

KEY WEST MARLIN TOURNAMENT

KEY
WEST
FLORIDA



KEY WEST
FLORIDA



THE OFFICIAL 2017
GUIDE AND YEARBOOK

The
Florida Keys
& Key West
come as you are®

Extraordinary Vacation Rentals

SELECT FLORIDA KEYS WATERFRONT AND OLD TOWN KEY WEST VACATION PROPERTIES



Specializing in upscale waterfront homes and elite properties, Stay In The Florida Keys is proud to offer one of the largest and most diverse selections of prestigious vacation properties in the Florida Keys.

We set the standard for quality of inventory, depth of experience, extraordinary local knowledge, island hospitality — and attentive, innovative, friendly service.

Our goal is to help you create memories you will treasure for a lifetime, making every step of the way a successful and satisfying experience. We provide an outstanding personal level of service; and we have the expertise and resources to make your vacation dreams a reality.

1-877-FLA-KEYS (352-5397)

www.stayinthefloridakeys.com

The Norman B. Wood

Key West Marlin Tournament Perpetual Trophy



Capt. Norman Wood searched the waters off of Key West to find the blue marlin that were so abundant in the neighboring waters of Cuba, the Dry Tortugas, and the Bahamas. Capt. Wood believed that the mighty blue marlins were migrating between the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. Mapping out the most likely route he determined that the best big game fishing should be determined just 20 miles off Key West. After days of exploration and offshore fishing, he found the big blues! Now known as "Woods Wall", depth soundings provided Capt. Wood with the reason for great fishing - a sharp drop off in the ocean floor, where the depths plummet from 900 to over 2,000 feet, a "hot spot" for blue marlins.

Capt. Norman Wood has been instrumental in establishing Key West as a world class sport fishing center for decades. Whether in his role as a founding member of the Key West Marlin Tournament or as a Retired Director of First State Bank of the Florida Keys, Capt. Wood is loved, respected, and admired for his community leadership and commitment to the Florida Keys.

*The Norman B. Wood Trophy can be viewed at First State Bank of the Florida Keys
1201 Simonton Street Branch Office.*



We never forget that banking is about people. Whether you're buying a new house or your dream vessel, your story is unique. First State Bank wants to be a part of that story. Apply online or give us a call today to realize your dream.

**Mortgage, Personal,
Auto & Boat Loans**

 **FIRST STATE BANK**
OF THE FLORIDA KEYS

MEMBER FDIC  EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

**305-296-8535
KeysBank.com**



Table of Contents

Welcome

- 6 Tim Greene —
Chairman, The Key West Marlin Tournament
- 8 Scott Greene —
Director, The Key West Marlin Tournament



Key West Marlin Tournament

- 10 Schedule of Events
- 12 Sponsor Recognition
- 14 Tournament Rules
- 18 Reel In a Prize Catch
- 24 History of The Tournament



Florida Keys & Key West

- 30 Key West: Somewhere South of Normal
- 32 Only in the Keys



Hemingway Days 2017

- 36 Hemingway Days Welcome
- 38 37th Annual Hemingway Days
- 42 Hemingway® Look-Alike Contest



- 44 Hemingway Days Caribbean Street Fair
- 46 5k Sunset Run & Paddleboard Race
- 48 Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition
- 50 "Night-Fishing" by Rhonda Carrier
- 54 Hemingway Days Literary Events
- 56 Hemingway Days Schedule of Events
- 64 Ahhh, That Florida Keys Sunset

Published By: The Key West Marlin Tournament, Inc.; Tim Greene, Chairman

Contributing Writers or Editors: Lorian Hemingway, Carol Shaughnessy, Katharine Roach, Tim Greene

Program Design & Production: Sandy Husmann | *Thank You To:* Lorian Hemingway, Carol Shaughnessy, and our loyal sponsors and advertisers

Cover design by Cliff Burks. Special thank you to cover artist Stephen Muldoon (see pages 7 & 49).

TIME TO STOP WISHING, TIME TO GO FISHING



HYATT
PLACE®

THE ELEGANCE OF HYATT PLACE®

With a full-service Marina and Yacht Club, swimming pools, fitness center, waterfront restaurant and bar, our resort is hard to leave. When you do, you'll find us surrounded by the Keys best fishing and diving. We're just a short drive from the shopping and sight-seeing of Key West and close to all the popular attractions of the Middle Keys.

FARO BLANCO YACHT CLUB & MARINA

Our new gulfside facility boasts 74 state-of-the-art slips with easy access from the Atlantic via 7-Mile Bridge and Moser Channel. You'll experience all the amenities of a World-Class Marina and Yacht Club including a state of the art docking facility with fuel, pump out, 24-hour security, concierge services, wireless internet, marine store, pool, fitness center and first-class room accommodations on site. Our Fishing Charters include Off Shore, Reef & Wreck, Lobster Diving (in season), Shark, Tarpon, Sailfish and More! Island Boat Tours and Family Day Trips are also available.

LIGHTHOUSE GRILL

Whether you travel by land or water, a Keys trip is incomplete without a visit to our waterfront restaurant. In the shadow of our historic lighthouse, you can relax in a casual, gulfside setting and enjoy an eclectic menu of fresh seafood and local favorites. Our Veranda Bar is the perfect place to adjourn to after dinner, stop for happy hour, or gather with friends for generous cocktails and outstanding views.



MILE MARKER 48 | 1996 OVERSEAS HIGHWAY, MARATHON, FLORIDA 33050 | 305-743-9018

FAROBLANCORESORT.COM



Welcome

Great times, great memories and great fishing!

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2017 Havana Club Key West Marlin Tournament! We are delighted to have you join us for another exciting and challenging fishing tournament, full of great fishing, fun, food, entertainment, and friends.

Last year's tournament once again lived up to its reputation as a world-class fishing event, particularly with the inclusion of the Marathon Marlin Tournament at Faro Blanco Resort and Yacht Club. The Key West Marlin Tournament's expanding brand allows upper and middle Keys anglers to participate in our premier tournament, creating a richer and more varied experience for all of our anglers.



This year we will also be experiencing the excitement of a new venue for many of our events. Everything excluding our Awards Banquet and Silent Auction (held at the beautiful Margaritaville Resort & Marina) will be held at The Waterfront Brewery; a craft brewery located on the historic Key West Bight with a great beer selection, a full food menu, and the best views in Key West!

We are very happy to welcome our new title sponsor Havana Club Puerto Rican Rum, the new "anglers' choice" fishing Rum! Havana Club rums are premium, aged rums, distilled and finely crafted in Puerto Rico, comprised of Havana Club Añejo Blanco and Havana Club Añejo Clásico.

Our television show will again be produced under the direction of Fernando Barta and his great team of videographers. It takes great skill to capture all of the excitement of this tournament, and we thank them for their dedication and for the outstanding program that airs each year on Fox Sports Networks.

Each year the tournament takes place during the Hemingway Days Festival and we wish to encourage you to take part in the many events surrounding this annual celebration of the great author's life and works. From the Papa Hemingway Look-alike Contest to the Caribbean Street Fair, there is something for everyone, and we are happy to be a part of this extraordinary festival.

I would like to thank you all for your participation in our tournament this year, and would like you to join me in thanking our fine sponsors, without whom this tournament would not be possible. Havana Club, Margaritaville Key West Resort & Marina, Stay in Costa Rica, First State Bank, The Waterfront Brewery, Conch Harbor Marina and the Monroe County Tourist Development Council.

To good fishing and great friends,

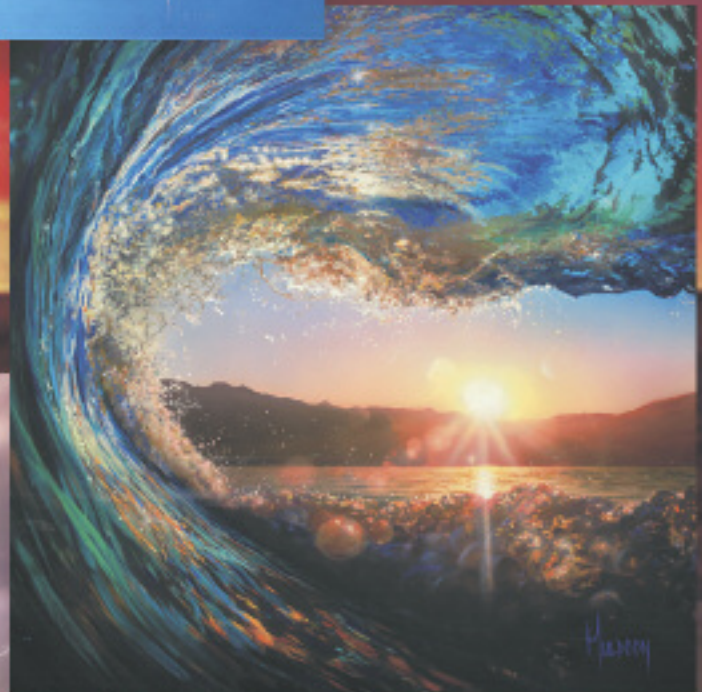
Tim Greene, Tournament Chairman

WYLAND GALLERIES WELCOMES
Stephen Muldoon



*The official
artist of the
Key West
Marlin
Tournament*

*Come see the new collection
of originals on metal and
meet Stephen Muldoon July
19-23 at Wyland Gallery,
623 Duval Street.*





Welcome

From The Director

Welcome to the 2017 Havana Club Key West Marlin Tournament! Once again this year's tournament offers plenty of excitement, including the Marathon Marlin Tournament hosted by Faro Blanco Resort and Yacht Club, and the adventure of experiencing our new event venue, the Waterfront Brewery on beautiful Key West Bight.

We are looking forward to continuing the friendships and camaraderie formed by the expansion of our tournament brand into Marathon, and are looking forward to enjoying the great entertainment and spectacular sunsets at the Waterfront Brewery!

Our television show The Hemingway Challenge continues to be a hit, highlighting the talents of our producer Fernando Barta, as well as the terrific video you provide from each of your boats during the tournament. This year we will again give an award for the best video, so be sure to turn yours in even if it's not of the winning fish.

Our four-day tournament will feature all the favorites from our Fish Fry and Banquet, to exciting auction and raffles. Please check out the schedule of events so that you won't miss any of the fun and fellowship!

Planning and directing this sensational tournament is a challenging adventure, but the positive feedback we receive from the participants and sponsors alike make it a truly rewarding experience. Our board of directors is committed to enhancing this event so it can remain one of the premiere fishing tournaments in the world.

Again welcome, and thank you for your commitment to be with us, and please join with us to give a thank you to our fine sponsors.

Good luck and Tight Lines!

Scott Greene
Tournament Director



SCOTT GREENE
Tournament Director

ISLANDER RESORT, A GUY HARVEY OUTPOST

Islamorada



Islamorada gives you the best boating, fishing, diving and dining. Islander Resort, Guy Harvey's Outpost Islamorada, brings you the best lounging and living the Florida Keys has to offer. The Islamorada Outpost features two waterfront resorts and offers you the choice of sunrise or sunset.

Our two Florida Keys waterfront properties provide the perfect resort accommodation options for spending a long weekend or a long winter. A beautiful oceanfront resort boasts a new conference center, a pristine private beach, as well as two oceanfront swimming pools, a hot tub, shuffleboard, volleyball and a lighted, 200-foot fishing pier with amazing views of local marine life, and

is the home of Guy's Beachside Bar & Grill. Our self-catering bayside townhomes feature fully equipped gourmet kitchens, a gulf front pool, beach, picnic area and a 14-slip marina basin. All Islander accommodations offer full kitchens and complimentary wireless internet. We never charge resort fees.

Islander Watersports and the Guy Harvey Outfitter believe every great vacation involves time in the water and on the water. Let us be your guide to excitement, entertainment and activities of all kinds. From catching the big one to booking a massage or making a dinner reservation, our vacation experts are standing by - call or email now and start dreaming.



GuyHarveyOutpostIslamorada.com

Overseas Highway, Islamorada, FL 33036 | 305.664.2031 | 800.753.6002 | Sales@GuyHarveyOutpostIslamorada.com



Schedule of Events

WEDNESDAY JULY 19, 2017

4-6 PM —
Tournament
Registration
(The Waterfront Brewery —
1st floor game room)

6-7 PM —
Captain's Meeting
(The Waterfront Brewery —
3rd floor deck)

7-8 PM —
Auction and Raffle
(The Waterfront Brewery —
3rd floor deck)

THURSDAY JULY 20, 2017

7:20 AM —
Boats assemble
for traditional Bimini Start

7:30 AM — Bimini Start

8:30 AM —
Lines in the water

4 PM —
Lines out of the water

4-6 PM — Weigh In
(The Waterfront Brewery —
dockside)

6:30-8 PM —
Island Pig Roast and
Cocktail Party
(The Waterfront Brewery —
3rd floor deck)

FRIDAY JULY 21, 2017

7:30AM —
Boats leave control area
for Day 2 fishing

8:30 AM —
Lines in the water

4PM —
Lines out of the water

4-6 PM — Weigh In
(The Waterfront Brewery —
dockside)

6:30-8PM —
Dockside Cocktails
and Fish Fry
(The Waterfront Brewery —
3rd floor deck)

SATURDAY JULY 22, 2017

7:30AM — Boats leave control
area for Day 3 fishing

8:30 AM — Lines in the water

3PM — Lines out of the water

3-5 PM — Weigh In
(The Waterfront Brewery —
3rd floor deck)

6:30-7:30 PM —
Awards Banquet Cocktails
(Margaritaville Key West
Resort & Marina)

6:30-8:30 PM — Silent
Auction (Margaritaville Key
West Resort & Marina)

7:30 PM — Awards Banquet
Dinner and Awards
(Margaritaville Key West
Resort & Marina)

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION

\$50,000 In Cash Prizes

	MARLIN	DOLPHIN	TUNA	WAHOO
FIRST PLACE	\$ 25,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 750	\$ 750
SECOND PLACE	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 350	\$ 350
THIRD PLACE	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 150	\$ 150



The 2018 Havana Club Key West Marlin Tournament

The dates for the 2018 Havana Club Key West Marlin Tournament have been selected. Please mark your calendar for July 18 thru July 21, 2018, and plan to join us for another great tournament. If you would like to be added to our mailing list and/or receive a brochure for next year's tournament, please

e-mail your name, address, phone, and e-mail address to info@keywestmarlin.com. You can now register and pay for the tournament on-line and obtain all the information, pictures and merchandise through the website. Please join us next year for a great tournament.



