

Key West MARLIN TOURNAMENT



2018

MULDOON

Key West, Florida



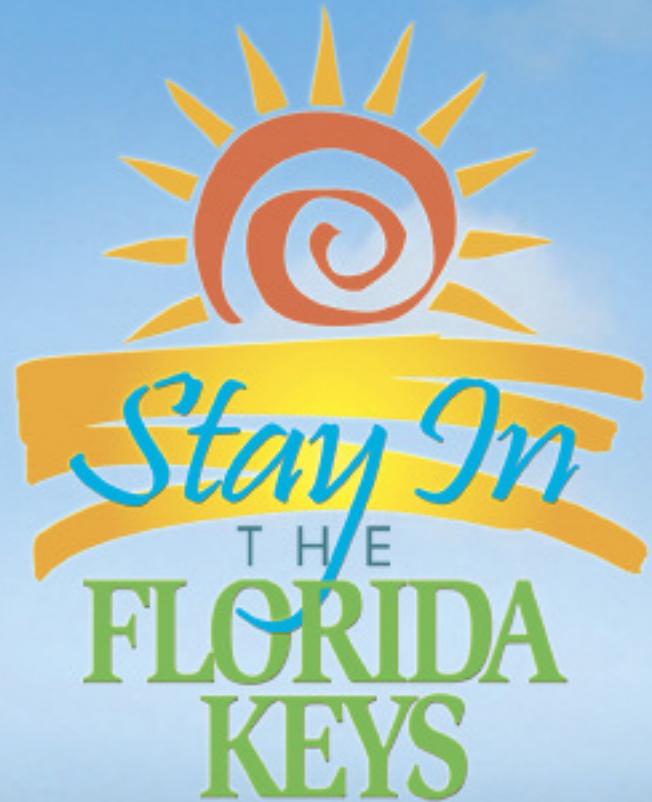
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Capt. Norman Wood searched the waters off of Key West to find the blue marlin that were so abundant in the neighboring waters of Cuba, the Dry Tortugas, and the Bahamas. Capt. Wood believed that the mighty blue marlins were migrating between the Atlantic 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
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Director, The Key West Marlin Tournament



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TIME TO STOP WISHING, TIME TO GO FISHING



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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.



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Welcome

Great Fishing and Exciting Times!

I would like to welcome you to the 2018 Havana Club Key West Marlin Tournament! We are delighted to have you join us for another exciting and challenging tournament, full of great fishing, fun, food, entertainment, and friends.

This year marks the 36th anniversary of the Key West Marlin Tournament! We appreciate the loyal following of the anglers and the sponsors, which have made this a true world-class event. Since 1982 when Norman Wood started the annual tournament, we have seen many thrilling and action-packed days of sport fishing, and have countless stories and memories to cherish.

This year we would also like to welcome Tyler Hopf as our new Tournament Co-Director. Tyler brings a commitment and passion to our tournament and a dedication to its continuation as a premier sport fishing event. Welcome Tyler!

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 grateful again this year to our title sponsor Havana Club Puerto Rican 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*



KEY WEST WELCOMES

Stephen Muldoon



*The official
artist of the
Key West Marlin
Tournament*



*See original art by Muldoon at
Wyland Gallery in Key West and
visit his website, muldoonart.com.*





Welcome

From The Co-Directors

It is with great honor and pleasure we welcome you to the 2018 Havana Club Key West Marlin Tournament!! We are excited for you to join us in our 36th annual world class premier fishing tournament, full of excitement, food, entertainment, and great competition amongst friends.

Once again we would like to welcome our Title Sponsor – Havana Club Puerto Rican Rum – the “anglers’ choice” fishing rum. The Havana Club recipe was created by the Arechabala family in 1878 and originally produced in Cuba. The same family recipe is being used today to produce Havana Club Anejo Blanco and Havana Club Anejo Clasico. The Havana Club Rums are distilled and aged under Caribbean sun for a period of 1-3 years in oak barrels. The aged rums are then blended together and the blend is aged a second time in oak barrels for a period of 2-3 months. The outcome is a finely crafted premium rum with a history as rich as its’ flavor!

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!

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!

Tyler Hopf
Tournament Co-Director

Scott Greene
Tournament Co-Director



TYLER HOPF
Tournament Co-Director



SCOTT GREENE
Tournament Co-Director

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Bordered by the saltwater wilderness of the Everglades National Park, North America's only living reef and the indigo waters of the Florida Straits is a village of islands known as Islamorada. Called the "Purple Isles" by early Spanish explorers, Islamorada is now known by anglers worldwide as the "Sportfishing Capital of the World" with its legendary charter fishing fleet and unrivaled variety and abundance of gamefish.

Whether your angling tastes lie in the pristine backcountry shallows of Florida Bay, the dazzling oceanic beauty of the coral reef or the indescribable hues of the Gulf Stream, Islamorada will have you hooked! Bonefish, Tarpon, Permit, Snook, and Redfish prowl the flats while Sailfish, Dolphin, Tuna, Wahoo, and Swordfish rule the reef edge and beyond. Memorable meals of fresh caught Hogfish, Snapper and Grouper are worthy compliments to our world famous Florida Keys sunsets.

Two waterfront properties provide the perfect resort accommodation options for spending a long weekend or a long winter. Our Oceanfront Resort boasts a conference center, 1,300 foot private beach, two oceanfront swimming pools, splash pad, hot tub, shuffleboard, volleyball and a lighted, 200-foot fishing pier. Our Bayside Townhomes feature fully equipped gourmet kitchens, gulfside pool, grill and picnic area, beach and a 14-slip marina basin.

All Islander accommodations offer complimentary wireless internet and we never charge resort fees!



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Schedule of Events

WEDNESDAY JULY 18, 2018

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

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

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

THURSDAY JULY 19, 2018

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 roof deck)*

FRIDAY JULY 20, 2018

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 roof deck)*

SATURDAY JULY 21, 2018

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 –
dockside)*

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 2019 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 17 thru July 20, 2019, 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 2018 Havana Club Key West Marlin Tournament



The 2018 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 19; Friday, July 20, and Saturday July 21, 2018. 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 21, 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, 2018 to be eligible for the early entry fee of \$1,800. After June 15, 2018, 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 18, 2018 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.

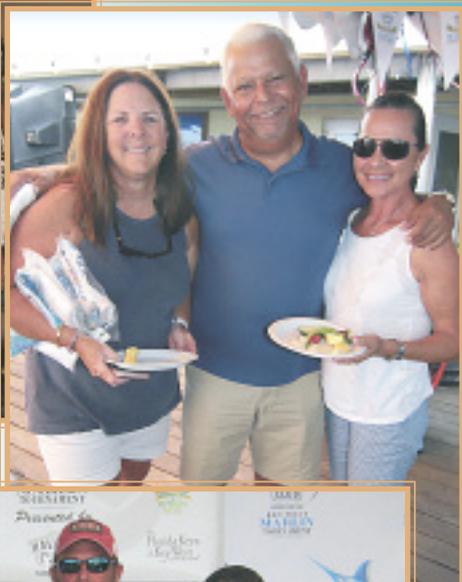
6. Boats entered in the Marlin Division of the Havana Club Key West Marlin Tournament may pay an additional \$300 entry fee to compete for a total of \$10,000 in cash prizes for the three heaviest dolphin, wahoo, and tuna (yellowfin, blackfin, and skipjack),

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.

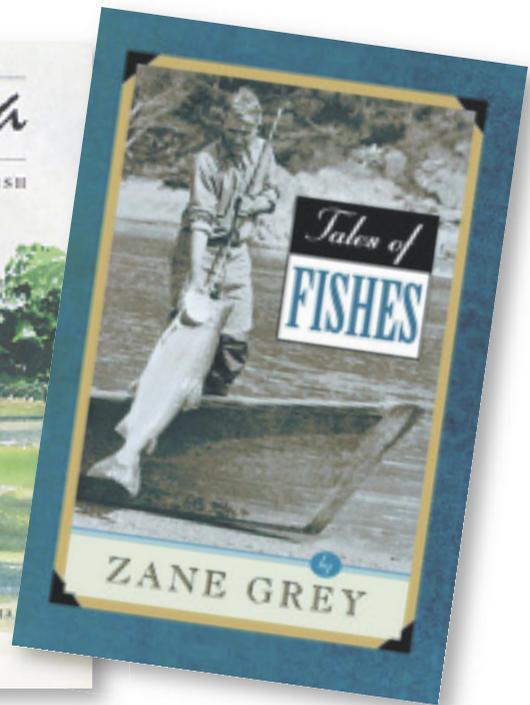
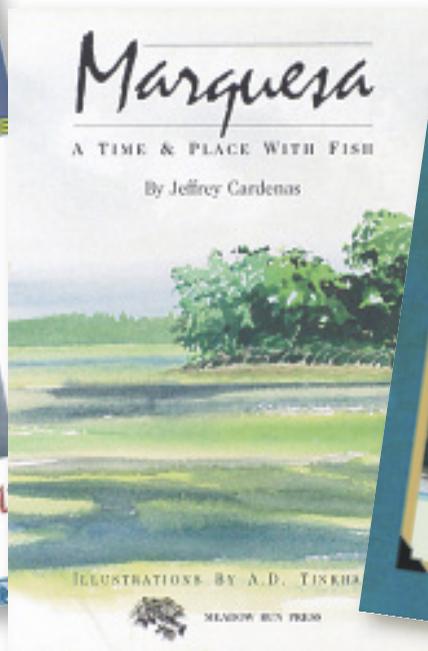
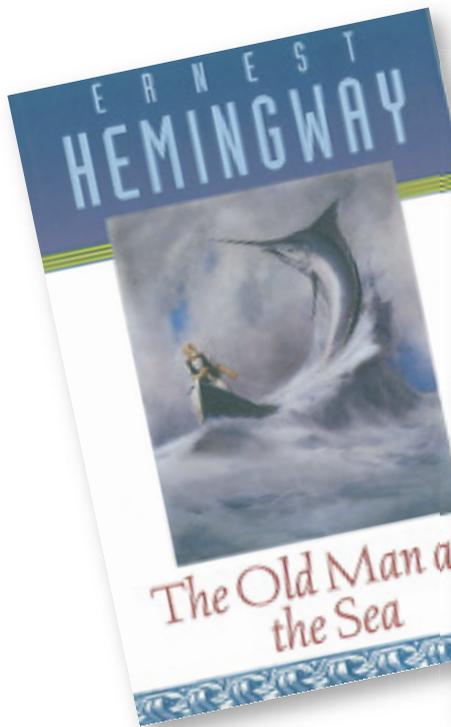


