

Key 2016 West Marlin Tournament

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THE OFFICIAL 2016
GUIDE AND YEARBOOK



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JUL 20-23 Key West
Florida

Join MarineMax and Boston Whaler as we compete in the Bacardi Oakheart Key West Marlin Tournament. MarineMax has been a proud sponsor for 16 consecutive years and with our partners we have been a participant in each of those tournaments. The tournament, which coincides with the annual Hemingway Days Celebration in Key West, is a gathering of some of the most recognized professional and amateur anglers in the world. Whether you are fishing or a spectator, the Bacardi Oakheart Key West Marlin Tournament is more than a competition, it is a celebration of Hemingway's passion for fishing and all that is Key West.

For more information visit us online at: www.MarineMax.com/Fishing

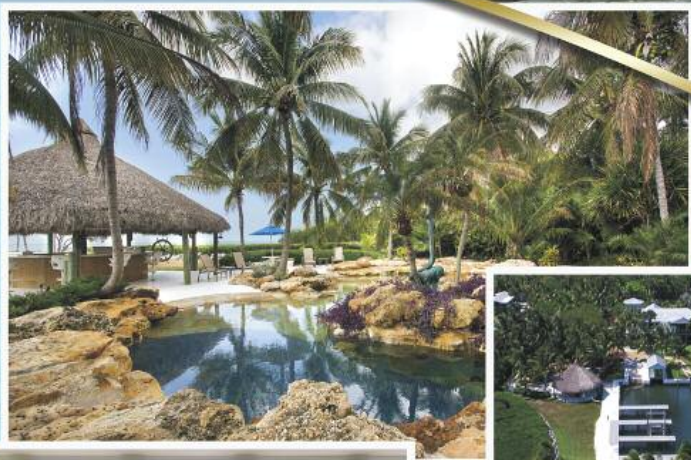


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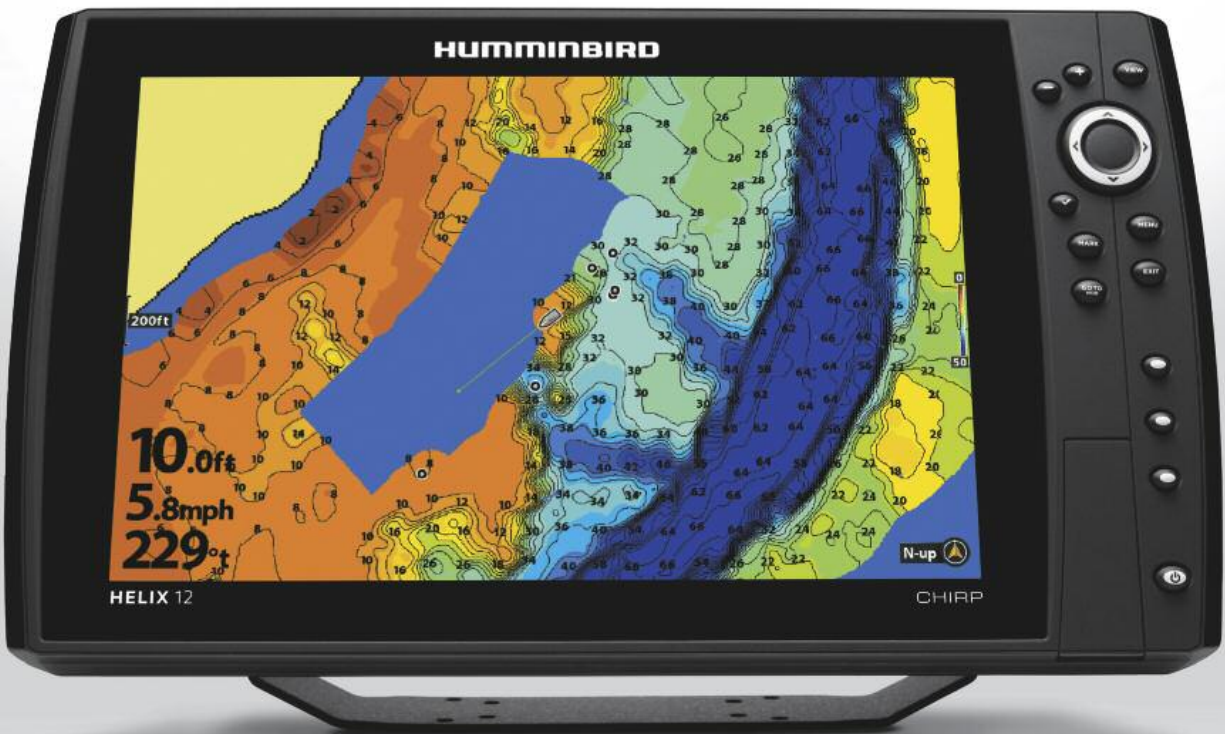
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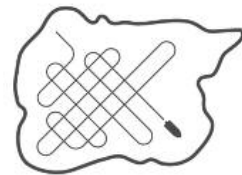
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Welcome

Fishing, Fishing, Everywhere!

Welcome to the 2016 Bacardi Oakheart Key West Marlin Tournament! We are delighted to have you join us for another exciting and challenging fishing tournament, full of great fishing, fun, food, entertainment, and friends.

This is an exciting year for our tournament with the inclusion of our new "pre-tournament," the Marathon Marlin Tournament at Faro Blanco Resort and Yacht Club. Expanding our tournament's brand allows us to include upper and middle Keys anglers in our premier fishing event. We are happy to welcome our new anglers and are proud to share with them a first-class fishing experience.

We will also be experiencing the excitement of a new venue for many of our events. Everything excluding our Awards Banquet and Silent Auction (held at the beautiful Westin Key West Resort & Marina) will be held at Dante's Restaurant & Raw Bar. Dante's complex boasts a crystal clear swimming pool, a cascading waterfall and Tiki bars, creating a gorgeous and relaxing setting for our anglers.

We are very happy to welcome back our title sponsor Bacardi Oakheart, the number one fishing Rum. Bacardi Oakheart is a spiced rum with a unique, smoky flavor, perfect for sipping after an adventurous day of fishing.

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. Bacardi, Marine Max, Westin Key West Resort, Stay in Costa Rica, First State Bank, Dante's Restaurant & Raw Bar, and the Monroe County Tourist Development Council.

To good fishing and great friends,

Tim Greene, Tournament Chairman



The Norman B. Wood

Key West Marlin Tournament Perpetual Trophy



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

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

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



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Welcome

From The Directors

Welcome to the Bacardi Oakheart Key West Marlin Tournament! This year's tournament offers lots of excitement, with a new "pre-tournament" event in Marathon hosted by Faro Blanco Resort and Yacht Club, along with the pleasure of experiencing our new event venue, Dante's Restaurant & Raw Bar.

We are looking forward to enjoying the new friendships and camaraderie created by the expansion of our tournament brand into Marathon, and can't wait to enjoy all of the entertainments offered by Dante's!

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

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

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

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

Good luck and Tight Lines!

Scott Greene
Tournament Director

Debora Bent
Tournament Co-Director



SCOTT GREENE
Tournament Director



DEBORA BENT
Tournament Co-Director



IT'S NOT JUST A LIGHTHOUSE, IT'S A LANDMARK.

A landmark that has been drawing visitors to Marathon since the 50's. Now, a whole new Keys experience has been created around it. Our bayside village includes a Hyatt Place offering 125 rooms and suites, a full-service Marina and Yacht club and an elegant waterfront restaurant and bar. Even by Keys standards, it's off the charts. Come check out everything we offer for a truly exceptional Florida Keys experience, reminisce about when you stayed here in the past and sit by the original lighthouse that we have restored to its working condition and watch the sunsets you will always remember.



THE ELEGANCE OF HYATT PLACE®

With our full-service marina and yacht club, swimming pool and fitness club and our exceptional waterfront restaurant and bar, our resort is hard to leave. When you do, you'll find us surrounded by the best fishing and diving in the Keys. Our convenient location is also a short drive from the shopping and sightseeing of Key West and close to all the popular attractions of the Middle Keys.



FARO BLANCO YACHT CLUB & MARINA

Our new gulfside facility boasts 74 state-of-the-art slips with easy access from the Atlantic via 7-mile bridge and Moser Channel. You'll experience all the amenities of a World-Class Marina and Yacht Club including a state of the art docking facility, fuel, pump out, 24-hour security, concierge services, wireless internet, marine store, pool, fitness center and first-class room accommodations on site.



LIGHTHOUSE GRILL

Whether you travel by land or water, a Keys trip isn't complete without a visit to our waterfront restaurant and bar. 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 after dinner, stop for happy hour, or gather with friends for our generous cocktails and outstanding views.



Schedule of Events

WEDNESDAY JULY 20, 2016

4-6 PM —
Tournament
Registration
(Dante's Restaurant
& Pool Bar —
tent on second level)

6-7 PM —
Captain's Meeting
(Dante's Restaurant
& Pool Bar —
tent on second level)

7-8 PM —
Auction and Raffle
(Dante's Restaurant
& Pool Bar —
tent on second level)

THURSDAY JULY 21, 2016

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
(Dante's Restaurant &
Pool Bar)

6:30-8 PM —
Island Pig Roast and
Cocktail Party
(Dante's Restaurant & Pool
Bar — tent on second level)

FRIDAY JULY 22, 2016

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

8:30 AM —
Lines in the water

4 PM —
Lines out of the water

4-6 PM — Weigh In
(Dante's Restaurant
& Pool Bar)

6:30-8 PM —
Dockside Cocktails
and Fish Fry
(Dante's Restaurant
& Pool Bar —
tent on second level)

SATURDAY JULY 23, 2016

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

8:30 AM — Lines in the water

3 PM — Lines out of the water

3-5 PM — Weigh In
(Dante's Restaurant
& Pool Bar)

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

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

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

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION

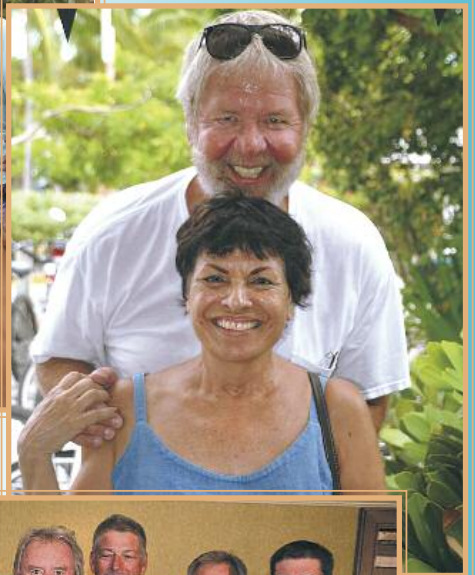
\$50,000 In Cash Prizes

	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 2017 Bacardi Oakheart Key West Marlin Tournament

The dates for the 2017 Bacardi Oakheart Key West marlin tournament have been selected. Please mark your calendar for July 19 thru July 22, 2017, 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.



