

Latitude 38

PACIFIC PUDDLE JUMP 2008

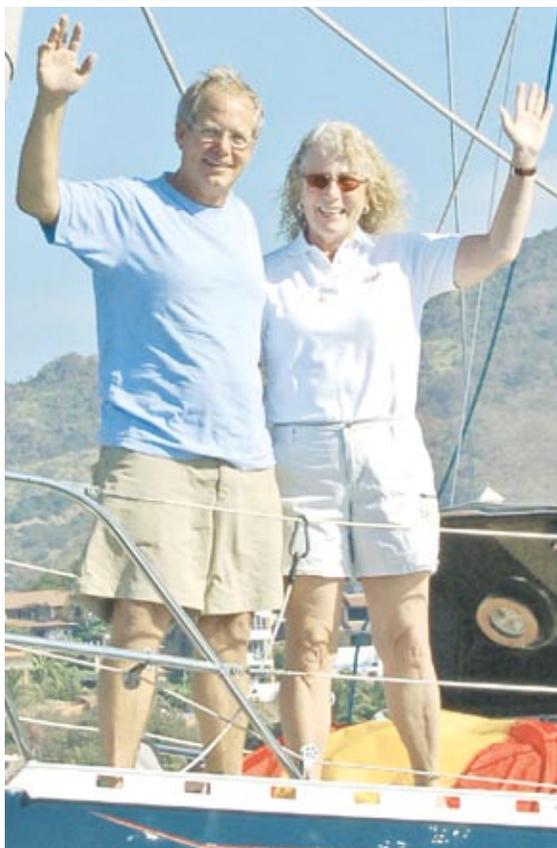
— MEET THE FLEET PART II

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MEET THE FLEET, PT II

As you read this, many of the sailors profiled here are literally in mid-ocean, bounding over long ocean swells as they are driven by the easterly trades toward the fabled landfalls of French Polynesia — a crossing we like to call the Pacific Puddle Jump.

As we noted last month in our first installment of mini-bios, members of this year's fleet are jumping off from a wide



LATITUDE/ANDY

"We're not in Kansas anymore!" Joel and Mary are going '360' after a visit to Polynesia.

variety of ports along the West Coast. Again this year, Puerto Vallarta and Zihuatanejo are the most popular pre-departure staging points, but many boats are also setting sail from La Paz, Cabo San Lucas, San Diego and Ecuador, while European and East Coast sailors will jump off directly from Panama after transiting the Canal.

As you'll see here, this year's fleet is composed of a broad range of boat types, and they're certainly not all 'gold-platers'. Notable are several 32-footers, one of which is homebuilt. The backgrounds of this year's Jumpers are equally varied. At one end of the spectrum are highly successful professionals searching out a bit of adventure after making their mark in their field; and at the other end is a 16-year-old high schooler who hopes

to become the youngest to complete a singlehanded circumnavigation.

Along their lonely, 3,000-mile route, many passage-makers will undoubtedly make contact with like-minded sailors whom they've never actually seen before. But hopefully many will meet in the flesh in late summer when the fleet finally converges at Tahiti. On June 27 and 28 the Tahiti Tourisme organization and several partners — including *Latitude 38* — will host the Tahiti-Moorea Sailing Rendezvous with the specific purpose of welcoming cruisers to those spectacular islands and introducing them to the rich traditions of Polynesian culture. Joining forces with local paddlers to race around the Moorea lagoon is apt to be the highlight! In any case, we hope to bring you a full report this summer on the Rendezvous as well as anecdotes from this year's migration.

With that introduction, let us introduce you to the Pacific Puddle Jump Class of 2008 (Part II):

360 — Passport 41 Joel & Mary Thornton Seattle, WA

Although she may not look it, Mary is a pretty salty sailor with thousands of offshore miles under her belt. She did a big SoPac circuit 25 years ago with a former husband and four (!) young kids. "I don't know if it's easier to be older with no kids along, or younger with the kids," muses Mary with a smile. "But I do know that Joel is a much better husband!"

