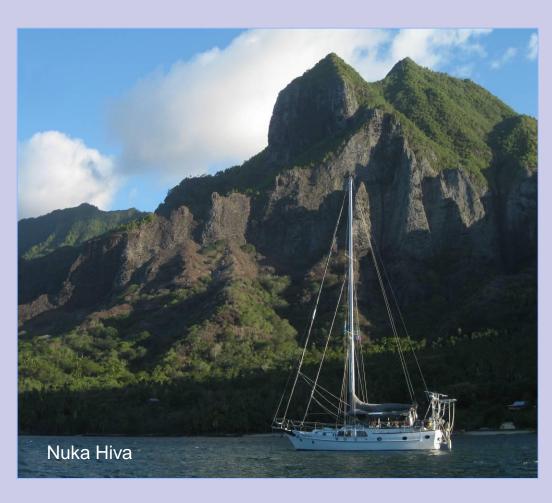
# Pacific Crossing Primer



- Dave & Sherry McCampbell
- Pacific Experience:
  - Panama, Costa Rica,
     Ecuador, Easter Isle,
     Pitcairn, Hawaii,
     French Polynesia,
     Cooks, Samoa, Tonga
  - 3 years cruising, 5 more to go, 8 while in US Navy
- This presentation and more details & pics at: SVSoggypaws.com

#### Overview



- WEATHER & TIMING
- ROUTES
  WEST
- EQUIPMENT ISSUES
- PICTURES

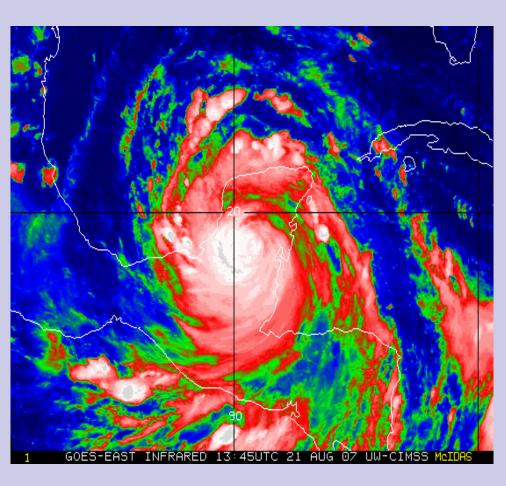
### The Numbers Story

Annual Pacific crossings
 Annual Opua NZ checkins

500-700+ 400-500

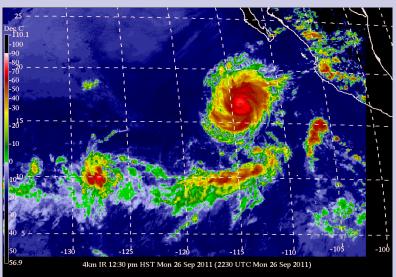
- Several lost/damaged each year due to:
  - -weak cruising skills
  - -equipment problems
  - -navigation errors
- 2010 60' cat flipped (SPCZ squall), 47' mono hull damage (mooring buoy), 36' mono lost (Marquesas, never found), 42' & 38' cat, 46' & 40' mono dismasted (rigging issues), 62' mono major fire (electrical inport)
- 2011 43' mono sunk (mooring buoy), 40' mono sunk (navigation error), 45' mono 49 days Panama to Tahiti (engine/steering), 50' mono lost rudder (broken post), 40' cat sunk (whale collision), 42' mono lost rudder (navigation error), 35' mono sunk (loose keel bolts)
- Almost all were preventable!

#### WEATHER and TIMING



- Major Weax Features
- Cyclones/Typhoons
- The ITCZ & SPCZ
- South Pacific Weax
- GRIBs
- Weather Info Sources

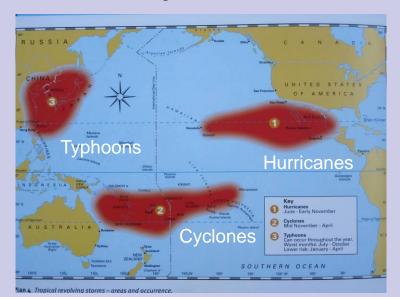
### Major Weather Features





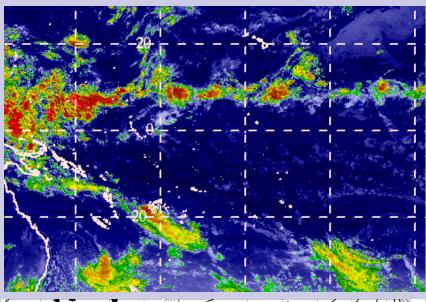
- Hurricanes, Typhoons,Cyclones
- Low Pressure areas w/ fronts
- High Pressure areas w/ reinforced trades
- Convergence Zones, including ITCZ & SPCZ
- Low Press troughs and High Press ridges

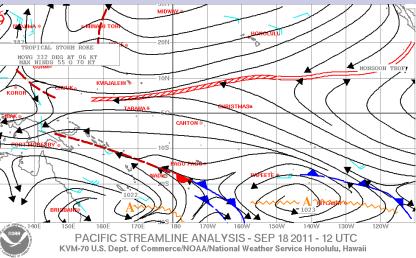
### Cyclones and Typhoons



- 1 Hurricanes Jun-Nov, Mexico to Hawaii
- 2 Cyclones Dec-May, Tuamotus to Australia, CW rotation
- 3 Typhoons Jun-Nov, possible any month, Fed States to China/Japan
- Safe zone within ~8-10 degrees of equator
- Cyclone Free Areas -Marquesas, Hawaii, NZ, Marshalls
- Relatively Safe Havens-Tahiti/Raitea, Fiji, Tonga

