

# Organizing a Catalina 22 Cruise



By Rich Fox

Catalina 22 National Sailing Association

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## Let's Go Cruising!

A week-long cruise aboard your Catalina 22 with fellow Catalina 22 sailors, family and friends can be a fun, adventurous and memorable experiences for all. If you have determined that you would like to organize and host a future week-long Catalina 22 cruise, this document will help you guide you through important planning steps.

## National Cruise Captain

The Catalina 22 National Sailing Association has a National Cruise Captain who may be a resource to help give you some direction and good feedback on planning a week-long cruise. Be sure to let the National Cruise Captain know about your cruise so they can help promote the event.

## Destination

The first step is to determine where you want to sail. There are plenty of resources on the internet to help you with your research. C22NSA members should check out the Catalina 22 Destinations section of the website with over 50 articles about interesting places where Catalina 22 sailors have cruised aboard their Catalina 22. These articles will help you better understand what other Catalina 22 owners have done and may give you some good ideas when organizing your Catalina 22 cruise.

After you have decided on your cruising destination, then begin developing a cruising plan or itinerary that will outline in greater detail where you will go.

See Cruise Itinerary Example in this publication.

## Dates

Determine how many days you have available to sail on your cruise. Determine the following dates:

- ◆ Departure and return dates and times
- ◆ Daily targets – marinas, coves, facilities.
- ◆ Consider selecting dates for your cruise with a full moon. A full moon provides an added measure of safety when navigating or anchoring at night, and it adds to the pleasure of your cruise.
- ◆ Avoid scheduling your cruise during a holiday as there may be increased boat traffic and more challenging access to facilities along your route. Avoid conflicts with other major sailing or boating events that may interfere with the cruise.
- ◆ Select dates when the wind is traditionally good and the weather is not too hot or too cold.

See Time Table example in this publication.

Having selected a cruising destination and dates, you now have enough information to begin promoting your cruise.

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## Announcement

Create a name that describes your cruise. Some names of recent Catalina 22 cruises include the Catalina 22 Great Lakes Cruise, Northern Gulf Coast Cruise, East Coast National Cruise, and Heartland Cruise.

Write an announcement that can be distributed by print, email and posted on a website and shared using social media. Make sure the announcement includes dates, organizer contact name, phone number and e-mail address for correspondence.

Prepare an itinerary to be distributed with your announcement that will identify the dates and sailing destinations. If there are slip fees that will be incurred, then identify the marina contact information and request that participants contact the marinas directly.

The Catalina 22 Editor/Webmaster can post your announcement and itinerary on the [catalina22.org](http://catalina22.org) website to help promote the event.

See Cruise Announcement Example in this publication.

## Registration Form

Develop a registration form that can be distributed by print and electronic media so others can print, complete, and return the form to you. An online registration form is also an option as is using simple email exchange. Do what is best for you as the organizer to get the necessary information you may need from participants.

You may need to include a registration fee if there are additional expenses that you need to pass along to participants—such as t-shirts or hats.

Be sure to identify and communicate the deadline to register.

## C22NSA Website and MainBrace

Send your announcement, itinerary and registration form to the Editor / Webmaster of the Catalina 22 National Sailing Association (email is [c22mainbrace@yahoo.com](mailto:c22mainbrace@yahoo.com)) The Editor will publish your event in *MainBrace*, the website ([www.catalina22.org](http://www.catalina22.org)), and on the Association's Facebook page.

Write and submit articles to the Editor for publication in *MainBrace* to further promote the cruise by describing the various sites you will sail to. After the cruise, be sure to write an article with photographs to help encourage greater participation in next year's cruise.

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## **EPOC – Emergency Point of Contact**

Safety is essential for a successful cruise. Identify a fleet member not participating in the cruise that can serve as an emergency point of contact (EPOC) on shore.

Prepare emergency instructions for the EPOC and provide copies to cruise participants. The EPOC should have the names of each cruise participant and emergency contacts. You may secure this information from your registration form.

Before departure, provide each boat owner with a list of emergency contacts and phone numbers for all the participants.

## **Safety**

All activities during your cruise must keep safety as the number one agenda item.

- ◆ Carry a cellular/wireless phone to communicate daily with your EPOC.
- ◆ Enroll in a first-aid class.
- ◆ Assign “buddies” where two boats will keep a watchful eye on the other
- ◆ Conduct a safety inspection of each boat to ensure that each boat has the necessary safety equipment.
- ◆ Seek out a Coast Guard inspection, if possible.
- ◆ Carry and share information on local hospital name, address and phone number.

