

Ahoy Pacific Puddle Jumpers,

Tahiti-Moorea Sailing Rendez-vous

First, a reminder to all of you who are now cruising French Polynesia, that the 15th edition of the Tahiti-Moorea Sailing Rendez-vous will take place July 24-26. As we often explain, the event has the dual purpose of celebrating the safe arrival of the international cruising fleet and showcasing traditional Polynesian culture through music, dance, sports, and cuisine.

Many sailors who have attended the TMSR in previous years tell us it was one of the highlights of their South Pacific travels, and we are confident that this year's event will be equally memorable.

Check out this year's schedule and photos from previous years at the official website, www.tahiti-moorea-sailing-rdv.com. You'll find the registration portal there also. The Rendez-vous is open to all visiting sailors, including those who made the crossing last season, and locally-based sailors who want to join in the fun.

Rendez-vous organizers go to a great deal of effort to organize this event for cruisers like you, so we hope you'll make a special effort to attend. You don't want to miss it — especially the outrigger canoe races.

We hope to see you there!

French Polynesia Opens to Air Travelers

Beginning this week, commercial flights to Tahiti will resume. And we are told that new policies regarding visiting foreign-flag yachts will be finalized and publicized soon also.

As you know, since the COVID-related restrictions were put in place in March, French Polynesia has been officially closed to foreign yachts. But as far as we know, nearly all cruising yachts that did arrive here were granted permission to stay temporarily. We salute the FP government for this policy, as all island nations down-stream refused entry to international yachts.

New policies regarding yachts in FP will soon be clarified. But in the meantime, there is a lot of seemingly contradictory info circulating. For example, roughly 200 boats are anchored near Marina Taina, in an unapproved area, but they are not being kicked out — at least not yet — as there are few or no other options for them. Taina and the Papeete Marina (downtown) are both full on most days, but occupancy is fluid at both marinas. For example, as charter boats move out to tour the islands with newly arrived guests, openings will occur for cruisers.

As elsewhere, the COVID crisis has been very hard on FP islanders — some of whom have been trapped overseas for months. But everyone seems hopeful that day to day life here will return to some level of normalcy soon.

Finally, a request from our newest sponsor, Groupe STH Marine, please bring an ID when you visit them so they can assure to offer you the PPJ special discount.

Safe travels,

— Andy Turpin
Director, Pacific Puddle Jump
Editor-at-Large, Latitude 38 magazine

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Our longtime event partner, Latitude 38 Magazine and its online Newsletter 'Lectronic Latitude are always eager to receive photos and stories from cruisers like you about favorite destinations and the cruising lifestyle. (Email editorial@latitude38.com.)