

# PACIFIC PUDDLE JUMP PROFILES, PT I —

If you've ever doubted that cruising sailors are a fascinating group of people, you should tag along with us on one of our annual trips to Mexico and Panama. Each year in early March, just as a new herd of Pacific Puddle Jumpers are about to set sail for French Polynesia, we corral them for interviews by offering free beer, hors d'oeuvres and official PPJ burgees.

Invariably, they come from a wide variety of backgrounds, and sail on a wildly diverse fleet of boats — from

canoes. As with all Wharram designs, the living space is minimal and the sailing

systems are simple, and high tech gear is almost nonexistent. But keeping things simple is good, right? Alf and Kathleen won't waste a lot of time awaiting the arrival of parts via DHL. The build took them 10 years and was inspired by neighbors on Saltspring Island who built a tri and circumnavigated during the 1960s. The boat's name, by the way, is taken from the Tamil word meaning lashings — you guessed it, the boat's structural members are held together by lashings.



Alf and Kathleen of 'Kattu'

## Nakiska — Freya 42 Trevor Anderson Georgetown, CYM

Trevor's story is unique within the fleet. Although he's from Calgary, Alberta (don't let that Cayman Islands homeport fool you), he bought his boat in Australia 16 years ago, and has spent much of that time cruising it around the world. At this point, he's about to complete the final quarter of a very slow circumnavi-



Trevor of 'Nakiska'

gation. "I didn't actually go to Australia to buy a boat, but I decided I wanted to try the lifestyle, and I've loved it ever since. I'd already had my fill of shoveling snow out of driveways."

## Moshulu — Spencer 42 Gerry Parkhurst & Gail Jasmer-Wilson Gig Harbor, WA

Gerry tells us *Moshulu* is a Seneca Indian name meaning fearless. But his isn't the first vessel to adopt it. The the four-masted barque *Moshulu* was the winner of the last great Australia-to-Europe grain race (1939), and is said to have been the last commercial sailing ship to round Cape Horn. (She's now a classy restaurant in Philadelphia.)



The 'Moshulu' crew

While the background of *this Moshulu* is not quite that impressive, she does have a colorful history. She has already done two circumnavigations, and will turn 50 next year.

Gerry and Gail spent five years refurbishing her before heading south with the 2010 Baja Ha-Ha rally. Their plan now is to do a short South Pacific circuit.

*Sure they're a little rowdy. You'd be in a festive mood too if you were about to set sail for the fabled isles of the South Pacific.*



Our official Pacific Puddle Jump burgees make great souvenirs. But you can only get one if you attend one of our Send-Off fiestas.

Spartan fixer-uppers to gleaming yachts equipped with all the latest bells and whistles. The common thread, of course, is that they are all poised to head west in pursuit of one of the sailing world's greatest adventures: crossing from the West Coast of the Americas to French Polynesia. At roughly 3,000 miles, it's the largest uninterrupted stretch of ocean a would-be circumnavigator would face when traveling around the world via the tropics.

Yeah, it's a pretty big deal. And that's why, ever since coining the phrase Pacific Puddle Jump nearly 20 years ago, we've expended lots of ink honoring the sailors who make this ambitious passage.

The voyagers you'll meet here gathered March 7 at the Vallarta YC in Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico for our annual PPJ Send-Off Party. (We'll follow up next month by introducing you to the adventure-hungry explorers we met at Panama's Balboa YC.)

## Kattu — Wharram Tiki 38 Alf Bangert & Kathleen O'Brien Hornby Island, BC

*Kattu* is definitely one of the most unusual boats in this year's fleet. She's homebuilt to a James Wharram design that borrows concepts from ancient voyaging

ALL PHOTOS LATITUDE / ANDY



# MEET ME IN PAPEETE

**The Beguine — Valiant 40  
Paul & Celeste Carpenter  
Marysville, KS**

Despite being officially based in Kansas, Paul and Celeste already have a lot of sea miles under their belts. Now in her fifth year of cruising, Celeste ex-

*"Thirty-four years, three (grown) kids later, and we finally get to pursue our dream!"*

plains that the last time they decided to head offshore from Mexico they ended up in Alaska. so now it's time to "do a 180 and head for the South Pacific." Plans are open-ended.

