

Fleet Letter #5

Ahoy Pacific Puddle Jumpers,

Please take a few minutes to read the following notices:

### **2023 PPJ Fleet is Poised to Pounce**

As we write this, at least three Pacific Puddle Jump boats are currently en route to the islands, sailing under the light of a full moon. Two early birds have already arrived in the Marquesas, and 60 others are preparing to jump in the next few weeks from various points along the West Coast of the Americas — while three will be crossing from Hawaii. (Click the “Entries” tab at [pacificpuddlejump.com](http://pacificpuddlejump.com) to see the current entry roster.)

### **Stow Before You Go**

Before heading off on a long ocean passage, virtually every crew grapples with decisions about which spare parts and gear must be taken along, and which can be left behind. Adding to the debate, some cynical sailors like to theorize that whatever spares you DO bring probably won't be needed, but those you DON'T bring probably will.

One thing that will definitely be useful while exploring French Polynesia is French language skills. So unless you're already fluent, we would strongly encourage you to bring along whatever learning aids you have or can acquire before heading west. We have found that there is some benefit to every approach, whether it is an audio course downloaded from the Internet — such as the excellent Paul Noble series available through [audible.com](http://audible.com) — or a more traditional approach, such as the well-known workbook French in 10 minutes a Day. French for Cruisers by Kathy Parsons is also a great resource to have aboard, especially when you need to explain your technical needs to a workman or vendor. (In case you're wondering, the Marquesas and Society Islands have their own native dialects, but French is the Territory's official first language.)

Needless to say, the South Pacific has inspired many great works of literature, and a number of them are available as audiobooks. While standing watch, we have found that we are much less likely to fall asleep at the helm while engaged in an audio novel or biography than while listening to music.

Two additional notes on things to bring: Most experienced sailors would agree that the ultimate nightmare on an offshore sailing trip would be a fire on board. We hate to even mention this, but it can happen. So before setting out make sure you have plenty of fire extinguishers and that they have been appropriately serviced. And if you can find an 'old-school' fire blanket definitely bring it along. These are particularly good for putting out stove fires quickly, whereas once you spray a stove or electrical equipment with fire retardant, you often render it useless.

While we are on the subject of offshore 'nightmares', let us remind you that bringing large amounts of provisions aboard shortly before departure creates an excellent opportunity for all sorts of unwanted creatures to stow away before you set sail. So we suggest you bring along some means of combating them, especially roaches, or even worse, a rat. Sorry. Just thinking about that possibility is unnerving, but it actually happened to us. So unless you have a battle-tested cat aboard, we suggest you pick up some rat traps and/or poison before heading out, just

to have onboard as insurance. As the cynics say, if you have it, you won't need it, right?

## **Meet Us at the Rendez-vous — July 21-24**

If you've been following the Pacific Puddle Jump through its 26-year history, then you have undoubtedly heard of its companion event, the Tahiti-Moorea Sailing Rendez-vous. This annual three-day gathering has the dual purpose of celebrating the arrival of a new cruising fleet, and showcasing highly revered elements of Polynesian culture, in music, dance, sport, and cuisine.

The event begins Friday afternoon with a chart briefing and reception in Papeete, a rally/race to Moorea's spectacular Opunohu Bay on Saturday, and a day of traditional music, dance, and sports on Sunday, including six-person outrigger canoe races where cruisers provide the muscle. See the website for details: <https://www.tahiti-moorea-sailing-rdv.com/> (Note also that sailing Industry representatives from Tonga, Fiji, and New Zealand are expected to attend.)

## **PredictWind Sponsorship Details**

As mentioned in an earlier Fleet Letter, we ask that every boat let us know when they depart the West Coast, when they make landfall, and if possible, to check in daily via an automated or manual method. The easiest way to accomplish this is to set up free tracking with PPJ sponsor PredictWind. See the notes and attachment below, or email: [support@predictwind.com](mailto:support@predictwind.com).

(Please note also that the Pacific Puddle Jump's default check-in email is [PPJ.checkin@gmail.com](mailto:PPJ.checkin@gmail.com).)

