
Latitude 38

PACIFIC PUDDLE JUMP 2010 PT. I

— SOUTH PACIFIC STAMPEDE

excerpted from: MARCH 2010 VOL # 393

SOUTH PACIFIC STAMPEDE

Just as all sorts of birds fly south for the winter in a predictable annual migration to sunnier climes, cruising sailors have always set off from the West Coast of the Americas between February and May, bound for the storied landfalls



Hopefully Marie and Don won't find any 'Freezing Rain' where they're headed.

of French Polynesia.

Here at *Latitude*, we've always taken a keen interest in the folks who make that ambitious 3,000-mile crossing, especially since we coined the phrase "Pacific Puddle Jump" 15 years ago. As you will learn in these pages, the folks who are attracted to those fabled isles come from a broad range of backgrounds, and sail on a diverse fleet of boat types.

We're told that several hundred private vessels pass through French Polynesia each year, traveling on what globe-trotting sailors like to call the "cruiser milk run" to New Zealand and Australia. In years past, 50 or 60 of them have crossed our radar, so to speak, because they attended our Kickoff Parties or participated in West Coast cruiser forums. But this year our Puddle Jump 'radar' has been beeping like a Geiger counter in a Chernoble drainage ditch. It's as if there were an unstoppable stampede toward the land of black pearls and ukuleles.

Seriously, as we go to press, 150 boats from all over the world have registered with us. Why? We'd like to think it's because they think *Latitude* is the coolest sailing magazine on the planet. But it's really because we were able to get free bond exemptions for last year's

fleet, saving them time, hassle and cash — and word of that coup spread like wildfire through the cruising community. Unfortunately, that deal was too good to last. But we did find a solution that's almost as attractive, so more boats are registering with us every day.

We like to call this migration a "rally." But since these passage-makers set sail independently from California, Mexico, Panama, and various points in South America, their crossing only loosely meets the traditional definition of that word. Nevertheless, many in the fleet keep in touch along the way via daily radio nets. And when they finally meet up in the anchorages of the Marquesas, Tuamotus or Tahiti, they naturally greet each other as friends.

Working closely with several Tahitian partners, we'll help them celebrate their successful crossings by co-hosting the three-day Tahiti-Moorea Sailing Rendezvous, June 18-20, where the focus is on traditional Polynesian music, dance, cuisine and sports.

Long before the 'stampede to paradise' begins, groups of westbound cruisers gather in key locations each year to gear up, provision, and compare notes before taking that giant leap. Because Puerto Vallarta is the most popular staging area, we chose it long ago as the site for our annual Pacific Puddle Jump Kickoff Party, which is generally co-hosted annually by the Vallarta YC.

As you can tell by the photo on the right, we had a fine time getting to know one another. And as a bonus, all those who showed up were promised 15 minutes of fame in these pages. So with that introduction, let us introduce you to the Puerto Vallarta con-

tingent of the Pacific Puddle Jump Class of 2010:

Freezing Rain — Hallberg Rassy 46 Don & Marie Irvin, Astoria, OR

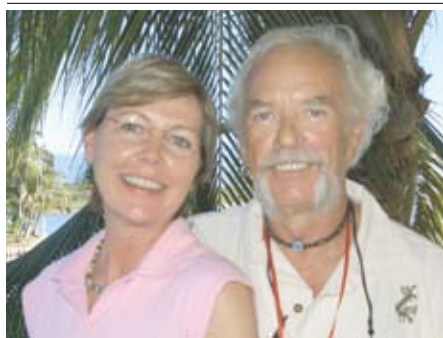
The name *Freezing Rain* will probably leave Polynesians scratching their heads, but where Don and Marie have sailed, they've probably seen a lot of it.

Since learning to sail in the mid-'70s, they've sailed from B.C. to Alaska, twice around Vancouver Island, and all along the West Coast as far south as Ecuador. They've been working toward this ambitious crossing for six years, and now that they're about to get underway, their goal for the season is typical of many in the fleet: island-hop to New Zealand and Australia, then reassess.

Solar Planet — Beneteau 51 Sven Michel & Katrin Stuetzer Bonn, Germany



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Although Katrin and Swen have ditched the Harley, their grand adventures continue.

