

From the Crow's Nest...



Our first club cruise of 2024 to Caladesi was uneventful, specifically because it did not occur. Only two boats were planning on going, and due to the inclement weather forecast, and with discretion being the better part of valor, it was best to cancel.

Our second club cruise of 2024 is on the Memorial Day weekend, immediately following the Blessing of the Fleet on May 25th, to Dunedin and possibly Clearwater ending on or about May 28th.

SPEAKING OF TRANSIENT SLIPS. In Tarpon Springs one of the past favorites was the Turtle Cove Marina; unfortunately, they no longer offer them. Another option is the Port Tarpon Marina on the Anclote River.

All of the slips in Caladesi are transient, but as the weather gets warmer the no-see-ums can be quite pervasive and annoying.

Further south, there is the Dunedin Municipal Marina, and although they don't have specific transient slips, they often have slips available when their permanent slip holders aren't using their slips for one reason or another. But one would need to call a week or two ahead of time to check availability.

Further south in Clearwater there is the Clearwater Harbor Marina on the ICW right by the Clearwater Memorial Bridge, and also the Clearwater Beach

Marina right by Clearwater Beach (although their docks are rather short and best for power boats, not sailboats (been there, done that!). And then further down there is the Gulfport Municipal Marina.

Although anchoring out is always a much less expensive option (it's FREE after all) as the weather gets warmer if one has A/C on their boat, crew members often are partial to the Marina option with plug-in power. Then again, if one wanted to put out between \$500 - \$1, 200, there is always the option of a Honda EU2000i portable generator or one of its cheaper cousins available either from Harbor Freight or Northern Tool.

REGARDING ANCHORING. Lots of options, starting with Dutchman Key or Anclote Power Plant Outside depending upon the wind direction, Three (or is it now Two?) Rooker Bar, Dunedin either by the spoil islands or closer in near the entrance to the marina. And "One Tree Island" off the ICW in Clearwater, anchoring behind "Frenchy's" or grabbing a mooring ball or anchoring in Gulfport. And the list goes on.

There are many more spots up and down both the West and East Coasts identified in our HBYC Cruising Guide (available upon request)! Let's get out there!

Guy Colson

Fleet Captain