#### ITCZ and SPCZ



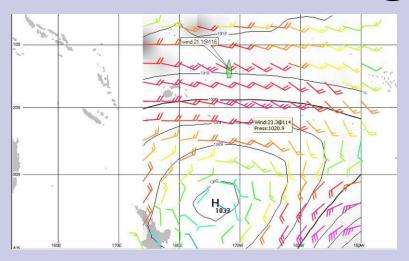


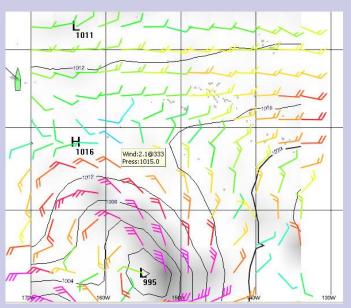
- Long areas of converging air masses, squally weax and locally strong winds
- Inter Tropical
   Convergence Zone just
   North of equator
- South PacificConvergence Zone -Solomons to FPoly
- They move around be careful passing through

#### South Pacific Weax Rules

- High and Low pressure areas move W to E, rotate reverse of those in N Hemisphere
- Reinforced trades 30/30/30 rule 10-25S
- Frontal passage winds BACK from E to SE, reverse of N Hemisphere, squalls
- Protect yourself from strong SE-E winds after frontal passage or reinforced trades
- Be extra careful around ITCZ and SPCZ, winds to 50 knots in strong squalls!

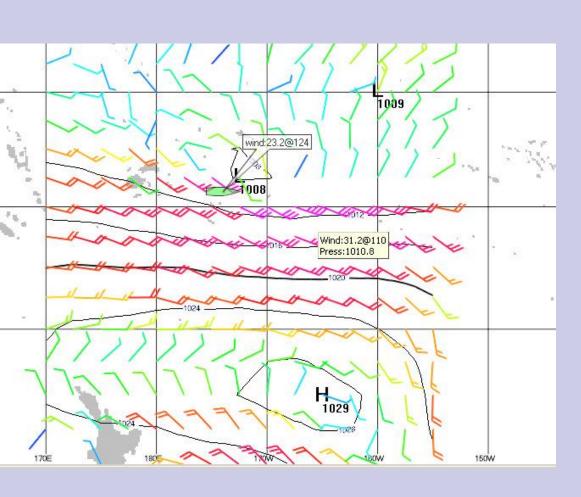
#### **GRIBs**





- Colored wind and isobar analysis and forecasts up to ten days out
- Highly accurate for trade winds 10-20 kts, suspect otherwise
- Squash zones around HP
- Fronts represented as weak variable winds, backing 90 degrees
- Computer based so can get rain and swell info

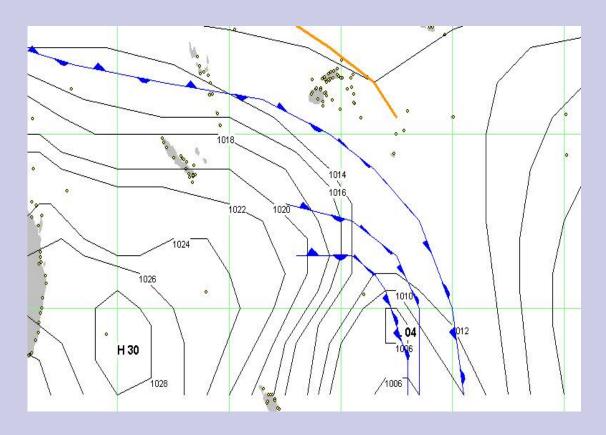
#### Reinforced Trades Grib



- 30-30-30 Rule when 1030+ mb
   HP area is to South, expect strong trades to North
- Wide area Grib showing reinforced trades above a 1029 HP area to South

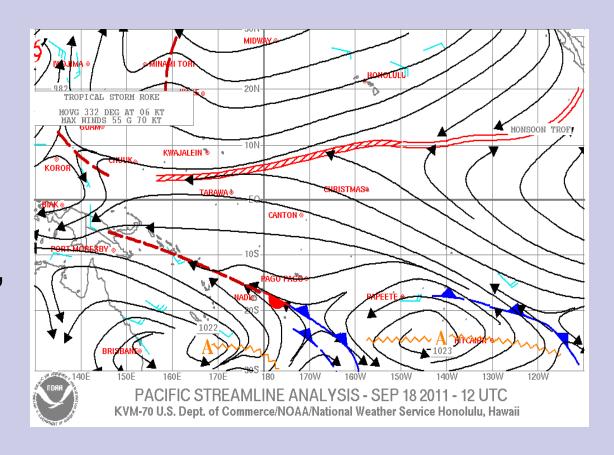
#### Nadi Fleet Code

- Localized front, isobar & convergence zone surface analysis, no forecasts
- Small download similar to Grib
- Uses (PhysPlot/ other) viewer on computer

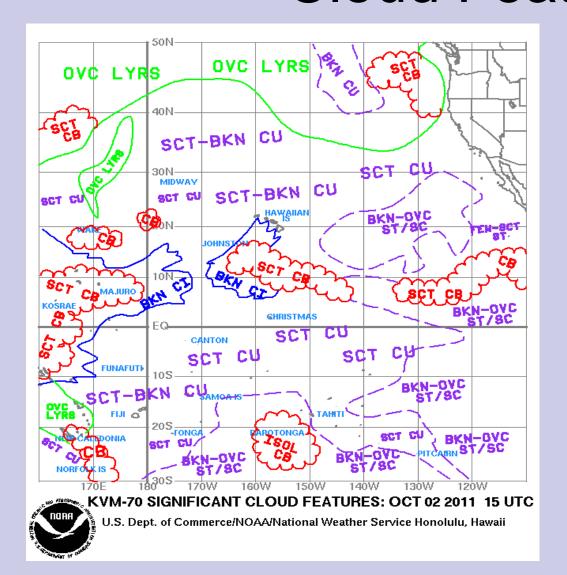


### Stream Analysis

- Large area current wind analysis
- Shows CZs, wind direction/ speed, TSorms, fronts, HP/LP areas
- From NOAA, Hawaii



