months. Patrick Williams, 60, a retired Police Officer they found on the Crew List, will be one of Howard’s crew. Patrick has done 10 Ha-Ha’s.

“I grew up sailing dinghies in Massachusetts,” says Howard. “I started in Duplins/Turnabouts at age 12, moved on

to Lasers, then 420s as a collegiate racer where I was Captain of the Penn Sailing Team in 1989. After college, I went to New York City and worked in Finance. A couple of years later, I moved to San Francisco, where I spent time as an unconventional venture capital investor. Instead of investing in Technology, I put my money in consumer product companies such as Noah’s Bagels, Rubio’s Fish Tacos, Jamba Juice, Country Hearth Bread.

“I became an entrepreneur after graduating from Business School in 1999. My first company was a user-generated online video streaming website. Unfortunately, it was not called YouTube, and few people had broadband at the time. Following that, I spent 6 years at eBay. I returned to the entrepreneurial world and started B-Stock Solutions, which I ran for 15 years before retiring to the role of Chairman. Now I spend my time boating, building boats — I’ve built two kayaks that I carry on *Sea Stock* — golfing, woodworking, and otherwise enjoying myself.

When I got back into boating in 2020, I decided it was time to make the move to the dark side, and we purchased our Grand Banks trawler. Ours will be one of the few powerboats in the fleet this year. Don’t hate us for it.

“When we bought *Sea Stock*, I had three Bucket List trips: 1) Desolation Sound via the Gulf Islands, which we did in 2022. 2) Alaska, which we did for four weeks in 2023. And 3) Mexico, which we’ll be doing starting with the Ha-Ha in November.

“My dream boat would be a Nordhavn 55 that has lots of chocolate aboard. I’m ambidextrous, as I write righty and throw lefty.



SEAduction Crew



September Time - Arianna, Adam & Sarah

SEAduction — Catalina 42 MKII Daniel Lawler Salt Lake City / Holladay, UT (’07, ’08, ’10, ’14, ’19)

Daniel, 78, retired from the Mortgage business, has been a captain or crew on five previous Ha-Ha’s. He’ll have three crew: son-in-law Kelly Fitisemanu, 61, a retired Teacher; Chris Goodsell, 64; and Gary Brewer, 60, an IT Director. Kelly and Chris are Ha-Ha vets.

This will be Captain Dan’s sixth Ha-Ha. He was so confident of doing his first Ha-Ha with his own boat in 2008 that he signed up before he even owned a boat. He bought *SEAduction* on September 16 of 2008 and had her ready for the Ha-Ha just six weeks later.

Dan has chartered boats in the Caribbean over 30 times since retiring. First Mate Kelly did the 2014 Ha-Ha, and of all the crew on all of *SEAduction*’s Ha-Ha’s, he is the only one to have done the Bash back to San Diego.

One of Dan’s dream destinations is Croatia, one of the finest cruising grounds in the world.

*September Time — Islander Freeport 41 Adam Jones & Sarah OHair Anacortes /Rice, WA

Adam, 35, and spouse, Sarah, are the owners of a seasonal flower shop. Their daughter, Arianna, 3, a Student of Life, will supervise the operation of their boat.

“We started sailing a few years ago when we bought a Formosa 41 ketch fixer-upper,” the couple report. “We practiced sailing her around Bud Bay near Olympia. Then we bought *September Time* in Anacortes and spent a lot of time with her on the hard, getting her ready for the ocean. After sailing her around the San Juan Islands for a few weeks, we took the big leap of faith and sailed her out into the open ocean.

“As we were new to sailing and had a baby on board, we took it slow and harbor-hopped. After making it to Winchester Bay, Oregon, we left the boat in a slip for the winter. The next year, we ventured out again, making it to San Diego. We took three months because we were careful about the weather. So far, our longest sail without stopping has been 35 hours.

“We are excited to keep sailing by joining the Ha-Ha. But we do plan on finding a place to leave the boat in Mexico so we can return home to work. We own a flower shop, so we’re only able to cruise seasonally.

“Ultimately, we would like to find a buddy-boat to sail with us down to Panama. We’re also open to finding a crew member to help on long passages.”

Fun facts about Freeport 41s:

— The original Charles Davies design was a snooze, so Islander had Bob Perry give it some style. It made a big difference.

— In the ’70s, there was a silly Saturday morning kid’s show starring the Freeport 41, *Westwind*. The opening moments of each show featured *Westwind* carrying full sail, including a chute, in what looked to be 25 knots of wind. It was pretty impressive.

— The Freeport 41 is the only ketch rig Islander ever built. The other Freeport models are more typical and less romantic sloops.

— Prior to starting *Latitude 38* sailing magazine, the Poobah sold Islander yachts out of Sausalito. He sold one of the very early Freeport 41s, which was then placed in the big Cow Palace (who remembers that San Francisco institution?) Boat Show. As a result, sales really took off. Ultimately, 30 of them were built.

— Nobody knows more about Freeport 41s than Robert and Virginia Gelser. They are a super friendly, very hands-on couple who have owned their boat for something

like 30 years. Each winter they sail from somewhere in the Sea of Cortez to Tenacatita Bay, where seemingly forever Robert has been the unofficial ‘Mayor’ of the large winter cruising community there. A good couple to know.

Silver Linings — Jeanneau SO 45.2 Mark & Robin LaFavers Carpinteria (2019, 2021, 2022)

Mark, 70, is a retired Heavy Equipment Operator/Mechanic, while Robin is a retired Writer. Their crew will be Zach Little, 52, a VP of Software Engineering; Scott Nordeng, 53, a Rigger; and Scott’s son Devin, 24, a Welder/Boat Builder.

“I’ve been sailing since 2016 when a friend who belonged to Fairwind YC asked me to crew for him,” remembers Mark. “I come from a lifelong power-boating family, having owned multiple small dive/fishing boats. I only came over to the ‘light side’ five years ago when I bought *Silver Linings* and immediately signed up for the 2019 Ha-Ha. The Covid pandemic idled the 2020 Ha-Ha for us, but we enjoyed doing it in 2021 and 2022.

“After both Ha-Ha’s we went up into the Sea. The 2022 Ha-Ha and SOC adventure totaled 65 days on the water for me. Sitting out 2023 gave me a breather to enjoy time with our young grandson.

“Our longest passage to date ended in early June, as we were privileged to crew on the X-Yacht 49 *Joia* from Tahiti to Channel Islands Harbor. It was 25 days and 4,000 miles of upwind sailing. What an amazing boat *Joia* is!

“After this Ha-Ha, we will continue up into the SOC as far as Bahía Concepción — if the weather permits.

“My next dream destination would be back to Alaska, as I have already enjoyed two summer adventures to the glaciers. My dream boat could even include going back to the ‘dark side’ for such an adventure.

“My favorite dessert is Key Lime Pie, and my favorite quote comes from *Buckaroo Banzai*: “No matter where you go, there you are.”

Sirena — Beneteau Oceanis 41 (W) Drew Sherwood San Diego / Fresno

Drew, 30, is a Search & Rescue Sheriff who is also in Technology. His crew will be his father, James Sherwood, 58, a Farmer and an Attorney; as well as Caleb Yakel, Dustin Stegall, and Josh Salazar, ages and careers unknown.

“I’ve been inland sailing for 15 years,” says Drew, “but only ocean sailing for five years. Overall, I’ve owned more than 10 boats, seven of them sailboats, and four of them over 30 feet. I’m currently down to

CRUISING TO THE CAPE



Sirena - Drew



Skye - Erin & Eric

four boats, so I could always use another. "With help from my dad, I upgraded to my current fancier Oceanis 41 18 months ago. The most unusual thing about her in the Ha-Ha will be her good but motley group of sailors.

"My longest passages are the three I've done from San Francisco to San Diego. I've also done yearly trips around Catalina and to other SoCal destinations.

"My dream boat would be a Swan 48. They are just incredible. In fact, I would sell a kidney and my soul if it would get me one. Unfortunately, I doubt my organs are worth that much.

"I don't have a specific sailing hero, but idolize all those who cruise full-time.

"My favorite boat quote is: "The only difference between a boat and a yacht is who you are talking to... a girl at a bar or the IRS".

"I love traveling and meeting people. When I backpacked all over the world, my trail name was Sherlock, from the phrase 'no shit Sherlock'. Apparently, I had the habit of pointing out the obvious.

"After the Ha-Ha, I'll be sailing to La Paz and keeping the boat there for the winter. I plan to sail home when the weather allows in the spring.