Bacardi Oakheart Key West Marlin Tournament



Tournament Thanks

*Major Sponsors of the 2016 Bacardi Oakheart
Key West Marlin Tournament*



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KEY WEST
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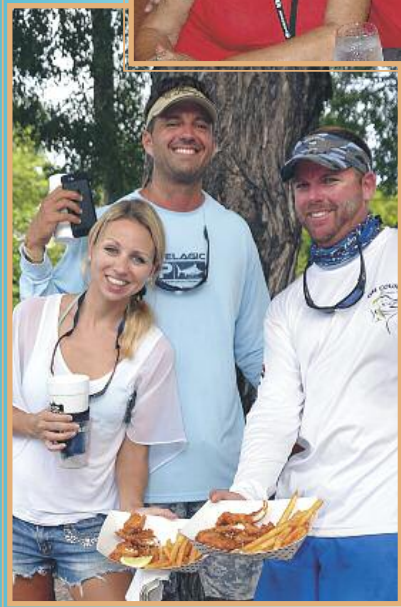
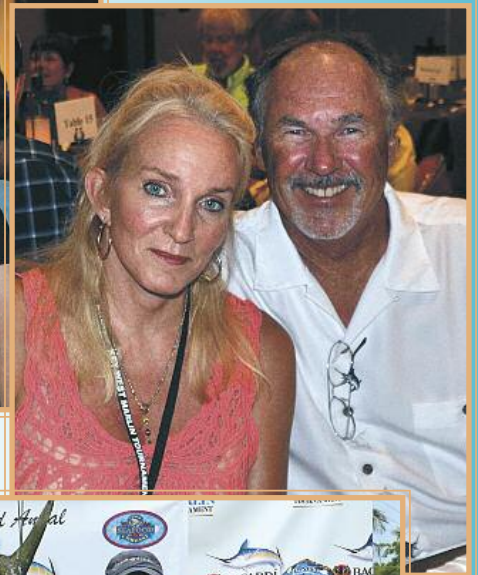
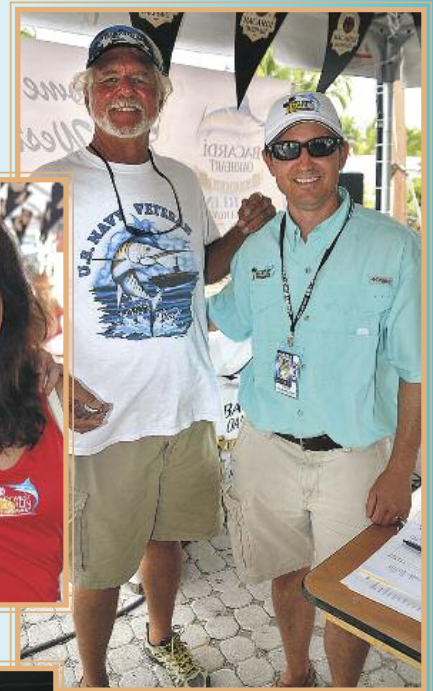


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Florida Keys
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*The 2016 Key West Marlin Tournament thanks all of it's sponsors
and those companies contributing Raffle and Auction items.*



Bacardi Oakheart Key West Marlin Tournament



Tournament Rules

Bacardi Oakheart 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 21; Friday, July 22, and Saturday July 23, 2016. 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 23, 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 25, 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, 2016 to be eligible for the early entry fee of \$1,800. After June 15, 2016, the entry fee will be \$2,100.

Entries will be accepted up until the start of the Captains' Meeting at Dante's Seafood & Raw Bar on Wednesday, July 20, 2016 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, Conch Republic Seafood Company in the Historic Seaport, 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.

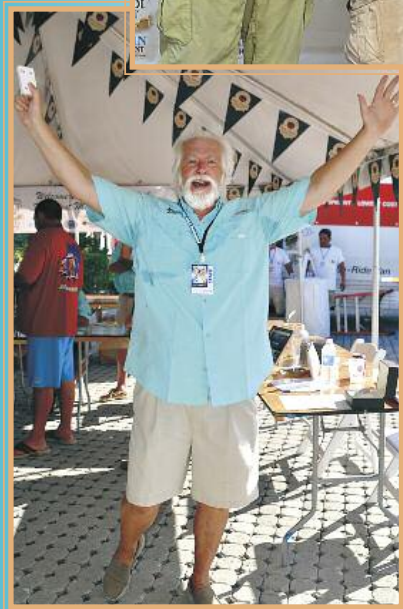
6. Boats entered in the Marlin Division of the Bacardi Oakheart Key West Marlin Tournament may pay an additional \$300 entry fee to compete for a total of \$10,000 in cash prizes for the three heaviest dolphin, wahoo, and tuna (yellowfin, blackfin, and skipjack),

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 the Conch Republic Seafood Company 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 releases where the camera 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.



Bacardi Oakheart Key West Marlin Tournament



Captain Randy Towe

The Art of Rod-Building



ANDY NEWMAN/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU

Captain Randy Towe wraps a guide on one his custom rods that he manufactures in the Florida Keys. A Keys residents since 1983, Towe manufactures rods from fly to heavy offshore gear for anglers seeking high-end equipment crafted from high-quality parts.

When Randy Towe was 10 years old he asked his mother to buy him a \$200 custom fishing rod. His mother didn't agree with the investment, so he convinced her to spend considerably less and purchase the necessary parts. The young fishing fanatic then built his own rod.

Now more than 40 years later,

Towe not only continues to build rods for himself, he also crafts them for others — all from his store in the Florida Keys.

Infatuated with sport fishing, Towe moved to Islamorada at age 19. He mated on an offshore charter boat and earned enough money to pay his \$250-per-month rent and cover his living expenses.

In 1983, he secured his U.S. Coast Guard captain's license and began taking customers out in the backcountry. He was making \$350 per trip and "living the dream."

But that didn't seem to keep him busy enough, so he rented a small business space and started a rod-building business just because it offered him a "therapeutic opportunity to take a break from fishing."

His brand, Captain Randy Towe's Signature Series Handmade Rods, has become well known to dedicated anglers.

"I make everything from fly to heavy offshore trolling rods,"



Towe said. "I build exactly what the customer wants, how they want it to feel and exactly what they want to do with it."

Towe said his rods are all about fit, finish and top-quality parts. When a custom rod is ordered, he discusses the project personally with the customer. Among discussion topics, Towe said, is "the look."

Some people prefer specific colors to match their boat, company logo or their favorite sports team. Then there's the choice of the blank — either fiberglass or high-tech graphite — grip, a reel seat and guides... whether in titanium or even gold.

"Some like a lot of design and flash," Towe said. "Some people are more interested in the function, feel and action of the rod rather than the bling."

Towe even developed a thread-wrapping technique that creates a

small version of a bonefish, redfish, tarpon or dolphin just above the rod's grip.

When someone purchases a Towe-built rod, he can rest assured that the entire package has been assembled by just one person: Captain Randy Towe.

"I used to have people help me, but some got very good, left and tried to go out on their own," he said.

Towe not only builds rods alone, he also prefers to fish customers in the same manner — whether it's in the backcountry for tarpon, bonefish and snook on his 18-foot Action Craft skiff or offshore for yellowtail snapper, sailfish, blackfin tuna or dolphin fish on his 34-foot Pursuit.

Towe's rods cost anywhere

from \$300 to \$1,400 apiece, but are crafted to last a lifetime.

"There is nothing I build that I don't test," Towe said. "And I'm the envy of everyone in the rod-manufacturing business because I have the testing grounds of the Florida Keys in my own backyard."

"I can make a rod for every species of fish that swims off the Keys," he said.

Many of Towe's customers come to him because they are very serious anglers — some even focused on breaking world records — and the rods become highly prized possessions.

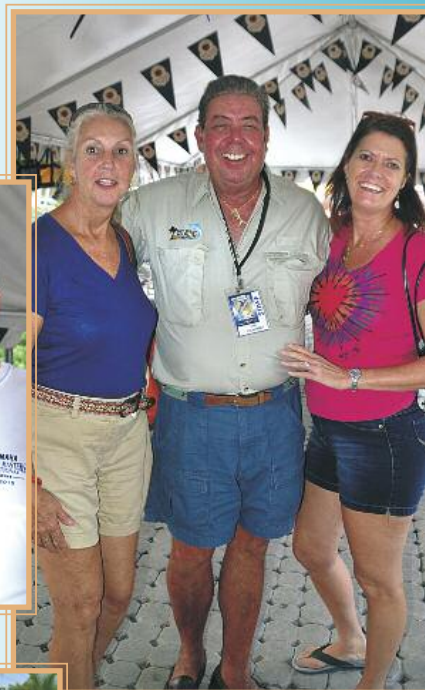
"I had to testify in court when a couple got divorced," Towe recalled. "They were arguing over a set of fly rods and reels."

"She got them," he remembered, "and she had me take his name off of them."

— Andy Newman



Capt. Randy Towe, right, guides Greg Poland searching for mangrove snapper in Everglades National Park, near Islamorada.



Bacardi Oakheart Key West Marlin Tournament

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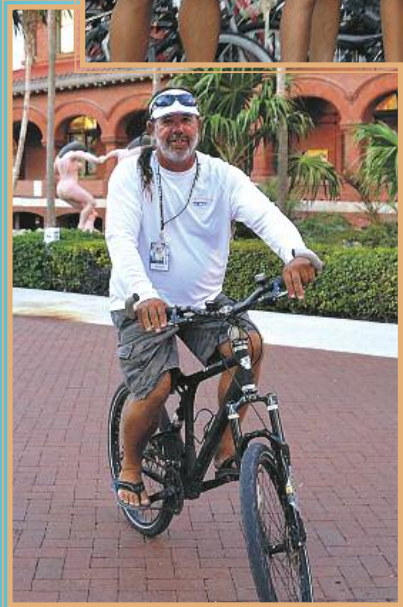
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Bacardi Oakheart Key West Marlin Tournament



Bacardi Oakheart Key West Marlin Tournament



History of The Tournament



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

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

The Key West Marlin Tournament Is Born

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

took top honors in the release division.

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

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

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

The Key West Marlin Tournament Is Reborn

1999 Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament

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

Tournament History

continued

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 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 Pumbo and Tim Greene, releasing two blue marlin for the win. Second place went to the *Game Hunter*, skippered by Alex Alder with anglers Brian Baugher, Chris Claypool and Anthony Delduca. *Get Lit* captured third place with Captain Ray Rosher and anglers Chris Toomey and Peter Miller.

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

2004 Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament

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

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

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

Third place was garnered by the team of *Sir Veza III*.

In the Fun Fish Division top dolphin prize went to angler Kevin Speidel on the *Triple Time* with a 37.25-pound dolphin. The *Ambitious* took first place in the

tuna division with a 66.3-pound yellowfin. Tim Trivett was the angler with Mark Baumgarten on the *Cowboy* which took first place in the wahoo division with a 33.4-pound.

2005 Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament

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

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

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

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

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

2006 Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament

Congratulations went to two brother-in-law, Roy Miller of Clearwater and John Burket of St. Petersburg. The adventure began on the final day of fishing with just one 27.55-pound dolphin while not having seen a billfish during the first two days. With time running out, the *Serenity* team realized their luck was changing as they caught and released a blue marlin in the first 20 minutes of the final day



of fishing. They managed to hook up another blue marlin of approximately 300-pounds and fought it for over an hour. Unfortunately, the release was lost just inches from touching the leader. However, they still went on to finish the day with the win and honor of having their names added to the Norman Wood Trophy.

