

Latitude 38

PACIFIC PUDDLE JUMP 2009

— WESTBOUND WANDERERS PART I

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WESTBOUND WANDERERS

If you've ever driven from California to the East Coast, you know that 3,000 miles is a very long stretch, even at 75 mph. But imagine covering that distance at less than 10 mph — in a convertible with its top down, even on rainy days. Now imagine that some days your vehicle would only advance a few miles, and on a few bad days it would actually slide backward. At that rate, traveling 3,000 miles would certainly be a tedious process — by car, that is.

The folks you'll meet in these pages are traveling a similar distance — from the West Coast of the Americas to French Polynesia. But fortunately, they get to do so aboard sailboats. And under sail, that voyage — which we like to call the Pacific Puddle Jump — is typically reported to be "exhilarating," "mind-bending," or "life-changing," even after factoring in a few days of sailing backward or sideways!

The fact that this epic passage offers no possibility of a pit stop, elevates it to 'major league' status in the realm of cruising. And that's why we dedicate so much effort and ink to it annually in this two-installment set of fleet profiles, followed by a recap of the crossing later in the summer.

We met many of these adventure-hungry sailors in February during our two annual Mexican 'kickoff parties'. The first was at Zihuatanejo, this year hosted by the Casa del Faro bar, and the second at Nuevo Vallarta, once again hosted by the Vallarta YC at the Paradise Village Resort. On the back end, we'll have a chance to hear everyone's passage-making tales at the annual Tahiti-Moorea Sailing Rendezvous, June 19-21, a free, fun-filled welcome-to-Tahiti event put on by Tahiti Tourism and several partners, including *Latitude 38*.

For the uninitiated, we should explain that the Pacific Puddle Jump 'rally', is

a rally in only the loosest sense of the word, as the dozens of boats heading west jump off all through March and April from a variety of ports in Mexico, and both Central and South America. Before and during the crossing, most 'meet' only via HF radio, as they share info and anecdotes. When they finally meet in the flesh in French Polynesian

anchorage, their shared accomplishment often yields instant camaraderie, and they greet each other as if they were old friends.

As reported in *Sightings*, the process of clearing in will be substantially less 'painful' this year, as fleet members were granted bond exemptions for the first time ever — effectively saving them both *francs* and frustration — thanks to the efforts of fellow sailor Michel Alcon, director of the Tahiti YC. We're sure that his kind gesture will put the YC 'on the map' with these thankful cruisers, just as 'rallying' the fleet together has led the Tahitian government to now see cruisers as an important element of their overall tourism market.

With that introduction, we'll introduce you now to the Pacific Puddle Jump 'Class of '09. (Look for a second installment in May.)

Bravado — Elliott 45 The Mante Family Silicon Valley

The fact that Ewout (aka Dad) and his wife Judith have both crossed oceans before makes them among the more experienced offshore sailors in this year's fleet. And Ewout holds the further distinction of being the only '09 Puddle Jumper who has raced around the world. He skippered the Baltic 55 *Equity & Law* in the '85-'86 Whitbread Round the World Race.

This time, though, the trip is all about fun with the family. The crew consists of daughter Jet, 11, sons Hein, 9, and Eltjo, 7, as well as Judith's brother Gary.



Aboard 'Bravado', crewmembers come in all sizes.

Ewout's advice to the pipedreamers: "Go. You will learn along the way. Ignore all the people who tell you that you are out of your mind!"



Kathleen and George hope to be good ambassadors as they cruise west on 'Kalalau'.

Kalalau — Lapworth 43 George Hill & Kathleen Whitney Port Townsend, WA

This classic Bill Lapworth sloop may



— PACIFIC PUDDLE JUMP 2009



When George and Sue arrive in Tahiti aboard 'Julia Max', they will be fulfilling a promise.

be the only woodie in this year's fleet. Like her skipper, she's well seasoned. Until retiring recently, George had a long and joyful career skippering sail training vessels in the Northwest — he's held a 500-ton Masters Licence for 28 years.

Kathleen has also done a great deal of sailing in Puget Sound, Alaska, the Sea of Cortez and along the West Coast. "This is an opportunity to pursue my love of travel," she says, "and hopefully do some good ambassadorship — we've

Fleet members were all smiles at our Paradise Village shindig in February. But who wouldn't be when they're about to sail to Tahiti?

already done some volunteering in Chamela, Zihua, and elsewhere. We look forward to sharing whatever we have in the islands." Their itinerary is wide open, with both New Zealand and Australia on their 'must see' list.