The Poobah would like to remind everyone that spring is the worst time of the year to do the Baja Bash, as winds tend to be much stronger and the windows shorter. But modern weather forecasting really helps.

"My dream destination is Alaska, so I'd like to be notified of the date of the first Alaska Ha-Ha. Of course, I'd need the right boat for that."

****** Skye — Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 48
Eric & Erin Vaughan
Sausalito**

Eric, 45, is the Chief Financial Officer

of an unspecified company, while Erin is a Nurse. They will have four children as crew: Grayson, 11; Liam, 10; Skye, 6; and last but not least, Beckham, 4. All are Students of Life.

Eric started sailing on the Chesapeake Bay at age eight and has sailed from Bodega Bay to San Diego, on the East Coast, and in the Med. Erin has been sailing since the couple met in 2016. The kids lived aboard from 2017-2022.

This is Eric and the family's third boat. He started with an O'Day 25, moved up to a more family-friendly Beneteau 423, and in May of 2019 the family bought the roomy Jeanneau 49.

"Our boat's original name was *Eilean Skye*, which is Gaelic for Isle of Skye. We had to truncate it because everyone on the VHF kept calling her *Elaine*.

"We plan to spend the winter in the Sea of Cortez, but my dream is to sail through the Panama Canal. I, Eric, lived there as a child when my father was stationed in the Canal Zone. I have pictures of me riding the 'mules', the mechanical ship-movers, as ships were pulled through the Canal."

"My dream boat would be an Amel 50. My father taught me to sail. By age 12, he let me take over, as I'd become a better sailor than he was.

"I have two favorite sayings: 'Do the things you have to do before the things you want to do', and 'Travel is the only expense that makes you richer.'

"I like carrot cake, and while I'm right-handed, I can bat and play hockey left-handed.

"Our family had a unique Covid experience. We were transients when the Covid lockdown occurred, and we couldn't leave Monterey. We ended up living aboard between a large crab boat and large squid boat. The experience was amazing, and naturally, our kids ended up having squid and crabs as pets. In addition, they played

in the marina daily, driving the dinghy, fishing, and so forth. For us, Covid was a daily adventure."

The Poobah has gone through the Panama Canal with both his Ocean 71 *Big O* and the Ha-Ha mothership *Profligate*. The two most memorable parts were: 1) When the Panama Canal Authority instructed *Big O* to spend the night in Lake Gatun before completing a transit. "F--k you," Captain Antonio told them before I could grab the microphone out of his hand. "We're going through right now." And we did. If that wasn't bad enough, there was 2) Capt Antonio not only passed a ship in the Canal, which is strictly prohibited, he passed it in the narrow Gaillard Cut. The pilot on the ship we passed thought it was so outrageous — and funny — that he took a photo of it happening and sent it to me. Remarkably, we weren't arrested for either violation.



Soiree - Steve & Connie

**Soirée — Beneteau 49
Steve & Connie Hill
Richmond / San Rafael (2017, 2021)**

Steve, 70, is a Sailing Instructor, while Connie is 'President'. Both have done two Ha-Ha's. The Hills retired from Marketing Analytics in 2020. Torben and Judy Bentsen, she being Connie's sister, will be on their crew. Torben and Judy have extensive bluewater sailing experience with their boat *Tivoli* in the Pacific, Atlantic, Caribbean, and Med, and did the Ha-Ha last year with their boat *Tivoli*. Jimmy Walter, 54, will be the final crew member and will be on the Baja Bash to San Diego after the Ha-Ha.

Connie grew up sailing with her family on a variety of boats, from a whale boat to an Ericson 35. She's sailed extensively on the Bay, winning many races and being a season champion multiple times. She's also cruised all around the Bay for

45 years, and traveled up and down the coast. She participated in and passed the Safety at Sea Seminar prior to racing on the Beneteau First 42 *Coyote* in the 2010 Pacific Cup to Hawaii.

Steve also grew up sailing with his family on a variety of boats, from a Bristol 27, to a Vanguard 32, to a Cal 48. He was taught the fundamentals of sailing and boating by his father, a man who had tens of thousands of blue-water miles under his keel. It was his father who instilled in him a deep respect for the power of the wind and the sea.

For 47 years Steve has raced and cruised on the Bay and in the Gulf of the Farallones, as well as to the Channel Islands, Mexico, Canada, and Hawaii. Steve raced to Hawaii in 2008 aboard *Valis*, and again in 2014 aboard *Coyote*. He's also sailed back from Hawaii three times. He is an ASA Sailing Instructor with a 50-ton Master's license, and a Ham Amateur Extra License.

"We have four grandsons," the couple report. "Finn, an eight-year-old, will be sailing with us from Cabo to Puerto Vallarta with his father, our son Adam. Three of our grandsons are skilled in calling bridges to request openings in the Delta, having been trained on the way to Georgiana Slough, where four bridges have to be opened. The youngest, five, will get his training during the 2025 summer trip."

In all their years of sailing, Connie and Steve have only owned two boats, *Coyote* and their current boat *Soirée*, a Beneteau 49 that is their dream boat. After this year's Ha-Ha, they plan on cruising Sea of Cortez, and mainland Mexico. Their dream destination would be the Caribbean.

Ice cream is the preferred dessert of both right-handers.

Solstice — Valiant 42

**Layne Galloway
Seattle, WA / Salt Lake City, UT**

Layne, 61, is a retired Airline Pilot. He'll be sailing south with Aaron Bandstra, 42, a Marine Surveyor, as crew.

"I've been sailing for 30 years," reports Layne, "and *Solstice* is my fourth boat. I purchased the 2006 Bob Perry design last spring in Seattle, and as I write this, I am currently sailing down the coast to join my first Ha-Ha."

The Valiant 42 is an updated version of the ground-breaking Valiant 40 that launched Bob Perry's career in 1973. After the original Valiant operation went bust as a result of problems with hull blisters, a broker who had sold a number of them bought the molds, had the design tweaked, and built 187 Valiant 42s in Texas. Odd fact: Three Valiant 40s were built with centerboards.

"I haven't decided on a destination after Mexico, but *Solstice* is my dream boat, and the South Pacific would be my dream destination."



Sonata - Mitchell

Sonata — Morgan 383 Mitchell Allen & Larissa Botcharnikova Sausalito / Redding ('17, '18, '21, '22)

Mitchell, 67, is the retired CEO of an Automotive Fabrication Shop, although he still messes around there. Spouse Larissa, is a Physician Assistant and will not be joining Mitchell on the Ha-Ha. Mitchell will be sailing with Alan Warren, 67, a retired Mechanic for PG&E who owns an Islander 36 and has sailed the Bay for 40 years; Paul Kamen, 73, a Naval Architect with 25 races to Hawaii and four Ha-Ha's under his belt; Topher Ostendorf, 41; Wendy Pepper; and Leo Richiuso, 57.

'Capt. Mitch' began sailing at the ripe old age of seven. "Dad and I built a 14-ft sloop that started it all. I grew up sailing and racing Banshees and Hobie 14s and 18s. Since 1982, I've owned and raced the Moore 24 *Ebony*. Larissa and I bought *Sonata*, our first bigger boat, in 2018. We also own a Naples Sabot that I restored and an 18.5-ft Wherry with a sliding seat.

"*Sonata* did two Pacific Cups to Hawaii in the early 2000s, so she's completely set up for offshore sailing. This will be my first Ha-Ha, a longtime dream. We're still not sure what we'll do after the Ha-Ha. Perhaps I'll Bash back. Then again, maybe we'll fly back for the holidays, then return to *Sonata* in the Sea of Cortez for as long as possible.

"Our dream destination is the South Pacific, and dream boat would be a Swan 44.

"I don't really have a sailing hero, but if I did, it might be Webb Chiles, who has done six circumnavigations, several of them singlehanded, the last one with a

Moore 24. Webb has also been married six times.

"People call me Mild Mitch. Nonetheless, the way I see things, 'good enough is NOT good enough'.

"I like a splash of whiskey for dessert, and am really looking forward to the Ha-Ha. Cruising offshore has been a dream of mine since reading Robin Lee Graham's *Dove* at age 14."

Sophara — Taswell 43

**John Loomis
Los Angeles**

John, 45, is an Entrepreneur in an unspecified field. He'll have five crew: Matt Clark, 35, a Software Engineer; Bruce Fontneau, 44, Catherine Fontneau, Chelsea Chapman, 35, and David Vines 34.

