

Ahoy Pacific Puddle Jumpers,

First, let us wish you a very happy New Year! The fact that you are receiving this letter confirms that you are fully registered at [www.pacificpuddlejumps.com](http://www.pacificpuddlejumps.com).

In the coming weeks we will be sending out a number of informational emails, each numbered (and posted on the PPJ website). This is Fleet Letter #1.

Our apologies for the delay in getting this note to you, but we are still finalizing plans for our Panama events.

### **THE BOND EXEMPTION ISSUE:**

The most important piece of business today is to make you aware that all non-EU passport holders must post a "repatriation bond" upon entry in French Polynesia, which is equal to an air ticket home for each crew member - UNLESS: 1) you can show a homeward air ticket, or 2) you get a bond exemption through a licensed yacht agent. (Last year some long stay visa holders were exempted, but we have been told by French authorities that this is no longer the policy.)

For the past few years we have been working with Tahiti Crew agency for the purpose of obtaining bond exemptions. Please see their offering, attached, which includes clearance in and out, bond exemptions, and a duty free fuel certificate (retrievable in the Marquesas). **PLEASE NOTE:** You are under no obligation to use these services. They are simply offered for your convenience.

### **SENDOFF CELEBRATIONS:**

We hope you are able to attend one of our annual PPJ Sendoff Parties, which are open to all crews departing in 2018 (free of charge):

- **March 5 — PPJ Sendoff Party at Vallarta Yacht Club**, in Nuevo Vallarta's Paradise Village Resort; 3-6 p.m.

*Latitude 38* magazine's Editor-at-large Andy Turpin will host a highly informative media presentation, including in-depth immigration and customs info. Mini-profiles of each crew that attends will be published in *Latitude 38* magazine.

- **Early March (dates now being finalized) — "Tahiti Bon Voyage"** Sendoff Parties in Panama (We will put our Fleet Letter #2 as soon as event plans are finalized.)

### **TAHITI ARRIVAL CELEBRATION:**

*Latitude 38* staff and our Tahitian partners will again co-host the following three-day event in French Polynesia:

- **June 22-24 — The Tahiti-Moorea Sailing Rendez-vous** serves the dual purpose of celebrating the fleet's safe arrival in the islands while introducing several hundred international sailors to time-honored cultural traditions in music, dance, cuisine and sport — including outrigger canoe races where you will be invited to participate. Detailed info to follow.

In our next fleet email, in a week or two, we'll discuss Panama Events and Radio Nets for the crossing.

Thanks — PPJ Rally Committee