

# First Ever Key Largo Pirate Festival

According to history and legend, the pirate Black Caesar roved Florida's coastal waters in the early 19th century. According to the organizers of the Key Largo Pirate Festival, set for Friday through Sunday, Oct. 17-19, the notorious pirate will make a comeback during the festival.

Key Largo Pirates Festival kicks off on Friday with a Pirate Parade. Individuals, groups and floats are encouraged to unleash their inner buccaneer, don pirate garb and gather at 5.30pm at the Holiday Inn Tiki Bar MM100 Oceanside Key Largo. Black Caesar will be waiting on participants to plunder and pillage and prepare for his 'Black Caesar Pirate Parade.' Parade leaves the Tiki Bar at 6.30 p.m. and meanders to Bayside Grill at MM100 Bayside for costume and float judging. Entry to the Parade is free. After the parade the pillage will continue with the Pirate Bash on the Bay with live music by Jimmy Ray, Grub and Grog. Tickets for the Bash are \$20 per person and include the Buccaneer Buffet.

Pirate aficionados eager to come face-to-face with Black Caesar and his fearsome pirate band are likely to do so Saturday, Oct. 18, from noon to 11 p.m. at MM 104 bayside. He and his buccaneer brethren might be spotted haunting the Pirate Bazaar and Thieves' Market, set to begin at noon at the Big Chill, Sundowners, Cactus Jacks & Se or Frijoles. Pirate paraphernalia, memorabilia and art are to be among

the attractions for attendees. At 2 p.m., scallywags take to the high seas for the Underwater Pirates' Poker Tournament hosted by Sun Cruz Casinos. Along with an above-water contest open to the public, the underwater action is part of a three-day Pirates' Poker Challenge that coincides with the festival.

For non-gambling types, a concert on the water on Blackwater Sound also commences at 2 p.m. off the Sundowner and Big Chill bayside complex. The pillaging and plundering is to intensify at 6 p.m. as pirates invade Key Largo in a professionally choreographed re-enactment of Black Caesar's return and pirate skits on Blackwater Sound. Like the concert, these can be viewed from Sundowners, and the Big Chill.

Grog, grooves and golden treasure abound as the bazaar continues well past the blasts of festive fireworks set for 9 p.m. The action Sunday, Oct. 19, is to include Black Caesar's By-Land-or-Sea Booty Hunt beginning at Sundowners, MM Continued on page 18...



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## Boat Catches Fire

This sail boat recently went a blaze in the bay behind Snook's Bayside Restaurant in Key Largo.

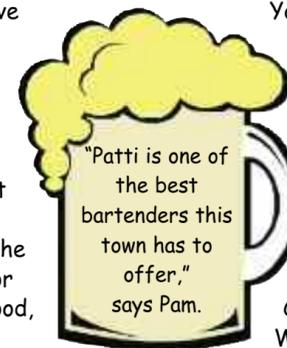
Photos by Creighton Ash

# Bartender of the Month Patty Russell At The Buzzards Roost



It's not easy to get Patty Russell, a veteran bartender with 25 years of experience excited. She has seen it all, but Patty is buzzing with excitement now. The Buzzard's Roost has been a locals favorite since it opened in October of 1998. It is tucked away at the Garden Cove Marina at MM 106 on the oceanside and if you haven't tried it there is a new reason to check it out. Not for the relaxing view of the ocean, not just for their fantastic food, and not just for their friendly service. The Buzzard's Roost has lowered prices! They now have Happy Hour daily from 4 to 6. It's their way of telling to locals they love them. \$1.00 domestic drafts, \$2.50 house wine, 35 cent chicken wings, conch fritters, or jalapeno poppers, now that's exciting!

bartenders this town has to offer," says Pam the manager at Buzzards Roost. "She won bartender of the year in the Sun 103 Peoples Choice Awards 3 times! She's been in the Keys since 1973 and knows everyone. She takes pride in her work and has a great personality.



You probably didn't know this but Patty is a sports fanatic.... She is a Cubs fan, Marlins, Dolphins, and Nascar, you name it." Patty's eyes light up when she talks about the Cubs winning the World Series or her beautiful daughter Natalie.

"It's great to be working with Pam again and I love being outside by the water." says Patty.

When Patty is not at work you can see her buzzing around town on her little red scooter, dark hair flying in the wind below her helmet.

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