"I grew up sailing and boating on the Great Lakes and, over the years, have owned three boats. I've been dreaming about cruising full-time for many years, and as of a few months ago, I have the boat that can take me anywhere I want to go. I have been spending as much time aboard *Sophara* as possible getting ready for my first Ha-Ha.

"My longest passage to date was with First Mate Matt from the Chesapeake to Maine a number of years ago. After the Ha-Ha, I plan to cruise the Sea of Cortez for the season. After that, I plan to voyage full-time wherever the wind takes me!

"I'm a big fan of John Kretschmer, a delivery captain and sailing journalist who teaches offshore sailing, and of Lin and the late Larry Pardey, famous for sailing their engineless 24-foot classic wood boat all over the world. Actually, I'm a big fan of all sailors who have the courage to untie their lines and go."

The Poobah didn't know anybody under 50 knew who Eisenhower was, but John's favorite quote comes from the former President: "Plans are worthless, but planning is essential".

Stainsby Girl — Catalina 470

**Garry & Cheryl Dobson
San Francisco / Cold Springs ('94, '00, '01, '06, '20, '22)**

Garry, 73, is a retired Real Estate Developer, Cheryl a retired Real Estate Broker who did the Ha-Ha in 2020 and 2022. Their crew will be Stuart and Kristi Ferrell, both retired Teachers.

"I've been sailing for 39 years," reports Jim, "and *Stainsby Girl*, which I purchased in 2005, is my second boat. My wife and I have been together for 16 years, and this will be our third Ha-Ha together. Our dream destination is the next tropical anchorage."

Star Seal — Catalina 42 MKII
Michael Law
Marina del Rey / Detroit, MI
 (2019, 2021)

Michael, 62, is a retired Finance Professional and a vet of two Ha-Ha's as crew as well as a Bash. He has Kenneth Passeri, 66 and John Molinelli, 68, as his crew.

"I'm a lifelong sailor from the Great Lakes and on San Francisco Bay, Michael reports. "I have owned many sail and powerboats. *Star Seal* is new to me as of the fall of last year. The Ha-Ha's are my longest passages to date. After the Ha-Ha, I intend to cruise the Sea of Cortez and the Gold Coast of Mexico.

"My dream destination is the South China Sea. My dream boat is a Santa Cruz 52, although the closer I look and the more I sail solo, I am pretty happy with my Catalina 42. And Catalina Yachts sure built a lot of them.

"Gary Jobson, who was Dennis Conner's right-hand man in the America's Cup, is such a class legend of sailing. But God bless Richard, Dona, and Patsy for teaching us all how best to play with our toys and friends.

"If you don't know the right knot... tie lots of knots... NOT!" is a favorite motto of mine.

"I'm a right-hander, but my eyes are different colors. I also go by Miguel and go for Key Lime Pie."



Stargazer - Katie, Harper, David & Emily

****Stargazer — CSY 44**
David & Katie Levy
Corona del Mar (2011)

David, 43, is in unspecified Sales, while Katie is a vice president in the Architecture field. Both are vets of the Ha-Ha 13 years ago. Their crew will be Students of Life, Emily, 12, and Harper, 9. Wait a second, their eldest daughter is 12, and they did the Ha-Ha 13 years ago? If Emily was

conceived on the Ha-Ha, she wouldn't be the first.

"Sailing is very much a part of our family lifestyle," the Levys report. "David started sailing at age 10 at Bahia Corinthian YC. Katie started sailing at 8 out of Richmond YC. We met while we were both All-Americans on the sailing team at USC. We've both sailed competitively most of our lives, including several Nationals and Worlds, including the Laser Worlds and Etchells Worlds.

"We've owned our cruising sailboat, the CSY 44 *Stargazer*, for 15 years. Shortly after buying her, we did the Ha-Ha, then spent the season enjoying the Sea of Cortez. Now, 13 years later, we're ready to do it again. This time we hope to enjoy more time in Mexico and hopefully cruise for several years.

Both Emily and Harper started sailing at age five. Emily has already competed in two Junior Sabot Nationals.

"Our dream destination is anywhere that our family is. After working in Corporate America just getting away to paradise with our family is a dream. We know La Paz as being a very special place, so that's where we'll go after the Ha-Ha. We would love to celebrate Thanksgiving in La Paz with Assistant Poobah Patsy, just like we did in 2011.

"Our family loves this quote from Captain Ron: "If we get lost, we'll just stop and ask for directions." We love it because it doesn't really matter where we go, as long as our family is together and we are enjoying the journey.

"David's nickname in college was 'Hawaiian Shirt Dave' because all he wore and wears now are Reyn Spooners."

Stella Blue — Saga 43
Mike Kalil & Stephanie Propp
Dillon, CO / Nanaimo, B.C.

Mike, 51, is a Homebuilder, while Stephanie is a Scientist who has worked in Biotech most of her career, but most recently as a Sailing Instructor on Lake Dillon. They will be joined by 2 crew, Geoff Bindeman, 54, and Darby Brown, 29, whom they know from racing on Lake Dillon.

"I grew up sailing in New England with my family," reports Mike, "but when I moved to Colorado at age 20, sailing was no longer a thing in my life. Then, six years ago, Stephanie and I were in San Diego for a wedding and decided to rent a Catalina 22 on Mission Bay. It was Stephanie's first time sailing, but it sparked us on this journey."

"A Facebook post from that day quickly led to me getting asked to help some friends sail from Mexico to Belize, and I jumped at the opportunity. After that, I was hooked and determined to learn as much as I could to start my own cruising chapter. So we bought a Hunter 22 and



Stella Blue - Mike & Stephanie

started sailing on Lake Dillon, Colorado, altitude 9,017 feet. A few years later, we got introduced to racing, and three years ago, we bought a J/80. This will be our fourth season campaigning *Hold My Beer* on Lake Dillon."

"We bought *Stella Blue*, our cruising boat, in Nanaimo on Vancouver Island in December 2022. We spent last spring, summer, and fall cruising the Pacific Northwest and have loved every minute of it. When we bought *Stella*, the plan was, and still is, to take a sabbatical starting in the fall of this year. We will be leaving Vancouver Island in late September to sail to San Francisco, then San Diego to join the Ha-Ha."

"Our boat is extensively outfitted for cruising, as a previous owner had sailed her to New Zealand and back, as well as up to Alaska. She has been continuously upgraded and maintained."

"My longest previous passage was from Puerto Rico to Key West. After the Ha-Ha, we plan to sail over to mainland Mexico in December, and then travel north in the Sea of Cortez for the remainder of the winter. In March, we plan to sail to Hawaii, and in June, to Alaska. Once in Alaska, we will make our way back down the coast, and if everything is going well, we hope to sail to the South Pacific. That would be taking our dream boat to our dream destination."

"I'm currently the Vice Commodore of the Dillon YC, the world's highest. Stephanie will be spending the summer working as the sailing school administrator for Dillon Marina. We are both very avid skiers, but this year there will be no skiing for us. As some can tell from the name of our boat, my favorite band is the Grateful Dead."

"We like ice cream for dessert and 'hold fast to your dreams' for inspiration." 'Bad Mike' is the captain's nickname.

**Sweetheart — Santa Cruz 52
Michael & Sally Aldridge
Santa Cruz / Durango, CO
(2008, 2012, 2016)**

Michael, 58, is a retired Biotechnology Executive. Sally is an Ocean Activist. Their crew will be Michael Johnston, 60, a retired Professional Cyclist; and Miyako Miller, who flies for the United States Coast Guard. Miyako is a veteran of three Ha-Has.

Michael and Sally met while each was sailing with friends in the British Virgin Islands. They have four children, who are now in college or have graduated. They all enjoy sailing, surfing, cycling and skiing.

"We have owned *Sweetheart* since 2018 and have sailed her the 'wrong way' across the Pacific, from Australia to New Zealand, to Tahiti, to Hawaii, and in 2020 home to Santa Cruz in California. We weathered one furious storm on the leg from Opuia to Papeete, but otherwise, our family has enjoyed the comfort and speed of a fast, long-legged cruising boat with some creature comforts. She's been perfect for exploring some untouched, remote destinations with spectacular surf. Since being home in Santa Cruz, we have enjoyed Monterey Bay sailing and planning longer voyages to more remote destinations. With the kids now all in college, those possibilities can become a reality.

"Our kids have been raised with Arthur Ransom's dictum from *Swallows and Amazons*: "Better drowned than duffers, if not duffers won't drown."

"*Sweetheart* was built for an adventurous Frenchman in 2000 who was looking for a fast and comfortable cruiser. She was sailed to Mexico, then on to Australia via Tahiti and the South Pacific Islands."

