

# Cruising Rally Pro's and Con's



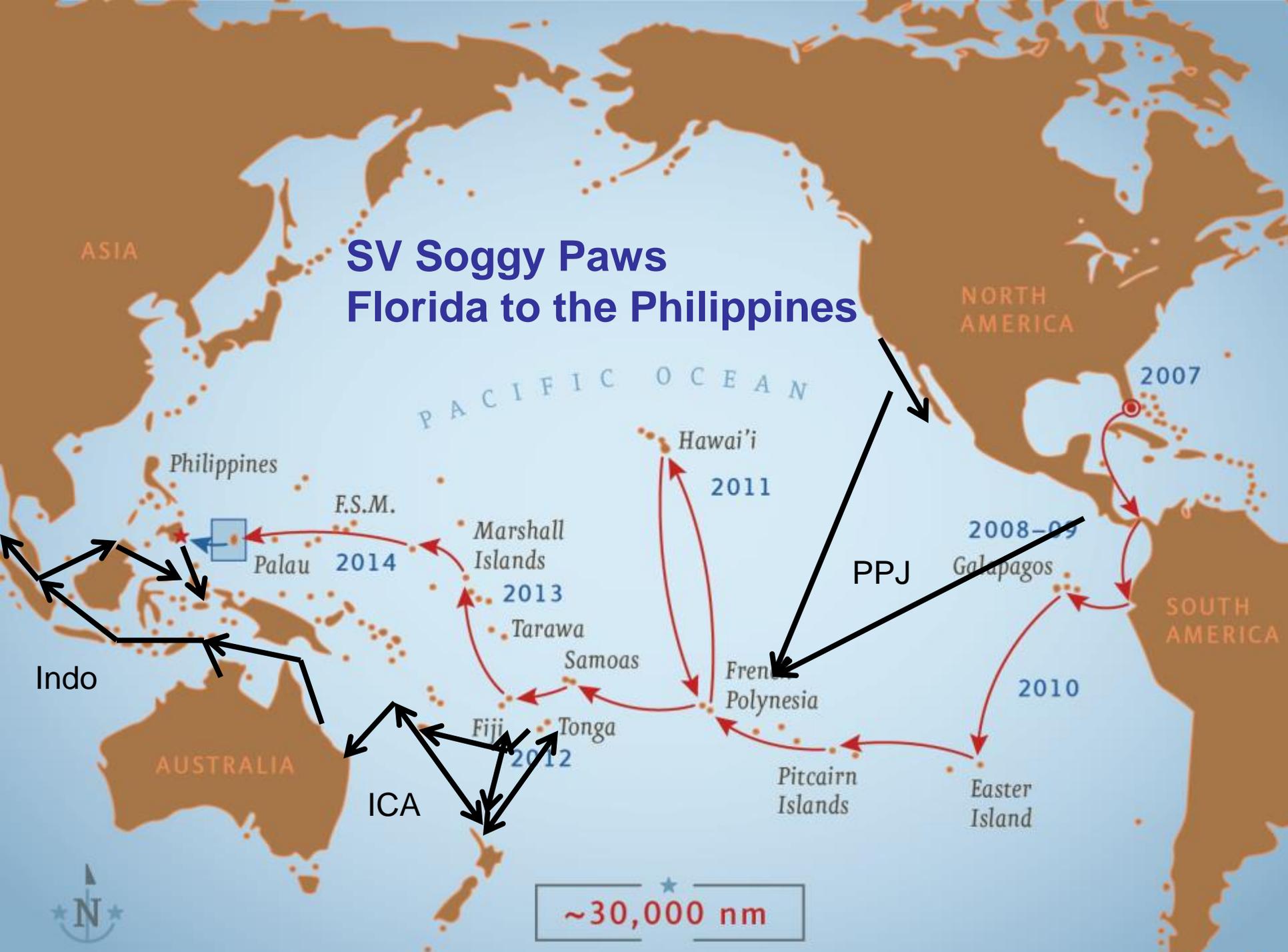
***Dave & Sherry McCampbell***  
*s/v Soggy Paws*

***Greg & Tracy Leonard***  
*s/v Solan*



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# SV Soggy Paws Florida to the Philippines



# Cruising Rallies – Pacific & SE Asia

- Baja Haha (San Diego to the Baja, Mexico)
- Pacific Puddle Jump (Americas to French Poly)
- ICA Rally to NZ (Tonga to NZ)
- ICA Sail2Indonesia (Cairns, Australia to Indo)
- Sail to Indonesia (Darwin to Indonesia)
- Sail2RajaAmpat  
(Philippines, Borneo to RA)
- ICA Pacific Circuit (NZ to Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu, NZ)
- Sail Malaysia Rally (Singapore to Langkawi)
- Malaysia Rally to the East (Malaysia across Borneo to Indonesia)

# Rally Fun



# Benefits of Pac/SE Asia Rallies

- Briefings for new cruisers / new cruising area
- Paperwork assistance on the front end
  - Reduced bond/agent help in French Polynesia
  - Help with visas and cruising permits in Indonesia/Malaysia
- Security
  - Military escorts in sketchy area N Borneo
- Radio Nets & help when underway  
and...