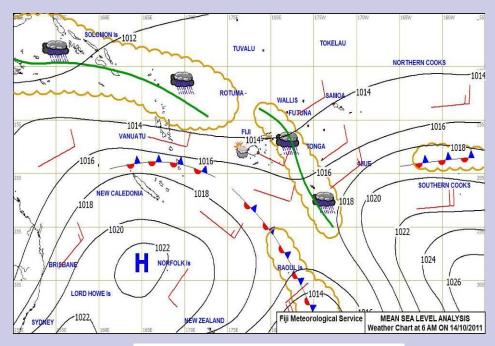
#### Cloud Features

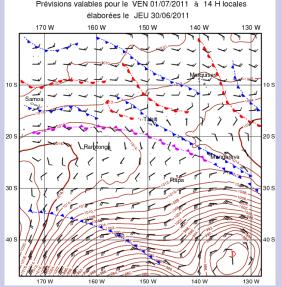


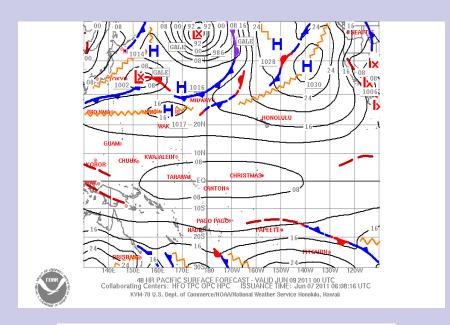
- Large area
   graphic analysis
   Fax of cloud
   location and type
- From NOAA, Hawaii

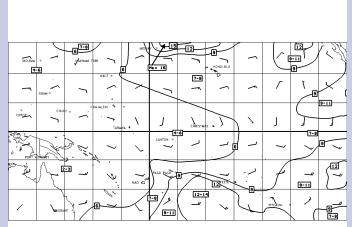
# Local Surface Analysis

- Localized graphic surface analysis of isobars, HP/LP areas, CZs, fronts, wind speed/ direction, etc
- From Fiji & FPoly Met centers









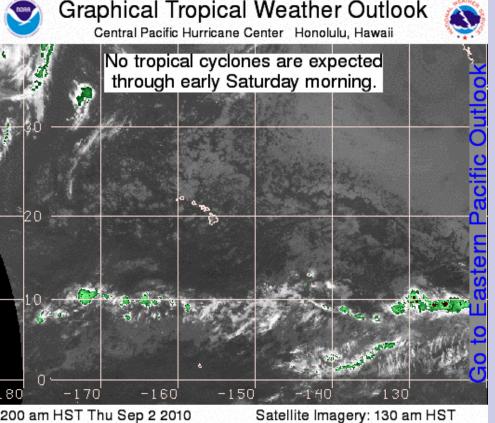
48 HR WIND/WAVE FORECAST - VALID OCT 13 2011 12 UTC

#### **NOAA** Products

- Surface Analysis/
  Forecast large area
  graphic surface
  analysis and forecast
  to 72 hrs
- Wind/Wave Analysis/ Forecast – large area graphic wind/wave analysis and forecast to 72 hrs
- Available as faxes from NOAA, Hawaii

# Tropical Weather Outlook

High >50%

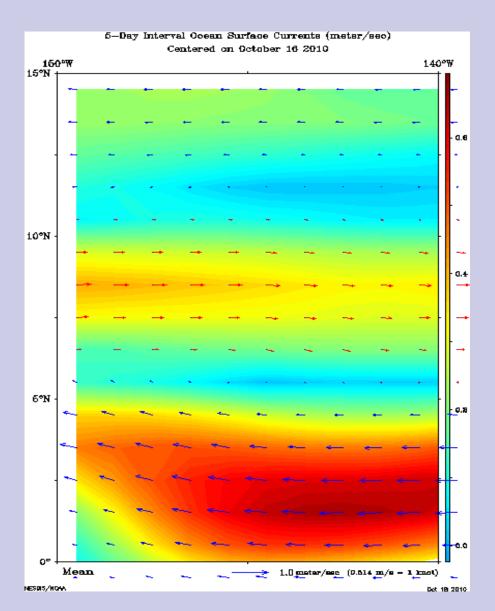


Low <30%

Outlined areas denote current position of systems discussed in the Tropical Weather Outlook. Color indicates probability of tropical cyclone formation within 48 hours.

Medium 30-50%

- Colorized satellite pic showing tropical cyclones, squalls & ITCZ N of equator
- Not available for S hemisphere
- Big download
- From Hurricane Center, NOAA, Hawaii



# Surface Current Analysis

- Color graphic shows surface current strength and direction
- 6 day average
- Big download, can crop to your area
- From Oscar satellite via NOAA

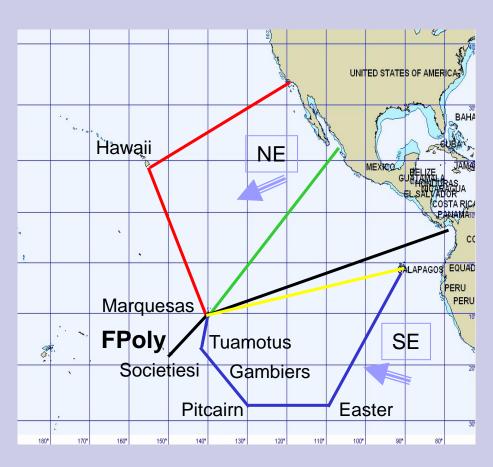
#### Weather Information Sources

- GFS Grib files Saildocs or Online
- Weather Faxes, Neph NOAA Hawaii, NZ Met
- Nadi Fiji Fleet Codes Fiji Met
- Bob McDavott's Weekly Weather Gram and book
- Text Forecast, Satellite Photo FPoly Met, NOAA Hawaii
- Weather Websites Internet
- More Details and Sources Sherry's Pacific Compendiums on our website