The Poobah remembers Gilles Concordel of Berkeley from the 2001 Baja Ha-Ha, when *Sweetheart* was named *Saperlipopette*. He asked if the Poobah had any trouble with them sailing the first leg via Guadeloupe Island. "Of course not," replied the Poobah. So they did. People can go around Guadeloupe this year, too, if they'd like. But, man, there is nothing out there.

****Swift — Hunter Legend 40.5
Gibson & Theresa Oster
Channel Islands / Coarsegold**

Gibson, 43, is a Pilot. Spouse, Theresa, is a Teacher. Their offspring, Lila, 17, and Wade, 15, are Students of Life and will crew. Additional crew will include Friend Justin Campbell, 18; Tom Rockel, 28, a Student; and Melissa Daugherty, a Friend. It's going to be a crowded 40-footer.

Gibson's story: "I've been sailing since I was 10 and got my start out of the San Francisco YC in Belvedere. I've owned four sailboats, two of them Hobie Cats and two larger monohulls. We bought our first Hunter, a Legend 35.5, when we were in San Francisco and sailed her out Gate and



Swift - Justin, Lila, & Wade

down to Oxnard. We have spent the last three years sailing to the Channel Islands for week-long adventures and multiple trips to Catalina. For the last year, we've been doing them on *Swift*, getting her ready for the Ha-Ha.

Theresa's story: "I was pretty sure Gibson had lost his mind during Covid as he spent weeks watching YouTube videos about sailing. He finally convinced the rest of the family that buying a sailboat would be the best thing to do. He claimed we could leave the crazy Covid world behind and live off the grid.

"The kids and I have learned that there is no way to say 'no' to this man. After all, he has made all of his dreams come true, including becoming a cropduster pilot who flies beneath telephone wires at night and does other insane stuff. Anyway, within the year, I was sailing from Alameda to Oxnard with a throw-up bag in my hands. I thought for sure that would be the first of my last sails. But then I finally got my sea legs and fell in love.

"But bigger is always better, right? It only took a few years for me to want something bigger, better, and faster. Something to better accommodate our amazing family and our dog. I would say that half our hearts live on *Swift*.

"The captain tries to tell us that our lives should still be lived at sea and thinks we should sell our house and buy a catamaran. That's not happening because where would my four-legged cats go?

"For now, we continue to live our lives day-to-day, and teach our kids that life is too short to be standing still. We are excited for this new adventure, enjoying the real working world before our kids graduate.

"Our favorite family quote comes from V.E. Schwab. 'I'd rather die in an adventure than live standing still'.

"We plan on spending a couple of weeks in Baja after the Ha-Ha and return to Oxnard.

****Taj — Grainger 48 Cat
Sean Lee-Siebels & Christine Grant
Bellingham, WA**

Sean, 41, and Christine are two more Ha-Ha'ers who have retired at a young age from unspecified careers. Their daughter, June, 7, and son, Zephyr, 2, both Students of Life, will be crew.

"We've been sailing since 2020," the couple report, "and *Taj* is our second boat. Our first boat was a Valiant 39. We purchased *Taj* this past winter and moved aboard full-time on July 4, 2024. We sailed around Vancouver Island as a new boat shakedown, spent time surfing in Tofino, B.C., and then sailed direct to San Francisco.

"We're on an open-ended cruise with a dose of homeschooling, but aren't sure where we'll head after the Ha-Ha. By the way, for a brief period of time, Zephyr had spent more time living afloat than on land. Perhaps he'll reach that milestone again someday.

"Our family loves surfing, and our kids love Legos and Magna-Tiles!"

While not as common as Lagoons, Leopards, and other French and South African cats, Tony Grainger has been designing all manner of multihulls since 1986. Typically performance-oriented, they are ubiquitous in the Antipodes.

A Poobah Note: All boats with kids should be aware that Katrina Liana runs a tremendous year-round program for cruising kids at the Riviera Nayarit Marina in La Cruz. If you're a cruiser with kids, you might want to look into it.

**Talion — Gulfstar 50
Patsy Verhoeven
Portland, OR / La Paz (17 Ha-Ha's)**

Patsy, aka 'La Reina del Mar', has been the tireless Assistant Poobah for the last seven years. She is in charge of all the communications in addition to handling almost all the details, as the Poobah is a big-picture-only kind of guy.

Patsy is a veteran of the real estate world in Lake Oswego, Oregon, spent some time boatbuilding at Schooner Creek in Portland, and when not working on the Ha-Ha spends time as a webmistress.

Her Ha-Ha crew will include her guy Tim Horne, 66, a veteran Colorado River guide and current employee of the city of Aspen with 11 Ha-Ha's under his belt; Sister Sue Drake, retired from Insurance and a veteran of 9 Ha-Ha's. Rounding out the crew are Seth Constable, 54, a yacht rigger and his wife Leslie, an artist. This is their third Ha-Ha.

Patsy has done every Ha-Ha since 2007 and is legendary for sailing all the way every year and being able to sail her 47-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 well over 30 years, and for the past 17 years primarily on the hook in Mexico and Southern California. "My dream boat would be one that requires no maintenance and one on which nothing breaks. Ha, ha, ha. "My favorite dessert is red wine with chocolate, and I am left-handed.

"I'm proud to be the Poobah's only employee since he sold *Latitude 38* and married Doña. "My goal," says La Reina, who frequently singlehands her 50-ft boat, "is to do whatever I can to enable others to enjoy the cruising lifestyle."

Be nice to La Reina, she's doing everything she can possibly do for you.

Tao Neutrino — Morris Justine 36 Donn Denman

San Francisco / Los Gatos

Don, 66, is a retired Software Developer. He's looking to doublehand with "a single crewmember who has aspirations similar to mine, which include long-distance bluewater cruising. Extra credit for folks who are very concerned about the loss of global biodiversity.

"For 30 years, I've had a dream to sail my own boat back to a beautiful island in Thailand. Now I have the boat and am getting ready to go. I signed up for the 2024 Puddle Jump with the intention of leaving last April, but I wasn't ready. So now I'll start with the Ha-Ha and will certainly continue to French Polynesia as part of the 2025 Pacific Puddle Jump.

"My sailing heroes are Fatty Goodlander and John Kretschmer." Fatty and his wife Caroline have been cruising for 50 years, during which time he's written several books and four million sailing articles. John gives classes in offshore sail training and also writes about sailing.

Tardigrade — Tayana 42 (W) Maddie Zug & Jeremy Snyder San Francisco

Maddie, 27, is a Software Engineer, while spouse Jeremy, 28, is a Photographer. They will probably be the youngest entries in this year's Ha-Ha.

Maddie grew up sailing Sunfish on lakes and going to sailing camps. She started sailing bigger boats after moving to the Bay Area in 2019, using *Latitude 38's* Crew List to race as much as she could. In order to gain more experience, she volunteered to take kids sailing as part of the Blue Water Foundation.

Jeremy fell in love with the ocean while learning to surf during the pandemic, so it didn't take much convincing from Maddie

to get him to agree to learn to sail, too. The young couple is currently in the process of negotiating how many surfboards will fit on their Tayana.

(The Poobah remembers that back in the day, Christian Lauducci had seven surfboards on his 26-footer while hitting the breaks of the north shore of Punta Mita. Christian and his family, ultimate surfers/blue water sailors/adventurers, are still cruising and surfing.)

"We decided to get an ASA 104 certification in the San Juan Islands for our honeymoon in 2022," report Maddie and Jeremy. "The instructor bought us a bottle of champagne and claimed if we could get through the course together, we could get through anything.

"We bought *Tardigrade*, our first boat, last year and have been working on her and sailing the Bay to prepare. Our boat has sailed to Mexico before, but we haven't. We plan to cruise the Sea of Cortez after the Ha-Ha. We'll see where the wind takes us after that.

"After watching Adam and Khiara of *Sailing Millennial Falcon* take their sister-ship to Iceland to see a volcano erupting, Iceland is our dream destination. Especially since we're geology nerds. The couple are definitely our sailing heroes. But we have a lot to learn before we can pull something like that off, so we're looking forward to learning from all the experienced sailors on the Ha-Ha.

"We need to fix our freezer to have any hope of refreshing treats onboard. Jeremy loves mint chocolate chip, while I go for coffee Oreo."