## **Charts**

Identify what charts may be needed for a safe cruise, and communicate this to the participants.

## **Trailer Parking and Launching**

As part of the prep work as Cruise Organizer, you will need to identify where participants can securely store their trailers for the week, and if there is fee. Remind participants to bring a lock or two for their trailers.

You should also identify what boat ramps will be used for launching and retrieval and if there is a fee or permit required to use the ramps?

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## **Marina Facilities**

Various marina facilities may be utilized throughout your cruise. Check out their website and consider making a trip to the marinas to check them out in greater detail. Find out if the marina is sailboat friendly—no electrical wires overhead or at the ramp. Ask about the condition of the ramp and if there is a drop-off.

Identify temporary and secured storage facilities for out-of-town guests to store their trailers and any fees.

If you will be staying at wet slips at marinas, check the condition, rates, and operating hours of the facilities that you may use along your route to ensure access to docks, restrooms, gas, supplies, and restaurants. Find out how and when reservations may be made.

## **Anchorage**

If your week-long cruise may include anchoring overnight, then identify where those anchorages may be and which nights.

## **Activities**

A variety of organized activities throughout the cruise will contribute to further enjoyment and fun during the cruise. Launch your cruise with a kick-off meal to review the agenda for the week, to discuss safety measures, and to introduce out-of-town guests.

At the beginning of each day hold a skipper's meeting to plan activities, review the weather report, and review the charts. Organize a picnic. For those who like to race, organize an afternoon fun race. At the end of each day plan an activity such as a beach campfire, a group swim, volleyball, or dinner. On the final day of the cruise, plan a party before departing. Take plenty of pictures during your cruise. Discuss plans for next year's cruise.

## **Memorabilia**

After your cruise is complete, participants may wish for some memorabilia to remember the fun time they had on your cruise. A few suggestions: include t-shirts, hats, certificates, and group photograph.

You may charge a nominal fee to cover the cost of the memorabilia or see if your local Catalina Yachts dealer or marine store will sponsor a t-shirt with their company logo and name on it.

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## Information Packet for Participants

Below is information you will want to share with participants

- ◆ Cruise area and dates.
- ◆ Detailed itinerary for the week including departure location, marina(s) and ramps. Note the expected miles to be sailed each day. Plans for daily skipper meetings and organized meals.
- ◆ Marina fees or required permits, how to make reservations, phone numbers, dates and hours when open (if opened for a partial season).
- ◆ Trailer parking information—location and fees, if any.
- ◆ Registration fees and what's included in the fee.
- ◆ Charts.
- ◆ Anchorages that may be used along the way.
- ◆ List of participating Catalina 22 sailors.
- ◆ Identify if the Cruise is friendly to children or restricted to adults
- ◆ Information about what to expect for the water, wind and weather conditions.
- ◆ Share the ***Catalina 22 Cruising Equipment List*** (available on the Cruising Club page)

## Time Table

The key to a good turnout for your week-long cruise is early planning and promotion. Please utilize the resources available from the Catalina 22 National Sailing Association to tips to help you organize and promote your cruise.

The time table outline on the next page may be helpful.

**Time Before  
Start of Cruise**

**Cruise Planning Time Table—Planning Activity**

**6 to 9 Months**

- ◆ Determine destinations and dates.
- ◆ Check on access and fees for ramps, marinas (and fees) and trailer storage.
- ◆ Write down a plan.
- ◆ Notify C22NSA National Cruising Captain of your intent to host a cruise.

**6 Months**

- ◆ Develop announcement, itinerary and registration form. .
- ◆ Submit announcement and registration form to C22NSA Editor for publication on the website, *MainBrace*, and Facebook.
- ◆ Promote the cruise on social media and by email.

**4 to 5 Months**

- ◆ Follow-up with Catalina 22 sailors who have expressed interest in attending.
- ◆ Encourage participants to make marina reservations as soon as possible.

**2 Months**

- ◆ Verify who is coming, expect some last minute cancellations.
- ◆ Contact third party vendors—caterer, memorabilia suppliers/vendor.

**1 Month**

- ◆ Send out reminders to participants.
- ◆ Distribute information package.

**1 to 2 Weeks**

- ◆ Start packing the boat—as organizer, you will be very busy.
- ◆ Develop agenda for kick-off .
- ◆ Share any last minute updates with participants

**Big Day**

- ◆ Arrive early to help participants find their way around the area, such as the marina and ramp, and where trailers should be stored .
- ◆ Greet and welcome everybody.
- ◆ Host a kick-off dinner and include introductions.
- ◆ Review daily agenda and safety items with participants at a skipper's meeting.
- ◆ Distribute t-shirts and hats.
- ◆ Have fun!