This will be Joel's first big Pacific circuit, but he's done loads of offshore racing, including several Pac Cups, as well as a crossing from New Zealand to New Caledonia. He and Mary do intend to eventually complete a full circumnavigation, by the way. Hence the name 360. Get it?

Ironically, these two ocean voyagers originally hailed from the Midwest. Mary grew up in Sheldon, Iowa — where she claims to have read all the swashbuckling adventure books in the local library. And Joel grew up in Kansas, where he learned to sail on a local reservoir. Goes to show, you just never know where life will lead you.

They met a cruising couple who . . . regaled them with tales of seafaring adventure.



Richard and Betsy of 'Gayaq' will be seeking out the less-traveled places.

Gayaq — Valiant 32 Richard Spore & Betsy Plotkin Seattle, WA

It's not surprising that Richard and Betsy are among at least a half dozen crews who'll reach French Polynesia via Ecuador and the Galapagos. They've often traveled off the beaten track, so to speak. Back home in Washington, one of their favorite pastimes was exploring wilderness areas by sea kayaks.

Of their recent travels they write: "We loved Mexico — the people, the food, the ease of travel. Everywhere we go we are impressed with how nice and accepting the local people are. We love the Latin American culture and its emphasis on family — if anything, it's made us closer to ours, even though we're further away from them."

In keeping with their 'take-it-slow' attitude, they may leave the boat on the hard in Raiatea at the end of the season and return home for a few months to fatten their cruising kitty, before pushing on westward.

Morning Light — Hylas 46 Jaime & Christine Tate, San Diego

Some cruisers can precisely pinpoint the inspiration that led them to this vagabonding lifestyle. For Jaime and Christine it was a dreamy vacation at Bora Bora 20 years ago, where they met a cruising couple who invited them aboard for dinner and regaled them with tales of seafaring adventure. "What can we say? We got hooked right then!" recalls Jaime.

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Ten years later they chartered a bare-boat out of Raiatea and tested the waters firsthand. "Our goal then was that when we turned 60 we would sail our own boat through the Bora Bora pass. We can't believe we are going to be doing just that!"

Their able crew for the crossing are Les and Diane Sutton, who've cruised extensively through Mexico and the Caribbean during the past nine years aboard their Albin Nimbus 42 *Gemini*.

As for advice for the dreamers, Jaime is only half kidding when he advises: "Buy a small travel trailer that needs a lot of work. See how it feels living together 24/7 in cramped quarters and repairing everything yourself as far away from civilization as possible."

Warm Rain — Hylas 44

Tom & Dawn Baker, Blaine, WA

Tom and Dawn fell in love with 'life on

This time, Jaime (left) and Christine (right) will arrive at Bora Bora aboard 'Morning Light'.



LATITUDE / ANDY

"We had no idea how much we would enjoy this lifestyle," they say.

the water' long before they began their cruising life two and a half years ago. He's lived aboard for 17 years and she's been 'afloat' for almost half that time. Ten years ago they bought this cutter-rigged

ketch and began their decade-long preparations.

Like most Puddle Jumpers, they plan to follow the 'milk run' to the land of the kiwi bird, then reassess. "We're

very excited about seeing New Zealand," says Tom. "We may even decide we want to live there."

Their advice to the wannabes back home: "Go now, don't wait. It costs more than you think, but it's worth it."

Warrior — N/A

Michele & Melissa, Australia

We had a nice chat with Aussies Michele and Melissa, but somehow came away with incomplete info on their boat and crew. What we do know is that Michele and her husband are longtime sailors who bought this boat recently (on the West Coast, we believe) after he decided he'd had enough of running a condo complex back home. No doubt cruising her home to the Land of Oz via Chile, Easter Island, Pitcairn and French Polynesia will be a whole lot more exciting than fixing busted plumbing and trying to collect delinquent association dues. Although their daughter Melissa had never sailed before two years ago, she's thrilled to be going along as crew on this grand adventure.