Havana Club Puerto Rican Rum Marlin Tournament



Inspiring Authors of Fiction and Nonfiction

Keys Angling



The sport fish and game fish that inhabit Keys waters don't just provide targets for eager anglers. For decades, they have also provided significant inspiration for local and visiting writers — from Ernest Hemingway and Zane Grey to contemporary angler/authors such as Jeffrey Cardenas and Jim Sharpe.

Hemingway, who lived and wrote in Key West throughout the 1930s, discovered big game fishing in the Florida Keys. When he wasn't penning literary classics, he often could be found

searching for giant marlin in the waters between Key West and Cuba with comrades including Joe Russell, founder/owner of the island's iconic Sloppy Joe's Bar.

Encounters with oceanic "big game" found their way into his books, from "To Have and Have Not," set in Depression-era Key West, to the Pulitzer Prize-winning "Old Man and the Sea."

Hemingway may have helped popularize Florida Keys fishing through his literary output, but he wasn't the first notable author who developed a passion for the area's angling opportunities. That

was arguably Western novelist Zane Grey, who arrived in the early 1900s and stayed at the Long Key Fishing Camp, a resort built by Henry Flagler.

Grey often fished with local guide Bill Partea and reportedly missed only two Keys fishing seasons from 1911 through 1926.

In his 1919 pamphlet, "Tales of Fishes," Grey introduced a worldwide audience to "Gulf Stream Fishing," describing the use of light tackle to catch sailfish and kingfish off the Keys. It was the first time sailfish were presented as a worthy game-



fish target.

Grey, who co-founded the legendary Long Key Fishing Club, also made a lasting contribution to the Keys fishery by being one of the first anglers to embrace a catch-and-release ethic. A sign at the club recommended bag limits: "2 SAIL FISH, 5 TARPON, 6 KING FISH, 6 GROUPER" and added, "Any Fish Caught Above The Number Of Each Above Specified Should Be Carefully Returned To The Water."

Contemporary Keys angler/authors include Jeffrey Cardenas, also a photographer and renowned flats guide who has spent several decades fishing and drawing inspiration from Keys waters.

Cardenas' books include "Marquesa: A Time & Place with

Fish," described by notable writer Peter Matthiessen as "delightful — fine observation of marine natural history." Cardenas also wrote a collection of essays about saltwater fly fishing titled "Sea Level: Adventures of a Saltwater Angler" as well as pieces for magazines including Time and Outside.

Few writers, however, have delved as deeply into their subject as Captain Jim Sharpe, author of "Dolphin: The Perfect Gamefish."

Born and raised in Miami, Sharpe is a veteran of several decades of fishing and tournament wins. His career includes establishing and

operating the Lower Keys' Sea Boots Charters, writing for acclaimed fishing publications and hosting regional radio and television shows on angling.

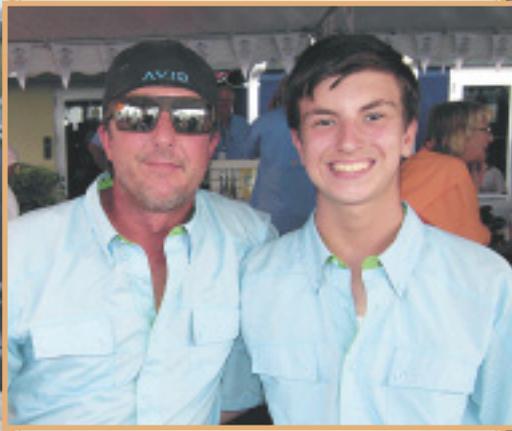
His invaluable reference book on dolphin covers the species' life and habits, behavior, environmental influences and a wealth of fishing techniques garnered from Sharpe's extensive experience.

As they did in the days of Hemingway and Grey, today the Florida Keys waters have a strong appeal for fiction and nonfiction writers. Whether they crave material for a book, the adrenaline rush of battling a finned foe or the satisfaction of catching dinner, authors and anglers can find what they seek in the inspiring waters of the Florida Keys.



A Florida Keys fishing guide positions his angler to cast for a bonefish off Key Largo

BOB KRIST/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU



Havana Club Puerto Rican Rum Marlin Tournament



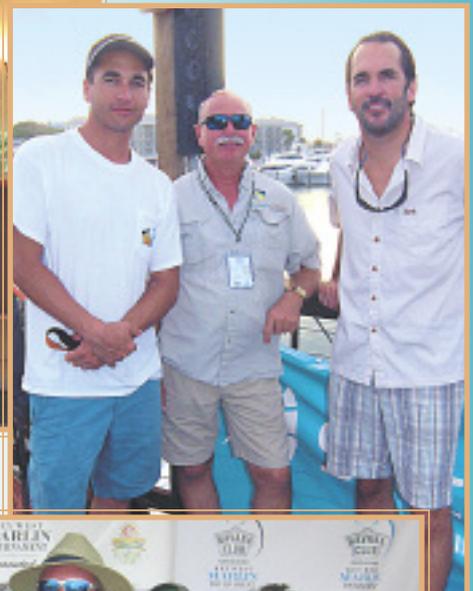
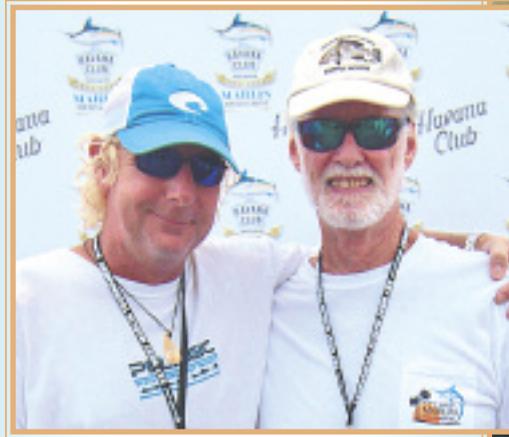
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- Locally Caught Seafood
- Award Winning Beer
- Waterfront View
- Brewery Tours
- Gift Shop

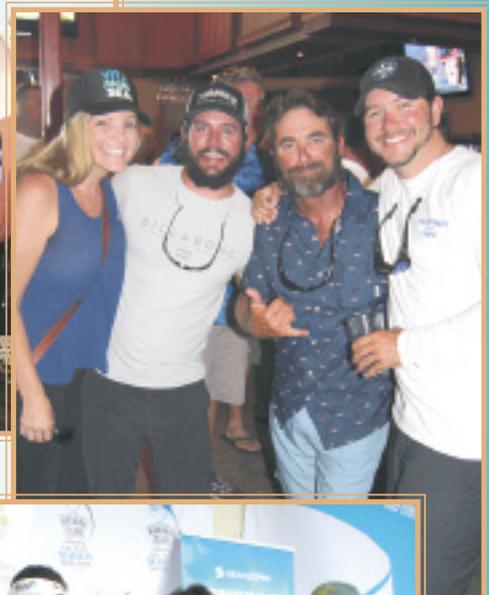


Locally Brewed Craft Beer





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 Rodriguez 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 Rickett 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.

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

Tournament History

continued



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*. 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 to Roy Miller of Clearwater and John Burket of St. Petersburg. The *Serenity* team caught and released a blue marlin to win the 2006 tournament.

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.

The wahoo category went to *The Lucky Charm* with a 53.1-pound wahoo reeled in by Richard McGinley of Ocala, FL.



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.

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.

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.

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

2008 Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament

Risky Business with Danny Coll and Bernard Davis 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.

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 clench 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

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 had reeled in his approximately 150-pound marlin on Friday.

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.

Tournament History

continued

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.



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 tournament.

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.

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 2016 Bacardi Oakheart Key West Marlin tournament.

Dickens' team combined a blue marlin release Friday, 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.

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 Jason Jonas of Key West, finished third with a blue marlin release and a 26.5-pound dolphin. Angler Bob Hansen of Fairfax, Va., caught and released the marlin, while angler Don Jonas of Key West caught the dolphin.

