

(Summer Sailstice Continued)

One of the really great things about an event with a shore side component, like a cookout or a beach picnic, is the opportunity to really get to know other members. The depth of knowledge and interests that our members have is enormous! We all enjoyed getting to know Gene and Mary Koblick, who although their boat wasn't ready to travel, came to the LESC event to meet everyone, and enjoy the outing from the shore. Gene has done so many things in his life that it would take a book to cover! One which he has promised to his daughter to provide one day! Glenda Libby, who I briefly met at the Juniper Springs outing last month, is a dynamo of energy and enthusiasm for sailing. Ray Almodovar, who joined the club officially at the event, and sails a Windrider 17 is just a delightful guy who has been wanting to join us for a long time. Tom Dyll, who just bought a SeaPearl, and is still wondering if it's just right for his family, is another sailor who we hope will continue to meet us at our events. Tom was at the FISH event on the Indian River Lagoon last month.

Overall this event was one which both clubs want to keep on the agenda for next year. Especially since we may be doing more lake sailing next year! (see next article)

## The BP Oil Spill in the Gulf!

As the oil spill enters its third month without any end in sight, we on the west coast of Florida are "lucky so far" I suppose, if you can say that about the degradation of our ocean's environment. But I fear that as the spill continues unabated, perhaps until December (according to some recent reports), we have to take seriously the possibility that our normal sailing grounds will be coated in thick sticky oil, or at the very least, tar balls and oil sheen. This national disaster has already spread to the Panhandle. The BEER Cruise this year had to alter its planned route and skip the beautiful sand dunes west of Pensacola Pass due to containment booms blocking the way. The oil has now spread to the beaches east of Pensacola Beach and it continues to creep eastward. Cedar Key sticks way out into the Gulf, and may be contaminated before next May's Small Boat Meet! On top of that, Dr. Jeff Masters of Weather Underground suggests that a hurricane in the Gulf could spread the oil slick towards Tampa Bay due to the counter clockwise direction of the winds. Don't want to be a Chicken Little, but this is serious, folks! Stay tuned!

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## Ron and Joyce's Summer Plans

Just as in past summers, my wife Joyce and I are planning a road trip north to escape the heat and to visit interesting scenery. Summer is our least busy sailing season due to the heat, bugs, light winds and dangerous weather. Many of our members have already packed up and moved to their summer homes in the north, or are planning RV trips like we do.

This year we've decided to visit Michigan and perhaps Wisconsin. I spent my teen years in lower Michigan where I lived on a lake and learned to water ski, skin dive, and most of all SAIL! Having to be in school then, and tied to the home place and parents, I really didn't get much chance to explore the state, oddly enough. So we'll be exploring the Lake Michigan and Lake Huron shores, then going back into the Upper Peninsula where we traveled home from the western states two years ago. Wisconsin is the "outer limits" of our planned travel this summer, depending on how much we find to do in Michigan and the UP.

This year we're putting off going until the middle of August, and our planned stay is 5 to 6 weeks. I'd like to be back by the end of September to celebrate my son's and my birthday, and to hopefully only have a month of hot weather before October!

So we're planning Squadron events for July, and September, but skipping August. You can all find places to sail that month and most of you know others through the WCTSS Yahoo Group to get your own cruises or get together going. I won't be at the September event, but please take lots of photos, and I'll put together a newsletter when I return at the end of September. We're still going to plan Cayo Costa in November - much better weather than October - and after that the season really starts getting great. That is unless we're swamped with crude oil on our beaches! The good news is, we all have trailers, and can trailer to places in our state that are pristine, and unfouled.

## Summer Events are Planned!

**1. Lake Tarpon and the Tarpon Turtle (a Jack Willy Restaurant) Saturday, July 17th** - Launch at Anderson Park (\$6 launch fee) off of US 19 in Tarpon Springs at 9:30 and sail until 11:30 when we will invade the Tarpon Turtle restaurant just north of the ramps on the west side of the lake. Delicious lunch and then more sailing if the thunderstorms hold off! If coming by car the address of the "Turtle" is 1513 Lake Tarpon Avenue, Tarpon Springs, FL 34689.

### No Squadron event in August

**2. Fort DeSoto Reunion - Saturday, Sept 18th** - Launch at 9:30 and sail the waters around the campground (shallow draft required!), and out to Shell Key. Venture into the Gulf if the weather is settled. Picnic on the sand spur on the south side of Bunces Pass. (Sept 25th is an alternate day if the weather is too bad or Tropical Storms threaten on the 18th) Take lots of photos!

**3. Lake Harris - Saturday, October 16th - Sunday October 17th** Maybe we can get some of the LESC to join us at Hickory Point Rec Area for a sail on beautiful Lake Harris! Overnight optional.

We tried to get everyone into the group photos at Lake Eustis Sailing Club. Photo by Gene Koblick.