Grace — Peterson 46 Geoff Lane & Sally Heins Bainbridge Island, WA

In our book, Geoff and Sally deserve a special 'Puddle Jump spirit' award, although we're certain they'd rather not be eligible for it. In an example of unbelievably bad luck, Sally was hit by a speeding motorcycle in early February while crossing a highway in Nuevo Vallarta, right after attending our Puddle Jump Kickoff Party. Although her injuries were



"Oz, here we come!" Michele and Melissa are taking 'Warrior' down under.

quite serious, her characteristically upbeat spirit could not be dampened. She is determined not to let this unfortunate setback quash their long-held cruising dreams. So Geoff and a couple of friends will sail the boat to Polynesia where Sally will join them after her injuries heal.

Geoff is a lifelong sailor, who introduced Sally to the sport when they met many years ago. They began planning this cruise at least a decade ago. Since leaving Puget Sound last summer, their experiences have apparently been far more positive than negative: "We had no idea how much we would enjoy this lifestyle," they say.

Ironically, the horrible traffic accident



LATITUDE / ANDY

Sally and Geoff are not about to give up their dreams of sailing 'Grace' to Tahiti.

Sally endured may make her and Geoff much less apprehensive about future ocean crossings. In fact, just before the accident, fellow cruisers remember her quipping, "We'll be lucky to make it across this street, let alone 3,000 miles of open ocean."

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'Sunshine's father/daughter crew, Merritt and Lew, are chasing the perfect wave.

Sunshine — Coronado 32 Lew & Merritt Burch, Phoenix, AZ

"All we want are good waves breaking on a lovely beach in a beautiful, laid-back environment," explains 1st Mate Merritt, who is 12. Before they set out three years ago, they used to drive five hours to SoCal beaches, only to be shut out by the hordes of local surfers. Since beginning their cruise at Rocky Point, OR, in '05, father and daughter have explored thousands of miles of coastline — as far south as Ecuador — and, we assume, have found many uncrowded breaks. But apparently they're still in search of the illusive perfect wave.

They've covered 5,600 nm so far, but only in 1- to 5-day coastal hops. So the estimated 40-day trip from the Galapagos to the Marquesas should be a serious test of their stamina — it's a big ocean when you're in a 32-footer.

Don't worry, in addition to the education she's getting in the 'school of life', Merritt is also learning 'the three Rs' along the way, as Lew is an elementary

After enduring long Alaskan winters, the 'Wind Dancer' crew is loving the sunny latitudes.



school teacher by profession.

Gingi — King's Legend 41 John Bringetto & Amanda Berks San Francisco

If you find yourself smack-dab in the middle of the ocean, halfway to Nuku Hiva, and you think you hear the piercing sound of a jazz trumpet wailing in the distance, fear not. You're not hallucinating. It's only John practicing his chops. He is, after all, a professional jazzman.

As far as we know Amanda does not play an instrument, but she must be a jazz lover, as she and John have been cruising together successfully aboard this 41-footer since leaving SF Bay in '99. During that time they've seen just about all there is to see in the Eastern Caribbean, along the East Coast as far north as the Canadian Maritimes, and along the West Coast up to the Pacific Northwest. So naturally, it's time for them to head west into the vast Pacific. That ought to keep them busy for a while.

Wind Dancer — Catalina 36 The Burns family, Juneau, AK

"It has been a lifelong dream to cast off and see the world," explains Cap'n Grant. "As life in the U.S. has increasingly become a rat race, a make-money-as-fast-as-you-can society, our decision to leave was solidified." Who knew there was a rat race in Alaska too!

With 1st Mate Richelle (aka Mom); son Grant, 12; daughter Grace, 8; and friend Bob Doll along as crew it'll be a cozy ride to the islands aboard this 36-footer, but Alaskans know how to rough it.

The game plan is for the family to island-hop to New Zealand or Austra-

lia this season, then eventually head across the Indian Ocean around South Africa and up to the Caribbean. If they're still liking the cruising life by the time they reach the Panama Canal, they figure they might head back out into the South Pacific to see what they missed. Sounds like an excellent way for the kids to get an education — and avoid the rat race.

