## Open Cat National Championships



Dave White of Key Largo dominated the Hobie Wave Class, one of the largest classes in the regat

Hundreds of catamaran sailors from all over the North America and Europe converged on Islamorada and the Florida Keys for the NAMSA (North American Multihull Sailing Assn) North Americans & Tradewinds Midwinter Open Catamaran National Championships on January 19-20. The event was hosted by Founders Park Watersports with the boats launching off the beach at Founders Park.

The winds were awesome for catamaran sailing on Saturday, with steady winds of around 20 mph with a 2-foot chop. These lightweight, powerful boats were flat flying around the course marks. Some were able to complete the 5-mile triangular course in less than 30 minutes. Four races were sailed on Saturday.

Wind increased tremendously on Sunday, however. The Race Committee was reading winds of 30 mph and gusty. Not many of the sailors objected when officials called off racing for the day and began the awards party.

Two Keys sailors fared well in the event - Dave White of Key Largo totally dominated the Hobie Wave Class with three first place finishes and a second place. White sails with the Upper Keys Sailing Club's Wave Fleet, where they sail every Thursday and Sunday. So, he gets a lot of practice.., and it

Dennis Green had lots of problems - ripping two mainsails. But, because of the carnage suffered by the rest of the fleet, he still managed to slip into 3rd place. Green operates the Beach and Sailing Concession at the Islander Resort in Islamorada.

South Florida sailors, Michael Siau and Sierra Manno from Miami, took second place in the Hobie 16 Class, the largest class of the 70-boat regatta. Miamian Mike Powers won 3rd place in the Hobie Wave Class - his first time ever to sail this design.

Sponsoring the event was OnLineMarineStore.com, Founders Park Watersports, Catamaran Sailor Magazine, SailingSeminars.com, Calvert Sails and Zhik Sailing Gear.

Next year the event will be scheduled for the Martin Luther King Weekend in January 2009. For information contact Mary Wells 305-451-3287 or mary@catsailor.com

## Events in the Keys

...Continued from page 18

Show and Quilt Sale, Lunch, gourmet coffee and tea are available. 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. \$6. San Pedro Catholic Church fellowship hall, MM 89 bayside, Tavernier. Please call Mary Ellen at 305-451-3777 for more information.

#### FESTIVALS & BENEFITS:

Saturday, February 2 - Sunday, February 3 - Florida Keys Art Guild Outdoor Art Festival. Lorelei Restaurant Field, MM 81 Overseas Hwy., Islamorada. 664-3571.

Sunday, February 3 - "Terry Cassidy's Pickin' Party." Music, food, drinks and raffles to benefit Habitat for Humanity. Noon to 6 p.m. Habitat Grounds, MM 30.5 Big Pine Key. 872-4456.

Thursday, February 7 - Sunday, February 10 - Friends of Fort Taylor present Civil War Days 2008. Living history demonstrations, battle reinactments, Duval St. parade, candle light tour of Fort Taylor. Ft. Zachary Taylor State Park, entrance at Southard & Thomas Streets, Key West. 292-6850.

Saturday, February 9 -10th - 14th Annual Pigeon Key Art Festival. Juried outdoor art show. Free parking and shuttle service, kid's corner, free tee-shirt drawings, art raffle. \$7 adults/\$3 students/children free. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Marathon Community Park, MM 58.5 Overseas Hwy. Marathon. 289-

Monday, February 11 - The Key West Players present 3rd Annual Masguerade Ball fun, food and frivolity. \$150. 7 p.m. Home & garden of Stephen Selka. 744 Windsor Lane. Key West. www.waterfrontplayhouse.com.

Thursday, February 14 - Sunday, February 17 - Big Pine Key Rotary is hosting the first Annual Monroe County Communities Carnival 11 a.m - 11 p.m. Battle of the bands with continual music, art, and more. Advance sale discount ride tickets available. For more info contact

Linda Akers 256 452-1811, or e-mail lakersbusinessmedia@yahoo.com.

Saturday, February 16 - Sunday, February 17 - Florida Keys Art Guild Outdoor Art Festival. Waldorf Plaza, MM 100 Overseas Hwy., Key Largo. 664-3571.

Monday, February 18 - Gordon Ross performance benefiting Habitat for Humanity. \$50/\$35. 8 p.m. Casa Marina Resort, 1500 Reynolds Ave. Key West. 872-4456 reservations/ 684-1308 info.

Friday, February 22 - Sculpture Key West presents Artist's Sail. 5-7 p.m. View the sculpture exhibit by sea with participating artists aboard the Liberty Clipper. For reservations call 292-0332. Sculpturekeywest.com.

Sunday, February 24 - April 19 -Sculpture Key West. Exhibition Two of this contemporary outdoor sculpture exhibit opens. Free entry to the park during reception 3-6 p.m. Fort Zachary Taylor State Park, Entrance at Thomas and Southard Streets. 295-3800. sculpturekeywest.com.

Saturday, February 23 - Sunday, February 24 - Key West Art Center presents 43rd Annual Old Island Days Art Festival, A juried fine-art show with exhibitors from across USA and Canada. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Whitehead and Caroline Streets. Key West. 294-1243. keywestartcenter.com

Saturday, February 23 - Sunday, February 24 - Upper Keys Rotary Nautical Flea Market / Purple Isles Art Guild Big Tent Gallery. Founders Park, MM 87, bayside, Plantation Key. 853-1685.

Thursday, February 28 - "An Evening of Noel Coward." Words by David Garrard Lowe. Music by Bobby Nesbitt. Champagne reception. A benefit for the Friends of the Key West Library. \$100. Available only through the Tropic. 8 p.m. Tropic Cinema, 416 Eaton St., Key West. tropicCinema.com.

# Business in the Keys















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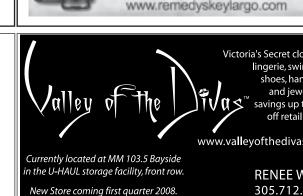




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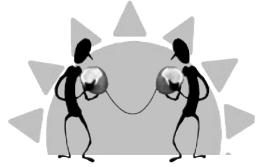
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