In all the years we've been interviewing Puddle Jumpers, we've never met a couple whose prelude to cruising was so unique. The fact that Swen and Katrin decided to circumnavigate wasn't so unusual — but their means of transportation definitely was. In the summer of '06, they set out to conquer the world aboard a Harley! In the first year and a half they rode all over the U.S. and Canada, including the Yukon and NW Territories, explored Alaska and much of Mexico. In December 2008 they found

themselves on the Mexican border again, about to set out for South America when it dawned on them that perhaps sailing would be a more comfortable way to see the planet.

That same month they found *Solar Planet* for sale in San Francisco. After six months of refitting her, they headed south. Swen had previously done lots of sailing in the Med, but Katrin was a beginner. She now loves sailing as much as he does, and she's equally excited about their plans to circumnavigate.

Further — Selene 48 Brian Calvert, Seattle, WA

If you work a long time in the boating industry, as Brian did, you often find yourself saying goodbye to friends and customers who take off cruising,

while you're left behind to mind the store. During the 23 years Brian worked for Selene Yachts, he had that frustrating experience more times than he can count. "But now it's my turn," he says with an ear-to-ear smile, and he's doing it on a beautiful Selene motoryacht of his own.

"It's something I've dreamed about for 30 years. I probably started thinking about doing it in a Westsail 32 with a bag of granola, and now I'm finally doing it on a Salene 48 with a gourmet galley and ice cream."

Brian's plan is to circle the Pacific Rim. That is, cruise the South Pacific then head north to Japan, Russia, Alaska and home again.



He'll have a rotation of crew along the way. But for this crossing he's joined by Liz Zeiger whose sailing resume includes crewing aboard the ill-fated replica Ming war junk *Princess Taiping*, which was cut in half last April by 630-ft chemical tanker after successfully crossing the entire Pacific! "That's why I brought her along," says Brian. "She's pre-disastered. What are the odds of that happening twice?"

Worrell Wind — Nauticat 44 Russ and Roz Worrell, San Francisco "Having never been farther south than



Now it's Brain's turn! And Liz is hoping for a much less dramatic finish to this crossing.

Ensenada, I don't know what I thought Mexico would be like," says Roz, "but it's so much more beautiful than I ever imagined." A visit by train to Copper Canyon was among the highlights of their first six months of cruising.

Their advice to future cruisers is to "Pick a departure date and stick to it." It worked for them. Ten years ago they vowed to set sail from San Francisco in the fall of 2009 — coinciding with their 40th wedding anniversary! — and that's exactly what they did, despite Roz surviv-



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ing a bout with breast cancer.

"The dream helped her get through it," Russ confides. Their game plan now is to do a leisurely 7- to 10-year circumnavigation.

Calyпсо — Hardin 45
Michael & Susanne Clarke
Marina del Rey, CA

"I've been wanting to do it since I was a kid," explains Michael, "but I never understood why. Not long ago one of my mother's lifelong friends said, 'It was your dad's dream but he never did it.'"

Susanne was born in Turkey, but apparently didn't live there long. "We went there on our honeymoon, though," she explains, "and I fell in love with it." So



Alison and Allan are finally headed in the right direction. And crewman Greg approves.

Windryder — Hunter 41DS
The Moore family
Channel Islands, CA

The timing for Don and Judy Moore to set off on this epic cruise seems perfect, because their son Rob recently graduated from high school and is eager to accompany them. "Yeah, they'll probably make me do all the hard work," he says with a laugh.

Judy tells us that her parents went cruising about 40 years ago, with dreams of exploring the world. They only got as far as the Caribbean and Florida, though. So when Judy explains that she and Don are considering a circumnavigation, she says, "We've always wanted to do it, but we're also doing it for them."

The top of the family's list of must-see places is the "friendly" Kingdom of Tonga.

Sunshine Lady — Camper-Nich 33
Michael Nagy, Portland, OR

We're not sure whether Michael is pulling our leg when he tells us that he first got interested in sailboats long ago when a friend suggested that they could get rich quick by smuggling coke from Colombia. Luckily, they never pursued that foolish idea, but Michael did eventually learn to sail, first on the Columbia River and later in Canada.



Michael is thrilled to be living his dreams.

He started cruising full time a year ago, and is thrilled with the lifestyle. "Don't be scared," he advises. "This life is everything you have dreamed it to be."

After island-hopping to New Zealand, he may circle back home via the Pacific Rim, or perhaps go all the way around

via South Africa.

Black Jack — Ala-juela 38
Leon Jackson
Coto de Caza, CA

You might say that Leon's decision to make the Jump this year is the silver lining to a horrible experience last year: His wholesale hardware business collapsed last winter to the point where he finally shut it down completely.

