

# Mandolyn Update

## December 2023

Mandolyn and her crew have arrived in New Zealand! We hadn't even set foot on land before we saw a woman wearing a Salt Spring Island Sailing Club hat. Small world! The woman was the legendary single hander Jeanne Socrates, who had recently arrived after a passage from Tonga. Our first impression of New Zealand is that it feels a lot like home, right down to the hats.



Before we left Mexico I heard the journey across the Pacific referred to as the Pacific Milk Run, or the Coconut Milk Run, but I didn't really grasp the specifics. I thought it might be interesting to offer some details of what the trip actually involved for us, in a 38 foot monohull, in case anyone is interested.

We departed Mexico March 9 and arrived in New Zealand November 12, so the whole crossing was just over 8 months.

We visited 7 countries: French Polynesia, The Cook Islands, American Samoa, Samoa, Tonga, Fiji and New Zealand.

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We made 15 multi day passages for a total of 62 nights at sea. All but 2 were 5 nights or less, broken down as follows:

1 night x 6  
2 nights x 3  
3 nights x 1  
4 nights x 2  
5 nights x 1  
11 nights x 1 (Fiji to New Zealand)  
23 nights x 1 (Mexico to French Polynesia)

The passage to New Zealand was our only extended passage to weather. Other than that the wind was almost always aft of the beam.

We never saw sustained winds above the mid twenties while sailing. We experienced just one strong storm at anchor, where boats reported gusts in the 40s and 50s.

The biggest seas we saw had waves of around 3 meters, but with a long period this was not uncomfortable.

Languages spoken: English and French

Coconuts consumed: 87

We're happy to have made it here, but we sure miss home! If anyone would like any more details please let me know.

All the best from Mandolyn,  
Doug, Sarah, Nyah & West

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