

Black Caesar Pirates Festival Huge Success

Last month's Pirates Festival was a huge success report Festival organizers with more than 6000 people attending the weekends events presented by the Upper Keys Business Group and sponsored by Pirates Choice Rum and the Tourist Development Council.

The Festival began on Friday with a Pirate Parade led by the infamous Black Caesar played by 6'7" local Firefighter Scott Desquott. More than 80 individuals, groups and floats meandered down the bike path of US1 from the Holiday Inn Tiki Bar over to Bayside Grill. At Bayside Grill participants were judged before joining in the revelry of the Pirate Bash which featured live music by Jimmy Ray the awards presentation and plenty of grub, grog and dancing.

Saturday afternoon the Worlds first ever Underwater Poker Tournament took place on the Reef with divers dressed in full pirate regalia playing the game. "Every card was watched

by a steely eyed barracuda" said Captain Spencer Slate who put together the event. 'It was awesome and was filmed for National TV, great publicity for Key Largo" said Slate.

On Saturday pirate aficionados came face-to-face with the fearsome pirate Black Caesar himself at the Sundowners complex on the Bay. He and his pirate brethren the Bone Island Buccaneers entertained the crowd with skits, battles, canons a fight ring and an invasion from the water at sunset. Saturday also hosted a Bazaar and Thieves' Market "The market was a great hit" said Bob Stoky owner of Sundowners and a Festival organizer. "More than half our vendors were from Out-of-County and all reported a successful day and, their promised return next year."

"We expect this event to grow and double in size next year" said Stoky. Saturday night culminated with a festive Fireworks Display at 9.30p.m.

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Black Caesar poses with one of his wenches.



James and Janet Sposato from Jupiter win Best Couple in Pirate Parade.

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