## Cruise Announcement Example

By Mike Bracket



### **Catalina 22 Great Lakes Cruise - July 7 to 13** **Northern Lake Huron / Mackinac Island**

This is the official announcement for the Great Lakes Cruise 2024. We will be sailing the northern waters of Lake Huron, including Mackinac Island, the week of July 7 to 13. That is a bit earlier than in years past but any later in July and we run into serious problems getting slips in the area because of the Chicago to Mackinac and Port Huron to Mackinac sailboat races in the last half of July.

We will meet, rig, and launch in Cheboygan, Michigan on Sunday July 7.

Monday we will have a short sail over to Bois Blanc Island where our local guide, Jay Beugly, will give us a guided tour of the Bois Blanc Lighthouse.

Tuesday, we will sail through the Le Cheneau Islands to Hessel on the south shore of the "Upper Peninsula" of Michigan.

Wednesday we will sail to Mackinac Island.

Thursday we will sail to St Ignace and Friday will sail back to Cheboygan. If the weather cooperated a bit, we will all sail under the "Mighty Mackinac Bridge" on Thursday or Friday.

I will prepare another email with more detailed information on slip reservations and activities along the way. I hope to get it out in late January sometime. If you are interested, please let me know for general planning. It is cold and raining here. The cruising area has snow already. Think Spring!!

Mike Bracket

Email: [gunsmoke9150@comcast.net](mailto:gunsmoke9150@comcast.net)



## Detailed Itinerary Example

By Mike Bracket

# 2023 Catalina 22 Great Lakes Cruise Grand Traverse Bay, Michigan July 23 - 29

It is snowing today, so what better way to lift your spirits than to start planning for our 22nd Annual Catalina 22 Great Lakes Cruise. This year we will be sailing the deep blue waters of Grand Traverse Bay in Northern Michigan. Traverse City is known as the Cherry Capital and the area is a hotbed of wineries and great sailing. Our itinerary will follow the same route we sailed in 2001 when we did the first Catalina 22 National Sailing Association Great Lakes Cruise. Don't let the prospect of sailing on 'big water' or the distances we plan to sail intimidate you. We sail as a group and are always within a few hundred yards of each other. We stay in marinas every night, but there is one opportunity to anchor out if you wish. We will have a skipper's meeting each morning to review the charts, weather and activities for the day. And if the weather doesn't cooperate, we don't leave. This is a cruise, not a race. It is fun, and not 'work'. Even if you have never sailed this far or this much before, we will all work together and get you through it with no issues. And trust me, any issue that can come up, we have experienced before and know how to solve the problem.

We will launch in Elk Rapids, Michigan on Sunday July 23 at the Edward C. Grace Memorial Harbor. This is a nice, modern, full-service marina right next to the downtown area of Elk Rapids. They have a very nice parking lot and ramp area but it can get busy on a weekend afternoon. You may want to arrive on Saturday afternoon for a less stressful time rigging and launching. Early in the day or later in the afternoon/evening is best. There is a very nice beach immediately adjacent to the marina. We will spend the night at the marina and have a group dinner to meet the other cruisers and discuss our plans for the week.

On Monday, July 24, we will depart Elk Rapids, and sail to the town of Northport on the tip of the Leelanau Peninsula separating Grand Traverse Bay from Lake Michigan. The distance is about 15 miles and we will sail past the Old Mission Light house on the tip of the Old Mission Peninsula separating East and West Grand Traverse Bay. The water here can be up to 500 feet deep!! The Northport marina is also a very nice, modern facility but it is smaller than Elk Rapids. And it is also walking distance to the downtown area. There is also a nice beach and park adjacent to the marina.

On Tuesday, July 25, we will sail about 13 miles to Sutton's Bay via Omena Bay. We will stop for lunch at the Knot just another Bar and the adjacent wine tasting/retail outlet for the Leelanau Cellars Winery. The area close to shore gets shallow but there are docks available outside the restaurant. Depending on water levels, we may have to anchor to the beach and wade ashore. After some shopping and lunch, we will sail down thru Sutton's Bay to the town of Sutton's Bay. The marina here is the most 'basic' of the week, bath house, electricity and ice. But downtown is only about 2 blocks away. There are a lot of nice restaurants and shops. Prior Great Lakes Cruises have voted the Ice Cream Factory on Main street the best on the bay!!! I personally recommend Moomers, Amaretto Cherry!! We will do our (infamous White Elephant Gift exchange this evening. Standard White Elephant rules apply. Bring a gift and get a gift. Limited to nautical theme not to exceed \$20.

