

# Conch Characters



Laura & Ted Dreaver's daughter, Stephanie & son-in-law, Adrian Besil were on a 4-day cruise and spent a day in Nassau volunteering at World Central Kitchen, helping to make 7000 meals to load on helicopters for Grand Bahama island & Abaco.



The Steve Venini Band plays at The Lorelei every second and fourth Friday of the month. Photo Rob LeBrun.



Wood Campbell and Rob LeBrun enjoy a beer at the Florida Keys Brewing Co.



Chris (L), Bonnie and Frank for Bonnie's magnificent birthday party at the OV.



Key Largo Woodrats at the Key Largo Moose for Ben Hughes' birthday party. Photo Capt. Lolly Carpenter.



Karen and Gary Dunn at the OV.



Key Largo Moose Governor Ben Hughes' birthday celebration.



Jess Atkins played his final gig in the Keys, at The Lorelei with Webb & Davidson. Best wishes out west Jess!



A healthy adult Manatee lounges near the Lorelei office in the summer sun. Photo Rob LeBrun.



# Entertainer of the Month: Ranger Dan - Musician, Singer, Song Writer

Every Thursday night at the American Legion is locals Jam Night that draws hundreds of people for great entertainment, libations and Maggie's famous barbecue. Legion members and guests are accustomed to the best music the Upper Keys has to offer. But when Ranger Dan is on stage people stop talking and all eyes and ears are on him. His vocal and guitar rendition of "Hallelujah" is guaranteed to mesmerize you. It stopped me dead in my tracks and sent tingles down my spine. Holy wow! He'll knock your socks off!



Park Ranger by day!



Ranger Dan and Aloha Steve at the Sandbar in Islamorada.

### Top 10 Things To Understand About a Musician

- 1.) We aren't in music to get laid.
- 2.) Not being famous is actually ok for us.
- 3.) We are artists. Artists are weird.
- 4.) Music isn't a dream. It's a way of life.
- 5.) Just because you haven't heard of us doesn't mean we aren't successful.
- 6.) Don't hate us because we do something we love.
- 7.) Keeping time means something very different to us.
- 8.) There are many more levels of musician than "starving artist" and "chart topping superstar."
- 9.) "Listening to music" means something very different to us
- 10.) You can take a musician out of music but you can't take the music out of a musician.

Ranger Dan Szopinski has been a State Park Ranger at Pennecamp Park for 5 years. He has been playing music since he was 10 years old. When he retired from Air-line operations his goal was to do more fishing which led him to Florida where he went to work as a Park Ranger in Port Everglades for 15 years before coming to the Keys... and boy are we glad he did! He has written 15 original songs which he also sings at the Legion. "When I close my eyes" "We were the rain", "Where you are" and "Paint me a heart" are just a few. He loves sharing his music at the Legion because it helps veterans and the community.

Ranger Dan's wife Rita Szopinski is a local artist and former President of the Water Color Society in the Keys. She has video taped some of his music and it can be found on YouTube and Facebook. Ranger Dan hopes to one day be able to professionally record his original songs in a studio. Until then you can catch him at the American Legion every Thursday for Jam Night or occasionally at the Sandbar at Whale Harbor.

**MUSICIAN**  
SOMEONE WHO PUTS \$5000 WORTH OF GEAR INTO A \$500 CAR TO DRIVE 100 MILES TO A \$50 GIG



Ranger Dan holds the attention of the crowd at the American Legion's Thursday night jam.

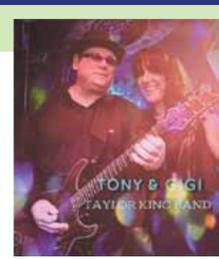


**American Legion Post 333 - Key Largo**

VFW Members Welcome!



**Karaoke**  
Fridays  
8:00 pm



**Happy Hour Prices: 3-6 pm daily**

*Most popular Jam in Town!*

**JAM NIGHT**  
Thursdays 6 to 9 pm  
with The Taylor King Band and Friends

Find Us on Facebook: Jam night at the American Legion 333



**Ocean Bay Cafe**  
Bar Menu Daily  
3-8 pm

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