2017 Havana Club Key West Marlin Tournament

Reel Captivating started off the morning with a sailfish release by angler Wayne Jenkins scoring them 50 fun fish points. In the afternoon, they hooked up with what they thought could be the winning marlin. Unfortunately, it turned out to be another sailfish.

Linda D V weighed in the biggest fun fish of the day with a 32.8lb wahoo caught by angler Shane Moseman.

Belle La Vie Sur La Mer weighed in a 29.1lb dolphin caught by angler David Milo and Mark Knowles aboard the *Blue Heron* caught a 28.01b dolphin.




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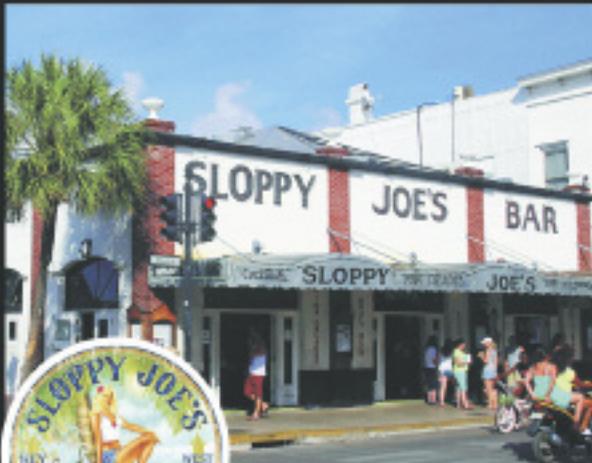
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The Florida Keys

You Belong in the Keys if ...



ROBONEAL/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU

Will Soto performs a juggling and high-wire act at the Sunset Celebration in Key West. Soto has been entertaining for over 30 years at the nightly celebration in Mallory Square that draws crowds of people to watch buskers perform, browse vendors' wares and applaud as the sun sinks below the horizon beyond Key West Harbor.

Let's face it — there are some people who simply belong in the Florida Keys. People come down for a vacation, a temporary job or a visit with an island-dwelling friend, and become mesmerized by some indefinable magic about the Keys that makes them unwilling or unable to leave.

So how can you tell if you're among the lucky few that belong in the island chain? Actually, there's a simple test. If more than three or four of the following apply to you, start considering relocation — because sooner or later, that magic will sneak up on you and you'll be powerless to resist.

1. You know all the words to at least four Jimmy Buffett songs and at least two by Howard Livingston. Buffett, the Keys' "pirate laureate," took inspiration for anthems like "Margaritaville" from his Key West days in the 70s and early 80s. And Howard, a Lower Keys resident whose Mile Marker 24 Band is a trop rock favorite, penned the equally meaningful "Blame it on the Margaritas."

2. You have a strange urge to celebrate the nightly setting of the sun. In Key West, the nightly sunset is an excuse for a combination carnival and street party at Mallory Square over-



IMAGE COURTESY OF ROBONEAL

Captain Tony Tarracino.





looking Key West Harbor. With lively street performers and vendors selling creative hand-made wares, it's a happening that can't be missed.

3. You can actually make a sound when blowing through a conch shell. Blowing the conch "horn" is a Keys tradition that dates back to the shipwreck salvagers of the early 1800s. Today, there's an annual conch shell blowing contest in Key West — and a group of Key Largo denizens even attempted to break a world record for the largest number of people "conch honking" simultaneously.

4. You've met Captain Tony. Or Captain Finbar. Or Captain Richard Stanczyk. Or all three of them. All three Keys icons are famed for their storytelling as well as their other talents. The late Tony was the owner of Key West's legendary Captain Tony's Saloon, while Finbar owns the



Blue Heaven in Bahama Village.

majestic Schooner Wolf and reigns as First Sea Lord and Supreme Commander of the Conch Republic Navy. And Islamorada fishing captain Richard Stanczyk is world-renowned as one of the pioneers of daytime swordfishing.

5. You've eaten a Lobster Reuben at Keys Fisheries, hogfish at the Hogfish and breakfast with the roosters at Blue Heaven. Once you've sampled the Lobster Reuben at Marathon's waterfront Keys Fisheries, you'll never crave a corned-beef Reuben again. Hogfish, caught primarily by spearfishing divers, is a light white fish best enjoyed at its namesake eatery on Stock Island. And Blue Heaven's breakfasts? Savored in a funky open-air Key West courtyard while semi-tame poultry scurry nearby, they're simply beyond compare.

6. Every time you arrive in the Keys, your everyday stresses seem a little less important and you find yourself smiling. If this is true in your case, you might as well quit your job and start packing... because the chances are awfully good that you belong in the Keys.

—Carol Shaughnessy



Members of the Boca Chica Conchestra perform a conch-shell accompaniment and offbeat dance to a recording of Jimmy Buffett's "Margaritaville" during the annual Conch Shell Blowing Contest. Judges evaluated contest entrants from children to seniors on the quality, novelty, duration and loudness of the sounds they produced on the fluted, pink-lined shells.



Protecting Priceless Treasures **The Code of the Keys**



LAURENCE NORAH/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU

In the unforgettable “Pirates of the Caribbean” films, the buccaneers were guided by a code of conduct that was originally created by the Brethren Court of pirate lords. Theoretically, its rules were strict and unbending — but before the end of the first film, heroine Elizabeth Swann convinced the crew of the pirate vessel Black Pearl that “they’re more like guidelines, anyway.”

Though buccaneers are few and far between in the Florida Keys (sometimes called the American Caribbean), Keys residents and others who love

the island chain are definitely guided by a code of conduct.

This code was designed to protect a treasure richer than any pirate gold — the region’s amazing natural environment. The Florida Keys are paralleled by the continental United States’ only living coral barrier reef; much like a tropical rainforest, the reef ecosystem supports an incredibly diverse population of plants and animals.

In fact, the entire land mass of the Keys is surrounded by Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, which was established in 1990 by the U.S. government. Visitors will also

find land-based refuges where birds, wildlife and their habitat are protected — including the Lower Keys’ National Key Deer Refuge that’s home to shy, soft-eyed miniature deer the size of large dogs.

So what exactly IS the Keys code?

Its core is the central 10 Keymandments. Unlike the Bible’s 10 Commandments, which advise people what NOT to do, the Keymandments advise travelers what they CAN do to have a meaningful, memorable vacation while respecting and helping preserve the Keys environment.



MIKE FREAS/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU

Lighthearted yet educational, they're guidelines for enjoying a sustainable travel experience in the laid-back subtropical spot.

ONE: Plant a coral (or adopt one of the cute little things, but don't touch them on the reef).

TWO: Support the wildlife (volunteer food, funds or time to a local wild bird center).

THREE: Take out the trash (especially if it's floating in the water).

FOUR: Capture a lionfish (any time and any size — we can show you how).

FIVE: Leave a digital footprint (share pictures with fans, friends and followers).

SIX: Hike it, bike it or hoof it (it's low on eco-impact and high on fresh tropical air).

SEVEN: Catch dinner (and release all the fish you know you can't eat).

EIGHT: Use a mooring buoy at dive sites (save your back and leave the anchor alone).

NINE: Conserve vs. consume (reduce, reuse and recycle even on vacation).

TEN: Get off the beaten path (you can hike, bike, walk, kayak or paddleboard along Keys trails).

While the code of conduct in the "Pirates" films proved to be somewhat elastic, the Keys code should be followed at all times by everyone who cares about the area's environment. In fact, the Keymandments are a modern-day addition to more than a century of efforts to preserve it.



BOB CARE/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU

You can discover the island chain's natural world with a knowledgeable local eco-tour guide or watersports operator — whether on a kayaking paddle through tranquil waters and surreal mangrove tangles, an excursion to view playful dolphins in the wild, or a dive or snorkeling trip in America's first underwater park.

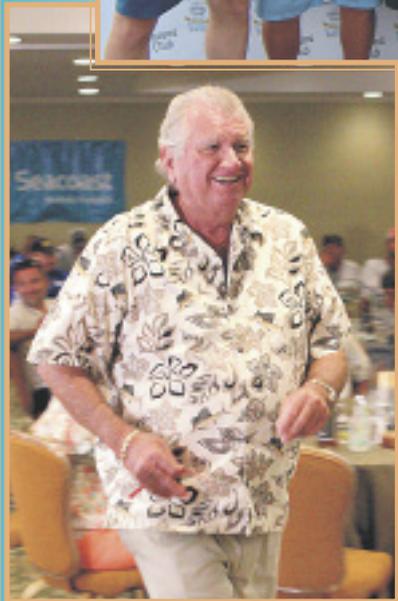
To whet your appetite for eco-adventures in the Keys, just visit fla-keys.com/eco-tourism/. And don't forget... to protect and preserve the Keys' environmental treasures, matey, always follow the code.

—Carol Shaughnessy



NANCY DIERSING/FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Mooring buoys help make protecting the coral reef possible with a system of 18-inch diameter blue-striped buoy markers that boaters can tie off to, and avoid damaging the coral reef with anchors.



Havana Club Puerto Rican Rum Marlin Tournament



Havana Club Puerto Rican Rum Marlin Tournament



2018 Hemingway Days Welcome...



TOM CORCORAN

By **LORIAN HEMINGWAY**

“Where a man feels at home, outside of where he’s born, is where he’s meant to go.”