He's been sailing Southern California waters for 30 years, and has always wanted to do a Pacific circuit. But until the economic meltdown gave him this window of opportunity, he never could.

He began this cruise by sailing south from Dana Point with his son



Leon will sail a giant Pacific loop.

Hunter, but the young man declined to join him on the passage — *kids!* "That's okay," says Leon. "I kinda wanted to singlehand anyway."

At this point his Plan A is to head north to the Line Islands after exploring French Polynesia, then on to Hawaii and back home again.

Oso Blanco, Nordhavn 64
The Bloomquist family
Ashland, Wisconsin

Lest you should think that Eric and Annie are exclusively stinkpotters, we should tell you that Eric sailed and raced various keel boats and inland scows on Midwest lakes before, as he puts it, going over to the dark side, with the purchase of a previous Nordhavn.

To our way of thinking, if you're going to go to the dark side, you may as well pick a really sweet motoryacht, and that's exactly what *Oso Blanco* is: elegant and classy from stem to stern.

Eric and Annie have been practicing the liveaboard cruising lifestyle since shortly before their son Robert, aka



Michael and Susanne will take a side trip to Ecuador before crossing to Polynesia.

the couple's game plan is to do a partial circumnavigation, ending up in the Aegean, where they hope to make Turkey their future base.

Like many in this year's fleet Michael and Susanne will visit Ecuador and the Galapagos prior to setting off for French Polynesia.

Fly Aweigh — Catalina 440
Allan & Alison Gabel
Channel Islands, CA

"We were planning to transit the Panama Canal and explore the Caribbean," explains Alison, "but after hanging out with all these Puddle Jumpers, we came to our senses." Good idea, as it's a 1,200-mile beat from Panama to the Eastern Caribbean islands.

They'd originally intended to wait until retirement to cruise, but when both of their employers offered them leaves of absence — and "a great boat presented itself" to them — fast tracking their plans was a no brainer.

They'll have extremely able crew for the crossing. Greg and Tiffany Norte are both former Coast Guard officers.

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Roz and Russ strike a 'Titanic' pose on the bow of their trusty 'Worrell Wind.'

Bear, was born — he's now nearly 8. And we don't just mean languishing in marinas. During the past 8 years they've logged 25,000 miles cruising Alaska, Mexico, the Caribbean and the Eastern Seaboard, so the logical next step is to explore the South Pacific, right? It will be a comfortable trip to the Marquesas, but Eric has already arranged to have 2,500 gallons of diesel waiting for him there. Ouch! That makes voyaging under sail seem cheap.

Renova — Cape Dory 36

Meet the 'Oso Blanco' crew. Does this kid look like a happy boater or what?



John Fremont & Naomi Tabata Campbell River, BC

This bright-eyed couple are among the youngest boat owners in this year's fleet. John has wanted to make such a trip since reading *Dove* as a kid, but that plan got fast-tracked after one of Naomi's closest friends died in her mid-30s. And that was shortly after David's mother also died prematurely. "Her philosophy was always, 'Do it now; do it while you can.'" Sometimes moms have excellent advice!

Their best guess is that they'll be 'out there' for about two years, first visiting the Galapagos en route to Polynesia. After island-hopping west, they'd like to "complete a circle of the Pacific," either via Japan



Naomi and John plan to stray from the cruiser milk run to do some North Pacific diving.

or other North Pacific islands. "We're excited about diving the historic WWII sites in the Truk Lagoon, and Bikini Atoll, where relics of the Japanese fleet lie." Along the way they should have no trouble feeding themselves, as John has worked as a commercial fisherman and sport fishing guide.

Gratitude — Island Packet 370 The Whittemore family, San Diego

"We initially considered a sell-the-house multi-year circumnavigation

plan," write Frank and Nancy. "But that idea later evolved into a keep-the-house Pacific cruise." Actually, we'd bet their plan has changed a few times over the years, because they say they've been working toward this goal since 1996 — a couple of years before their able crewman, son Nick (now 12) was born. Lately,



It took a long time for Nancy and Frank to cut the docklines, but now they're finally on their way.

he's been honing his skills for the trip in a Dana Point jr. sailing program.

Since they began cruising last fall they've been most impressed by "the panoramic vastness of Baja, the uncrowded anchorages, and the very friendly people of Mexico."