Madeline — Gib Sea 106 Meghan & Jeremy White Portland, OR

Both in their early 30s, Meghan and Jeremy are among the youngest owners in this year's fleet. They too are taking the Galapagos route. But unlike most, they have their sights set on Southeast Asia before heading back to Australia or New Zealand to look for work — they're both engineers.

They both learned to sail in their early 20s and bought this boat five years ago. The idea to cross the Pacific only took hold about a year ago. Displaying an open-minded attitude, they say the only places they plan to avoid during their travels are "reefs, nets, rocks and other boats!" Their advice to future Puddle Jumpers: "Buy lots and lots of fans!"

Scarlett O'Hara — Serendipity 43 John & Renee Prentice, San Diego

This trip to Tahiti has been a long time coming for John and Renee. Back in the mid-'80s they bought the bare hull of a Columbia 50 and fitted her out for world cruising. But for a variety of reasons that trip never happened.

The idea never died, though — at least for John — and in 1990 they bought this pedigreed warhorse as a fixer-upper from Cal Maritime. Longtime racers will recall

Tragically, 700 miles out the rudder sheared clean off at the waterline.

that she made headlines in the early '80s by winning the SORC and most of the Admiral's Cup races.

In the spring of '04 they set off to Jump the Puddle, even though Renee was admittedly a bit reluctant at the time. Tragically, 700 miles out the rudder sheared clean off at the waterline. So



John and Amanda have cruised on 'Gingi' for the past nine years.

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Renee and John are more ready than ever — and 'Scarlett O'Hara' is too.

the big adventure that year was getting back to port safely.

This year, however, *Scarlett* has been fitted with a seemingly indestructible carbon rudder shaft (off the SC70 *Mon-goose*). And the other big change is that Renee has lost her ocean-crossing anxiety and is rarin' to go. "I did a lot of soul searching, but now I'm really looking forward to it!"

Shilling of Hamble — Oyster 435 Dennis & Janet Knight, England

As we learned when Dennis and Janet did the Baja Ha-Ha back in '05, they both grew up around boats, and she still has vivid memories of her dad building the family's first dinghy on the dining room floor when she was two.

Having set out from England in '99, they'd already logged 25,000 cruising miles by the start of the Ha-Ha, including four summers spent in Southeast Alaska and the Puget Sound area. They've made many new friends along the way, partly because Dennis plays guitar and seems to know the lyrics to a zillion songs — some of which are a bit bawdy! As they now head west, their goal is to be in New Zealand by Christmas.

Questzalcoatl — Brewer 45 Don Bryden & Seishu Sono Green Bay, WI

"It just seemed like the natural thing to do," says Don, when asked about his motivation to cruise. We understood what he meant when we learned about all the places he's sailed during the past 35 years. In addition to sailing in his home waters — he worked as a cop in Southern California — he's done trips in the Caribbean, along the Eastern Seaboard, all along the West Coast and elsewhere. So the South Pacific is the logical next step.

Don has been to French Polynesia several times and loved it, but this trip will be much more ambitious. He and Seishu plan to eventually work their way north to Japan, where she was born, then across the North Pacific to Alaska, back down to Mexico and perhaps all the way 'round the planet.

Tin Soldier — Waterline 50 The Middleton family White Rock, BC

"Our 2000-2001 trip was to 'try out' the cruising lifestyle and make sure it worked for all three of us," explains Glen, of his circuit to Mexico, Hawaii and home again with his wife Marilyn and son Jaryd, now 11. That experience obviously met their expectations, because they started planning this cruise as soon as they returned home.

Glen and Marilyn have a huge advantage over other couples who take their kids out of school to go cruising: they are both career educators. With that, and the fact that they plan to visit many of the less-traveled Pacific islands during their open-ended cruise, Jaryd will be getting an education that will probably serve him well for the rest of his life.

Glen and Marilyn offer these sage words of advice: "The boat and the long passages are a means to an end. Don't fixate on them other than to ensure the safety and well being of the crew. Relationships are what

count most. Keep an open mind and be flexible. A positive attitude makes the difference. Remain in awe of the opportunity and the experience."