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On Wednesday July 26, we will sail down to Traverse City's Duncan Clinch Marina. This is a very nice, new marina with all the amenities. Even washers and dryers if you need to do your laundry!! There is also a park and beach adjacent to the marina and the downtown area is about two blocks away. In years past, we have participated in the Grand Traverse Yacht club Wednesday evening races and post-race gathering at their clubhouse. I need to do more coordination on this event. We will spend two nights at Traverse City so there is plenty of time to explore the "Cherry Capital" and all it has to offer.

On Thursday evening, anyone who wants to anchor out can sail over to Marion Island, about six miles back up the West Bay, near Bowers Harbor. The island is a city park so there are hiking trails and picnic spots. Anchoring on the northeast side should provide good protection from the prevailing winds. And there is a good restaurant/brew pub in Bowers harbor. Unfortunately, there are no docks or public access there.

On Friday, July 28th, we will depart Traverse City to sail about twenty-two miles back to Elk Rapids. Anyone who anchored out the evening before will have a six-mile head start as we will sail right by Marion Island on our way. Upon arrival back at Elk Rapids, we will prepare to de-rig and haul out. You can haul out on Friday evening or Saturday morning. We will plan on a group dinner on Friday evening at a local restaurant and make some tentative plans for our cruise in 2024.

Each boat will make their own reservations at the various marinas. See information below. NOTE: These marinas are all closed now and most will not open until around April 15. Some of the marinas allow you to call them direct to make reservations and some require you to go thru the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to make reservations. The MI DNR website does charge \$8 for each reservation and you cannot make them all in one visit. Each reservation you make is a separate transaction and a separate \$8 fee.

When you notify each marina, be sure you tell them you are part of the Catalina 22 Group. They will try to put us all together where possible.

Please let me know if you are planning to attend. I will send out additional information and a 'registration form' in a couple months. The "registration" fee is just \$20 and that helps pay for the dinner on Sunday evening in Elk Rapids. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

**Sunday - June 23.**

Edward C Grace Memorial Harbor, Elk Rapids, Michigan.

231-264-8174.

GPS Location: N 44° 53.991' / W 085° 24.966.

Go to [www.dockwa.com](http://www.dockwa.com) and enter Elk Rapids, Michigan in the search bar. Grace Memorial Harbor should pop up. They will not be open for reservations until 0800 hrs, May 15, 2023.

Published rate is \$1.70/ft.

Remember to make your reservation for Friday night at the same time.

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**Monday - July 24th.**

Marsten Dame Marina, Northport, Michigan.

231-386-5411

GPS location: N 45 07' 48" / W 36' 38".

[www.midnrreservations.com](http://www.midnrreservations.com) The DNR site accepts reservation requests up to 6 months in advance of your arrival. Select Harbors, and on the left menu, scroll down to Northport and enter your arrival date and other information.

Published rate is \$1.48/ft.

**Tuesday - July 25th.**

Suttons Bay Marina, Suttons Bay, Michigan.

231-271-6703.

GPS Location N 44° 58.592' / W 085° 38.973'.

[sbmarina@suttonsbayvillage.org](mailto:sbmarina@suttonsbayvillage.org) <mailto:sbmarina@suttonsbayvillage.org>. Transient reservations can be made April 15th by either calling the marina or emailing them.

**Wednesday - Thursday July 26-27.**

Duncan Clinch Marina, Traverse City, Michigan.

231-922-4906 / 231-922-4903.

GPS Location: N 44° 46.009' / W 085° 37.308'.

[www.midnrreservations.com](http://www.midnrreservations.com) The DNR site accepts reservation requests up to 6 months in advance of your arrival. Select Harbors, and on the left menu, scroll down to Duncan Clinch Marina and enter your arrival date and other information.

Dockmaster: [tcmarina@traversecitymi.gov](mailto:tcmarina@traversecitymi.gov) <<mailto:tcmarina@traversecitymi.gov>>

Published rate is \$40/night.

**Friday - July 28th.**

Grace Memorial Harbor Elk Rapids, Michigan.

231-264-8174.

Go to [www.dockwa.com](http://www.dockwa.com) and enter Elk Rapids, Michigan in the search bar. Grace Memorial Harbor should pop up. They will not be open for reservations until 0800 hrs, May 15, 2023.

Published rate is \$1.70/ft.

If you have any questions, please let me know. It's snowing again here in Michigan, but I am already thinking of July.

Mike Bracket

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