



WCTSS

NEWSLETTER

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Cedar Key Small Boat Meet - May 2017

This year there was some anxiety about the Small Boat Meet due to a week of strong winds that came in with a late season cool front. Early arrivers were reporting winds upwards of 30 knots coming right down channel toward the town of Cedar Key from the southwest and west. A lot of folks were keeping their boats tied down on their trailers, and spending time nosing around in the shops and restaurants on the island.

I couldn't get up there until Friday, and even then the winds were howling. Ted Jean had rented a two bedroom two bath condo in the very nice Old Fenimore Mill complex. He offered to split the room rate with me, so I accepted. Our balcony looked right out over the water toward Atsena Otie Key and looking east toward Corrigan's Reef. The only down side is that the water is almost nonexistent when the tide is out. It didn't prove to be a real big problem most of the weekend, due to the winds keeping water in the area most of the time. Very early mornings we checked out the mud flats and sand bars before breakfast, but other than that there was sailing!

Still, Friday afternoon was too rough for most of us to go out. We haunted the boat ramps to see who was going to go out. As I recall, there were several Windriders out there buzzing around at top speed. We saw one almost go over, riding on the leeward ama. Kent and Barbara Bleakley went out with Glen and Karen Osoling in Kent's new Menger 15. That's a wide catboat, and they had a great sail. Simon and JF took Simon's Goat Island Skiff out for an afternoon sail, fully prepared for a knockdown or two, but managed to save it at least once after a swift jibe. This was recorded on video by a spar top Go-Pro! Meade Gougeon was spotted slashing through the waves with his EC class 3 boat, Elderly Care, which is a somewhat smaller sailing canoe with outriggers (amas).

Friday evening we booked Tony's Chowder house for the Squadron dinner, and boy did we fill it up! They had to bring extra chairs and set up the patio as well as the back room. Everyone seemed to enjoy the companionship and food. I still have to have at least one cup of their chowder whenever I go to Cedar Key. World Championship Stuff!

The winds were down just a bit to 15 - 20 on Saturday. JF Bedard brought RoG, his Everglades Challenger to the event, and I was booked for a ride. The little 15 footer sails like a bigger boat, with it's weighted centerboard and high sides. It stands up to it's canvas very well and is quite stiff when taking a puff. Going to windward it was quite rough and we took some spray into the cockpit, so I put my iPhone in a waterproof case down below. That was the end of photography for me until we came into the Atsena Otie beach, which was filling up!

Almost all the regulars were there, but a few were still holding out for somewhat less boisterous winds! Rob Hazzard's SCAMP Puffin was well reefed but ripping back and forth across the current. Hugh Horton was sailing his Bufflehead with friend Karen in front. Saturday night's guest speaker, Mike McGarry, was pushing the limits of his Windrider Trimaran sailing on one ama and crashing onto the beach at 10 knots, surprising everyone! Don and Sandra Romer were sailing their Precision 15 all around and getting some great photos for the Squadron! They're going on a year's RV trip, so we'll miss their club photos while they're gone. KG Macintosh, also known as simply 'Tosh by everyone brought his venerable SeaPearl Strider out to play and showed everyone how to sail a Pearl in higher winds. Glenn Osoling sailed his Sarasota Copy of the Beetle Cat all around on Saturday and Sunday, looking great with perfect paint combinations and new sail. Bernard and Genise's Pathfinder with cabin was perched on the beach right below our condo balcony but as soon as the tide freed her, she was out sailing and made quite a sight! The traditional boats made a good showing with Rex and Kathy's Caldonia Yawl and Michael and Judith's Penobsco 14 enjoying the winds.

It was a special treat to see Matt Layden, water tribe's "Wizard", paddling his kayak up to the beach. Matt is always so relaxed in small boats. He was visiting his parents who live in Cedar Key. I learned later that Matt has taken up running in races as a new sport. He runs barefoot.



Mike McGary flying his Windrider!



Simon and JF narrowly avoid a Goat Broach

Cedar Key continued:

Also sailing on Saturday was Robb White's dark finished 12 foot Felucca design, being sailed by his son Wes. Also Dale Niemann and friend Kristi sailed out to the Island with full sail aboard Lively, his Core Sound 17. They did have four people aboard for ballast! One of those persons was writer Jan Adkins, who Hugh had texted me was actively looking for me! Jan has since written a fine piece about our little band of merry makers at the Small Boat Meet for the prestigious publication "Maine Boats, Homes and Harbors." A glossy and high end periodical, which I've had the pleasure of reading a number of times. Jan sent me a draft of his story, and it's very well done. Looking forward to seeing it in print. Jan has a Dovekie which he's working on and I hope to see him at some of our events this year!