— Ernest Hemingway: *Green Hills of Africa* (written in Key West)

You hear the word paradise a lot when you’re in Key West. You read it on the names of stores and businesses. You are told by companions that you are in paradise because of the color of the water, the tilt of the palm trees in the wind, the lavish scent of jasmine at night that holds heavy in the richness of the salt air. But something in

your gut says it is much more than that, so very much more — a primal remembrance, perhaps, of where on this earth you are meant to be.

I remember these words from a local when I asked him how his trip off the island had gone. “Oh Dear God,” he said. “I had panic attacks every day. I couldn’t *breathe*. I swear I could not breathe.”

And then he sighed, deeply, relaxed again, and smiled that secret handshake of a smile that locals give to one another, the one that says I live in rhythm and harmony with this island. I live here because I must, because no other place could ever match who I am so precisely. I live here because here I am free. I live here because it is home.

Ah ... home! Now that very word, to me, is as close to a definition of paradise as anyone might give. And when I think of Ernest Hemingway, and of when he first arrived in Key West, I do not imagine him shouting out loud, “Now *this* is paradise.”

But I do imagine him thinking to himself — after he and his family had been in the house on Whitehead Street for a couple of years, in a quiet moment at the end of the day when the chickens were roosting, when the boys were in bed, and while Pauline waited upstairs in the bedroom

that caught the night breeze from the windows flung wide open — “Now *this* is home.”

I like to imagine that the moon was full and that the platinum wash of light filled the yard of fledgling palms and banyan, and that this man who seemed always to belong to the world, belonged at that moment only to himself and his family, and to this place he had come to know as home.

Home feeds your soul like no other place or time or remembrance, and here Ernest Hemingway, in Cayo Hueso, wrote more prolifically than at any other time in his life. And I truly believe that he was happier here than he ever would be again. He became a local. A rowdy man. A quiet man. A family man. A man whose eyes would wander. A man of contradictions as all great men are. But most of all a man who had embraced home for perhaps the first and last time in his life, and who knew that he had for all those bright and shining years in Key West, held within himself the very essence of paradise.

(NOTE: Ernest Hemingway lived in Key West throughout the 1930s. The island and its people inspired the unparalleled “*To Have and Have Not*,” his only novel set in the United States.) — Lorian Hemingway

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The 38th Annual **HEMINGWAY DAYS**



JULY 17-22, 2018

Ernest Hemingway fans can celebrate the late author's literary accomplishments and colorful Key West lifestyle Tuesday through Sunday, July 17-22. The 38th annual Hemingway Days festivities salute the legacy of the Nobel Prize winner who lived and wrote on the island for most of the 1930s.

Events include the famed Hemingway® Look-Alike Contest, prose and poetry readings, the tongue-in-cheek "Running of the Bulls," symposium presentations and a film evening, a look-alike "party" on Hemingway's July 21 birthday, running and paddleboarding challenges, a lively street fair and a high-stakes three-day marlin tournament recalling his passion for Florida Keys angling.

The festival begins Tuesday, July 17, with a Hemingway museum exhibit "open house" at the Custom House Museum, 281 Front St.

At 6 p.m. Tuesday, the Key West Hemingway Symposium is to feature scholars Kirk Curnutt, Ashley Oliphant and Brewster Chamberlin; Hemingway interpreter and playwright/author Brian Gordon Sinclair; and writer



Cristen Hemingway Jaynes, Ernest's great-granddaughter.

The festival's other literary offerings include the "Voices, Places, Inspirations" author readings, "Papa's Poems" presented by the Key West Poetry Guild and an evening spotlighting Sinclair's "The Hemingway Monologues" film and seven-book series. The latter event also includes the presentation of Canada's Hemingway on Stage Award.

Those whose resemblance to Ernest is literal rather than literary can compete in Sloppy Joe's annual Hemingway® Look-Alike Contest. Past winners choose the new "Papa" from 125 or more bearded contestants at Sloppy Joe's Bar, 201 Duval St., a watering hole frequented by the author. Preliminary rounds are



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A registered national historic landmark, the Hemingway Home and Museum offers guided tours of the author's home, writing studio and Key West's first swimming pool. The six-toed cats which roam the grounds are descendants of Hemingway's pets.

scheduled at 6:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, July 19 and 20, with the final round Saturday, July 21 — the 119th anniversary of Hemingway's birth.

The "Papas" also enliven other festival events including Saturday's infamous "Running of the Bulls." Set for 1 p.m. outside Sloppy Joe's with manmade bull replicas, the offbeat event recalls Hemingway's fascination with the bull ring.

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

Hemingway Days concludes Sunday with Sloppy Joe's annual arm-wrestling championship and a historian-led trolley tour of Key West sites related to the island's



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Michael Groover, center, husband of celebrity chef Paula Deen, competes in the 2017 Hemingway Look-Alike Contest at Sloppy Joe's Bar.



Havana Club Puerto Rican Rum Marlin Tournament



Havana Club Puerto Rican Rum Marlin Tournament



Look-Alikes To Compete 'Ernestly' During The 2018 Hemingway® Look-Alike Contest

Just as swallows fly to Capistrano each year, flocks of stocky white-bearded Ernest Hemingway look-alikes make an annual pilgrimage to Key West. Spectators can applaud their favorites Thursday through Saturday, July 19-21, as 125 or more aspiring "Ernests" compete in the annual Hemingway® Look-Alike Contest.

The competition takes place at Sloppy Joe's Bar, 201 Duval St., where the legendary author often enjoyed cocktails with cohorts when he lived in Key West during the 1930s. The event is a highlight of the July 17-22 Hemingway Days celebration of his writing talent, sporting pursuits and energetic lifestyle.

The contest's preliminary rounds are set for 6:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, July 19 and 20. The winner is to be chosen during a final round beginning at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, July 21, the 119th anniversary of Hemingway's birth.

Past look-alike entrants have come from as far away as Australia and Kazakhstan to compete in the quirky contest, dressing in safari togs, wool fisherman's turtlenecks and other garb associated with the Pulitzer and Nobel winner's "Papa" persona.

Some are longtime repeat contenders, and all must prove their resemblance to a judging panel of past contest winners including 2017's Richard Filip



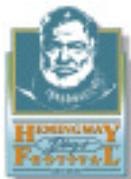
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Richard Filip, left, is congratulated by Fred Johnson, right, and other previous winners of the Hemingway Look-Alike Contest Saturday, July 22, 2017, at Sloppy Joe's Bar. Filip, of Fayetteville, Texas, won the 2017 contest on his seventh attempt.

of Fayetteville, Texas.

Look-alikes also take part in many other Hemingway Days activities, including Saturday's offbeat "Running of the Bulls" that is a lighthearted salute to the annual event in Pamplona, Spain.

At noon Saturday, before the rowdy run, "Papas" are available for photo opportunities outside Sloppy Joe's. At 1 p.m. they stage the popular sporting spoof, promenading alongside fake bulls on wheels, and later host a



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Richard Filip, center, is amid his supporters after leaving the stage during the final round of the Hemingway Look-Alike Contest.

“birthday party” honoring Hemingway.

Additional look-alike events will include a Wednesday evening welcome party for contestants and their fans, and the Hemingway Look-Alike Society’s yearly scholarship presentations to Florida Keys students.

Many “Papas” show their strength in Sloppy Joe’s final festival event, an annual arm-wrestling championship. Registration and a bloody mary bash with the bearded brethren are set for 10 a.m. Sunday, July 22, with the contest at 11 a.m.



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Matt Collins, holding an antique typewriter and impersonating a younger Ernest Hemingway, reached the final round of the 2017 competition.



ANDY NEWMAN/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU

Ernest Hemingway look-alikes push fake bulls on wheels through the Curry Mansion Inn’s driveway. Dubbed the Running of the Bulls, the event is an offbeat answer to its namesake in Pamplona, Spain.



Food and Fun for Everyone

Hemingway Days Caribbean Street Fair



Literacy Volunteers of America—Monroe County will once again present the Caribbean Street Fair during the annual Hemingway Days festival. On Saturday, July 21, Duval Street will be closed to motorized traffic for four blocks beginning at Front Street for this event, a highlight of Key West’s annual celebration of Ernest Hemingway’s years on the island.

From 10 a.m. to 10 pm, art, clothing, delicious ethnic foods and more will be offered to fairgoers celebrating Hemingway’s lifestyle, savoring the aromas and satisfying every taste as they stroll the booths of vendors.

Bearded Hemingway look-alikes will be available for photo opportunities beginning at noon outside Sloppy Joe’s Bar at the

corner of Greene Street.

The look-alikes will also stage a hilarious “Running of the Bulls” beginning at 1 p.m. outside Sloppy Joe’s and proceeding along a portion of Duval Street. Manmade bulls will be featured in this take-off on the famous Pamplona event, a salute to the love of bullfighting that inspired Hemingway’s “Death in the Afternoon.”

This is the fourth year that Literacy Volunteers of America—Monroe County has presented the Caribbean Street Fair. LVA’s belief is that proficiency in reading and writing skills will help individuals increase their earning power and improve their self-esteem. The organization, founded in 1984, provides confidential, one-to-one and

small group tutoring at no charge for adults who read and write below a fifth-grade level.