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

Florida. More than 300 anglers aboard 58 boats fished the 2006 tournament.

2007 Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament

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

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

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

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

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

Hardie, a former "Miami Herald" outdoors writer who died in 2006, was the first journalist to write about the blue

Tournament History

continued

marlin fishery off Key West. In 1981, Captain Norman Wood invited Hardie to Key West for a trip aboard the *Petticoat III*. When they returned, four marlin flags flew from the outriggers. Three were released and one boated. The headline that followed several days later proclaimed "Hemingway Never Had It So Good."

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

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

2008 Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament

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

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

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



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

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

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

"We thought it was a marlin," said Davis of Big Pine Key. "It never showed a sail, it never indicated anything. Until a picture said something else, we were all convinced."

The setback was shrugged off quickly.

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

"Once we got the first

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

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

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

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

In the Fun Fish Division, Robert Beck of Plant City, Fla., won with a 73.3-pound wahoo. Randy Sterling Sr., of Key West, was second with a 42.2-pound dolphin, and Robert Collins of Miramar, Fla., was third with a 20.45-pound tuna.

2009 Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament

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

In second place was the *Shockwave* fishing team with Captain Marco Gano leading his angler Jim O'Malley to release a blue marlin estimated to weigh 550 pounds. The fish was caught on the last day of fishing and was released after four hours of hard fighting. 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 releasing a blue marlin on Thursday and catching a dolphin weighing 17.8 pounds on Friday for a total of 417.8 points.

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

2010 Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament

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

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

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

2011 Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament

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



and the first-place prize.

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

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

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

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

2012 Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament

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

The second-place team was the *Reel Darlins* with Cyd Tuskowski of St. Petersburg,

Fla. and Laura Russell, also from St. Petersburg.

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

2013 Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament

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

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

Capt. Jason Jonas, 27, said that he and his team were a bundle of nerves during the final hours of fishing.

"We tried every opportunity to put more points on the board, but all the dolphin we caught were too small."

It didn't matter. Even though four other teams each released a blue marlin, none of them weighed any fun fish.

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

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

2014 Drambuie Key West Marlin Tournament

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

Eng released his marlin on the first angling day of the

Tournament History

continued

three day angling contest to earn 400 points.

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

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

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

Third place was captured by *High Class Hooker*, with angler Jeb Teirney releasing a white marlin

and receiving 400 points.

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

2015 Bacardi Oakheart Key West Marlin Tournament

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

Angler Marty Crews of Mound City, Kansas, released a white marlin on Friday, and Ben Giefer of Leawood, Kansas, released a sailfish on Saturday that proved to be the winning

fish. For Giefer, the tournament was his first experience ever fishing in saltwater habitats. "I credit the crew because they put together a game plan specifically targeting sailfish to give us the lead," Giefer said. "We weren't on the water for more than 40 minutes and had the fish."

Blue Heron, skippered by Shannon Fountain of Big Pine Key, Fla., finished in second with a blue marlin released Friday by Mark Knowles of Key Largo, Fla. The team added to its score with a weight dolphin caught Saturday.

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



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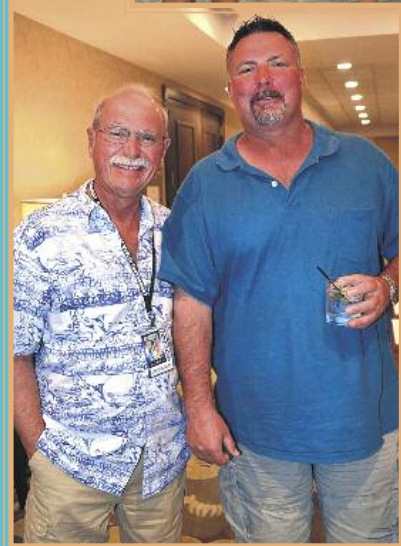
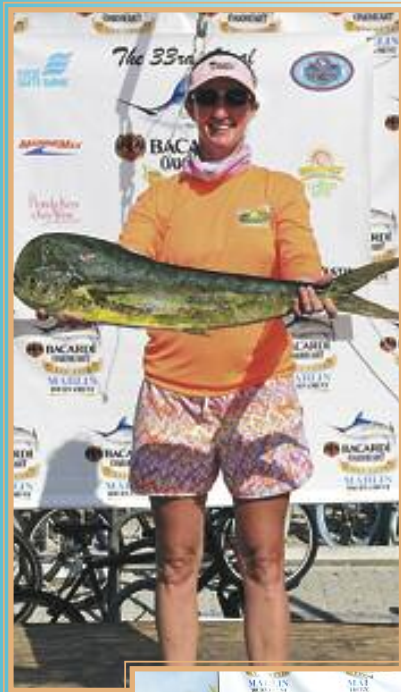
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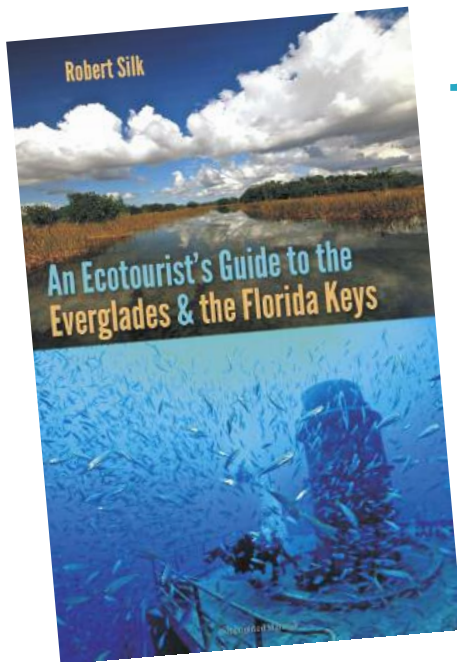
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Bacardi Oakheart Key West Marlin Tournament



Explore the Keys With an Eco-Tour Expert



Robert Silk has a great love for the Florida Keys' natural world. He discovered that world after receiving his Master's degree in journalism from the University of Miami, when he arrived in the Upper Keys to take a newspaper job.

After 10 years of reporting for Keys publications, today he's a travel writer for the national trade publication "Travel Weekly." He tele-commutes from his home in Key Largo, blending work with as much Keys kayaking as possible.

Recently Robert's outdoor outlook inspired him to write "An Eco-Tourist's Guide to the Everglades & the Florida Keys," which was released by the University Press of Florida. And here he offers insights into his favorite activities and places

in the region's fascinating natural environment.

Q. What sparked your passion for the Keys environment and the natural world?

"As a kayaker, it didn't take long for me to get hooked on the Keys and Everglades outdoors. And reporting about the local ecosystem clued me into how dynamic it is, and how fragile. That gave those outdoor excursions deeper meaning for me."

Q. What made "An Eco-Tourist's Guide to the Everglades & the Florida Keys" a book you had to write?

"The Everglades and the Keys form a natural itinerary for outdoorsy travelers, both because water so intricately connects their ecosystems and because each area offers jewels you won't find anywhere else in the world. But nobody had written a guide making that connection and catering directly to that market."

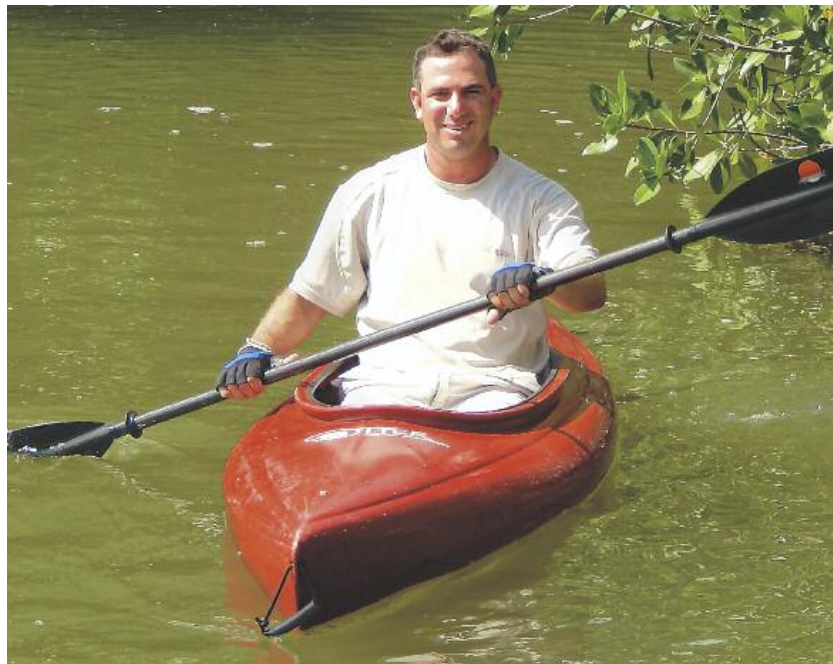


PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT SILK

Author Robert Silk, enjoying his love of kayaking.



Q. What qualities make the Keys and the Everglades the perfect subject for an eco-guide?

"The Everglades is undoubtedly the world's most famous wetland. The Keys are framed by the third largest barrier reef in the world on one side, and on the other side by shallow estuaries dotted with a patchwork of tiny islands. On the very fringe of our area lies Dry Tortugas National Park, which I think is the most spectacular single site in southern Florida. And in total, the area I cover in the book has three national parks, 12 state parks and a patchwork of federal preserves, sanctuaries and refuges that encompass some five million acres of land and water. That's a lot of material for an eco-guide."

Q. What do you want your book to communicate to readers? What feelings do you hope it will inspire?

"I want readers to learn about new things they can do in the southern Everglades and the Keys... find places they wouldn't have known about without this book. And through

the many sections where I write about local culture, local history and the delicate balance of the local ecology, I want them to gain a sense of place. When people feel more involved in an area, they naturally become stewards."

Q. What are the best must-see spots or activities for environmental or adventure visitors in each Keys district?

"For Key Largo I'd have to go with the diving and snorkeling. There are fantastic reefs, such as Molasses and French, as well as the landmark Christ of the Deep statue and a variety of wrecks including the Spiegel Grove.

"My favorite spot in Islamorada is Indian Key. A short paddle takes you to an island that is often almost empty, and has a great historical story to tell.

"In Marathon I enjoy walking the Old Seven Mile Bridge. It's a 4.5-mile round trip — all of it with fabulous views. Then I like to stop off at Keys Fisheries for what I'd say is the best raw bar, when one combines quality and

price, that I've been to in southern Florida.

"In the Lower Keys it's hard to ignore Bahia Honda State Park, with its postcard-perfect stretch of beach, but I also like looking for alligators at the Blue Hole in the National Key Deer Refuge. And the paddling in the Great White Heron National Wildlife Refuge is both outstanding and practically limitless.

"From Key West, camping on Garden Key in Dry Tortugas National Park is a must-do. Closer in, the island is lots of fun to bicycle and it also has an eclectic collection of botanical gardens."

Q. What's your favorite activity in the Keys?

"I'm a kayaker. I love exploring mangrove creeks and shallow-water flats. And on any given excursion I never know what I'm going to see — bald eagles, rays, manatees, tarpon, bottlenose dolphin... I can kayak off my yard into a national park. Plus, where else am I going to be able to watch the manatees in the canal through my kitchen window?"