Havana Club Puerto Rican Rum Marlin Tournament



Tournament Thanks

Major Sponsors of the 2017 Havana Club Key West Marlin Tournament



The 2017 Havana Club Key West Marlin Tournament thanks all of it's sponsors and those companies contributing Raffle and Auction items.



Havana Club Puerto Rican Rum Marlin Tournament



Tournament Rules

Havana Club Key West Marlin Tournament Official Tournament Rules *All Decisions By Rules Committee Will Be Final*

TOURNAMENT BOUNDARIES, DATES & TIMES

Fishing will be on Thursday, July 20; Friday, July 21, and Saturday July 22, 2017. There are geographical boundary limits as follows; External boundary limits: E81° 0"; N25° 0"; W82° 40"; S23° 40". The controlled daily departure location will be in the Lower Keys Area. Boats must assemble each morning inside the reef line between Looe Key Reef off Big Pine Key and Sand Key Light off Key West. The Committee Boat will broadcast over VHF Channel 78 at 7:30 a.m. a signal authorizing all boats to depart the assembly area. Boats must pass through the controlled assembly area after 7:30 a.m. and before they begin fishing. Boats must remain in the water i.e. NOT transported in any manner to another location. Dates and times are final. There is no weather day. On Thursday July 20, boats are requested to assemble at 7:20 a.m. in the area of the airport marker for a traditional bimini start.

8:30 a.m. — Lines in the Water on a Radio Signal from the Committee Boat

4:00 p.m. — Lines out of the Water on a Radio Signal from the Committee Boat

On Saturday July 22, lines out of the water will be at **3:00pm**.

Bait — Bait may be obtained by any means before commencement of fishing hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. During fishing hours boats may catch their own bait but may not obtain bait from any other boat.

GENERAL RULES:

1. Fishing must be performed in accordance with principles of good sportsmanship, and in compliance with these and IGFA rules as published in the '2008 Edition' of the IGFA World Record Game Fishes' book under 'International Angling Rules'.

2. This is a boat event. Each boat participating must pay an entry fee of \$1800 which allows two anglers to fish in the tournament and provides two additional social privileges. There is no maximum number of anglers per boat but each additional angler must pay \$200 to enter. Angler substitutions may be made but must be called in to the Committee Boat before 'Lines in the Water' each day. Boats may only be changed as a result of mechanical breakdown and the change must receive prior approval of the Rules Committee. There is no maximum number of lines in the water.

3. **ENTRIES:** Entries must be postmarked or received by June 15, 2017 to be eligible for the early entry fee of \$1,800. After June 15, 2017, the entry fee will be \$2,100.

Entries will be accepted up until the start of the Captains' Meeting at The Waterfront Brewery, 3rd floor deck, on Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at 6:00pm.

ENTRY REFUSAL: The Tournament Committee reserves the right to refuse tournament applications or entry from any prospective entrant with or without cause in its sole discretion. Entrants and/or entrants proposing to fish on boats that have been barred from other fishing tournaments can expect to have their entry rejected. Any applicant refused entry shall be entitled to a refund of entry fee.

4. **THIS IS AN OPEN EVENT:** Professional Guides, Captains, and Mates are eligible to participate as anglers.

5. All tackle must meet specifications for each category.

6. Angler must hook and play fish without help. Rod, reel and line must not be touched by anyone until the leader is brought within the grasp of the angler, other angler, captain or mate at which time more than one person is permitted to hold the leader.

7. Fish injured or mutilated are not eligible.

8. Double line, if used, must leave rod tip during the fight and fish must be fought most of the time on specified class line.



9. Line Test Limits: It is the responsibility of the angler to insure that the proper test line is used. Line test limits must be adhered to. Manufacturer's stated test line is a maximum of 130#. Lower test line may be used, but no bonus is awarded for using lower test line.

10. Beginning January 1, 2008, anglers fishing from HMS permitted vessels and participating in billfish tournaments must use only non-offset circle hooks when deploying natural bait or natural bait artificial lure combinations. Tournament anglers may deploy "J" hooks with artificial lures.

VALIDATION REQUIREMENTS

1. PHOTOGRAPHS—Each boat will provide their own video camera in order to record the fish during the fight and before the release showing the mate's hand on the leader. The tournament will provide each boat with a series of validation sheets that each morning will be instructed by the committee boat a photo of the designed sheet which will precede all other photos of that day. The boat must provide to the weigh master a means to download the camera to the official records of the tournament, this can be achieved by either having a removable sim card or having a cord to download to a computer. All fish caught and released should be photographed several times during the fight and at the time of release. Failure to photograph a fish may result in disqualification of that particular



fish. In the event that a camera malfunctions or some other unusual circumstance results in no photographs, the angler may petition the Rules Committee to have his catch allowed. The Rules Committee may request special polygraph tests or other corroborating evidence that would help validate the catch. The decision of the Rules Committee is final.

2. LINE / LURE—Boats which have caught and released a target species must turn in the camera, along with the leader, or a portion thereof, the double line, and at least 10' (ten feet) of the single line closest to the double line after each day's fishing. Cameras and line must be turned in at the weigh station, Waterfront Brewery, dockside, within two and one-half (2 ½) hours after the Committee Boat calls for 'Lines out of the water' but no later than 5pm on the final day of fishing.

3. POLYGRAPH—All winning teams may be subject to and must pass polygraph testing. Refusal to take the test will result in disqualification. Any person aboard the boat may also be

subject to and must pass polygraph testing. Refusal to take the test will result in disqualification. Polygraph tests will include questions on angling and release procedures and species of fish. Polygraph tests are final and winners are not official until all test results are completed.

4. RELEASE—Proper release techniques must be used. Release is official only if the following conditions are met:

A. For blue marlin, white marlin, spearfish, and sailfish—ALL billfish MUST be released.

B. Fish must be fought on the specified class line (i.e. the double line and the leader must leave the reel) for the majority of the time the fish is hooked-up.

C. The fish must be brought close enough to the boat for the mate, angler, or captain to touch the leader (and photo should be taken of the fish at this time) to qualify as a catch and release. After the leader has been touched, the angler may continue to fight the fish in an effort to tag it. If possible, multiple photos of the fish, angler, and tag should be taken. There are no additional points for tagged fish.

COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTING

1. The Committee Boat will monitor VHF Channel 78.

2. All boats must report 'Hook-ups' and 'Releases' to the Committee Boat at the time of the occurrence, identifying the species and the Anglers name. Reports

Tournament Rules

continued



may be relayed by another boat or may be by telephone if the reporting boat cannot reach the Committee Boat.

3. If any boat is 'Hooked-up' at the time the Committee Boat calls for 'Lines out of the Water', the boat must reaffirm the 'Hook-up' with the Committee Boat.

4. Cameras and line must be submitted within two and one-half (2½) hours after the Committee Boat calls for 'Lines out of the Water'. An exception to this rule will be allowed in the event that a 'Hook-up' was reaffirmed with the Committee Boat at the time of 'Lines out of the Water' in which case the camera and line may be submitted up to two and one-half (2½) hours after the Release time reported to the Committee Boat but no later than 5:00 p.m. on the final day of fishing.

ACTS OR SITUATIONS THAT WILL DISQUALIFY A RELEASE:

Any violation of these Rules or violation of the guidelines as published in the '2009 Edition' of the 'IGFA World Record Game Fishes' book under 'Angling Regulations' will disqualify a fish. If an angler has a fish disqualified he/she may attempt to catch another fish of that species during the tournament timetable. All decisions of the Rules Committee are final.

PROTEST

All protests must be in writing and submitted to the Rules Committee on the day of the alleged violation with a deposit of \$500.00. If the alleged violation is upheld, the deposit will be refunded. If not upheld, the

deposit will not be refunded. The decision of the Rules Committee will be final.

SCORING SYSTEM

1. Blue marlin score 400 points for a release. Any blue marlin killed for record consideration will also receive 400 points provided it weighs a minimum of 600 pounds. If a blue marlin is killed for record consideration and weighs less than 600 pounds it scores zero points.

2. All white marlin releases score 400 points.

3. All spearfish releases score 400 points.

4. *One fun fish per day* can be entered for additional points as follows:

SAILFISH — release 50 points
(must turn in camera).

DOLPHIN — 1 point per pound.
i.e. 38.5 pounds scores 38.5 points.

WAHOO — 1 point per pound.

TUNA, YELLOWFIN,
BLACKFIN, and SKIPJACK —
1 point per pound.

Minimum weight on dolphin, wahoo and tuna is 15 pounds.

5. In the event of a tie on points, the boat with the earliest catch or release time on their last scored fish will be the higher placed boat.

6. Boats entered in the Marlin Division of the Havana Club Key West Marlin Tournament may pay an additional \$300 entry fee to compete for a total of \$10,000 in cash prizes for the three heaviest dolphin, wahoo, and tuna (yellowfin, blackfin, and skipjack),

in the Fun Fish Division. Minimum weight for these species is 15 pounds. All dolphin, wahoo, and tuna, must be weighed at the Conch Republic Seafood Company in the Historic Seaport within two and one-half (2 1/2) hours after the Committee Boat calls for 'Lines out of the Water'. An exception to this rule will be allowed in the event that a 'Hook-up' was reaffirmed with the Committee Boat at the time of 'Lines out of the Water' in which case the fish may be weighed in up to two and one-half (2 1/2) hours after the fish boated time reported to the Committee Boat but no later than 5:00 p.m. on the final day of fishing. Boats wishing to weigh-in dolphin, wahoo, or tuna should notify the Committee Boat that they are bringing in a fish to weigh. Wahoo, dolphin, and tuna may be transported to the weigh station by land or by sea, thus allowing boats fishing out of Big Pine and the Lower Keys to return to their home dock and bring their fish to to the Waterfront Brewery by car or truck. The Weighmaster's announced weight at the time of weigh-in will be entered into the record as the official weight and the Captain and/or Angler will be asked to witness the weight. In the event of a tie, the boat with the earliest fish weighed in will be the higher placed boat. It is not necessary to turn in camera, line, and leader for these fish except for sailfish release where the video must be turned in.

TOURNAMENT WINNERS

1. Cash prizes totaling \$40,000 will be awarded to the three boats with the highest points in accordance with the Tournament Scoring System.

2. Cash prizes totaling \$10,000 will be awarded for the three heaviest dolphin, tuna and wahoo weighed in by the boats entered in the Fun Fish Division.



Havana Club Puerto Rican Rum Marlin Tournament



Year-Round in the Florida Keys Reel in a Prize Catch



ANDY NEWMAN/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU

A Florida Keys flats guide idles away from the dock during the dawn of a new day in Islamorada, Fla. Featuring an angling diversity found in few saltwater sportfishing destinations, Islamorada is known as the "Sportfishing Capital of the World."

Want to hunt the skittish gray ghost of the flats, the bonefish? Feel like testing your mettle against a reel-emptying blue marlin? Come to the Florida Keys, where year-round fishing means a noteworthy (or at least edible) catch is possible virtually any time.

The tropical weather, nearby

Gulf Stream and 125-mile-long arc of islands that comprises the Florida Keys create a fishing environment unique in the world.

Off the Keys' "outer" curve lies the Atlantic Ocean. Warm and shallow near shore, the sea reaches depths of more than 600 feet just 11 miles offshore of the Upper Keys. Travel another 12 to 15 miles

offshore and the depths begin to approach 2,000 feet.

Deep-sea fishing, best accomplished with one of the Keys' experienced charter captains, targets some of the greatest sport fish in the world: blue and white marlin, sailfish and swordfish. In addition, drag-tested thrills are delivered by rocket-like wahoo and kingfish.



Exceptional table fare comes from the Keys' most popular summer visitor, the dolphin, also called mahi-mahi. This edible dolphin is not to be confused with the mammal that also is seen in the waters of the Keys.

The latest craze in Keys offshore sportfishing is daytime angling for swordfish, a deep-water fish that has the stamina and strength of a bluefin tuna yet can leap like a marlin. Now, thanks to pioneering efforts to fish at depths of 1,200 feet or more, Keys captains successfully catch swordfish under the bright subtropical sun.

Closer to the reef, grouper and a variety of snapper are caught with lighter gear. Visiting anglers quickly learn that moving a grouper out from under a rock takes arms of steel and tackle to match.

Yellowtail snapper, regarded by many as the Keys' tastiest fish, are year-round residents. "Hook and Cook" means it's possible for your captain to filet your fresh-caught snapper so it can be taken to one of numerous Keys restaurants for immediate preparation for lunch or dinner. It doesn't get fresher than that.

Florida Bay, edged by the "inner" curve of the Keys and the Florida mainland, is referred to by locals as the backcountry. It is home to five of the most sought-after game fish in angling circles: bonefish, tarpon, permit, redfish and snook.

For visitors, hiring a backcountry guide makes for a successful and educational day. The shallow,

unmarked waters of Florida Bay can be confusing and potentially treacherous for the inexperienced.

A saltwater fishing license is required to fish in the Keys, even from area bridges or from shore. These can be purchased at many bait and tackle shops, online at myfwc.com or by calling toll-free **1-888-FISH-FLORIDA (888-347-4356)**. Anglers fishing on a charterboat or backcountry boat do not need a license, as they are covered by the captain's documentation.

Visitors also must abide by Florida state fishing regulations, which define size and bag limits and closed seasons. Current regulations can be found at most bait and tackle shops or online at myfwc.com/fishing/saltwater/regulations/.

—Andy Newman

**SOAK UP
THE SUN
SHAKE UP
THE FUN**

Submerge yourself in an island-inspired experience in Margaritaville style. Bask beneath the Key West sunshine and indulge in water sports, endless dining, live entertainment and nightly Sunset Celebrations at the waterfront pier.

**FLORIDA RESIDENTS
SAVE UP TO 25%**

MARGARITAVILLE[®]
Resort & Marina
KEY WEST, FL.