Tardigrades? Colloquially known as water bears or moss piglets, they are a phylum of eight-legged, segmented micro-animals. Researchers have found that tardigrades in a tun state can withstand temperatures as low as minus 328 degrees Fahrenheit and hotter than 300 degrees. They can also survive exposure to radiation, boiling liquids, and up to six times the pressure of the deepest part of the ocean.

Tiburón — Ericson 39 Pablo & Mary Crandall Plasencia Oxnard

Pablo, 67, is retired from Finance, as is Mary.

In 2018, lifelong sailors Pablo and Mary, along with their seagoing cats Selene and Aurora, moved onboard *Tiburón*, their 1971 Ericson 39. "She's our dream boat, as Pablo has lusted after an Ericson 39 since he was 16 years old!"

The distinctive flush deck 39 is known for having a lot of headroom — as well as being hard to control on a spinnaker run. There was a famous bright yellow Ericson 39 that sailed out of San Francisco in the 1970s that was named *Banana* because she was so slippery off the wind.



Tiburón - Mary & Pablo

Mary grew up sailing a Catalina 25 out of Long Beach and has earned the nickname 'Bloody Mary' for chasing down and sailing circles around the sexist pig sailors on their dock.

Pablo grew up sailing an Ericson 30 out of King Harbor. The couple enjoyed sailing *Tiburón* in the Santa Barbara Channel and around the Channel Islands. They have a second sailboat, the Ranger 23 *Slow Poke*.

"Our longest passage on *Tiburón* has been from Channel Islands Harbor to Catalina Island and back," the couple report. "Our future goals include sailing to Hawaii and the Pacific Northwest."

Pablo and Mary are active members of Anacapa YC, where Pablo served as Commodore in 2023 and where Mary is the current Treasurer. "We are excited to participate in our first Baja Ha-Ha.

"We love to cook gourmet meals on board," the couple say, "and our sailing heroes include Ramón Carlin and Tracy Edwards." Carlin was the Mexican washing machine magnate who, with little sailing experience, entered the first Whitbread Round the World Race in 1973 with a Swan 65. And won! Tracy Edwards mortgaged her house to refit the 58-ft sloop that would become *Maiden*, and in 1989 won two of the six Whitbread Round the World Race legs.

Pablo and Mary also love Captain Ron, who gave them their favorite quote: "No wind is the wrong wind if you can make it work".

Tillikum III - Catalina 470 Tim Holley Vancouver, BC

Tim, 69, is a retired Construction Manager. Tim will be sailing with 3 friends. Ken Russell, 73, is a retired Teacher; Debbie Bryant is in the Management of a non-profit; and Mike Walker, 45, is an Electrician.

Tim has been sailing for 30 years,

during which time he's owned six boats. He's owned the Catalina 47 for 15 years and says there is nothing unusual about *Tillikum III*.

His longest passage to date is 450 miles, which he'll far exceed getting to the Ha-Ha starting line. His plan is to cruise the Sea of Cortez, then possibly continue on to the South Pacific in the spring of next year.

The Mediterranean, where there is either no wind or way too much wind, and where there are a third more boats than there are slips, is Tim's dream destination. Fortunately it has a lot of great places to anchor.

He loves ice cream, and his dream boat is an Outremer 60 catamaran, a boat whose speeds make the hair stand on the head of his sailing hero, Josh Slocum, the first man to singlehand around the world.

We wonder if Mike the Electrician has heard this one: Did you hear about the electrician who wore two jackets when painting the house? The instructions on the can said, 'Put on two coats'.

Todo Bueno — Jeanneau 44DS (W)

**John McGee & Tom Luneau
San Diego ('17, '19, '22)**

John, 63, is an Engineer, while co-owner Tom, 65, is an Adogado de los Pobres — an attorney for the poor. Both have done three Ha-Ha's. With the help of some Kirkland scotch, they both saw a UFO during the 2017 Ha-Ha.

They will have two crew, one of whom is named Myles. "He was part of a successful SAR 35 miles off of Turtle Bay of the wayward drone from our former boat, *Good Times*," says John. "He performed a DOB (drone overboard) to perfection as we sailed out of range."

John and Tom have been sailing for 30+ years, have owned six boats, and acquired *Todo Bueno* earlier this year. "She's a French boat with a Mexican heart... Corazón de Mexico," they claim.

Mazatlán is their dream destination, although in their dreams they'd arrive aboard a Lagoon 62 cat with a captain and chef. They enjoy ice-cold Pacifico beer and the following quote from Einstein: "Logic will get you from A to B, but imagination will take you everywhere."

Their sailing heroes are: 1) Joshua Slocum, famed for being the first person to sail around the world, after a 46,000-mile circumnavigation that started in 1887, and being the author of the classic *Sailing Around the World Alone*. Their second hero is — and this must be some kind of joke — Richard Spindler.

Torridon — Beneteau 473 (W)

**Jordan Creighton & Erika Simeon
Newport, OR / Salem, OR (2018, 2022)**

Jordan, 51, is the Manager of a Small Healthcare organization and an owner's rep for a Construction Management and Consulting company. His partner for 22 years, Erika, works full-time in Public Health. "We haven't done a Ha-Ha," the couple report, "but our three crew have. They are Diana Trump and Anne Alberg, who did the 2018 Ha-Ha aboard *Arctic Loon*, and Bill Braden, who did the 2022 Ha-Ha on the Bali 41 Oz.

Jordan started sailing small boats in summer camp, but it wasn't a really big thing for him. Yet he's dreamed of cruising and has subscribed to *SAIL Magazine* for 20 years. What really got Erika and Jordan hot on sailing was crewing on a friend's Hunter 460 in Hong Kong. When they returned to the States, they bought a MacGregor 26C and sailed her on the Columbia River, occasionally trailer-sailing her in the Pacific Northwest. They had the boat for 7 years and were looking for something that was less "beat the current" and more "enjoy the journey"—a bigger boat, longer tacks.

They sold *Scotty J.* and, in the summer of 2016, enlisted Anne, whom Jordan met at the Seattle Boat Show in 2015 at her seminar titled "*I've sailed around the world but never owned a boat*"; to do a week-long ASA Learn and Cruise in the San Juans thus starting their journey towards owning a cruising sailboat.

Two years later, Diana, one of Anne's first students, invited her to join *Arctic Loon's* 14-month journey from Seattle to New Zealand. Jordan got himself an invite to crew from San Francisco to Santa Barbara and was able to make a good impression. So good that both he and Erika were invited to meet up with *Arctic Loon* in La Paz over Christmas and New Year's to help cruise slowly down the peninsula and across to Mazatlán. That crossing sealed the deal for Erika — cruising was something she wanted to do. Jordan was already sold.

They started looking for a sailboat and the right broker at the 2019 Seattle Boat Show. Choosing a world cruiser is not an easy thing to do, especially for a maximizer like Jordan. In the end, it was down to the 473 and the Island Packet 420 or 440. They went for the headroom in the galley (clearance for 6'-1" Jordan) and a nice big cockpit to hang out in by themselves or with a big group of friends.

"The couple bought *Torridon* in San Francisco in July 2021, and brought her up to Portland, in the middle of winter. "The most unusual thing about *Torridon* is that only 105 hours were put on her engine in her first 17 years. We believe she was used as a place to drink wine outside. We've also confirmed that an unused boat



Tortuga - Steve

is not always a good thing, and have the receipts to prove it."

"After the Ha-Ha, we plan to cruise Mexico. Initially we intended to do the Puddle Jump too, but we're starting to think that's moving a bit faster than we wanted. New Zealand is a definite destination for us, and Jordan would like to cruise and dive in Indonesia. We traveled extensively in Southeast Asia when we lived in Hong Kong, and we know how awesome the cruising can be in that region. "And then there is always clockwise travel through Micronesia, Japan, Hawaii, and back to the Northwest. But we're taking a leg at a time. j

Tortuga — St. Francis 44 Cat Steve & Kirsten Schwartz Richmond (2023)

Steve, 73, is a Photographer/Computer Systems Engineer/Recumbent Trike Shop Owner, while Kirsten is a retired Instructor in an unspecified field.

Steve has been sailing since he was 10 years old, while Kirsten began a few years ago and remains at the 'Gifted Novice Stage'.

While in his 20s, Steve built a Wharram catamaran. He has since owned seven boats. Three have been cats in the last 15 years, each one bigger than the one before. Steve and Kirsten have found their dream boat in their St. Francis 44 cat. She was built in South Africa in 2000 and sailed to the Americas on her own bottom.

"We bought *Tortuga* during the lockdown in early 2021," the couple report, "and after some repairs in Anacortes, sailed her down to Richmond's Marina Bay. We had some turbulent weather on the way down but did fine.

