



THE HELMSMAN

Vol. 20, Number 05-MAY 2017

OCALA BOAT CLUB
P.O. Box 777, Ocala, FL 34478
(a not for profit organization)

Regular meeting 3rd Monday of each month
6:00 p.m. — Clubhouse, Ray Wayside Park
(Boat Basin at the Bridge, E. Hwy 40)
5 miles from Silver Springs State Park

OFFICERS - YEAR 2017

Commodore	Mike Groves	(895-4193)
Vice Commodore	John Beach	(727-271-1731)
Cruise Master	Chuck Boyett	(291-2079)
Secretary	Flo Hoffman	(687-1011)
Purser	Molly Lemon	(438-3345)
Past Commodore	David Rossiter	(369-9639)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Executive Board comprises the above listed officers, plus the following Directors:

Don Smith	(687-8133)	Ted Bradley	(368-1623)
Nancy Smith	(687-8133)	Chuck Lemon	(438-3345)
Louise Jensen	(624-3941)	JoAnn Beach	(727-271-1732)

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UPCOMING EVENTS



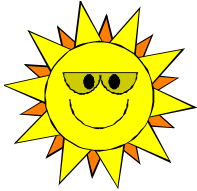
May 10 Game Night 6:30pm bring snacks, refreshments provided.
Wednesday

May 15 Membership Meeting: Clubhouse at 6:00pm
Monday

May 18 Water-Kayak and Koffee cruise with Marion County Parks
Thursday and Recreation. All equipment will be supplied. Meet at
Silver Springs State Park off 40 at kayak launch area at
9:30am
County fee \$30. Park fee \$5. Call County at [352-236-7148](tel:352-236-7148)
or 352-671-8560 to set up an account to pay the \$30. You
pay the \$5. at launch. Lunch after tour at MOJO GRILL
noonish???

JUNE EVENTS

TO BE ANNOUNCED AT CLUB MEETING MAY 15



Sunshine Wishes for Members

Please keep the following members in your thoughts and prayers

Health Issues

Vince Druding



XMAS CRUISE

Anyone interested in going on a cruise to the Western Caribbean with the Ocala Boat Club, please contact Sue Smith of Ocala Travel 2042 E. Silver Springs Blvd. 34470 at 352-732-7511, tell her you are with the Ocala Boat Club. Invite your friends.

Depart/Return	Tampa
Depart Date	Sunday, December 3, 2017
Length	7 nights
Ports	Tampa, Key West, at sea , Cozumel, Belize City, Costa Maya, at sea , Tampa
Ship	Rhapsody of the Seas Royal Caribbean
A deposit of \$250.00pp at time of reservation. Final payment is due August 21, 2017	

BOAT TRIP AND ACTIVITIES INTEREST SURVEY

Rate the following Boat Trips or Activities from 1(lowest) to 5 (highest)in the blank spaces.

Cruises – Alternate Saturday and Sunday Trips

- _____ Mt. Dora through Apopka/Beauclair Canal to Montverde
- _____ Venetian Cove to Mission Inn
- _____ Moss Bluff to Crazy Gators
- _____ Venetian Cove to Lakeside Inn- Mt. Dora
- _____ Sanford???
- _____ Poker Run and Picnic
- _____ Venetian Cove to Crazy Gators- Evening Trip
- _____ Steinhatchee Scalloping (overnight?)
- _____ Crystal River to Homosassa River
- _____ St. Augustine (overnight)
- _____ Hontoon Island Picnic and Games-Fishing
- _____ Crescent Lake- Dunns Creek
- _____ Silver River Lights Cruise Trip

Mid Week Cruises

- _____ Venetian Cove to Mt. Dora – new restaurant TBA
- _____ Lake Weir to Gator Joe's (Lunch)
- _____ Silver River- Picnic back at club or on board
- _____ Salt Springs – St. Johns River (Lunch TBA
- _____ Ocklawaha River
- _____ Boat Basin to Dam – Dinner

Activities

- _____ Soup R' Bowl Party
- _____ Margarita Grill
- _____ Decorate Boat Party
- _____ Christmas Parade
- _____ Silver River Cleanup
- _____ Miller's Boat Show

- _____ Group fishing trip to Gulf, Lake
- _____ Valentine's Day Dinner
- _____ St. Patrick's Day Dinner

- _____ Thanksgiving Dinner
- _____ Christmas Party
- _____ Rivership Romance Cruise Sanford
- _____ Club Cleanup (grounds and building) Parties
- _____ Form groups for fishing trips to the Gulf, rivers, lakes
- _____ Blue Springs State Park – land cruise(Manatees, 2 hour narrated boat ride)
- _____ Sterling Casion Ship – Cape Canaveral
- _____ DeLeon Springs
- _____ Juniper River canoe or kayak trip
- _____ Itchnetucknee River Trip

The Cruisemaster would like to try new places for boating and activity events.
What would be an acceptable one-way driving time to a boat ramp or planned activity event?

OTHER IDEAS?? PLEASE GIVE YOUR CRUISE COMMITTEE NEW IDEAS!!!

List your ideas below. Thanks

HIGHLIGHTS FROM RECENT CLUB CRUISES

Withlacoochee River Cruise
April 11, 2017

Nineteen Boat Club members and one guest cruised part of the Withlacoochee River on April 11, 2017. Weather was beautiful, with just enough breeze to keep the travelers refreshed.

The Withlacoochee (“little river” or “crooked river”, from the native American Creek and Muskogean languages) originates in the Green Swamp, east of Polk City. The river flows west, then north, then northwest, and finally turns west and empties into the Gulf of Mexico near Yankeetown. Along the way it passes through Dunnellon, where our cruise began.

Leaving the Dunnellon municipal boat ramp, conveniently located beside City Hall, our four boats cruised the seven miles downstream to Lake Rousseau. This part of the river is quite picturesque, with dense stands of forest along both sides of the river. The vibrant green of springtime growth made the forest especially beautiful this day.

Approaching the lake, the land opens up and offers expansive views of the marsh. Lake Rousseau was formed in the early 1900’s by construction of a dam to produce hydroelectric power. Later, the lake became part of the now defunct Cross-Florida Barge Canal.

Lake Rousseau also has thousands of tree stumps and extensive floating mats of vegetation. These provide excellent cover for fish and the lake is a very good bass fishery. However many of the stumps reach to just below the surface of the water, promising unpleasant surprises for unwary boaters. The lake is considered to be dangerous and boaters are advised to stick to the marked channels.

The cruisers paused for a quick look at the lake, then turned and proceeded back upstream, through the town of Dunnellon, to the confluence of the Rainbow and Withlacoochee Rivers. Unlike the Withlacoochee, the Rainbow River is fed by numerous small springs along its 6 mile length. Boaters along this stretch of the river always stop to observe the point of confluence, where crystal-clear waters from the springs meet the dark tannin-stained waters born in a swamp a hundred miles to the south.

The confluence is but a mile above Dunnellon, so it was a short step for our cruisers to return to the ramp, slide boats onto trailers, and hop across busy Highway 41 for cold drinks and tasty eats at the famous Blue Gator restaurant. All agreed that CruiseMaster Chuck Boyett was to be commended for having organized such an excellent voyage. The animated discussion also produced a variety of plans for future adventures on our beautiful waters.

Submitted by David Rossiter







ST. JOHNS RIVER CRUISE









WILD BILL AIRBOAT TOUR IN INVERNESS FL