305.294.4000 | margaritavillekeywestresort.com



Havana Club Puerto Rican Rum Marlin Tournament



201 WILLIAM ST
305-440-2270

- Locally Caught Seafood
- Award Winning Beer
- Waterfront View
- Brewery Tours
- Gift Shop

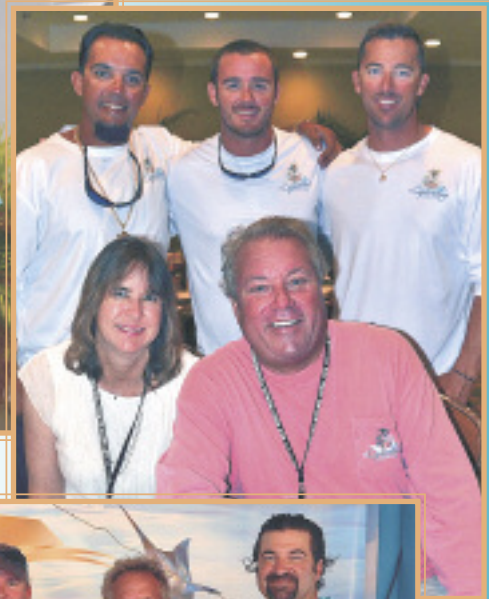


Locally Brewed Craft Beer





Havana Club Puerto Rican Rum Marlin Tournament



Havana Club Puerto Rican Rum Marlin Tournament



History of The Tournament



It is interesting to me that when people think of Ernest Hemingway, Key West immediately comes to mind, but when thinking about Hemingway fishing for giant blue marlin they usually don't connect marlin fishing and Hemingway with the gulf stream south of Key West. Founders of the Key West Marlin tournament Capt. Norman Wood and Wayne Hunt believed that marlin fishing in Key West could rival marlin fishing in many other spots in the world. Did Hemingway know about the great marlin fishing off Key West 40 years before? You bet he did! It wasn't to prove the point but in 1981 Norman

Wood invited Miami Herald writer Jim Hardie to Key West for a trip aboard the *Petticoat III*. Little did they know this trip would make history. After that fishing trip the *Miami Herald* headline read; "Hemingway Never Had It So Good". When the *Petticoat III* returned to Oceanside Marina in Key West, four marlin flags flew from the outrigger; three release flags and a fourth a silhouette of the captured blue marlin weighing 285 pounds. The released marlin were estimated at 150, 275 and 400 pounds. As exciting as that trip was, the full story was even more unbelievable. Seven blue marlin were hooked on that day, setting the stage for one of the greatest fishing tournaments in history. Shortly after that historical day of fishing aboard the *Petticoat III*, another Key West sportfishing boat recorded nine blue marlin hook-ups in one day. News of the red-hot marlin fishing on the Key West Wall spread through the sport fishing community like wild fire.

The Key West Marlin Tournament Is Born

In 1982 the inaugural Key West Marlin Tournament took place October 23 – October 25 with 92 boats and 400 anglers testing the waters south of Key West on the Wall. It was a rousing success.

1982 was the year of the 400 pounders with first prize going to Key West attorney Jack Spottswood with a 462 pounder, aboard the *Chelsea*. Micky Rupp aboard his boat *Rupp Rigger* was the winner of the tag and release division with two marlin.

1983 was the year of the 300 pounders. Only 4 ounces separated the first and second place marlin winners and only 23 pounds separated the first through eighth-place marlin. Aboard Captain Dick Myers *Fair Star* angler Harold Shappel



landed a 328.12 pound blue marlin to claim first place. Navy Captain Red Best commanding officer of the NAS Key West Base won the marlin tag and release division fishing with Captain Junior Rendueles.

1984 was the year of the 500 pounders. Mary Jo Spence landed a 500-pound blue marlin to claim first place fishing aboard the *Mary Jo* with captain Matt Borkowski. A second 500-pound blue was weighed in on the last day of the tournament to take second place based on time of catch. Angler Kent Smith aboard Capt. Frank Smith's *Renegade* was the tag and release champ with two marlin releases.

1985 was the year of excitement and variety of catches. Angler Charles Lewis fishing aboard the *Amours* with Captain Jr. Rendueles captured the winning blue marlin with a 466.8 pounder. Shirley Wood fishing aboard the *Petticoat III* with her husband Norman took top honors for most releases.

1986 was the year of the small boats with two marlin in excess of 300 pounds being caught in 25-foot boats. Angler Findlay Sinclair's 348.75 pound blue marlin took first place, he was fishing aboard the *Katherine Louise* with Capt. Tom Walker and Ed Allie. The second place weight marlin went to angler Ramón Rodriquez and Capt. Pat Tuper. Bill Voegeli's two tag and releases were tops overall. First tag, *Sonny Boy*, Sonny Tilman. Second Tag, *Sea Boots*, Capt. Jim Sharpe and angler Todd Badd.

1987 was the year of the 500-pound blue marlin, as predicted in the welcoming letter prior

to the tournament. A new tournament record was set by angler Rosie Morrison fishing aboard the *Sea Boots* with Captain Jim Sharpe, Rosie's marlin weighed in at 520 pounds. Angler Gene Stone took top honors in the release division.

1988 returned to the year of the 400-pounder. Angler Walter Milo fishing with Captain Jay Weed aboard the *Lucky Two* landed a 422.25-pound blue marlin to make the winners circle.

1989 was once again the year of the 300-pounder. Angler Roy Spear fishing with Capt. Patrick Sheppard aboard the *Dream* made the winners circle with a 300-pound blue. Angler Tim Greene fishing aboard the *Beachcomber* with Capt. Mike Cyr took top honors in the release division.

1990 was back to the 500-pounders and a new tournament record. The brother team of Captain Bryan Bennett and Glenn Bennett fishing on the *Thunnus* captured a blue that weighed in at 570-pounds. The release honors went to the *Sea Boots 34* angler Chuck Stitzel and Capt. Todd Badd.

1991 featured all releases; first marlin release was angler Tom Daniels and Capt. Larry White fishing on the *Chief*, second marlin release went to angler Scott Ricket on the *Serenity* and the third marlin released went to Warren Worlin Sr., fishing with his son Warren Worlin Jr. on the *Go Gether*.

1992 Angler Steven Lewis and Capt. Lindsay Forde on *Freebee* won first place, angler Phil Eaton and Capt. Ky Lewis on the *Dazie Mae* came in second and angler Dennis Captik and Capt. Bill Wickers aboard the *Linda D IV* took home third place.

The Key West Marlin Tournament Is Reborn

1999 Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament

The tournament is reborn with a new and exciting scoring format that keeps every boat in the tournament until lines out on the final day. In 1999 the first place boat in the marlin division was the *Talisman* with angler Jim Sharpe Jr. and Captain Mike Friday with 470 points. Second place boat was the *CC Rider* with 461 points. Third place boat was the *Sweet Deal* also scoring 461 points but losing second on time of catch.

2000 Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament

The first-place boat in the marlin division was the *Summertime Lady II*, with anglers Mike Sullivan and Capt. Marco Gaona and Mike Weinhofer. Second-place boat was *Molly Good Heads* with angler Jason Gilbert. Third-place boat was *Leprechaun* with angler Joe Richardson and Capt. Andy Fortin.

In the dolphin division the top dolphin were separated by only three pounds. The *Do Fish* with angler Kevin Firestone weighed in a 43.05-pound bull to take first place. In second place was *Talisman* with angler Jim Sharpe Jr.'s 42.65-pound bull. Third place was the *Super Equity* with angler Pete Rutskin with a 38.05-pound bull.

Tournament History

continued



2001 Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament

The first-place boat in the marlin division was the *Finesse* with angler Clay Harris and Captain Ken Harris. The second-place boat was *Rampagous* crewed with angler John Crockett and Captain Brett Taporowski. Third-place went to the boat *Looney Tunes* with angler Bob Scerrato and Ed Steinmetz fishing with Captain Carl Rees.

In the dolphin division the top prize went to angler Tom Payne on the boat *Relentless* with Captain Paul Ross. In the wahoo division the top boat was *Lucky Charm* with angler Rick Bodett and Captain Jay Weed. The top tuna was caught on the boat *Peg Leg* with angler Alan Finnieston.

2002 Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament

Marking the 20th anniversary of the tournament, the first-place winner was *Mar-Joe* with Captain Scott Henley, George Castro, and Frank Bolin releasing three blue marlin to add their names to the Norman Wood trophy. The second-place trophy went to the *Bull Gator* team, with Bob Sullivan and Bill Caulfield releasing two blue marlin. Third-place went to *Summertime Lady* with one blue marlin release based on time.

The Fun Fish Division first-place dolphin was caught on the *Erica* by Jimmy Butters weighing 35.35-pounds, second-place went to *Sweet Deal* with Scott Fricke with a 32.2-pound dolphin and third-place

was *Super Grouper* with Chip Veach weighing 29.95-pounds. The top wahoo was caught on the *Lucky Charm* by Rick Cresse.

2003 Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament

The first-place boat in the 2003 tournament in the marlin division was the *Beachcomber*, with captain Daryl Simeon and anglers Rick Kirvan, Matt Polumbo and Tim Greene, releasing two blue marlin for the win. Second place went to the *Game Hunter*, skippered by Alex Alder with anglers Brian Baugher, Chris Claypool and Anthony Delduca. *Get Lit* captured third place with Captain Ray Rosher and anglers Chris Toomey and Peter Miller.

In the Fun Fish Division top dolphin prize went to angler David Lively on the *Y2k* with a 50.5-pound dolphin. The *Kilcare* caught the largest tuna with angler Ned Dickman. The largest wahoo was captured by the *Triple Time* with angler Rob Camis.

2004 Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament

Miami Beach angler Bob Cristoph, Sr., caught and released a sailfish Saturday, adding points to his team's tally that included a released blue marlin and a 17.2-pound dolphin to win the 2004 tournament.

Cristoph's son Bob Cristoph, Jr., Ryan Flannery and Bill Mosher fished on the *Hook*, skippered by Rick Morrell of Miami.

Randy Reynolds released a blue marlin to give *Business Calls'* team second place with Captain Bill Rohde.

Third place was garnered by

the team of *Sir Veza III*.

In the Fun Fish Division top dolphin prize went to angler Kevin Speidel on the *Triple Time* with a 37.25-pound dolphin. The *Ambitious* took first place in the tuna division with a 66.3-pound yellowfin. Tim Trivett was the angler with Mark Baumgarten on the *Cowboy* which took first place in the wahoo division with a 33.4-pound.

2005 Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament

The *Julie Jean* captained by Jimmy Robertson of Boca Grande, Fla., won the top prize in the 2005 edition of the Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament.

Finishing second was *Dreamin' On*, skippered by Randy Hodgekis with a marlin release and two dolphin weighing 21.1 and 28 pounds, with Steve Keinath and Bob Stewe of Rifle, Colorado.

Business Calls was third, with a blue marlin release and a 46.8-pound wahoo. The boat was skippered by Bill Rohde with Darren Doop and Mark Staats.

The largest marlin of the tournament was estimated at over 550 pounds, and released by Bruce Wood fishing on the *Petticoat III* with Capt. Norman Wood.

Bradley Wells, age 10, of Naples, Florida caught a 31.6-pound dolphin to win the dolphin division.

2006 Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament

Congratulations went to two brother-in-law, Roy Miller of Clearwater and John Burket of St. Petersburg. The adventure began on the final day of fishing with just one 27.55-pound dolphin while not having seen a



billfish during the first two days. With time running out, the *Serenity* team realized their luck was changing as they caught and released a blue marlin in the first 20 minutes of the final day of fishing. They managed to hook up another blue marlin of approximately 300-pounds and fought it for over an hour. Unfortunately, the release was lost just inches from touching the leader. However, they still went on to finish the day with the win and honor of having their names added to the Norman Wood Trophy.

The second-place trophy was awarded to *The Finesse*, captained by Kenny Harris with angler Andy Glyn of Marshfield, Mass. Third place was garnered by *The Janice 43*, skippered by Ed Wilson of Fort Myers, Florida, with angler Loren Farinelli of Lighthouse Pointe, Florida. In the Fun Fish Division, *The Key West Fire Department*, captained by Ed Gates of Key West won the dolphin category with a 55.2-pound fish. The wahoo category went to *The Lucky Charm* with a 53.1-pound wahoo reeled in by Richard McGinley of Ocala, Florida. More than 300 anglers aboard 58 boats fished the 2006 tournament.

2007 Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament

Jeff Strack released a white marlin and caught a 22.6-pound dolphin Friday, and released a blue marlin Saturday to give the *Giggling Marlin* team a total of 822.6 points and the \$25,000 top cash prize in the tournament's marlin division.

The blue marlin hit a skirted horse balao at about 9:30 a.m. Saturday, July 21, the third and final day of the tournament.



After that release, they continued fishing without success except for a small dolphin that was below the 15-pound minimum required for weigh-in.

On Course, skippered by Bill Currie, took second place with releases of a blue marlin and a spearfish by Mike Zalewski of Tampa and Dan Harrington of Terra Verde, Fla., respectively. In third place was *Easy Rider* skippered by Rob Harris of Cudjoe Key, Fla. Harris' team combined a blue marlin release and catches of a 25.3-pound dolphin and a 39.65-pound wahoo, the largest wahoo of the tournament.

Captain Billy Wickers III, on the charterboat *Linda D V*, won the tournament's inaugural Jim Hardie Memorial Trophy for the largest marlin released during the tournament. The impressive fish had an estimated weight of 350 pounds and was caught by angler Micah McDowell of Fort

Lauderdale, Fla.

Hardie, a former "Miami Herald" outdoors writer who died in 2006, was the first journalist to write about the blue marlin fishery off Key West. In 1981, Captain Norman Wood invited Hardie to Key West for a trip aboard the *Petticoat III*. When they returned, four marlin flags flew from the outriggers. Three were released and one boated. The headline that followed several days later proclaimed "Hemingway Never Had It So Good."

Clay Harris of Key West, fishing with his father Captain Ken Harris on the *Finesse*, caught the largest dolphin at 48.95-pounds.