—Carol Shaughnessy



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBERT SILK



Five Ways to Enjoy Key West Like a Local



One of the reasons so many people visit Key West each year is the island's casual, quirky atmosphere. And the best way to absorb that atmosphere is to forget you're a visitor.

Instead, adjust your mindset. Stop thinking of yourself as a "tourist" and instead self-identify as "temporary local."

Why? Because if you adopt the "tourist" mindset, you're all too likely to limit your experience to typical "tourist" activities. But if you think of yourself as a local — even if it's only for a few days — you're more likely to search out and embrace off-the-beaten-path pursuits that longtime residents enjoy.

For example, here are five pastimes that the

average visitor might not find out about or choose to spend time and energy experiencing. But you should — because they're genuinely rewarding if you want an out-of-the-ordinary vacation that creates lasting memories.

1. Bike or stroll through Key West's Old Town neighborhood, the largest predominantly wooden historic district in the entire United States, as evening falls. It's a simple activity, but a very worthwhile one. Allow yourself to get lost and simply wander, discovering lovingly restored Victorian homes and cottages along narrow lanes, while enjoying the fragrance of luscious flowers drifting from behind white picket fences.



2. Try smoked fish dip at the Hogfish Bar & Grill, a hard-to-find hideaway on Stock Island just off Key West, sitting outdoors at a weathered picnic table. The smoked fish dip combines a creamy texture with a satisfyingly hearty taste, and the picnic tables overlook picturesque vessels moored along the dock — everything from houseboats decorated with exuberant island art to a schooner with a fascinating history.

3. Discover a Key West locals' hangout with great live music: the Schooner Wharf Bar. Standing on the waterfront in the Historic Seaport, it's the kind of funky open-air place where you can bring your dog, your girlfriend and half a dozen fishing buddies — and everyone will have fun. Try to get there in time to hear eccentric troubadour Michael

McCloud, who plays most afternoons. His tales and songs are spiced with irreverent humor.

4. Immerse yourself in creativity during neighborhood art strolls held monthly in Key West. One of the best is staged on Upper Duval Street on the first Friday of each month, while another (held on the third Thursday of each month) features White Street and a portion of Truman Avenue. At both you can find unique visual art, meet the Florida Keys artisans who create it, and explore intriguing galleries alongside residents who are passionate about the island's lively cultural community.

5. Head to Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park for a

tranquil afternoon swimming and lazing beside the Atlantic Ocean. "Fort Zach," as the park is affectionately nicknamed, is renowned for its shady picnic area cooled by ever-present breezes — and its 1,000-foot beach that Key Westers regard as the island's best. Spend some time snorkeling in the relatively deep near-shore water, spotting colorful tropical fish around rocky promontories, or explore the weathered Civil War-era fort that gave the park its name.

Every year, countless visitors flock to Key West for a vacation escape from the stresses of the "real world." When it's your turn to travel, do it the right way — by adopting the "temporary local" outlook, enjoying away-from-the-mainstream offerings, and embracing the easygoing vibe that makes the island so appealing.



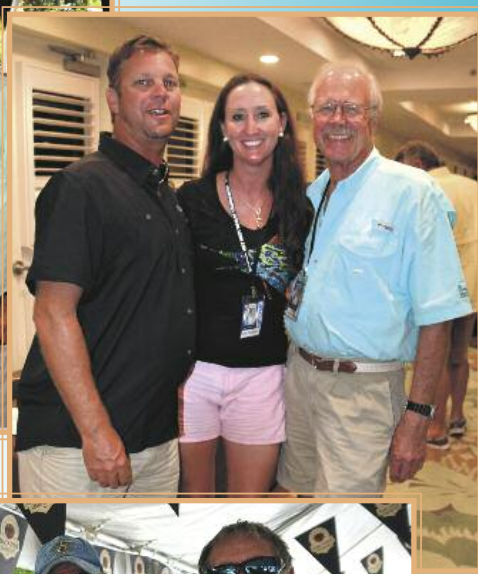
An iconic wayfinder sign at Fort Zachary Taylor beach.



Seeing Key West the way the locals do — biking!



Bacardi Oakheart Key West Marlin Tournament



Bacardi Oakheart Key West Marlin Tournament



2016 Hemingway Days Welcome...



(Editors' Note: Each year, Lorian Hemingway writes a piece in these pages welcoming anglers and their guests to the Key West Marlin Tournament. This year, however, she felt compelled instead to pay tribute to the late Tom Oosterhoudt, one of the most dedicated guiding spirits behind Hemingway Days and the festival's literary events.)

In Loving Memory of Tom Oosterhoudt

Ernest Hemingway's quote that "courage is grace under pressure" has held meaning for me at different stages of my life, but never has it borne such poignancy as it does now, when I remember the life and legacy of my friend Tom Oosterhoudt.

Tom was, and shall ever remain, my hero twice over: first when we became friends decades ago and I recognized in him that

rare quality of both wisdom and innocence, childlike glee and an uncanny depth of character. We were young then, we were lit from within by stars and sunlight, and it seemed as if tragedy could never touch us. The world forever delighted and fascinated Tom, his pure joy and exuberance for life like a halo you could almost touch. And he loved people so dearly. His humor, intelligence and altruism drew so many to him that I always felt blessed in his presence, as if the world were a safer and better place with him in it.

And it was, it truly was. Because Tom gave his heart to Key West and to so many who were not only friends, but folks who never met him who became beneficiaries of his fight for equality on all levels: as a champion and supporter of the arts, as city commissioner, as the publisher of his own photo-essay magazine, as a loving and devoted son, as someone who not only believed in One Human Family, but who tried to make that harmony a reality by both word and action.

As we grew older health challenges rose up for us both. We often talked of our faith, how it sustained us, although I always sensed that Tom's was far stronger than mine. Perhaps he did as well because during that time Tom brought the miracle of yet another friendship into my life, that of Father John Baker. I will never forget our first meeting: we all had lunch

together, talked a bit about books and writing, and somehow Tom managed to work into the conversation that I wasn't well. The three of us went right away to Saint Mary's — as if this had been Tom's plan all along — and there Father Baker gave me a special blessing while Tom sat there and smiled, I daresay a beatific smile.

And then there came for Tom the collapse of his spine, the multiple surgeries that left him in constant debilitating pain. Suffering though he was, the optimism I first saw in him when we were young never once failed him, nor his faith, ever. He endured this crucifying pain with a courage that far surpassed grace under pressure. And Tom became for me a man beyond heroic.

We talked before one of his surgeries, and I asked Tom what color candle he would like for me to light. "Make it blue, Lorian," he said. "Blue as the sky. Sky blue."

When the news came on a sky-blue April day that Tom rested now in the arms of God, this mortal world lost some of the vastness of its magic. I wandered around my home, stared at nothing, not believing — refusing to believe — it could be true. And when I finally lay down to rest I heard as clearly as if he were beside me, Tom's words to me spoken on one of our rides out to Stock Island: "Faith, Lorian. That is what binds us. Promise me you will always remember that." And I do. I promise. Oh yes I do.

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The 36th Annual **HEMINGWAY DAYS**



JULY 19-24, 2016

Fans of adventurous living and writing can celebrate the legacy of Ernest Hemingway Tuesday through Sunday, July 19-24. The 36th annual Hemingway Days salutes the vigorous Key West lifestyle and literary mastery of the author who lived and wrote on the island for most of the 1930s.

Festival highlights include a look-alike contest for Hemingway imitators, prose and poetry readings and a three-day marlin tournament that pays tribute to Ernest's passion for deep-sea angling.

Some 125 burly, bearded contestants are expected to compete in the "Papa" Hemingway Look-Alike Contest at Sloppy Joe's Bar, 201 Duval St. Preliminary rounds are set for 6:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, July 21 and 22, with finalists facing off at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, July 23. Visit www.sloppyjoes.com for contest registration and information.

Held in conjunction with the festival is the Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition coordinated by Ernest's granddaughter, author Lorian Hemingway. Each year the contest awards \$2,500 to emerging writers.

For more information visit www.shortstorycompetition.com.

The event's other literary highlights include "Voices, Places, Inspirations," an evening of readings beginning at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 20, at the Key West Woman's Club, 319 Duval St. At 5 p.m. Friday, July 22, fans of fine writing can discover Hemingway's little-known poetry in a Key West Poetry Guild reading at the Blue Heaven restaurant, 729 Thomas St.

Anglers can emulate "Papa's" devotion to deep-sea fishing during the Bacardi Oakheart Key West Marlin Tournament, set for



Visitors stroll on the entrance path of the Ernest Hemingway Home & Museum.

Wednesday through Saturday, July 20-23. Participants can pursue marlin and spearfish, sailfish, tuna, dolphin fish and wahoo while competing for \$50,000 in guaranteed cash prizes. For information and registration, visit www.keywestmarlin.com.

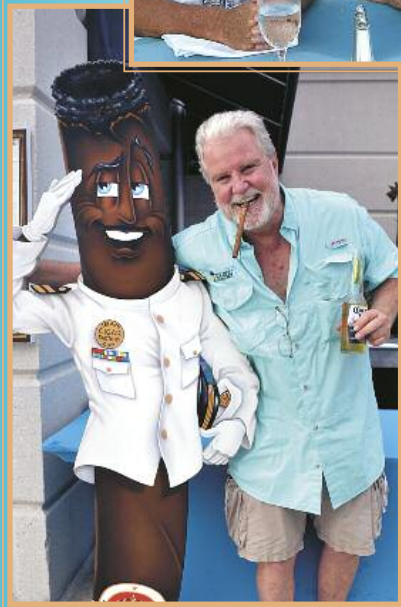
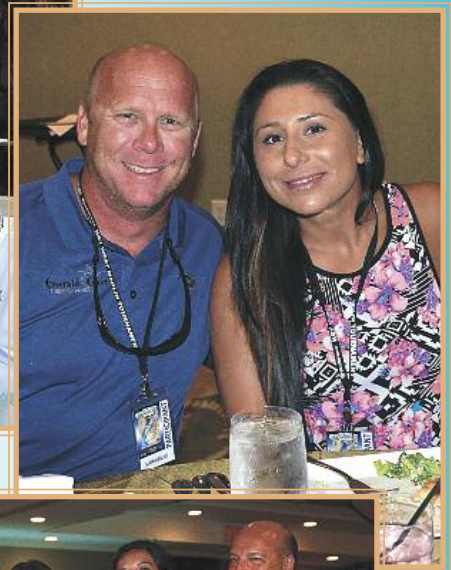
Other festival attractions include a 5k sunset run and paddleboard race, museum exhibits and a reception honoring Key West literary legends, a street fair on the island's Duval Street, the offbeat "Running of the Bulls" and a birthday cake commemorating the 117th anniversary of "Papa's" July 21 birth.



Ernest Hemingway Look-Alikes proceed on Duval Street during the annual "Running of the Bulls" last year. The whimsical and much safer answer to the event's namesake in Pamplona, Spain, is staged as a facet of Hemingway Days.



