

# Conch Characters



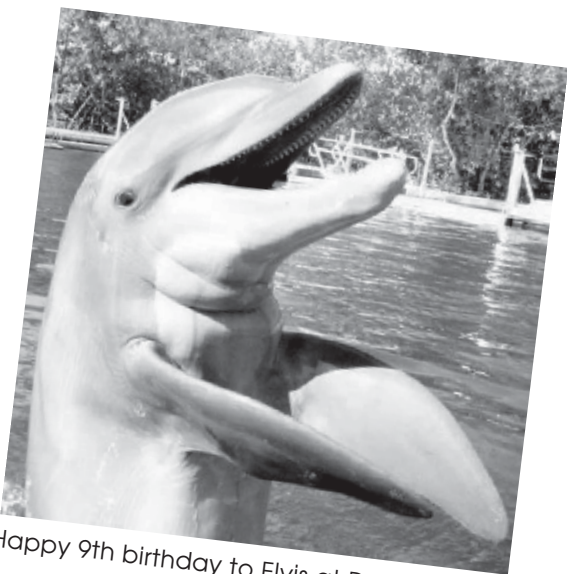
Last day for Horse riding at Gilberts till next summer. Pictured here is Karina Schaup, owner of Gilbert's and Krista Stanford.



Arin Rivera volunteers at the Humane Society at MM 106. Here she is feeding a kitty named Coconut.



Artist Kathleen Denis (2nd from left) and friends get together at the Island Grill at the Mandalay.



Happy 9th birthday to Elvis at Dolphin Cove!



Homecoming party at the Pilot House.



Conch-gratulations on your promotion, Amanda!



Beautiful Cabana Girls at Snook's Bayside are happy to serve you.



Island Time Cruise is the perfect place for a Bachelorette party or any party!



Jon Dreaver from the Art Box with custom paddle board by VonBoard.net.

## How Island Dolphin Care inspired VonBoards

Island Dolphin Care brought this family together and inspired the idea for VonBoards. Island Dolphin Care (IDC) is where all the love & magic begins in our lives. You may wonder, how has IDC any connection to paddle boards?

Our daughter Guen was only 3 years old then, but the impact it would make, we could never have imagined. You see, Guen was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, and we came to Key Largo looking for help... from IDC and the dolphins!

Deena & Pete Hoaglund, who founded and continue to maintain IDC, welcomed us into a family we had longed for. With many visits over the years, Guen's progress was paramount and continual. The bond it brought our family was priceless.

Our other children needed to connect with one another and Guen, and IDC's sessions allowed that opportunity... they were interacting with each other and Guen's condition took a back seat. Watching the sisters bond together for the first time was nothing short of miraculous. Each year we counted down the time until we could return to the one place on earth designed for us, Island Dolphin Care.

Not only has IDC improved our daughter's quality of life but it has enhanced ours as well. As a parent you just want your children to be healthy and happy. IDC's programs gave us healthy, happy children. They also healed our hearts, heavy with the weight of a challenged child, and made our world brighter and less scary.

I could never express in words what they have done for us. It is so much bigger than helping challenged kids and adults. It is like God gave us a slice of Heaven.

And then, on top of that... In the process of going back and forth to Key Largo from our home state of Texas, we discovered Paddle Boarding. For Guen, there has been so much she simply couldn't do, but she can participate. Paddle boarding has also united our family again, alongside Island Dolphin Care. It was very clear that we had to have our own paddle boards. Since we needed several, we decided to build them, and our business was born!

Written by: Mandi (M.K.) Jackson of VonBoards. M.K. is a former Coconut Telegraph Artist of the Month, and some of her amazing mosaic work is on display at the Art Box.

## "Did you hear?"



Dr. Don Price of Key Largo Animal Clinic has retired and Dr. Geoff Bailey of the Animal Care Clinic at MM 100.6 will have all Dr. Price's patient records. Congratulations to Dr. Price and thank you for all your years of service to our community and our pets.



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