Julia Max — Passport 45

George & Sue Stonecliff, Portland, OR

Years ago, while on a dive trip to Tahiti with her daughter, Sue was blown away by the area's natural beauty. She vowed to return someday aboard her own boat. That personal promise will soon be fulfilled.

"We dive into new things in a big way," explains George. Formerly heavily into mountaineering, he and Sue got into sailing only 10 years ago, but in that time they've circumnavigated Vancouver Island, cruised Alaska, completed two Baja Ha-Ha's and two coastal 'bashes' north.

Their current plan is to island-hop to New Zealand, then eventually on to Australia.

Romany Star — Ohlson 38 **Paul & Erin Moore, Seattle, WA**

Having done a South Pacific cruise in '95, Paul can't wait to get back out there



Having survived the Oregon coast, Erin is eager to cross oceans with Paul on 'Romany Star'.

— especially since he's got Erin along this time. As evidence of how much he wants her to share his passion for cruising, he rebuilt this 38-footer's interior to accommodate Erin's piano.

As a kid she'd done some sailing — on a lake aboard a "styrofoam hull with a Budweiser sail" — but never offshore. Their trip down the Oregon coast was characteristically brutal. "Thank God I knew about Stugerol," says Erin, "that's what got me through."

It's important to set attainable goals in life, which is just what this couple has done. As they head west with the trades, their mantra is "Go slow." In fact, Paul says, "We'd like to make a slower circumnavigation than our good friends Paul and Susan Mitchell." They took 25 years to do it!

Lightheart — Fastnet 45 **Steve & Carolyn Bowie** **Seattle, WA**

"This wasn't my idea to begin with, but it's grown on me," explains Carolyn. Steve, however, has been itching to explore the world under sail for many years. Their initial venture into the cruising life was sailing the waters of the Pacific Northwest, including a circumnavigation of Vancouver Island.

"For many cruisers, seeing new countries and meeting new people is the best part of cruising," says Steve. "I like that too, but my favorite part is the passages!" Like many westbound cruisers, they'll reassess their options after reaching New Zealand.



WESTBOUND WANDERERS

Hipnautical — Morgan O/I 51 The Curley family, Ventura, CA

Among their motivations for heading west this season, Roger and Bobbie Jo list, "a strong desire to get in tune with nature, find our souls and set them free." Add to that a desire to spend quality time with their son Robin, 10, during his "golden young 'un years."



Caryl has got typically salty Kiwi blood — perfect for sailing with Bob on 'Sisiutl'

certainly got it in her blood. After meeting and marrying Bob last year in the land of the kiwi bird, they set off on a 'honeymoon cruise' to Hawaii. The fact that she's now still eager for more offshore adventures is a testament to her innate Kiwi mettle. "Her first exposure to the cruising life was leaving Wellington and facing 8 out of 11 days with gale-force winds," recalls Bob. "And there wasn't a lot of honeymoon sex going on!" adds Caryl with a wry smile.

You might call Bob the godfather of all puddle jumpers, as this will be his fourth crossing, and he's been a font of useful info for many first-timers (not to mention setting up the extremely useful 'pacificpuddlejump' group site at Yahoo.com.) Bob has logged over 50,000 miles since leaving Seattle in '02.

Thumbs Up — Catalina 42 The Orge family Alameda, CA

Ivan and Cheryl are no strangers to adventure. They sailed their first boat, a tiny West Wight Potter pocket cruiser, all the way from San Diego to Canada.

Compared to that trip, this year's

crossing to Polynesia should be a cakewalk. Daughter Devon, 24, and her college buddy Carlee — who's sailed aboard square riggers — will be along as crew. Plans are flexible, but since Ivan and Cheryl originally hail from England, a trip to the UK will probably be in the mix, possibly via Africa.

Follow You Follow Me — Hunter 466 Allan & Rina Alexopoulos Volcano, CA

"For us, the cruising dream started 20 years ago aboard a Moorings 50 in the BVI," explains Allan, "But it didn't really come into focus until we began discussing life after our two girls headed



Allan and Rina of 'Follow You Follow Me' will have to catch the Caribbean on the rebound.

off to college." Five years ago they bought this sloop and began outfitting her for open-ended voyaging. We don't know if they're clairvoyant, but they sold their home in '06 at the height of the market, giving them enough cash to finance their

Don't expect the 'Hipnautical' crew to return any time soon — if ever.