Bacardi Oakheart Key West Marlin Tournament



Bacardi Oakheart Key West Marlin Tournament



“Papa” Hemingway Look-Alike Contest **Look-Alikes Add Fun to Festival**

Each July visitors can spot the spirit of Ernest Hemingway, (or even scores of “spirits”) on the island where the legendary author lived and wrote during the 1930s. That’s because approximately 125 stocky, white-bearded aspiring “Ernests” converge on Key West in July to compete in Sloppy Joe’s annual “Papa” Hemingway Look-Alike Contest.

Set for Thursday through Saturday, July 21-23, the contest takes place at Sloppy Joe’s Bar, 201 Duval St., where Hemingway often enjoyed cocktails with cohorts. The event is a highlight of the annual Hemingway Days celebration of the literary legend’s writing talent and colorful Key West lifestyle.

Look-alike contestants come from around the United States to vie for the title of “Papa.” Most wear khaki safari garb or wool fishermen’s sweaters that recall Ernest’s signature attire.

Preliminary rounds are set for 6:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, July 21 and 22, with the finals at 6:30 p.m. Saturday. The Hemingway hopefuls will be judged by previous contest winners including 2015’s Charlie Boice of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, who triumphed on his 15th attempt.

Before Thursday’s preliminary round, the “Papas” are to celebrate the 117th anniversary



ANDY NEWMAN/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU

Charlie Boice, center, is congratulated by previous victors after winning the 2015 “Papa” Hemingway Look-Alike Contest. Boice finally won the contest after trying for 15 years, beating out 121 other entrants following two preliminary rounds, a semi-final and two final rounds. Planting a playful smooch on Boice is Wally Collins, left, the 2014 winner.

of Ernest’s July 21 birth and announce the recipients of the Hemingway Look-Alike Society’s scholarships for

Florida Keys students.

Other look-alike highlights include Sloppy Joe’s “Running of the Bulls,” inspired by the world-



Celebrity chef Paula Deen cheers for her husband Michael Groover as he competes in the "Papa" Hemingway Look-Alike Contest at Sloppy Joe's Bar.



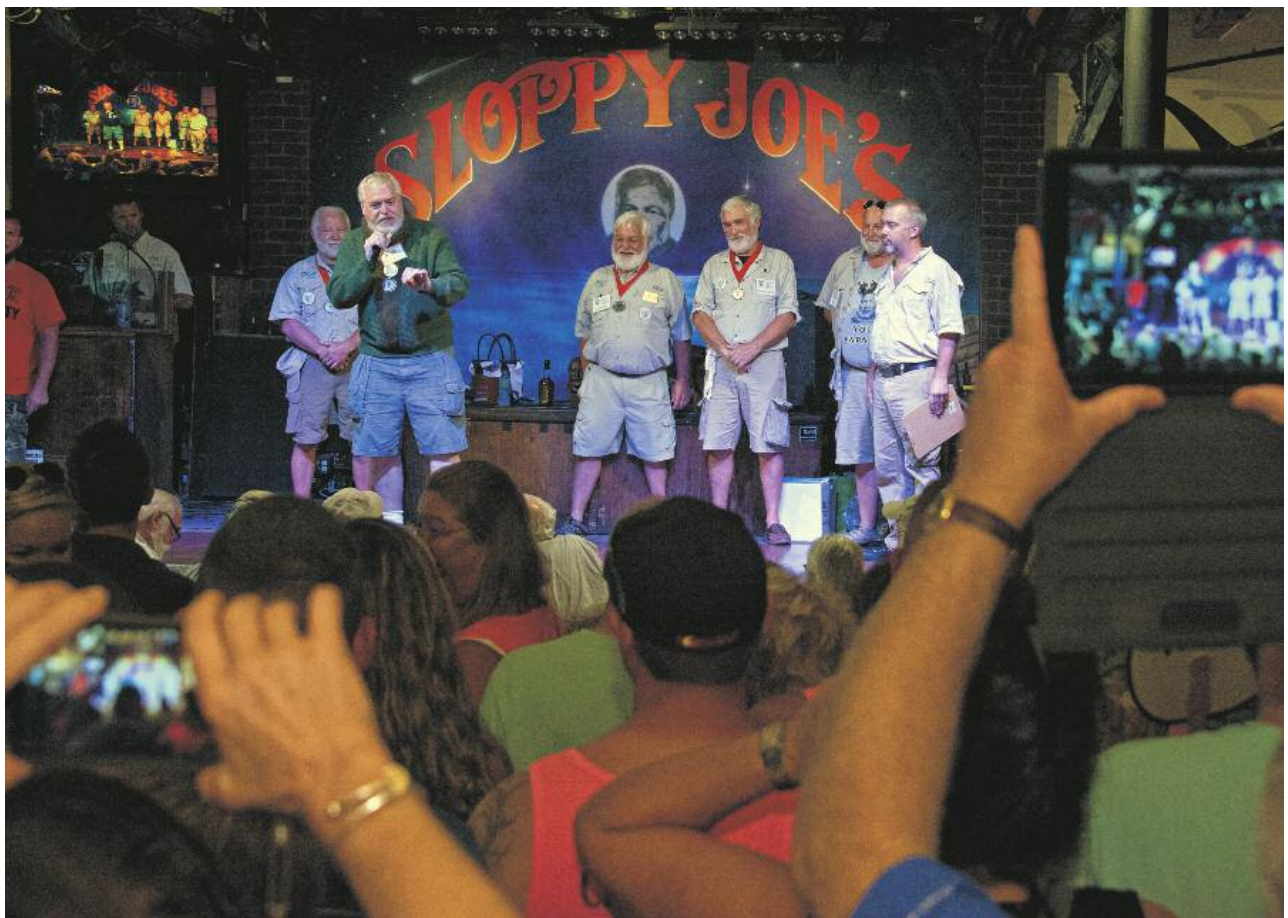
renowned event in Pamplona, Spain, but featuring man-made bulls. Preceded by a photo opportunity for "Papa-razzi" at noon, the extravaganza begins at 1 p.m. Saturday outside Sloppy Joe's.

Prior to the contest events, the bearded brethren will stage a "Meet and Greet" Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at Sloppy Joe's. Contestants and fans are welcome to attend.

In addition, many "Papas" prove their strength in the annual Sloppy Joe's Arm-Wrestling Contest. Registration is set for 10 a.m. Sunday, July 24, with the contest following at 11 a.m.



Supporters of Richard Filip cheer on their contestant during the final round of the "Papa" Hemingway Look-Alike Contest.



Spectators at Sloppy Joe's Bar in Key West, Fla., use their mobile devices to record Gerrit Marshall's efforts to convince judges to choose him as the 2015 "Papa" Hemingway Look-Alike Contest winner. Ernest Hemingway lived and wrote in Key West throughout the 1930s.



Food, Fun and Frivolity Hemingway Days Caribbean Street Fair



Once again Literacy Volunteers of America-Monroe County will present the Caribbean Street Fair, a highlight of the subtropical summer, during the annual Hemingway Days festival. Saturday, July 23, Duval Street will be closed to motorized traffic from Front Street to Angela Street for the lively event.

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

Bearded Hemingway Look-Alikes will take part in a hilarious

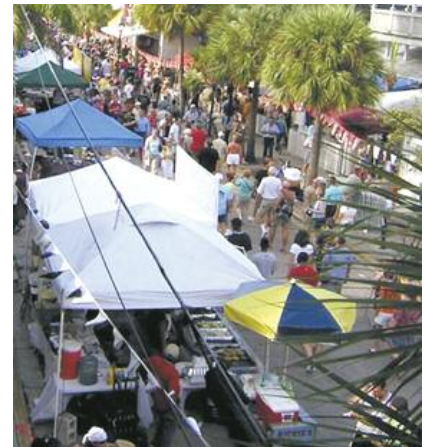
"Running of the Bulls" beginning at 1 p.m. outside Sloppy Joe's Bar at the corner of Greene Street, proceeding along a portion of Duval Street. Manmade bulls will be featured in this take-off on the famous Pamplona event, in a salute to the love of bullfighting that inspired Hemingway to pen "Death in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

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

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

This year the Caribbean Street Fair is sponsored in part by the Westin Key West Resort & Marina, located at 245 Front St. in downtown Key West.

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



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Hemingway Days

5k Sunset Run & Paddleboard Race



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Runners, fitness walkers and paddleboard enthusiasts can test their skills and celebrate Ernest Hemingway's sporting lifestyle Saturday, July 23, during the Papa's Pilar Rum Hemingway 5k Sunset Run/Walk and Paddleboard Race.

The athletic challenges are part of Hemingway Days, a six-day commemoration of the life and work of the author who lived and wrote in Key West for most of the 1930s. Papa's Pilar Rum is named for Hemingway's fishing boat, Pilar, which he used often during his Key West years.

The Lazy Dog Paddleboard Race is to kick off at 6 p.m. at the island city's Southernmost Beach, 1405 Duval St. on the Atlantic Ocean. Competitors are tasked with paddling a 3-mile ocean

course before finishing back at the beach.

The popular 5k run/walk is to begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Southernmost Point in the continental United States, oceanfront at Whitehead and South streets. Participants race through picturesque Old Town Key West, past landmarks that include the Ernest Hemingway Home & Museum, as they complete the flat 3.1-mile course.

Afterward, a post-race awards party is scheduled at the Southernmost Beach Café with food, libations, a silent auction and raffles.

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

overall finishers, top three male and female masters, and top three male and female finishers in age categories ranging from 9 and under to 75 and over.

Special medals also will be awarded to those competing in both challenges.

A registration booth is to be open 3-7 p.m. race day at the Southernmost Hotel parking lot at the corner of Duval and South streets. Race packets can be picked up there.

Participants can register online at www.active.com or download registration forms by visiting www.keywestspecialevents.com. Forms also can be picked up at local hotels and fitness centers.

The registration fee is \$45 per adult for either race or \$80 for both races. The fee includes a collectible race tech shirt, food, libations and giveaways.

