

Help Send Keys Native Mike Theiss to Antarctica

Lifelong Key Largo resident Mike Theiss is asking his fellow "Conchs" to help him win a trip to Antarctica. Theiss is one of 396 people competing in the Quark Expeditions contest to win a trip to Antarctica. Theiss is currently in second place but a radio D.J. from Portugal whose slogan is "Let's Beat the American" has a 1000-vote lead.

Help send one of our own to Antarctica by visiting www.HelpMikeWin.com or his Facebook group "Vote Mike Theiss, The Frozen Chosen."

Theiss is a photographer for National Geographic and founder of the websites UltimateChase.com and ExtremeNature.com. He has documented over 22 Hurricanes including every Hurricane to affect the Keys since 1987. Theiss has dedicated his life to educating himself about earth sciences including all forms of extreme nature such as hurricanes, tornadoes, lightning, hail, floods, blizzards and volcanoes.

As an alumnus of Key Largo School Tornados and the Coral Shores Hurricanes it seems appropriate his passion be extreme weather. This infatuation began when Theiss was 9 and experienced Hurricane Floyd as it hit the



Mike Theiss on the Summit of Mt. Washington in New Hampshire with -30 degree temperature and 70mph winds. He spent 7 days on the summit taking a close look at "rime ice" for National Geographic.



Theiss just hanging around his hometown of Key Largo.

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Keys. While Floyd was making landfall Theiss went with his father Jerry, owner of Sundiver Snorkel Tours, to check on the boats at the Holiday Inn docks. From that point on he was hooked on hurricanes.

The Quark Expeditions contest is to give a lucky adventurous person the opportunity to go to Antarctica aboard the Lyubov Orlova and write daily blogs about the adventure. Theiss has wanted to go to Antarctica his entire life but he needs everyone's help to win.

"This is a dream of mine," Theiss explains. "If I get to go I promise to take thousands of photos. And my writings will transport the readers to Antarctica so you all can experience the icy cold winds, unpolluted air, and witness the awesome untouched wonderland with me."

The registration and voting process literally takes less than three minutes. So support your fellow Conch and vote for Mike Theiss by visiting www.HelpMikeWin.com and send this site to your friends, family, co-workers and neighbors so they can help send American and Conch Mike Theiss to the Antarctica. Contest deadline is September 30th, 2009

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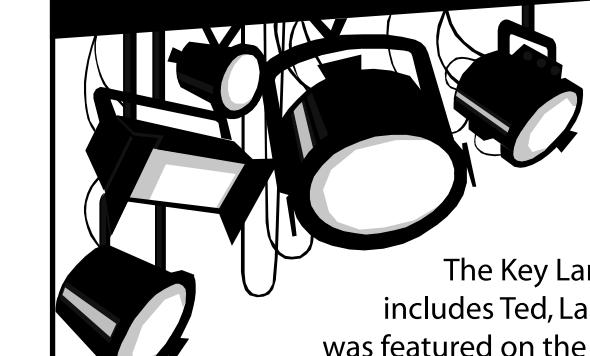
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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



Key Largo Conch House

The Key Largo Conch House is a family business that includes Ted, Laura, Jon, Justin, and Stephanie Dreaver. It was featured on the Food Network in June 2006 as an "off the beaten path" place to dine in Key Largo. Tucked off the highway it's tough to see from the road thanks to the groves of trees and fauna. Set in a quaint, Victorian house in a tropical setting, it boasts a beautiful shaded wrap-around porch for outdoor dining. You can also dine inside and enjoy the underwater DVD.

The Conch House serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily, as well as award winning coffee, Lobster Bisque, and Conch Fritters. There's a variety of teas and some of the best homemade desserts on the island. The food has an island flare. Some local favorites include Conch Eggs Benedict, Yellowtail Tacos, Lobster and Conch Ceviche, and Key Lime Almond Hogfish.

It is a pet friendly establishment and is home to Romeo, an African Grey Parrot who entertains on the wrap around porch and Chief, a lovable yellow Lab.

They also cater private parties on and off-site and deliver to local businesses.

The Conch Republic COCONUT TELEGRAPH

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Right: George and Shawn Wilson at the newly redecorated Pilot House



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George and Shawn Wilson with First State Bank Regional President Bette Brown at Prudential Keyside Properties Key Largo

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