## ROUTES WEST

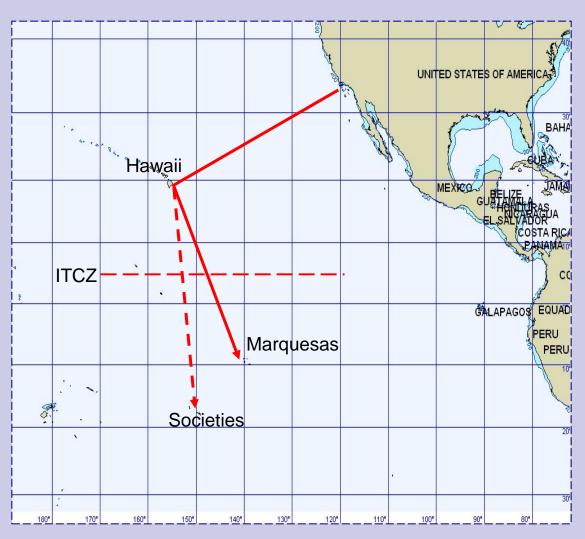


# Routes to French Polynesia



- Five popular routes to French Polynesia
- First entry usually Marquesas, southern route Gambiers
- Marquesas to Tahiti via Tuamotus = 750 nm
- Max US cruiser visa upon arrival = 3 mos
- Long stay visa = 6 mos, requires prior approval

#### US West Coast via Hawaii to FPoly



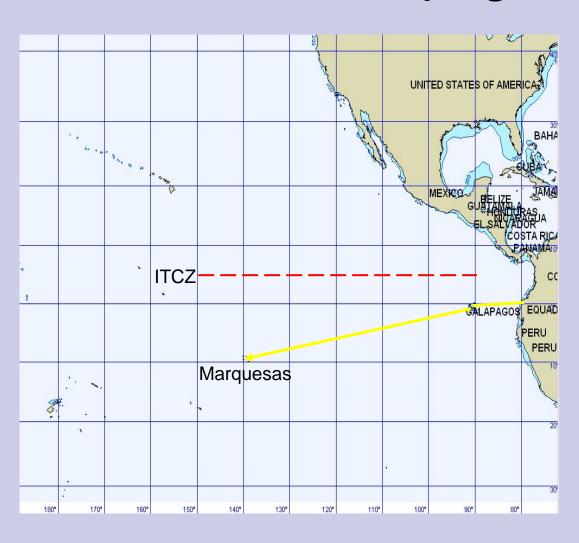
- Depart April
- Conditions-down wind, close hauled
- Cross ITCZ once at about 5 North
- 2200+2300 = 4500 nm

#### Mexico or Panama to Marquesas



- Depart April
- Conditions mostly downwind
- Cross ITCZ once
- 2700 or 3800 nm

#### Ecuador or Galapagos to Marquesas



- Depart March
- Conditions-mostly downwind
- Do not cross ITCZ
- 2900 or 3450 nm

# Galapagos to Marquesas via Easter, Pitcairn, Gambiers, Toots



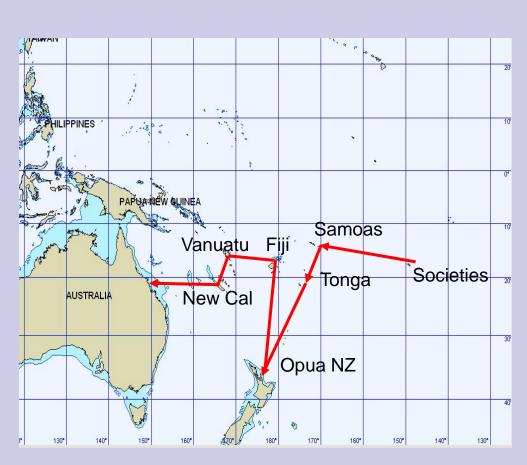
- Depart Jan
- Conditions-beam reach and down wind
- Do not cross ITCZ
- Option to skip
   Tuamotus and/or
   Marquesas, go
   Gambiers to Tahiti
- 2000+1100+300+ 750+550=4700 nm

### Option - Winter in Hawaii



- Avoids N&S cyclones, resets FPoly visa
- Depart Marquesas Oct, beam reach, 2000nm
- Return Toots/Societies April, mostly close hauled, 2300nm
- Cross ITCZ twice
- First year 6 mos visa,2nd year 3 mos visa
- Total 9 months in FPoly

# "Two Year Pacific Milk Run" FPoly to Aust via NewZealand, Fiji



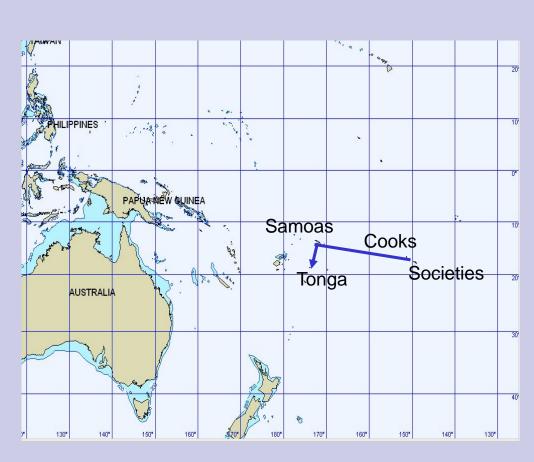
- Depart Societies July
- Conditions-mostly downwind/b reach
- Stops Samoas, Tonga,
   New Zealand, Fiji,
   Vanuatu, New Cal
- Problem- 4 mos to cruise
   Societies to NZ, 6 mos
   NZ to Australia
- 1250+550+1050+1200+ 600+400+800=5850 nm

# Direct Route FPoly to Australia



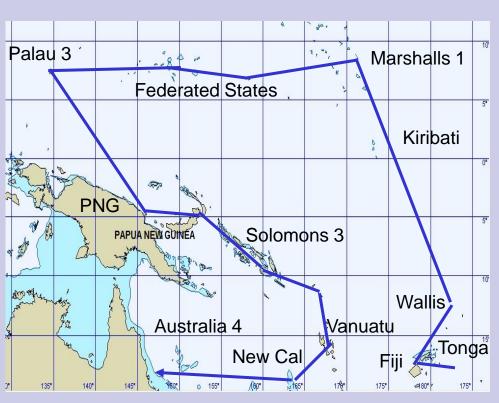
- Depart Societies July
- Conditions-mostly downwind, bm reach
- Stops-Samoas, Tonga, Fiji, New Cal, Vanuatu
- Problem only 4
   months cruising
   Societies to Australia
- 1250+550+600+600 +400+800=4200 nm