Island Time — Norseman 447 Ron & Mary Ellen Leithiser San Diego, CA

Believe it or not, Ron has sailed and lived aboard this boat for 22 years. But

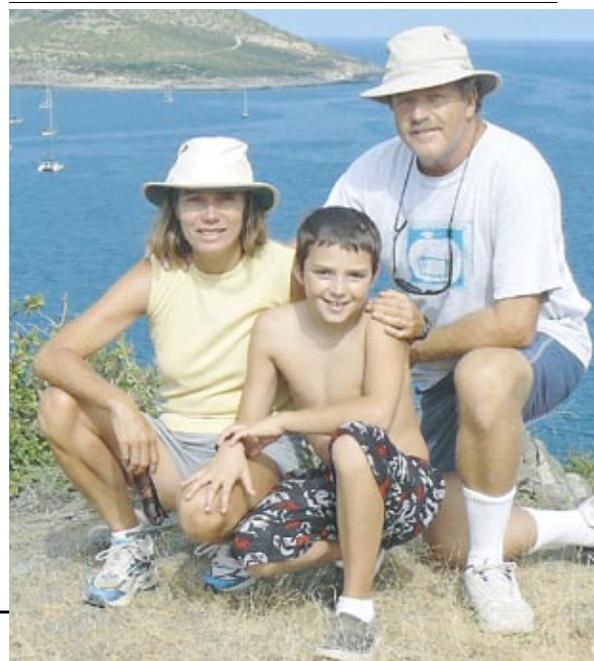


After 22 years, Ron and Mary Ellen are finally letting 'Island Time' live up to her name.

as he says, this is the first opportunity to "get *Island Time* out doing what she was designed for." He and Mary Ellen have done many offshore races, as has crewman Bill Jessee.

Ron confides that he's regretted for 30 years not taking up an offer to sail to the Galapagos and French Polynesia with two marine biologists during the mid-'70s. So now he's finally following their lead. Having just started out a few

Marilyn and Glen will give Jaryd an education in the school of life aboard 'Tin Soldier'.



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months ago, he and Mary Ellen don't have a whole lot of sage wisdom to share. But they do know that contemplating cruising is similar to putting in the first reef: "If you're thinking about it, it's time to do it."

At the top of their must-see list is Bora Bora, where they spent their honeymoon. "We always wondered what the boat would look like anchored in the lagoon."

Moonduster — S&S 47 Wayne Meretsky, Alameda

A microprocessor and computer systems designer by profession, Wayne cites "professional boredom" as his sudden inspiration to head out this year after only three months of prep.

But then, he and *Moonduster* have been 'out there' before. During the '97-

'98 cruising season Wayne sailed her solo from San Francisco to Mexico, out to Hawaii and across to Alaska and BC, then did a Mexico circuit with crew the next season.

Built primarily of mahogany in Ireland in the early '70s using cold-molded construction techniques, *Moonduster* is one of the more unusual boats in the fleet. Having totally refit her, Wayne says he's "owned her for about \$500,000 now." That is, since 1992.

His advice to would-be voyagers is probably similar to what he said to himself prior to deciding to taking off: "Life is short and fragile. No one's epitaph says they wished they'd spent another day at the office. Get out and do something!"

Kuay — Westsail 42 Edd Hoeschen & Ingemar Granath Seattle, WA

Edd and Ingemar come from very different professions — real estate and commercial fishing, respectively — but they became fast friends when they met in Nicaragua four years ago. Since then, they've sailed many miles together, and they plan to continue on around the world at a leisurely pace. Edd's owned this boat for 25 years, he's now 67, and says, "It's time!"

Part of his inspiration came a few years ago at Huatulco when he had a chance meeting with Harry Heckel, who was on his way to becoming the oldest singlehander in the world. He was 89 when he reached his homeport. "Harry's advice was to take your time going around, otherwise you miss a lot."

