

Silver Glen Spring Continued:

We all set off together and the bridge tender kindly opened the bridge for Ed right away! The skies were starting to darken and we hurried along down the St. John's toward Lake George. Storms seemed to be building to our west and we saw quite a lot of lightning, but actually those storms were moving away from us. It was the storms to the East that were moving in our general direction! From the Volusia Bar to the entrance to Silver Glen Spring was about three miles, and they just seemed to creep along as I ran Whisper at 5.5 knots or better to get into sheltered water before we got slammed by one of the many storms surrounding us. A tiny bit of mizzen sail was projecting out and the wind from the SE was getting gusty, probably up to 25 knots and causing Whisper to surge faster than the engine was pushing her!

Finally we made it to the spring entrance, and cruised on in to the Spring Run. Phil had staked out some spots along the left side of the run a few hundred yards from the spring. I really didn't want to put Whisper under the trees in a thunderstorm, so I moved on and anchored in a shallow sandy spot very close to the head of the spring. Ed and Becky anchored near me, and everyone else tied up to the shore under the trees. Just about that time, one of the storms finally caught up with us, with a fury. I ducked below into Whisper's tiny cabin and waited it out. It didn't last too long, and before long I was trying out my new flippers and mask in the spring. We had to move my boat to the other side of St. Somewhere because I was told that I was in the "channel."

Ed and Becky invited me over for dinner, hamburgers on their grill, and I accepted quickly! No cooking or cleanup is great! Thanks Ed and Becky! But I had to wade over to their boat, and back after dinner. Let me tell you that 72 degree water with no sun, is quite cold, and I was shivering all over by the time I got to their boat. But Becky put a towel over my shoulders and I warmed up with some red wine and good conversation.

I guess the most surprising thing about a summer overnight in Silver Glen Spring is how all that cold water affects the temperature of those camping on their boats! I had a little fan in case I needed it, but only ran it a few hours, and then put a sheet over me for the rest of the night. And I had the boat completely buttoned up due to passing showers.

Next morning, Saturday, Becky and Ed and I got right over to the Spring before anyone else, and had a magical time swimming with huge schools of striped bass and mullet. There were two large schools of Stripers and they were so thick that you couldn't see through them! Thousands would be my estimate. Ed got some video and photos of this with his mask/camera, so I'm waiting to see some of those photos to put on our web site.

I had to leave about 11AM on Saturday to go visit my sister who lives in Ocala, and before I got to the Volusia Bar, I caught up with Steve Wood who left about 7AM. We pulled out together and Steve kindly helped my finish packing up in the 97 degree heat. What a difference from being on the Spring!

The rest of the group were having such a great time, that they decided to stay and check out the wild life aboard the powerboats that were streaming into the spring as I was motoring back to the ramp. Needless to say, it was a wild old time according to Ed Combs, but our group still had fun, sharing food, swimming, and most of the revelers left before dark.

Sunday afternoon brought wind with it, and Ed reported reaching 5 knots crossing Lake George back to the Volusia Bar and the St. John's River. All in all, a good summer time event. If more of you folks would just give it up and retire, we could do it during the week sometime!

The Squadron has new SHIRTS! And they're NOT Tee-Shirts! Thanks to the hard work of Jane DeVoe, and her mother-in-law who has an embroidery business, we're going to very soon be offering long sleeve sportsman's shirts with a WCTSS logo on them. They will be in a choice of colors and sizes and will be a reasonable price thanks to Jane's excellent shopping skills!

Squadron Events! or What's Coming Up?

1. Sept 10th - Lake Tarpon Daysail - Launch at John Chesnut Park 2200 East Lake Rd. County Park \$6/launch. Picnic in the park, dockspace all along the canal. Or lunch at Docksides Sports Bar and Grille on the west side of the lake - on a canal just north of Dolly Bay.

2. Oct 14th - 16th - Indian River Lagoon Cruise - Launch at Jonathan's Honest John's Fish Camp - 750 Old Florida Trail - Melbourne Beach, FL \$5/day for launch and storage. Camp on an island in the lagoon, or aboard your boat! Bring firewood and hone your skills for Cayo Costa! Not that far to drive and lots of fun!

3. Nov 18th - 20th - Fall Cayo Costa Cruise - Launch at Eldred's Marina at Placida or on Bokeelia Island at the County Ramp or over at Pineland Marina. Gather Friday night on the beach of the cove at the north end of Pelican Bay. Saturday a daysail and come back to Pelican Bay for another great night aboard. Camping is by stealth over on Punta Blanca Island opposite the cove.

4. Dec 3rd - Canoe Trip with Mark and Katie Stewart - Camp at the Stewart's camp/home. Lots of room for vehicles/tents and they even have a few rooms to share for those who are adverse to sleeping on the ground in tents. More details later on which rivers/springs will be included.



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