Soon, though, they'll set sail for the Galapagos, after which they plan to enter French Polynesia via the remote Gambier Island archipelago, "because they are a little more off the well-traveled path."

Mariposa — Tayana 37 Chris & JoAnn Morford, Port Townsend, WA

Why go cruising? "Fear of retiring to a sofa and TV," says Chris. But we're sure there's more to it than that. He and JoAnn bought their first sailboat together in 1977, and have been sailing on and off since then, at various places along the West Coast. Now they are equally excited about taking this life-changing step. In fact, JoAnn may actually be more into it than Chris: "If he hadn't wanted to go, I would have dragged him!"

Although they've been cruising for only six months, they've already gathered some pretty savvy insights: "In the words of James Michener," says Chris, "'If you seek the good life. . . you must be prepared to accept many new things.'" Long-term cruising is a huge lifestyle change for most of us, and probably the grandest adventure of our lives. It's



These days, there's little chance that Chris and JoAnn will become couch potatoes.

a wonderful learning experience that should not be passed by if you can swing it."

Their game plan? Make their way to New Zealand, then reassess.

Pincoya — Island Packet 44
Gene Dennis & Gloria Watson
San Carlos, MX

"If you don't have a fantasy, you can't have a dream come true!" says Gene. Nicely put. After all, sometimes it's fantasies about exotic places that get you through the rough patches — like working at a dead-end job or slogging through mind-numbing traffic.

He and Gloria have been exploring

the *Golfo de California* (aka Sea of Cortez) for the past 10 years, but as soon as they bought this boat last summer, their minds started to wander to distant horizons. "We plan to cruise the South



Gene and Gloria have no set itinerary, and they're sticking to it.

Pacific for 2 or 3 years," they say. Their schedule is appropriately loose, but they'll start out by making landfall in the Marquesas, then on to the Tuamotus, the Societies and . . . who knows where?

Jarana — J/42
Bill Cuffel & Kathy Kelly
Seattle, WA

Both Bill and Kathy have done a whole lot of racing in the Northwest — in fact, his boat once tied for 48 *North* magazine's

Boat of the Year. In addition, they've chartered boats in the Caribbean and done pleasure cruises in various parts of the Northwest.

But with all that behind them, this will be their first real offshore voyage — and they can't wait to get out there. Their long-range plans are anybody's guess: "Once we get to New Zealand, we'll decide what comes next."



Kathy and Bill love racing, but the cruising lifestyle is definitely growing on them.

As for advice to the wannabes back home: "A friend in Seattle advised us that you have to have a Type A personality to get the boat ready, then become a Type B

2010 PACIFIC PUDDLE JUMP FLEET

(Undoubtedly this list is incomplete, as many boats typically escape the 'Latitude radar'.)

Boat Name	Owners & Crew	Boat Type	Homeport
A Cappella	Ed & Cornelia Gould	Beneteau Oceanis 405	Half Moon Bay, CA
Active Transport	John Lewis	Tayana 37	San Francisco, CA
Alobar	Joel Unger	N/A	N/A
Amanda	Fabio Mucchi	Beneteau Oceanis 473	London, GBR
Amore Kai	G Valente & J Hew	Tayana 37PH	San Francisco, CA
Aphrodite	Thomas Deasy	Amel Maramu 46	Santa Cruz, CA
Aquila	Michael Rafferty	Islander Freeport 36B	San Diego, CA
Arabesque	Simon Deller	Alajuela 38	Victoria, BC
Artemo	Perry family	Chassiron TDM 43	Toronto, ON
Ashika	Dois Brock & Lauri Hamilton	Fuji 45	Newport Beach, CA
Attitude	Katherine & Neil Farley	Paine 48	Cape Coral, FL
Attitudes	Marno & Shelly Slorach	Freedom 39	Brisbane, AUS
Avante	Bill & Susan Grun	J/160	Telluride, CO
Beach House	Scott & Cindy Stolnitz	Switch 51	Marina del Rey, CA
Bint al Khamseen	Kenneth & Susan FitzGerald	Caliber 40	N/A
Black Jack	Leon Jackson	Alajuela 38	Dana Pt, CA
Blue Bie	Philip Duss	Outremer 43	Bastle, CHE
Bluebottle	J Blake & A Godsmark	Lidgard 49	Isle of Wight, GBR
Cactus Wren	James & Ann Marie Henry	Tayana 42	Tucson, AZ
Calypso	Michael & Alev Clarke	Hardin 45	Marina del Rey, CA
Calypso	Paul & Maureen von Wiese	Montevideo 43	Simon's Town, ZAF
Capaz	Baker family	Perry 48	Seattle, WA
Comfort Zone I	C Oakes & Korey Gendron	Island Packet 37	N/A
Compass Rosey	G Stephens & A Linton	Polaris 43	Southampton, GBR
Curious	Stephen & Patricia Brown	Oyster 56	Ipswich, GBR
Dawn Star	William Hubbard	Baltic 46	Newport, RI
Delos	Brian & Brady Trautman	Amel 2000	Seattle, WA
Dignity	John Southwood	Lagoon 420	New York, NY
Dream Capers	P Igarashi & S Stecher	F-P Venezia 42	Corte Madera, CA
Eagle	P Riley & D Tharsing	Cal 35 MK III	Bandon, OR
Elixir	Elix family	F-P Venezia 42	Darwin, AUS
Elysion	Steve & Josie Sheard	Formosa 41	London, UK
Emily Grace	Lawler family	Nordhavn 46	Ludlow, MA