And yes, the name is taken from that famous Cole Porter song.

**Pied-a-Mer III — Seawind 1160  
Pam & Eric Sellix, Clatskanie, OR**



*The happy crew of 'Pied-a-Mer'*

Pam explains that the colloquial translation of her boat name is "where

you keep your mistress on the sea" and this 38-ft cat definitely qualifies as her husband's mistress.

After nearly two years spent cruising in Mexican waters, the couple figures the time is right for a South Pacific cruise — "while we still have our health and wits about us!"

They met their crew, Dani Peters and Jack Whittmore, in Mexico. The foursome may sail together all the way to Australia.

**Wind Cutter — Island Packet 485  
Craig & Carol Fleetwood  
Portland, OR**

Based on the following, we'd bet that few PPJ crews are more excited



*'Windcutter' Craig*

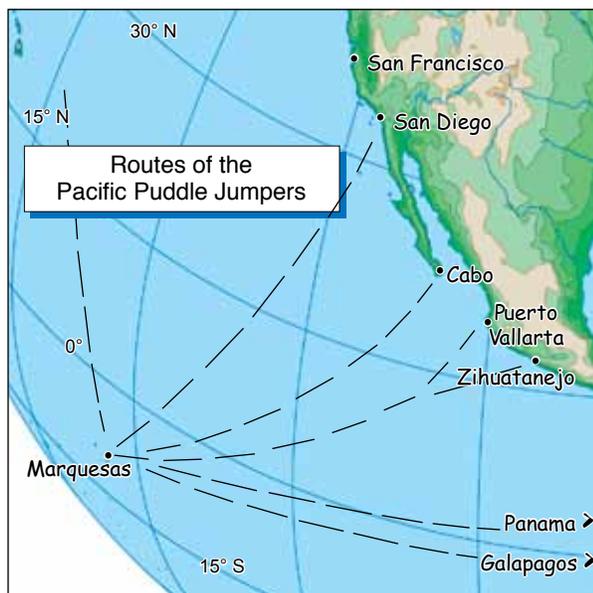
about chasing the sun over the horizon than Craig and Carol: "From the moment we said, 'I do,' we have talked about this day. Thirty-four years, three (grown) kids later, and we finally get to pursue our dream!"

Wow. That's a long time to defer adventuring, but there's every indication that they'll make the most of it now. They left us with this pithy comment: "When people share concern over our safety while sailing an open sea, we like to say, 'We'd rather die living, than live dying.'"

**Starshine — Shannon 38  
Dave & Gail Kenyon  
Deale, MD**

"We came down on the Ha-Ha this year and decided to keep going," explains Dave. He and Gail plan to island-hop all the way to Australia, then figure out what comes next.

Like many, many Puddle Jumpers over the years, Dave credits his reading of David Lee Graham's *Dove* (40 years ago) with sparking his lust for bluewater sailing. The first step in that process was building



*The folks you'll meet here set sail from Banderas Bay. But many others jump off from Panama, Galapagos and elsewhere.*

a 20-ft Flicka — that process took 13 years, but he got 20 years of sailing out of her before deciding to upgrade. By contrast, Gail is a relatively new convert. She learned to sail only five years ago.

**Rhapsody — Herreshoff Nereia 36  
Alan & Laura Dwan, Los Angeles**

It's not often that we see the name Herreshoff in a Puddle Jump fleet listing, and this one is a rare beauty. Designed by L. Francis Herreshoff, but launched in 1981, this 'modern classic' sports a ketch rig, and measures 42 feet overall.

Why the South Pacific? Alan can trace his inspiration to sail there to his reading of Joshua Slocum's *Sailing Alone Around the World* when he was about 12 years old. Their game plan is to spend two seasons exploring the South Pacific before circling home via Hawaii.



*'Rhapsody' traditionalists*

**Oogachaka — Kadey-Krogen 42  
Ken & Patty Sebbly  
Umatilla, OR**

Easily one of the most unusual boat names ever to grace a Puddle Jump fleet roster, we have to wonder if Oogachaka was chosen because it would be fun to say on the radio: "Harbormaster, this is Oogachaka, Oogachaka, Oogachaka." Trivia champions will know it's taken from a 70's pop hit *Hooked on a Feeling*.



