



WCTSS

NEWSLETTER

Dec 23rd 2011

Issue # 141

Ron Hoddinott Editor

FT DESOTO DAYSAIL - DEC 10TH

Although the weather forecast was gloomy with occasional showers, the Squadron turned out in good numbers to make the day a fun time sailing in the sparkling waters of Ft. DeSoto Park and the Bunces Pass area of the Gulf. I left home fairly early towing Whisper down Gulf Blvd towards Ft DeSoto, with Bob Wood towing his Cedar Key 15 right behind me. Ed and Becky were already there when we arrived, and we set up our masts right away. Stan Hanson was waiting for me to get a ride on Whisper and Moon Shadow. Stan is looking at a SeaPearl tri in Homestead, and wanted to sail before buying. Wise move, Stan! The wind was blowing pretty good and the air felt cold. I was happy to have brought my foul weather suit along and put the pants on right away. Before long, Fred Metcalf and Bill Prater showed up towing Fred's SeaPearl, Deja Vu. Eric Devoe brought Moxie, his CLC double ended sloop. Jose and Dimitri arrived with Jose's new Blue Jay, which looked practically brand new and sported a brand new suit of sails! Dale Niemann and his son Guy arrived, along with Jeff Carr and his Melonseed. Bill Fite had spent the night somewhere out by Shell Key and he arrived at the ramps in Moon Shadow. Luke and Joy showed up with Allez, their lovely blue SeaPearl, and Mark Stewart arrived with his trimaran Sharkbait. Dennis and Carol came with Odd Duck, their ComPac Suncat 17.

We launched and sailed around the docks taking photos of the other boats, and before long we spotted Art Gregory sailing his Adventure Island, and Brenda Bell and Miriam paddling kayaks! Ray Almodovar got a late start, but counting everyone, there was a total of 16 boats! We zipped around making light of the incoming tide, and did some sailing out in the Gulf before finding a beach on the Shell Key side big enough for all of our boats. The after lunch sail included some rolling and breaking waves and light surfing on the way back in from the Gulf. Lots of fun for everyone! And the crowning touch was the Sun made its appearance some time around 2 pm. Great day!



PS: Please bear with me as I learn the new Newsletter Program. Thanks!

Ocala Paddle and Party with the Stewarts Dec 3rd and 4th

Mark and Katy Stewart graciously opened their home to our members on Friday and Saturday and put on a fabulous party on Saturday evening. Since I had to deliver a recliner to my sister's house in Ocala, I didn't actually go on the Saturday paddle down the Juniper Springs Run in the Ocala National Forest, but I did deliver Bob Wood and his lovely old wooden Old Town canoe to the launch spot, and picked him up afterwards!

Juniper Springs was a great trip on Saturday, as the cool temperatures, and Christmas shopping kept the number of visitors to a minimum. Mark said that there was a lot more wildlife to see on this trip down the creek. Mark paddled his little blue canoe. Ed and Becky Combs had their yellow sit on top kayaks. Tom Beusenlener and his friend Brian paddled a red canoe, and Bob Wood paddled his Old Town wooden canoe.

The run was flowing swiftly and the water was crystal clear, but there are a lot of twists and turns in the run, and sometimes the current will turn your canoe sideways just as you have to negotiate a snag in the stream. Tom and Brian were the first to find out the hard way that the stream can capsize you in a second! Mark helped them pull up on the bank, and drain their canoe and get back in. That didn't diminish their enthusiasm for the trip, but they had a long 7.5 mile paddle to complete! Alligators were spotted both in the creek and on the bank, so everyone tried to avoid going over! At one point Becky jumped in the water to assist all the other boats in getting around a snag. What a girl! Ed also flipped near the end, and spent a few minutes in the water getting back aboard.

After the takeout we all drove to the Stewart's estate, and enjoyed a beautifully set buffet with dessert table. Everything tasted super special. Katy's special touch no doubt! Sunday was the Rainbow River and another great time! Try to make it next year!



New Year's Eve Cruise

Ed and Becky Combs are heading up a great cruise in the Homestead - Elliot Key area! Launching at the South Dade Marina on December 29th - the cruisers will have dinner at Alabama Jacks, the anchor at Middle Key in Biscayne Bay. Others may launch at Homestead Marine Park and spend the night at Elliot Key Marina. Then on Friday, December 30th, the group will rendezvous at Elliot Key Marina and go out Angelfish Cut into the Atlantic reefs for some snorkeling, returning via Caesar's Creek Cut. Saturday they plan to head north to Boca Chica Key where there is hopefully dock space for everyone to tie up. They plan to party the night away at Boca Chica and greet the new year in style, with a campfire and liquid refreshments. On Jan 1st, Sunday, a sail back to Alabama Jacks, and anchor at Middle Key with a return to their launching point on Jan 2nd. So far, Ed and Becky, Dimitri Krinos, Dave and Teresa Barnicoat, Ted Jean, Art Gregory, Rick and Linda Eggers, Mark Stewart, Stin Linkert, Mary and Dave Forester, and Ken and Brenda from Kentucky. That's ten boats. Why not call Ed Combs and add your boat to the fleet? It only takes about 5 or 6 hours to drive from the Tampa Bay area to Homestead Marine Park. Ed can give you the directions. Have fun and have a safe cruise. Call Ed Combs at: 813-541-8932.

Computer Woes Solved

As many of you have read on our Yahoo Group, the Squadron's Computer suffered a slight blip a few weeks ago right after the Ft. DeSoto daysail. It wouldn't start! So I took it to a trusted repair facility in Tampa, and he reset the power monitor thingy by pressing a couple of buttons. I should have tried that. But while I was there I said the fatal words, "While I'm here..." and asked Steve to upgrade the system software to the latest version of the Mac OS, Lion. After I got the computer home, NONE of the programs that I use to run the squadron worked! They were out of date. New programs were needed! Three hundred dollars later, we are back in business, with a new database program, new newsletter program and updated MS Office program. Oh.. I also needed a new version of the program I use to upload files to our web site!

I'm happy to say, that due to my obsession with saving backup copies of our files, and the fact that my data base program was able to import all our membership data from the old program, we are back up and running. However, I only have ONE database now. I used to have one just for membership data and one for printing labels for the newsletter. They have been combined into one new database. So everyone will get a printed copy of the newsletter. If you don't want it, just throw it away. It is easier for me to send everyone a newsletter than maintain two separate databases. Thanks for your understanding.



Squadron Events - Where you can sail with the Squadron?

- 1. New Year's Eve Cruise - Dec 29th - Jan 2nd** Homestead to Elliot Key -call Ed Combs (see article above)
- 2. Swallow Yachts -Bay Raider 20 Florida Debut - Jan 14th** Isles Yacht Club 1780 West Marion Ave. Punta Gorda, FL 33950 program starts at 10 am. RSVP to Bill Vogel by 1/9. Bill@elizabethyachtsales.com - 904-234- 8779
- 3. Lake Seminole daysail - Jan 21st.** 9:30 - \$6 launch fee. Fun picnic at lunch time. Safe daysail for our smaller craft. Bring 'em all!
- 4. Lake Harris - Feb 11th - 12th - Launch at 9:30 - 10:00 at Hickory Point Rec Area -** Daysail or spend the night on the lake at Horseshoe Cove!