Emirage	Wallace & Valentino families	Beneteau 51	Eureka, KS
Fancy Free IV	Gregory Hiley	Passage 34	Vancouver, BC
Fellow Traveler	D Schuch & J Hirshinger	Morgan 461	St John, USVI
Fine Gold	G&L Saunders	Vancouver 27	Conwy, GBR
Fly Aweigh	A & A Gabel, G&T Norte	Catalina Morgan 440	Channel Is, CA
Freedom	Robert & Kelita Parker	Downeast 38	San Pedro, CA
Freezing Rain	Don & Marie Irvin	Hallberg Rassy 46	Astoria, OR
Furthur	Brian Calvert	Selene 48	Friday Harbor, WA
Ghost	Bradley & Katerina McMaster	Hanse 470	Southampton, UK
Giebateau	Gieb family	Beneteau first	Lelystad, NLD
Grace	Collins family	Hallberg Rassy 46	Mooloolabah, AUS
Gratitude	Whittemore family	Island Packet 370	San Diego, CA
Gromit	Buratsynsky family	Olympic Adventure 47	Toronto, ON
Hokimai	Neil Samuel Burson	Farr 46	Bay of Is, NZL
Ile De Grace	Glaudemans family	F-P Orana 440	Annapolis, MD
Imagine	Heaslip family	Gulfstar Sailmaster 68	Hilo, HI
Imagine	Gordon & Shelia Stovall	Stevens 47	New Bern, NC
Imajica	Douglas Clark	Gulfstar Sailmaster 40	Hamilton, ON
Incantation	David Ratner	Santa Cruz 50	Vancouver, BC
Infini	Michael & Susan Beilan	Westsail 43	Tampa, FL
Island Mistress	Jeffrey & Judy Wahl	Wellington 47	Yankton, SD
Jarana	Bill Cuffel & Kathy Kelly	J/42	Seattle, WA
Jenny P	Eric & Christine Larsen	Hans Christian 33T	Seattle, WA
Kamaya	Tim Rayle & Ruth Berkowitz	Stevens 50	Hood River, OR
Kate	Heather Francis & Steven Hertik	Newport 41	AUS
Kehaulani	John & Patricia Harris	Caliber 40	Portland, OR
Kerzo	Sarah & Jonathan Morice	Sherzo 13.4	Nantes, FRA
Kiapa	Peter & Susan Wolcott	Custom 52	Kauai, HI
Kijro	J Ranahan, L Ortiz, P Decker	Morgan 31	Lorain, OH
Kilkea II	David & Marian Paul	Amel 51	Vancouver, BC
Koloa Kai	Grover Jeane & Candice Benn	Cal 46	Kona, HI
Lady Lexi	David Bowes & Lynn Engle	Force 50	San Diego, CA
Last Paradise	Goff family	Wauquiez 43	Harbor Springs, MI
Learnativity	Wayne Hodgins	N/A	Victoria, BC
Leeway	D Wentworth & D Anderson	Cascade 36	Hilo, HI
Leu Cat	Leu family	Lagoon 440	Sioux Falls, SD
Liith	Richard Holtz & Krista Cox	Vancouver 27	Edmonton, AB
Liquid Courage	Devin Potter & Donald Pitchford	Caliber 40LRC	San Francisco, CA
Little Fawn	Jim Brown	Chris Craft 35	Channel Is, CA



Elisabeth and Rod love the tranquil anchorages of Mexico, and they also love its people.

when you untie from the dock. No truer words have been spoken."