Anchored out in the channel between Atsena Otie and the town (Way Key) was a lovely red trawler type of yacht. We discovered that it was owned by the Ball brothers, Charlie and Pat. Roseate - as it's known was designed by JF Bedard's instructor at the Westlawn School of Naval Architecture, Dave Gerr! Small world. Pat and Charlie built the wooden craft, and then had finish carpenters from Nova Scotia flown in to do the interior. Haven't been aboard, but I imagine it's a very fine yacht. They have taken the vessel up the Atlantic Seaboard all the way to Labrador!

Saturday evening there was a dinner at the "Community Center." Sponsored by Andy Zimmerman of Native boats, it was similar to last year, where everyone was asked to bring something to add to the basic meal of rib and chicken on the barbie, with a huge tub of baked beans. We filled the center to capacity! Many thanks to the volunteers who came a little early to set up the tables and chairs. I was asked to be the Master of Ceremonies, which wasn't much to do, except thank everyone for coming, and introduce Meade Gougeon, who then proceeded to give a wonderful introduction to the guest speaker, Mike McGarry. Mike is an innovator with foiling craft, and talked about how the foiling trimaran made by Windrider was developed, along with some larger foiling boats. Looks like we're going to see more of these flying boats in the future! I'll stick to the ones which are firmly stuck to the water, thank you very much.

On Sunday, Ted and I talked about staying another day, but I had an appointment at home, and so did Ted, so we packed up and left right after breakfast. Apparently we missed the best sailing day. The winds were down to a respectable 10-15 mph, and a lot of boats got off the beach and trailers that didn't dare the day before. Kevin Lott was sailing his lovely 15' Cortez Melonseed with the black sail, and I think Dave Lucas was out there with another of the Cortez Melons but I couldn't tell from the photo I saw if it was actually him. Eric DeVoe had his Houdini, Belafonte, out on Sunday, and there was an Acorn dingy sailed by David Fuller, which I think was with the Dave Lucas group. Steve Wood was ferrying lots of folks to the Atsena Beach both days aboard his dark green Bay Hen, and another Bay Hen owner and old friend of the Squadron Steve Tonneson was there. Also on Sunday Frank Wentzel brought his daughter Hilleary and granddaughter Piper out sailing. It looks like a sparkling day! Got to make more time for the



Atsena Otie Beach on Saturday. JF Bedard's RoG in foreground.

Lake Tarpon and the Tarpon Turtle

A few weeks after the Cedar Key event, the Squadron turned up for a day sail at Lake Tarpon's Anderson Park, right off of US 19 in Tarpon Springs. It was supposed to be a hot day, but some wind was predicted out of the east. Arriving about 9am, I was pleased to see a few other Squadron boats had arrived, and as we set up our masts and prepared to launch even more showed up!

Kent and Barb Bleakley were getting their Menger 15 Catboat ready when Glenn Osoling arrived. It was looking like a Cat Boat meet was in the offing. Then Dennis and Carol Marshall came with their cat boat - the Duckling! With Nomad that meant we had four catboats! You could make an argument that Rex and Kathy's 16 foot Melonseed, Passion, is a cat boat with its single lug rigged sail, but folks from the Cat Boat Association might not approve of that. Likewise Simon's single lug rig on his Goat Island Skiff, and Roger Sanderson with his NE Dory, which also has a single mast and lug rig. There were a couple of WW Potter 15 sloops also. New member Keith and his son Henry were sailing theirs, and Russ and Merlyn Blagg were sailing Merlyn, their WW Potter 15. Steve Kingery, from Crystal River Boat Builders had a scale model of the 37 foot Civil War blockade scow Spirit that he's just built. It's about 14 or 15 feet long which made it about a 1/3 scale (close). With its gaff rig and jib, it qualified as a sloop.

Coming north from where he lives on Lake Tarpon, Dale Niemann arrived aboard Salty, his B&B Marissa powerboat. Everyone who sees this one, thinks it's fiberglass, but it's just really well finished! Dale and friend Kristi were snapping photos to share with us, which I've featured on our web site.

