



WCTSS

NEWSLETTER

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Cedar Key Small Boat Meet - May 7th - 9th 2016

The Cedar Key Small Boat Meet was certainly well attended this year, partly because of the great guest speakers that we lined up for the Saturday night dinner at the Community Center, but mostly because the weather out on the group of off shore islands are usually fantastic this time of the year. And this year was no exception!

I'd been thinking about inviting Ida Little and Michael Walsh, the authors of "Beach Camping and Coastal Cruising," to attend the Small Boat Meet for several years. After writing a story for SAIL magazine in August, where Ida wrote a companion piece, and we communicated and collaborated on the articles, I invited them to attend. Ida and Michael practically invented Beach Camping when their 40' deep water cruiser wrecked on an island and they were stranded for several months before getting a ride back to civilization. What they realized was that they really enjoyed being stranded and set about planning a return with minimal beach cruising gear, a canoe and a 14 foot Hobie, to live off the land and the fruits of the sea. They succeeded so well that they collaborated on the book referenced above. Now twenty or thirty years later they are still recognized as founders of the beach cruising in small boat movement. After a great feast Saturday night at the Community Center, Ida and Michael entertained and informed us with a great 90 minute slide show, and Ida kept us in stitches describing how they learned that smaller is better and living off the bounty of the shore is the best. Sadly they admitted that a lot of the places in the Bahamas that they lived have been sold off to the very rich who have purchased the islands that they lived on and made them off limits. Ida and Michael are now Squadron members who will be attending our Cedar Key events, so now you'll get to know them even better!

Friday night at Tony's Clam Chowder Restaurant was again fantastic! They set aside the entire back room and patio for us, and we more than filled it up. In fact we overflowed to the front room and practically took over the restaurant! I sure hope they survived the Tropical Storm, and have found good sources for their clams after the clamming operation in Cedar Key took a hit. We'll see in November.

Out on the water on Saturday the boats flitted by in an endless parade out to Atsena Otie, Snake, and North Key. Bill Fite and Tom Dyll who had just finished the Ultimate Florida Challenge were there enjoying the boats. Bill Fite had just completed the 1600 mile Florida Coastal Challenge, in his SeaPearl and Kruger SeaWind Canoe! First time for any watertriber! Most of us were content to sail and take photos of everyone else's boats! Dale Niemann took myself and Ida Little and Michael Walsh out in his Core Sound 17, Lively, on Saturday, and I jumped ship to sail with Lowell and Dee Stephens aboard their SeaPearl Trimaran on Sunday.

Sadly on Sunday, just as we were nearing the warm sandy beach at North Key, I got a text message that my mother was in the hospital again and wasn't expected to survive. She did not, passing away on Tuesday shortly after I returned home.

With One Eye A Hurricane!

As I write this newsletter, I'm keeping one eye on Hurricane Matthew, which is now projected to brush Florida as it emerges from the warm waters of the Caribbean. Not what we want to hear, but we do need to be realistic and get prepared, especially those of you on the east coast of Florida! Matthew is not Hermoine. It's a much more powerful storm with winds currently at 145 MPH. Forecasters are predicting winds of 125 MPH as it moves up the east coast, with Tropical Storm winds extending out from the center over 100 miles in every direction. Get your small boats lashed down or filled with water if it comes your way. Fill up your vehicles with fuel, as there may not be any available for weeks if the storm hits in your area. Batteries and lots of water and food, and don't forget to get CASH out of the bank before the storm as well. Insurance and titles go in a dry cooler which you tape up with good duct tape to throw in the vehicle in case you have to evacuate. Don't wait until it's too late and you're rushed and frazzled. Remember it's been 11 years since a Hurricane hit Florida! Many of you don't know what it's like to sit one out. Charlie was the closest call we've had on the west coast of Florida, and many folks experienced it first hand in the Punta Gorda area in 2004. Hurricane Wilma tore up southeast Florida in 2005, I believe.

