

2019 BAJA HA-HA XXVI

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

BAJA HA-HA XXVI RALLY NOTICE

NOVEMBER 3 - 16, 2019

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

SCHEDULE

NOV 3 — Mandatory Skipper's meeting in the West Marine parking lot, San Diego

NOV 3 — Halloween Costume Kick-Off Party and 'Last Cheeseburger in Paradise'

NOV 4 — 10 am Boat Parade off Shelter Island with Mexican officials and fireboats

NOV 4 — 11 am start off Pt. Loma for 360 miles to Turtle Bay

NOV 7 — World Famous cruiser versus Turtle Bay 'Ha-Ha style' baseball game

NOV 8 — Turtle Bay Beach Party

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

NOV 12 — Beach Party at Bahia Santa Maria. Rock 'n roll in the middle of nowhere!

NOV 14 — 7 am start of the 180-mile third leg from Bahia Santa Maria to Cabo

NOV 15 — 8 pm 'Cheated Death' dance fest at Squid Roe, Cabo

NOV 16 — Awards ceremony, Cabo

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

2. COMMUNICATION — Each boat is required to have a functioning form of two-way long distance communication, such as an SSB, Garmin InReach, Iridium Go!, or Iridium satphone. And each skipper must have familiarized him/herself with the operation of the device prior to the start of the event.

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

4. RULES — The rally shall be governed by the *Racing Rules of Sailing 2017-2020* — except where amended by the Grand Poobah — with the *Prescriptions of US Sailing* (available from <http://store.ussailing.org> and elsewhere)

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

6. DIVISIONS — Entries shall be grouped into divisions based on the number and type of boats entered, and whether or not gennakers/spinnakers will be used.

7. CAUTIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES — All entrants are reminded that the ocean between San Diego and Cabo San Lucas exposes mari-

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ners to all the perils of the sea. On rare occasions the region is subject to adverse weather capable of overwhelming even the best-designed and best-built yachts.

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

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

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

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

Baja Ha-Ha, LLC, strongly recommends that every boatowner obtain a copy of the *The World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations for 2018 – 2019* (aka ISAF Special Regs) and follow its prescriptions. Find it at www.sailing.org/special-regs.

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

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

Motoring will be allowed, but with penalty. Because different size boats motor at different speeds.

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

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

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

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

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

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

DETAILS — Specifics regarding starts, finishes, radio protocol and such will be addressed in the Rally Instructions distributed at the Skipper's Meeting on November 3.

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