

Pacific Puddle Jumpers, please read:

## **Everyone Everywhere Wants It**

What's the one intangible thing that people everywhere seem to want and need? "Respect" is the answer that comes to my mind, because as a traveler I know that showing respect for the people and places we visit — and for their cultural traditions — is essential in order for us to receive acceptance and respect, in return.

Needless to say, if you weren't interested in Polynesian culture and traditions you probably wouldn't be making this epic voyage. But you may not be familiar with some of the minor issues that are important to local islanders.

The following list of Do's and Don't's comes from our good friend Kevin Ellis of Yacht Services Nuku Hiva, located at Taiohae Bay. But most of his suggestions are applicable throughout the islands.

Kevin writes:

"Visiting sailors, please consider that all boats arriving here from outside French Polynesia, including those from France, are all guests here.

"And because you are guests, we expect that you will always be respectful to your local hosts and to their cultural values. And that you would never do anything that would insult your hosts or their other guests. Please keep this in mind while reading the following:

"The Please Do's:

- Respect the norms and customs of the culture you are visiting.
- If you must run your genset or dive compressor all day, please move out of the main anchorage.
- After you make contact with your party, change to another VHF channel.
- Pay the visitor fees that are requested of you by the local government.
- Place your non-recyclable trash in the appropriate receptacle on the wharf.
- Separate and place your recyclable items in the recycling bins provided.
- Take your organic matter (kitchen waste) to a receptacle ashore.
- Be considerate to others and how your actions may affect them.
- When going ashore, tie your dinghy to the rings next to the ladders.
- Use a long line on your dinghy so others can move the boats around.
- Leave your outboard hinged down when tied to the wharf.
- Come and go from the dinghy dock slowly (3 knots max).

"Please Don't's:

- Don't throw organic matter in the bays, only out at sea (or in receptacles ashore).
- Don't tie or lock your dinghy to the ladder, it's very rude.
- Don't deploy a stern anchor at the dinghy dock.

- Don't deploy a stern anchor in the main mooring field when no one else has deployed theirs.
- Don't anchor too close to others and then suggest THEY need to move.
- Don't use a masthead strobe light unless you are really in distress. (Otherwise, illegal)
- Don't leave a mess anywhere for someone else to clean up.
- Don't go nude or topless in proximity to others on land or on the water. Nudity in public is illegal and not acceptable to the locals.
- Don't wear very revealing clothes in businesses ashore. Wearing a thong at the store is not ok.
- Please don't offer alcohol as a trading item."

### **Still Time to Arrange Tracking**

Although the majority of Puddle Jump rally boats are utilizing the (free) PredictWind tracking offer, we would bet that some crews have been just too busy to deal with setting the service for their own boat. If that sounds like you, there is probably still time to join the program. Just email [support@predictwind.com](mailto:support@predictwind.com) to get started.

Please consider that by joining, you not only make it easier for us, other fleet members, as well as friends and family to follow your progress. Additionally, your participation could help other fleet members know your location in an emergency.

### **Jumping Off & Making Landfall**

As noted in earlier Fleet Letters, we request that every crew let us know when they jump off from the West Coast, and when they make landfall in the islands. And although it's not absolutely mandatory, we would prefer that every boat check in daily by one means or another. The default check-in address is [ppj.checkin@gmail.com](mailto:ppj.checkin@gmail.com).

### **Sin Tung Hing Discount for PPJ Fleet**

The word "inexpensive" is rarely used to describe marine supplies and services in French Polynesia, but good values can be found if you know where to look. For example, the territory's largest marine supply chain, Sin Tung Hing Marine, offers PPJ fleet members a 10% discount on all products in their three stores, except on boats, engines, and trailers. Ask for the "Pacific Puddle Jump fleet discount" when you check out. Stores are located in the Papeete port area (Motu Uta), at Puna'auia (at Marina Taina), and at Taravao (Tahiti Iti).

— Andy Turpin, PPJ