Proximity — Swan 41

**Rod Lambert & Elisabeth Lehmberg
Alameda, CA**

We always like to ask Puddle Jumpers what inspired them to cross this big patch of blue water. Rod actually remembers a dream that he had as a teenager: "I remember being in some tropical place with boats and lots of palm trees, and when I awoke I said to myself, 'I've got to do that.'" Learning to sail El Toros in Berkeley soon after put him on his current path. Elisabeth, a native

of Germany, learned to sail as a kid in Europe.

One memorable highlight of their Mexico cruising was helping a local woman take her heavy groceries home. They became fast friends with the family and Elisabeth ended up making tamales with the wife, while Rod brainstormed with the husband about his construction plans.

Of the cruising life, Rod says, "The rewards more than make up for the effort."

Eagle — Cal 35 MKII

**Dorothy Tharsing & Phileta Riley
Bandon, OR**

For Dorothy, exploring the South Pacific isles under sail has been a lifelong dream. And she seems to have found a partner who can turn that fantasy into reality because Phileta spent some quality time in the islands while crewing back in the '70s. That time, the cruise started in Boston.

Dorothy did a fair amount of sailing as a kid, then upped her skills substantially five years ago by completing a whole battery of ASA courses. So when this trip was proposed, it didn't take long for Phileta to agree. "It's now or never," she said in her characteristically upbeat manner. As they doublehand *Eagle* to



Dorothy and Phileta are eager to experience grand adventures beyond the horizon.

New Zealand, Phileta will take pleasure in pointing out her former haunts along the way.

**Wind Child — Beneteau First 36s7
Rudy Heessels, Sequim, WA**

Rudy was alone when we met him, but he won't be singlehanding to Polynesia. In fact, he almost always sails with an accomplished crew of serious sailors. "Even when we're cruising, we sail on the fast track," he says, alluding to his love of racing. "We'll be hand steering all



Rudy absolutely loves the open ocean.