During the past four years, the couple "worked every available moment" preparing this 32-year-old boat for this open-ended cruise. Somewhere out there they expect to find a peaceful spot to plant new roots: "We are not returning 'back', for there is nothing to return back to."

Sisiutl — Gulfstar 44

Bob & Caryl Bechler, Portland, OR

Caryl is one of the few New Zealanders we've ever met who didn't learn to sail before she learned to walk, but she's

2009 PACIFIC PUDDLE JUMP FLEET

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

Boat Name	Owners & Crew	Boat Type	Homeport
All the Colours	The Murcott family	Beneteau 423	Freemantle, AUS
Amikuk	The Heimke family	Pac Seacraft 37	Homer, AK
Apple	Mike Lipscombe & Veronica Coassolo	Jeanneau 45	Venice CA
Auspice	Jim & Kim Coggan	Schumacher 40	San Francisco, CA
Australis	Larissa & Hobson Lane	Antigua 44	Pascagoula, MS
Babeeze	Rene Amyot & Eva Wetzstein	Hunter 45cc	Edmonton, CAN
Bagheera	Peter & Nikki Zabell	Jaguar 36 cat	London, UK
Beach House	Scott & Cindy Stolnitz	Switch 51 cat	Marina del Rey, CA
Bravado	The Manta family	Elliott 45	Southampton, UK
Brick House	Patrick & Rebecca Childress	Valiant 40	Middletown, RI
Camelot	Jackie & Neil Michell	Pan Oceanic 46	GBR
Carina	Leslie Linkkila & Philip DiNuovo	Mason 33	Kingston, WA
Carinthia	Dietmar & Suzanne Petutschnig	Lagoon 440 cat	Las Vegas, NV
Carpe Vita	Mike & Mary McCluskey	Shuttleworth 44 cat	Eugene, OR
Catherine S.	Thomas Plunkett & Russel Phay	N/A	USA
Cocee Too	Bronte Heinrich & Helmke Moller	Van de Stadt 50	London, UK
Daydream	Wayne Wilson & Susan Leader	Selestra 50	Ladysmith, BC
Emily Pearl	Billy Landers	Islander 36	Port Angeles, WA
Estrella	Adam & Kristina Yuret	Chung Hwa 36	Portland, OR

Eva	Michael & Gerald Traum	Nor'Sea 27	Cp Mendocino, CA
Flashback	Geoff Deutschmann & Julie Nolan	Choate 40	Marina del Rey
Follow You Follow Me	Allan & Rina Alexopoulos	Hunter 466	Volcano, CA
Gabrielle	Sarah Andrews	Ericson 39	Melbourne, AUS
Gallivant	Bruce & Marianne Burman	Tayana 42	Bellingham, WA
Gallivanter	The McGeorge family	Hylas 47	St. Thomas, USVI
Hello World	Axel & Brit	Sunbeam 53	Flensburg, DEU
Herodotus	Peter Hendra	40-ft sloop	NZL
Hipnautical	Roger, Bobbie Jo & Robin Curley	Morgan O/I 51	Ventura, CA
Incantation	David Ratner	SC 50	Vancouver, CAN
Journey	Jeff & Dori Beller	Passport 40	Ventura, CA
Jubilant	Denis Morgan & Jorgen Sorensen	Spencer 53	Seattle, WA
Jubilee	Joe Dubis	Corbin 39	Norfolk, VA
Julia Max	George & Sue Stoncliffe	Passport 45	Portland, OR
Kailani	David & Christy Dykkesen	Columbia 43	Portland, OR
Kalalau	George Hill & Kathleen Whitney	Lapworth 43	Port Townsend, WA
Kaumoana	Richard Tyree & Suzanne Stelmok	Hunter 49	Auckland, NZ
Kena	The Hunter family	N/A	NZL
La Palapa	Roger & Tobe Hayward	Morgan 440	Long Beach, CA
Lanikai	Mike & Leilani Costello	Saga 43	Kona, HI
Lauren Grace	Herman & Charlene Kelley	Knysna 44 cat	Port Penn, DE
Learnativity	Howard Hodgins	N/A	CAN
Leonidas	Tom & Ann Carr	Dreadnought 32	USA
Lightheart	Steve & Carolyn Bowie	LeComte 45	Seattle, WA

PACIFIC PUDDLE JUMP 2009



South Pacific voyaging is a family tradition for the 'Whisper' crew.

travels, pay off college and buy a smaller home in the Sierra foothills. Nice work!