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, the tournament had 324 participants fishing on 56 boats. The angling field tallied releases of seven blue marlin, two white marlin and the spearfish.

2008 Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament

Risky Business had an operator error slowing their takeoff, then things got worse. The fish they had released Friday was deemed by officials reviewing photographs to be a sailfish, not a marlin worth 400 points. While knocking off 350 points changed their strategy, Danny Coll and Bernard Davis were not deterred.

The two-man team released two marlin on Saturday and added a dolphin to win the Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament and the \$25,000 first-place prize. "I have no words to describe this. It is amazing," said Coll of Cudjoe Key, Florida.

Fishing on a 35-foot Cabo sportfisherman, the team had

Tournament History

continued

little time for anything else as they trolled as many as eight lines at the same time.

"We're running 7, 8 lines; I'm busy all day," Coll said. "Changing baits, deweeding... I don't have a lot of time to drink beer."

Early Saturday, Drambuie tournament chairman Tim Greene informed Coll and Davis that photographs showed the marlin they thought they caught Friday was actually a sailfish.

"We thought it was a marlin," said Davis of Big Pine Key. We were all convinced."

The setback was shrugged off quickly.

"We had a plan today," Coll said. "We knew this was a marlin tournament and went out (Saturday) expecting to catch fish. So we changed our strategy, I thought, we've got to get away from baits and use all lures.

"Once we got the first (marlin), we said, 'We're back in it. Let's do it.' After the second one, we went dolphin fishing."

After going through the polygraph test, Coll and Davis were happy with the victory, but exhausted after fishing so hard with such a short staff.

The Cajun Queen, made up of Greg Eklund and Mike Nichols, both of Islamorada, Fla., plus Brad Whitlock, Bob Whitlock, and Trey Myers, all of Fort Myers, Fla., finished second.

In third place was *BFB* with Jody Briad of Key West, and Paul Barret, Paulette Barret, Donna Barret and Steve Tucker of Gulfport, Fla.

In the Fun Fish Division, Robert Beck of Plant City, Fla.,

won with a 73.3-pound wahoo. Randy Sterling Sr., of Key West, was second with a 42.2-pound dolphin, and Robert Collins of Miramar, Fla., was third with a 20.45-pound tuna.

2009 Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament

Rene Cruz, of the *Dock Cruiser II*, fishing with Rick Sheriff, won the tournament's top prize of \$25,000 and their name added to the Norman Wood trophy. They released a blue marlin on Thursday and weighed a dolphin weighing 23.05-pounds Friday to clinched the win with 423.05 points.

In second place was the *Shockwave* fishing team with Captain Marco Gano leading his angler Jim O'Malley to release a blue marlin estimated to weigh 550 pounds. That, paired with a dolphin weighing 21.45 pounds caught on Friday, gave them 421.45 points to garner second place; less than two points out of first.

Third place went to *Cracker*, skippered by Mark Schultz with angler Maurice Gibson for a total of 417.8 points.

Bill Currie of the *On Course* was awarded the Jim Hardie Memorial Trophy.

2010 Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament

This was the year of the oil spill and the tropical storm. For six weeks before the tournament BP was trying to cap an oil well in the Gulf that was releasing millions of gallons of oil that was forecast to enter into the gulf loop current and come to the Florida Keys, which never happened. There also were tropical storm

warnings during the first day of fishing which fortunately never materialized.

The *Contingent Sea* with angler Clayton Syfrett caught and released the winning marlin in the last hours of the tournament to capture the tournament win. Second place went to *Whiskey Tango* with Steve Doss and in third place was *Dream Catcher* with angler Brian Wenrick. The first-place dolphin was caught by Rob Gothier, Jr., fishing on the *Bar South*. The first-place tuna was caught by *Play Time* with angler Michael Cioffi and the first-place wahoo was brought in by Steve Doss on the *Whiskey Tango*.

The Jim Hardie trophy was awarded to Dave Claffy for his many contributions to the tournament.

2011 Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament

Two Fort Myers, Florida, anglers each caught their first blue marlin to elevate the *Moppy Dick II* team to the top position and the first-place prize.

Dan Richards released his fish, estimated to weigh 125-pounds, on Saturday and his teammate Harry Cameron reeled in his approximately 150-pound marlin on Friday, the second day of the tournament.

Ironically, both fish were caught on the same lure, a green and yellow jethead, within a mile of each other and about the same time in the mid-morning.

On Course, captained by Bill Currie of Tampa, Florida, took second place with a blue marlin release and two weighed dolphin.

Blue Heaven, with Tampa angler Steve Swindle, was third with a released blue marlin and a wahoo.





2012 Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament

The *Risky Business* with Danny Coll and Bernard Davis released a white marlin to gain first place and win the \$25,000.

The second-place team was the *Reel Darlins* with Cyd Tuskowski of St. Petersburg, Fla. and Laura Russell, also from St. Petersburg.

Third place was the *Cajun Queen* with Captain Greg Eklund and angler Jordan Wolk of Tavernier, Fla.

2013 Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament

Mark Truett made the most of his first saltwater fishing trip, catching and releasing a 500-pound blue marlin to win the tournament.

Truett, of Duncan, Okla., needed about 2.5 hours to land the blue. Later that day Bobby Shannon caught a 17.9-pound dolphin to add to the boat's point total and give *High Stakes* the \$25,000 first-place prize.

Perry Brown, of Jacksonville, released a blue marlin Friday on *High Class Hooker*, skippered by Gene Chrzanowski, of Key West.

Troy Martin, of Key West, released a blue marlin Saturday on *Mr. Z* with Key West captain Phil "Curly" McGinn to finish third in the 31-boat fleet.

2014 Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament

Gary Eng's white marlin release, coupled with several dolphin catches, helped team *Ruckus* win the Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament.

Eng released his marlin on the first angling day of the three day angling contest to earn 400 points.

The excited team ended the

tournament with 496.75 points, providing *Ruckus* the edge to capture the \$25,000 first place prize.

Team *Ruckus* also caught the largest dolphin of the tournament weighing in at 48.75 pounds.

Second place went to *OCD* releasing a white marlin on the final day of fishing, by team member John Harris, and releasing a sailfish by angler Cece Imbrie for a point total of 450.

Third place was captured by *High Class Hooker*, with angler Jeb Teirney releasing a white marlin and receiving 400 points.

This would become the last tournament to bear the Drambuie name, and a new era would begin with the addition of the Bacardi Oakheart sponsorship.

2015 Bacardi Oakheart Key West Marlin Tournament

Cowgirl, skippered by Phil McGinn of Key West, garnered top honors and a \$25,000 first-place prize at the 2015 Bacardi Oakheart Key West Marlin.

Angler Marty Crews of Mound City, Kansas, released a white marlin on Friday, and Ben Giefer of Leawood, Kansas, released a sailfish on Saturday that proved to be the winning fish. For Giefer, the tournament was his first experience ever fishing in saltwater habitats. "I credit the crew because they put together a game plan specifically targeting sailfish to give us the lead," Giefer said. "We weren't on the water for more than 40 minutes and had the fish."

Blue Heron, skippered by Shannon Fountain of Big Pine Key, Fla., finished in second

with a blue marlin released Friday by Mark Knowles of Key Largo, Fla. The team added to its score with a weight dolphin caught Saturday.

In third place for 2015 was *Cracker* with a blue marlin released Saturday by Mark Schultz of Fort Myers Beach, Fla. Jason Johnston of Johnson City, Tenn., skippered *Cracker*.

2016 Bacardi Oakheart Key West Marlin Tournament

The Indigenous, skippered by Travis Dickens of Islamorada, Fla., garnered top honors and a \$25,000 first-place prize at the three-fishing-day Bacardi Oakheart Key West Marlin tournament.

Dickens' team combined a blue marlin release achieved Friday, the second day of competition, by angler Mike Melhado of Indialantic, Fla, with a 110.5-pound yellowfin tuna that Kevin Schoolfield of Melbourne Beach, Fla., caught Saturday, to best 31 other boats.

"We had lots of hardware, preparation and good teamwork," Dickens said.

The Key West Marlin tournament was Dickens' first win as captain.

Flying Fish Charters of Key West, with Jamie Connell at the helm, released a white marlin and sailfish for second place. Angler Jim Connell of Key West caught and released both fish.

High Stakes, skippered by Jamie Jonas of Key West, finished third with a blue marlin release and a 26.5-pound dolphin, the largest mahi-mahi of the three-day tournament. Angler Bob Hansen of Fairfax, Va., caught and released the marlin, while angler Don Jonas of Key West caught the dolphin.



Key West: Somewhere South of Normal

Lately new friends from the real world (loosely defined as everywhere outside Key West) have been asking me what the island city is REALLY like. After all, it's been my beloved home for 30 years, so they figure I must know.

The first thing I tell them is simple: Key West is not normal.

In a normal city, locals don't head for the nearest laundromat when they crave a great sandwich. They don't drive around in cars painted like flamingoes or giant chile peppers or mobile coral reefs. They don't wear tiaras to lunch.

In fact, Key West is gloriously, outrageously abnormal — a place where wild chickens roam the streets and dogs are favored customers at more than one bar. A place where nobody thinks it's strange to spot a man painted entirely silver pedaling down the street on an equally silver bike (actually, he's a local icon, but that's another story).

What else should "outlanders" know about the island city?

EVERYBODY GETS ALONG.

Key West has a warm, welcoming atmosphere that probably stems from its patchwork heritage. Early settlers included Cuban cigarmakers, New England shipbuilders, Bahamian salvagers, Navy men, southern merchants, and even a few wandering pirates. The current



ROB ONEAL/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU

Costumed participants cross the finish line at the Cow Key Channel Bridge Run. The event is billed as the only "Zero K Bridge Run," taking place on the shortest of 43 bridges that help comprise the Florida Keys Overseas Highway.

population ranges from recovering hippies to people fleeing the "real world" (see above) and émigrés from virtually all over the world. Despite their outward differences, they generally get along just fine.

NO PANTYHOSE. Though parts of the island resemble a New England fishing village, with its gingerbread-trimmed Victorian houses and tidy picket fences, the laid-back atmosphere bespeaks its Caribbean roots. Businessmen don't wear socks in Key West — let alone ties — and some don't even wear shoes. The typical island woman shudders

at the thought of struggling into pantyhose.

BASKET HOUNDS ABOUND. Bicycles and scooters are favored modes of transportation through the streets of Old Town. And why not? Summer or winter, the breeze is likely to carry the spicy scent of seaweed, saltwater, and frangipani blossoms — something that can't be enjoyed from a closed car. It's not unusual to see a bicyclist ride by with a parrot on his or her shoulder, or a dog in the bike basket. These are called basket hounds — a breed believed to be indigenous to Key West.



CREATIVITY RULES. Key West's creative heritage is a definite part of its charm. Known as a haven and inspiration for writers since Ernest Hemingway's ten-year residence in the 1930s, the island is home to scores of published writers — including several Pulitzer Prize winners. An annual literary seminar, a Hemingway Days celebration, writers' groups and a world-class local bookstore all testify to the island's affection for authors.

THE WORLD'S LONGEST STREET. Many of the most interesting art galleries, shops and restaurants can be found on Duval Street, Key West's fabled main street. Stretching from the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic Ocean, Duval has been called "the longest street in the world." People who stroll the street can find everything from garden sculptures to sundresses to sinfully good tropical drinks in its colorful establishments.

OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS? NOT LIKELY! In Key West, it's perfectly acceptable to state your occupation as "treasure hunter," "poet," "drag queen," "street performer" or all of the above — without eliciting laughter, a disbelieving stare, or even raised eyebrows. I can't think of any other place in the world where that's true.

No, Key West is NOT normal. A bastion of lovely lunacy, it's separated from mainland Florida by 42 bridges, more than 100 miles ... and an attitudinal shift that must be experienced to be truly understood.

So what's the best thing to tell curious real-world friends about Key West? To head south to the offbeat island, of course, and discover it for themselves!

—Carol Shaughnessy



ANDY NEWMAN/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU

Costumed Fantasy Fest revelers proceed down Fleming Street during the Masquerade March.



CAROL TEDESCO/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU

Members of Boca Chica Conchestra compete in the Annual Conch Shell Blowing Contest. Entrants from kids to seniors are judged on quality, loudness, duration and novelty of the sounds they produce. Blowing conch shells has been a Key West tradition since the early 1800s, when seafaring settlers used it for signaling.



The Florida Keys and Key West Only in the Keys



ROBO NEAL/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU

Visitors stroll on the entrance path of the Ernest Hemingway Home & Museum. Hemingway lived and wrote at the house in the 1930s.

In the Florida Keys, it's common for locals and savvy visitors to greet the news of some particularly offbeat happening by grinning and murmuring, "Only in the Keys."

The four-word phrase is a standard response for people hearing about everything from a parade for dachshunds to mermaids attending a local music festival (FYI, these are both actual things).

Along with examples of wonderful wackiness, many other intriguing elements and activities can be enjoyed "only in the Keys" — like the four Key West and Lower Keys suggestions here.

1. Explore the homes of literary legend Ernest Hemingway and

former president Harry Truman ... on the same day. Key West is home to the Harry S. Truman Little White House Museum, Florida's only presidential museum, and the Ernest Hemingway Home & Museum, where Hemingway lived and wrote for most of the 1930s.

Truman spent approximately six months of his 1945-53 presidency in Key West, running the country from a roomy West Indian structure that became known as his Little White House. Today visitors can tour it, discovering items including the original piano and poker table (ask about its unassuming "disguise") used by the former POTUS.

Hemingway's home and second-story writing studio offer a glimpse into American

literary history — and the place where he wrote some of his most notable works including "To Have and Have Not," which is set in Key West.

Visitors can tour the late author's Spanish Colonial home, peer into his second-story writing studio and even pet the descendents of his six-toed cat. There are actually about 50 felines living on the property — including a grey-and-white charmer named Mata Hari who often naps in Ernest's writing studio.



ROBO NEAL/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU

Winter Star Party is open to the public as well as to SCAS members.