— Andy Turpin, PPJ

## **PredictWind Pricing Details and Clarification:**

For GPS tracking, we apply free tracking to each PPJ participant as requested ([support@predictwind.com](mailto:support@predictwind.com)), so their boat can be tracked, but to utilize the blog feature they need to have a full PredictWind forecast subscription.

Any PPJ rally member who purchases a PredictWind forecast subscription gets a 20% discount. (\*\*\*)This means rally participants can try the PredictWind standard for as little as US\$79 for 3 months).

The discount does NOT apply to Iridium GO airtime or hardware, only PredictWind forecast subs if they buy directly from our website, not via the App Store/ PlayStore(Google and Apple control these In-App purchases and we cannot refund them).

Here are the RRP prices and options (\*\*\*)before applying a 20% discount):

- Standard 3 months US\$99
- Standard 1 year US\$249
- Professional 3 months US\$249
- Professional 1 year US\$499

The Standard and Professional levels of PredictWind both offer GPS tracking, blogging, weather routing, departure planning, and access to weather data via satellite systems when offshore.

The difference is that the Professional level also allows access to the following:

- High-resolution forecast GRIB files (1km and 8km PWG/PWE, 9km ECMWF, 27km GFS, 14km SPIRE & 10km UKMO)
  - Ocean current GRIBs (Mercator, Hycom, and RTOFS)
  - Sea Surface Temperature (SST)
  - High-resolution tidal currents (full global coverage coming in November for all coastlines in the world)
  - Wave modeling of your boat (including Roll, Vertical accelerations, and Slamming Incidence)
  - AIS data in the Offshore App, accessible via satellite when offshore
- Any weather route or departure plan calculation using either the Standard or Professional subscriptions will consider your choice of ocean current data and wave polars when calculating a route. However, only the Professional subscription will show you these details when viewing the results in the tables and along the routes.

The Professional version is a must-have for the following reasons:

To view ocean currents like the Gulf Stream, English Channel, Straits of Gibraltar and Panama-Galapagos

To view tidal currents in your local area

To view the wave modeling data for your boat. Often it is the sea state that is the most dangerous factor

AIS data to know, for example, if you will likely encounter a large commercial fishing fleet at night

The professional package gives you access to the best data that PredictWind has to offer, and this is considered to be the best choice



## PREDICTWIND TRACKING FOR THE PACIFIC PUDDLE JUMP

Thanks to PredictWind the tracks of all participating PPJ boats will be displayed on a unique fleet tracking map. This will be free to all entrants. To get your boat included, follow the steps below and email PredictWind.  
**20% PPJ Discount on any PredictWind Subscription or 20% Rebate for Current Subscribers**

### TO GET HOOKED UP FOLLOW THE 4 STEPS BELOW

**1) Create a New or Confirm Your Existing PredictWind Account.** Create your free account [HERE](#).

**2) Choose a Method of Reporting.** Depending upon the method, the reporting is either automatic or manual.

[Iridium GO!](#) – Automatic

[inReach](#) – Automatic

[Email](#) – Manual

[PredictWind Offshore App](#) – Manual

[YB3i](#) – Automatic

[DataHub](#) – Automatic

**3) Set Up Your Reporting Method**

**How to Set Up the Iridium GO!** Activate GPS tracking. This is done with the PredictWind Offshore App on either your computer (Windows or Mac) or on your tablet or smartphone (iOS or Android). First, install the PredictWind Offshore app [HERE](#).

**Setting up the GO! With your computer** – Windows PC or Mac

1. Open the PredictWind Offshore App on your PC or Mac and ensure you are connected to the internet through the Iridium GO!
2. On a windows computer at the top left corner of your screen click on 'File/Preferences'  
On a Mac computer at the top left corner of your screen, click on 'PredictWind Offshore/Preferences'.
3. Click on 'Iridium GO!'
4. Enter 'guest' as your username and password (this should not be changed and will be the default).
5. Click on 'Verify Settings'
6. Turn 'Tracking ON' and 'GPS ON' and click on 'Apply Changes'

**Setting up the GO! with a Smartphone or Tablet** – iOS or Android Device

1. Open the PredictWind Offshore App on your smartphone or tablet and ensure you are connected to the internet through the Iridium GO!
2. Select Preferences from the opening menu.
3. Select 'Iridium GO!'
4. Enter 'guest' as your username and password (this should not be changed and will be the default).
5. Click on 'Verify Settings'
6. Turn Tracking ON and GPS ON and click on 'Apply Changes'

GPS tracking messages will be sent automatically every hour even if the PC, MAC, tablet or smartphone and the PredictWind Offshore App are shut down. The tracking messages will be via SMS text, so there are no additional charges on the GO Unlimited or GO Plus airtime plans.

