

# COMMUNICATIONS FORM

## FOR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF MAHINA EXPEDITION MEMBERS

**This form is to let you know how to check our position and your options for staying in touch with your relative/friend while they are sailing aboard Mahina Tiare.**

### **PASSAGE AND POSITION INFORMATION**

You are welcome to check our web site: [www.mahina.com/expeditionupdates.html](http://www.mahina.com/expeditionupdates.html). Our position is automatically updated on the Google Earth map on the bottom of our homepage: <http://mahina.com/googleearth.html>.

While on expeditions we post passage log excerpts and position every 10 to 15 days, time and technology permitting. We would like to post updates more frequently but each update costs approximately \$400.

### **OVERSEAS PHONE CALLS AND INTERNET CAFES**

In some of the remote locations we visit there are phones ashore although service may be limited and frequently costs \$20-30 for short calls. There are Internet cafes in some of the larger towns we visit. Non-local mobile phones may not work in small South Pacific countries.

### **MESSAGES TO MAHINA TIARE**

We have an Iridium satellite communication system onboard Mahina Tiare. This system is slow, expensive and extremely vulnerable to viruses and spam. Because of slow transmission rates and large file size we are not able to use "auto-update" services to update our virus protection, so we request that you please NOT email directly to the boat unless replying to a message from us or include the boat's address in your email address file.

As to not disrupt expeditions, messages to and from Mahina Tiare are conducted Mondays only, weather and satellite conditions permitting.

To send a message to your friend or relative aboard Mahina Tiare send it to our Mahina Expeditions office.

**E-mail** sailing@mahina.com

**Fax** 360-378-6331

**Telephone** 360-378-6131

All messages are to be brief (maximum five sentences) and we request that you do not conduct business.

Our office manager will forward your message to Mahina Tiare on Mondays only.

The charge is \$40 per message to be paid in cash by your friend or relative when they receive your message.

- Please note that while your relative/friend is on an ocean passage or in a remote area, there is no chance of them "getting off the boat early" to fly home for any reason.
- Please do not panic if you think you are late in hearing from your relative/friend.
- Please do not contact any ham (amateur) radio operator to relay messages to us as we do not have amateur equipment onboard nor do we monitor amateur frequencies.
- Do not contact the Coast Guard or any embassies or consulates for message relays.
- Mahina Tiare is a phone (cell & sat) free zone. **Expedition members may use phones and communication devices ashore only**. Onboard use has proven a major intrusion and distraction in the past.
- Expedition Members: **Please do not bring laptop computers, iPads or satellite telephones, PLB's, SPOT or Delorme tracking devices.**

Thank you.

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