

Lake Tarpon and the Turtle - January 22nd, 2011

We hoped that the second outing of the year would favor us with calmer winds and warmer temperatures. We hoped wrong. A cool front blew through and left us with strong NW winds, but at least it wasn't raining! Oggie Helt was at the Anderson Park ramps when I got there about 9:00 am. He was riding a bicycle, a very wise choice! Steve Wood arrived, but didn't bring his boat. He was planning on riding with Jose Rodrigues, who arrived with his Sanibel 18. Demitri, don't know your last name yet, also planned to ride with Jose on the Sanibel. Nick Lackey showed up with a blue dory and a 15 HP Honda. Bob Wood motored around with Nick. Ed and Becky showed up with a trailer full of Hobie Adventure Island Kayaks and sailed out with them. Bill Fleming also left his SeaPearl Tri at home and sailed with me. At first the weather looked promising. Nice 6 - 7 knot speeds were attained and the skies were indeed quite blue. But as we got further out onto the lake, the wind really picked up. Whisper went from trundling along at 7 knots to shooting through the water at 9.2 knots! That's a record for her in flat water without surfing waves! Neither Bill nor I had brought along our full foul weather gear, expecting "lake" weather, so after a few photo taking passes at the Hobies and the Sanibel, we decided to put her back on the trailer, dry out and drive over to the Turtle for lunch! By the time we got there I think we were the last to arrive! the food was good, but the beer was missing, which disappointed not a few Squadron members. May be the last time we are able to land at that restaurant. Don't fear however, Ed and Becky have located another restaurant on the lake and they're investigating how to get there by water!

Cook Out at Cedar Key - Saturday May 7th

After a two year hiatus, the Squadron is once again going to provide a COOK OUT for everyone in attendance at the Small Boat Meet! We will need a lot of cooperation, and Mark and Katy Steward, Ed and Becky Combs, and others have already offered to help out. We need tables, grills, large pots for beer and brats, and serving trays and utensils. The Squadron will buy the Brats and Burgers and beans and buns and condiments. Squadron members are asked to provide a covered dish to include Salads, cole slaw, desserts, and anything else you can provide. Ed will bring a speaker system for music and announcements. We will start serving at 6 pm, so we'll need help getting set up and cooking by about 4:30 pm on Saturday. The charge will be \$10 per person. Folks to take money and hand out wrist bands are also needed.

Coming Events!

- 1. Lake Harris -Feb. 19th and 20th** Launch at Hickory Point Recreation Area just south of Taveras on SR 19 at 9:30 .Sail the day or make it an overnigher by anchoring in Horseshoe Cove. Lunch with the Squadron at the Hideaway (biker bar) just north of Long Island in the NE corner of Lake Harris.
- 2. Everglades Challenge Start! - Saturday March 5th** - AT DAWN! East Beach of Ft. DeSoto Park at the south end of Mullet Key. Members Bill Fite, Meade Gougeon, and Paul Myers will start this 300 miles race to Key Largo at the crack of DAWN! Come cheer them on! Breakfast at the SeaHorse restaurant on Pass-a-Grille Beach after the launch for everyone who stays ashore!
- 3. Cayo Costa Cruise! - March 18th - 20th** - The Squadron's favorite hangout at Pelican Bay will be our rally point for Friday afternoon March 18th. Destinations on Saturday determined by winds and whims! Cookout on the beach Friday evening. This is a favorite. Put it on your calendar ASAP! Launch at Eldred's Marina near Placida, or Pineland Marina on Pine Island.

Long term planning dates:

Gulf Coast Small Craft Festival - April 16 & 17
Crystal River Boat Bash - April 30th - May 1st
Cedar Key Small Boat Meet - May 7th and 8th (Sat & Sun)



Star Marine Inc.

6814 46th Ave North, St. Petersburg, Florida, 33709
727-546-BOAT (2628)

Your full service **Tohatsu Outboard dealer** in Pinellas County! Dick Butler specializes in outboard engines for sailboats and other small craft. He is a lifelong sailor and knows what you are looking for!
This month's special! 6HP Sail Pro with 25" Shaft only \$1445! Call today!