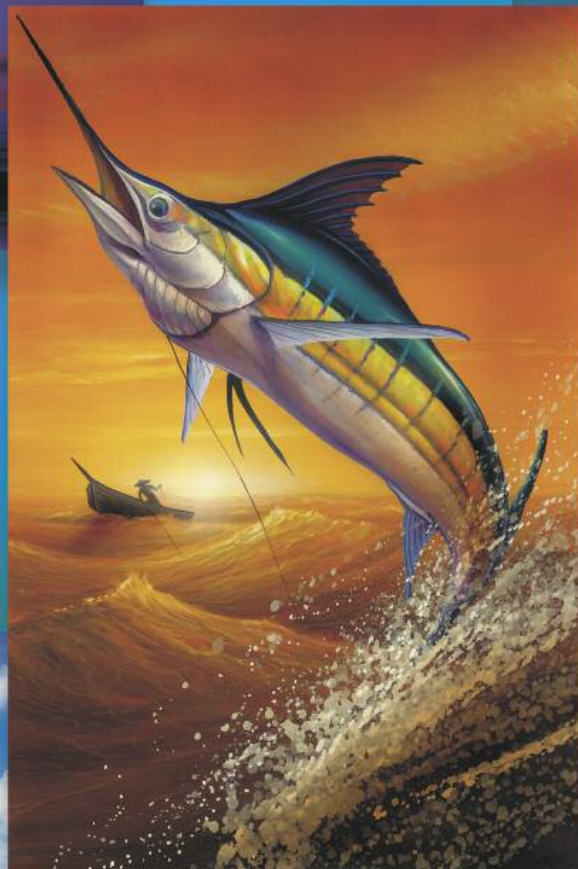


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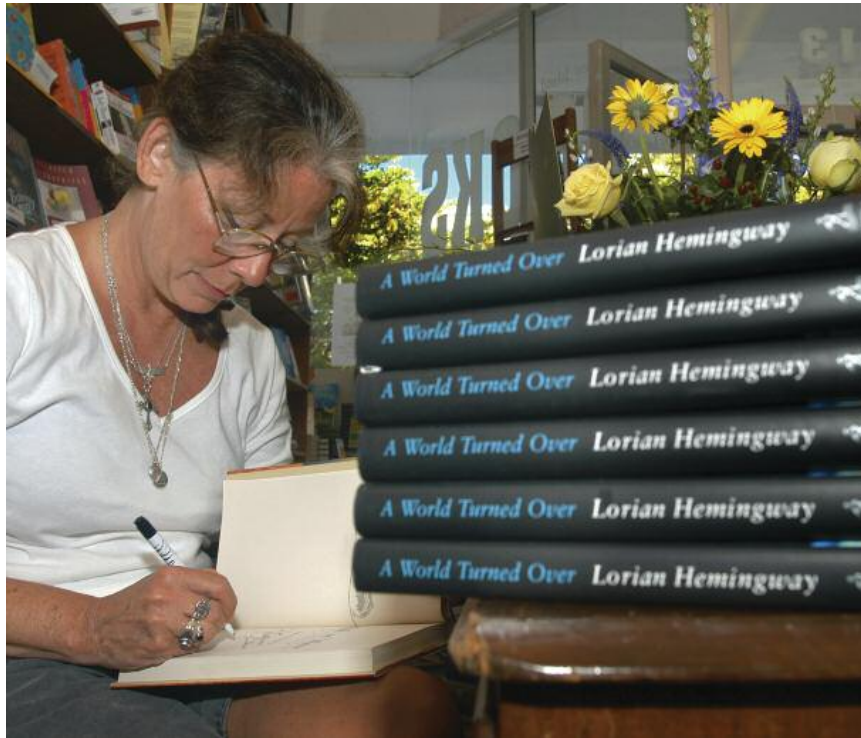
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Attracting Worldwide Entrants

Lorian Hemingway's Short Story Competition



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

Little did Lorian Hemingway dream in 1981, when she started the celebrated short story competition that bears her name, that it would become an internationally renowned literary challenge for aspiring writers. The number of entries has increased from just 75 that year to well over 800 for the 2016 contest.

While the 1981 competition attracted mostly Florida writers, this year's has drawn entrants from Europe, Great Britain, Africa,

Canada, Australia and even China. All have submitted their unpublished works hopefully, vying for top honors in the highly esteemed competition.

Lorian, granddaughter of the late and legendary Ernest Hemingway, is an accomplished writer in her own right. She has written several critically acclaimed books including "Walk on Water," "A World Turned Over" and "Walking into the River."

Each year she invites aspiring writers whose works have not yet

received major-market recognition to submit unpublished stories of up to 3,500 words to the competition. She and a panel of judges she has selected, including writers and other literary luminaries, read and evaluate each story as they search for new visions from unheralded talent.

"We do not go by what is in vogue," Lorian has said. "Writing is essentially about the human condition in all its variables."

They choose the first-, second-, and third-place winners and also award a number of honorable mentions. The first-place winner will receive a cash prize of \$1,500 and publication of his or her winning story in "Cutthroat: A Journal of the Arts." Second- and third-place winners will receive \$500 each.

The judges feel the responsibility of ranking the entries while at the same time experiencing the joy of reading the works of as yet unrecognized writers.

"As the competition has grown over the years, so has the level of our entrants' talent," Lorian says.

According to Lorian, some entrants from previous years have gone on to make their mark in their chosen field, and she is proud of — and grateful to — every one of them.



Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition

The short story published here is Lorian Hemingway's choice, the third-place winner from the 800-plus entries in the 2015 Lorian Hemingway Short Story Competition.



Camila Pitanga

By Ladée Hubbard

1.

Camila Pitanga does not want your man. She has come to give him back to you along with the gift of a wooden box carved by the manicured fingers of her left hand.

You shouldn't have, you tell her.

De nada, Camila Pitanga says.

Inside the box are the pieces of ice she has chipped from your husband's smile.

Are you coming to bed? He asks you.

2.

Inside the box the walls have been painted black. On one side is a small opening; when you slide it back you see a flap of dark paper hinged with a piece of duct tape. On the other side is a square of aluminum sheet metal, with a pinhole in the center. The light on the balcony of the hotel room where you sit shines through it

like a star balanced against a night sky.

What do you see? Camila Pitanga asks you.

3.

Camila Pitanga is the most beautiful woman in the world.

4.

You are no Camila Pitanga.

5.

Camila Pitanga is a Brazilian movie star. This fact becomes an aura that follows her everywhere she goes, like a trail of bent roses or a bridal train. It is what your husband is staring at when she approaches you at the party.

6.

You, in contrast, are a thirty-five year old, African-American stay at home wife and mother with a Master's Degree in Cinema Studies. This is your first time in Brazil. Depending on your prior history, these facts may require a certain amount of active imagining on your part, which is why point of view should be established early on. Such preliminaries are a crucial component of composition: it's all about point of view. You may or may not experience a certain degree of disorientation as you adjust to

Camila Pitanga

continued



the realization that this is who you now are but do not worry. This is common. This is normal.

7.

You are concerned about the way in which your insistence on a distinct point of view may disrupt the flow of the overall narrative. There is always a point of view, of course. But this insistence on specificity, your studied awareness of the way it shapes story seems to unavoidably draw attention to itself, potentially becoming a distraction or, worse yet, to reduce itself to an obsession with mere spectacle.

8.

Similarly, it is entirely possible that everyone is not staring at you when you enter the party on the arm of your white husband. As your host leans forward to kiss your cheeks, it is entirely possible that everyone is not noticing the fact that you are the only dark skinned woman present who is not clutching either a white baby or a serving tray. This is perhaps your own hang up, an affect of your sense of dislocation in relation to the space you now inhabit and reflects your continual efforts to negotiate the shifting terrain of your given subject position.

9.

Also, you do not speak Portuguese.

10.

Your husband, in contrast, is fluent. Over the course

of cocktail chatter you find yourself standing near the hors-d'oeuvres table, gripping a glass of caipirinha while you listen to your husband explain how the two of you met and married in graduate school, how you put your studies on hold when you became pregnant with the son who is currently clutching your thigh with one hand and shoving fish balls into his mouth with the other. Seven years later you are still AbD. Your husband is a PhD. Your son has ADD.

11.

Your husband is now a rising figure in the world of Brazilian film studies. He wrote his dissertation on a brief off shoot of the Cinema Novo movement of the 1960s, the subtitle of which indicates his interest in the mass marketing of utopic desire. Camila Pitanga's father, the legendary actor Antonio Pitanga, was the star of the movie that formed the central pivot around which his research was based, model text of what he argued was in fact a new genre. He has now turned his attention to contemporary representations of race in Brazilian cinema, within which Camila Pitanga figures prominently. This means the enchantment, like distance, is long standing.

12.

And she is here somewhere, you are told as the three of you pass through the door. It is possible, though doubtful, that she has even read his book. But

your host has read it. How nice that the two of them will finally have the chance to meet.

13.

Everyone nods their head and does not stare at you. You smile back, waiting for someone, in either broken English or slow motion Portuguese, to ask you about your field of study, which they do not do.

14.

Your husband has asked that you not cling to him at parties. He wants you to engage people, to give them a chance. You will never learn Portuguese until you actually try to communicate. He is convinced that you know far more than you are aware, that you only need to push yourself. Sometimes when he sees you walking towards him he shakes his head and turns the other way. This is meant as encouragement.

15.

Often you are walking towards him in order to pass along what you feel is important information. For example: you cannot find your son. You've looked everywhere but you cannot find him.

Or: could he talk to your son? You found him on the terrace, with his head stuck between the railings. When you asked him what he was doing he told you he was spitting on the cars on the street below. You feel this is unacceptable. You would like confirmation that this is unacceptable.

Or: you cannot find your son. The last time you saw him he had his head stuck between the railings of the terrace. It took you ten minutes to wedge his ears out and then he ran off again



and now you cannot find him.

Or: you found your son. He was in your distinguished host's study and has peed on the man's red leather sofa. What should you do?

16.

Your husband squints at you. He is mingling. More importantly he is making contacts. Somehow the constant fuss of childcare has become your primary responsibility. You look back at him and feel bracketed by your choices, by the fact of loving some people who pee on sofas while you are wearing silk, other people who squint to remind you that you have no business wearing silk.

17.

Yet it is true: you push through a series of doors at random and find your son on the other side of one of them, jumping up and down on a sofa, a dark stain spreading across the front of his pants. You bend down to clean it up and stain your dress. Stop what you are doing, look around the room at the papers scattered across the floor and think, now what?

18.

Certain forms of aesthetic criticism are predicated on evaluations of the success or failure of creative manipulations of audience expectation. The implication being that any deviation from the normative necessarily, in and of itself, implies the norm. The coherency of subcultures implies the presence of hegemony. Anti-establishments are predicated on the establishments that

nurture them. Within this representational context creative reconstructions of all ready inhabited worlds are never, strictly speaking, utopic. The more productive view would be to acknowledge them as the careful rearrangement of parts, a shuffling of signifiers and tropes. All of which is simply to say that we enter dark rooms out of habit and already well versed.

19.

Before this night is over your son will make his way into your distinguished host's study and pee on his red leather sofa. You, in a state of panic, will run to the kitchen seeking something to wipe it up and find, of all things, Camila Pitanga standing before you with her arms outstretched.

20.

Camila Pitanga rushes towards you at a party with her arms outstretched. It is understood before a word is spoken that she has mistaken you for someone else.

21.

There is something sad about the fact that you are at first confused by this, certain she has mistaken you for someone else. But then she is asking you to tell her your name which means she is aware she does not all ready know it. (Why you? You wonder. Not, why not you? When did you begin to confuse yourself for something so small, someone who had so

little to say in response to such a simple question?)

22.

Camila Pitanga walks towards you at a party, bathed in her own radiance, flashing a golden smile. It shocks you. You realize you are specific. Someone is throwing their arms about you, kissing your cheeks, clutching your hand. What has happened? Camila Pitanga says. What can I do to help?

23.

You can see your husband standing speechless in the corner, beholding all that golden light, enraptured by its glow. He is not looking at you, as he should be.

24.

This is all one brief moment in your life. Little more than the blink of an eye. But you hold on to it, trying to figure out what you see. When your husband makes a show of helping you into your coat at the door, it stays with you. When you are in the cab riding back to the hotel, staring out the window at the skyscrapers and crowded streets of Copacabana it stays with you. When you are in your hotel room, standing alone on the balcony and you hear your husband call you to bed, it stays with you. A single frame now etched in memory.

25.

