

Florida Keys Elks Lodge Sixth Annual Ladies Dolphin Tournament Winners



The Florida Keys Elks Lodge recently held the Sixth Annual Ladies Dolphin Tournament with 44 boats and 113 anglers. What a great day on the water. This event each year proves to be the best charity fundraiser for the Keys Lodge. The combined weight of 3 fish would determine the winners. Pictured are Rebecca Brito, Michala Laufle and Brittany Block, all from Tavernier, the big winners.



Abigale Varela, fishing with her cousin, was the top junior angler. Thanks everyone, for helping us help others.

Brave Spirits

As spiritual beings having human experiences, we are on an important mission to learn and grow here on earth.



Most of us are familiar with the idea that we are not human beings having spiritual experiences; instead, we are spiritual beings having human experiences. We hear this and even though we may experience a resounding yes in our bodies, we may not take the time to really acknowledge the truth of these statements. Integrating this idea into how we view ourselves can broaden our sense of who we are and help us appreciate ourselves as brave spirits on an important mission to learn and grow here on earth.

As spiritual beings, we are visitors in this physical realm. The fact that we came here and lost all memory of what happened to us before we were born is one of the many reasons that it takes so much courage for a soul to incarnate on earth. This is why spiritual inquiry so often feels like a remembering, because it is.

Remembering that we are spiritual beings is part of the work that we are here on earth to do. When we operate from a place of remembering, we tap into the wisdom that our spirit accumulated even before we stepped into this

lifetime. Remembering who we are can give us the patience to persevere when we become overwhelmed or frustrated. It can give us the courage to work through the most daunting challenges and help us trust the ancient wisdom we carry that is offered to us by our intuition.

We have chosen to be on earth because there is something we want to learn that can only happen by inhabiting a body. Some of us are here to repay a debt, learn about love, or teach forgiveness. Most of us are here for a combination of reasons, we carry this information in our souls, all we have to do is remember. As you go through your journey, try not to forget how brave you are, being here now. Honor yourself.

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Women in Business: Marian Warnike, KISS Distributing

Sometimes, a resort or bar would ask for a custom order, like coolies with their location or logo, or a special tee shirt design. Marian learned to take those custom orders and have the products made. It was at this time that she met Sue Beal, who does her artwork. Marian wanted us to be sure to mention that having that alliance has helped her gain success! (Thanks, Marian!!)

Marian Warnike is the kind of business person who has been quietly and consistently doing a great job for over 35 years, behind the scenes, and the public isn't even aware of her or her company. We decided to let you in on our "trade secret" - Marian at KISS!

Marian moved to the Keys in 1980 from Alpena, Michigan, and in 1988 took a job working for Gary Kish, in his company called Kish Distributing. Kish Distributing warehoused and supplied items to tourist shops, resorts and other stores, things related to tourism and fun in the sun - like sunglasses, hats, sunscreen, disposable cameras, tee shirts, coolie cups, bandanas... that sort of thing. Marian drove a van up and down the Keys delivering inventory and taking orders.

custom tee shirts, coolies, embroidered items, bumper stickers, and many other promotional items. And it's not all for gift shops any more - many folks like to have custom coolies or tees for their casual Keys wedding, for their boat or business, a special event or other occasions. She has customers in the Bahamas, Alabama and Ohio, in addition to Florida and the Keys.

In 1994, Marian bought out Gary Kish and took over the whole business. She changed the name to KISS Distributing, and the logo changed to a pair of red lips. You may have seen it on posters and tee shirts through the years, as Marian has supported many community causes, especially revolving around fishing tournaments and the Islamorada Moose's activities.

Marian was located in Key Largo on Laguna Avenue for the first 20 years, in a warehouse behind Waldorf Plaza. A few years back, she moved her office to Tavernier.

She still delivers to accounts up and down the Keys, but custom work has become the major part of her business. She makes

well-known customers, there's Robbies, Fiesta Key, Moose Lodges throughout the Keys, the Elks, the American Legion, Sunshine Key Resort, T-Shirt City, both Chambers of Commerce, the Village, and of course, the Coconut Telegraph.

Marian is proud of and amazed at her 6 grandchildren, and enjoys spending time with them whenever she can. And when she isn't working or seeing family, she likes to fish. Over the years, she has fished many of the Keys tournaments, but lately she's been broadening her fishing experience. She took a trip to Homer, Alaska recently and fished for salmon and halibut. Look at the catch in the pictures - she slayed!! Her prize catch was a 51 lb. halibut, the biggest one in the picture. She is looking forward to a Louisiana adventure; she wants to go for redfish there.

You can reach Marian Warnike at 305-393-4425 or kissdistributing@gmail.com

for your custom promotional product needs.



Left: The halibut catch from Marian's Alaska trip.

Right: How did this diminutive lady haul in that monster halibut? Just part of her charm (and experience!)



An assortment of KISS Distributing's custom products.



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