# More Benefits of Pac/SE Asia Rallies

- Arrival help (customs/immigration, fuel, water)
- Free tours & cultural experiences
- English-speaking officials & guides
- Free fuel in Indonesia

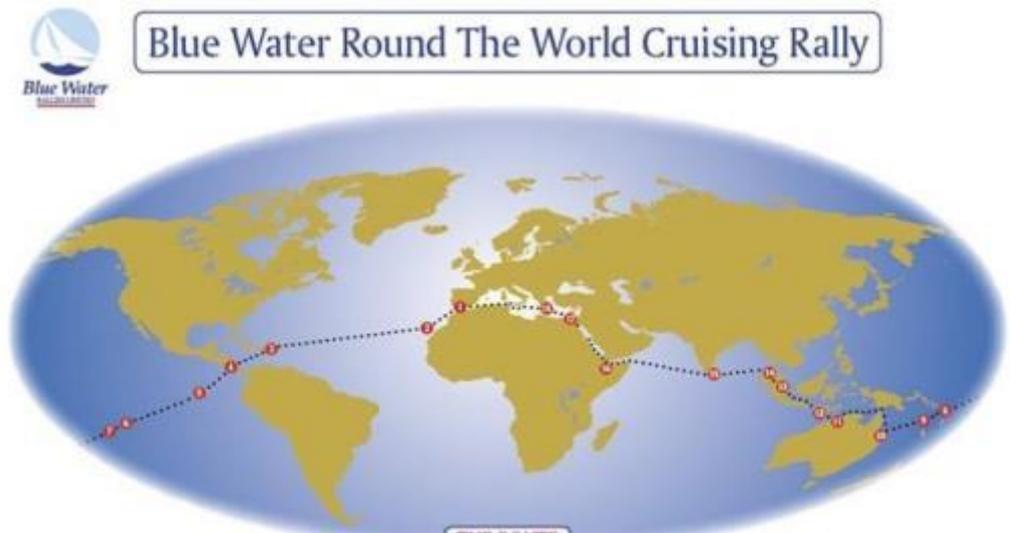


# Some Downsides of Rallies

- A lot of boats going the same way at the same time
  - Sometimes crowded anchorage
  - Sometimes struggling for limited resources
  - Sometimes Cliquey behavior
- Dangers of the “Pack Mentality”
- Sometimes on a schedule
  - A lot depends on who organizes the rally

# The Round the World Rally

- Large cost (~\$30K)
- Huge hand-holding at destination spots
- Lots of sea miles, not much “cruising”
- See the world in 24 months



# Cruising Rally Pro's and Con's

## Western Atlantic View



*Greg & Tracy Leonard*  
*s/v Solan*



# Cruising Rallies – Western Atlantic

- Transatlantic: WCC ARC and Cornell Sailing Atlantic and Caribbean Odyssey
- Seasonal to and from Caribbean:
  - Salty Dawg: Fall (Southbound) and Spring Rallies
  - World Cruising Club Carib 1500 and USA Rallies
  - NARC Fall Rally to Bermuda
- Cuba Rallies:
  - Salty Dawg, American Sailing Association, Cruising World
  - Other organizations.
- Other:
  - NARC Rally to the Cup – 2017
  - World Cruising Club – DelMarVa Rally
  - Salty Dawg Rally to Maine

# Benefits of Atlantic Rallies

- Weather and Routing Support (e.g. Chris Parker with SaltyDawgs)
- Organized tracking and radio nets
- Pre-Departure social and educational events
- Technical support from experienced sailors
- Discounts on purchases and dockage from sponsors
- Logistical support – where to start and where to go
- Network of like-minded sailors
  - Network of kid boats

# Potential Pitfalls of Rallies

- Group-think on departures and destinations
- Cost (can vary significantly)
- May be easy to stay amongst sailors with similar backgrounds and experiences – Do you limit your cultural experience?
- Artificially inflated sense of safety in numbers
- Sometimes:
  - rigid schedules
  - Submission to someone else's idea of proper safety gear

# Other Options – DIY

- Safety Standards and Checklists:
  - US Sailing Safety Equipment Requirements
    - <http://www.ussailing.org/safety/equipment-and-requirements/>
- Weather Resources, Forecasts and Routing:
  - NOAA, Chris Parker, WRI, Jenifer Clark
- Radio Nets:
  - [http://www.docksideradio.com/east\\_coast.htm](http://www.docksideradio.com/east_coast.htm)
- Tracking:
  - IridiumGo, Spot, InReach, Yellowbrick
- Educational Resources:
  - SSCA, OCC, Seminars around boat shows
- Mentors and experience are out here

# Further Reading

- 2014 Yachting World Article

“Comprehensive guide to bluewater sailing rallies around the world”

# Questions?