2. Get "starstruck" in the Lower Keys. Spotting major stars in the Lower Keys doesn't usually mean sighting Johnny Depp, Angelina Jolie or even a



random Kardashian.

Instead, when 600 or so “starstruck” people gather for the annual Winter Star Party, their goal is to observe southern constellations, comets and celestial objects in the Lower Keys’ clear night skies.

The Lower Keys, by the way, are virtually the only place in the continental U.S. where these wonders can be seen — primarily because the region’s southern location, “steady” skies and relative absence of large-scale artificial lighting at night provide world-class viewing conditions.

The annual star party draws professional and amateur astronomers and astro-imagers from around the globe. The next one is set for February 2018.

3. Take a “southernmost selfie.” It’s just a concrete buoy replica, and most people agree that its red, black and yellow body isn’t the most picturesque thing in Key West. But every day of the year, many hundreds of visitors line up to have their photos taken beside the Southernmost Point.

Why? Because the ungainly

buoy marks the southernmost spot of land in the continental United States. It overlooks the Atlantic Ocean at Whitehead and South streets, and its brightly-painted body bears lettering that proclaims it stands just 90 miles from Cuba. What



BOB CARE/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU

A performer at the annual Lower Keys Underwater Music Festival.

better place for a selfie?

4. Attend a music festival — underwater. Each July, several hundred divers and snorkelers explore a gorgeous section of the world’s third-largest coral barrier reef during a sub-sea

concert in Lower Keys waters.

The Lower Keys Underwater Music Festival spotlights coral reef protection and environmentally responsible diving. Staged by local radio station US1 FM, it’s held at Looe Key Reef, part of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary about 6 miles south of Big Pine Key.

You’ll swim among Looe Key’s vivid marine life and coral formations while listening to music broadcast by the radio station — and piped underwater via speakers suspended beneath boats above the reef.

You might even spot costumed “mermaids” beneath the waves (yes, those mermaids noted earlier) pretending to play quirky musical instruments sculpted by a Keys artist.

Let’s face it — whether you’re in Key West, the Lower Keys or elsewhere in the subtropical island chain, the enthusiastic embrace of eccentricity is one of the area’s greatest appeals. So start planning a trip now to discover why the best vacation experiences can be found “only in the Keys.”



LAURENCE NORRA/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU

Posing at the Southernmost Point marker in Key West, one of the most photographed icons in the Florida Keys.



Havana Club Puerto Rican Rum Marlin Tournament



Havana Club Puerto Rican Rum Marlin Tournament



2017 Hemingway Days Welcome...

"Everything about him was old except his eyes and they were the same color as the sea and were cheerful and undefeated."

— Ernest Hemingway, *The Old Man and the Sea*

Welcome Home, all ye who make the journey to Key West year after year, in the month of Ernest Hemingway's birth, in the season of the doldrums, to celebrate the life and monumental victories of a boy from Oak Park, Illinois. But Illinois was never in Hemingway's blood. It did not call to him as did the sea, which he understood, inherently, on its most elemental level, as the genesis of all life. Were this not so he could not have written of the sea as he did, saying that a man was never alone at sea because it was the one true mother.

And like salmon that push against the resisting current, imbued with the pure undefeatable force of instinct, Ernest Hemingway found his true home by the sea, on this island that embraced him for who he really was: a man — not a god, not an icon — who like all other men, bore the necessary cross of being human. And Key

West, during the years Hemingway lived here, allowed him to be human — to hold fast to the passions of a man in his prime — and to write with a precise discipline and rhythm, and more prolifically than at any other time in his life.

I believe that a part of Hemingway never left Key West. It is nice to think so on a warm night when the moon is full and its platinum light spills out like a corridor upon the ocean. It is easy to think of my grandfather walking back home to Whitehead Street on nights like this, along that broadening avenue of moonlight. Easy to think of him feeling the pulse of the island and knowing that it matched his own. Perfectly.

Or, perhaps, like we who come to the island each July to celebrate the magnitude of his gift to the world — as did Jack Waterbury, decade upon decade, bearing the torch whose flame never dimmed — Ernest, too, comes along for the ride. I like to think that we each bring a



*Dedicated to the memory of
Jack Waterbury*

part of him with us, one that made its mark indelible on our minds and hearts long ago, and that the mark — not unlike the mark of a blood brotherhood — remains ever-youthful, "cheerful and undefeated," like the eyes of Santiago in "The Old Man and the Sea." And that its color is the color of the sea.









A BETTER MARINE SERVICE, LLC


OUTBOARD & DIESELS




CERTIFIED MARINE MECHANIC
 Computer diagnostics • Diesels & inboards
 In and out service • Dry rack storage
 Boat bottoms cleaned and painted

24326 Overseas Highway, Summerland Key

305-453-6650

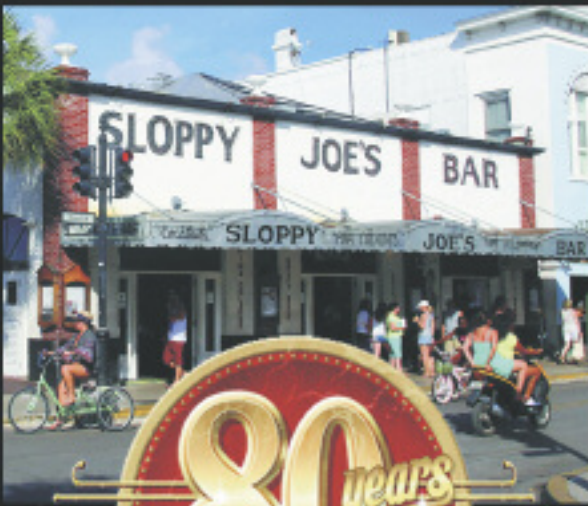
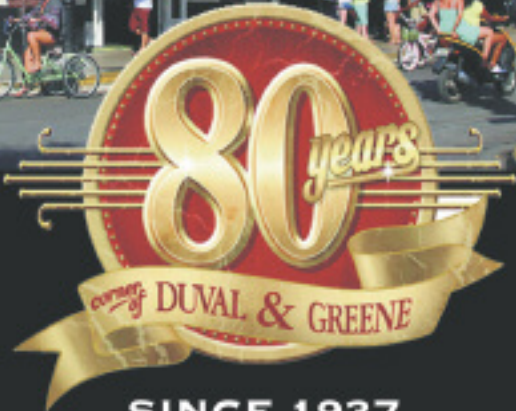


STRENGTH

Good Luck and Tight Lines, Anglers!

"You put that line in the water and you don't know what's on the other end. Your imagination is under there."
 – Robert Altman

1229 Simonton St ★ 701 Whitehead St ★ 2514 N. Roosevelt Blvd
MY100BANK.COM
 MEMBER FDIC


SINCE 1937

201 DUVAL ST.


(305) 294-5717 SLOPPYJOES.COM

Tarpon Ranch

1300 Sunset Boulevard



The epitome of relaxed elegance, a masterful combination of architectural splendor within the casual atmosphere that defines the Keys lifestyle. 6BR/6.2BA, infinity pool w/swim-up bar, 7,720sf of living space, nanowall doors, outdoor kitchen & more!



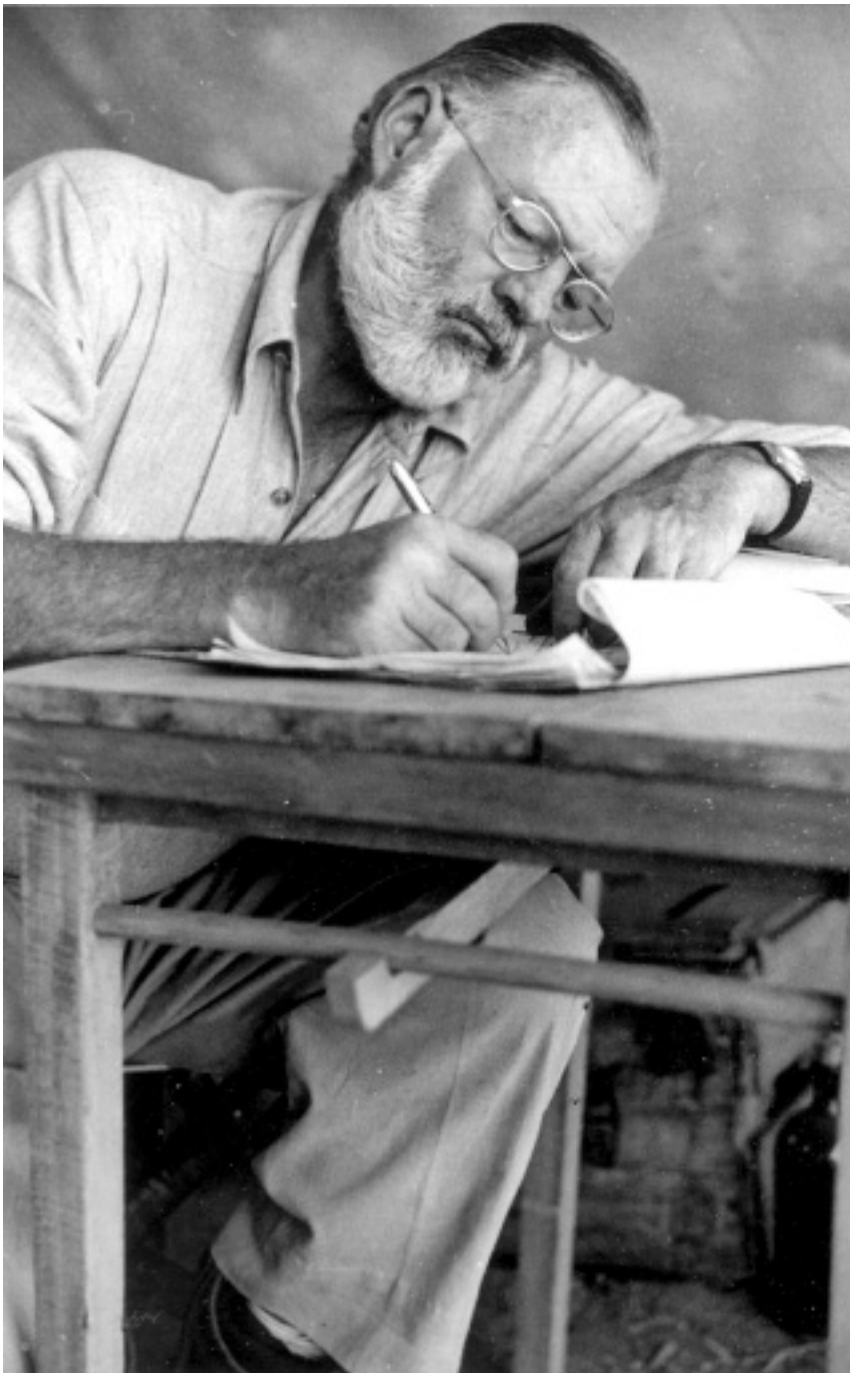
TRUMAN & CO.
REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Terri Spottswood
With
 THE HOME TEAM
 Spottswood Vazquez

1205 Truman Ave | 305-587-3407 | tsv@trumanandcompany.com



The 37th Annual **HEMINGWAY DAYS**



JULY 18-23, 2017

Ernest Hemingway look-alikes, writers, anglers and fans of the late author's work are to converge on Key West Tuesday through Sunday, July 18-23, for the annual Hemingway Days celebration. The festival honors the legacy of the American literary giant who lived and wrote on the island for most of the 1930s.

Events include a look-alike contest for Hemingway hopefuls, prose and poetry readings, the wacky "Running of the Bulls," presentations on Ernest and his influence, and a three-day marlin tournament recalling his passion for angling.

Scores of stocky, bearded men resembling the writer are to compete in Sloppy Joe's Hemingway® Look-Alike Contest at Sloppy Joe's Bar, 201 Duval St., a frequent hangout for him during his Key West years. Preliminary rounds are set for 6:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, July 20 and 21, with the finals at 6:30 p.m. Saturday.

The look-alikes also star in activities including Saturday's "Running of the Bulls" spoof and a salute to Hemingway on the 118th anniversary of his July 21 birth.



Held in conjunction with the festival is the Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition coordinated by Ernest's granddaughter, author Lorian Hemingway. For information visit shortstorycompetition.com.

Other highlights include literary readings at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 19, at the Key West Woman's Club, 319 Duval St. Poetry lovers can discover Hemingway's little-known verse at a Friday evening reading at the island's 700 Fleming St. library.

Aspects of the author's life and legacy are spotlighted during "Hemingway & Harry's Way," a presentation by Ted Geltner, who penned "Blood, Bone and Marrow: A Biography of Harry Crews." The program takes place July 18 at the Key West Art & Historical Society's Custom House, 281 Front St. — also the



A cat sits on a writing table once used by Ernest Hemingway in the author's studio at the Ernest Hemingway Home & Museum.

site of a July 20 Hemingway symposium.

Those who share Ernest's love of angling can compete for \$50,000 in cash prizes in the July 19-22 Havana Club Key West Marlin Tournament.

Additional festival events include the 5k Sunset Run/Walk and Paddleboard Race, a DVD premiere of the 2015 performance of "The Hemingway Suite" in Havana, Cuba, a daylong street fair on Key West's Duval Street and Sloppy Joe's annual Arm Wrestling Contest.

Hemingway fans also can visit his former Key West home at 907 Whitehead St., now an attraction open for tours. The property will be the site of "To Have and Have Another," a Sunday evening presentation and soiree hosted by the Key West Art & Historical Society.



Ernest Hemingway look-alikes including, from left, Tom Grizzard, Frank Kramer (riding manmade bull on wheels) and David Hemingway (no relation to Ernest) parade during the annual "Running of the Bulls." The offbeat event is a take-off on its namesake in Pamplona, Spain.



Havana Club Puerto Rican Rum Marlin Tournament



Havana Club Puerto Rican Rum Marlin Tournament



Aspiring 'Ernests' Seek 2017 Hemingway® Look-Alike Title

More than 120 stocky, bearded men are to gather on the island Ernest Hemingway called home to emulate the author's appearance and larger-than-life character during Sloppy Joe's 37th annual Hemingway® Look-Alike Contest.