When we caught up with them recently in Zihuatanejo, they'd recently made an about-face from their previous plan to head east from Panama to the Caribbean. Perhaps it was thoughts of the 1,200-mile beat to the Lesser Antilles that convinced them the more sensible option is to hang a right and head for Tahiti.

Whisper — Tartan 37 The Malone Family, Seattle, WA

There must be thousands of sailormen who'd love to find a gal like Mary.

Not only is she willing to rough it in a spartan boat with no refrigeration, but she's home-schooling her sons, Tim, 10 and Finn, 7, along the way.

Scott (Dad) puts things in perspective: "Our last big trip was nine months in a VW bus. When we upgraded to a Cal 227, Mary was thrilled: 'Oh my God,' she said, 'we've got built-in plumbing!'"

Since heading south six months ago, schooling the kids has been Scott and Mary's biggest challenge. But to Scott this all seems natural, since his parents first took him cruising when he was three — to Hawaii aboard a Piver 35 tri — and later to the South Pacific on an Atkins 32. This time they expect to be out for at least two years.

Daydream — Selestra 50 Wayne Wilson & Susan Leader Ladysmith, BC

Why go cruising? Simply stated, "We hate to work and love to travel," say Wayne and Susan. During the past four years, and a previous four-year stint aboard another boat, they've logged 26,000 miles together, exploring most of the Caribbean Basin, the west coast of North and Central America, and Hawaii.

In fact, you might say they're poster children for the joys of cruising: "In our opinion this is, without exception, the best way to live and travel the world, experiencing different cultures and



countries! Go! Go soon!" As you might imagine, plans for their open-ended west-bound cruise are extremely flexible.



Work? Who needs it? Wayne and Susan would much rather 'Daydream'.