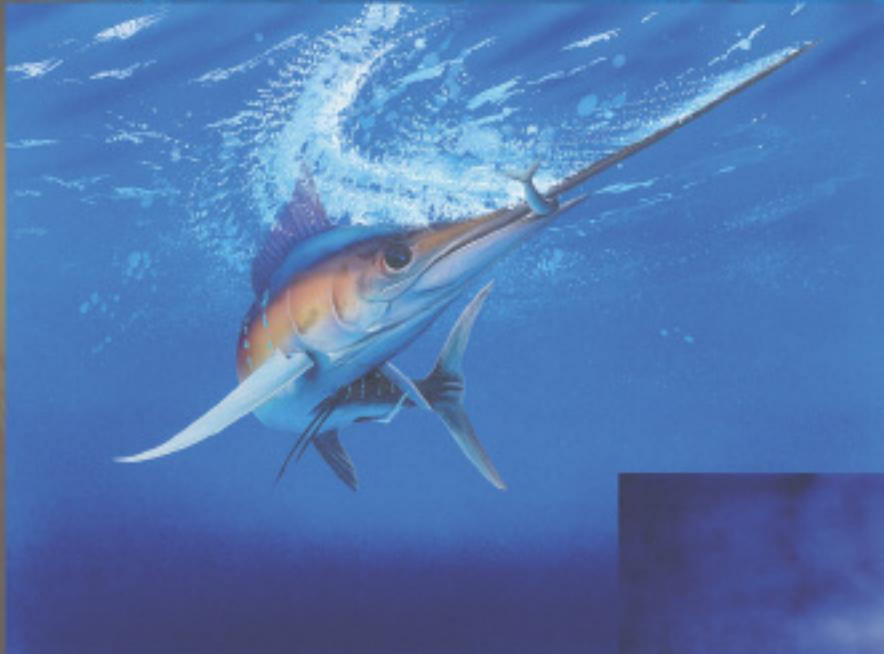
One hundred percent of the money LVA collects from the street fair will be used to provide support for the organization’s program.

This year the Caribbean Street Fair is sponsored in part by the Margaritaville Key West Resort & Marina and Pepe’s Café.

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.



THE ART OF **Stephen Muldoon**



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Hemingway Days

5k Sunset Run & Paddleboard Race



© 2014-2015 - KEY WEST MARATHON & 5K.

Ernest Hemingway's sporting lifestyle is to inspire athletes on land and water in Key West, the island where the legendary writer lived during the 1930s. The Hemingway 5k Sunset Run/Walk and Paddleboard Race are to challenge competitors Saturday, July 21—the 119th anniversary of Hemingway's birth.

The competitions are part of Key West's annual Hemingway Days, a celebration of the author's vigorous life and literary talent set for July 17-22.

On-the-water athletes can compete in the Lazy Dog Paddleboard Race beginning at 5:30 p.m. Saturday. The 3-mile ocean course is to start and end at the island city's Southernmost Beach, 1405 Duval St. on the

Atlantic Ocean.

For those who prefer land-based competition, the 5k run/walk begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Southernmost Point in the continental United States, located at Whitehead and South streets. Racers proceed through Key West's colorful historic district and past landmarks that include the Ernest Hemingway Home & Museum.

Athletes in both events can celebrate their accomplishments at an awards party at the Southernmost Beach Café. Planned attractions include food, libations and raffles.

Paddleboard awards await the first- through 10th-place male and female finishers. In the 5k, prizes are to be presented to the top three male and female overall finishers, masters, and finishers



in age categories ranging from 9 and under to 75 and over.

In addition, multisport athletes can take home special medals for competing in both challenges.

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.

Interested participants can register online at active.com or download registration forms at keywesthalfmarathon.com.

The registration fee is \$45 per person for either race or \$85 for both races. The fee includes a collectible race tech shirt, food,



ANDY NEWMAN/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU



Havana Club Puerto Rican Rum Marlin Tournament



Encouraging Emerging Writers

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.

The Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition is an important Key West literary event that coincides with the annual Hemingway Days celebration. Emerging writers whose works have yet to be recognized are encouraged to enter this contest, competing for cash prizes and possible publication in a literary journal.

An accomplished writer herself, Lorian Hemingway is the author of three critically-acclaimed works, "Walking into the River," "Walk on Water" and "A World Turned Over."

This is the 37th year for the competition, which typically receives entries from countries all around the world, in addition to the United States. Among the 700-plus entries this year are stories by writers from France, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Portugal, India, Cypress, South Africa and Australia among others; there's an entry from China, and one from Russia — for only the third time since the inception of the competition.

"The number of countries from which the stories come always surprises and delights me," Lorian said.

Most of us like to think we have a story in our lives — or at least in our imaginations. Some of us even put pen to paper, or fingers to keyboard, to immortalize the event or events that make up our stories. And some of the most motivated submit their completed stories to this prestigious competition.

"The quality of the entries is excellent this year ... I am loving it," enthused Lorian, who is one of three literary persons judging the entries.

Other judges are Dr. Rob Merritt, dean of the college of arts and letters at Bluefield College, and Brandi Reissenweber, assistant professor and creative writing instructor at Illinois Wesleyan University.

This year's first-place winner will receive a \$1,500 cash prize plus publication in "Cutthroat ... a Journal of the Arts," published by Pamela Uschuk, an American Book Award winner. Second- and third-place winners will each receive a \$500 cash prize.

The winners will be announced on Lorian's website, shortstorycompetition.com, by 3 p.m. July 22. And as she does each year, Lorian will telephone the winner to give him or her the good news.

—Katharine Roach



Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition



Lorian Hemingway is proud to present the 2017 third-place winner of the short story competition that bears her name, chosen from among 650 entries.

We are the Bobcats

By Jackie Mohan

It was all over Facebook. Peter's profile had become a memorial of posts he would never read, more posts than he had ever gotten on any birthday. The messages were personal, emotional. We felt indecent reading some of them, as if a neighbor had forgotten to pull down curtains at night and we could see inside. We read every single one.

Before the accident, most of us didn't know Peter Bishop beyond a name. He was quiet, overweight and pear-shaped with brown hair, brown eyes, just one more face filling the school hallways. But now he was dead. In the hallways outside classroom doors, we recalled our interactions with him in heartrending detail, from that

conversation at Katie's sweet sixteen to last year's group project on photosynthesis. He became the kindest kid in school and a beacon of light in every class.

When his death was acknowledged in the morning announcements, the Monday after the accident, we held a long moment of silence. Most of us had already known from Facebook. We learned the details from the Sunday edition of *The Spring Hill Journal*, our town's weekly newspaper. A car had struck him early Saturday morning as Peter headed to Boykin Pond with a fishing pole strapped to his bicycle. The accident was front page news.

A few days after Peter's death,

Hailey Matthews declared that she'd been in love with him since third grade. Hailey made constant bids for attention and had bleached her hair the year before, though her black roots always showed. In second grade, Hailey's father died and the town had showered her mother, tall and blonde, with casseroles and condolences. Too young for these southern social graces, we gave Hailey space. Since dyeing her hair, Hailey liked to think of herself as popular. She followed Katie, who did not fancy herself popular and was always nice to everyone.

After Peter died, some of the art kids were asked to paint a mural in his memory on the side hallway to the gym, the one with the water fountains. Each of us began taking special routes to our next classes so that we could go down the hallway and see Georgia and Tucker, who had been excused from class, working on the mural. They were painting a fishing pole that pulled a deep blue fish out of a pond and into a radiating yellow sun. The thick smell of the paint filled the hallway. Down the hall, we heard the drama kids rehearsing *Romeo and Juliet*.

On Wednesday, Hailey stood babbling to Katie, who watched Georgia and Tucker in quiet reverie with the rest of us. One girl started crying and her friend took her into the bathroom. Hailey pulled out her phone and shook



her wrist, jangling the set of rhinestone bangles adorning her skinny, spray-tanned arm.

"I don't know why she was crying," Hailey said. "Not to be mean or whatever, but I'm the one who's had a crush on him forever."

This was unlikely, since we all knew that Peter had asked Hailey to the Frosty Formal, the winter dance, the year before and she'd gone with the soccer captain instead, but we didn't say anything. We let Hailey love Peter, and when she began sniffing in the hallway, no fewer than four of us offered her a Kleenex. She accepted all of them with the watery, gracious thanks of one of the wronged women in our mothers' soap operas.



Peter's funeral was a Thursday morning. Students who wanted to attend were allowed to leave class early. That morning, we dressed in our Sunday best, climbed into our hand-me-down pick-up trucks or Toyota Camrys, and headed to school. As we walked to class, we avoided the freshmen, even the juniors and seniors. They were whole, intact. They had not known our grief. We sat patiently through first and half of second period, waiting for our cue. When the principal dismissed us, we rose with the quiet dignity of the widowed, hiked our backpacks on our shoulders, and made sure to walk by Peter's mural as we headed back to the parking lot under a rainy sky.

Some of us went to Spring Hill Baptist Church alongside Peter, and those who went elsewhere still knew how to behave at a funeral. We filed into the pews, lone islands with careful space between us, and examined our surroundings. The vague light of a rainy day deadened the tall stained

glass windows. Up front, Peter's parents talked with the pastor, a man with thinning brown hair who was not as old as we thought he should be, and the church had an off-putting, musky smell. Peter's mother wore a plain black dress, so well-worn that it was almost navy, and Peter's father had his arm tight around her shoulders. It stayed there throughout the service, and when he released her afterward to shake hands with funeral attendees, the mark of his clenched fingers remained in the thin fabric of her dress.

