

# Key Largo Woman Wins National Championship



Leah White sailing her Hobie Wave won the 11th Annual Hogsbreath Hobie Wave National Championship

Leah White of Key Largo won the 11th Annual Hogsbreath Hobie Wave National Championship over the past weekend of December 5-7 held at Founders Park Watersports at Founders Park in Islamorada, Florida.

She is only the second woman to ever win the title in this fastest-growing class of sailboats in North America. Her husband Dave White had been running in second place through most of the regatta, but slipped to third.

The regatta was a real nail biter. White started off poorly on the first day but redeemed herself. On the final day, she started off 12 points behind the leader, Patrick Green from Put-in-Bay, Ohio (past National Champ and favored to win again). But White rattled off three bullets in three races, while Green got caught back in the pack.

With only one race to go the two sailors were tied for first. The winner of the last race would win. Green had a very good start, while White was forced off to the unfavored side of the course.

Going around the first mark, Green was in 8th place while White was in 13th. During the next two legs White passed all the boats except Green and was right behind him with two more legs to go.

It was then that Green had a bad mark rounding, allowing White to take the lead. She went on to take second in the race and won by five points in the final standings.

The Wave Fleet in Key Largo sails about 90 series races every winter season at the Upper Keys Sailing Club where there is a fleet of over a dozen boats that race regularly.

The Wave Class was formed about eleven years ago when the boat design first came out. It is a thirteen-foot beach catamaran and is roto-molded by the Hobie Cat Company. It was one of the least expensive boats to purchase and requires very little maintenance. The next Nationals will be held the first weekend in December of 2009 again at Founders Park Watersports. For more info contact Rick@catsailor.com or visit www.Catsailor.com.



Dr. True and Mrs. Lisa Lansden wish to announce the reaffirmation of their wedding vows in Key Largo on January 17, 2009. It will be held at the home of Mrs. Bonnie Riehl at 1005 Snapper Lane beginning at five o'clock in the afternoon on the beach. Hors d'ouvres and drinks will be served and entertainment will be provided by The Regs.

Dr. and Mrs. Lansden will be celebrating their sixth wedding anniversary. They have resided in the Florida Keys for the last five years and are the parents to five sons, Ken, Tommy, David, Tyler and Michael. They are the grandparents to one grandson, Perry. Dr. Lansden practices at The Florida Keys Center for Plastic Surgery and is currently Chief of Surgery at Mariner's Hospital. Lisa is the Practice Manager of their medical clinic's three locations and recently has enjoyed representing the Keys as the very first Mrs. Florida Keys America. For directions to the party, to RSVP or other questions please call (305) 942-3546.

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# Bartender of the Month Linda Kirkendol



Story and Photo by Rich Peine

This month's Bartender of the Month is the pride of the Key Largo Moose Lodge. Linda always has a smile on her face and is quick with a few kind or witty words. Rachel and I, having volunteered at the Moose, have seen first hand how she makes everyone feel right at home. You can see she is a people person as soon as you walk through the door.

Linda hails from the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee. She went to the Ringling School of Arts in Sarasota and worked for an advertising agency and did album covers for musicians such as Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson and Waylin Jennings just to name a few. She spent some

time on the west coast painting murals before coming to the Keys. She came to the Keys in the 1980's left and came back to stay in 1998. She started working at the Moose that same year and has been there ever since.

Barbara Waggle, one of the regulars at the Moose, calls Linda "fantastic" and Barb's husband Charlie says "She's the best there is". I have known Linda for four years and I wholeheartedly concur. The Moose lodge has a gem behind the bar.

She loves sailing, fishing and bartending because she loves people.

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