Following that advice, Edd has also done a lot of inland travel since leaving Seattle in 2002, including a trip to Peru's Machu Picchu. But he's no luxury cruiser. The boat has only been in one marina since leaving Mexico.

BeBe — Amel Super Maramu 53 Bill & Judy Rouse, Houston, TX

A favorite expression among cruisers is that their plans are etched in Jell-O. But Bill and Judy take it a step further, explaining that their Jell-O mold is cracked — translation: their long-range plans are completely undecided.

That said, their must-see list includes the Galapagos, the Tuamotus, Suvarrow, Moorea, Tonga and Madagascar — if they decide to circumnavigate.

The boat is from St. Thomas, where, we assume, the couple's cruise began two years ago. What's impressed them the most so far? "The realization that

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(Although we've added a number of boats since publishing this list last month, it is undoubtedly still far from complete, as many boats escape the 'Latitude radar'.)

Boat Name	Owners & Crew	Boat Type	Homeport
360	Joel & Mary Thornton	Passport 41	Seattle, WA
59th St. Bridge	The Leib family	Cal 2-46	San Francisco, CA
Airwego	Mike & Cindy Miller	McIntosh 47	Seattle, WA
Andiamo	Jerry Marsden & crew	Alden steel ketch 64	Phuket, Thailand
Aquamarine II	Chris, Beth & Yvette	Passport 40	Gloucester, MA
Argonaut	Mike Scott & Liz Strash	Cal 40	Seattle, WA
Baraka	Dave Pryde & Jan Eckmann	Slucum 43	Seattle, WA
BeBe	Bill & Judy Rouse	Amel SM2	Houston, TX
Blue Plains Drifter	Jim & Tiffany Tindle	Tayana 48 DS	Santa Cruz, CA
Camelot	Neil & Jackie Michell	Pan Oceanic 46	Preston, UK
Charisma	Alan & Kristen Spence	Amel Mango 53	Napa, CA
Chinook	David & Candy Decker	Saga 43	Evergreen, CO
Don Pedro	John & Patrick Boggs	Beneteau 475	Sidney, BC
Elusive	Stephen & Wendy Bott	J/44	Seattle, WA
Elusive	Josh Clark	custom Cal 32	Panama City, PA
Entropy	Robert & Carol Forbes	Hunter 456	Newport Beach, CA
Emily Grace	Tom, Kim & Emily	Nordhavn 46 trawler	Ludlow, MA
Eshamy	Jeffrey Allison	Amel 53	Hartlepool, UK
Free Spirit	Paul, Michele, Merric & Seanna	Catana 431 cat	Hollywood, FL
Freestyle	Jenna & Tim Smale	Cape Dory 36	Oceanside, CA
Gingi	John Bringetto & Amanda Berks	King's Legend 41	San Francisco, CA
Grace	Geoff Lane & Sally Heins	Formosa Peterson 46	Bainbridge Is, WA
Hannah	Steve Wrye, Tracy Willett, Nolan Willett	Mason 44	Brinnon, WA
Horizons	John & Mary Hallinan	Southern Cross 39	Seward, AK
Island Time	Ron & Mary Ellen Leithiser	Norsemann 447	San Diego CA
Kuay	Edd Hoeschen & Ingemar Granath	Westsail 42	Seattle, WA
Linda	Steve & Linda Maggart	Rhodes Bounty II	Elephant Butte, NM
Liberty	The Nichols family	Peterson Formosa 46	Seattle, WA
Madeline	Jeremy & Meghan White	Gib Sea 106	Portland, OR
Malachi	Jay & Margaret Crandell	Tayana 48	Vancouver, BC
Meridian	The Powers family	Tayana 48	Napa, CA
Migration	Bruce Balan & Alene Rice	Cross 46 tri	Long Beach, CA
Monju	Carl & Mei King	Brewer 38	Seattle, WA
Moonduster	Wayne Meretsky	S&S 47	San Francisco, CA
Morning Light	Jaime & Christine Tate; L & D Sutton	Hylas 46	San Diego, CA
Our Country Home	Ralph & Glenda Johnson	Hans Christian 41	Corpus Christi, TX
Pacific Star	Horst Wolff & John Shryock	IP 35	San Francisco, CA
Pax Vobiscum	Sally & Brad Bagshaw	Fast Passage 39	Seattle, WA
Point Zero	Andrea & Gabby Sciuotto	Hanse 53	London, UK
Qayaq	Richard Spore & Betsy Plotkin	Valiant 32	Seattle, WA
Quetzalcoatl	Donald Bryden & Seishu Sono	Brewer 45 ketch	Green Bay, WI
Rolling Thunder	Bruce & Jan	Horizon 42	Portland, OR
Scarlett O'Hara	John & Renee Prentice	Serendipity 43	San Diego, CA
Second Wind	Michael Heumann & Daniel Glass	C&C 48	N/A
Shilling of Hamble	Dennis & Janet Knight	Oyster 435	Southampton U.K.
Solace	Paul & Gina Rae	Hylas 44	New Zealand
Sunshine	Lew & Merritt Burch	Coronado 32	Phoenix, AZ
Tempress	Alex & Lara Coburn	San Juan 34	Port Gamble, WA
Tender Spirit	Joan & Chuck Martin	Hans Christian	Sitka, AK
Tin Soldier	The Middleton family	Waterline 50	White Rock, B.C.
Tracen J.	J & M Spiess; J & D Kiesling	44 Crealock	Blaine, WA
Vari	Gordon & Jeanine Wunder	40-ft Simpson steel cutter	Kosrae, Micronesia
Warm Rain	Dawn & Tom Baker	Hylas 44	Blaine, WA
Warrior	Melissa, Michele, et al	N/A	Australia
Wind Dancer	The Burns family	Catalina 36	Juneau, AK