Trip to Scotland and Ireland in June

Joyce and I had long planned to go to Scotland and Ireland, so after my mother's passing in May we decided to go ahead with our trip, and deal with the remaining estate issues when we returned. We booked a tour with CIE Tours of Ireland, and had a great time, especially in Scotland! If you love castles, Scotland is for you. We were gone two weeks, dividing the time between Ireland and Scotland. We stayed in two modern hotels, but the rest were restored castles or manor houses which were really special and interesting four of five star hotels. In Scotland we visited the Isle of Skye, where on the way over on the ferry I'm certain I saw an Iian Outread sailing canoe! It was about 17 feet long, yawl rigged and being sailed well by a skipper hiked out on the weather deck. The day was fair, and the winds were in the 10 knot range. He outdid the ferry until it really got moving! In Ireland we saw the Cliffs of Moher https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h_He8jyDjk4, 800 foot drop-offs with seabirds everywhere, experienced an Irish pub or two, and really enjoyed Killarny <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHcT3K4nrcU> and the Ring of Kerry. If you go, don't miss those places! We decided we'd like to go back sometime, and just stay in a B&B near Killarny for a few weeks or more!

When we returned the Estate was still there for me to deal with as the executor of my mother's will. This took most of the month of July. The most time consuming was the sale of items in the home - an estate sale. Only a few big items didn't sell and are being stored for sale by the Estate agent. Anyone interested in a great deal on a grandfather's clock from the early 20th century? Winchester Chimes! We also have a very old Korean cabinet that my father used as a liquor cabinet.

The sale of the house is being concluded this week, and my brother Tom will benefit from that sale. Tom and I and the Pinellas County Sheriff's speed boat took my mother's ashes out to sea a few weeks ago, and scattered them in the Gulf about where my father's ashes were scattered. Tom was driving the boat, and we returned to Ft. DeSoto at 65 MPH, with me holding on to my hat.

After more than a year of caring for my mother, finally putting her in a nursing situation a month before she passed, and dealing with the aftermath of her last year, I am feeling relieved that that part of my life is over, and I can move on to more pleasant things, like sailing with the Squadron! Joyce says I'm smiling more now.

T.S. Hermoine in August and a Trip to Smoky Mountain National Park

Joyce and I have a new 5th wheel that we purchased in January and took delivery of in February. We've been able to get away in it only three times including a couple of weekend shake down runs. So we decided that we'd give the "quiet side of the Smokys" a try after not going there for a couple of decades. We planned to leave on August the 29th and stay a couple of weeks at a campground near Pigeon Forge. But Tropical Storm Hermoine was sneaking up on us, and we had to leave a day early or the trailer would have been stuck in the soft ground of the storage lot with 12 inches of rain! Our reservations at "Up a Creek RV Campground" began on the 31st of August, so we had four days to mosey up I-75 to the Smokeys. It wasn't a bad idea, and we managed to just stay ahead of the storm as it cut across north Florida and up the southeast coast of the U.S. In Sweetwater Tennessee Michael Burwell came to visit us at our site with a friend of his who wanted to meet me, for some reason. Oh.. we both owned SeaPearls. He owned a few more than I did. In any case, Michael couldn't stay long as he and April were packing to leave the next morning for Pennsylvania and Maine with his CLC teardrop trailer and his kayaks.

We got to "Up a Creek RV Campground" on our appointed day to arrive and found it to be a delightful base camp for us with full hookups, paved patio, and large sites for privacy. No restrooms, lounge, pool, playground or clubhouse. This meant quiet, which was what we wanted. We took side trips into the Smokey Mountain National Park almost every day. The weather was warm but mostly dry and it cooled down one night to 59 degrees. Managed to do four long (for us) hikes in the park culminating with a 5 miler to Abams Falls out of Cades Cove. Saw a bear, and an 8 point buck. Richard Hopley, who was my first friend in College in Munich Germany and accompanied me to Florida when I finally migrated here, came up from Winston-Salem to hike with us to Abrams Falls. We had a great trout dinner afterwards at the Steak and Trout Restaurant in Townsend.

Meanwhile T.S. Hermoine was tearing up Cedar Key, one of the Squadron's favorite sailing destinations! We felt so helpless as we watched reports and photos of the Island Place being swamped by waves going right through the lower rooms, taking out the pool and decks and destroying the beach in front of it! Of course I was worried about my home in Seminole, but my neighbor assured me that everything was fine except for a few small branches that fell out of our oak trees! Cedar Key wasn't so lucky. Rex and Kathy Payne drove up to Cedar Key to video the aftermath and it looked devastated. National news networks were using the Island Place as the poster for what Hermoine did to the island. But there were and are exceptions. Many places survived and have rebuilt. Others are doing so now. You can still get reservations for a place for November 18th - 20th! I secured one of the SeaShell cottages across the street from the Island Place that Dale and I used last May. Others are down at the Old Fenimore Mill condos, and the Cedar Key Bed and Breakfast. Tony's is still there for Friday night Chowder! The Island Hotel is likewise still in business.