<i>Magenta</i>	Larry & Kim Moore.....	Sceptre 41.....	Vancouver, BC	<i>Slip Away</i>	R Crowell & J Schwab.....	Islander Freeport.....	USA
<i>Mariposa</i>	Chris & JoAnn Morford.....	Tayana 37.....	Port Townsend, WA	<i>Soggy Paws</i>	David & Cheryl McCampbell.....	CSY 44.....	Marathon, FL
<i>Mist</i>	Susan & Elba Borgen.....	Cape George 40.....	San Francisco, CA	<i>Spirit</i>	Gerjan Kraan.....	Roberts 493.....	Herrenveen, NLD
<i>Mistral III</i>	I & J McCallan.....	MacGregor 65.....	Cardwell, GBR	<i>Stray Dog</i>	R Marshall & C Yung-Ching.....	Westseil 32.....	GBR
<i>Moondance</i>	Douglas & Carla Scott.....	Tayana 42.....	Albuquerque, NM	<i>Stray Kitty</i>	Ellsay family.....	Antares 42 cat.....	Victoria, BC
<i>Morning Light</i>	John Francis Lawler.....	Chesapeake 32.....	Bellingham, WA	<i>Sula</i>	Stefan & Marilyn Thordarson.....	Brandelmyer.....	Tacoma, WA
<i>Mulan</i>	Karda-Parr family.....	Grand Soleil 39.....	Vancouver, BC	<i>Sunshine</i>	Fridolin Bickum.....	S2 11c.....	Tampa, FL
<i>Mystery Ship</i>	Russell Caldecott & John May.....	Nordhavn 64.....	Nanoose Bay, BC	<i>Sunshine Lady</i>	Michael Nagy.....	Camper & Nicholson 36.....	Portland, OR
<i>Nakia</i>	John Gratton & Linda Hill.....	Hans Christian 33.....	San Francisco, CA	<i>Szyggy</i>	Matt Holmes.....	Valiant 40.....	San Francisco, CA
<i>Neried</i>	Stephen Nicholas Demas.....	Liberty 28.....	Reg. Norfolk, VA	<i>Tagish</i>	B Vezina & D McDowell.....	Brent Swain 36.....	Vancouver, BC
<i>New Morning</i>	Russell Irwin & Fay Mark.....	Paine.....	Sausalito, CA	<i>Tahina</i>	Frank & Karen Taylor.....	St. Francis 50.....	Wilmington, NC
<i>Odyle</i>	Phillips family.....	Skookum.....	Half Moon Bay, CA	<i>Tao</i>	C Jaquette & S White.....	Nor'West 33.....	San Francisco, CA
<i>Oso Blanco</i>	Robert Bloomquist.....	Nordhavn 64.....	Ashland, WI	<i>Tar Baby II</i>	Louie & Alicia van Praag.....	Westseil 32.....	Anacortes, CA
<i>Paikaa Mist</i>	Michael & Gloria Hanssmann.....	Beneteau 50.....	Vancouver, BC	<i>Tenaya</i>	James & Catherine Thomsen.....	Hallberg Rassy 40.....	San Diego, CA
<i>Paradise Bound</i>	Joel Stern.....	Vagabond 47.....	San Diego, CA	<i>Terrapin Flyer</i>	Alexander & Valerie Viterbi.....	Hylas 49.....	N/A
<i>Passages</i>	John & Pamela Marchant.....	Passport 42.....	Vancouver, BC	<i>The Road</i>	Keith & Shirley Bowen.....	Lavranos 40.....	Cape Town, ZAF
<i>Passion</i>	Judi & Donald Klein.....	Dufour 39.....	Honolulu, HI	<i>Toraa III</i>	Barry & Maryanne Hare.....	Catalina 42.....	Hinchinbrook, AUS
<i>Pericles</i>	Angus & Rolande Ramsey.....	Roberts 41.....	Comox, BC	<i>Totem</i>	Gifford family.....	Stevens 47.....	Stemmen, GBR
<i>Pickles</i>	Moppel family.....	Van de Stadt 49.....	London, OH	<i>Trim</i>	Ken & Lori Newell.....	Del Rey 50.....	Long Beach, CA
<i>Pincoya</i>	E Dennis & G Watson.....	Island Packet 44.....	San Carlos, MEX	<i>True Companions</i>	Steven & Vickie Letson.....	Lagoon 380.....	Road Harbour, BVI
<i>Proximity</i>	R Lambert & E Lehmberg.....	Swan 41.....	San Francisco, CA	<i>Tyee III</i>	Luttrell family.....	Catana 431.....	Victoria, BC
<i>Puerto Seguro</i>	Maria & Esteban.....	Morgan 38.2.....	Miami, FL	<i>Vagabond</i>	Otto & Lilian Ziegler.....	Vickers 45.....	Cape Town, ZAF
<i>Quixotic</i>	E Grootendorst & N Sahar.....	Norseman 430.....	Tortola, BVI	<i>Verite</i>	E Halstead & V Bardach.....	Catana 50.....	Tortola, BVI
<i>Reflections #1</i>	Alex Kao & Leah Prentice.....	N/A.....	N/A	<i>Victoria</i>	Russell family.....	Lord Nelson 41.....	Port Royal, SC
<i>Renova</i>	J Fremont & N Tabata.....	Cape Dory 36.....	Campbell River, BC	<i>Victoria Rose</i>	Stephen & Cynthia Abel.....	Tayana 37.....	Anacortes, WA
<i>Restless</i>	Mathew & Ann Ross.....	Oyster 655.....	BVI	<i>Visions of Johanna</i>	Strassberg family.....	Morris 62.....	Newport, RI
<i>Restless</i>	Mark & Mary Fox.....	Panda 35.....	Seattle, WA	<i>Western Grace</i>	Joanne & John Van Strien.....	Christensen 55.....	Ft St. John, BC
<i>Restless Rosie</i>	J&T Duke, J Wilson.....	Pearson 10M.....	Baltimore, MD	<i>Whiskers</i>	Gerald & Diana Smith.....	R&G 40.....	Durban, ZAF
<i>SailFisher</i>	A Briggs & Y Louie.....	Cal 2-46.....	San Diego, CA	<i>Whoosh</i>	Jack & Patricia Tyler.....	Pearson 424.....	St. Pete, FL
<i>Savannah</i>	Michael & Jodie Hickam.....	Gulfstar 47.....	San Francisco, CA	<i>Wind Child</i>	Rudolf Heessels.....	Beneteau First 36s7.....	Sequim, WA
<i>Scream</i>	M Wehm & S Ensslen.....	Huntingford 45.....	Victoria, BC	<i>Wind-Borne</i>	Davidson family.....	Bayfield 36.....	Blakely Is, WA
<i>Sea Angel</i>	John Gordon Jarvis.....	Lagoon 380.....	Auckland, NZ	<i>WindRyder</i>	Moore family.....	Hunter 41DS.....	Channel Is, CA
<i>Sea Fury</i>	Roger & Norma Wheeler.....	New Life 52.....	Wilmington, DE	<i>Windswept</i>	Jack & Marlene Dearden.....	Catalina 470.....	Mooloolaba, AUS
<i>Sea Level</i>	Milski family.....	Schionning 1480.....	Lake City, CO	<i>Windward</i>	D Mooney & L Sarrazin.....	Norseman 447.....	Portland, OR
<i>Sea Mist</i>	Ellsworth family.....	Oyster 56.....	Tortola, BVI	<i>WorldWind</i>	Volkmar Baurecker.....	Creekmore 40.....	St. Pete Beach, FL
<i>Serenity</i>	Gordon & Sherry Cornett.....	Tayana DS 52.....	Mammoth Lks, CA	<i>Worrall Wind</i>	Russ & Roz Worrall.....	Natuicat 44.....	San Francisco, CA
<i>Shamaness</i>	D Clifton & G Jeane.....	Chung Hwa 36.....	San Francisco, CA	<i>Zephyra</i>	Russ & Debbie Noorda.....	Morgan OI 41.....	Lake Tahoe, CA
<i>Silver Lining</i>	Reveill family.....	Noble 451.....	Long Beach, CA				
<i>Skylight</i>	B Basura & C Richardson.....	Mason 43.....	Wilmington, CA				

