

Route & Timing

Getting to the marina, Saturday, August 15, 2026

Boat window is **11:00 AM – 3:00 PM**. Check-in is 30 minutes prior — plan to be dockside and parked by **10:30 AM**. Late arrival eats into your rental window, it doesn't extend it.

Destination

Lake Sonoma Marina (Lake Sonoma Resort Area)

4200 Skaggs Springs Road, Geyserville, CA 95441
[Open in Apple Maps](#) | [Open in Google Maps](#)

Phone: (707) 433-2200 — good to have saved in case anyone runs late or the group splits into two cars.

The two-wave arrival

Eleven people converging from four different places on one dock is where a day like this usually goes sideways. The fix is a staggered arrival with one job per wave.

Time	Who	Job
10:30 AM	Colin, Nicole, Genz, Dave H. + the three dogs	Advance team. Check in, sign the paperwork, take the orientation, settle the parking passes, load coolers, get the dogs aboard and settled before there's a crowd.
10:45 AM sharp	Charlie, Casper & Joji, Christina, Carly, Dave L. & Beck	Walk on to a boat that is already loaded and cleared. Hand off your food item, find a seat.
11:00 AM	Everyone	Cast off.

The 10:45 is the load-bearing number. Fifteen minutes is enough to walk seven people and a cooler down a dock — it is not enough to also park, pay, find a bathroom and re-pack a bag. Do that before you arrive.

Leave-by times, by origin

From	Who	Drive	Leave by
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Oakland	Colin, Nicole, Genz, Dave H. , dogs	~2h00–2h15 · I-580 → Richmond–San Rafael Bridge → 101 N	8:00 AM
Oakland	Charlie, Casper, Joji	~2h00–2h15 · same route	8:15 AM
Richmond	Christina	~1h45–2h05 · I-580 → Richmond–San Rafael Bridge → 101 N	8:45 AM
Presidio, SF	Carly, Dave L. , Beck	~1h45–2h05 · Golden Gate → 101 N, + sandwich pickup in Healdsburg	8:20 AM

Every estimate includes the slow final leg. Add 15 minutes if you want coffee, and another 15 on top of that if you have not packed the car the night before.

Four cars, not five. Dave H. is riding with the advance team instead of driving himself down from Napa, which removes a vehicle from the gate. Settle *where* the advance team collects him before Saturday morning — the Oakland-to-marina route does not naturally pass Napa, so it is either him coming to Oakland or a meeting point agreed in advance.

The Presidio car moved to 8:20. Carly, Dave L. and Beck are collecting eleven sandwiches from Big John's on the way. The pickup adds roughly 25 minutes, and Dry Creek Road does not give any of it back. Text the order to **(707) 433-7151** the night before and it drops to ten.

The last 12.7 miles are slower than they look

Exit US-101 at **Dry Creek Road** in Healdsburg. From there it is about **10.2 miles** on Dry Creek Road, then **1.8 miles** on Stewarts Point–Skaggs Springs Road with a sharp left at the dam, then another **0.7 miles** to the marina turnoff at Overlook Road.

This is a narrow, curvy 35–45 mph canyon road. It takes **25–30 minutes** and no amount of light traffic makes it faster — it is slow by geometry, not by congestion. Budget it as a fixed cost.

Assume you lose cell service on Dry Creek Road. This is a rural canyon in a Corps of Engineers recreation area and coverage is spotty. With five cars coming from four directions, the coordination has to be settled *before* anyone makes that turn — agree on the meeting spot at the marina, the arrival order, and what happens if someone is running late. A group text sent from the canyon may simply never land.

Bridge tolls

Bridge	Who pays	Amount
Richmond–San Rafael	Both Oakland cars + Christina, on the way up	\$8.50 — westbound only
Golden Gate	Presidio car pays nothing heading north	Free northbound

All Bay Area bridge tolls are electronic — there are no cash booths. Without FasTrak you'll get a pay-by-plate invoice in the mail, or you can settle it within 48 hours at bayareafastrak.org. The Golden Gate only charges southbound, which means the Presidio car pays on the way *home*, not on the way up.

The Napa route is a coin flip

Dave H. has two options and they land in roughly the same place. **CA-128 over Calistoga** is the pretty one — about 24 miles of winding mountain road that drops onto 101 near Geyserville. **CA-12 west to Santa Rosa, then 101 north** is the boring one, stoplight-heavy through town but faster once you're on the freeway.

On paper the 101 route is marginally quicker; in practice one slow RV on 128 erases the difference in either direction. Check live traffic that morning and pick. Do not take 128 if you're already running late — there is nowhere to pass.

Last chance for gas, coffee & bathrooms

Geyserville is tiny. Your real options, in the order you'll pass them:

- **Big John's Market** — 1345 Healdsburg Ave, Healdsburg. Open **7:00 AM Saturday**. Full deli, made-to-order sandwiches, coffee, ice, sunscreen. If anything was forgotten, it is here. This is the single most useful stop on the route.
- **Chevron** — 1496 Healdsburg Ave (northern edge of town, closest to the 101 on-ramp) or 111 Healdsburg Ave.
- **Dry Creek General Store** — 3495 Dry Creek Road. Open **7:00 AM–5:30 PM**, and it sits directly on the final stretch, roughly a third of the way up. Deli, coffee, and a patio. The genuine last chance for anything, and the last reliable bathroom.

Whoever is on the advance team should be done shopping in Healdsburg by **9:50 AM** to make a 10:30 dockside. There is no slack between Healdsburg and the marina.

Parking heads-up

The reservation includes **one (1) complimentary parking pass**, good for a single vehicle. Every additional car pays the standard **\$20 day-use fee** at the gate.

As currently planned this is a **four-car** trip — one free plus three paid, or **\$60 at the gate**. Down from five now that Dave H. rides with the advance team. Consolidating further saves \$20 a car — decide the night before, not in the driveway.

Who's coming

Colin, Nicole, Genz, Carly, Dave L., Dave H., Beck, Christina, Charlie, Casper and Joji — **11 people** — plus Tony, Carmela and Craig. That is **one seat** under the boat's 12-person cap.

Sources

- [Lake Sonoma Marina — Contact](#)
- [Lake Sonoma Marina — FAQs \(parking fee\)](#)
- [The Ranch at Lake Sonoma — Directions \(final-leg mileage\)](#)
- [511.org — Bay Area Bridge Tolling Information](#)
- [Bay Area FasTrak — Richmond–San Rafael Bridge](#)
- [Golden Gate Bridge — Tolls & Payment](#)
- [Big John's Market, Healdsburg](#)
- [Dry Creek General Store — Sonoma County Tourism](#)