Spectators can cheer for their favorite competitors during nightly rounds Thursday through Saturday, July 20-22, at Sloppy Joe's Bar. The 201 Duval St. saloon was a frequent hangout for Hemingway, who lived in Key West for nearly a decade in the 1930s.

The look-alike contest is a highlight of the island's annual Hemingway Days celebration. Set for July 18-23, the festival salutes the writing talent, sporting pursuits and colorful lifestyle of the American author who was Key West's most famous literary resident.

Look-alike hopefuls come from around the United States to enter the contest. They typically compete wearing safari gear or wool fishermen's turtlenecks, apparel identified with the author, and attempt to copy the "Papa" persona adopted by Hemingway in his later years.

Preliminary rounds are set for 6:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, July 20 and 21, with the finals at 6:30 p.m. Saturday. The contest is judged by a congenial group of former winners including 2016's Dave Hemingway, who



ROB O'NEAL/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU

Dave Hemingway, center, hoists his trophy after winning the 2016 Hemingway® Look-Alike Contest Saturday, July 23, 2016, at Sloppy Joe's Bar. Success for Dave Hemingway came on the Macon, N.C., resident's seventh attempt to win the coveted title.

is not related to Ernest.

Look-alikes also take center stage at Sloppy Joe's "Running of the Bulls," a spoof of the renowned annual event in Pamplona, Spain. More a parade than a fast-paced sporting

challenge, the offbeat run features mock bulls and begins at 1 p.m. Saturday outside Sloppy Joe's. It is preceded by a photo opportunity for "Papa-razzi" at noon.

Also scheduled is a Wednesday



ROB O'NEAL/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU



Dave Hemingway, center, poses for smartphone photos with celebrity chef Paula Deen, left, and her husband Michael Groover.

evening “meet and greet” where contestants and their fans can mingle with former winners, and a “birthday party” onstage at Sloppy Joe’s on the 118th anniversary of Hemingway’s July 21 birth. In addition, the look-alikes are to announce the recipients of the Hemingway Look-Alike Society’s annual scholarships for Florida Keys students.

Many aspiring “Ernests” attempt to prove their strength in Sloppy Joe’s final festival event, an annual arm-wrestling championship. Registration and a bloody mary gathering are set for 10 a.m. Sunday, July 23, with the contest following at 11 a.m.



ROB O'NEAL/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU

Supporters of Michael Groover and Richard Filip cheer for their favorites at the 2016 Hemingway® Look-Alike Contest.

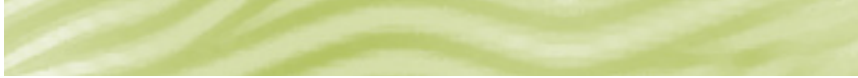


ROB O'NEAL/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU

Robert Leslie speaks to the judges and asks that they choose him to be the winner of the 2016 Hemingway® Look-Alike Contest. Leslie didn’t win but was among 25 semi-finalists of the competition.



Food, Fun and Frivolity Hemingway Days Caribbean Street Fair



Once again Literacy Volunteers of America–Monroe County will present the Caribbean Street Fair, a highlight of the subtropical summer, during the annual Hemingway Days festival. Saturday, July 22, Duval Street will be closed to motorized traffic for several blocks beginning at Front Street for the lively event.

From 10 a.m. to 10 pm. vendors will man their colorful booths, offering their wares to pedestrians strolling through the open-air marketplace. Everything from clothing to jewelry to art to sumptuous ethnic and Caribbean foods and beverages will be available to satisfy fairgoers' desires as they celebrate the exuberant lifestyle of Ernest Hemingway.

Bearded Hemingway look-alikes will take part in a hilarious "Running of the Bulls" beginning at 1 p.m. outside Sloppy Joe's Bar at the corner of Greene Street, proceeding along a portion of Duval Street. Manmade bulls will be featured in this take-off on the famous Pamplona event, in a salute to the love of bullfighting that inspired Hemingway to pen "Death in the Afternoon."

This is the third year that Literacy Volunteers of America–Monroe County has presented the Caribbean Street Fair. Founded in 1984, the organization provides literacy tutoring for adults and families whose reading and writing skills are at grade-school levels. LVA's belief is that proficiency in these skills will help individuals to increase their

earning power and improve their self-esteem.

The money LVA collects from the street fair – 100 percent of it – will be used to provide support for the organization's program.

This year the Caribbean Street Fair is sponsored in part by the Margaritaville Resort & Marina, Pepe's Café, Make it Official and Aqua Key West.

For more information about the Caribbean Street Fair and/or Literacy Volunteers of America–Monroe County, call 305-294-4352, e-mail info@lva-monroe.org or visit lva-monroe.org.





CONCH HARBOR

Visit Key West's premier full service marina—at the entrance of the historic "bight"



Friendly service in the heart of the Historic Seaport District

(305) 294-2933

951 Caroline Street, Key West, Florida
E-mail: dockmaster@conchharbormarina.com



WHERE MEMORABLE
BECOMES UNFORGETTABLE



Experience the best beaches in Key West, an unsurpassed array of water sports including scuba and deep-sea fishing, as well as diverse on-site restaurants, and bars, including private "toes-in-the-sand" dining.

For reservations, call 888.303.5719 or visit CasaMarinaResort.com



©2012 Hilton Worldwide

W
WALDORF
ASTORIA
HOTELS & RESORTS
waldorfastoria.com

The *Premier* Turn Key
Modular Home Provider
in the Lower Keys!



Call Today
To See How We Can Help Make Home
Ownership A Reality For You!
305-587-8565



Hemingway Days

5k Sunset Run & Paddleboard Race



© 2014-2015 - KEY WEST MARATHON & 5K.

Racers can compete on foot or on paddleboards during two Key West challenges that commemorate Ernest Hemingway's exuberant outdoor lifestyle and passion for sporting pursuits.

Set for Saturday, July 22, the 25th annual Hemingway 5k Sunset Run/Walk and the Lazy Dog Paddleboard Race are part of Key West's annual Hemingway Days celebration. The July 18-23 festival salutes the life and work of the author who lived and wrote on the island in the 1930s.

"The Hemingway 5k is the longest ongoing race in Key West, and it's named by Active.com as one of the top 10 international destination races to turn into a vacation," said event organizer Barbara Wright.

The Lazy Dog Paddleboard Race is to kick off at 6 p.m. at the island city's Southernmost Beach, 1405 Duval St. on the Atlantic Ocean. The 3-mile ocean course begins and ends at the beach.

The 5k run/walk is to begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Southernmost Point in the continental United States, located beside the Atlantic at Whitehead and South streets. Participants travel a fast, flat 3.1-mile course through historic Old Town past landmarks including the Ernest Hemingway Home & Museum.

A post-race awards party is scheduled on the beach beside the Southernmost Beach Café with food, libations and raffles.

Awards in the 5k await the top three male and female overall finishers, top three male and

female masters and top three male and female finishers in age categories ranging from 9 and under to 75 and over. For paddleboard racers, awards are to be presented to the first- through 10th-place male and female finishers.

All competitors in both races can expect finisher medals.

A registration booth is to be open 3-7 p.m. race day outside the Southernmost Beach Café. Race packets can be picked up there.

Before that date, athletes can register online at active.com or download registration forms from keywestspecialevents.com.

The entry fee is \$45 per person for either race or \$85 per person for both. Fees include a collectible race tech shirt, food, libations and giveaways.



© 2014-2015 - KEY WEST MARATHON & 5K.



Havana Club Puerto Rican Rum Marlin Tournament



A Heritage of Nurturing Literary Talent Lorian Hemingway's Short Story Competition



ANDY NEWMAN/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU

Lorian Hemingway signs copies of "A World Turned Over" during a past Hemingway Days celebration.

When Lorian Hemingway judged Hemingway Days' first short story competition in 1981, she and her fellow judges sat in a Lower Keys cottage reading and evaluating the few dozen entries with care. They couldn't possibly imagine that the competition would grow into a highly respected international literary contest.

Now, more than a quarter of a century later, the competition

draws between 800 and 1,000 entries each year from around the U.S. and other countries as far-flung as India and Romania. Lorian and her small judging panel still give every one their complete attention and respect.

Since its beginnings, the competition has been dedicated to recognizing and supporting the work of emerging writers whose fiction has not yet achieved significant success. For some, this

recognition is the first validation of their worth as writers.

Coordinating the competition is a pleasure and a passion for Hemingway, author of three critically acclaimed books, "Walking into the River," "Walk on Water" and "A World Turned Over."

"Reading a story of talent and craft, and knowing that perhaps you can help further the career of a gifted writer, is truly one of the greatest joys," says Lorian. "I consider it my job to honor the talent of emerging writers — and if those who enter this competition are compelled to continue to write as a result of receiving the recognition they so deserve, then we are *all* richer for it."

The longtime judging panel includes Dr. Rob Merritt, a noted author and Dean of the College of Arts and Letters at Bluefield College.

"Our first-place winner will receive a cash prize of \$1,500 and publication in 'Cutthroat: A Journal of the Arts,' published by American Book Award winner Pamela Uschuk. Our second- and third-place winners will each receive a cash prize of \$500," says Lorian.

For more information about the distinguished literary challenge, visit shortstorycompetition.com.

—Katharine Roach

THE ART OF Stephen Muldoon



"Working on the new medium allows the art work to be interactive with the viewer. Using the natural characteristic of the metal I'm able to do things never possible on canvas." — STEPHEN MULDOON





Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition



Lorian Hemingway is proud to present the 2016 second-place winner of the short story competition that bears her name, chosen from among more than 800 entries.

Night-Fishing

By Rhonda Carrier

Waiting for the bill, Georgia gazed through the glass door onto Place de la République and a lightheadedness came over her. She loved these instants of reprieve, when she could look at her life from the outside. Her husband and children were out there waiting for her but, for a few moments at least, existing without her – Kyle struggling to unfold the buggy and wrestle the wriggling baby inside while ensuring that his brothers didn't run out into the traffic.

It wasn't freedom that glimmered there, in such moments,

so much as the possibility – a strangely intoxicating one – that if something happened to her, they would be able to carry on without her. The knowledge that she wasn't indispensable after all.

But then she clicked back: it was time to hurry back to the hotel and get through the bath-and bedtime ritual and the feeding of the baby if they were to catch their morning train home to the UK. The loaned cottage back in the Charente-Maritime was already dream-like in her mind, fading fast. There was never any real

holiday – not from this.

The bill arrived. She fed her card into the machine tended by the waiter and punched in her code, then tugged her jacket from the back of her chair, avoiding looking at the table with its devastation of half-eaten pizza slices, upturned drinks and sodden napkins. As she slipped out, a man at the next table glanced her way; when her eyes slid across to meet his, he spoke to her in a low, warm voice, praising her French. She accepted the compliment with a gracious smile and a *Merci*. She wanted to tell him that she had lived here once, but she stopped herself: what was it to him?

Beyond the window, the neon lights of Place de la République flashed like knife blades, alluring, dangerous, glittering with promise and risk. Though she



hadn't put her jacket on and the air was cool, sweat prickled her skin. Kyle and the kids were a still life in front of her – or perhaps more like a clockwork toy that had wound down and was waiting for her to set it back in motion. She made an impatient sweep of one arm in the direction they needed to take, although Kyle knew the way back as well as she did.

They held on for the lights to change. As they crossed, Georgia picked up Finn, who was raging at being strapped down, and nuzzled his face. Chirping a little in her arms, he fluttered his fingers over her features, verifying the landscape, reassuring himself that he was on familiar terrain. She kissed the satin of his cheek then looked back up.

A girl stood at the corner of the next street, jabbing at the keypad of her mobile with one finger. Georgia's eyes travelled down her slim body, taking in the drape of ash-blond hair over the glossy burgundy of a bomber jacket, the skinny jeans disappearing into sturdy bikers' boots. Then, disentangling Finn's fingers from her hair with an impatient jerk of her head, she followed her husband and sons to the next crossing.

As they halted at a further set of lights, she glanced back. The girl had stepped off the pavement and was swinging one leg over the rear-seat of a moped. Settling onto it, helmet in one hand, she reached around the shoulders of the girl who was driving and held a cigarette to her lips through her visor. Then the engine flared up and they roared away into the night, oblivious to Georgia's gaze.



As Kyle unlocked the door to their mansarded room and the boys trooped in, leapt onto their beds and began pogoing and hooting like monkeys, the girls' after-image still danced in front of Georgia's eyes. Flapping her hands at her sons and making placating sounds, she glared at Kyle.

'Shouting at them is just making the noise even worse,' she muttered.

Kyle was already annoyed, she knew – annoyed that they were here at all. Or rather: embarrassed that in their late thirties they still found themselves in shabby one-star hotels, crammed into a family room. That they'd stayed here together in the past, as lovers, was not enough reason to keep coming back – not for him.

Finn still in her arms, she flopped onto the double bed and fought him out of his clothes and into a fresh nappy and sleep-suit. Then she piled the pillows behind her and fished one breast out of the top of her sweater.

As she applied her nipple to his mouth, she let her head fall back and her eyes close. The girls on the moped appeared to her again. Where were they going, this Sunday night, hair flying out behind them as they raced through the streets? She tried to picture their destination – a bar in the Bastille, a party on a Seine houseboat – but in her mind's eye they just kept on moving, forever free and unfettered.

The baby sucked. At first a sort of mechanical rhythm established itself in his body, but as he started to fall away from her towards sleep, he became loose in her arms. Soon, it

occurred to her, all this would end. Soon he would be through with her, just as the others had been.

She looked up. Jack and Tom were calmer now, pasting stickers into the pages of an album, frowning in concentration. Her heart clenched. Since they started school, she'd felt the wrench of ceding them to the world, to a male world they'd embraced fully. It had been like birthing them again, giving them over like this. Hence this last, 'accidental' pregnancy, perhaps; perhaps she couldn't let go.

Kyle stepped out of the tiny bathroom in a cloud of warm air tinged with the synthetic lemon of hotel soap, strode over and flicked off the wall-light above the boys' heads, muttering that it was too late for stories, that there was that train to catch. Turning away from them, he dried himself then pulled back the duvet and slipped in, placing one hand on the baby's scalp – all felt-like and honey-scented – but saying nothing. It had been a tiring trip up. It had been a far from restful holiday.