# Micronesia Option FPoly to Tonga



- Depart Societies Aug 2011, arrive Tonga Oct 2011
- Conditions-mostly downwind, bm reach
- 4 months longer stops in Cooks, Samoas
- S Cyclone season in Vavau, Tonga
- 1250+550=1800 nm

# Micronesia Option Tonga to Australia via Micronesia



- Depart Tonga Apr 2012, arrive Aust Nov 2016
- Conditions-mostly bm reach and down wind
- Little travelled route
- Spectacular diving, historic WWII sites
- Long stops in Palau,
   Marshalls, Solomons
- 1900+2100+1700+1850 = 7550 nm

# First Year Tonga to Marshalls via Wallis, Kiribati



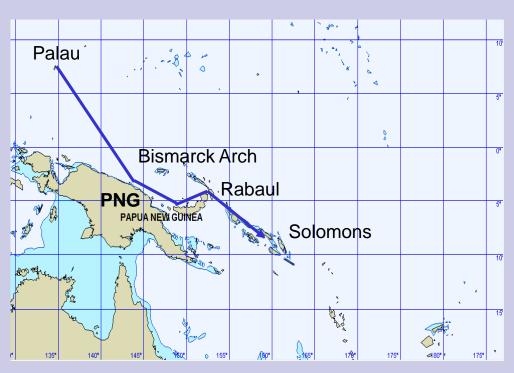
- Depart Tonga Apr 2012, arrive Marshalls Nov 2012
- Conditions-bm reach
- 6 mos in Fiji, two mos travel, 12 mos Marshalls
- Enroute visit Wallis,Ellice, Gilberts islands,Tarawa
- WWII sites & wreck diving
- 300+1100+500=1900 nm

# Second Year Marshalls to Palau via Fed States



- Depart Nov 2013, arrive May 2014
- Conditions down wind
- 6 months travel
- Visit Kosrae, Pohnpei, Truk, Yap
- 10 mos in Palau, spectacular diving, WWII sites, Truk WWII shipwrecks
- Minor typhoon riskavoid south
- 2100 nm

# Third Year Palau to Solomons via New Guinea



- Depart March 2015, arrive Oct 2015
- Conditions-downwind in NW Monsoon
- 7 months travel
- Visit PNG, Bismarcks, New Britain & Ireland, Rabaul WWII sites
- 7 mos in Solomons, WWII wreck diving
- 1700 nm

# Fourth Year Solomons to Aust via Vanuatu and New Cal



- Depart May 2016, arrive Nov 2016
- Conditions-upwind to
   Vanuatu then down wind
- 6 months travel
- Visit Santa Cruz Isl,
   Vanuatu, New Caledonia
- 250+200+200+800 = 1450 nm
- Visit NZ by air in 2017

#### **SPaws Pacific Travel Summary**

12 Sep 2008-31 Oct 2011

■ Miles Traveled 15,400

Engine Hours
1030

■ Sailing Hours 2014

■ Nights 1157

□ On Passage 109

☐ At Anchor/Mooring 327/330

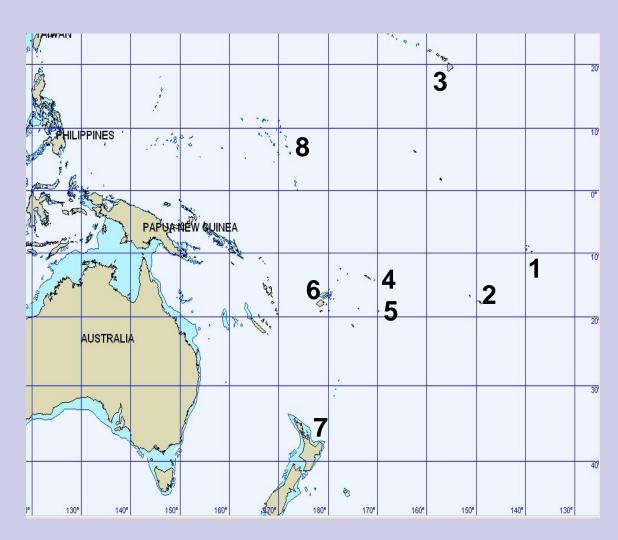
□ In a Marina 391

Included

- 13 mos in Ecuador and Hawaii
- 135 days in Florida
- 142 days Inland Travel in Central & South America

# **Provisioning Stops**

- 1 Marquesas- 3\*
- 2 Societies- 4\*
- 3 Hawaii- 5\*
- 4 Am Samoa- 4\*
- 5 Tonga- 3\*
- 6 Fiji- 4\*
- 7 N Zealand 5\*
- 8 Marshalls- 3\*



# Highlights





#### Destinations

Mopelia, Easter, Rose and Pitcairn Islands

#### Scuba Diving

Swarrow/Suvarov, Anse Amyot Toau, South Fakarava

#### Hiking

□ Nuka Hiva, Raitea/Tahaa,Bora Bora, Am Samoa

#### Cruisers' Guides

- French Polynesia-
  - □ Charlie's Charts of French Polynesia 2005, Wood
  - ☐ Cruising Guide Tahiti and French Societies-1984, Davoc
  - ☐ Guide to Navigation and Tourism in French Polynesia-2001, Bonnette
  - Cruiser's Compendiums for the Marquesas, Tuamotus, Societies-2011, Soggy Paws
- Hawaii-
  - ☐ Charlie's Charts of Hawaii-200?, Wood
- Cook Islands and Samoas-
  - □ Cruiser's Compendium Cooks and Samoas-2011, Soggy Paws
- Tonga-
  - □ Sailingbird's Guide to the Kingdom of Tonga 2004, Paul
  - □ Ken's Comprehensive Cruising Guide to Tonga 2002, Hellewell
- Others-
  - Lonely Planet and Moon Guides
  - □ The Pacific Crossing Guide-2003, Hogbin RCC
  - □ South Pacific Anchorages-2001, Clay
  - ☐ Landfalls of Paradise-1999, Hinz

