

Ahoy Pacific Puddle Jumpers,

Please take a few minutes to read the following messages.

### **EARLY BIRDS SET SAIL**

As in years past, most of the 2020 PPJ fleet will set sail for French Polynesia sometime between mid-March and the end of April. But at least one 'early bird' has already set sail from Panama. Ross Bullock's UK-based, 54-ft steel ketch *Irony* will spend three weeks in the Galapagos before 'jumping' to French Polynesia. Along the way, Bullock and crew will check in electronically via the system explained below.

### **DAILY CHECK-INS PROMOTE SAFETY & CAMARADERIE**

During its 24-year history, the Pacific Puddle Jump has always been a loosely structured rally with very few rules or requirements, and most participants say they like it that way.

However, one of the few things we ask of registered participants is to check in once a day via some form of offshore messaging (i.e. InReach, Iridium GO!, Spot, HF radio email) or via SSB. Why? First, the Puddle Jump crossing covers an enormous stretch of open ocean, and occasionally breakdowns or other problems do arise. If you find yourself in need of help while out in the middle of the ocean, assistance from fleet members or outside resources will get to you quicker if we know your track and have a position for you that's less than a day old.

There are additional benefits to checking in daily. One is fleet tracking. If you opt in to have your track posted along with other PPJ boats, your family and friends will be able to follow your progress to the islands — allowing them to vicariously enjoy your adventure. (Through our system, you can also request the boat names and positions of fleet vessels within several hundred miles of you.)

Here's a related benefit of checking in: Far fewer cruising boats are equipped with SSB or Ham radio these days, because most have switched to some form of satellite messaging. An unfortunate result of that change was the loss of the camaraderie that was commonly felt between international cruisers years ago — especially while making long offshore crossings. But as hundreds of PPJ sailors learned last year, a similar sense of camaraderie can develop when fleet members post brief personal comments about their boat's status or a highlight of their day, in addition to their basic Lat/Long status.

Don't worry, this doesn't mean you will be inundated with unwanted texts. Through our customized system, you can choose to opt in or out of receiving 'mail' from the rest of the fleet, and switch those preferences whenever you want to — such as when you get curious or bored.

We are proud to be working with both [FollowingSea.net](https://www.followingsea.net) and **PredictWind** this year for our daily check-in and tracking.

[FollowingSea.net](https://www.followingsea.net) has set up a special electronic net exclusively for 2020 Puddle Jumpers which will serve as our daily check-in portal. In addition to reporting your Lat/Long, course

and speed, etc., this is where fleet members can post personal comments — which makes the whole exercise a lot more fun. Please see [Set up instructions posted by FollowingSea on YouTube](#). Instructions are also available in [PDF format here](#). We can also email the PDF to you, just send a request email to the PPJ admin at [events@latitude38.com](mailto:events@latitude38.com).

As most offshore sailors know, PredictWind is one of the world's most highly regarded wind, weather and passage-planning resources. This year, in addition to offering fleet members a **special 20% rebate/discount** ([explained in a PDF here](#)), PredictWind will serve as the fleet's primary tracking resource. All registered PPJ boats are eligible for PW tracking, whether or not they are customers of the service.

Please don't wait until you're about to set sail before becoming familiar with FollowingSea's check-ins and PredictWind's tracking. It's wise to give yourself time to practice a bit before heading west. (Note: Yes, there will be some overlap with the two services, i.e. dual tracking. But we think that will only add to the overall safety of the fleet.)

### **PPJ BON VOYAGE EVENT REMINDER**

We hope to meet many 2020 Puddle Jumpers in person at our three upcoming PPJ Sendoff events in Mexico and Panama, which will all be co-hosted by the South Pacific Sailing Network.

Our presentation team spends a great deal of time and money to put on these fun and highly informative events, so we hope you will make a special effort to attend. Team members will be flying in from Tahiti, Fiji, Tonga and New Zealand specifically to share their knowledge and insights with you about cruising highlights, customs and immigration issues, repair and refit facilities, cyclone season options and more. So we hope you'll make a special effort to attend. (Refreshments and snacks will be served.)

**Feb 28** -- South Pacific Bon Voyage at Pacific side, Panama  
**10am-2pm Balboa Yacht Club, Amador**  
(Co-hosted by BYC, the Pacific Puddle Jump and the SPSN)

**Mar 1** -- South Pacific Bon Voyage at Caribbean side, Panama  
**10am-2pm at Shelter Bay Marina**  
(Co-hosted by Shelter Bay, the Pacific Puddle Jump and the SPSN)

**Mar 4** -- South Pacific Bon Voyage and Pacific Puddle Jump Sendoff, Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico  
**2-6 pm at the Vallarta YC, Nuevo Vallarta.**  
(Co-hosted by the Vallarta YC, Paradise Village Marina, the Pacific Puddle Jump and the SPSN)

Email [andyturpinatlarge@gmail.com](mailto:andyturpinatlarge@gmail.com) for additional info.

## SPECIAL PROMOTIONAL OFFERS FROM PPJ 2020 SPONSORS

### PPJ 2020 PredictWind 20% Discount/Rebate:

In addition to Predict Wind's support as a fleet tracking resource, all 2020 PPJ rally participants are eligible to get 20% off a PredictWind forecast subscription. To take advantage of this valuable offer, make your purchase online, then contact PredictWind to get your 20% rebate. <https://www.predictwind.com/contact-us/> .  
[Download the PDF](#) for more info.

### SAIL SOUTH PACIFIC:

**Welcome to the South Pacific!** As a special promotion for all **Pacific Puddle Jump** participants, we're **Giving Away** a copy of **The Yachtsman's South Pacific - Crossing Planner**. This app-based resource puts all the information a skipper needs to "Cruise with Confidence" across the Pacific, all in one easy-to-use, intuitive platform that doesn't rely on an Internet connection! Please [download the PDF here](#) for details.

### PACIFIC PUDDLE JUMP SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

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### LATITUDE 38 MAGAZINE & THE PPJ

Finally, 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](mailto:editorial@latitude38.com).)

The February issue of Lat 38 is specifically focused on the South Pacific, so [check it out online via this link](#) or [download the PDF here](#) . Inside you'll find three feature articles focused on the South Pacific, including one that discusses South Pacific cruising options beyond Tahiti.

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More Pacific Puddle Jump info to come soon.

Until then, safe travels,

— Andy

Andy Turpin  
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Director, Pacific Puddle Jump