When the pastor asked if anyone would like to come up and say a few words about Peter, most of us stayed seated. Peter's father spoke a little and quickly sat down. His mother could not stand. One boy, Malachi, stood but it took him a few moments to collect himself. Peter and Malachi had been friends as long as we could remember, and we had heard that he was supposed to go fishing with Peter that Saturday morning but had slept through his alarm.

"Peter was my best friend," Malachi said, a crumpled piece of paper clutched in his hand. He tried to unfold it but gave up and ran a hand through his uncombed hair. Peter's father stood and helped Malachi back to his seat. The pastor waited off to the side and when no one else came to the podium, we prepared to leave. Then Hailey stood.

Her black heels, too tall to be decent, squeaked as she walked to the front. She tugged at the hem of her short black dress, flipped her hair over her shoulder, and cleared her throat.

"Many of you know how important Peter was to me," she said. "I met him in third grade. Peter was the nicest, smartest,

most special person I've ever known." We shuffled our feet, cramped and pinched inside our tight church shoes. "I can feel him looking down on me today from Heaven, telling me that I can get through this. I don't know if I can." We did not care that her eyes were red and puffy. We cared that she dared to stand in front of us, in front of Peter's parents, with plastic tortoiseshell sunglasses perched on her blond head.

"I will miss him forever," she continued. "You have all been so supportive in my time of grief, and I can't thank you enough." Here she turned her blue eyes upward and pointed a glittered nail to the high ceiling. We cringed. "We love you, Peter." She looked forward, over our heads. "Thank you."

She brought a wrinkled tissue to her eyes, rimmed with eyeliner, and walked back to her seat, her shoes squeaking.



Friday, we were all back in school. Hailey came in late, wearing black. She couldn't wear her funeral dress again because it would violate the dress code, so instead she wore black lipstick. "For Peter," she said, not when asked, but when we all looked at her as she walked into Mr. Davenport's English class, late.

Mr. Davenport asked us to write poems. We could use them to talk about Peter, to explore our grief if we wanted. The poems would not be graded. He gave us twenty minutes, during which time he walked around the room, giving sympathetic smiles. Most of us stuffed our poems down into the depths of our backpacks or folded and tucked them in the back pocket of our binders. Hailey raised her hand.

"Mr. Davenport, I'd like to share mine," she said, lifting a piece of notebook paper filled with



a rainbow of multi-colored gel pens. She stood without waiting permission and opened her mouth to speak.

Katie's voice cut through the room. "Nobody wants to hear it!"

Hailey looked at Katie, who had buried her face in her hands. Hailey then looked around at the rest of us and we looked down at our desks, studying them with the intensity of monks in prayer. Nobody *did* want to hear it, but we weren't going to say so. It was better she heard it from her best friend, although we agreed that the timing may have been off.

"Thank you, Hailey, but I think these are best kept private," Mr. Davenport said. "I think we're all as overwhelmed by Peter's death as you are." He gave her one of his sympathetic smiles, the one he used when he wanted to make us feel like he understood us.

Hailey fell back into her seat as if she'd been struck. No one looked at her.

At lunch, she sniffled, and not one of us offered her a tissue from the plastic packs our mothers made us carry, worried about our dealing with tragedy so young. When Hailey sat by Katie in Biology, Katie got up to go to the bathroom and when she returned, she sat at a different table. Before last period, as we made our quick trip to Peter's mural, we crowded together and left Hailey to stand alone by herself. We each mourned and felt the weight of Peter in our chests. Hailey didn't get to have a monopoly on grief.



Over the weekend, Malachi organized a vigil at Boykin Pond. Some of us came early and fished a little before the sun went down. Malachi was the only person who caught anything, one tiny fish thrashing its silver body against death. He threw it back. The rest of

us arrived after sundown. Even with our small class, we filled the parking lot and lined the road beyond the trees. The air rang with cicadas, the sound of a dying summer, and the humidity wrapped around us. We stood along the edge of the pond holding a hodgepodge of whatever candles we could find: our older sisters' Bath and Body Works candles in Pumpkin Spice, our mothers' Fresh Linen from Yankee Candle, our grandma's tall red and white tapers from dining rooms. Malachi passed out tea lights in Styrofoam cups to everyone else. Hailey was not there, and when we asked Katie about it, she said, "I couldn't give her a ride." Her fingers worked to shred the edge of her cup, and the white particles floated down and stuck to her sweatshirt. We imagined Hailey at home, reapplying black lipstick, sore over missing an opportunity to claim Peter for herself.

Malachi had a photograph of himself and Peter, arms around each other and fishing poles high in the air, in a thin black picture frame. He also brought a small boat, the kind he might have built in woodshop or with his father as a boy, and he placed the picture on this. Kneeling by the pond, he pushed the boat out into the water. About twenty feet from shore, the picture slipped off the boat. We wanted to jump in, to pull Peter up, and a few of us even took a step forward as if to try. We wanted to save him, but instead we stayed rooted to the ground.

We stood side by side until the moon rose above the blackened trees and felt the loneliness of our grief fall away, like shedding a skin. It was a clear, perfect night, and we flinched at the sound of a

lone car speeding down the nearby road, the site of the accident. We wanted to go on standing there forever, an unbreakable wall, but we were only teenagers and reality called us home.



Hailey wasn't in school Monday or Tuesday. We didn't notice until Wednesday, when Mr. Davenport asked if anyone had talked to her. We hadn't. Thursday, we sat in first period, and the morning announcements began, reminding us about the pep rally on Friday. There was no mention of the opening night of *Romeo and Juliet* despite the flyers that now wallpapered our lockers. We began pulling homework out of our bags, reading questions on *The Scarlet Letter*, calculus worksheets, biology notes on our dying fruit flies. Hushed conversations rose up as our teachers busied themselves writing the day's agenda on their whiteboards.

The intercoms crackled to life again. "Bobcats, I'm sorry for the interruption. I've just received some tragic news." Our hearts stopped. We could not breathe. "This week, we have lost another member of our family. I am sorry to tell you that Hailey Matthews passed away yesterday morning." We looked at each other, bewildered. "For those wanting to talk, your guidance counselors are still available. Thank you." There was no moment of silence.

Yesterday morning? We had seen nothing online. We pulled out our phones and began scouring social media for any mention of Hailey, but we found none.

"Phones away, everyone," our teachers said.

We could not remember one thing our teachers said in class.



Bobcats

continued

When we tried to listen, their words passed through our heads like shadows. Hailey was dead? But we hated Hailey. She couldn't die. Most of our teachers tried to carry on as normally as possible. Mr. Davenport held his own moment of silence in his classroom before giving the class the rest of the period to study for a test.

Throughout the rest of the day and Friday, we monitored our phones for clues but none came. In third period, we asked Georgia and Tucker what Hailey's memorial mural would be. They said the administration hadn't approached them about it.

Early Sunday morning, we surprised our parents by fetching the paper from the sidewalk before they were even awake. But *The Spring Hill Journal* held no answers, no article or obituary. No mention of a funeral. We asked this semester's student intern at the paper about it. "The editor told me that we don't cover suicides," she said. Suicide? We could not believe it. Hailey was not the type. She wore pink and glitter and had a laugh that grated in our ears. She was annoying. She was young, young like us. She couldn't die. We couldn't die. And yet, here we were, becoming a dying breed.



Katie was not in school Monday or Tuesday and we worried. Wednesday, she returned, wearing no makeup and moving at a turtle's pace through the hallways. We kept our distance when we got stuck behind her.

"Can you imagine?" we remarked as we stood outside our second period classes. We

watched Katie, who dragged the weight of a failed best friendship behind her wherever she went.

At lunch, Georgia sat with Katie at a quiet corner table, their trays of pizza sticks untouched. After third period, we gravitated toward Georgia's locker.

"Well?" we asked. "Well?"

Georgia had circles under her eyes. "She killed herself," she said. We had already known this.

"How?" one of the younger girls asked, in bad taste, we thought.

Georgia fiddled with her lock, looping it around her finger like a shackle. "She hung herself," Georgia said. "With her father's red silk tie."

We remembered the tall ceilings of the Matthews' house from last year's Halloween party, draped in orange streamers and cottony shreds of spider web. Hailey's mother rolled her eyes and told us that Hailey had spent all day decorating. We recalled the way the skeletons were hung high on the walls, dancing, their toothy smiles grinning down at us. Most of us had skipped out of Hailey's party early to meet at the Confederate cemetery, by far the oldest in town, where the real fun was found in the brown paper bags we'd smuggled under our costumes.

The first bell rang and we scattered to our classes.

After school, we found Tucker touching up some of the fish scales on Peter's mural. "What about Hailey's?" we asked. He told us that he had gone to the front office during lunch to ask where the school would like Hailey's mural painted. The principal told him that the nature of Hailey's death would not permit a mural

or memorial to be condoned. "Suicide, you know," he had told Tucker.

We knew. We knew from the missing moment of silence, from the lack of information in *The Spring Hill Journal*, from the mural Georgia and Tucker would never paint. We knew from the way we felt uneasy talking about Hailey, from the way our mothers began asking probing questions about our emotional states and the way our fathers refused any mention of "that Matthews girl."