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Repeat x3: 'Oogachaka'

In any case, this boat is also distinctive, as she's one of only two motoryachts in the 2014 fleet. Much to his credit, Ken stepped up to act as net controller for boats jumping from Mexico. He and Patty plan to reach New Zealand by the end of this season.

## **Bangorang — Fountaine-Pajot 42 Colin & Wendy Gegg, Ventura, CA**

Speaking of unusual boat names, how about *Bangorang* — the battle cry of the Lost Boys from *Neverland* (in a Peter Pan movie). Roughly translated it means: awesome!

Although Colin claims he's been dreaming about making a South Pacific passage since his teen years, it took until 2012 to set the plan in motion. He and Wendy entered the cruising lifestyle with the 2012 BHH, and are now following that frequently heard cruiser game plan: "Keep sailing until it ain't fun anymore." Their "adult(ish)" son Gavin will be along for the ride to French Polynesia, and possibly all the way to New Zealand.

## **Hotspur — Tartan 41**

### **Jim & Meri Faulkner, Olathe, CO**

Nautical literature quiz: Who was the captain of the British naval ship



Meet Jim, Carolyn & Meri of 'Hotspur'

*Hotspur*? Horatio Hornblower, of course. She was his first command.

Jim and Meri started cruising six years ago on a perfectly good Cal 35 sloop. But when their kids outgrew it they were inspired to upgrade to this roomy 41-footer. Daughter Carolyn, 14, is still with them. In fact, she's been pushing to head to the South Pacific for a while. "When Captain Jim said he didn't feel like going south anymore," explains Meri, "we changed direction, so now Carolyn gets her wish." Plans are open.

## **Chara — Amel Maramu 48 Robert & Joyce Sarff Seattle, WA**

When we asked Bob how long he'd been wanting to head out into blue water, he paused to think. But his grown



The kids and parents of 'Chara'

daughter Anna had an immediate answer. She remembers a day when she was a little kid where her dad bought a lottery ticket and she asked, "If you win, what are you going to do with all the money?" "Buy a sailboat," he said, "and sail off to the South Pacific."

Well now he and his wife Joyce are finally doing it, and Anna and her husband Brian Radford get to come along too. If all goes well, the game plan is to cruise all the way to Australia, where the Sarffs have family.

## **Red Witch II — Rhodes Bounty II Robie & Stephi Kirkcaldie Nelson, NZL**

We have a special place in our hearts for Bounty IIs, because the first editions of *Latitude 38* were laid out on the salon table of one. Like the *Latitude* Bounty, this one was built in Sausalito in 1958, and she's still going strong. Designers underestimated the strength of fiberglass back then, so they were built like battleships.

"She has a fiery red temperament as well as an around-the-world history," explains Robie, a New Zealander and longtime racer. Like many Kiwis, he's been sailing all his life, but Stephi, who's an American, got started



'Red Witch II' crew

only three years ago when she started showing up for Wednesday

night races. Before she knew it, she and Robie were in love, and were beginning their cruising adventures together with the 2011 Baja Ha-Ha. They've become so enamored with the cruising life that they're already thinking about doing a second Mexico-New Zealand-Hawaii-Mexico loop after they complete the first.

## **Cygnus — Cabo Rico 38 Joe Lavash, Newport, OR**

Technically, Joe has already 'cruised' the South Pacific, but in his mind that first crossing didn't really count. He was, after all, aboard a US Navy vessel that made a beeline past all those gorgeous islands without stopping. From that point on, he vowed to return on his own boat someday so he could stop and smell the roses — or more appropriately, the *ti-are* flowers.



Joe of 'Cygnus'

Blair Faulwetter and Sally Jones will fill out *Cygnus'* crew roster during the crossing to French Polynesia, and possibly beyond. Joe's plans are loose, but most likely he will spend the next South Pacific cyclone season in New Zealand.