## 15 EQUIPMENT ISSUES



## 1 Anchoring



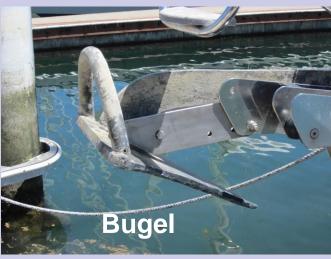


- Small/inefficient anchors dragging, bent, broken
- You need a SINGLE BIG PRIMARY - must hold boat in 60 knot winds
- Boat weight klbs + length ft = min anchor weight lbs
- Yes Modern large plows, Rocna, Delta, Manson, Bugel, Spade
- Maybe Bruce, CQR
- No any SS or knockoffs, Flukes, Hershoff

## 3 Modern Plow Anchors









#### 3 Ground Tackle

- Inadequate tackle for deep anchoring in coral
- Need 200-300' G4 chain
- Heavy nylon bridle snubber w/ U plate chain grabber, not chain hook
- Strong ELECT. windlass
- No weak links, bent anchors, corroded parts
- Mouse shackles w/ wire
- Great chafe protection



# 3 Mooring to a Buoy

- Chafed/broken mooring lines
- Do NOT take one line from one side of boat thru buoy loop to other side
- Use one line from each side of boat and then back to same side
- Or one line/chain over bow roller & back
- Or fixed seized eye bridle





# 3 Anchoring Reading

- Recent articles:
- http://www.petersmith.net.nz/boatanchors/tandem-anchoring.php
- http://www.petersmith.net.nz/boat-anchors/
- http://www.followtheboat.com/2009/05/06/raving-about-our-rocna/
- http://svsoggypaws.com/files/Yachting\_Monthly 2006\_Anchor\_Test.pdf Why are Next Gen Anchors Better?
- Nigel Calder's Cruising Handbook

## 2 Dinghy and Outboards





- Motor failures, theft, small/wet hard dinghies
- 9.5-10.5' RIB ideal for dry ride, comfort, diving, long trips
- 15 HP for speed, 3-5 HP short/harbor trips, backup
- Take repair manuals, extensive spares, tools
- Prevent dinghy theft:
  - ☐ High lift dinghy davits
  - Don't hip dinghy or leave in water at night
  - □ SS Abus lock w/ tube clamp cover

#### 3 Batteries





- Old house batteries failing
- Don't start w/ batts >4 years
- Engine room heat a batt killer
- Auto trickle charge start battery w/ diode & TCB
- LA last longer than AGM/Gel
- Water Miser caps save H2O
- MUST recharge house bank frequently to 100%
- MUST equalize LA batts, Solar/Outback great option

# 4 Energy





- Large daily amp hour deficit
- At anchor 90%, U/W 10%
- DO NOT rely on daily charging batts with diesel main engine
- Wind/Diesel/Gen expensive, noisy, won't charge to 100 pct, maintenance issues
- Solar- silent, no maint, 100 pct daily charge, less expensive
  - Strong mounts, best on arch
  - ☐ MPPT regulator-+25%
  - ☐ Tilt fore and aft-+25%
  - Shading a killer
- Good combo 5-600w solar,
   Honda 2K gen for emergency

#### 5 Fresh Water





- FW issues- inadequate tankage, contamination
- Need ~150 gals tankage and good rain collector
- Use lots of FW filters and SeaGull IV for drinking
- Water Makers:
  - Must have reliable unit that YOU can repair
  - □ Avg 7 gpd = 50 gpw, run 1X per week, buy big capacity unit
  - See SVSoggypaws.comWorkshop/Plumbing for DIY 40GPH \$2.5K unit

#### 6 HF Radio





- Poor transmission/reception
- Careful quality installation, not \$2K radio, make top performance
- Installation Tips-
  - □ Auto tuner wired to antenna w/ <10' tinned GTO-15 w/ 4" spacing</li>
  - Insulated backstay or vertical long wire antenna, not whip
  - ☐ Salt water ground plane w/ 3" cu foil
  - Read Stan Honey on Grounding,
     Sailmail Primer at Sailmail.com
- Reception interference issues-
  - □ Refrig, F/L lites, fans, alt energy, alternator, pumps, computers, etc

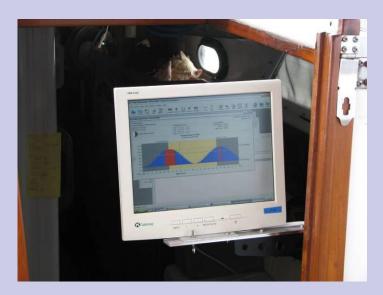
# Raytheon Raytheon



#### 7 VHF Radio

- Weak signal, no cockpit unit, no scan capability
- Need two units, one at binnacle, one at nav station
- Must be able to scan and leave VHF on at night
- Do not use 5 watt hand held for cockpit unit
- Carry aboard power out/SWR test meter
- Gam vs Metz antennas

## 8 Navigation





- Groundings due to poor nav skills, eqpt and location
- Visual is primary nav tool
- Consider computer nav system rather than chart plotter due to multitasking advantage
- Many software options
- Buy multiple computers, map GPS units, guide books, few small scale charts, good sunglasses
- Fishfinder DS for reading bottom topography

# 9 Standing Rigging



- Several lost masts, multiple rigging failures
- Don't leave with old rigging
- SS over 15 years is suspect, replace before leaving if 20+
- Use Loos tension gage to tune rig YOURSELF
- Use 1x19 wire, not rod
- Inspect carefully/often
- Worst problem areas -
  - Internal chain plates, swaged end fittings, tangs, toggles

