

PPJ 2019 Fleet Letter #12 of 12 - BORA BORA INCIDENT, CROSSING DATA & PIX

Ahoy Puddle Jumpers,

Please take a few minutes to read the news below.

BORA BORA MOORING FAILURE INCIDENT

First, the bad news. On the evening of July 2 a commercially administered mooring lying off the Bora Bora Yacht Club broke loose, sending the (PPJ-registered) Outremer 51 Archer adrift while her owners were dining ashore. The big red cat eventually slammed into two over-water bungalows at the Bora Bora Pearl Beach Resort and Spa, where she incurred substantial damage before owners Seth and Elizabeth Hynes were able to kedge Archer away from the hotel structures, with help from several other cruisers. Winds that evening ranged from 20 to 35 knots according to Seth.

We are happy to report that no one was hurt during the incident, and that Archer was well insured. Planning for her repairs has begun.

This is the first mooring failure incident we can recall happening during the 23-year history of the Pacific Puddle Jump, but it is particularly troubling because recently enacted regulations now officially prohibit all anchoring in the Bora Bora lagoon, meaning that all visiting yachts must moor on commercial moorings.

According to Francis Hazlehurst, dockmaster of Bora Bora Mooring Service, the mooring which failed is one of a group of moorings that had not yet been upgraded since BBMS took over the administration of the Yacht Club's mooring field in May.

Francis says many other moorings have recently been replaced or refurbished, however, in several other areas of the lagoon. How can you tell the status? The 40-50 that have recently been installed (or refurbished) all have new yellow or white floats, and should have the letters BBMS stenciled on them.

If you are heading to Bora Bora, be aware that until all planned installations are completed, it may still be possible to anchor in some areas (i.e. in front of Bloody Mary's). For clarification on this, or to reserve a NEW mooring, contact Francis on VHF 9, or by cell 689 89 440 888. Or check anchoring status with the gendarmes at 689 40 60 59 05

Our thoughts are with the Hynes family, and we wish them the best of luck in completing repairs to Archer.

PLEASE SHARE YOUR CROSSING DATA & PIX - email to andyturpinatlarge@gmail.com

Although some of this year's PPJ fleet are still a long way from making landfall in French Polynesia, the vast majority of you arrived weeks ago. So if you haven't done so already, we'd like to ask you once again to — please — send us your crossing data, comments and a few favorite photos, so we can include them in this year's Pacific Puddle Jump Recap article in *Latitude 38* magazine (Available online free). Future Puddle Jumpers will appreciate your input:

Your Crossing Data:

The info you provide here helps future Puddle Jumpers prepare:

- Boat name:
- Boat type/maker & length:
- Owner's names:
- Boat's Homeport:
- Departed from where? On what date?
- Made landfall where? On what date?
- How many days was your crossing?
- How many miles logged?
- At what longitude did you cross the equator?
- How many engine hours (for propulsion)?
- % of time hand steering?
- % of time steering by autopilot?
- % of time steering by windvane device?
- Best 24-hour mileage?
- Worst 24-hour mileage?
- Highest sustained wind speed you had?
- Highest wind gusts you had?
- Number of fish caught?
- Any gear breakage or machinery failures?

About Your Crossing Experience:

- How did your passage-making experience differ from your expectations before the trip? Were there any surprises?
- They say a long crossing is often a balance of highs and lows. What were some of the high points, or low points, of your crossing?
- Did you celebrate crossing the equator? Yes If so, how?
- Can you remember the feeling you had when you first made landfall?
- What advice would you give to future Puddle Jumpers?

Please send your responses and photos to andyturpinatlarge@gmail.com

Thanks for taking the time to respond. Safe travels,

— Andy Turpin, and the PPJ team

— Andy Turpin for the PPJ team

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