*Talk about a unique reference for a boat name, Colin and Wendy named their F-P cat after an exclamation from Neverland: 'Bangorang'!*



ALL PHOTOS LATITUDE / ANDY

# MEET ME IN PAPEETE

## **Code Blue — Caliber 40 LRC Steve & Judy Dauzenroth Seattle, WA**

For Steve and Judy, one of the strongest draws of the cruising life is access to great scuba diving. In fact, sailing and diving with blue skies above and blue water below was the inspiration



*The 'Code Blue' divers*

two previous stints of South Pacific voyaging and Steve has seen parts of it on dive and charter trips. So they've undoubtedly got a list of favorite spots to return to. We expect you'll find them along the cruiser milk run to New Zealand, wherever the water is clear and the reefs are abundant with sealife.

## **Roundabout II — Moody 40 Ted & Pam Simper Edmonton, AB**

Don't let the fact that Ted and Pam live near Calgary fool you. They've been sailing since the mid-1970s, when they first sampled the sport in East Africa.

The name *Roundabout* isn't original with them, but it perfectly suits their intentions: "It has been our dream

for 30 years to sail around the world," explains Pam. This season they may island-hop all the way to New Zealand, with stops along the way at French Polynesia, the Cook Islands, Tonga and Fiji. But for them, that's only the beginning.



*'Roundabout' we go*

## **Pamela — Pacific Seacraft 37 Dennis Maggard & Pamela York San Francisco, CA**

Dennis is no dummy. He knows the answer to that often-pondered question: How does a sailor get his wife to approve of buying a cruising sailboat? Simple, name it after her!



*'Pamela's namesake & capt*

is. This is their first boat, which they bought two years ago, but Dennis says doing a cruise like this has been a lifelong dream. Dennis, who plays guitar, met another guitarist at a cruiser jam this year, and now that guy — Larry Byers — has signed on as crew to French Polynesia. Should be a tuneful crossing.

## **Sea Monkey — Jeanneau 39 Greg Mullen & Diane Hanny Brisbane, AUS**

Like many Aussies we meet on the West Coast these days, Greg and Diane capitalized on the current strength of



*'Sea Monkey' sailors*

the Australian dollar to buy a nice production boat here and sail it home to the land down under. They found *Sea Monkey* in San Diego last winter, and have spent the intervening

months enjoying Mexico. "This is my first cruising experience and ocean crossing in 30 years," explains Diane with just a wee bit of apprehension, although she admits that she's always dreamed of crossing the Pacific. Greg nudged her into committing, after doing the Puddle Jump in 2007 aboard his previous boat. "He loved the South Pacific islands and wanted me to experience them as well," says Diane. After a stint in Brisbane, they intend to cruise north to Papua New Guinea.

## **Music — Island Packet 40 Wayne Fofonoff, Vancouver, BC**

We're not sure if Wayne gave his boat this name, but he's got a good reason for keeping it: "I really like music, and feel it to be one of the great joys of life — just like my sailboat."

Wayne's chance meeting of Mike Knapp and Marie Cantin has proven to be a coup for all, as Wayne will have lots of help (and will get some sleep) during the crossing, and Mike and Marie get to test South Pacific waters on a very capable boat. The fact that Marie speaks

fluent French is a bonus. She and Mike have cruised Mexico for the past two



*These sailors love 'Music'*

years on their own sailboat, which has an electric auxiliary.

## **Romany Star — Ohlson 38 Paul Moore & Bonnie Wagner San Francisco, CA**

"We met while living in the same marina in San Diego," explains Paul. She may now be in love with Paul, but she admits that one of the first things that attracted her to *Romany Star* was her aluminum toe rails. "I really fell in love with them," she says. (They never need varnishing.)

Paul has done two previous Puddle Jumps, both times via the Galapagos. But this time the game plan is to head from PV straight to the less-traveled Gambier archipelago of French Polynesia. He and Bonnie both jumped through hoops to get their "long stay" six-month visas, rather than the customary three months, so they'll have plenty of time to take it slowly and explore all five FP archipelagos. "We'll finish with the Marquesas," explains Paul, "then sail north to Hawaii for hurricane season. We hope to see the Cooks, Tonga, and other island nations next year before landing in New Zealand for a while."