As Kyle's breathing slowed and fell into time with the baby's, Georgia lay sleepless. She, too, was tired: the baby would wake again within a few hours and then again at dawn, when she'd drug him back into intermittent slumber with her milk. But it was hard to get the girls on the moped from her mind, their insouciance. As her life shut down for the night, so theirs began. It was like a relay race in which she was the first runner, passing on the baton and receiving none of the elation of taking it past the post.

Easing the baby away from her, she pulled the duvet up to his waist then lay still. In this

Night-Fishing

continued



hotel she had made love with her husband before he was her husband. Did the ghost of her still walk its corridors? Would it come into her room that night and watch her as she slept, whispering to her, in the darkness: *Was this what you wanted?*

Like a sleepwalker she rose, glancing back at Finn as she reached for her jacket. He'll be fine, for a while, she told herself. If he did wake during her absence, Kyle would have to settle him: it was time he learnt to sleep without suckling, anyway.

Kyle would wonder where she had gone, of course, but short of leaving the kids in the room alone and coming to look for her, he'd have to keep wondering. He'd probably just reason that she'd gone down to reception for a bottle of water.

Halfway down the stairs, avoiding the rickety cage-lift for the noise it made, Georgia stopped, laying one shaking hand on the rail. *They need me*, she said to herself. But another voice, as if from the shadows or a place in the past, whispered back: *They don't need you. Not any more.*

She nodded and kept going, eyes probing dark corners and doorways as she reached the floor below her own. What the voice said was true: she'd been discarded, rendered obsolete, as the boys entered the world of their father, their peers; as they began choosing books and TV shows and games that cranked up their testosterone levels, had them flying from the furniture, wrestling each other to the floor

with grunts and squeals of horror and delight. She was no longer essential to them – was no longer, really, part of the universe they inhabited. And soon that would be true of the baby too.

Out in the street, she walked at a swift pace, worried that if she hesitated she would turn back. She knew this area well from her year as a student here. A left off Rue de Malte brought her onto Rue Oberkampf, and then there were a few streets and squares to cross before the road's main drag, where the bars and restaurants and couscous cafés that she remembered lay – if they still existed.

Café Charbon was still there. She halted when she came to it, peered inside. It seemed unchanged, although even back then, when she was a regular, this old coalmonger's store with its original 1900s decor had seemed like a relic of another era.

She stared in, trying to work out at which table she had sat that chill November night with the North African boy from her tutor group, Rachid, drinking absinthe as if they were in some old-time cabaret. Was it that one in the middle, where a girl sat with her back to the street, auburn hair slung up into a chignon, the way Georgia had sometimes worn her own, back then... She stared harder, frowning.

But no, the girl turned, glancing at her watch, and it wasn't her. Nor was the boy she was waiting for, now striding towards her with an apologetic smile, Rachid. Georgia repressed a bitter little laugh. What was she thinking? *Of course* it wasn't them. How could it be?

She carried on up the street, each bar, each café, each junk-shop and each trendy ethnic boutique granting her a glimpse of the girl she had been, the girl who had made new friends here, met lovers, bought trinkets to brighten her attic bedsit, frittered her nights away in drunkenness and laughter, because that's what nights were for, back then.

At the top of the street she stopped, disorientated. Then, robotically, she turned left and took the boulevards leading to the Canal St-Martin, at the point where it re-emerged from a series of tunnels under the city. She'd come here too, back then; had had a couple of dates in the Hôtel du Nord, a remnant of the film of the same name, now a bar.

As she stood on the street looking into the bar, she thought of her lives, so many of them. So many different selves in that one year alone, like theatre costumes tried on for size. And now she stood, those costumes piled up around her feet like mounds of laundry.

For a while she stood gazing into the bar, not really seeing anything. Then suddenly she took fright, certain that if she stayed any longer she would see her own own face appear inside the window, battering at the glass like a moth trying to reach a light source.

Stepping back, she turned and headed for an iron footbridge arching over the canal. Climbing its stone steps, she started to cross, and an image came into her mind of herself standing on this bridge, looking at her reflection in the velvet of the water, a perplexed look on her face.

Had she really been on this bridge, a long time before, and if so what question had brought her here? Perhaps a date had gone well, or perhaps it had gone



badly. Had she ever found the answer that she sought, in the water? And had it mattered, what she decided, or had life just flowed on, charting its own course, indifferent to her desires and plans. Had she ever really been free?

She carried on over and reached the opposite quay. A man came into view, beneath the plane trees, a rod in his hands. She stopped and watched him for a moment, then she walked over and sat beside him on the cobblestones.

'Surely...' she began, voice faltering, irritated that French no longer came effortlessly to her. 'Surely there are no fish here?'

The man shrugged in reply, and she wondered if he cared. Maybe he was looking for something else – just junk, perhaps, things that lay at the bottom of the water, waiting to be resurrected. She thought of the *pêcheurs de lune* or 'moon fishermen' of whom she'd once read, trawling Paris by night, salvaging cast-off objects to sell at their stalls, stalls that proliferated over time to become the flea-markets that Georgia had so often visited at weekends, with friends, with lovers, trying to perfect that bohemian chic expected of students in Paris.

They sat in silence and Georgia lost all sense of time. She thought

of Finn and his need for her; she thought of Kyle and how panicked he must feel to wake up and find her gone, leaving no word. But it all seemed so far away from her, like a movie showing on a worn and faded reel: colourless, ghostly. What if she never went back? They could live without her. They would have to. She might die, after all.

It had been so easy, back then, to shrug off selves.

When the sky began to lighten, the man rose and ambled away. Georgia followed him with her eyes. He didn't think he'd caught any fish, or recovered any junk. Perhaps there was nothing to retrieve, after all.

Leaning forwards over the water, no longer afraid, she sought her reflection. The face looking back up at her was without substance, like a drop of oil on the water, blurring, dispersing, and then at last lost fully to the past.



It was a brisk fifteen-minute walk back to the hotel. Its corridors were empty and silent; no one, she felt, waited for her in

the shadows, conveyor of some message.

The baby was asleep, furred like a comma in his father's arms in the middle of the bed, leaving no room for her.

She sat on the side of the nearest single bed, looking at her middle son as he slept, mouth open, flecks of spittle at its corners, lost to dreams in which she played no part. Shaking her head as if freeing her brain from the last vestiges of a dream of her own, she looked towards the doorway, half-willing the handle to rattle, the door to open. Half-willing a whisper to rupture the silence and the darkness.

None came, but beyond the window, outside in the night that had tried to claim her, she made out the buzz of a moped, set on a crazed course across the city – its riders chasing dreams, propelled ever on by the imperatives of their young and ardent bodies.

From the depths of sleep the boy beside her sighed then reached up one arm, looped it around her neck and pulled her into himself, repossessing her. The night air still caught in the folds of her clothes, she let herself fall and sink into sleep in his unconscious embrace.

The End



A resident of Manchester, U.K., Rhonda Carrier is a travel writer by trade, regularly contributing to national and international magazines, newspapers, and websites including National Geographic Traveller, The Guardian and The South China Morning Post.

Her fiction is often inspired by her global wanderings, which have taken her everywhere from India's Thar Desert to Iceland's Jökulsárlón glacier lagoon. Rhonda's first published short story, "St. Wilgefortis Blues," won the Jack Trevor Story Memorial Prize. She is currently working on a novel.



Hemingway Days to Honor Key West's Literary Past and Present



Author Ted Geltner will share insights into Hemingway's influence on the life and work of fellow writer Harry Crews during one of Hemingway Days' leading literary events.

Ernest Hemingway left Key West in late 1939 after nearly a decade of residence, but his literary legacy continues during Hemingway Days 2017, scheduled Tuesday through Sunday, July 18-23.

The festival's opening evening features a 6 p.m. discussion titled "Hemingway & Harry's Way" by Ted Geltner, author of "Blood, Bone and Marrow: A Biography of Harry Crews," at Key West's Custom House Museum, 281 Front St. Geltner's presentation details Hemingway's influence on novelist and educator Crews, in everything from adventurous living and creative risk taking to their literary commitment. A champagne reception follows.

Geltner joins other contemporary

writers for the "Voices, Places, Inspirations" readings at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 19, at the Key West Woman's Club, 319 Duval St. Scheduled participants include Chuck Ball, author of "Hemingway's Heist" among others; notable speculative fiction writer Selena Chambers; Mandy Miles, renowned for her "Tan Lines" books and columns; and Terry Schmida, known for his regional "True Crime" series. Presented by Literacy Volunteers of America-Monroe County, the free-admission gathering includes a "meet the authors" reception.

The spotlight returns to the Custom House Thursday, July 20, for the Key West Art & Historical Society's Hemingway Symposium and book signings from noon to 4 p.m. Scheduled presenters are Kirk Curnutt, author of "Reading Hemingway's To Have and Have Not"; Robert Elder, author of "Hidden Hemingway: Inside the Ernest Hemingway Archives of Oak Park"; and Brewster Chamberlin, speaking on "Facts and Fiction in the Hemingway Industry."

At 6 p.m. Thursday, composer and pianist Bill Lorraine premieres the short film "The Hemingway Suite," showcasing the 2015 debut of his orchestral piece inspired by Hemingway's works, performed

by the Havana Orchestra in Cuba. Lorraine is to perform selections from the suite with Cuban pianist Lianne Vega, and discuss its composition and staging with Cuban conductor Zenaida Romeu. The event takes place at The Studios of Key West, 533 Eaton St., and includes a champagne reception and film DVD signing.

Though best known for his novels and short stories, Ernest Hemingway also wrote poetry. At 5:30 p.m. Friday, July 21, the Key West Poetry Guild is to present a free reading of the poems that helped launch his career, as well as guild poets' work, at the Key West Library, 700 Fleming St.

Held in conjunction with Hemingway Days is the Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition. The contest recognizes the work of emerging writers and has been directed by author Lorian Hemingway, Ernest Hemingway's granddaughter, since its inception in 1981.

The festival concludes Sunday, July 23, with "To Have and Have Another," hosted by the Key West Art & Historical Society at 7:30 p.m. in the gardens of the Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum, 907 Whitehead St. The soiree's highlight is a lively presentation by Philip Greene, author of "To Have and Have Another: A Hemingway

A secluded, oceanfront, 6 bedroom estate home, with beach, boat basin, grotto swimming pool, 2 acre grounds, and endless panoramic Ocean Views.

If privacy and space are of prime importance, welcome to The Tides! Just minutes from Key West, the Tides enjoys direct boat-able oceanfront, with upland beach and a boat basin with 5 docks. With several outdoor entertaining areas; beach, pool, tiki bar, and two screened lanai's, this home is designed for extended family or lots of friends. Downstairs boasts 3 bedrooms and it's own living area and Lanai. The massive master suite includes a large sitting area, private office, octagon jacuzzi-room, and a tower with forever views to American Shoal Reef. Tour this magnificent property today!

Private Family Retreat OR Your Own Fishing Club?

THE TIDES, SUGARLOAF BEACH, FLORIDA KEYS
LISTED AT \$5,300,000



**ChelleBe
Blades** 

**REALTY
EXECUTIVES**

KEY WEST

We Got Your Keys!

CELL/TEXT 305-394-4750

OFFICE 305-501-4229

Blades@RealtyExecutives.com

RealtyExecutivesKeyWest.com

FOR COMPLETE INFO,
TEXT 736862 TO 855-981-7253





Hemingway Days Celebration **Schedule of Events**



**HEMINGWAY
DAYS 2017**
July 18-23

TUESDAY JULY 18

9:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M. — “Depicting Hemingway” museum exhibition. Discover 59 original pen-and-ink drawings by world-renowned marine wildlife artist Guy Harvey — all providing a visual narrative to Ernest Hemingway’s “The Old Man and the Sea.” The sketches are paired with rare artifacts from Hemingway’s Key West years, as well as a life-size bronze of the author. Custom House Museum, 281 Front St. Mention Hemingway Days upon entering to receive discounted admission. Exhibition continues throughout Hemingway Days and beyond. For info visit kwahs.org.

6 P.M. — “Hemingway & Harry’s Way.” Join Ted Geltner, author of “Blood, Bone and Marrow: A Biography of Harry Crews,” at the Custom House Museum as he delves into Hemingway’s influence on novelist and educator Crews — in everything from adventurous living to creative risk taking and

commitment to their craft. A champagne reception follows. Custom House Museum. \$5 per person for Key West Art & Historical Society members; \$10 for nonmembers. For info and registration, visit kwahs.org.

WEDNESDAY JULY 19

4 P.M. — Final registration for the Havana Club Key West Marlin Tournament. Enthusiastic anglers compete for \$50,000 in guaranteed cash prizes for targeting the largest marlin, spearfish, dolphin fish, tuna and wahoo. The Waterfront Brewery, 201 William St. — 1st floor game room. For info visit keywestmarlin.com.

5:30 P.M. — Meet the “Papas.” Get to know the contestants and previous winners of Sloppy Joe’s Hemingway® Look-Alike Contest. Sloppy Joe’s, 201 Duval St. For info visit www.sloppyjoes.com.

6-8 P.M. — 2017 Key West Marlin Tournament captain’s meeting, auction and raffle. The Waterfront Brewery — 3rd floor deck.

7:30-10 P.M. — “Voices, Places, Inspirations.” This evening of readings features authors Chuck Ball, Selena Chambers, Mandy Miles and Terry Schmida — plus a highlight appearance by Ted Geltner, author of “Blood, Bone and Marrow: A Biography of Harry Crews.” Presented by Literacy Volunteers of America–Monroe County, the event also includes a “meet the authors” reception. Key West Woman’s Club, 319 Duval St. For info visit hemingwaydays.net.

THURSDAY JULY 20

8:30 A.M.-4 P.M. — Key West Marlin Tournament first day of fishing. For more info, visit keywestmarlin.com.