the U.S. is totally a consumption society, that Cartagena is a wonderful place, and that the French have the best Caribbean islands."

They have a lot of advice for future cruisers, including: "Charter in as many

Strange as it sounds, at 16, he's already spent half his life cruising.

areas as possible before starting. And don't bother to purchase and bring sailing-related books, because you will never open them once you leave home."

**Linda — Rhodes Bounty II 41
Steve & Linda Maggart
Elephant Butte, NM**

This vintage, 1957 sloop may be the oldest boat in the fleet but, having had one in the family ourselves, we can testify that its bulletproof fiberglass hull is so thick it will probably outlive us all. Steve and Linda obviously have confidence in her, as they plan to take her "all the way around," via South Africa.

What led them to the cruising life? "The desire to see as much of the world



Steve and Linda of the Bounty II 'Linda' are heading for a simpler life.

as possible, meet new people and experience new cultures, to experience a simpler way of life and to achieve the feeling of accomplishment that goes along with passage-making."

Among the places on their must-see list are Suvarrow, Vanuatu and Madagascar. "We're excited about all the long passages," they say, "as often the most exciting things occur at the most unexpected times and places."

**Migration — Cross 46 tri
Bruce Balen & Alene Rice
Long Beach, CA**

Having spent some time with Bruce and Alene, we know that they love exploring *beneath* the surface of the ocean as much as they love sailing upon it. So we wouldn't be surprised if the Tuamotus are a highlight of their Polynesian adventures.

Before reaching that vast archipelago, however, they will tour the Galapagos, having sailed south to Ecuador last season.

Years ago, Alene did a long stint of exploring the world while lugging around a backpack — until she discovered the phenomenon of sailboat cruising. Her first boat was a small Cross tri, so when she met Bruce they had more than a few things in common. Both had also fattened their cruising kitties by working in high tech, but Bruce also has a highly entertaining side profession: he writes children's books.

**Elusive — Custom Cal 32
Josh Clark, Panama City, Panama**

Our hats are off to Josh. Not only is he singlehanded to French Polynesia in a boat he built himself from a bare hull, but he's only 16 years old! Although it's hard to confirm, he may be the youngest ever to do it.

"I was eight years old when I got my first sailing dinghy and started sailing singlehanded," recalls Josh. "I have loved boats my whole life and have always dreamed of sailing around the world alone."

