

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA YACHTS

INC.



FLORIDA SAILING & CRUISING SCHOOL

Experience the Boating Life!

E-YARDARM SPECIAL "OIL SPILL" EDITION



Ahoy Boaters!

A couple of years ago I wrote the following about the "gloom and doom" that was overtaking our society:

"Yes, the news of late has been rather depressing. The business slowdown, the rising cost of living, the loss of jobs... When you do the math it's not a pretty picture. I don't think there is any sector of our economy that has not been down except, perhaps, sales of antidepressants and alcoholic beverages.

Right now it's hard to think about anything positive when we are surrounded by so much that is negative. When everything we read is bad news and everything we watch is bad news, it's easy to just feel bad.

I am not a real doctor but I sometimes play one in this column and this is my considered medical advice for our nation's malaise. Go down to the water's edge and catch some sunshine. And if you really need a stronger dose, then my prescription is to get in a boat and push away from all of that land-based negativity.

Boating keeps our heads on right and lets us see the brighter side of our awesome world."



Now we face another challenge – the oil spill in the Gulf and the media frenzy surrounding this tragedy! It seems that we are once again surrounded by bad news and a lot of misinformation on a daily basis! However, we want you all to know one thing: **THERE IS NO OIL IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA! Our cruising area and beaches are just as beautiful as ever. Come and join us soon and see for yourself!**

There is a lot of talk these days about the oil hitting the Gulf "Loop Current." The Loop Current is more than 200 miles from Southwest Florida! Even if the oil got into that current, the chances are better that it would be taken away from our shores than they are of having the oil head to our beaches.

The Florida tourism bureau puts out updates every day on this event. Here is what one of their recent updates said:

"At this time, there has been no impact to Florida's 2,276 miles of tidal shoreline, 1,197 miles of coastline and 663 miles of beaches, and VISIT FLORIDA is continuing with all of our sales and marketing efforts to promote Florida as the #1 travel destination in the world."

"It's unlikely at this point that oil from the spill will affect Lee County or southwest Florida, said John Wilson, the county's director of public safety."

For updates go to: <http://www.visitflorida.com/>



What better way to celebrate Memorial Day and the 4th of July than on a boat!



We still have some sail and power yachts available for the upcoming Holiday weekends! Take advantage of our "3-Day Charter Getaway" and plan a long weekend afloat! Give us a call today to reserve your yacht! The islands of Sanibel & Captiva await you!

SALE

Announcing . . .

A SPECIAL 3-DAY CHARTER GETAWAY!
MAY-OCTOBER, 2010*



Pay for (2) Days and get the 3rd Day Free!

We know that sometimes you only have a few days for a getaway!

*charter must begin on or after 5/1 and end on or before 10/31/10.



NEW! "Summer School" Special

June, July, August, September & October, 2010



Take 10% off per Person on all Sail & Power Courses!*

*Class must begin on or before 6/1/10 and end on or before 10/31/10. Summer is a great time to go "back to school" in Southwest Florida! Especially when class is held on a beautiful Sail or Power Yacht!

Take advantage of this one-time offer and call us soon to schedule a course!

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA YACHTS

INC.

CHARTER SPECIAL

It's Our 25th Anniversary, and We have a Present for You!
Our Anniversary Celebration ends on December 31, 2010!



Summer (5/1-12/14): 2 Free Days with a 3-Day or longer Charter!

*Charter must end on or before 12/14/2010.

FLORIDA SAILING & CRUISING SCHOOL

SCHOOL SPECIAL

Sail and Power Students Who Graduate From Our School On or before December 31, 2010 Will Receive a Free Nautical Gift by Weems & Plath!





High on Florida's 'Low Season'

By Barb Hansen

The Florida tourist high season is January through April. So, I suppose that makes the spring, summer and fall months our "low" season. Well, I love the low season.

"Real Florida," as our state tourism officials call it, really comes alive in those months and that's when we locals take the time to enjoy our state, too. Here at Southwest Florida Yachts the pace of work and life in general is a tad more relaxed. Vic and I can finally push our desk chairs back and plan a cruise for ourselves instead of just arranging charters and yacht classes for others.

Cruising is as good as it gets. Just as the automotive traffic softens on I -75, so does marine traffic soften on the Gulf ICW behind our famous outer islands like Captiva, Sanibel, Useppa, Cayo Costa, and Gasparilla. Bridge tender language still goes pretty much by the book but this mate hears a friendliness in their voices that I don't detect during the wait-your-turn season. At the little dock at Cabbage Key there is always a slip for a boat and a table for two. Dockmasters actually sound happy when we radio them and ask for a slip. At this time of the year we can find an empty lounge chair to lounge by the pool at 'Tween Waters Inn.

Everybody's metabolism slows down a notch in the summer. We walk a bit slower, talk a bit slower, watch the clouds build and look forward to that afternoon storm and the cool air that follows. Then we watch the sun go down. The breezes off the water blow cool even in the warmest months and the Margaritas are always cold. No worries, mon.



Florida's wildlife has its own high season and it seems to kick in just about the time so many tourists go home. Tarpon -- bow to the king -- migrate along the Gulf beaches toward Boca Grande Pass in huge numbers May through July. So do Florida's tarpon anglers. Snook find their way along the mangrove roots from the upper rivers and bays back to the Gulf passes. Local flats anglers stay right with them. Florida's low season mornings are picture perfect for jumping tarpon and plugging for snook. Migratory birds that have wintered in Mexico and Central America fly across the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico and make landfall here, hungrily biting all the new berries, buds, seeds and insects they can get their beaks on. Florida birders (you can recognize them by their expensive binoculars) hover around mulberry, fig and sea grape trees and yell out to their comrades-in-optics. "Hey, here's a female Rose Breasted Grosbeak with red juice all down her chest." The yelling starts in late April and continues well into the summer. Come September and October, we see the birds again as they rest up and feed up for that long flight back to their wintering grounds. And, with those first cold fronts of the fall, south Florida welcomes back its own migrating snowbirds such as loons and white pelicans from Canada.



I like showing off our lovely part of Florida to visitors during the low season and I've always thought it way too sad that so many fail to come here at a time of the year when Florida really shines. I don't know what the tourism officials are saying but it seems to me that each year more northern visitors are choosing to come to Southwest Florida in spring and summer.

Lower rates are inviting, I'm sure, but I'm happy for them because they will get to experience the Florida that we year-round Floridians enjoy.



So, we hope you can join us this summer for a cruise through the "real" Florida and enjoy all the beauty, fishing, birding dinghying, dining and exploring that it has to offer!

Cruise close to home! Cruise Florida this year!!