



# Latitude 38

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WE GO WHERE THE WIND BLOWS

**Racing to Vallejo  
Tire Bouchon Berkeley to France  
Profiles of Pacific Cup Sailors  
28 Days Before the Mast  
Max Ebb: Artificial Ideas**

# CHANGES



*The yellowfin tuna hauled aboard 'Current Toy' outweighed Sarayha!*

the Tuamotus were calling our name. Being the early birds, we had the luxury of quiet anchorages, where we dove with sharks, manta rays, turtles and some of the most vibrant coral we've ever seen.

"Our time in French Polynesia has been short but so very sweet. We are wrapping up our three-month stay, ending in Bora Bora. From there, we'll be setting sail once again across the Pacific, back to our home base on Vancouver Island."

- Another boat returning to the PNW is Sonya and Jack Patton's Passport 42

**Gemini.** After living aboard in San Francisco Bay for seven years, they sailed under the Golden Gate as full-time cruisers in April 2022. Their first destination was Canada, where they circumnavigated Vancouver Island, culminating that loop by getting married in the San Juan Islands. In the fall, they headed south to the Sea of Cortez, crossing the border in early November '22. The Sea brought many

adventures and challenges, the toughest one being cruising the area in the heat of the summer. "Of course, locals and seasoned Mexico cruisers said it was an extreme summer with increased *chubascos* and hurricanes to run from, not to mention the bees and blistering heat," says Sonya.

During their time in Mexico, they hauled out in San Carlos and converted *Gemini* to fully electric propulsion. Jack had spent 11 months researching and planning this project, creating detailed spreadsheets with every part needed for the install, in hopes of not missing a vital component that would be difficult to



*Jack and Sonya had an electrifying experience in San Carlos.*

source in Mexico. Luckily, the countless hours of planning paid off, and the re-power went smoothly.

After spending nine months putting the new system through its paces with multiple crossings of the Sea, it was time to leave Baja behind and head overseas. They departed Mexico in March, arriving in Nuku Hiva 23 days later.

The couple have been loving their time in the Marquesas, but will be heading home to Washington (with a stop in Hawaii) in September — partially due to their recent purchase of Powerflow Marine, the company that designed the electric system in *Gemini*. "The electric conversion went so well we couldn't pass up the opportunity to help others go electric," says Sonya. Look for more on this conversion in a future issue of *Latitude*.

- Jim and Pam Yares, along with Jim's brother, John Yares, and Mike and Joan Whalen, completed their Pacific Puddle



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Jump on April 12. The 3,000+ mile trip aboard the San Francisco-based Catana 472 cat **Roam** took just 20 minutes shy of 17 full days. To put that in perspective, Jim notes, "That's like driving from L.A. to Maine at the speed of a riding lawnmower."

As spectacular as any land-fall is after a long ocean passage, their experience a few days earlier was only slightly less momentous: On April 9, they crossed the equator and witnessed the total eclipse!

Back when they were planning the trip, brother John pointed out that it was conceivable they might be able to view the eclipse en route. "He promptly ordered eclipse glasses for us, and they'd been sitting at the nav station since last summer," says Jim. "None of us thought much about it then, but with a day to go,



ROAM



**Ready for the eclipse: (l to r): Joan, Mike, John and Pam. Left: A visit from the King.**

it became clear we might be able to make it into the path of totality, and maybe to the transit longitude of the eclipse itself where it crossed the equator, which we calculated to be 132°43' west."

"We didn't quite make it, but got close enough. We enjoyed more than two minutes of totality — near complete darkness — and several hours of partial coverage."


"We believe we might be the only humans to have witnessed the total eclipse in the vicinity of the equator that day. There was nobody on radar or AIS around us that we could see."

As if witnessing the eclipse about 11 in the morning weren't enough, about 5 p.m. they welcomed King Neptune and his entourage aboard to preside over equator-crossing ceremonies. What a day!

• "Bonjour! Kevin and Deb here on board **Arvonna**, coming to you from Taioha'e Bay, Nuku Hiva, in French Polynesia!" writes Deb Moore from their Seattle-based Tanton

CT44. "We arrived at this beautiful island on May 1 after 25 days, 6 hours and 35 minutes on the open ocean — but hey, who's counting?! Our boat delivered the two of us safely after weeks of being in the 'washing machine' — six straight days of squalls, a few moments of terror, and times of astonishment because you can't believe you are really out here doing this."

"We left one roly anchorage in La Cruz in early April, to join another roly anchorage in French Polynesia. However, what a



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**June 22, 2024**  
We are encouraging all of our  
boaters to get out, put their sails up  
and enjoy the day!

To cap off the big day, Harbor  
Island West is hosting a boater  
mixer/potluck on the deck  
with live music.  
See you on the water on the 22nd!

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