



West Coast Trailer Sailing Squadron News

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Cedar Key Small Boat Meet !

Crossing over the #4 bridge on Hwy 24 into Cedar Key is always like coming home. The islands stick way out into the Gulf, and are surrounded by salt marsh and oyster beds. When exposed to the sea breeze by the low tide, the aroma is all old Florida fishing village, which it once was. Those of us who have salt water in our veins are attracted to scenes like this, and it was obvious when I pulled into the Island Place on Friday that other sailors were likewise drawn here by the charms of Cedar Key! I have never seen the Island Place beach so crowded on a Friday! And there were lots of our members and other sailors over by the Faraway Inn and at the Gulfside Motel. Steve Morrill and Dale Niemann and I were sharing a condo at the Island Place so we launched and rigged Shadow, and Lively. With two good friends and two good boats, I was able to drive my little Honda Civic to the event and save on fuel expenses!

This must have been the year for West Wight Potters at Cedar Key! Steve and Barbara Kane had sailed their Potter 19 "Kanaloa" from Clearwater! Pat Sammons had his spanking new P-19 anchored off the beach, Ted Jean was there with his Potter 15, Eric Hughes, who is the east coast rep for International Marine had a beautiful blue WW Potter 15, and of course Jose' Rodriguez and family had their International Marine built Sanibel 18 on the beach.

Of course SeaPearls were there in numbers as usual, Cedar Key being a perfect sailing venue for shallow water craft like the SeaPearl, Steve's "Shadow", John and Colette's Tri, Paul and Dodi Waggoner's "Wing-It" Larry Whited and Karen's SP 21 "Cadenza", Wayne and Patty Brecka's new SeaPearl 21, "Seminole," and Gary Hirsch's "Silmari!" were out making fast passes at the islands. Ernie Brown from Tennessee brought his Sea Pearl "Mimi" for the first time. Jeff and Diana Lackey had "Moon Pie" with them, Bill McCollum had his SeaPearl there also for the first time as well. Kurt and Barbara Bleakley brought their SeaPearl, and Tosh for Georgia had his SeaPearl "Strider" at anchor near the bridge featuring a new aft canvas cabin covering the rear cockpit, and Dr. Veena Antony had her SP Tri-Sport! There may even have been a few more that I missed!

New members Rex and Kathy Payne, who only recently moved to Florida brought along their Birdwatcher II, "Frances E," replete with sailing rig this year. And Mark and Katie Steward had "Shark Bait," his unique kayak trimaran along to play with! Dean Pacetti, also a new member of the Squadron had his Slider Cat, "HONU." Honu recently attended the Indian River Lagoon outing, and everyone was impressed with her performance.

Also first timer (I think) at Cedar Key was Harry Jordan's Caldonia Yawl in sloop form. He was out there on Saturday pacing the fleet and looking good! Noel and Cristi, of "Furled Sails" podcast fame were sailing their Jim Michalak "Woboto" with lug rig. Tom Busenlener made the trip with his Phoenix II design "Rascal," completing all three small boat events in April and May, moving up the coast from Cortez to Crystal River and on to Cedar Key! Tom lives most of the year in Mississippi, and we hope the Gulf oil spill spares his local shores! Larry Frow was slipping along in his Stevenson Weekender Salty II, and Howard Welch brought his JarCat 6 out from Gainesville with Ray Williams as crew. Tony Silvera, a CK resident sailed his Hobie 14 out to the beaches replete with a small cooler in a rack on the bow!

New to Cedar Key this year was Geoff Chick with a 9/10th scale Yakaboo II cat yawl, modeled after Fredrick Fenger's famous canoe that made fast passages throughout the Caribbean in the early 20th century. Geoff said he used a hull design program by Greg Carlson. Jeff Carr, who happens to be a neighbor of Bill Fite was enjoying the event with his new Crawford Melonseed. Jeff joined the Squadron, and plans to attend our events this year! Channing Boswell of EC Fame, had his BlueJay "Mullet" at the event, and his wife Jamie was sailing a Minto

dinghy that looked like a lot of fun!

Perennial attendees Bernard and Genise Spenle were also there with their lovely sloop, KRAM. Nelson Bennett had his Bolger Featherwind sailing well, and Bob and Martha Slack had their Drascombe Scaffie, "Pish Tosh" out there. Jay and Susan Ludwig had their Cedar Key 15 sailing well. Dr. Jay, as we call him, designed the CK 15 for these conditions, and she excels in them. He has two rigs for her, with the larger one for light air of course. Bob Wood couldn't make it this year, or else there would have been two of these lovely boats dueling it out!

Oggie Helt got into the fun, with his yellow sailing canoe, and could be seen keeping pace with the canoes from Michigan led by Hugh Horton and Ron Sell. There were several new Buffelhead canoes, including the Bell Brother's from Florida. Of course Steve Kingery brought along the hand built with 1980's tools Sharpie from the Crystal River TSCA, and Steve Wood was also there with his Bay Hen 21. There was also a Marsh Hen named "Presto" but I didn't get to meet the owner. Wes Wight was sailing his Proa on Friday, but I didn't see her on Saturday. Terry Poling has an interesting Skerry there with an electric drive. He was zipping all around, and Dave Thomasson brought his 18 foot sharpie instead of his SeaPearl this year.

And I can't forget to mention the beautiful hand made boats from Cortez. Dave Lucas and Howard had the Melonseeds and the big 20 foot gaff rigged Melonseed "Tricia Maria" zipping around on Saturday. And several folks did a double take at Stan's cat rigged Nancy's China!

Eric and Jane DeVoe's new John's Sharpie was attracting a lot of attention, especially by the folks who like to build boats! Eric did a super job of it, and completed her in time for all the small boat events this spring!

There were also several of us who came to ride on other people's boats (OPBs), including myself this year! Preston Watters, Phil Reed, Billy and Joyce VanDeusen, Bill Dolan, Joe Milavsky, an Terry Clements, and long time member Bob Holdereid from Vermont. I'm sure there were others at the event, who I missed, and I'm sorry for that.

The Friday night party at Bob and Geri Treats was special as usual, with Bob helping to repair a wooden hiking stick in the shop that Dale Niemann snapped accidentally. Epoxy works wonders again! This year I rented a four person golf cart for Friday and Saturday so we could ride to the party and breakfast. Saturday's breakfast at "Cooks Cafe" was back to its normal goodness, having survived a disaster of a cook last year. When we first zipped by on Friday we thought it was closed, which didn't surprise us, but it was only closed for the night. We ended up at the dockside open air restaurant and enjoyed the beer, fish sandwiches, hamburgers and waitresses in that order.

Saturday was all sailing, some not coming up for air! Steve and I came in about 3 pm and put the boat back on the trailer, Steve having had enough of Bumper Boats from previous years at the Island Place beach front! Most went out to dinner and met afterward in front of the Gulfside Motel, where we usually meet. There were tons of members and friends there, but the light in the shelter was burned out, so it was hard to see who exactly was who! We managed to sell the rest of the Squadron Tee Shirts, and I gave away some of my new musical CDs.

Sunday was way too windy for most of us, and the boats went back on the trailers. I headed to Clearwater about 1 pm with Steve Kane aboard to pick up his truck and trailer so he could recover his Potter 19 without sailing her all the way home!