"We lived aboard *Tortuga* during the warm summer months with three dogs, now down to one. We move off the boat in the winter, as it's too cold and the mold flourishes."

The couple's dream destination is

Hawaii, not noted for being the most welcoming place to mariners. Kirsten's sailing hero is Steve. He's the sailor, while she's more at home stand-up paddling. Dessert? Kirsten's famous Rice Krispies Cookies made with butter and lots of salt.

"We hope to meet lots of marine life," says Steve, "including but not exclusively more dolphins, seals, and sea turtles, but also whales and skates." The Poobah assures them their dreams will come true on the Ha-Ha and in Mexico.

What's this Recumbent Trike stuff? Recumbent cycles are ones where the rider rests in a reclining rather than sitting position. Some riders may choose this type of design for ergonomic reasons, as the rider's weight is distributed comfortably over a larger area, supported by the back and buttocks.

Hey, you know the one about the difference between a poorly-dressed man on a tricycle and a well-dressed man on a bicycle? Attire.



Varekai - Anna, Katie & Kevin

***Varekai — Maine Cat 41 Kevin & Katie Dudney**

Oakland / Knoxville, TN (2021)

Kevin, 41, is a Patent Agent who crewed on the '21 Ha-Ha, while Katie is an Ecologist. Daughter Anna, 7, a Student of Life, will round out the crew.

Kevin has been sailing on and off since childhood, including a liveaboard trip to the Florida Keys with the Boy Scouts, which may have planted the seed of the idea that cruising would be awesome. Kevin has been racing on San Francisco Bay and sailing with the Cal Sailing Club since 2011. Katie has joined Kevin for various charters, including New Zealand's Bay of Islands, the San Juans, the U.S. and British Virgins, and more.

The duo purchased their first boat, *Varekai*, in 2023.

Kevin's longest passages have been

the 2016 Pacific Cup and the 2021 Ha-Ha. Katie's longest passage has been delivering *Varekai* from San Diego to San Francisco Bay.

"After the Ha-Ha, we plan to cruise Mexico for at least one season," they say, "and we'll see what happens after that."

Kevin is a past member of the Ross Island YC in Antarctica, which claims to be the world's southernmost club. It also has no yachts.

An aspiring Wizard, young Anna is excited to learn about fish, birds and other (magical or non-magical) creatures in Mexico. She also looks forward to meeting other kids.

A singer/songwriter, Katie, is writing a song for *Varekai*.

Velouria — Pearson 37-2

Liz & Matt Read

San Francisco / Woodland

Matt, 50, is retired from Ag Research, but that just begins to describe his career. "I worked in agriculture research for the Department of Land, Air and Water Resources at UC Davis, which means I acquired some basic diesel maintenance skills and lots of mechanical and electrical improvisational skills — because researchers are always reinventing the wheel or buying a piece of equipment in order to use them in ways they weren't originally designed for. In earlier versions of myself, I owned a little recording studio in Santa Cruz, was a server in a fancy San Francisco restaurant, bartended in less fancy places in Sacramento, earned a degree in Viticulture and Enology from UC Davis, grew wine grapes in the Santa Cruz mountains and Napa, got my level 1 sommelier certification, and owned a soul food restaurant."

"Liz is my best friend and the only reason we have any kind of social life. I identify as an awkward nerd, while she is cute, funny, and has the best laugh."

Liz is retired from Sales Management. Her job in sales was renting used beds for Hyatt and later selling fancy seeds to farmers all over the world for Sakata Seeds Intl. She was also a wedding and event planner at The Vizcaya and The Sterling Hotel in the Sacramento area.

"Liz is a card shark," says Matt, "and loves music and IPAs. She has a dog named Toby that she loves more than me. When you meet Toby, you'll understand."

"Liz and I started taking sailing classes in Feb 2021, as we thought it would be fun to start a new hobby together. Over the next couple of years, we did our ASA courses up to 105 and fell in love with the idea of living on our own boat."

"We bought our first boat in March 2023, largely because the sailing club we were in didn't allow dogs. Toby loves the boat more than our house. We have also

enjoyed being able to make upgrades to the boat and to sail longer than single overnights.

"We bought *Velouria* a year ago, and now that our last kid is off to college, we are selling our house and moving onto the boat. We named her *Velouria* after a song by a band called The Pixies, who will probably only be remembered by a few Gen Xers.

"Post Ha-Ha, we plan to get our Permanent Residency in Mexico and continue to sail the Sea of Cortez for the next several years.

"I think John Kretschmer, a sailing journalist and offshore training expert, is great. Someday, I hope to have half his skill and confidence at sea.

"Liz would have added her own stuff, but she's out roller skating."

Water Guy — Beneteau 40.1 (W)

Michael McGuire

Santa Monica / Rancho Mission Viejo

(’03, ’10, ’16, ’21)

Michael, 76, is a retired Environmental Engineer who intends to sail with four crew: Ricky Solomon, 52, an Investment Banker; Lisa Valljeo, 35, a Vice Commodore; Graciela Santillan, 34, a Treasurer; and Vivian Jutner, 35, whose occupations is described as "Membership".

"I'm a life-long lover of water," says Michael. "Water is my profession and where I go to relax. From 1970 to 1972, I was First Mate and Technical Director on a 42-ft research boat collecting water samples on the Delaware Estuary near Philadelphia.

"From 2001 to 2014, I owned *Princess Anna*, a 39-ft Mainship Trawler. I cruised her on the Southern California coast, along Baja, and in the Sea of Cortez. I kept my boat in La Paz for 18 months. I was a proud member of the No Comprende powerboat division of the '03 and '10 Ha-Ha's.

After selling my trawler, I saw the light and took to sailing. I am never going back to being a stink-pot skipper — when the wind fails. I have ASA 104/105/114 certifications that I earned in September 2015. I bought my Beneteau Oceanis 40.1 in 2021 and skippered her in that year's Ha-Ha. Since then, I have been out for many days of sailing, from daysails to cruises to Catalina and the Channel Islands.

****Wilder / Beneteau Oceanis 45**

Josh & Natasha Grillo

San Diego (2022)

Josh, 49, is Self-Employed. Natasha is a Stay At Home mom. Their crew will be Maxim, 10, a Student of Life, and Jadson, 12, also a Student of Life. All four are vets of the 2022 Ha-Ha. Also aboard will be Fin, their two-year-old Black Lab.

"Natasha and I first owned a Catalina

25, but then moved up to a Beneteau 35, and most recently to *Wildier*, a spacious Beneteau 45.

"This will be our family's second Ha-Ha. Our first was in 2022, when Max had a broken foot, and when Natasha famously dropped one of his crutches overboard! We made it as far south as Barra de Navidad and really enjoyed our cruise. We're looking to do six months or so with this Mexican adventure.

"Our dream destination would be the Bahamas, which consists of 700 islands and 2,400 cays. Only 70 are inhabited. And our dream would be to do it aboard a Privilege catamaran." Ah, the Bahamas, where the locals are said to be as friendly as Mexicans.

Josh doesn't have a nickname, but he was named after Joshua Slocum, is left-handed, and asks himself, "If not now, when?"

When it comes to favorite desserts, Crème Brulé tops the list.

Willow V — Beneteau 461

Lorenzo Sechi & Christy Buchanan Ventura / Toronto, ON

Lorenzo, 61, is a retired Property Manager, while Christy is retired from Finance. Their crew will be good friends Richard Shaw, 53 and Jill Shaw.

"We took up sailing 20 years ago after a trip to Greece when we spent most of our time meandering marinas and gazing at sailboats anchored in deserted bays," reports Lorenzo. "After two decades of sailing our Columbia 8.7 on Lake Ontario, we took a jaunt to Gibraltar in 2010 to upgrade my sailing credential to Yacht Master Offshore. Since then, I've spent some time captaining powerboats and assisting with deliveries in the Caribbean.

"I've sailed about 3,000 miles in the Med, done four deliveries from the East Coast to the Caribbean, and sailed another assorted 7,000 offshore miles. Christy grew up boating and has done two deliveries from the East Coast to the Caribbean.

"We bought *Willow V* in 2023 in Ventura, and after commuting to her from Toronto have now moved aboard. Exploring the Channel Islands has been fun, but we're looking forward to the Ha-Ha and Mexico. After sailing in the Sea of Cortez and mainland Mexico, we'll flip a coin and decide whether to go through the Canal or to the South Pacific.