Ultimately, that is the gift Camila Pitanga gives you: the possibility of other worlds and the beauty of your persistent ability to perceive them. An exchange of light, the promise that what you experience

Camila Pitanga *continued*



is real and valid and might simultaneously constitute an offering. You are both an act of faith and self-aware.

26.

What do you see, Camila Pitanga asks you. What do you see?

27.

Inside the box are the invitations to all the parties you would have rather attended.

28.

Inside the box is a single star balanced against a night sky.

Ladee Hubbard is a writer from New Orleans. "Camila Pitanga" was the third-place winner in the 2015 competition and has appeared in the Beloit Fiction Journal. An earlier draft of her first novel, which she is now editing, was first runner-up for the Faulkner-Wisdom Creative Writing Competition for the Novel.



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Recalling Key West's Creative Heritage

Hemingway Days Literary Events



Irish novelist Denyse Woods, winner of the Florida Keys Flash Fiction Contest.

A rich roster of literary events awaits readers and writers during Hemingway Days 2016, set for Tuesday through Sunday, July 19-24.

The festival celebrates the literary accomplishments and exuberant Key West lifestyle of legendary writer Ernest Hemingway, who lived on the island throughout the 1930s.

Hemingway Days opens with a museum day Tuesday, July 19, honoring Key West's two most famous writers. Literary fans can view "Depicting Hemingway," featuring renowned artist Guy Harvey's original sketches illustrating Hemingway's "The Old Man and the Sea," at the Custom House Museum, 281 Front St. An exhibit exploring playwright Tennessee Williams' long residence in Key West can be

seen at 513 Truman Ave. Both exhibitions continue throughout the festival and beyond.

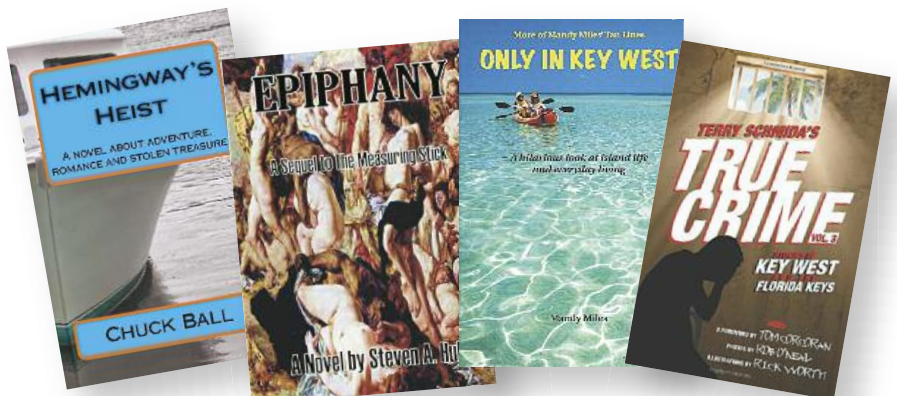
Contemporary writers star in the "Voices, Places, Inspirations" readings set for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 20, at the Key West Woman's Club, 319 Duval St. Scheduled participants include noted Irish novelist Denyse Woods, who recently bested 2,100 other writers to win the Florida Keys Flash Fiction Contest; Chuck Ball, author of "Hemingway's Heist" among others; Steven Hull, creator of the edgy Hunter Benson series; Mandy Bolen Miles, renowned for her "Tan Lines" books and columns; and Terry Schmida, whose "True Crime" series chronicles criminal deeds in the Florida Keys.

The event is presented by Literacy Volunteers of America—Monroe County and includes a

"meet-the-authors" reception.

The spotlight returns to the Custom House Museum at 5 p.m. Thursday, July 21, for a presentation titled "People and Places That Influenced Ernest Hemingway" by Nancy Sindelar, Ph.D. An internationally acclaimed Hemingway scholar, Sindelar penned "Influencing Hemingway: The People and Places That Shaped His Life and Work." A reception follows at 6 p.m.

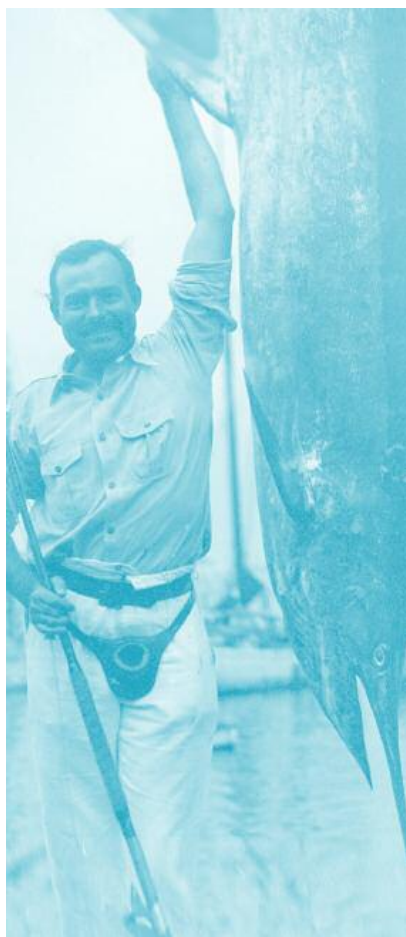
The next evening at 5 p.m., festival attendees can discover the little-known poetry that helped launch the literary legend's writing career. The Key West Poetry Guild presents "The Poetry of Ernest Hemingway," which also features guild members' work, at the Blue Heaven restaurant, 729 Thomas St. — a site where Ernest refereed neighborhood boxing matches in the 1930s.





Hemingway Days Celebration

Schedule of Events



**HEMINGWAY
DAYS 2016**
July 19-24

DAILY

Ernest Hemingway Home & Museum guided tours. Visit the home where Hemingway lived

throughout the 1930s and wrote some of his most enduring classics. 907 Whitehead St. For info and ticket prices, visit www.hemingwayhome.com.

TUESDAY JULY 19

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

10 A.M.-5 P.M. — Tennessee Williams Key West Exhibit. Learn about playwright Tennessee Williams’ longtime residence on

the island while exploring his beliefs and legacy. Highlights include personal photographs of Williams at home with his partner and friends, first-edition plays and books, a typewriter he used in Key West and much more. 513 Truman Ave. behind the Key West Business Guild Visitor Center. Free admission; donations accepted. Exhibition continues throughout Hemingway Days and beyond. For info, visit www.twkw.org.

WEDNESDAY JULY 20

4 P.M. — Final registration for the Key West Marlin Tournament. Anglers compete for \$50,000 in guaranteed cash prizes for targeting marlin, spearfish, dolphin fish, tuna and wahoo. Dante’s Key West Pool Bar and Restaurant, upstairs, 951 Caroline St. For info, visit www.keywestmarlin.com.

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

6-8 P.M. — Key West Marlin Tournament captains meeting, auction and raffle. Dante's Key West Pool Bar and Restaurant, upstairs.

7:30-10 P.M. — "Voices, Places, Inspirations." This evening of readings features authors including Chuck Ball, Steven Hull, Mandy Miles and Terry Schmida — plus a special appearance by noted Irish novelist Denyse Woods, winner of the international Florida Keys Flash Fiction Contest. Presented by Literacy Volunteers of America—Monroe County, the event also includes a "meet the authors" reception. Key West Woman's Club, 319 Duval St. For info, visit www.hemingwaydays.net.

THURSDAY JULY 21

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

9 A.M. — Coffee and Donuts with the "Papas." Join past Look-Alike Contest winners and current competitors for a lighthearted "coffee break" at Cypress House, a historic inn at 601 Caroline St. Visit www.papalookalikes.com.

4-6 P.M. — Key West Marlin Tournament weigh-in. Dante's Key West Pool Bar and Restaurant, stage area.

5 P.M. — "People and Places That Influenced Ernest Hemingway" presentation and reception. Join internationally acclaimed Hemingway scholar Nancy Sindelar, Ph.D., to examine the individuals, locales and adventures that helped shape the literary legend's work. The evening also



features a reception marking the 117th anniversary of Ernest's July 21 birth. Custom House Museum. For info, visit www.kwahs.org.

5:30 P.M. — Sloppy Joe's Birthday Party for "Papa." Celebrate Ernest's birthday (complete with cake) alongside former winners and contestants in the "Papa" Hemingway Look-Alike Contest. Sloppy Joe's Bar. For look-alike event info, visit www.sloppyjoes.com.

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. For info, visit www.papalookalikes.com.

6:30 P.M. — Sloppy Joe's 36th annual "Papa" Hemingway Look-Alike Contest, first preliminary round, to be judged by former

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

6:30-8 P.M. — Key West Marlin Tournament cocktail party and island-style pig roast. Dante's Key West Pool Bar and Restaurant, upstairs. Free to tournament participants.

FRIDAY JULY 22

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

1:30 P.M. — "Papa" Hemingway Look-Alike Fish-Off. Cheer your favorites as the "Papas" compete in this dockside catch-and-release challenge using traditional "Cuban yo-yos." Conch Republic Seafood Co. docks, 631 Greene St. Free to watch. For info, visit www.papalookalikes.com.

4-6 P.M. — Key West Marlin Tournament weigh-in. Dante's Key West Pool Bar and Restaurant, stage area.

5 P.M. — "The Poetry of Ernest Hemingway." The Key West Poetry Guild presents a reading of Hemingway's poems and guild members' work — and chronicles the poetry that helped launch Ernest's writing career — at Blue Heaven, a site where he once refereed neighborhood boxing matches. 729 Thomas St. For info, email nanceboylan@gmail.com.

6:30-8 P.M. — Key West Marlin Tournament dockside cocktail party and fish fry. Dante's Key West Pool Bar and Restaurant, upstairs. Free to tournament participants.

Hemingway Days Schedule

continued

6:30 P.M. — Sloppy Joe's 36th annual "Papa" Hemingway Look-Alike Contest, second preliminary round, to be judged by former contest winners. Sloppy Joe's Bar. \$35 entry fee. Free to watch.

8:30-11 P.M. — Key West Marlin Tournament Party with the Bacardi Oakheart Team. Enjoy an exuberant gathering for tournament participants.

SATURDAY JULY 23

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

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

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

1 P.M. — Running of the Bulls. This wacky event is sponsored by Sloppy Joe's Bar and features past "Papa" Hemingway Look-Alike Contest winners dressed in their Pamplona best — and a breed of "bull" found only in Key West. The fun begins and ends on Greene



Street outside Sloppy Joe's. For info, visit www.sloppyjoes.com.

3-5 P.M. — Key West Marlin Tournament weigh-in. Dante's Key West Pool Bar and Restaurant, stage area.

3-7 P.M. — Papa's Pilar Rum Hemingway 5k Sunset Run/Walk and Paddleboard Race registration. Register and pick up race packets for the popular run and paddleboard challenge. Southernmost Hotel parking lot, corner of Duval and South streets. \$45 entry fee for either race or \$80 for both. For more information and registration, visit www.keywestspecialevents.com.

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

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

6:30 P.M. — Sloppy Joe's 36th annual "Papa" Hemingway Look-Alike Contest, final round, to be judged by former contest winners. Sloppy Joe's Bar. Free to watch.

7:30 P.M. — Papa's Pilar Rum 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. For information and registration, visit www.keywestspecialevents.com.

