

Ahoy Pacific Puddle Jumpers,

Compared to the hassles of air travel during the Covid era, sailing across the Pacific almost seems easy. Okay, slight exaggeration, but it feels that way to me today after helping to arrange our upcoming PPJ send-off events in Mexico and Panama.

Beginning in Tahiti, my seminar partner and I will travel roughly 10,000 miles — including two overnight flights and several long layovers — in order to meet you and give you a boatload of current info on cruising the French Polynesian archipelagos and beyond. So we hope you'll make a special effort to attend. See the updated schedule below:

South Pacific Bon Voyage Events

In recent years the Pacific Puddle Jump has teamed up with the South Pacific Sailing Network (SPSN) to provide free 'seminar and sendoff' events in Mexico and Panama. All westbound cruisers are welcome to attend these highly informative events, which will provide attendees with a wealth of up-to-date cruising info, including video input from Fiji and New Zealand as well as Tahiti.

Panama:

Feb 8, 10 am - 1 pm at Linton Bay Marina (Caribbean side)

Feb 9, 2 pm - 5 pm at Shelter Bay Marina (Caribbean side)

*Session #1, drinks provided

Feb 10, 10 am - 1 pm at Shelter Bay Marina (Caribbean side)

*Session #2, drinks provided

Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico:

Feb 13, 1 pm - 4 pm at Vallarta Yacht Club. Snacks and drinks provided. (*Space is limited due to pandemic-related restrictions, so please RSVP to andyturpinatlarge@gmail.com).

Offshore Safety on a Vast Ocean

We are happy to tell you that ever since the first Pacific Puddle Jump in 1997, the overwhelming majority of PPJ participants have made the crossing to French Polynesia safely, without doing major damage to their boats or their bodies, despite a few unavoidable "boat bites."

That said, there have been a few bonafide emergencies that required mid-ocean rescues. On those rare occasions, it has been a tremendous comfort to know that the Tahiti JRCC (rescue coordination center) has a long-established working relationship with the US Coast Guard's RCC Alameda and that their full range of rescue resources will be put into action if needed. That's why we share the PPJ fleet list with Coast Guard officers every year, complete with each boat's vessel identification info and onboard communications resources. (Fear not, the Guardsmen will not share your personal info or try to sell you anything!)

While we are on the subject, take a minute to download this page of rescue resource contact info: <http://www.pacificpuddlejumps.com/pdf/PacSAR.pdf>

Checking In & Tracking

Fleetwide safety is the main reason we ask every boat to check in once a day while at sea, via some form of satellite messaging, if possible (email via Iridium Go! or SailMail, SMS via InReach, etc.).

To make your check-in easy and fun, we highly encourage every boat to take advantage of a special offering from PPJ sponsor PredictWind. Their staff will set up all PPJ boats a free GPS tracking page, designed with status info boxes that include your lat/long with each report. See example here: <https://forecast.predictwind.com/tracking/display/HIR-3-across-3-OCEAN>

This system helps rally monitors track your progress, and has the potential to give friends and family the vicarious thrill of sailing along with you — without having to worry about mal de mer. (*If you wish, however, you may restrict viewing of your track only to “invited” friends and family, or you may opt to keep your track private.) A hyperlink from the PPJ homepage will soon take you to a fleetwide tracking chart (apart from ‘opt-out’ers.) For help, see www.predictwind.com or email support@predictwind.com.

*Note also that all existing and new PredictWind customers will receive a 20% rebate on their service subscription fees.

Check Out This PredictWind Webinar

Understanding the nuances of PredictWind weather software and setting up GPS tracking via your Iridium Go! can seem a bit complicated at first, so we recommend tuning to our upcoming PredictWind seminar hosted from New Zealand by PredictWind’s Nick Olson.

The webinar is scheduled for February 22. Soon you will receive a description of the seminar, the time, and a link to register.

More info to come soon.

Safe travels,

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