

2024 Pacific Puddle Jump Rally

Fleet Letter #9

Short Stays & Long Stays — As the last PPJ 2024 boats make their initial landfalls in French Polynesia, at least two this year's earliest arrivers have already returned to their respective homeports in British Columbia and Southern California. Meanwhile, many others have spent the past three or four months island-hopping through the Marquesas and Tuamotus, and during their explorations have undoubtedly become much more knowledgeable about local history and traditions.

Slow Down & Smell the Mangos — The 'travel bug' bit this writer at an early age. Since then, through decades of traveling by land and sea I have come to believe that no matter where you travel, and by whatever means, the slower you move from place to place, the more likely you'll be to come away with a well-rounded education about the places and cultures that you visit — and the more you will ultimately enjoy your trip. That's why the Pacific Puddle Jump and other members of the South Pacific Sailing Network (SPSN) strongly encourage westbound cruisers such as yourselves not to sprint all the way to New Zealand or Australia in a single season, in order to avoid any possibility of facing cyclones in the tropical latitudes.

As mentioned in Fleet Letter #3, there are a variety of cyclone season options in French Polynesians' islands and atolls, as well as in the island-nations to the west — especially Tonga and Fiji.

PPJ fleet members who took part in the recent Tahiti-Moorea Sailing Rendez-vous (June 21-24), had opportunities to meet one-on-one with a dozen South Pacific cruising experts (mostly SPSN members) to clarify everything from customs and immigration rules to the availability of professional marine technical services.

If you missed that opportunity, no worries. Because one of the advantages of joining the PPJ is gaining access to our network of marine industry professionals — all of whom are happy to share their personal contact info with you. We suggest you save this useful info in a safe place, so you can easily access it when questions arise.

Save! Contacts for So Pac Sailing Professionals

• Tahiti

- Sail Tahiti, Broker & Boat management:
Etienne Bogaert: contact@sailtahiti.com
or <mailto:etienne@sailtahiti.com>

- Tahiti Crew, Yacht Agency:
Tehani Valenta: tehani@tahitcrew.com

- Pacific Puddle Jump, South Pacific sailing rally:
Andy Turpin, andyturpinatlarge@gmail.com

- Tahiti-Moorea Sailing Rendez-vous:
Archipelagoes SARL - Tél. +689 87 28 08 44
email: team@archipelagoes.net
web: www.tahiti-moorea-sailing-rdv.com

• New Zealand

- Bay of Islands Marina:
Chris Galbraith: chris@boimarina.co.nz
- Whangarei Marine:
Brian Caulton: brian@whangareimarina.nz
- Oceania Marine:
Mike Raoult: mikyfwi@gmail.com or martin@oceaniamarine.co.nz

• Australia

- The Yacht Sales / Multihull Solutions:
Gilles: gilles@yachtsalesco.com

• Fiji

- Vuda Marina:
Jashinta: info@vudamarina.com.fj
- Tourism Fiji:
Marika Seru: mseru@tourismfiji.com.fj

• Tonga

- Tonga Tourism Authority:
Atelaita Moa Vake: moalaita.1@gmail.com
Ashmeeta Tongia: ashmeetatongia@gmail.com

• Vanuatu

- Vanuatu Tourisme Office:
Warren Gama: wgama@vanuatu.travel
- Vanuatu Customs Department
Reatly Lui: CustomsBorder@vanuatu.gov.vu
customsborderssanto@vanuatu.gov.vu

Please Share Your Passage Data — As in years past, we intend to compile passage-making data from as many PPJ rally members as possible.

So please take a few minutes to answer the questions below, to the best of your recollection. When combined with info from other fleet members, your data will provide valuable insights for passage-makers who follow in your wake. Many thanks!

• Survey Questions:

- How did your passage-making experience differ from your expectations before the trip? Were there any surprises?

- We often say that a long ocean crossing is typically a balance of highs and lows. What were some of the high points, or low points, of your crossing?

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- Can you remember the feeling you had when you first made landfall?

- What advice would you give to future Puddle Jumpers?

• Your Passage Data:

- 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 did you log (for propulsion)?

- Best 24-hour mileage?

- Worst 24-hour mileage?

- Highest sustained wind speed you experienced? And highest gust?

- Number of fish caught?

- Please list gear breakage and/or breakdowns.

Mauruuru!

*****When you are finished**, please attach or cut-and-paste your answers into an email to me:

andyturpinatlarge@gmail.com

Again, thanks for taking the time to share your data and insights.