So a total of 11 Squadron boats were zipping around out there before lunch and having a grand time in the brisk winds, which were a bit different for late May. The original plan was to bring the boats in about noon and put them away before driving to the Tarpon Turtle restaurant, but there was absolutely no sign of rain or clouds, so we made a community decision to keep sailing and sail to the Turtle. Amazingly we all got docked or beached without any damage. It helps when those who are first help the late comers.

When we got tied up we realized that David and Donna Bradley were already there to meet us! David and Donna have decided that they want to buy a SunCat like mine, but they wanted to go out on one first. So after a very nice lunch, I took them out for a sail aboard Nomad. They enjoyed it and we talked about strategies for selling their SeaPearl and finding a used SunCat. Glenn Osoling had a solution! He knew of an old SunCat which was being offered for FREE! Dave checked it out, and brought it home. They are working to bring it back to life, which they should be able to do easily with the proceeds of their SeaPearl sale. I can't wait to see it. Maybe this weekend! Meanwhile, does anyone want to buy a centerboard SeaPearl? It's listed on our Boats for sale page at: <http://wctss.ij.net/boatsail.htm>



Glenn Osoling's Catboat

Next 5 months of Squadron Activity:

1. **June 10th - Meade's Island - Three Rooker Bar - Caladesi Island Marina.** Rendezvous at Meade's Island just north of the Honeymoon Island Causeway, Picnic on the beach, or sail out to Three Rooker Bar. If the weather looks bad, shelter at the Marina at Caladesi Island. You can spend the night there, or just hang out for a while before going back. Launch at Seminole Street Ramp, Belleaire Ramp, or Sutherland Bayou Ramp - all Pinellas County Ramps - \$6 per day.

2. **NEW !! St. John's River and Silver Glen Spring - June 20th - 22nd - Tuesday - Thursday !** OLD FOGIES CRUISE! Launch at Astor Ramps off of Hwy 40 - 20 miles east of Ocala Florida on Tuesday - get there by 10 am if possible.

We will head down river (North) to Lake George - about 4 miles. Then cross Lake George to the entrance to Silver Glen Springs. The water in the spring is a constant 72 degrees so sleeping on your boat will be pleasant, even if the temperature outside is hot! No shore camping available, but there is a park there where you can wade in and get some ice. If weather and wind is good we can sail out on the lake to the entrance of Salt Springs about 5 miles north of the Silver Glen Springs Run . Overnight again in Silver Glen Spring, and then on Thursday return to Astor for haul out and return home.

3 **.July 15th - Lake Harris - Hickory Point and the Hideaway** - Take a break from the beach and head inland to the hidden gem of Lake Harris in Lake County. Launch at Hickory Point Rec Area just south of Tavaras off of SR 19.

The deeper water ramps are all the way to the west. Set up your mast(s) after you come around from the staging area due to untrimmed trees. Sail from Hickory Point out into the lake and up the east side of the lake to the Hideaway, also known as "the biker bar." Actually has good food and sometimes good music. Outdoor seating picnic style. Love the honey stung chicken.

If the docks look crowded come in anyway. Raft up and if you can't get in anchor out and one of the early birds will come get you.

4. **August 12th - Lake Seminole** - A hot steamy summer day on the lake. Bring sunscreen and floppy hats! Picnic with the Squadron after a sweet sail on the lake in the morning. Launch at 9am if possible.

5.**September 23rd - Ft. DeSoto and Shell Key** - Squadron Reunion! Folks coming back from summer trips will meet again at Fort DeSoto Park on the southern most point in Pinellas County - Great (11) ramps, and swift currents (sometimes). Sparkling waters and dolphins. White sand beaches and smiling faces. Swim suits to soak in the water for a cool off at lunch time on the beach! Sound like fun? Make your calendars. **Joyce and I may be back from Newfoundland by then (hope so) !!**

6. **October 20th - 22nd Cayo Costa Cruise** - Launch from several sites all around Charlotte Harbor and meet at Cayo Costa State Park's Pelican Bay (north end cove) on Friday October 20th. Anchor behind the sand spit at the north end of Pelican Bay Friday and Saturday with a return to launch points on Sunday - weather permitting.

NOTE: Print this page and pin it to your fridge!