Love Song	The Simis family	Mapleleaf 50.....	San Diego, CA	Shimmi	The Malherbe family	F/P 45 cat.....	GBR
Lucie	Annick & Michael Mueller	Hallberg Rassy 352.....	Koblentz, DEU	Sidetrack	Erik Dix.....	Morgan 384.....	Seaside, OR
Malachi	The Crandell family.....	Tayana 48.....	Vancouver, CAN	Sisiutl	Bob & Carylina Bechler	Gulfstar 44.....	Portland, OR
Mandolin	Lorianne Serocki & Chris Thompson	Panda 40.....	USA	Soggy Paws	Dave & Sherry McCampbell	CSY 44.....	Marathon, FL
Manu Reve	Glenn Tieman	custom 38' cat.....	Long Beach, CA	Solis	Kimm Michallik.....	Passport 40.....	Vancouver, CAN
Mariane	Gaby & James	Celestial 48	Wien, AUT	Someday Came	The Tillman family.....	Alden 54.....	Pawtuxet Cove, RI
Matsu	Duncan & Audre Hemingway	Tayana 48.....	Hobart, AUS	Tarahumara	Jim Sibthorpe, C. Bryden & G. Marsh.....	CNZ 45.....	Vancouver, CAN
Milonga	Elke & Torsten Debus	Horstmann 40 Tri	Lübeck, DEU	Tender Spirit	Joan & Chuck Martin	Hans Christian 33	Sitka, AK
Monkey Feet	The Primrose family.....	Slocum 43	Edmonton, CAN	Thin Wolf	Luke Tornatzky & Mike Ward.....	KP 44.....	Port Townsend, WA
Nakia	John Gratton & Linda Hill.....	Hans Christian 33	San Francisco, CA	Thumbs Up	Ivan, Cheryl & Devon Orgee	Catalina 42.....	Alameda, CA
Nataraja	Emmy Newbould & Eric Willbur.....	Flying Dutchman 37	Zephyr Cove, NV	Tulak	Stephen Brasa	N/A.....	USA
Nemesis	Jeff Taylor & Kirsty Baxter.....	C&C 41.....	Melbourne, AUS	Totem	Behan, Jamie, Niall, Maireen, Siobhan.....	Stevens 47	Eagle Harbor, WA
Nine of Cups	David & Marilyn Lynn.....	Liberty 458	Denver, CO	Victory Cat	Tim & Ruth Henning	Seawind 1160 cat.....	Anthem, AZ
Nomad	Brian & Megan Thom.....	West sail 42.....	Santa Cruz, CA	Warrior	Robin & Michelle Bendall.....	Chance.....	Launceston, AUS
Obsession	Les George & John Erhardt.....	Cal 39	Oceanside, CA	Wasabi	Brian Randolph & Isabelle Peloquin.....	Oyster 56.....	Long Beach, CA
Odyssey	Jeremy Law & Vanessa Astrop.....	N/A.....	South Africa	Whisper	The Malone family	Tartan 37	Seattle, WA
Out on the Blue	William & Helen Hooper	Oyster 485.....	London, GBR	Wind River	Paul Scott & Arthur Lamoureux.....	Contessa 32	Maple Leaf, CAN
Painted Skies	Lael & Katherine Easterling.....	Tartan 412	Horn Harbor, VA	Windsong	James Young	N/A.....	CAN
Paradise Bound	Joel Stern & Rixzene Ayers	N/A.....	USA	Wish	Jim Bruce	Gulfstar 47	Vallejo, CA
QuickStar	Peter Bruckmann & Diana Young.....	Beneteau 46.....	Vancouver, BC	Xanadu	Paul Cahill & Tamar Lowell.....	Cooper 37	San Francisco, CA
Q-Wave	Robbie & Chester	Magellan 36.....	USA	Yanti Parazi	S. Mazza, W. Robinsonill, & N. Eskel.....	Norseman 447	New York, NY
Rhumb Line	Joyce & Glen Mickowski.....	Rainier 46 cat.....	Coronado, CA	Yaraandoo II	Mike & Sue Powell.....	Adams 40	Sydney, AUS
Romany Star	Paul & Erin Moore.....	Ohlson 38 Sloop	Seattle, WA	Yohelah	Rob & Teresa Sicade.....	Baba 40	Seattle, WA
Sea Fire	Steve & Sue.....	Waterline 46.....	Tacoma, WA	Zen	The Burgess family	Atlantic 48 cat.....	Newport, RI
Sea Wolf	Adam & Jessica Stone	Warner 33.....	New Orleans, LA	Zephyra	Debbie & Russ Noorda.....	Morgan O/I 41	Lake Tahoe, CA

WESTBOUND WANDERERS

Auspice — Schumacher 40

Jim & Kim Coggan, San Francisco, CA

Both Kim and Jim have done all sorts of racing — offshore, inshore, you name it. But having crossed over to the cruising life only last year, they finally understand what all the buzz was about: "We wish we had raced a little less and gone cruising earlier in life!" Even in 'cruise mode', their Carl Schumacher-designed sloop will undoubtedly be one of the faster boats making this year's Jump.

"It's been a life-long dream to sail the South Pacific on our own boat," they say, and their timetable is open-ended. They'll island-hop to the west this season, then "do the equator hop and skip to avoid tropical cyclone seasons."

Love Song — Mapleleaf 50

The Simis Family, San Diego, CA

According to Kathy (aka Mom), sailing the world has been Allen's dream as long as she's known him. Their entry into the cruising life was a bit different from most: They've spent the past eight years living aboard in Mexico, although until very recently Allen has 'commuted' back



Mexico has been wonderful, but now the 'Love Song' is heading to new horizons.

to the U.S. to work as an airline pilot. Morgan, 4, was born in Puerto Vallarta and Wyatt, 2, was born in La Paz, so you might say they were born worldly — and they undoubtedly found their sea legs long ago.

As is appropriate to cruising, their game plan is intentionally loose. They intend to spend this season in French Polynesia and the Cooks, then head north to the Line Islands to avoid the hurricane season

Victory Cat — Seawind 1160

**Tim & Ruth Henning
Anthem, AZ**

Ruth, a former 'Navy wife', tells us that by the time their youngest daughter was 10, she'd spent time in 45 states, seven countries and two continents. But even with all that, she and Tim still love to travel. When she suggested that they get a sailboat and make plans to explore places reachable only by water for a change, Tim was initially reluctant. After all, he'd spent many years as a submarine officer. But today they're both equally excited about voyaging under sail.

