



West Coast Trailer Sailing Squadron News

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April was busting out all over!

This has been the most event filled month in Squadron history! It began with the Spring Break Cruise to Pine Island led by Ed and Becky Combs, then a few weeks later the Cortez Small Boat Festival, and last weekend the new Crystal River Traditional Small Craft Association put on their first CRBB, which stands for Crystal River Boat Bash! To top it off Cedar Key actually starts on Friday April 30th! Cedar Key will have to be covered in the May issue of our newsletter, but we'll try to highlight all of the events of April here.

Spring Break Cruise - by Ed Combs

We had a great time! Attendees: Linda and Darcy on Shortwave a Sandpiper from Toronto, CA; Joe Cramer on his Hunter 19 from Punta Gorda; Us on Saint Somewhere our Hunter 23.5; and Ted and Sher on Hideaway their Catalina 27 from Punta Gorda - they had to retire two hours into the trip with inboard diesel overheating problems. 88 miles total with a good 12 miles of motoring due to the fluky shifting winds. We sailed most of the way to Cayo Costa on the first day before motoring the last 3 miles. Sailed most of the way to Tween Waters the 2nd day before motoring the last 2 miles or so. Sailed most of the way back to Cayo Costa on Monday until we passed Useppa and the wind was on our nose out of Boca Grande Pass. Met up with Paul and his Suncat there. Sailed all but the last 2 miles before Lashley Marina in Punta Gorda until the wind died then we motored. The 2 kt and FWOTN (frigging wind on the nose) rules served us well this cruise. We all had a great time, and our newfound Canadian friends were enthralled with all the marine life we often take nearly for granted.

For those of you that know about my propensity to reveal the most problematic event on every cruise: We motored into a slip at Tween Waters, because they did not tell me which one when I called them 5 minutes before, and they started yelling to back and out and move down 3 slips. The marina was crowded with powerboaters who were in various stages of leaving, but I backed out and started backing along the row of boats, planning on swinging the stern toward shore and then going forward into the slip they wanted me in. The motor suddenly died, I looked around at three boats on the bank getting progressively closer, and told Becky to put the anchor out. Like a trooper she only yelled once to ask me why before complying. I had her play out the line and check it a little figuring we would swing stern first onto shore and I would fix what was wrong. While this was going on a charter fishing boat was backing out, the female dockmaster was yelling to come into the slip she was standing at, and Becky was yelling from the front of the boat about what I wanted her to do. I opened the cockpit hatch and found we had over a gallon of gas, the bulb was hard, but the engine still would not start. Ding, ding, ding! I should have heard the bell telling me what was wrong but too many people were yelling, and I ignored, maybe not ignored but I SIGHTED rather than physically confirmed that the frigging kill switch was in place. I saw the little red dangly thing and thought that was the kill switch, it turns out the kill switch is black and the cord to keep from losing it is red - go figure. Anyway the power boat guy pulled alongside, grabbed our rail as did his two passengers and they just handed us off along the side of the boat and into our slip. End of docking tragedy and moments later, after we were tied off, I put the kill switch back on and the motor ran like a champ.

Fifth Annual Cortez Small Craft Festival by Ron Hoddinott

Bob Wood and I decided to team up on the two festivals that were running back to back leading up to Cedar Key. Bob has his new Cedar Key 15, and we wanted to show it off, so I came along with him in his pickup truck camper with the boat tagging along behind. Dale Niemann was right behind us the whole way with Lively, his Core Sound 17. We managed to find the ramps on the other side of the waterway from Cortez, which is the "preferred" ramp to use to put boats in the water. The only problem is that you can't leave your trailer overnight there without paying a fine. So we dropped the boat in and planned to find a ride back to get the truck later. Bob's still learning the ropes of the new boat, and it's a lot more tender than his old flat bottomed Dovekie. We're going to have to rig the line that holds up the sprit so he can reach it from the cockpit.. Standing on the foredeck, looking up and then getting back down is difficult in a small dinghy like boat, especially when you're 85 years old! But we managed and docked the boat right behind Dale Niemann's Lively.

Friday was a slow day, with boats and campers coming in all day. Lots and lots of Squadron members were there with their boats, kayaks, and canoes. Missing for once was Michael Burwell who slipped on the ramp at Crystal River getting the new built-with-hand-tools Sharpie launched, and broke his hip! We wish him a speedy recovery! Dennis Bradley had sailed his Egret replica from Pine Island and Bill, "Catboat Willy" Dolan sailed in company with Dennis in his Marshall 18 Sanderling cat boat. They were already at the docks when we arrived. We got the truck camper parked in the camping area which was great, so we had a place to stay, and we had lunch out on the deck of the restaurant that's right on the fishing boat property.

If you haven't been there yet, plan to go, because the atmosphere of Old Florida fishing village is real, not a Disney version. Friday night the friends of the museum put on a covered dish dinner. Dr. Jay Ludwig and his wife Susan, who brought the original CK 15 over to sail and display went shopping for all of us, so we had something to share at the dinner. Got to visit with Steve Wood, Paul Scribner, Dennis Bradley, Curt Bowman, Steve Kingery, Bill Whalen, Mark Stewart, Rex and Kathy Payne, and Bob and Glenda Bloomquist. Members Bob and Genda were sailing their Bolger Light Schooner, and traveled from Maryland to attend the event. Rex and Kathy had their Bolger Birdwatcher II at the event, and sailed her on Saturday. All the usual suspects were there from the Museum and the boat building shop hosted by Dave Lucas. On Saturday the John Garner boat that we advertised on our web site from Vermont appeared! Member Tim Cox built her. She's a beauty named Redwing. We got a closer look at the Crystal River Boat Bash the following weekend, and we're hoping she shows up at Cedar Key!

Friday night Bob and I turned in early, and found out later that we missed out on some impromptu music on the porch of the museum that went on into the night! David Turner with his family were "instrumental" in that event!

Saturday was the "Big Day" and more boats arrived and were launched. There was a very interesting Rescue Minor shallow draft diesel power boat, and lots of beautiful strip planked kayaks and canoes, and of course the Crystal River Sharpie was launched and sailed! Bill and Steve seemed to have a ball with her.

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