#### 10 Sails





- Torn sails due to age, sun and chafe damage
- Don't leave w/ old sails
- UV is a sail killer stow jibs and lines if in port >1 month
- New sails-research cloth type/quality, chafe protection, batten options
- Repair kit-sewing machine,5200 Fast Cure, sail cloth
- Code 0 on furler vs Drifter w/ sock - squalls, upwind

# 11 Staysail

- \$60K rig loss caused by unrigged staysail stay
- Leave stay always rigged for mast support
- Great sail for heavy wx and up and down wind sailing
- Strong furler much easier than hank on for daily use
- Build sail extra strong so can use as storm jib
- Consider heavy staysail and extra deep reef vs storm sails





# 12 Steering





- Multiple self steering and rudder failures
- Autopilot compass course, can be big amps user, steers in no wind, higher failure rate
- Wind vane relative wind course, no amps, steers in high wind, sail balance critical
- Need minimum 2 bullet proof units, 1 each and spares
- Before leaving inspect steering system carefully, take spares
- Monitor vane & CPT autopilot good combo- both user repairable

# 13 Refrigeration

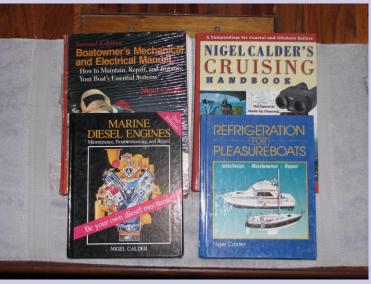




- Multiple refrig failures due to age and leaks
- Better insulation requires less amps, goals R20 refrig, R30 freezer
- Newer 12 v Danfoss/Evap plate systems better than old cold plate system
- Best-Frigiboat w/ keel cooler and digital temp and speed controls
- Calder M&E Manual (3<sup>rd</sup> ed), great on refrig system
- Lightning issue
- Carry own elec spares, 134a, fill eqpt, guages

## 14 Mechanical/Electrical Systems





- Must know how to maintain & repair your systems
- Mechanics often unreliable, expensive, unavailable
- Read eqpt manuals, Calder M&E Man.(3<sup>rd</sup> ed) great, take classes
- Onbd tools/spares/repair skills critical
- Preventative maintenance, preservation, cleanliness important

# 15 Fuel and Engine Issues





- Dirty diesel fuel from questionable sources
- Use good filter at deck fill
- Dual Racors with vacuum gage, engine final filter
- Need multiple tanks w/ transfer/polishing system
- Additives for water, algae and lubricity problems
- Can make own filtration/ transfer systems

#### **Ideal Boat**



- Cutter 40-46',< 6'</p>
- Multihull 40-44'?
- Fuel/Water-150+ gals each
- Big cockpit w/ sun& rain protection
- Great ventilation
- Roller furling headsails
- Big refrig, freezer and watermaker

# Cruisers' Able to Repair List

(Need skills, parts, tools)

- Eqpt replacement
- Alternator/starter
- Refrigeration
- Plumbing/sanitation
- Diesel engine
- Electronics tshooting
- Standing rigging
- Rig tune
- Sails

- Electrical system
- Running rigging
- All yard work
- Outboard motors
- Fiberglass hull/deck
- Steering systems
- Alternate energy eqpt
- Windlass/winches

## Cruisers' Can't Repair List

(still need parts, spares, removal tools)

- Diesel head, injection pump & injectors
- Engine transmission
- HF radio/tuner internals
- Modern electronic internal components
- Motor/alternator windings
- Solar panel internals
- Battery internals

#### Cruisers' Bad Habits

- Poor anchoring technique
- Turning VHF off
- No anchor light at night
- Dinghy unsecured at night
- Sails/lines baking in sun
- Improper flag etiquette
- Leaving boat unlocked
- Cluttered fore decks
- Improper radio etiquette



#### Third World Mechanics

- Poor work habits, not careful, make mistakes
- Don't show up or finish on time
- Don't read repair manuals, jury rig repairs
- Often have little training/experience on your eqpt
- Their poor tools ruin fasteners, gaskets, etc
- Don't keep clean work area
- Often charge too much for their skill level
- Never leave mechanic to work alone
- Don't expect what you can't inspect

## **CRUISING TRUTHS**



## Cleanliness

 Cleanliness is next to Godliness especially in the engine room.



## Fore Deck

Fore and side decks are a good place to stow NOTHING.



# Spares/Tools

 You can never have enough spare parts or tools regardless of what your mate says.





## Corrosion

A rusty engine is a sure sign of a lazy chief engineer.

## Wakes

He who keeps a clean bottom will have a smooth wake.



## Repairs



If you believe that 'If it ain't broke don't fix it' you will be doomed to a life of eternal repair.

# Murphy

Murphy has lots of experience on cruising boats.





# Rigging

- Rig heavy, reef early and carry a BIG anchor
- Boca Chica
  Marina after
  Wilma, 2005,
  70 knots wind,
  6' tide
- 20 big boats sunk!!

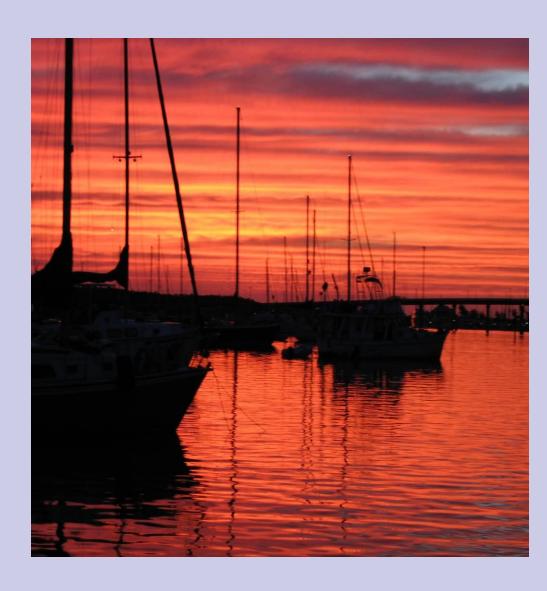
## Fair Winds

Fair winds and smooth seas only come to those who have done their weather homework.