When we looked up Hailey on Facebook, the most recent post on her profile was her message to Peter. No one had posted on her profile since then. Her long message ended with a picture that Hailey's mom must have snapped in elementary school. Hailey was sprawled on a purple rug, a pink dress splayed around her tiny body like a fan, coloring construction paper valentines for our class. The one between her hands was a red heart, slightly misshapen, with Peter's name written on it in large purple letters.



At the end of the day, not yet ready to go home, we stood in front of Peter's mural as the hallways fell quiet. The frigid air of the vents bore into our skin and somewhere near the school, a tractor rumbled by. The mural was well done. The wood grain in the fishing pole was rendered in painstaking detail and tiny, careful lines formed the ripples of the water, billowing outward. Still, it somehow fell flat. We looked at the mural and missed Peter, but there was nowhere to look for Hailey. We had nothing except the sound of Hailey's heels squeaking around and around in our heads.

Mr. Davenport came to stand beside us. Our backs stiffened. His



white shirt was wrinkled and his belt did not match his shoes.

"Where's the mural for Hailey?" he asked, his hands in his pockets, jangling spare change.

"She doesn't get one," Tucker said.

He stopped jangling the coins in his pocket. "Do none of you feel badly?" Deep lines seemed to form on his fallen face.

We wished he would leave.

"We tried, but the principal said no," Georgia said.

Mr. Davenport turned and looked at each of us, one by one. "Not about the mural," he said.

We studied the painted fish scales, the peaks and valleys left by the brushstrokes. The space between us closed in as we contracted like a fist. He had no right. We were young and grieving, scarred and bleeding, and he had no right after everything we had gone through.

"About what?" we said.



It was Friday and time for the pep rally. We avoided the spontaneous Bobcats cheers in the hallways, didn't enter the raffle for a Bobcats swag bag at lunch. When the bell rang for fourth period, we followed the rest of the school to the gym for the mandatory pep rally. We filed up into our seats in a silent procession as the other grades laughed and whooped

around us. The cheerleaders streamed out from a side door, shaking their pompoms. One of them pulled at the hem of her skirt and we thought of Hailey's dress at Peter's funeral.

The principal spoke of "our loss" and how this game was an opportunity to come together. He announced the basketball team as they came dribbling in. Only one sophomore was on the team and he moved with an appropriate amount of slowness. The players shot some baskets, tried some flashy slam dunks, and the rest of the classes cheered. The cheerleaders started a routine and the principal took charge.

"We are the Bobcats, the mighty, mighty Bobcats!" His voice boomed from the black megaphone. He pointed from section to section, freshmen to senior, conducting them in a chorus of C-A-T-S. We were A. Each time it was our turn, we managed a cheer so weak that it was as if we weren't there at all.



Saturday night was the theater department's opening night of *Romeo and Juliet*. The inside of the school felt eerie and out-of-bounds. We paid our five-dollar student ticket fees and unenthused ushers

handed us programs, which we folded and tucked into our pockets.

We entered the cold auditorium with its cheap red curtains draped along the walls. The drama kids' parents and grandparents sat in the front and centermost seats. Their hushed murmurs rose as they looked around and saw the crowd. "It must really be great this semester!" they said to each other. Then one mother, closer to us, whispered to an elderly woman beside her, "It's because of Peter." The grandmother didn't hear her but the woman continued. "Times like these make them come together and feel closer to their school."

"What about that Matthews girl?" someone asked.

"Who?" the mother said. The lights went down.

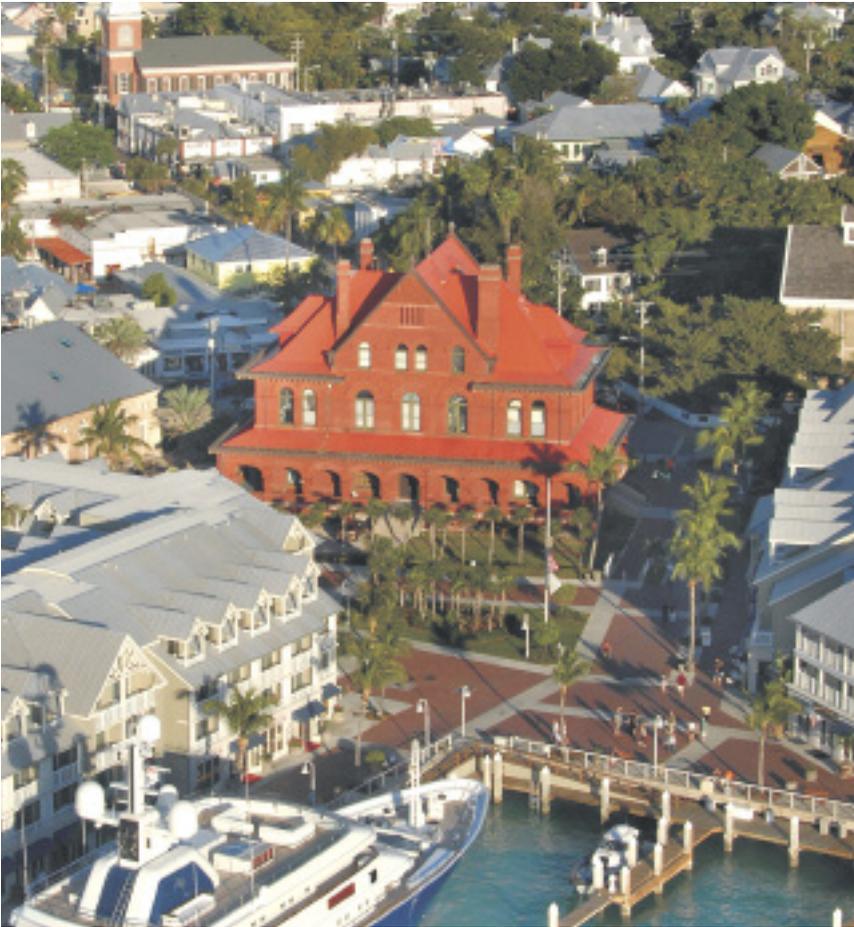
At intermission, we stayed seated. The cheerleaders sold cupcakes in the lobby to fundraise for their upcoming competition. We let the mothers buy them and return with lipstick smudged by frosting. Finally, act five arrived. When Juliet killed herself, we clutched the ends of our armrests, our arms pressed together like magnets. Our faces stayed hidden by the darkness and by the closeness of so many bodies in one place, at one time, that we could not tell where one ended and the next began.



Jackie Mohan is a fiction writer from Fort Mill, South Carolina. She earned her B.A. in English from the University of South Carolina and her M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Old Dominion University in May 2018. She currently resides in Norfolk, Virginia, where she is developing a novel based on "We are the Bobcats."



Hemingway Days Continues Key West's Rich Literary Tradition



ANDY NEWMAN/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU

An aerial photo of the Key West harborfront featuring the red-bricked Key West Art & History Museum at the Custom House.

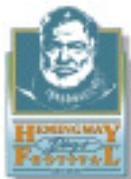
A rich roster of literary events awaits fans of fine writing during Hemingway Days 2018, set for Tuesday through Sunday, July 17-22. The festival celebrates the talent and exuberant Key West lifestyle of legendary writer Ernest Hemingway, who lived on the island for most of the 1930s.

Hemingway Days opens with a museum day Tuesday, July 17, at the Custom House Museum, 281 Front St. Literary fans can view rare artifacts and memorabilia from the author's life, as well as marine wildlife artist Guy Harvey's original sketches illustrating Hemingway's "The Old Man and the Sea."

The Key West Art & Historical Society's Hemingway Symposium begins at 6 p.m. Tuesday, featuring insights from scholars, actors and writers inspired by Hemingway's work. Scheduled presenters are Kirk Curnutt, author of "Coffee with Hemingway" among others; Ashley Oliphant, author of "Hemingway and Bimini: The Birth of Sport Fishing at 'The End of the World'"; Brewster Chamberlin, discussing Key West during Hemingway's era; actor and playwright/author Brian Gordon Sinclair; and writer Cristen Hemingway Jaynes, Hemingway's great-granddaughter. The intriguing evening takes place at Key West's Old City Hall, 510 Greene St.

A number of contemporary writers star in the "Voices, Places, Inspirations" readings set for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 18, at the Key West Lighthouse and Keepers Quarters, 938 Whitehead St. They include Jaynes, reading from "The Mirage of Mario Sanchez"; Curnutt, exploring Key West novels and their writers; Chamberlin, whose books include "Peregrine's Island"; Sinclair, author of "The Hemingway Monologues" series; and Chuck Ball, who wrote "Last Chance Key West" among others.

Highlights Thursday, July 19, include a 7:30 p.m. film screening of "The Hemingway Monologues:



Terry Jones' bronze sculpture of Hemingway.



World famous Hemingway interpreter Brian Gordon Sinclair.



Author Kirk Curnutt

trolley tour of Hemingway's Key West. Departing from the Custom House Museum, the tour spotlights sites associated with the author including his former home and waterfront settings he memorialized in his novel "To Have and Have Not."

Life and Death in Key West," narrated by Sinclair at Tropic Cinema, 416 Eaton St. Sinclair also is to showcase his seven-volume series, "The Hemingway Monologues: An Epic Drama of Love, Genius and Eternity," and present Canada's Hemingway on Stage Award with Jaynes.

