



West Coast Trailer Sailing Squadron News

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September at Fort DeSoto!

This event was the first September event that I wasn't able to attend! Joyce and I were still in Michigan on our 6 week RV trip. But the Squadron came through with flying colors! Gene and Mary Koblick provided a turkey dinner even though they were not able to attend due to a problem with their RV! I understand that Glenda's good friend Mel drove to pick up and return the dinner, and it we most appreciated at the campground.

But the real fun was out on the water! Looking over the photos I see that many old friends and some new ones had their boats dancing on the waters of Ft. DeSoto and playing in the tidal currents of Bunces Pass that leads to the Gulf of Mexico.

John and Robin Churchill brought their beautiful Rob Roy Ketch up from Sanibel Island, Roy Almodovar was there with his Windrider 17, Paul Scribner had his lovely cat boat Sanura skipping over the waves. Eric and Jane DeVoe sailed their John's Sharpie, Kestrel, and enjoyed having their new electric auxiliary by Torqeedo aboard especially when the tide was sucking them out Bunces Pass as fast as they could sail!

Mark Stewart bought Shark Bait to the dance, and Art Gregory sailed his Peep Hen, Kiva. Paul and Dodie sailed their SP-Tri Wing-It and Steve Morrill sailed his SeaPearl 21 mono hull. I saw Bill Prater and Billy Vandeusen in the photos, so I know they were there. I guess Billy came up with the Waggoners, and I'm thinking that Bill Prater sailed with his SeaPearl friend Fred Metcalf aboard his SeaPearl 21 DeJa Vu. Glenda and Mel sailed Genda's Rebel, Quiet Time.

For a September event, it was reported to be fairly breezy, and everyone had a good sail before hauling out and heading home. A few hardy souls camped aboard their boats, and some had reserved campsites. I understand that the party at the campground was just as much fun as the sailing!

A great Ocala Kayak and Canoe Adventure with Mark and Katy Stewart! Oct. 9 - 10

Mark and Katy Stewart hosted another fantastic canoe and kayak adventure on the Juniper Spring Run and the Rock Spring Run. Although I couldn't go on Sunday, we really enjoyed the paddling on the Juniper Spring Run! I think there were seven of us. Mark Stewart and myself, Art Gregory, Brenda Bell and her friend, and Ed and Becky Combs. Everyone had their own kayak or canoe. Juniper Spring Run was spectacular, as usual, with water so crystal clear that you felt you were flying over the sandy bottom specked with grasses flowing toward Lake George, the ultimate destination of the Spring Run.

It's quite a long paddle, if you're not used to it, and a few breaks were needed. There weren't nearly as many canoes on the water as last time, and much fewer capsizes. A German family of four in two rental canoes kept pace with us, but they were fairly accomplished and didn't have any accidents that we observed.

At on point on the run, a large tree was down and required getting out and shoving your boat over the tree to continue down the run. Mark Stewart was MOST helpful for those of us who are more vertically challenged. All I had to do was play catch with Mark as he shoved my little Necky kayak over the tree to me. He stood there and helped everyone over the obstacle! What a great host! Mark also ferried us all back to pick up our vehicles so we could pack up and head over to the Stewart's WCTSS clubhouse in Ocala for a cook out of Greek food and drink around their pool.

Thank you both very much for hosting this fantastic party and event! I hear that Katy got to paddle on Sunday at the Rock Springs to Wakieva River Island run that ended with a dinner at the Marina!

Lake Harris Oct. 16 and 17

Wow! What can be said about this event! Perfect weather.. cool in the morning, warm in the afternoon, easy to use ramps, light to moderate winds, a place to eat and relax for lunch and 17 Squadron boats!

I usually plan on 2.5 or 3 hours to get to Lake Harris from my home in Seminole, so I started out about 6 AM, having taken a day and a half to get Whisper back in cruising trim after a summer of idleness. It was still dark when I left home, and the traveling was easier than I remembered. I arrived at Hickory Point Recreation Area by 8:15, and was the first to arrive. I set about getting everything ready including setting up my canvas convertible cabin and stowing all the food, sleeping gear, and the cooler. It was nice having time to do this without rushing.

Pretty soon folks started arriving. Steve Kingery showed up with his Dovekie, Eric and Jane DeVoe cruised in with Kestrel, Harvey Brillat and Bill Fleming arrived with Harvey's SP Trimaran, Wehawken, Fred and MaryAnne Metcalf arrived with their just painted SeaPearl 21 DeJa Vu. Dale Niemann brought a friend along to sail Lively his beautiful hand made Core Sound 17. Dennis and Carol Marshall pulled up with Odd Duck, their ComPac 16 cat boat in tow, Bill Whalen arrived with his Peep Hen, My Little Chick a Dee, and Ray Almodovar arrived with his Windrider 17

I was already to go, so I went ahead and launched, and just sailed around the extensive ramps by the bridge while everyone sorted things out and got launched. I kept looking for St. Somewhere, Ed and Becky's Hunter 23.5, but it didn't show up! Then I got a call on my cell phone. Becky explained that they were stuck by the side of the road with a bad hub on the trailer. Ed was doing everything he could to get it back together, but the spare hub he had didn't fit, and he was using Boat US Trailering insurance to get help. To make a long story shorter, they finally got help from a trailer place that supplied an entire axle - hubs and all! They finally arrive late in the afternoon.

Meanwhile more boats were arriving, Steve Wood's Bayhen 21, Mark Stewart's Shark Bait, Luke Lukowski's new SeaPearl - Allez, Curt Bowman's Drascombe Coaster, Annie, Pete Redston with his Swifty 14, and Kevin Mulligan sailing the CRBB Sharpie, also named Annie. Finally.. a Potter 15 arrived with the Hainsley family aboard. They had heard about the club from Bill Sloan, a member who owns a Marshall 18 catboat.

Out on the water, the wind was light from the north, which meant that we needed to beat to get to the Hideaway, also known as "The Biker Bar." Of course the Hideaway is much more than that. It's also a music emporium which can either attract people from their boats or repel them depending on who's playing and singing, or hollering and screaming. This day a decidedly more mellow female vocalist was holding court with a male accompanist. They did pretty darn well, and I enjoyed her throaty-but-mellow voice and her country interpretations of contemporary tunes. We sailed until about 1 PM, then anchored off the Hideaway, and waited for the taxi boats to pick us up. Bill Whalen was the first to offer, and he ferried in 7 or 8 of us!

As I mentioned the female vocalist was pretty good and we enjoyed the food emensely. A second group of Squadron Members came in with Steve Wood,