

Ahoy there!

You are receiving this note because you recently registered for the 2019 Pacific Puddle Jump. Welcome to the fleet!

This is the first in a series of informational emails that you will receive via your 'shoreside' (primary) email. Occasionally, between now and July, you may also receive text-only emails to your 'at-sea' address. These will be kept as short and succinct as possible. Please direct any email to andyturpinatlarge@gmail.com.

SAFER & MORE FUN

This year, without sacrificing the loosely structured nature of the Puddle Jump, we are taking steps to improve both fleet safety and fleetwide camaraderie during your crossing to French Polynesia.

Every boat will be required to check in daily via email or another electronic means (i.e. satellite text messenger), and its position will be plotted on a special Puddle Jump 'tracking' web page that will be available to the rally committee, fleet members, plus their invited family and friends (opt-in/opt-out). * Please contact us if you will need to check in by voice via SSB or Ham.

The PPJ tracking web page will allow crews to submit brief electronic status texts to accompany their boat's plotted lat-long location, and they will have the option to receive info on the location of fleet members near them.

Again, these and other innovations are meant to make the crossing safer and more fun for all. Final modifications to the system will be made in the next few weeks, and in early January you will be invited (via fleet email) to start using the system, so you'll be accustomed to it prior to beginning your crossing.

BOND / CLEARANCE / FUEL DEAL

In recent years the Puddle Jump has worked closely with the Tahiti Crew yacht agency. They offer fleet members a discounted rate on a special package of services that includes clearance in and out, "repatriation bond" exemptions for your crew, and duty free fuel access beginning in the Marquesas. We're told the fuel savings is around 45% with the certificate!

What is the bond? Upon arrival, all 'nautical tourists' except EU passport holders must deposit funds in a Tahitian bank equivalent to the price of an air ticket home to their home city, unless they can 1) show a valid outbound air ticket, or 2) have obtained a bond exemption. The bond functions as sort of an insurance policy for the French Polynesian government. These funds are returned to you on the day you check out, but in French Polynesian francs, so you usually lose money on the currency exchange.

* Please read Tahiti Crew's offering letter and rate sheet, attached below. You must be a PPJ registrant to receive PPJ discounts, a discount code is included in your registration confirmation from events@latitude38.com.

PPJ SENDOFF EVENTS

In the coming months we'll be co-hosting at least three sendoff events with our South Pacific partners. Please note the dates. (Details will follow.)

Feb 28 - South Pacific Bon Voyage at Pacific side, Panama
10am-2pm Country Inn and Suites, Amador

Mar 1 - South Pacific Bon Voyage at Caribbean side, Panama
10am-2pm at Shelter Bay Marina

Mar 4 - South Pacific Bon Voyage and Pacific Puddle Jump Sendoff, Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico
2-6 pm at the Vallarta YC, Nuevo Vallarta

* An additional gathering in La Paz, Mexico, in January is a strong possibility.

We'll have a PPJ burgee and other official 'swag' for all who attend, or you can pick yours up in Papeete (or elsewhere, by special arrangement.)

LONG STAY VISA CHANGES

EU passport holders may remain in French Polynesia indefinitely without special visas. However, sailors from most other nationalities must obtain a Long Stay Visa in advance of travel, if they want to stay longer than 90 days — the standard time given upon arrival to Americans, Canadians, Australians and New Zealanders. (These visas **CANNOT** be extended in French Polynesia.)

Sadly, it recently became more difficult — at least logistically — to obtain a Long Stay visa. The processing of visa requests has now been subcontracted to a non-governmental agency. To apply, visit <https://france-visas.gouv.fr>. You will fill out forms online, then request an appointment at the French Embassy or Consulate closest to your permanent residence. We're told the appointment cannot be scheduled more than a month in advance. Another change is that applicants must surrender their passports while their applications are being processed. (Formerly, only a photocopy was taken, which allowed sailors to return to their boats while awaiting their visas.) It is our understanding that you are expected to arrive in FP no more than 90 days from the issue date of your Long Stay Visa, but we expect there may be some flexibility on this date with the gendarmes in the Marquesas.

Having reported all this, we heard from an American cruiser last week, saying that he just got his Long Stay Visa in Panama, via the French Embassy there — rather than having to return to the US for an appointment. In recent years this embassy has always interpreted visa rules a bit differently than many consulates.

Note however, that visiting boats may stay for up to three years, regardless of the visa status of their owners. More on this and other topics coming soon in our next fleet email.

Andy

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Thanks to the 2019 PPJ Sponsors:

Cuttlefish (Stowaway Enterprises), Downwind Marine, Hydrovane, Marina El Cid, Marina Riviera Nayarit, Mariner's General Insurance Group, Novamar Insurance Group, OCENS, Pantaenius America, Paradise Village Marina, Satellite Phone Store, South Pacific Sailing Network