

John 'Hutch' Hutchinson

From: CFCA [cfca-bounces@cfca.net] on behalf of Patti Hutchinson [vettevixen@hashmarks.com]
Sent: Monday, September 03, 2018 5:55 PM
To: cfca@cfca.net
Subject: [CFCA] Key West 2018
Attachments: ATT00909.txt

Greetings CFCA!

Who wants to go to Key West? It is time to make those reservations. Our trip begins on Friday, November 2, 2018 and ends whenever you feel like leaving. We will caravan down as a group on Friday, leaving from the Cracker Barrel on OBT at 7:00am. Arrive early if you want breakfast. They open at 6:00am. Some members will be returning on Sunday morning and others are staying for a few more days.

Once again our host hotel is the beautiful [Sheraton Suites Key West](#) directly across from world famous Smathers Beach. For several years we have enjoyed this beautiful hotel and the wonderful staff and look forward to going back.



Reservations at our contracted rates must be made by October 2, 2018. Please contact Shannon Lutz, Key West Group Coordinator at 1-305-292-4345 or email Shannon.Lutz@sheratonkeywest.com and mention the Central Florida Corvette Association. Surprise! The rates have gone down this year. The Garden View King Suite is now \$245.00 and the Garden View Double Queen Suite is \$265.00. The hotel is still not charging us the \$35.00 plus tax resort tax fee.

Please be advised that this is a smoke-free hotel. While our hotel is quite a way from Duval Street where all the action is, prices in the Duval area are almost double what we are getting at the Sheraton. As always, this is Parrothead Weekend so expect a lot of crazy people, in addition to our own craziness! You might even see Jimmy Buffet at his restaurant, Margaritaville, or out singing on the streets.

The hotel has a free shuttle which runs continuously. In years past we've made use of both the hotel shuttle as well as Key West's plentiful taxi service and it wasn't a problem at all. When taking the shuttle you will likely meet our favorite driver, Mr. Ed. If you have any questions about Key West, he is the man to ask. Please tip

him generously as he is very good to our group and often brings out extra shuttles so our group doesn't have to wait long. In fact, please remember to tip all of the drivers. They do a great job.



The only Coast Guard Cutter afloat today to receive two Presidential Unit Citations for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy



FRIDAY NIGHT SUNSET AT THE USCGC INGHAM

This year we are doing something different. The retired Coast Guard ship, the USCGC INGHAM, is docked on the Truman Annex Waterfront in Old Town Key West. It is a very decorated ship from World War II. They offer a Sunset Happy Hour on the deck every Friday and Saturday one hour before sunset until they feel like kicking us off! A bar is set up and there are chairs where you can relax. The cost is \$5.00 per person. I highly recommend taking the ship tour when you have a chance. It is a very interesting piece of our history. I could have listened all day to the volunteers and owner sharing their memories and stories.



CRUISIN' TIKIS KEY WEST This will be discussed at September 6 CFCA meeting.

I am still trying to work this out. Some members want to go on Saturday morning and others want to go on Sunday morning. The problem is we are going out for a sunset cruise on Saturday evening and we have the boat race parade on Sunday afternoon. Each raft seats 6 and the prices are a bit more if your boat is not full. It is \$49.95 per person or \$275 per boat (a discount of a little over \$4.00 per person) for chartering the entire boat. They usually have two boats but they will have 4 boats in November.

We were thinking of doing the Harbor Tour which is a 120 minute Key West Sightseeing trip. Cruisin' Tikis will provide water, soda and a cooler with ice. You may bring aboard the alcoholic beverage of your choice along with food and snacks. We can also make prior arrangements for box lunches to be delivered to the tiki for the trip. This must be done in advance. If you would like more information, go to Cruisin' Tikis Key West. I will have to check with them regarding cups. We will discuss this at the club meeting on Thursday, September 6. The tikis depart from The Mellow Ventures dock at 1605 N Roosevelt Blvd, Key West, FL 33040.



SUNSET CRUISE We are again going with Danger Charters on their **Wind & Wine Sunset Sail Cruise**. This year we will be sailing on Saturday (Nov 3rd) so you won't have to be in such a rush to get there quickly on Friday when we drive down. Their 65' sailing boat has been rated #1 for the last three years on Trip Advisor and holds just over 20 people. The wines are more upscale than other cruises and they also serve cheese, crackers, veggies, dip, soda, beer, and water. Last year's 2½ hour cruise was a lot fun (for those that can remember). Our discounted price is \$94.99 which now includes tax and 15% gratuity. **To make your reservations call Danger Charters at 305-304-7999 and mention MY name. It is not under our group name this year since I secured the tickets.** You must be at the dock by 5:00 pm. No refunds if you are late and miss the boat! The Danger Charters dock is located at the Westin Marina, 245 Front Street in Key West, just south of

Mallory Square. There are directions to the marina on the dangercharters.com website, if needed. The sunset cruise is a highlight of the trip so don't miss it!

AFTER CRUISE DINNER The group will decide where to go eat that evening. Half Shell Raw Bar and Conch Republic Seafood Company have been great restaurants in the past but there are many other interesting places to eat in Key West. We'll pick a nearby casual place for a group dinner after the cruise or you can go off on your own if you wish.

THINGS TO DO IN KEY WEST

Mallory Square, "green flash" sunsets, street performers, white sandy beaches, Duval pub crawl, beautiful hotel pool, Conch Train, Sloppy Joe's, Key West Lighthouse, REAL key lime pie, Mel Fisher Maritime Museum, Key West Aquarium, Mai Tai's, Ernest Hemmingway home and museum, Harry Truman Little White House, Shipwreck Museum, Southernmost Point, jello shots, Mud Slides, Kino Sandal Factory, shopping, Fat Tuesdays, custom jewelry, Wyland Art Gallery (I can hear Hutch groaning already), and much, much more! It all awaits you at Key West. Make your reservations now!

Just think... as others are shoveling the snow off their sidewalks up north, we'll be sitting in the sun by the pool or the beach in the Keys sipping on a cool frozen drink. Ah yes, Life is good.

Be sure to let me know if you plan on joining us so I can add you to the list.

Hope to see you in Paradise this November!

Patti Hutchinson

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