Their boat's name is a dedication to the Victory motorcycle that was Ruth's late brother's greatest passion. His sudden passing inspired them to cast off

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Despite very different roots, Larissa and Hobson of 'Australis' now share similar goals.

the docklines sooner, rather than later. "Do not wait any longer than necessary," Ruth advises. "Life is too short."

**Australis — Antigua 44
Hobson & Larissa Lane
Pascagoula, MS**

"I've been dreaming of circumnavigating since my childhood in Mississippi," says Hobson, "and I've finally found

someone to share the adventure with." Larissa hails from Australia — hence the boat's name. In contrast to the tropical isles that most cruisers dream about, Tasmania is high on her 'must see' list.

The young couple originally talked about doing a complete circumnavigation, but as Hobson explains, "We've gotten beaten up a bit and had our pride taken away. So these days we have less ambitious goals."

**La Palapa — Morgan 440
Roger & Tobe Hayward
Redondo Beach, CA**

Having leased their house for a year and taken leaves of absence, Roger and Tobe are eager to see where the easterly trade winds take them. They've done three Baja Ha-Ha rallies and cruised Costa Rica, so they figured it was time for a change of scenery.

One of the coolest things about this boat is her 'personalized' spinnaker. If you see a big white chute out on the horizon with a cartoon character emblazoned on it sitting under a palm tree drinking



Tobe and Roger of 'La Palapa' have put work on hold to travel the world

a cocktail, that's *La Palapa*.

"There is no wrong way (to cruise)," says Roger. "Don't get caught up listening to everyone's advice, concerns and instructions!"

**Tarahumara — CNZ 45
Jim Sibthorpe & Charlene Bryden
Vancouver, BC**

"It's all great!" says Jim regarding the

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cruising life. He and Charlene have been out since 2007, but Jim claims he'd been dreaming about doing it for 35 years.

Plans are open, and a circumnavigation is a distinct possibility. Garth Marsh will be along as crew at least as far as French Polynesia.

***Eva* — Nor'Sea 27 Gerald & Michael Traum Cape Mendocino**

There is no shortage of families making the crossing this year. But *Eva* is the only boat we know of with a father-son team. *Eva's* other distinction is that she is the smallest boat in the fleet. No worries, though, when they get to Tahiti they'll see plenty of pocket cruisers that have sailed all the way from Europe!

There's little doubt that Gerald and his 30-year-old son Michael have a very strong bond, as they've already been cruising together for three years. Before heading south they did a major refit of this stout little cruiser in their driveway, including an epoxy relamination of the bottom. In their travels so far, the thing that's impressed them most is "how



Gerald (left) and his son Michael plan to do a complete lap aboard 'Eva'.

many great places there are to visit by boat, and how much better any destination seems when arriving on a sailboat, rather than by land."

Their game plan is to spend roughly four more years circumnavigating. "What better way is there to see the world than by small boat?" asks Gerald. Looking ahead, they're attracted to "the South Pacific for its water, Australia for its landscapes, and Europe for its history."

Their advice: "Be prepared, be self-

sufficient, but above all, be flexible."

***Xanadu* — Cooper 37 Paul Cahill & Tamar Lowell San Francisco, CA**

We don't know much about Paul and Tamar, as their answers to our questionnaire were extremely brief. We do know, however, that they've owned this boat for a decade, and have been preparing for this cruise for most of that time. Although this will be their first ocean crossing, they intend to do a full circumnavigation on an open-ended timetable.

During the year that they've been cruising thus far, they've been most impressed by the "cordiality of the Mexican people."

***Brick House* — Valiant 40 Patrick & Rebecca Childress Middletown, RI**

We assume Patrick and Rebecca named their boat for its heavy construction. Then again, perhaps they're big Commodore fans.