NOON-4 P.M. — Key West Art & Historical Society’s Hemingway Symposium. Discover insights into Hemingway’s life and work in a series of three readings and presentations. Presenters are Kirk Curnutt, author of “Reading Hemingway’s To Have and Have Not”; Robert Elder, author of “Hidden Hemingway: Inside the Ernest Hemingway Archives of Oak Park”; and Brewster Chamberlin, speaking on “Facts and Fiction in the Hemingway Industry.” Custom House Museum. Each presentation will be followed by a book signing and admission is \$5 per person for KWAHS members and \$10 for nonmembers. For info and registration visit kwaahs.org.

4-6 P.M. — Key West Marlin Tournament weigh-in. The Waterfront Brewery — dockside.

6 P.M. — Hemingway Look-Alike Society scholarship presentations. The society is to announce the winners of its annual scholarships



ROB ONEAL/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU

for Florida Keys students. Onstage at Sloppy Joe’s Bar. For info, visit papalookalikes.com.

6-8 P.M. — “The Hemingway Suite” film premiere and performance. Composer and pianist Bill Lorraine is to premiere a short film showcasing the 2015 debut of his orchestral piece inspired by Hemingway’s works, performed by the Havana Orchestra at Cuba’s Teatro Marti de la Habana. The film is paired with a short performance by Lorraine and Cuban virtuoso pianist Lianne Vega and a discussion of the suite’s composition and staging by Lorraine and Cuban conductor Zenaida Romeu. A champagne reception and film DVD signing follows. The Studios of Key West, 533 Eaton St. \$5 for KWAHS members and \$10 for nonmembers. For info and registration visit kwaahs.org.

6:30 P.M. — Sloppy Joe’s 37th annual Hemingway® Look-Alike Contest, first preliminary round, to be judged by former contest

winners. Sloppy Joe’s Bar. \$35 entry fee. Free to watch. For look-alike event info, visit sloppyjoes.com.

6:30-8 P.M. — Key West Marlin Tournament cocktail party and island-style pig roast. The Waterfront Brewery — 3rd floor deck. Free to tournament participants.

FRIDAY JULY 21

8:30 A.M.-4 P.M. — Key West Marlin Tournament’s second day of fishing.

4-6 P.M. — Key West Marlin Tournament weigh-in. The Waterfront Brewery — dockside.

5:30 P.M. — “The Poetry of Ernest Hemingway.” The Key West Poetry Guild presents a reading of Hemingway’s poems and guild poets’ work — and chronicles the poetry that helped launch Ernest’s writing career — at the Key West Library, 700 Fleming St. For info, email alvarado-edgardo@monroecounty-fl.gov.

5:30 P.M. — Sloppy Joe’s birthday party for “Papa.” Celebrate Ernest’s birthday (complete with cake) alongside former winners and contestants in the Hemingway® Look-Alike Contest. Sloppy Joe’s Bar.

6:30 P.M. — Sloppy Joe’s 37th annual Hemingway® Look-Alike Contest, second preliminary round, to be judged by former contest winners. Sloppy Joe’s Bar. \$35 entry fee. Free to watch.

6:30-8 P.M. — Key West Marlin Tournament dockside cocktail party and fish fry. The Waterfront Brewery — 3rd floor deck. Free to tournament participants.

Hemingway Days Schedule

continued

8:30-11 P.M. — Key West Marlin Tournament party with the Havana Club team. Enjoy an exuberant gathering for tournament participants.

SATURDAY JULY 22

8:30 A.M.-3 P.M. — Key West Marlin Tournament's third day of fishing.

10 A.M.-10 P.M. — Caribbean Street Fair presented by Literacy Volunteers of America-Monroe County. Much of Key West's famed Duval Street is closed to vehicular traffic and transformed into an open-air island market with arts, crafts, jewelry, tropical clothing and food. For info, visit lva-monroe.org or email info@lva-monroe.org.

NOON — Photos with "Papas." Hemingway look-alikes provide a photo opportunity for fans. Greene Street outside Sloppy Joe's. For info, visit sloppyjoes.com.

1 P.M. — Running of the Bulls. This wacky event is sponsored by Sloppy Joe's Bar and features past Hemingway® Look-Alike Contest winners and current entrants dressed in their Pamplona best — and a breed of "bull" found only in Key West. The fun takes place on Greene Street outside Sloppy Joe's. For info, visit sloppyjoes.com.

3-5 P.M. — Key West Marlin Tournament weigh-in. The Waterfront Brewery — dockside.



ROB O'NEAL/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU

3-7 P.M. — Hemingway 5k Sunset Run/Walk and Lazy Dog Paddleboard Race registration. Register and pick up race packets for the popular run and paddleboard challenge. Southernmost Beach Café, 1405 Duval St. \$45 entry fee for either race or \$85 for both. For info, visit keywestspecialevents.com.

6 P.M. — Lazy Dog Paddleboard Race. Competitors follow a 3-mile Atlantic Ocean course that begins and ends at Key West's Southernmost Beach, 1405 Duval St. on the ocean. For info and registration, visit keywestspecialevents.com.

6:30 P.M. — Key West Marlin Tournament awards banquet and silent auction. Cocktails and silent auction are set for 6:30, with the dinner and awards presentations at 7:30. Open to tournament participants and their guests only. Margaritaville Key West Resort & Marina, 245 Front St.

6:30 P.M. — Sloppy Joe's 37th annual Hemingway® Look-Alike Contest, final round, to be judged by former contest winners. Sloppy Joe's Bar. Free to watch.

7:30 P.M. — Hemingway 5k Sunset Run/Walk. Racers start at the Southernmost Point in the continental United States at Whitehead and South streets, and proceed through Old Town Key West. A post-race awards party is scheduled on the beach at the Southernmost Beach Café. For info, visit keywestspecialevents.com.

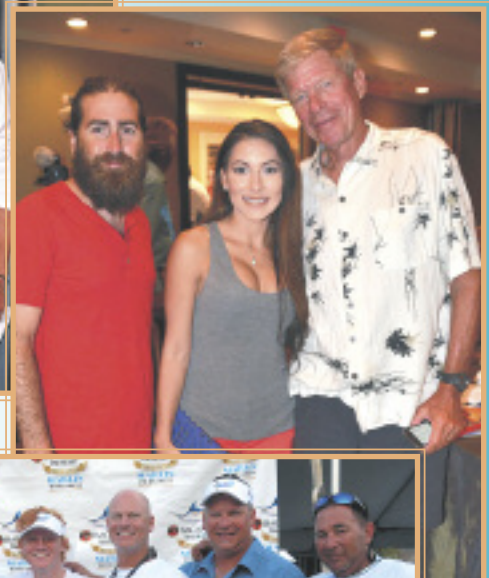
SUNDAY JULY 23

10 A.M. — Bloody Marys with "Papa." Sloppy Joe's Bar. For info, visit sloppyjoes.com.

10 A.M. — Sloppy Joe's 31st annual Arm Wrestling Contest. Registration is set for 10 a.m. and the contest begins at 11 a.m. Prizes await winners in multiple weight categories. Sloppy Joe's Bar. \$5 entry fee; free to watch. For info, visit sloppyjoes.com.

7:30-10 P.M. — To Have and Have Another" gala. Hosted by the Key West Art & Historical Society, this unique evening features a presentation by Philip Greene, author of "To Have and Have Another; A Hemingway Cocktail Companion," followed by a soiree — all in the garden venue at the Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum, 907 Whitehead St. \$50 per person for KWAHS members and \$75 for nonmembers. For info and registration, visit kwaHS.org.

This is a preliminary schedule and is subject to change.



Havana Club Puerto Rican Rum Marlin Tournament



Havana Club Puerto Rican Rum Marlin Tournament



Havana Club Puerto Rican Rum Marlin Tournament



Havana Club Puerto Rican Rum Marlin Tournament

Welcome
Tournament
Anglers To

FISHBONE Bait AND Tackle LLC

305-735-3579

2244 Overseas Hwy | Marathon, FL



The Best Bait & The Best Tackle

Working directly with the designer and owner of the patented Invader® we're the EXCLUSIVE dealer in the Keys of the AA LURES LINE OF HIGH SPEED big game **Wahoo, Dolphin, Tuna, Marlin** lures. All custom hand-made, hand-painted available in 6"-8"-11" or 18" for high-speed trolling, and Big fish catching action.

Our store is fully stocked for your Marlin Tournament needs!

- *Live, Fresh and Frozen Bait*
- *Lines, Leaders and Gear available 24-7 during tournament dates*



Debora Designs, Inc.



RESIDENTIAL
& COMMERCIAL
DECORATOR

305.296.3332 | DeboraDesigns@aol.com | PO Box 5386, Key West, FL 33045



Ahhh, That Florida Keys Sunset



JOEPARKS/CC-BY-SA.3.0

In most locales, the nightly sunset takes place without fanfare. But in the Florida Keys & Key West, it's an occasion for celebration.

Throughout the island chain, people gather to mark the moment as the sun slips below the horizon — perhaps toasting it with cocktails in a waterfront bar, saluting it during a sunset cruise on a tall ship or catamaran, or pausing in a stroll along the shoreline or Old Seven Mile Bridge to appreciate it.

Admittedly, sunset in the Keys is worth the attention it receives, painting the sky with a palette of creamsicle orange, purple, red and dusty pink. It has inspired countless photos posted to social media, backdropped thousands of weddings and even earned national travel kudos.

Why are sunsets so memorable in the Florida Keys?

According to Bill Cottrill, a specialist at the National Weather Service's Florida Keys forecast office, the right clouds play a major role in making a sunset great.

"Scattered cumulous clouds toward the horizon can make a very dramatic sunset," Bill explained. "As the sun sets, you have it going low enough in the sky to where we get crepuscular rays — the shadows caused by the clouds where they break the sun.

"If you add some high cirrus clouds, you get even more drama because cirrus clouds are made primarily of ice, and they add more ice crystals that the sun will reflect off," he reported. "You see the pink and orange upwards off the sun and the ice, and the clouds become colorful — but it's really the sun reflecting or refracting off of the cloud itself."

As for the "green flash" that Keys legend says sometimes can be glimpsed at the moment the sun disappears, Bill said it's caused by the refraction of light near the horizon on a very clear, cloudless day. And despite the boasts of sunset fans who say they spot it often, it occurs very infrequently —

so infrequently, in fact, that Bill himself has never seen it.

While the green flash may be elusive, another unique element accompanies the sunset every evening in Key West: a waterfront Sunset Celebration featuring exuberant street performers and local artisans offering handmade wares. People of all ages flock to Mallory Square, a historic pier overlooking Key West Harbor and the Gulf of Mexico, to enjoy the carnival-like atmosphere.

Known around the world, the event is a quintessential expression of Key West's freewheeling spirit. The Mallory Square performers offer a spectacle as vivid as the sunset itself. Visitors might encounter acrobats, musicians, dogs and cats doing tricks, jugglers and masters of comic patter, all sharing their talents with the crowds.

And no one can overlook iconic tightrope walker Will Soto — one of the guiding spirits behind the present-day celebration — who can be seen balanced high above his audience, silhouetted against the orange and crimson splendor of the setting sun.

—Carol Shaughnessy



Havana Club Puerto Rican Rum Marlin Tournament



Index To Advertisers



A Better Marine Service, LLC	37	Louie's Backyard	66
Casa Marina and Reach Resorts	45	Maragaritaville Resort & Marina	19
Centennial Bank	37	Pabian Properties of the Keys	45
Conch Harbor Marina	45	Realty Executives Key West	55
Debora Designs	63	Sloppy Joe's Bar	37
Faro Blanco Resort and Yacht Club	5	Spottswood Vazquez	37
First State Bank	3	Stay in Costa Rica	Inside Back Cover
Fishbone Bait & Tackle, LLC	63	Stay in the Florida Keys	Inside Front Cover
Havana Club Rum	Back Cover	Stephen Muldoon	7 & 49
Islander Resort	9	The Waterfront Brewery	21
Key West Marine Hardware	66		

Cocktails on the
AFTERDECK
Every day 11:30 till...

Small plates in the
UPPERDECK
5-10pm Tuesday - Saturday

**LOUIE'S
BACKYARD**
AN OCEANFRONT
RESTAURANT

700 Waddell Avenue
Key West, Florida
305-294-1061

Key West Marine Hardware, Inc.

(305) 294-3425 • FAX (305) 296-4034

818 Caroline Street — Across from Land's End Marina
One block away from Key West Bight Marina

We feature Penn and Shimano Reels and Parts

Marine Supplies • Fishing Tackle • Line • S/S Hardware
Charts • Rigging • Foul Weather Gear • Hose • Deck Shoes
AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

MASTERCARD, VISA & AMERICAN EXPRESS

One Stop Shopping One Block from the Water!



FISH IN COSTA RICA

ENJOY LOS SUEÑOS RESORT & MARINA

GOLF SPA WORLD CLASS SPORTFISHING ADVENTURE TOURS

GET THE EXPERIENCE YOU DESERVE. YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS LAND IN COSTA RICA AND OUR PRIVATE VAN IS WAITING TO BRING YOU THE SPECTACULAR LOS SUEÑOS RESORT. LATER YOU ARRIVE TO YOUR OCEAN VIEW CONDOMINIUM AND GET A MASSAGE. ENJOY GOURMET DINNER OVERLOOKING THE 200 SLIP MARINA. NEXT MORNING YOU CRUISE THE CALM WATERS OF THE PACIFIC LOOKING FOR SOME OFFSHORE ACTION. THAT NIGHT

YOU ENJOY YOUR CATCH COOKED BY ONE OF OUR CHEFS IN YOUR PRIVATE TERRACE OR BY THE POOL. THE NEXT DAY YOU PLAY GOLF, FISH INSHORE FOR ROOSTER, GET A SECOND SHOT WITH THAT BLUE MARLIN YOU LOST, AND SIMPLY ENJOY LIFE. GET WITH YOUR FRIENDS, SET A DATE AND GIVE US A CALL. LET'S START PLANNING YOUR NEXT FISHING ADVENTURE.

WE LIKE TO SEE YOU HAPPY!



In Los Sueños Resort & Marina

Comfort, Privacy and Sport Fishing

Vacation Rentals | Real Estate

Property Management

Daily, Weekly or Monthly Rentals. | 24/7 Security and Customer Service.

Toll Free 866 439 5922 | StayInCostaRica.com