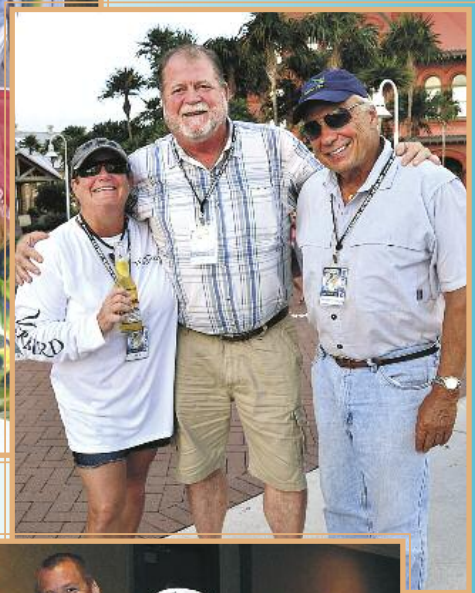
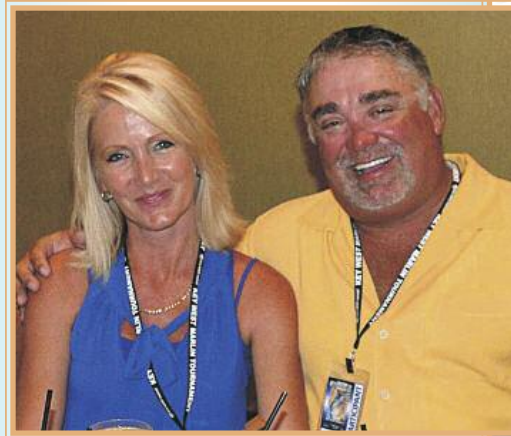
SUNDAY JULY 24

10 A.M. — Sloppy Joe's 30th annual Hemingway Days Arm Wrestling Contest. Registration is set for 10 a.m. and the contest begins at 11 a.m. Prizes await male and female winners in multiple weight divisions. Sloppy Joe's Bar. \$5 entry fee; free to watch. For info, visit www.sloppyjoes.com.

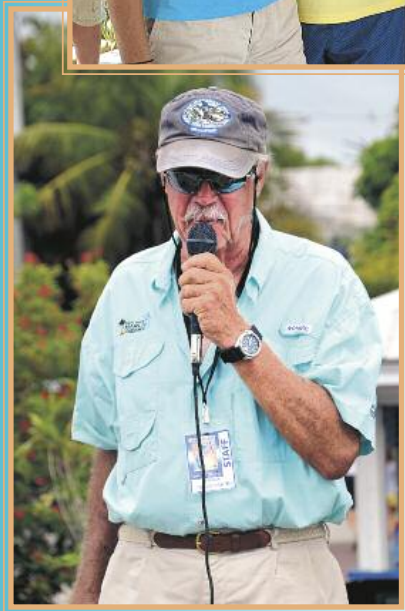
This is a preliminary schedule and is subject to change.



Bacardi Oakheart Key West Marlin Tournament



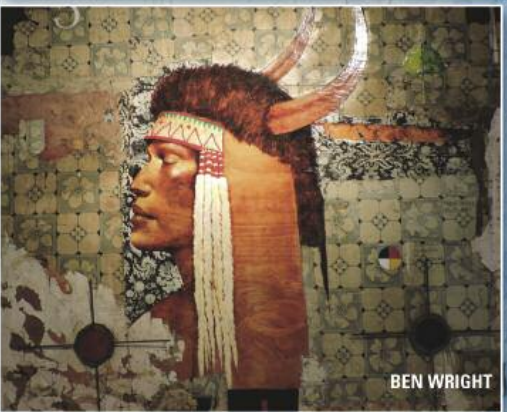
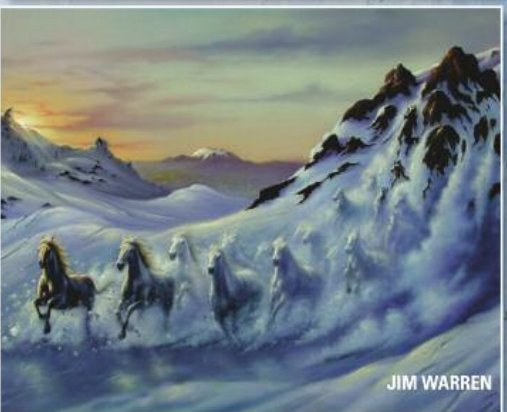
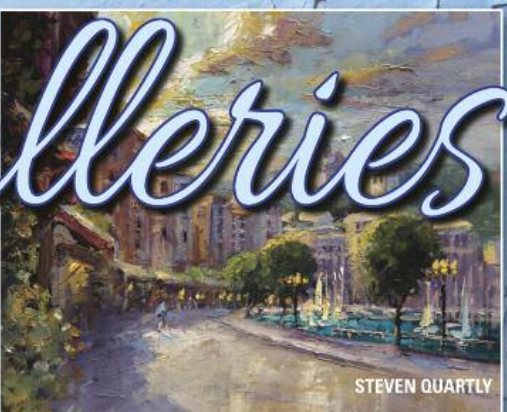
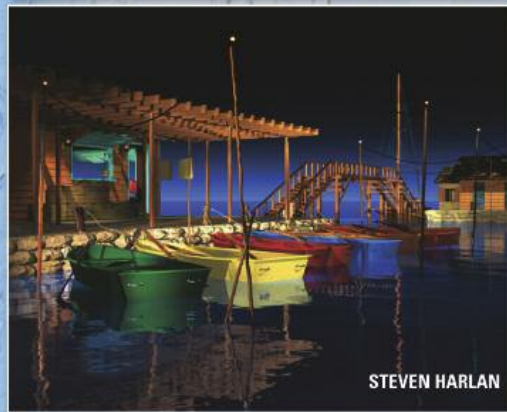
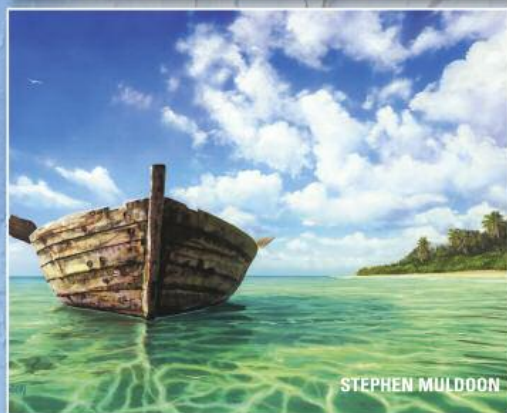
Bacardi Oakheart Key West Marlin Tournament



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Where to Get a Florida Keys ‘Flavor Fix’

Scores of visitors envy Florida Keys “locals” who create satisfying lives full of authentic pleasures and natural ingredients. But visitors too can enjoy the indigenous flavors of the Keys, and even take home tasty “souvenirs” to help sustain them until their next vacation escape.

Nearly everyone who journeys to the island chain samples locally caught seafood and locally made Key lime pie. Both are excellent starting points for an exploration into the region’s unique edibles — but much more is available to savor as well. The Keys are home to artisan food crafters, a master chocolatier, beekeepers and even a saltmaker whose wares can be relished during visits and later as treats at home.

At the head of the Keys in Key Largo, for example, the Florida Keys’ premier chocolatier can be found at mile marker (MM) 100.5 byside. **Key Largo Chocolates** is



the brainchild of Kristie Thomas, who infuses local flavors into handmade chocolate confections. Standouts include luscious truffles,

fudge and specialty chocolate bark with Key lime and pistachios.

Perhaps the quirkiest creations are Thomas’s chocodiles — whimsical 9-inch-long crocodiles made of white or dark chocolate. Those with a sweet tooth will delight in visiting the shop, and treats can be ordered for shipping at www.keylargochocolates.com.

Key lime pie, which originated in Key West in the late 1800s, was



voted Florida’s official pie in 2006 by the state legislature. But **Bob’s Bunz**, a friendly Islamorada “comfort food” restaurant and bakery, features the tiny limes in other sweet temptations including Bundt cakes and yummy bite-size cookies.

No trip to the Upper Keys is complete without visiting the emporium, whose name comes from the legendary (and gigantic) cinnamon and sticky buns created by owner Robert “Bob” Spencer. While the “bunz” can be purchased

only at the restaurant/bakery at MM 81.6, lime lovers can pick up Bundt cakes and cookies there or order them at www.bobsbunz.com.

Head down the Florida Keys Overseas Highway through Marathon and, shortly before the Seven Mile Bridge begins,



make a sharp right onto Gulfview Avenue. Perched right on the waterfront at the end of the short street is one of the best casual seafood restaurants in the Keys: **Keys Fisheries**. Try the fresh stone crab claws, peel-and-eat Key West shrimp and savory conch chowder. And the eatery’s famed Lobster Reuben makes even stubborn New Yorkers abandon traditional corned-beef Reubens for their seafood “cousin.”

As well as being a favorite spot for locals and visitors, Keys Fisheries ships seafood (including the yummy Lobster Reuben) to those craving a taste of the island chain. Orders can be placed at www.keysfisheries.com.

Few things flavor a dish like artisanal salt, and Lower Keys residents Midge Jolly and Tom

PHOTO BY JEFFREY CARDENAS



Weyant harvest 100 percent solar-evaporated sea salt on their Earth & Sea Farm. Their **Florida Keys Sea Salt** is described as an all-around cooking and finishing salt, and the natural rhythm of its hand-harvested production harks back to the Keys' saltmaking tradition of the 1800s.

For more information about

Jolly and Weyant's sustainable farm and products, visit earthandseafarm.com. Their salt can be purchased at SALT Island Provisions, located at 830 Fleming St. in Key West, or ordered at www.SaltIslandProvisions.com.

SALT Island Provisions also is the place to discover other intriguing products from Florida Keys artisans, including raw and unprocessed small-batch honey whose distinct flavors can't be found anywhere else in the world. The delicacy is produced by independent beekeepers who have hives around the Lower Keys, and favorites include red mangrove honey.

"It's a beautiful, rich honey that grows at the edge of the ocean,"



PHOTO BY JEFFREY CARDENAS

said SALT owner Jeffrey Cardenas, who also sells the honey at www.SaltIslandProvisions.com. "It comes straight out of the hives."

As enticing as these items are, they're only a sampling of the foodstuffs produced by creative spirits in the Florida Keys. Additional offerings include mango wasabi and rum mustards, rich and creamy smoked fish dip, Key Largo's renowned Bees N The Keys honey and even Key lime dog treats.

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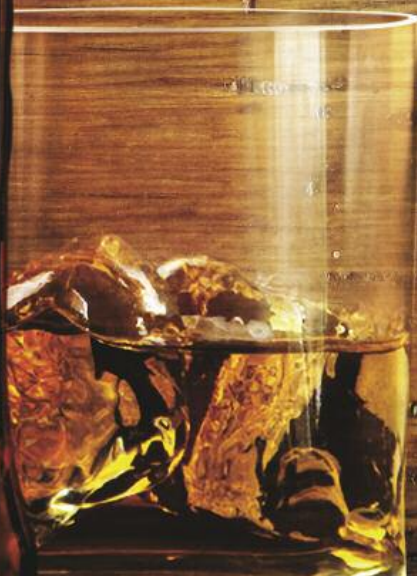
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