*The stars of 'Romany Star'*

## **Anthem — Hylas 46 Jack Warren & Jan Holmes Weeki Wachee, FL**

Jack explains that the name *Anthem* is taken from a book by Ayn Rand, and represents a song of praise for individualism. That's certainly fitting for craft owned by self-sufficient sailors who are about to cross thousands of miles of open ocean.

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**Jack & Jan of 'Anthem'.**

Jack's been cruising full-time since January, 2009. He and Jan have one of the most unusual answers we've ever heard to the

question: "So, where did you meet?" Answer: "Big Mamas in Tongatapu." Yeah, it's in Tonga — in what most people would say is a long way from anywhere.

"We plan to spend cyclone season in New Zealand, where we have many friends, then head up to New Caledonia, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand in 2015. After that our plans are a little fuzzy — written in sand at low tide."

## **Grasshopper — Waterline 46**

**Jeff & Cheri Slotta, Polaris, MT**



**'Grasshopper' Jeff**

Cheri couldn't make it to our fiesta, and we didn't get to spend much time with Jeff either, which is a shame because we don't often meet sailors from Montana.

Jeff says he's been subscribing to sailing magazines for years, and the cruising bug finally

bit so hard that he and Cheri had to give it a try.

## **Skabenga — St. Francis 44 Mk II**

**Bruce & Fynn Harbour, Big Sky, MT**

We're not quite sure how Bruce and his 19-year-old son Fynn got from their South African homeland to Big Sky, Montana, but they are now definitely



**The 'Skabenga' crew sails for Marlin**

getting back to their nautical roots. Both are avid fishermen, and their motto for the cruise is: "Catching marlin under sail." Bruce explains, "Skabenga has been customized into a sportfishing sailing vessel, complete with a fighting chair, outriggers, teaser reels and a special fighting station on the transom."

As we said they're *really* into fishing. In fact, they even design and sell their own unique lures ([skabengalures.com](http://skabengalures.com)).

Veteran Puddle Jumper Jennifer Martindale signed on for the passage, and even though she's done lots of offshore sailing it took a little practice to become an "excellent" helmsperson while the boys were fighting marlin. "It takes a lot of skill to keep that fish behind the boat," says Bruce.

## **Mintaka — Ingrid 38**

**Mark Bennett & Robyn Rogin  
Salt Lake City, UT**



**Mark & Robyn of 'Mintaka'**

Remarkably, this will be Mark and Robyn's third Pacific crossing on the same classic, 1979 William Atkins-designed ketch. She's not only salty looking, but has also proven her seaworthiness again and again. "This time we're hoping to visit some of the more obscure islands," says Mark. There are plenty to choose from. In fact, in French Polynesia alone there are 118 islands, and that doesn't count all the islets and motus.

At the end of the season *Mintaka* will likely be back at her "base" in New Zealand.

## **True Blue V — Island Packet 45**

**Leanne & Craig Chalker  
Brisbane, AUS**

We first met Leanne and Craig in September 2012. They'd just flown out to California from Australia to buy this boat, and were eager to start their new cruising lifestyle with the start of the Baja Ha-Ha a few weeks later.



**Aussies of 'True Blue V'**

Bucking the norm, in this couple Leanne is the captain, and rightly so. After all, she makes her living as a ferry master.

Their original plan was to sail back home to Oz last year, but they got seduced by the Sea of Cortez. Time will tell if distractions along the way west will sidetrack them again this year.



**'Fluenta' is home to the littlest PPJer**

## **Fluenta — Stevens 47**

**Max Shaw & Elizabeth Brown-Shaw  
Halifax, NS**

We haven't had time to confirm this assertion, but we're pretty sure that three-month-old Benjamin is the youngest 'cruiser' ever to do the Pacific Puddle Jump — at least since we've been keeping records. As you may have read in February's *Sightings* section, little Ben was born in Mexico, which turned out to be a great experience.