As I said that we would do, I have sent a check for \$500 in the name of the West Coast Trailer Sailing Squadron to the Cedar Key Chamber of Commerce Hermoine Relief Fund. The Chamber fund gives money to owners trying to rebuild their businesses.

Despite the spate of really awful weather this summer, we managed to schedule a few day sails that Squadron members attended. In July we went to Lake Tarpon where we could take refuge from the heat at the Tarpon Turtle Restaurant. Our strategy this time was to keep the sailing in the morning, and then take out the boats, and drive over to the Turtle for lunch. That way if the afternoon storms persisted, we'd be all packed up and ready to drive home. It worked out pretty well. Dennis and Carol Marshall took Tim Horsman and I over in their van. We just left Nomad at the ramp parking while we had lunch. Rex and Kathy Payne sailed over, I think and Steve Kingery had his Princess sailing canoe in the back of his pickup truck. There were an even dozen of us having lunch together. and about five boats sailing.

In August we went to Lake Seminole with the idea that we'd just sail in the morning, and then go over to the new Culvers on Park Blvd for ice cream (frozen custard) afterwards. Again this plan worked out well. JF Bedard sailed Ozona, his own pram design, Dale Niemann and his son, and Dale's girlfriend Kristi motored about on Dales B & B center console powerboat offering people tow jobs. Oh yeah, it was kind of calm. But there was a bit of wind, just about 25 minutes before we headed in to pack up and go to Culvers! Dan Roeder was sailing his Wayfarer, Rex and Kathy were sailing Kathleen, Roger Sanderson was in his CLC NE Dory, Ric Valdez had the family out on his Hunter 260, Chris Throop sailed PIP, and Tim Horsman tested out his old renewed G-Cat!

September found us back at Ft. DeSoto for the annual Reunion Sail, where everyone comes back from vacations to get together and kick the season off right. That's just what we did! Eighteen Squadron boats showed up! We drifted with an outgoing tide out to the sandbar on the southern side of Bunces Pass. Bill Fite, Ric Valdez, and Lonnie Black launched on Friday night and enjoyed the first overnighter of the season! Except for the lack of wind, the day was a huge success! We anchored in the shallows, jumped overboard and relished the cool clear water while reacquainting ourselves with Squadron friends we hadn't seen for months! Remembering that Cayo Costa is coming this month - in two weeks - makes one think that we'll have a big turnout there as well!

Upcoming Events - Where to Sail with the Squadron!

1. Cayo Costa Cruise - October 14th - 16th - Friday - Sunday - Launch at Eldred's Marina at Placida, or the Bokeelia Marina Ramp. Both cost a bit, but it's a cruise that's worth it! Sail to the north end of Pelican Bay on Cayo Costa State Park on Friday, on Saturday we sail out and back to our protected cove. Sail home Sunday. Always great times.

(Campfire (small) on the Island after dark. Bring your own food, and maybe something to share around the campfire.)

2. Cedar Key in November ! 18th - 20th -Friday - Sunday Each year this one gets better and better. With just Squadron members in attendance, there's a lot more room for us on the ramps, docks and beaches!

Get your reservations at one of the many hotels/condos/B&Bs in town. Here's where to start: <http://seecedarkey.com/cedar-key-visitor-resource-guide/>

Launch and sail **Friday afternoon** - but don't miss the Squadron dinner at Tony's at 5:15 pm. We'll notify them that we need the whole back room! <http://www.tonyschowder.com>

Saturday - sail out to Snake Key or North Key - and dinner at the Island Hotel! <http://www.islandhotel-cedarkey.com>

Sunday - pack up and drive home (or extend your stay another day!

3. Meade's Island DaySail or Overnighter - December 9th and 10th.

Popular Island just north of the Dunedin Causeway - See Website for map and details. Campfires permitted - bring firewood. Sail in the sparkling waters of St. Joseph Sound! Anchor or pull up on "Meade's Island" and warm up around a roaring campfire. Camp aboard or on the island.