Fun facts:

- We much prefer hot versus cold weather. Ironically, on an annual basis, Toronto tends to be warmer than Ventura.

- In Toronto we had to un-step and re-step our mast each year.

- Light wind means it's time to pull

out the water balloons and attack our fellow sailors!

- Christy has been diving for 25 years.

- Christy started her sailing career at the age of six weeks, sleeping through the night for the first time, thanks to the gentle rocking of the boat.

- Lorenzo wishes all food was served on a thali platter, where nothing touches. He's the dishwasher on our team.

- Christy will happily BBQ fish and veggies any day of the week. But please let her know if you come across lavender ice cream.

*****Wippy — Catalina 42 (W)**

Lee & Rudi Monson Los Angeles / Kansas

Lee, 44, is retired from unspecified Sales, while spouse Rudi is a retired Teacher. Their three children, all Students of Life, will be their crew. They are Logan, 12, a young lady; Riv, 10, also a young lady; and Isaiah, 7, a young man.

"We learned to sail together 14 years ago on Lake Michigan," Lee and Rudi report. "Since then, we've sailed in the Florida Keys, the Caribbean, and inland lakes in Kansas.

"We love sailing with our three kids, as they keep us focused on safety first and foremost. In addition, they keep our eyes open to the wonders of the world around us.

"*Wippy* is the second boat we've owned, and we've only owned her a couple of months." Based on a Nelson/Marek racing boat hull, over 1,000 Catalina 42s, including the original and only slightly different MKIIs, were built over a 20-year period. It's one of the most successful mid-size racer-cruiser designs ever built.

"This will be our first Ha-Ha," report Lee and Rudi. "Up until now, Lee's longest passage has been a 300-mile Mackinac Race on Lake Michigan."

Following the Ha-Ha, the family plans to explore the Sea of Cortez for a couple of years.

'Nowhere to go but everywhere' is the boat's motto.

Work Life Balance — Beneteau 46

Bob & Dawn Millington San Diego / Camas, WA

Bob, 53, is a retired Tech Executive, while spouse Dawn is a retired Clinical Scientist. Their friend Greg Barth, 62 will be sailing with them.

The couple met on a flight from New Jersey to Chicago in 2001 when Bob was working in Chicago and Dawn was in graduate school two hours to the south. By the time they started dating in 2002, Dawn had already accepted a job in San Diego. So they did the long-distance thing

for about a year before Bob joined Dawn in San Diego. They eventually bought a house together in Carlsbad in 2005, and married in 2009.

In 2015, a neighbor suggested that they take the US Sailing's Basic Keelboat class, so they bought a Groupon for it. The class hooked them on sailing.

Things escalated after completing multiple certifications doing a week-long charter in the BVIs in 2015. It was during this trip that they decided to buy their own boat, still not even aware that cruising was a 'thing'. But thanks to YouTube, they discovered the lifestyle and hatched a plan to make cruising a reality for them. So they sold their house and moved into a one-bedroom apartment in Washington for three years. They retired in May 2024 and have spent the summer preparing *Work Life Balance* for full-time cruising.

So far their longest passage has been 22 hours from Ventura to San Diego, but they have also sailed in the BVIs and Tahiti. And they have big plans. After the Ha-Ha they will spend the season in the Sea of Cortez, but will eventually continue to mainland Mexico, and later French Polynesia and beyond. Overall, they plan to spend the next 10 or so years cruising. In the off seasons, they will spend time with family and friends, and traveling in the US and Europe.

Dawn's favorite dessert is banana pudding, made with the original recipe on the Nilla Wafer box. Bob's favorite dessert is a banana split. They appreciate the irony and are willing to take the risk of having bananas on board.

How did the sailors' suspicions of bananas start? In the early 1700s, when lots of vessels sank, heavy cargo would sink along with the vessel. When other ships came upon the wreckage, they'd discovered floating cases of bananas bobbing among the loose planks and other debris. Instead of attributing the sinking of the ship to poor weather conditions or navigational errors, mariners placed full blame on the bananas. Avoiding responsibility for misfortune is not a new thing. s

BAJA HA-HA XXX - ENTRIES BY DIVISION

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AGAVE DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WHITE SAILS ONLY

Savanna	Gulf 32	Robert Davidson & Joan Mueller	El Segundo
Flow	Dehler 36	Stuart and Jeanne Horak	North Vancouver
Mambo	Islander 36	Chris Fearon	Canton, OH
Pelican	Island Packet 370	Robert Currie & Yvonne Jenapierre	Emeryville
Into the Mystic	Jeanneau 41DS	Vincent Cirelli & Elena Oulitina	Marina del Rey
Into the Wild	Beneteau 42	Curt Taras & Steve Grove	Folsom
Aquario	Hunter Passage 420	Derrick Reyes	Las Vegas, NV
Wippy	Catalina 42	Lee and Rudi Monson	Kansas

BURRITO DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WHITE SAILS ONLY

Amazing Grace III	Island Packet IP440	Kim Eddy & Lena Fluharty	Seattle, WA
Todo Bueno	Jeanneau 44DS	John McGee & Tom Luneau	San Diego
Lola	Hunter 45 CC	John Miller	Tacoma, WA
Torrison	Beneteau 473	Jordan Creighton	Salem, OR
Red Rover	Concordia 47	McKenzie Keith	Santa Cruz
Freeranger	Beneteau 50 Celebration	Larissa Clark & Duncan Copeland	UK / British Columbia
Fio	Jeanneau 54DS	Jay Dozier & Barbara Benson	San Diego
Epifania	Ta Chiao CT 54	David & Allison Shuttleworth	Alameda

CEVICHE DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WITH SPINNAKER

Even Keel	Catalina 320	Mike & Cindy Meloy	Corvallis, OR
Red Beard	Ericson 32-2	Chris Fowler	Portland, OR
Panache	Beneteau First 33.7	Michael Kummer	San Diego
Balance	Hunter Legend 33.5	Jon & Kathy Berhow-Rivera	Savage, MN
Ebenezer III	Catalina 36 MKII	Richard Schaper	Mill Valley
Tao Neutrino	Morris Justine 36	Donn Denman	Los Gatos
Velouria	Pearson 37-2	Liz & Matt Read	Woodland
Bonne Vie	Hunter 38	Ian Mackenzie	Long Beach
Peregrine Spirit	Ericson 38	Thomas Fistic	San Diego
Quincy	Ericson 38-200	Jim & Chris Schulz	Victor, ID

DESPERADO DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WITH SPINNAKER

Aventura	Caliber 38	Patty & Ken Hall	Redwood City
Sonata	Morgan 383	Mitchell Allen	Redding
Perla	Passport 40	Brent Piercy	San Francisco
Mandolin	Baba 40	Jim & Jo Gleason	Mission Viejo
September Time	Islander Freeport 41	Adam Jones & Sarah OHair	Rice, WA
Gypsea Explorer	Sceptre 41	Chris Burrows & Heather Ussey	La Conner, WA
Fairwyn	S&S 42	Rick Leland	Chico
Rendezvous	Ericson 41	Tim Anderson	Santa Barbara

ENCHILADA DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WITH SPINNAKER

Pacifica	Beneteau 393	Craig Bianchi	Alameda
Danza Vento	Jeanneau SO 39i	Carl & Rebecca Neilson	East Sooke, BC
Constellation*s Spirit	Catalina 385	Tom Hammons	San Diego
Escape	Nordic 40	Mike Draper	Fresno
Swift	Hunter Legend 40.5	Gibson & Theresa Oster	Coarsegold
Bat Rocket	Hallberg Rassy 40C	Jimmy Hormel	Sausalito
Knot Today	Beneteau Oceanis 41	Kevin Engels	Cave Creek
Beyond the Stars	Hanse 411	John Schnellback	Duncan, BC
Coyote	Beneteau First 42	Scott Smith & Mary Culley	Santa Cruz

FRIJOLE DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WITH SPINNAKER

Grace	Catalina 445	Rick Lino	Redondo Beach
Better Together	Catalina Morgan 440	Byron & Lisa Wise	Rancho Murieta
Aurora	Oyster 435	Ray & Janice Taylor	White Salmon, WA
Stargazer	CSY 44	David & Katie Levy	Corona del Mar
Second Wind	Nordic 44	Wes Gary	Newport Beach
Sea Monkey	Fuji 45	Aaron & Elizabeth Correll	Petaluma
Ogigiona	Giorgetti & Magrini Custom	Emily Dingwell & William Hart	Seattle, WA
Bibi	Cal-346	Eric Mizrahi	Los Angeles
De Laiceps	Mariner Mayflower 48	Edward & Julia Watland	Los Angeles