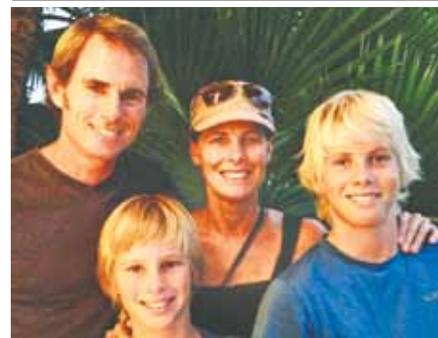
When he gets a little older his mom and dad (Elizabeth and Max) will have plenty of help with babysitting: daughter Victoria is now 10, and son Johnathan is 8. The family began cruising from Nova Scotia almost two years ago, after Elizabeth and Max made their exit from the Royal Canadian Air Force.

The game plan now is to hop west for the season, then head south to New Zealand or Australia.

## **Exodus — Lagoon 400**

**Tim & Deanne Gresham  
San Diego, CA**

The Gresham family left San Diego a year ago on a grand adventure that none of them are likely to forget. We think sons Alex, 12, and Brenden 11, are at an ideal age to participate in the sailing chores and become fully engaged in the cultures



**The Greshams are making an 'Exodus'**

they visit. Apparently that was the idea: "We wanted a freer, slower lifestyle while

# MEET ME IN PAPEETE

the boys are still young enough to enjoy it," explains Deanne.

Captain Tim has a specific plan for crossing into the Southern Hemisphere: "Head to 7°N, 127°W, and when we get close to the ITCZ, close our eyes and turn south." Sounds about right.

## **Lady Carolina — Island Packet 44.5 Steve & Carolina Danielewicz Victoria, BC**

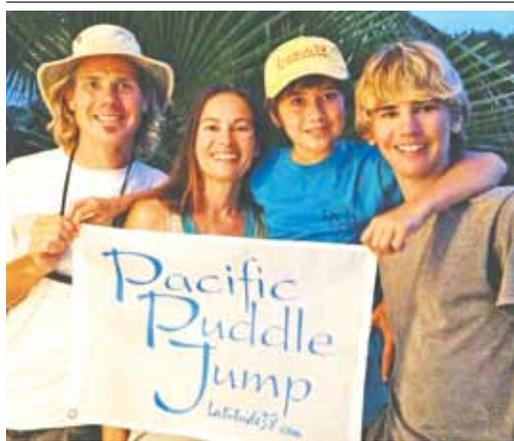
There's apparently a couple of variations on why this boat is named *Lady Carolina*. "The good story?" asks Steve. "I found the boat and fell in love with it, then I had to find a wife named Carolina. In the end, it all worked out." Sounds a little fishy, but a good story nonetheless.

This is yet another 'kid boat', with sons Kyle, 13, and Joel, 9, along as able-bodied crewmen. Now in their second year of cruising, the entire family seems very well adjusted to the cruising life, as they push on toward the South Pacific islands, and eventually to Aus-

tralia.

Steve speaks eloquently about their experiences thus far: "The people that we are today are nothing like the people that we were two years ago. This is, and continues to be, an excellent trip filled with highs and lows that are atypical of any 'normal' life. It gives a new perspective on what is important and what is materialistic and 'Joneses'-driven.

"Our kids are doing very well and I would suspect they are better here than back on land. They have more responsibility, more jobs and are exposed to many cultures and several excellent role models through fellow cruisers. We have come to depend on them for



*Cruising has been life-changing for this crew.*

watches, general maintenance and overall seamanship as we continue on. That, and they have a lot of fun doing a variety of activities with a variety of people. Not bad for 13 and 9."

His advice: "Stop dreaming and go cruising. You and your kids will love it — although it takes 6 to 12 months to adjust."

With those insightful observations we'll take a break here, and pick it up again next month with mini-profiles of the internationally diverse fleet of Pacific Puddle Jumpers that we recently met in Panama. We think you'll be as fascinated to meet them, as we were.

— *latitude/andy*

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Photo by Robbie Gabriel

### ***Overall Winner 2012 Singlehanded TransPac***

Jim Quanci, after placing 1st Overall in the 2012 Singlehanded TransPac in his Cal 40 *Green Buffalo* says:

"13 days from San Francisco to Hawaii alone, 10 of those days flying the spinnaker in winds up to 32 knots without a round up or a wrap. My Alpha Spectra autopilot drove the whole way — and then drove the boat another 16 days taking us home. What more can one ask for? I just love my Alpha Spectra autopilot."

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