At 5:30 p.m. Friday, festival attendees can discover the little-known poetry of Ernest Hemingway. The Key West Poetry Guild presents a reading of "Papa's Poems," as well as their own work, at Old City Hall.

At noon Sunday, July 22, historian Sharon Wells is to lead a

Held in conjunction with Hemingway Days is the internationally recognized Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition. At 3 p.m. Sunday, author Lorian Hemingway, Ernest Hemingway's granddaughter, plans to announce the winning writers at shortstorycompetition.com.

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Hemingway Days Celebration

Schedule of Events



**HEMINGWAY
DAYS 2018**
July 17-22

TUESDAY JULY 17

9:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M. — “Hemingway Collection” Museum Day. Discover rare artifacts and memorabilia from Hemingway’s life, a life-sized bronze of the author and 59 original pen-and-ink drawings by famed marine wildlife artist Guy Harvey — all illustrating Hemingway’s “The Old Man and the Sea.” Custom House Museum, 281 Front St. Free admission for Hemingway Days participants. Visit kwahs.org.

6-8 P.M. — Key West Art & Historical Society’s Hemingway Symposium. The symposium features scholars, actors and writers inspired by Hemingway’s work. Presenters are moderator Kirk Curnutt, Ph.D., author of “Coffee with Hemingway” among others; Ashley Oliphant, Ph.D., author of “Hemingway and Bimini: The Birth of Sport Fishing at ‘The End of the World’”; Brewster Chamberlin, Ph.D., discussing Key West during Hemingway’s era; actor and playwright Brian Gordon

Sinclair, author of the multi-volume series “The Hemingway Monologues”; and writer Cristen Hemingway Jaynes, Hemingway’s great-granddaughter. Old City Hall, 510 Greene St. Registration required; \$5 per person (free for KWAHS members). Visit kwahs.org.

WEDNESDAY JULY 18

4 P.M. — Final registration for the Havana Club Key West Marlin Tournament. Anglers compete for \$50,000 in guaranteed cash prizes for targeting marlin, spearfish, sailfish, dolphin fish, tuna and wahoo. Waterfront Brewery, 201 William St. 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. Visit sloppyjoes.com.

6-8 P.M. — Key West Marlin Tournament captains meeting, auction and raffle. Waterfront Brewery, upstairs deck.



7:30-9 P.M. — “Voices, Places, Inspirations.” This evening of readings, presentations and storytelling features Chuck Ball, author of “Last Chance Key West” among others; Cristen Hemingway Jaynes, reading from “The Mirage of Mario Sanchez”; Kirk Curnutt, discussing notable novels about Key West and their writers; Brewster Chamberlin, whose books include “Peregrine’s Island”; and Brian Gordon Sinclair, author of “The Hemingway Monologues” among others. A “meet-the-authors” reception follows. Key West Lighthouse and Keepers Quarters. 938 Whitehead St. Free admission. Visit kwahs.org.

THURSDAY JULY 19

8:30 A.M.-4 P.M. — Key West Marlin Tournament first day of fishing. Visit keywestmarlin.com.

4-6 P.M. — Key West Marlin Tournament weigh-in. Dock outside Waterfront Brewery.

6 P.M. — Hemingway Look-Alike Society scholarship presentations. The society is to announce the winners of its annual scholarships for Florida Keys students. Onstage at Sloppy Joe’s Bar. Visit papalookalikes.com.

6:30 P.M. — Sloppy Joe’s 38th 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. Visit sloppyjoes.com.

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



ROB O'NEAL/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU

7:30-9 P.M. — The Hemingway Monologues” hosted by Brian Gordon Sinclair. Attendees can view the film “The Hemingway Monologues: Life and Death in Key West,” narrated by playwright and actor Sinclair, and discover his seven-volume series “The Hemingway Monologues: An Epic Drama of Love, Genius and Eternity.” Co-hosted by Cristen Hemingway Jaynes, the event includes Canada’s Hemingway on Stage Award presentation. Tropic Cinema, 416 Eaton St. \$5 per person (free for KWAHS members). Visit kwahs.org.

FRIDAY JULY 20

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. Dock outside Waterfront Brewery.

5:30 P.M. — “Papa’s Poems.” The Key West Poetry Guild presents a reading of the poetry of Ernest Hemingway, as well as their own work, during a free-admission event at Key West’s Old City Hall. For info, contact Nance Boylan at 908-591-5566.

6:30 P.M. — Sloppy Joe’s 38th 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 cocktail party and fish fry. Waterfront Brewery, upstairs deck. Free to tournament participants.

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

SATURDAY JULY 21

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. Four blocks of Key West’s famed Duval Street, beginning at Front Street, are closed to vehicular traffic and transformed into an open-air island market with arts, crafts, jewelry, tropical clothing and food. Visit lva-monroe.org or email info@lva-monroe.org.

Hemingway Days Schedule

continued

NOON — Photos with “Papas.” 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. Now in its 20th year, this wacky event is sponsored by Sloppy Joe’s Bar and features Hemingway® Look-Alike Contest winners and entrants dressed in their Pamplona best — and a breed of “bull” found only in Key West. The fun starts on Greene Street outside Sloppy Joe’s. Visit sloppyjoes.com.

1:30 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. Greene Street outside Sloppy Joe’s Bar.

3-5 P.M. — Key West Marlin Tournament weigh-in. Dock outside Waterfront Brewery.

3-7 P.M. — Hemingway 5k Sunset Run/Walk and 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. Visit keywesthalfmarathon.com.

5:30 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. Visit keywesthalfmarathon.com.



ANDY NEWMAN/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU

6:30 P.M. — Key West Marlin Tournament awards banquet and silent auction. Cocktails and silent auction are set for 6:30 p.m., 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 38th 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 at the Southernmost Beach Café. Visit keywesthalfmarathon.com.

SUNDAY JULY 22

10 A.M. — Bloody Marys with “Papa.” Sloppy Joe’s Bar. Visit sloppyjoes.com.

10 A.M. — Sloppy Joe’s Arm Wrestling Contest. Registration is set for 10 a.m. and the contest begins at 11 a.m. Prizes await winners in multiple weight divisions. Sloppy Joe’s Bar. \$5 entry fee; free to watch. Visit sloppyjoes.com.

12-2 P.M. — Hemingway’s Key West by Trolley. Historian Sharon Wells leads a trolley tour of sites associated with Hemingway’s Key West years, including his former home and waterfront settings he memorialized in his novel “To Have and Have Not.” \$10 per person (\$5 for KWAHS members). Meet at the Custom House Museum. Visit kwaahs.org.

3 P.M. — Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition winners’ announcement. Author Lorian Hemingway, Ernest’s granddaughter, will announce the winners of her internationally recognized fiction contest online at shortstorycompetition.com. A \$1,500 cash prize and publication await the first-place winner.

This is a preliminary schedule and is subject to change.



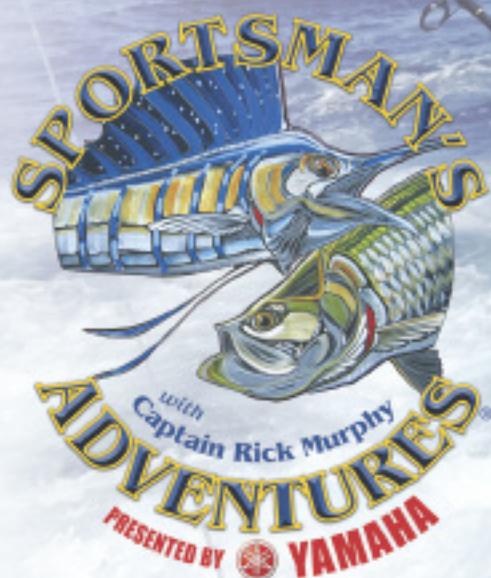
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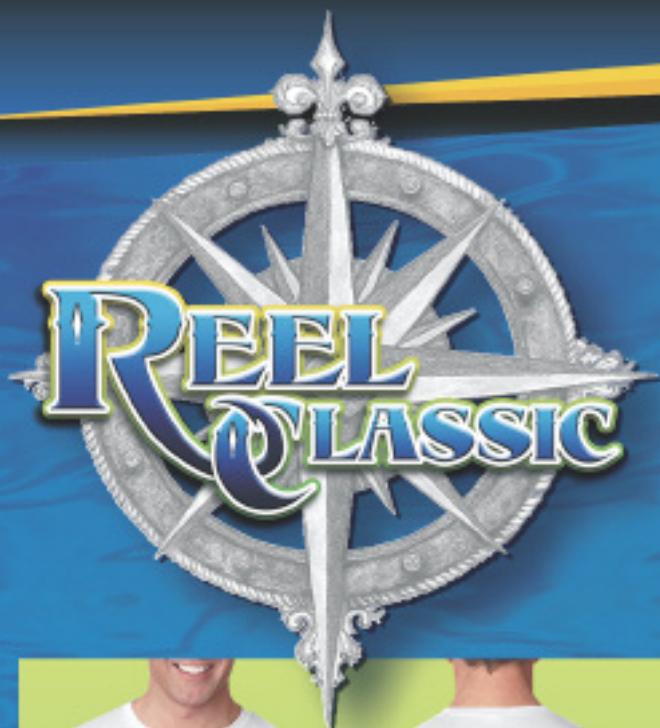
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