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GUACAMOLE DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WITH SPINNAKER

Aquavit.....	Jeanneau 42.....	Michael Hutchison & Nitin Karkhanis.....	Santa Cruz
Neener3.....	Catalina 42.....	Jan Grygier & Patti Boucher.....	Salt Spring Is, BC / Richmond
Seaduction.....	Catalina 42 MKII.....	Daniel Lawler.....	Holladay, UT
Star Seal.....	Catalina 42 MK II.....	Michael Law.....	Detroit, MI
Solstice.....	Valiant 42.....	Layne Galloway.....	Salt Lake City, UT
Stella Blue.....	Saga 43.....	Mike Kaili & Stephanie Propp.....	Dillon, CO / Nanaimo, BC
Sophara.....	Taswell 43.....	John Loomis.....	Los Angeles
Satori'.....	Jenneau SO 440.....	John & Nicole Cleary.....	Long Beach
Dancy.....	Kelly Peterson 44.....	Dwain & Nancy Lentz.....	Tempe, AZ

HUEVOS RANCHEROS DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WITH SPINNAKER

Prana.....	Hunter 45 CC.....	Kirt Eckmann & Linda Fincher.....	Ventura
Godspeed.....	Beneteau 45f5.....	Dallas Swenson.....	Heber, UT
Exit Strategy.....	Sun Oydsey 45.2.....	Steve Ginder.....	Coronado, Ca
Silver Linings.....	Jeanneau SO 45,2.....	Mark LaFevers.....	Carpinteria
Quid Sea.....	Norseman 447.....	Tracy Myers.....	Vancouver, WA
Memento Vivere.....	Beneteau 461.....	Paul Deem & Annette Leavelle.....	Seattle, WA
Scandal.....	Beneteau 461.....	Dan Robinson.....	Ventura
Willow V.....	Beneteau 461.....	Lorenzo Sechi & Christy Buchanan.....	Toronto, ON
Work Life Balance.....	Beneteau Sense 46.....	Bob & Dawn Millington.....	Camas, WA / San Diego

IGUANA DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WITH SPINNAKER

Dolce Vita.....	Beneteau 47.....	Manny Fortes & Karen Alexander.....	Danville
Float On.....	Beneteau 473.....	Gerald & Barbara St Amant.....	Huntington Beach
Patriot.....	Hunter 466.....	Scott Lanier.....	Wasilla AK
Beyond.....	Passport 47.....	Brady Gunther.....	Redondo Beach
Maitime.....	Catalina 470.....	Jason Hancock.....	Palm Desert
Tillikum III.....	Catalina 470.....	Tim Holley.....	Vancouver, BC
Skye.....	Jeanneau SO 48.....	Eric & Erin Vaughan.....	Sausalito
Big Friend.....	Jeanneau SO 49.....	Wiley Rogers.....	Berkeley
Beagle Spirit.....	Halberg Rassy 46.....	Brett & Kay Hunt.....	Boise, ID
Talion.....	Gulfstar 50.....	Patsy Verhoeven.....	Portland, OR / La Paz, MX

JALAPENO DIVISION - MONOHULLS - WITH SPINNAKER

Soirée.....	Beneteau 49.....	Steve & Connie Hill.....	San Rafael
Insurgente.....	Beneteau Oceanis 50.....	Cory Sanders.....	Spokane, WA
Evocative II.....	Beneteau Oceanis 51.1.....	Terry Copeland.....	San Diego
Sweetheart.....	Santa Cruz 52.....	Sally & Michael Aldridge.....	Durango, CO
Satori.....	Jeanneau 53.....	Jeffrey Alligood.....	Winston Salem, NC
Andiamo.....	Jeanneau 54DS.....	Nino Garrolini.....	Camarillo
Swan Fun.....	Swan 55.....	Joe Heinzmann.....	Concord Ca
Pacific Wren.....	Taswell 56.....	Dave Marchant & Jenn Fohring.....	Vancouver, BC
Sapphire Knight.....	Custom Sloop.....	Phil Friedman.....	Los Angeles

KILO DIVISION - MULTIHULLS

Emerald Sea.....	Lagoon 450F.....	Jeff & Becky Hare.....	Cave Junction, OR
Panther.....	Outremer 50S.....	Kent & Lara Grisemer.....	Oakland
K2.....	Corsair F36.....	Bryan Martin and Nancy Virostko.....	Santa Cruz, CA
Kit.....	Fontaine Pajot Athena 38.....	Gavin Gegg & McKay Shaw.....	Ventura
Folie a Deux.....	Lagoon 40.....	Fred & Amina Bret-Mounet.....	Orinda
Cetaces Et Amis.....	Lagoon 421.....	David Potts & Denis Marconette.....	Las Vegas, NV
Varekai.....	Maine Cat 41.....	Kevin & Katie Dudley.....	Oakland
Island Dancer.....	Perry Prestige 43.....	Daniel & Snjezana Rees.....	Rancho Palos Verdes

LANGOSTINO DIVISION - MULTIHULLS

Counting Stars.....	Leopard 45.....	Bob & Melinda Curtis.....	Bremerton, WA
Dragonfly.....	Seawind 1370.....	Stan Sprenger & Dawn Kingston.....	Point Roberts, WA
Knot Trading.....	Lagoon 460.....	Justin Demko.....	Sherman Oaks
Taj.....	Grainger 48 Cat.....	Sean Lee-Siebels & Christine Grant.....	Bellingham, WA
Kalewa.....	KM Design.....	David & Emily Cuevas.....	St Thomas, USVI
Punk.....	Mattia 52 Cat.....	Wayne Zittel.....	San Diego
Profligate.....	Surfin' 63 Cat.....	Richard Spindler & Doña de Mallorca.....	Punta de Mita, MX

MARGARITA DIVISION - POWERBOATS

Apogee.....	Mikelson 43 Sportfisher.....	Ed & Wendy Thomas.....	Lake Elsinore
Sea Stock.....	Grand Banks 47.....	Howard & Mary Ellen Rosenberg.....	Menlo Park
Passage.....	Symbol 47 Fast Trawler.....	Brent Mathews.....	Prescott, AZ
Eventide.....	Defever 53 LRC.....	Jeff Gerard.....	Kensington
Halcyon Seas.....	Marlow Explorer 70.....	Tobias & Frida Ternstrom.....	Redmond, WA

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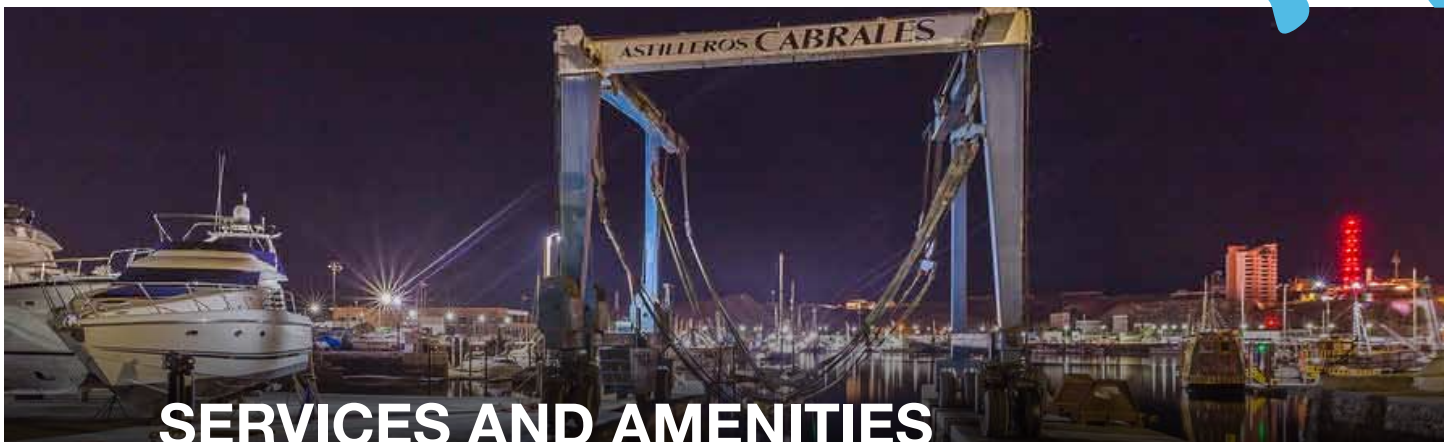
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