During the PPJ ensure the GO! is **always powered on with a clear view of the sky** for tracking messages to be sent.

For more information on setting up the Iridium GO! See the PredictWind website [CLICK HERE](#).

## How to Set Up the inReach

1. Log in to your inReach account [HERE](#).
2. Go to the 'Social' tab and ensure that 'MapShare' is toggled on.
3. Select 'MapShare Settings' and ensure MapShare is not password protected.
4. Below 'Map Share Settings' click on the tiny word "Feeds" and copy down the URL under "Raw KML Data" it should look like: <https://share.garmin.com/Feed/Share/XXX>. You will need email this to PredictWind in step 4 below.
5. Activate tracking on your inReach. Choose a tracking interval of four hours or less.

GPS tracking messages will be sent automatically via SMS text. Each one counts as a sent message in your plan. For unlimited text messaging upgrade to the Expedition Plan for the Ha-Ha.

During the PPJ ensure that the inReach is **always powered on** with a **clear view of the sky** for tracking messages to be sent.

For more information on setting up the inReach see the PredictWind website [HERE](#).

## How to Report by Email

During the PPJ send positions at least every four hours to [tracking@predictwind.com](mailto:tracking@predictwind.com). Be sure to convert the message into plain text (not HTML) and put nothing in the email but that one line. No signatures or messages or your position will not be processed.

1. Leave the subject blank.
2. The text of the email starts with your PredictWind login email address followed by your Lat Long with a max of two digits after the decimal and finally the date and time as YYYY-MM-DD 00:00.
3. For example: yourpwlogin@gmail.com 24 47.111N 112 30.455W 2022-11-03 06:50 as a single line in the body of the email.

For more information on emailing your position see the PredictWind website [HERE](#).

**How to Report Using the PredictWind Offshore App** is explained [HERE](#).

**How to Set Up the YB3i** is explained [HERE](#).

**How to Set Up the PredictWind DataHub** Just scan the QR code on the back of the device. This will take you to the tracking setup for the DataHub.

## 4) Email Your Information to PredictWind

To be included on the map email the following information to PredictWind at [support@predictwind.com](mailto:support@predictwind.com).

1. The email address associated with your PredictWind account from step 1 above
2. Your Boat Name
3. Your reporting method (GO!, inReach, email, DataHub, YB3i or PredictWind Offshore App)
4. If using inReach, email the URL of the Raw KML Data <https://share.garmin.com/Feed/Share/XXX>.  
If using Iridium GO!, email the satellite phone number of your Iridium GO!

## VIEWING THE TRACKING MAP

While offshore and with the internet view the map [HERE](#) or from the link at [pacificpuddlejumps.com](http://pacificpuddlejumps.com).

With a Standard or Pro PredictWind subscription and the internet, you can view all of the PPJ boat's tracks, posts, and download weather GRIBs. Install the app before the start [HERE](#). Open the app and click "Download/Tracking Data" in the download settings, click 'Next/Download All'. Once the download is complete, go to the map and select 'GPS tracking'. If you think you will use this during the PPJ download all of your previous GPS track points while you still have a high-speed internet connection.

## 20% OFF ANY SUBSCRIPTION FOR PACIFIC PUDDLE JUMP PARTICIPANTS

### OR 20% REBATE FOR CURRENT SUBSCRIBERS

[Click Here](#) To See the Options and Upgrade your PredictWind Account

You may need to log in to your PredictWind account. After making the purchase, log out and in from within the PredictWind App on your iOS or Android device OR refresh your web browser on your computer. Once you have made the purchase contact [support@predictwind.com](mailto:support@predictwind.com) to get your 20% refunded. The discount is NOT applicable to App store/PlayStore purchases.