

Cedar Key - 2008

No, you haven't missed it! But it's coming up soon! **May 3rd and 4th**, Saturday and Sunday will feature the largest gathering of small boats in the southeast. Don't miss it. Many folks will arrive on Friday and stay until Monday! My brother Tom has promised to come cook for us again, and there are a few surprises for the Saturday evening cookout on the property next to the Island Place Hotel.

Members are starting to call and write asking what they can do to help make this the best event yet, and we will need some coordination of what to bring. I can tell you that we never seem to have enough cole slaw to go with Tom's smoked chicken and sausage. Ed and Becky usually supply rolls, but if another couple want to help that would be great! Desserts and salads are also always welcome. We'll have plenty of plastic ware and paper plates, so don't bring those items. We're planning on serving 130 to 150 people this year. I feel that attendance may be slightly down due to the economy and the price of fuel, but some people have put off coming for too long and are going to make the drive regardless!

Scott and Charmaine Baumer are loaning me their sound system this year, as I don't have access to my former school's system. Scott is a church musical director and they have excellent equipment. Thanks Scott and Charmaine.

Other events!

1. Couple's Cruise at Caladesi Island State Park - Friday April 4th - April 7th

We'll leave Friday evening from Seminole Boat ramp. Overnight in Caladesi Island Marina. Then on Saturday sail up to Anclote Key, and go exploring for a while. Sunday the 6th we'll stay at one of the marinas in Clearwater. We will hopefully sail both ways in the Gulf instead of the ICW after launching at Seminole Boat Ramp. call Ed Combs for more information and details - Ed and Becky Combs- 813-991-7226

2. Suwannee River Cruise - Mon - Wed - April 7th, 9th.

Masts optional - low bridges. Launch will be Monday April,7th at Ivey Memorial Park. We can pull out late on Wen. or pull out early Thursday Those on the west coast will likely come up 19 to 129 and follow that to 27 (don't go straight, the road turns into 49). Turn left and go 4-5 miles to Branford, where 129 picks up again. The Park is just past the intersection for 129, on the left. There is plenty of parking and it looks reasonably safe.

Two or more drivers will take 349 down stream to a ramp just upstream from Manatee Springs,leave a shuttle car or two and return to launch with the rest of the armada.

The trip down to Manatee is 51 miles, with several parks and springs runs along the way. There may be facilities at the county parks and some areas to acquire provisions and/or a restaurant meal. The water is 7' deep or more all the way. There is a sandbar in the middle of the river about 30 miles down. Once down, one or more will transport drivers back to Branford to retrieve rigs, return to pullout to retrieve boats and most will head home.

3. Cedar Key - May 3rd and 4th (see article above)

4. Appalachicola - Dog Island Trip - Friday April 18th to Monday April 21st.

The marina we will be using is Allen's Dockside Marina located right on the Carrabelle River. Directions to the marina at Carrabelle are as follows. Coming into Carrabelle driving west on the Coastal Hwy/US-319/US-98. You will go through town and over a large bridge that goes over the Carrabelle River. Turn left on the first rd. after the bridge. That will be Timber Island Rd. (CR-376). You will go about 1/2 mile to Graham Dr. Turn right and go about 1/4 mile to Allen's Dockside marina. The marina charges a \$5 ramp fee to put in and a \$5 ramp fee to take out. Parking is \$5 a day for your vehicle and \$5 a day for your trailer.

Some of us will be launching on Friday, April 18 and taking out on Monday, April 21. Others will only do the weekend or a day sail Saturday or Sunday. Call Terry and Dawn at: 850-321-7479