

The race was scheduled for about 1 PM Island Time, and this year it was a real hoot according to everyone who participated! There were no rules except twice around the island, and at the end jump out and run to ring a bell. Sounded like a LOT of fun, but alas, Bob Wood had to head home about the time it started, so we missed it. I hear tales that a SeaPearl still managed to win, somehow, but that they won't admit it at Cortez. They say a Melonseed won, but of course the rules encouraged cheating. On our way across the waterway back to the ramp, we saw Eric DeVoe's new "John's Sharpie", a CLC cat ketch design. I think it was only it's second time in the water, but they were sailing the heck out of it in the light air!

Jose' Rodriguez and family were meanwhile back at Cortez having a great time on Dennis Bradley's Egret. With so many strings to pull it was probably like being on a Windjammer to Juan and Mateo!

So, we missed the race, but did manage to capture some great photos and met some old and new friends. That's the great part of these kind of events! Make sure you make it next year!

Sponsored by the Crystal River Boat Builders, a new TSCA group founded by our own Bill Whalen and Steve Kingery, the Boat Bash was held April 22nd - 25th at the Crystal River Archaeological State Park. Bob Wood and I drove up on Friday and headed home on Saturday, just as things were really getting going. But we managed to get the flavor of the event, and enjoyed seeing many of the same boats that we'd seen at Cortez the week before plus a lot of others. Almost all of the boats were works of art, although several appeared to be first attempts at boat building. The Crystal River hand build Sharpie sails!

I got to spend some time with Tom Busenlener, from Pearlinton Mississippi. Tom has been trying to join the Squadron for a few years when he comes to Cedar Key, but we just didn't connect. This year we did. He took me sailing aboard his wooden Phoenix II design, Rascal. It took some doing to work our way out of the canal and out into Crystal River proper, due to the currents and winds, but we did get her going pretty well. Tom and his wife are coming to Cedar Key this weekend, so we'll see him again.

The Boat Bash turned out really well for a first time event, due in no small part to the hard work of the organizers - Bill and Steve, and the other members of the CRBB. The State Park was most accomodating, and everyone was very helpful. We met some great new friends, got to sit around a huge campfire and play guitar while Dennis Marshall played his fiddle, and really just enjoyed the time we were there. I hope they decide that it was worth the effort and will do it again in 2011!

For photos of all of these events please visit:

<http://members.ij.net/wctss/wctss/gallery.htm>



Honest John's Fish Camp -
750 Old Florida Trail, Melbourne Beach, FL - (321) 727-2923

FISH! - May 21st - 23rd - Florida Inshore Sailing Holiday! - Meet Jonathan and Petra at their historic Fish Camp on the Indian River!

Call Jonathan at (321) 727-2923 to let him know you're coming. There is a small charge for launching boats, and storage of vehicles.

What's Coming Up? Where YOU can sail with the Squadron!

1. Cedar Key - May 1st and 2nd - (It will be history by the time you get this.)

2. FISH! (Florida Inshore Sailing Holiday) NEW DATES! - May 21st - 23rd - Jonathan Arthur who lives and works on the Indian River has family comitments in June, so we moved it forward. He writes: "With only three days we could launch on Friday upwind of Honest John's Fish Camp at a specific time and place in the afternoon to give long distance travelers time to arrive. Drive empty boat trailers back to HJFC and jump in the back of my friend's covered pickup truck for the one hour ride back to our boats. Camp Friday night near the boat ramp so late comers could still join us."

3, Glenda Libby is planning an event at Lake Eustis Yacht Club for the Squadron in mid-June. Their racing season is over and they would like to do a cooperative gathering with sailing and camping right on their grounds! Sounds great, but has to be approved by their Commodore first.

4. Mark Steward is also planing a June Canoe Escape down some of the rivers in the area, with the headquarters being his new property near Ocala. We'll discuss the details at Cedar Key and put the information out at that time.

5. Summer sailing for us will mostly be daysails, unless the Keys Sailors with the air conditioners work something up. Remember - summer means thunderstorms and squall lines. Be safe!