

Easter Fun Regatta Lived Up to Its Name

March 30, 2016 by Jody Aston, Editor Photographs by Jody Aston, except where noted

The Easter Fun Regatta definitely lived up to its name! Starting with a Skippers and Crew meeting Thursday night, and of course, a little party-time afterwards, the race got off to a good start on Friday, with approximately 17 boats competing. Sailing in bright golden sunshine midst the tropical hills and canyons of the shimmering, clear green Sweet River is a fine way to race—if only the wind cooperates! On Friday, unfortunately it didn't! In spite of that minor detail, though, a great time was had by all. David, on Expectations 2 won a special prize for endurance. Organizer, Nicola (SV Tantalus), explained that he actually won the race because he was in a pedal kayak, and due to the total absence of wind, that was the only way one could make any progress at all! Since David used pedal power and was not completely under sail power, the first prize went to Karen and Martin on their Hobie Cat, Grassy Ass! Second place was awarded to Retriever, and Eleuthera came in third. Perhaps Chac, the Maya god of rain and weather took pity on us and stirred up a bit of breeze. On Saturday, the wind billowed through the sails, and competitive spirits soared along with it. NJoy Boat took the top prize—an inflatable dolphin! Cool Change came in second and Grace placed third, winning highly-coveted water pistols for their efforts. Between Texan Mike's El Manglar Restaurante and Mauritz's Burnt Key Marina, there was an abundance of music, conversation and socializing among friends, new and old. Every point of sail and action was rehased, every tack analyzed and scrutinized. If, by some slim chance, any mistakes were made during the race, the mantra for the night was, "the CREW did it!"

On Sunday, Martin pulled out his massive cache of innertubes for a rowdy round of water polo, followed by water volleyball. Several people enjoyed exploring the inlets around the bay by kayak. Most cruisers were not ready to return to the Semana Santa crowds in town, so extended their stay in the tranquil setting of Cayo Quemado/Burnt Key after the regatta. Many thanks go to Nicola and Noel on Tantalus, and Kitty and Jim on Dreamaway for planning and organizing the regatta from the Fronteras end of the rio. We are also grateful to Martin (in his house and on Grassy Ass!), Texan Mike and Mauritz for handling the organization downriver, and hosting the regatta at El Manglar Restaurante and Burnt Key Marina.

Editor's note: We all know sailors love to see photos of their boat under sail! Many have already asked how to obtain copies of my photos from the regatta, or, conversely, how to get their photos to me for sharing. So, here's the deal. I have set up a group on the photo-sharing website called Flickr (no fee). I made it open to the public—no invitation required—so that anyone can access and post photographs. You have to sign up to add your photos—but it is free and easy. I'm pretty sure you don't even have to join if you only want to download someone else's photos. Flickr gives several options for downloading, small, medium, large, original size, etc. In order to allow people to download your photos, you have to mark your photos as public when you upload them. There is also a section to check about sharing. If you leave the photo marked "all rights reserved" then no one can download it. The whole point of this group is to share, so be sure to check the box allowing that. You can keep some restrictions—such as attribution (giving you credit for being the photographer), no commercial use, no changes allowed, etc. Do whatever you like, as long as you do NOT reserve ALL rights. I'm including all my photos from the regatta, even the ones that are not the greatest quality, since many people do not seem to care if they are slightly out of focus, etc.—which is easy to do when you're photographing from a bouncy boat! I got at least one shot of all the boats (except Eleuthera—he kind of disappeared early in the race). If you download any of mine, please leave a note, just bc I'm curious! If you see one of yourself that you do not want posted here, let me know that, too, and I will remove it—don't like posting photos that make people uncomfortable!

Hope you enjoy my shots, and please add your own! What a fun few days, eh?! :) Here is the link to Flickr. My 181 photos have now uploaded—time to add yours!

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