



NORTHERN GULF COAST CRUISE 2017

NOW HEAR THIS---ALL CATALINA OWNERS AND OTHER VESSELS OF THE SEA WELCOME

Plans for the now famous (or maybe infamous) Northern Gulf Coast Cruise for 2017 are underway with some new changes this year.

Registration is open to Catalina 22 owners and **ALL other vessels of the sea** are welcome to participate (This includes sailboats, power boats, house boats, canoes, kayaks, row boats, although we have to draw a line on jet skis). You may ask why are we inviting other vessels other than Catalina 22s? The answer is simple. We have a number of previous Catalina 22 owners that have moved up to a larger sailboat or gone to the dark side and purchased a power boat. To us they are still close members and friends of our Catalina 22 family. In the past years some of the previous C22 owners have sailed “unofficially” with our group, not wanting to intrude on the sanctity of the NGCC being a C22 only event. Since this will be the 20th year anniversary for the NGCC and looking back over the number of close friendships developed over the years we decided to openly welcome **ALL vessels of the sea**. This may bother some folks, while others may not like change and want things to stay the same year after year, while hopefully most will not care one way or the other. We felt it was time to add some variety and hopefully provide something for everybody realizing you cannot please everyone all the time. You may want to review our “You May Be A Northern Gulf Coast Cruiser If...” to get an idea of the NGCC characters and happenings over the years. (Attached)

The launch dates for this year’s NGCC fall on the Friday (May 5) of Cinco de Mayo and the Kentucky Derby Weekend (If you are not a Kentucky native, the Kentucky Derby is always the first Saturday in May). We are looking at doing something at the Fort Walton Yacht Club gazebo for Cinco de Mayo and the Kentucky Derby Party is in the planning stages but will most likely include derby traditions such as big hats for the ladies, mint juleps, derby pie with possibly some special food items (and no, the Burgoo recipe does not include possum or ground hog, although squirrel and rabbit are in some recipes). So ladies be looking for a big ol hat to wear to the event and guys be sure to wear your best formal boat attire!! Bring your Mint Julep Cup if you have one (or one will be provided). Also there will

be some games and we will draw horses for each boat (order determined by when your registration is received). Prizes will be award if your horse places 1st (Win); 2nd (Place); or 3rd (Show). There will be an additional prize drawing for one of the horses that Also Ran.

FIREWOOD

As a condition of your NGCC Registration you are required to provide a bundle of firewood for our campfires. The issue of transporting firewood from other States to the NGCC surfaced a few years ago. We have again looked into the matter with our Forestry Service regarding the regulations. It is OK to bring firewood from outside Florida if it was purchased in your hometown (preferably kiln dried). It is also acceptable to bring other firewood from your area (not kiln dried) but must not be left behind unburned at a camp site (not a problem on our cruises). The other option is to purchase a bundle of firewood once you arrive at the cruise from the various grocery or hardware stores.

PRELIMINARY ITINERARY

Attached you will find the Preliminary Itinerary and Registration Form. We plan to confirm all of the areas late in April so we will have the latest updates.

Also, this year we might have a few new options for stops along the way. We will send out information once we complete a final inspection of these areas.

If things do not work out as planned we will follow the age-old advice from Acidophilus, our Philosopher of the Salty Sea, "If you come to a fork in the road take it", or you can follow a well-known sail plan that states the Cruise begins at the Fort Walton Yacht Club and returns to the Fort Walton Yacht Club (This plan has yet to fail).

As always your suggestions, complaints, compliments, platitudes, bromides, or belly aching are appreciated and taken under advisement or possibly ignored or canned (just kidding--maybe)