Strange as it sounds, at 16, he's already spent half his life cruising, as the family toured the Caribbean and part of the Pacific coast for eight years aboard a boat called *Tropic Isle*.

He found *Elusive*, a 1973 Cal 32 hull, lying abandoned at the Balboa Yacht Club three years ago. Since then he's redesigned and rebuilt her



LATITUDE / ANDY

Alene and Bruce's 'Migration' will reach Polynesia via the Galapagos.

from stem to stern, "mostly all by myself," he says proudly.

"We have a short time on this lovely planet," says Josh, "and I want to make the most of it. So *viva la cruising* and beautiful, sun-kissed islands."

**Horizons — Southern Cross 39
John & Mary Hallinan, Seward, AK**

John and Mary got their first taste of sailing only seven years ago when she bought him sailing lessons for his 55th



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birthday. Since then, they've had many adventures on *Horizons* and a previous boat, which gave them the confidence to make this ambitious jump to Polynesia. "Mary and I have always enjoyed the strange and the new," says John, "and sailing fills the bill."

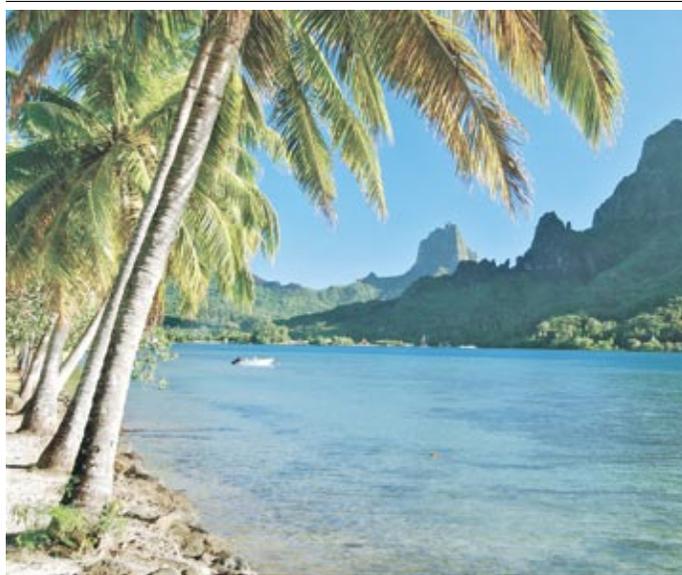
John's love of aviation led to a successful career and a successful marriage — he was Mary's flight instructor when she was a student pilot. Up in Alaska, Mary was helping design highways while John did aerial mapping for the USGS all over the western U.S., before transferring to the FAA.

Their long-term plans are yet to be determined, as they adopted the philosophy of an old salt named Sparky years ago: "You can't have a boat and a schedule too!"

Eshamy — Amel 53

Jeffrey Allison, Hartlepool, UK

We don't know a heck of a lot about



LATITUDE / ANDY

Being able to drop the hook at idyllic anchorages like Cooks Bay, Moorea, is one of the rewards of Puddle Jumping.

this Englishman, but he already had many thousands of sea miles under his belt when he bought this beautiful yacht a few months ago. If we understand his notes correctly, he's sailed all over Europe, done four transatlantic cross-

ings and been up to, if not through, the Northwest Passage.

His game plan is to head west until he rounds Africa, then up to the UK, apparently as rapidly as possible. Jeffrey's advice to future cruisers is succinct: "Be careful!"

And there you have it: The collected profiles of as many of this year's fleet members as we could muster. We hope to meet even more of them this summer, though. So stay tuned to hear about the highs and lows of their

ambitious passages in an upcoming follow-up article. If you wish you were out there island-hopping too, you're not alone. So do we!

— **latitude/andy**

For further info on the annual Pacific Puddle Jump, including articles on previous fleets, see www.pacificpuddlejumps.com.



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Marinas, Yards, Yacht Clubs, Brokers, Shipwrights

Pleasure Yachting

- YACHT & BOAT POLICIES
Offshore, Coastal, Inland and Liveaboards



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