For additional Puddle Jump info see: www.pacificpuddlejumps.com

SOUTH PACIFIC STAMPEDE

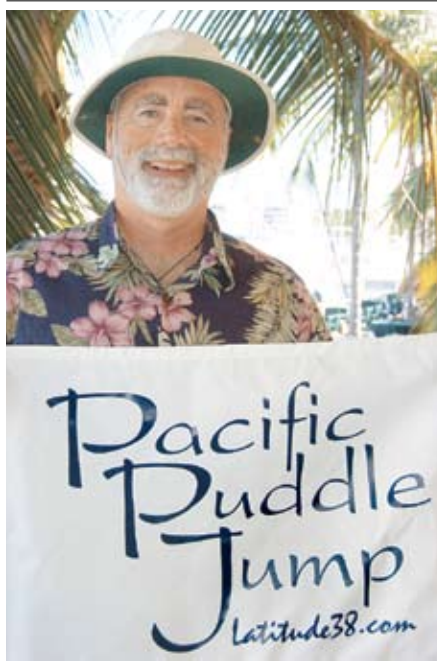
the way; no autopilot unless the wind dies completely."

Boating has been in Rudy's blood ever since he was a kid, growing up in The Netherlands. "I realized back then that you could go anywhere in a boat," he recalls. But it was many years later, when he did his first Vic-Maui race that he discovered open ocean sailing. "It was the best thing I'd ever done in my life, and I've never looked back." (He's now done three of them and four circumnavigations of Vancouver Island.)

After competing in the Banderas Bay Regatta this month, he and his crew will head for the Polynesian archipelagos, where his wife Jean will fly in and join him for some mellow inter-island cruising.

**Aquila — Islander Freeport 36B
Michael Rafferty, San Diego**

What inspired this singlehander to escape to the South Pacific? "Having to deal with 174 14-year-olds every single day!" You guessed it, he's a newly retired school teacher.



Having paid his dues in the classroom, Michael is heading for the good life in Thailand.

He's also a lifelong sailor who holds a 100-ton USCG Master's License. We're not sure if it's escaping the kids or es-

caping the mainstream that's driving his planning, but Michael says, "This is going to be a one-way trip." He hopes to end up at idyllic Koh Samui, Thailand and plant some roots. We hope he'll drop us a line when he gets there and let us know how that plan turned out.

In the meantime, his advice to those who are thinking about long-term cruising is simply: "Let's go to Fiji and drink some kava!" Hey, ya gotta have a sense of humor to make it in the cruising life.

Having now fulfilled our 15-minutes-of-fame obligations to our Vallarta YC party-goers, we'll give our fingers a rest here. How we'll introduce you to the rest of this year's massive fleet is a challenge we haven't quite figured out yet. But we can promise you that we'll publish a recap report on this year's crossing in the coming months — complete with alluring photos of the Tahiti-Moorea Sailing Rendezvous. Stay tuned.

— **latitude/andy**