Ahoy Puddle Jumpers, please read the following updates and announcements.

TAKING ON CREW
We are big proponents of taking additional crew for the Puddle Jump crossing. Doing so usually gives everyone more sleep, and with that, the trip is likely to be more fun — and probably safer, too. But bringing new shipmates into your tiny floating home, and successfully integrating them into your offshore routine, can be tricky.

If you do decide to add crew, here's our advice:

- If possible, invite someone you've sailed with on passages before, who doesn't undergo a Jekyll-and-Hyde personality shift when sleep deprived.

- It's often better to take along a sailor of only moderate experience who is eager and willing to learn your style of sailing, than a super-experienced know-it-all who is going to critique every decision you make.

- Be aware that in French Polynesia, and most other foreign ports, private yacht captains are legally and financially responsible for all crew they bring into the territory. So if you pick up crew that you don't know well, at least be sure they have enough money to support themselves during their stay (it's not cheap out there), and that they possess either a valid homeward air ticket, or enough money to buy one. If they hold a ticket, they will not need to be included in your bond exemption, if you get one. (As mentioned previously, EU passport holders do not need them.) You need to know new crew well enough so you can trust that they won't jump ship and overstay their visas. That's happened, but not often.

- Although it may feel a bit awkward to ask, we think it's within any skipper's rights to know about all medications that his shipmates are taking, and in what quantities. Likewise, it's not out of line for you to ask prospective crew to show you a recent physical exam report.

- *Latitude 38's* online Crew List (https://www.latitude38.com/crew-list/) is a resource that's brought a lot of boat owners and crew together. And if you know of someone seeking a ride who's in Panama or Mexico, tell them to be sure to attend next week's events.

CHECK-IN REMINDER
As mentioned earlier, it is a requirement of all boats registered in the 2019 Pacific Puddle Jump fleet to check in at least once a day — preferably electronically. To facilitate this, we are using CruiserSat. net. A pdf was sent to you earlier detailing how to sign up (free) and report in by email or satellite messaging. The Setup Instructions Page is posted on the Letters to the Fleet Archive web page. If you need it sent to you again, please write: events@latitude38.com. If you need to check in by SSB of Ham, please let us know (again, events@latitude38.com).

CruiserSat.net was developed and is administered by a cruiser named Kostya. If you have trouble getting set up, you can feel free to contact him here: contact@cruisersat.net. He is extremely patient and helpful.

DON'T MISS OUR UPCOMING EVENTS
We hope many of you will make a special effort to attend one of the three special events noted below. If you do, you'll gain a wealth of up-to-date info on rules and regulations, as well as insights about South Pacific cultures and interisland cruising.

With the support of *Latitude 38* magazine we have hosted PPJ Sendoff Parties in Nuevo Vallarta and Panama for many years, but never before with such in impressive group of presenters. This year, four local experts are flying out from the islands to join us, thanks to support from the South Pacific Sailing Network (SPSN). The organization's purpose is to promote environmentally responsible nautical tourism throughout the island nations of the Central South Pacific islands.

Principal presenter Stephanie Betz has been working with the Puddle Jump for 14 years, welcoming cruisers to the islands through the annual Tahiti-Moorea Sailing Rendez-vous (June 21-23 this year). She will present an in-depth overview of French Polynesia's five archipelagos, with up-to-date info. Other presenters will be Adam Wade of Fiji, Ross Blackman of New Zealand, David Allouch of Tahiti and Pacific Puddle Jump founder, Andy Turpin.

We will also have a multimedia presentation on Tonga, plus a just-produced video from Tahiti Crew yacht agency, detailing all the current governmental regulations.

At all three events, Behan Gifford of Totem will give a brief presentation on using PredictWind forecasting and routing software. She and the other presenters will also make themselves available for one-on-one conversations.

As always, we like to meet all registered Puddle Jumpers, give them their official PPJ burgee and snap their photo for possible inclusion in our Latitude 38 report.

Event dates:
Feb 28 -- South Pacific Bon Voyage at Pacific side, Panama; 10am-2pm Radisson Hotel, Amador. Co-hosted by the Balboa YC, the Pacific Puddle Jump and the South Pacific Sailing Network.

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 South Pacific Sailing Network.

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, the Pacific Puddle Jump, Latitude 38 and the South Pacific Sailing Network.

PREDICT WIND 20% REBATE OFFER
We encourage PPJ fleet members to use the products of any and all of our sponsors (listed below). A new addition, PredictWind, offers registered fleet members a 20% rebate on new or previously purchased subscriptions to their Standard or Pro Forecasting service. Email support@predictwind.com for details. We thank them for their support. Stand by for additional updates.
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Andy Turpin
Editor-at-Large, Latitude 38 magazine
Director, Pacific Puddle Jump

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