

Ahoy PPJ fleet members,

FRENCH POLYNESIA UPDATE

As you may have heard, foreign-flag yachts are now allowed to move freely among the archipelagoes of French Polynesia, assuming they followed special registration protocols established during the confinement period. However, the French Oversea Territory is still officially “closed” to all arriving foreign travelers until the first week of July, when international flights will begin to arrive again. (Within three days of embarking, all air passengers must be tested for COVID-19.)

We hope — and expect, with fingers crossed — that along with the resumption of flights, FP will also become officially “open” to arriving mariners, as in normal times. But we can’t guarantee that, as we have not yet seen this change of policy stated in writing.

We can assure you, however, that business owners and service providers, as well as many government officials, are acutely aware of the importance of sailors’ expenditures trickling into the island economies this season. Cruise ship arrivals are on hold indefinitely, and it’s anybody’s guess how long it will be before hotels and yacht charter operations return to pre-pandemic customer numbers.

It is, of course, quite late to make a crossing from the West Coast, but a few boats still seem to be arriving every week, and asking permission to stay, at least temporarily. We are told that such requests are now being granted with few if any exceptions.

Needless to say, this has been the most bizarre and unpredictable Puddle Jump season ever. While many would-be passage-makers were tremendously disappointed to have had to postpone their South Pacific travels, others who did make the crossing did so with substantial anxiety about the reception they’d get upon arrival. In any case, we are happy to report that life in the archipelagoes is gradually inching back to pre-pandemic normalcy. So we look forward to meeting you, if and when you activate your “Plan B.”

COME CELEBRATE AT THE RENDEZ-VOUS July 10-12

For more than 15 years, the annual Tahiti-Moorea Sailing Rendezvous has been one of the South Pacific’s most outstanding international sailing events. With the dual purpose of welcoming arriving sailors, and exposing them to long-revered cultural traditions, it consistently receives high praise from even the most well-traveled sailors.

Despite the uncertainties of recent weeks, the event’s organizers have worked very hard to organize a fun and informative schedule of events that include cocktail parties, chart briefings, live music and dance performances, handicraft demos, and traditional sports contests highlighted by six-person outrigger canoe races where you, too, are invited to participate.

Trust us, you really don’t want to miss it!

Time is short, however, so please mark your calendar and check out the website asap, for more info and registration. We will see you there. <https://www.tahiti-moorea-sailing-rdv.com/>

DON'T FORGET YOUR DISCOUNTS

As noted earlier, registered PPJers are eligible for a number of valuable discounts including 20% off all services from Tahiti Crew yacht agents, 20% subscription rebates from Predict Wind, and 10% off goods at from Groupe STH, which includes Sailtech, SOPOM-SOFLEX, and the Sin Tung Hing Marine Center (contact: Loïc). Also, remember that Tahiti Crew has a discount program that includes all sorts of island services and recreational attractions. All registered PPJ skippers are welcome to pick one up at the Tahiti Crew offices at Marina Taina — whether or not you are a paying client of the agency.

STOPOVER HANDBOOK HOT OFF THE PRESS

An updated edition of the free Stopover Handbook for French Polynesia has recently been published and is now being distributed to marine businesses throughout the territory. It is chock full of important information and contact details, so we encourage you to download the complete PDF for future use. This is a great resource that you will refer to often.

<https://en.pf.yellowflagguides.com/wp-content/uploads/carnet-d-escale/CE-PF-EN.pdf>

— Andy Turpin
for the Pacific Puddle Jump

PACIFIC PUDDLE JUMP SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

We greatly appreciate the support of our sponsors. Please consider using their products and services.

[Archipelagoes](#), [Commanders Weather](#), [Downwind Marine](#), [Groupe STH Marine](#), [Hydrovane](#), [Latitude 38 Magazine](#), [Marina El Cid](#), [Marina Riviera Nayarit](#), [Mariner's General Insurance Group](#), [Novamar Insurance Group](#), [OCENS](#), [Paradise Village Marina](#), [PredictWind](#), [Sail South Pacific](#), [Satellite Phone Store](#), [Tahiti Crew](#), [Vallarta Yacht Club](#)

LATITUDE 38 MAGAZINE & THE PPJ

We want to invite you to become familiar with our longtime event partner, Latitude 38 Magazine and its online Newsletter 'Lectronic Latitude. The editors there are always eager to receive photos and stories from cruisers like you about favorite destinations and the cruising lifestyle. (Email editorial@latitude38.com.)