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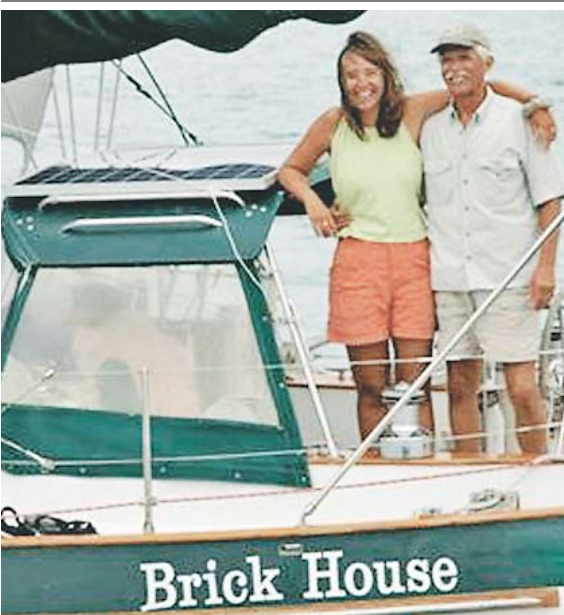
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This cruise is like a bussman's holiday for Rebecca and Patrick of 'Brick House'.

For Patrick, this is 'round two'. Thirty years ago he circumnavigated aboard a Catalina 27. *Brick House* may not be a whole lot faster, but she will certainly be more comfortable. Since then, he's made his living as a delivery skipper and off-

shore sailing instructor. In recent years, Rebecca has joined him in that line of work.

They are now a year and a half into what they assume will be a four-year circumnavigation. During their travels through the Caribbean and Central and South America they've been impressed by "how poor much of the world is compared to America. People living in public housing on welfare in the U.S. are rich compared to residents of other countries that we've visited. Although their lives are often 'rich' in other ways."

Beach House — Switch 51 cat Scott & Cindy Stolnitz Marina del Rey, CA

As professional wordsmiths, we love to hear that adventurous sailors were inspired by something they read long ago. That's the case with Scott, who counts Robin Lee Graham and Bernard Moitessier among his early inspirations. "I am a citizen of the most beautiful nation on earth," wrote Moitessier. "A nation whose laws are harsh yet simple,



Cindy and Scott of 'Beach House' can hardly wait to dive on Polynesian reefs.

a nation that never cheats, which is immense and without borders, where life is lived in the present. In this limitless nation, this nation of wind, light, and peace, there is no other ruler besides the sea." Great stuff! No wonder Scott and Cindy are planning to cruise onward for

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WESTBOUND WANDERERS

another 10 years.

Scott is a longtime ocean racer with five TransPacs under his belt, plus a two-year Pacific cruise back in the mid-'70s. These days, one of his and Cindy's passions is scuba diving and underwater photography. Since heading south last year, one of their most impressive memories is diving with huge manta rays at Isla San Benedicto, far from the mainland in Mexico's Revillagigedos Archipelago.

**Apple — Jeanneau 45
Mike Lipscombe
& Veronica Coassolo
Long Beach, CA**

We've often observed that cruisers come from all walks of life, and *Apple's* crew certainly illustrates our point. Mike is a successful filmmaker born in England, who spent his teenage years on the Caribbean island of St. Lucia — often blasting around in sailing dinghies. Veronica is an up-and-coming Hollywood recording artist born in Italy. As you might have guessed, it was Mike's



Mike and Veronica of 'Apple' are taking a break from the bright lights of Hollywood.

idea to unplug from the rat race and go cruising, but Veronica now shares his excitement about making landfalls at idyllic Marquesan isles.

"I thought I'd stop 'writing dreams' and start living them," explains Mike. He

and Veronica took off six months ago and are now headed west with an open-ended timetable.

We'll take a breather here, and pick up where we left off next month, focusing primarily on the portion of this year's fleet heading west from Panama and Ecuador.

Between now and then, the bulk of the fleet will be out on the 'big blue', inching their way to new landfalls and new adventures. We're keeping our fingers crossed that they'll all arrive safely without major damage to boats or bodies.

As veteran Jumpers will tell you, the passage always has its highs and lows, but making landfall beneath the craggy, volcanic peaks of the Marquesas is a snapshot that remains vividly etched in the memories of Puddle Jumpers forever. We can hardly wait to experience that ourselves. Someday. . .

— **latitude/andy**

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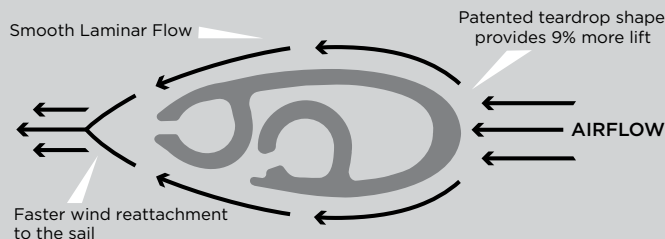
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