

# Restaurant of the Month The Galley of Key Largo

Story and photos by Rachel Peine

That tantalizing aroma wafting across the Port Largo canal is coming from the Galley, just a few steps above Sharkey's Pub, at 522 Caribbean Drive. The kitchen is hoppin' from 7:00 AM till 10:00 PM every day, starting with breakfast and pickin' up steam through dinner. Owners Paul and Adam provide lunch and dinner specials daily, with a couple of favorites being Wednesday's homemade meat loaf with mashed potatoes and gravy, and Thursday's homemade pot roast. Mmm, good! There's also a seafood special every day, such as Snapper Almondine or Yellowtail Francaise. Surprises pop up unexpectedly, too, like some halibut from Alaska that was shipped in by a customer a few weeks ago. Other occasional specials include Chicken Marsala and King Crab. The locals recommend the fresh, excellently seasoned

fish tacos, and this writer particularly enjoys the smoked fish dip. It's attractively served on a bed of lettuce with red onion slices and capers, along with a basket of crackers. The grouper wrap is another favorite, jerk grilled with peppers and onions. The spicing is just right. My partner usually goes for Bubba's chicken sandwich. It's Cajun grilled with bacon, pepperjack cheese, and guacamole. He also highly recommends the ribs - they're tender, and the sauce is tangy and tasty. The Galley has a full bar upstairs as well as the one down at Sharkey's, so you can have a Bloody Mary or Mimosa with your morning omelette. You can also get juices and sandwiches to go if you're heading out on a dive boat. Adam and Paul have owned the Galley for about seven years. Their clientele already knew them from long-time bartending jobs at various



Spencer, Sid, Martin and George are all part of the Galley team.

places in the local area, so it was a no-brainer to follow them to their new digs. Getting a full liquor license put the icing on the cake, so to speak, and as soon as the license arrived, so did the lines of customers. Most of the staff are long-timers, including Spencer, who recently re-modeled all the wooden table-tops inside. Each one has some unique Keys-y items enclosed in a layer of epoxy, and they're all original. Along with the great food from the Galley, Sharkey's has a special NFL football package where you can watch your favorite team all season on one of 13 TV's, including 3 flat screens behind the bar. Sid is

the master of the BBQ grill on Sundays during the games, and you won't want to miss the beer specials and giveaways. The bar has been remodeled, and there's a new canopy with fans outside. (Go Eagles!!!) So whether you're arriving at the canal on a dive, snorkel or glass bottom boat or meandering down Route 1, stop in at the Galley for a special meal with excellent prices. The Galley of Key Largo - 522 Caribbean Drive, 453-1905. (Directions: from the Overseas Hwy, turn toward the Ocean on Laguna, just South of the Holiday Inn, then left on aribbean.)



Long-time employee Spencer and Owner Adam converse with customers at the lunch counter.

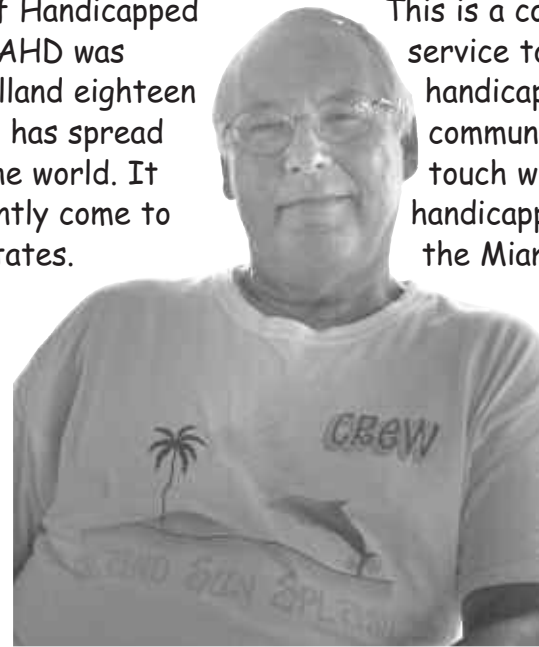


When you come by, be sure to take a look at the re-finished tables. Each one has a unique and personal touch including a picture of Spenser's adorable daughters.

# Diving is Handicapped-Accessible Just Talk to Rick Ford

Story and photo by Rich Peine

Key Largo has its fair share of interesting folk. You don't have to shake the mangroves much to uncover them. While doing a story on Hyperbaric Dick, I met Rick Ford. Rick has been around the diving community for over four decades. He is very involved with the International Association of Handicapped Divers. The IAHD was started in Holland eighteen years ago and has spread throughout the world. It has just recently come to the United States.



Rick Ford

Rick has taken over thirty handicapped people down into the deep. The divers he has assisted have always had a great experience, commenting that this was the coolest thing they have done since they became disabled. Rick's empathy and desire to help comes from his days as a Vietnam Combat Vet where he saw firsthand a whole person one minute and a handicapped one the next. The IAHD is working with several veterans' groups to spread the word about diving. As you can imagine, it takes a highly skilled person or persons to assist these folks, and Rick trained right here in Key Largo. After working with handicapped divers for some time he decided to go to the next level and became an instructor/trainer. Three years ago he received his

certification and now trains additional people to help handicapped divers. He has a class coming up shortly where he will train two more people. Twice a year there is a class for disabled people to try out scuba diving. The class is held at the Jacobs Aquatic Center in Key Largo. This is a completely free service to the handicapped community. Rick is in touch with several handicapped groups in the Miami area including the Spinal Center and Nick Buonicontes Miami Project to Cure Paralysis. Rick says, "There are no arbitrary

limits to what to what a handicapped diver can accomplish". It is limited only to the individual's situation. There are several dive shops in Key Largo who can accommodate the handicapped diver. Just check with your favorite dive shop if you want more information. In addition to Rick's work with the IAHD, he is also involved with a project that gives diving enthusiasts the opportunity to dive in vintage dive suits. If you're interested in Rick's work, or want more information about handicapped accessible diving you can reach Rick at 305-394-1706.

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Some Dance To Forget

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