

Midwinters to be followed by rally

Cedar Key updates

Ahoy Sailors from Jim Heffernan

Happy Holidays!

Some more info about the 2021 Cedar Key Rally. No longer called the Tween Week since LESC does not have a racing weekend planned for Feb 13-14, hence, it is now a Rally.

So, after chatting with a number of you, it seems that Cedar Key would be preferred for the nights of Feb 8, 9, 10 and 11 or any part of those days. There are many lodging options such as condos, motels and elegant B and Bs, as well as a primitive campground managed by the County about 15 minutes outside of town.

In the past, we have stayed at Old Fenimore Mill Condos and at the Cedar Cove Hotel, with both quite satisfactory. Boats can be pulled up on the sandy shore for the night with the caution that when the tide goes out the sand/mud bottom is exposed and it may be 50-feet to a floatable water level. Bring one or two anchors so you can moor in deeper water and walk ashore in front of the condos.

Linda and I are planning to stay at the farawayinn.com, which has a great sunset view over the water. The shore is a little rocky so I may have to leave the boat in the municipal parking lot adjacent to the boat ramps. 24 hours of boat parking with mast up or down is \$16. We will get one of the waterside units at Faraway so it can be a base for the sunset gatherings and maybe a grilling night. It is a small town so a short ride or walk will get you everywhere.

We probably cannot do a group dinner due to COVID unless we are totally outside or in a good breezy location.

Let me know what other cruisers should be added to the list.

Happy Wayfaring!

Jim can be reached at jheffernan@nc.rr.com

A personal welcome from our Rally Co-ordinator - Patricia Kuntz

A cruise at Cedar Key, Florida is planned for the week after the Midwinters.

Last year we stayed at two Gulf front condo Facilities:

- The Old Fenimore Mill Condominium Rentals 352-543-9803 Fenimoremill.com
- Cedar Cove Beach and Yacht Club 352-543-5332 www.cedarcoveflorida.com

The "TripAdvisor" site also offers recommendations for lodging.



AnnMarie Covington and Pat Kuntz at a past Cedar Key cruising rally. Cedar Key is an easy two-hour drive from Lake Eustis.

Cedar Key is a quiet island community nestled among many tiny keys on the Gulf Coast of Florida where time almost stands still.

Long admired for its natural

beauty and abundant supply of seafood, it is a tranquil village, rich with the almost forgotten history of old Florida.

Many artists, writers and "adventure" tourists, find the unspoiled environment their inspiration. Federally protected sanctuaries, the Cedar Keys form a chain of barrier islands ideally suited to a vast range of migratory and shore birds, including the elusive white pelican, roseate spoonbill and bald eagle. The variety of natural habitats, from salt marshes to Indian shell mounds, makes this truly a paradise for adventurous Wayfarer sailors. The small town feeling is absolute - transportation is by car, but most folks move around on golf carts or bicycles.

Cedar Key derives its name from a 1542 Spanish map that identified the area as "Las Islas Sabines," meaning The Cedar Islands. The reference applied to the abundant growth of cedar trees that formerly covered all of a group of islands located in the area. The Town of Cedar Key was established during the Civil War (circa 1840) on Atseena Otie, the Creek Indian name for Cedar Island.

Lumber was the primary industry, although fishing and cotton shipping were also important, and sawmills and pencil factories dominated the town in the 1880s. The pencil plants closed down when the cedar was depleted. About 2,500 people lost their jobs when the mills closed and an 1896 hurricane and tidal surge devastated the area. Aquaculture provides clams and oysters throughout the Eastern USA. The boat ramps are busy with wet suited divers setting out to their leased shell beds to bring in the harvest.

Day sails to Snake Key where the bald eagles nest, and a picnic on Atseena Otie are on the cruise schedule along with some kayaking and sunsets over the Gulf of Mexico.

By Jim Heffernan, USWA Commodore