#### Sunsets

Those who say that cruising is all gorgeous sunsets and Mai-Tais have had too many Beers.



# Cheap Gear

- Cruisers can't afford cheap gear.
  - -Tom Service



# Cruising

Cruising involves
 multiple visits to
 every marine
 store in town and
 then working on
 your boat in exotic
 places.



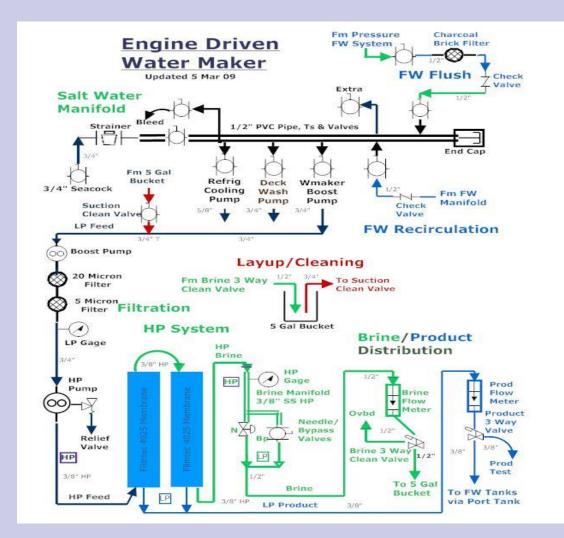
### Repairs

 Cruisers who can't fix their own equipment should own cars not boats.



## New Equipment

If you can't install it, fix it or replace it, don't buy it.



#### Manuals

Those cruisers who read service manuals instead of novels will have more time to enjoy their Mai-Tais.



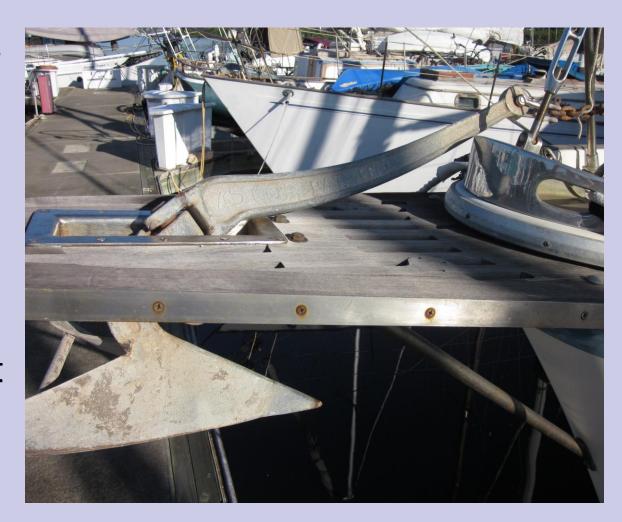
### PPP Theory

A carefree cruise is the product of 'Proper Prior Planning' while a difficult cruise is the product of 'Piss Poor Planning'.



#### **Anchors**

- He who believes in saving money by having a 'moderately sized' anchor is doomed to a life of dragging.
- Speak softly, but carry a BIG anchor.



## Varnishing

 Polishing and varnishing hardly ever make it to the top of a blue water cruiser's To Do list.



### Heavy Weather

- Rig heavy, Reef early, and Pray often.
  - -Tom Service



### Pacific Pictures































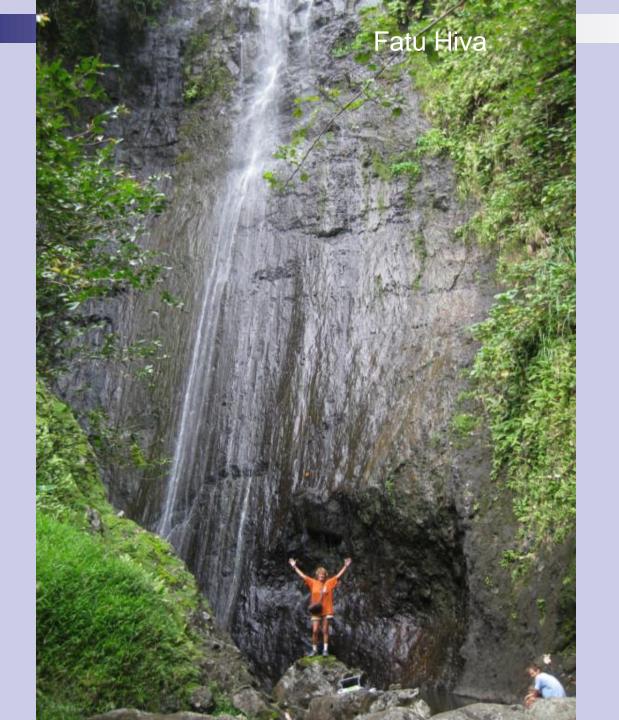




















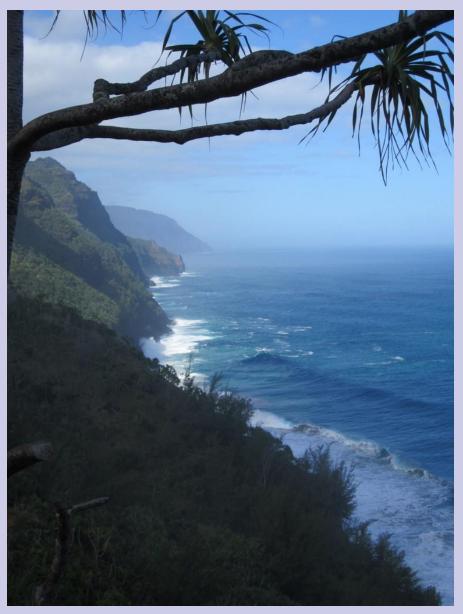
































## More here...

http://svsoggypaws.com

http://svsoggypaws.blogspot.com



ssca.org