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KEY LARGO CIVIC CLUB

Weekly Events:

Every Tuesday and Thursday: Yoga 8-10 am

Every Thursday:
Tai Chi 11 am - 12 pm • Line Dancing 7 pm

Every Friday: Bingo
Doors open 5:30 pm, starts at 7 pm
Food and beverages available

Monthly Events:

1st Saturday: Full Breakfast 8-10 am, \$7

2nd Wednesday: Sons & Daughters of Italy 6:30 pm

3rd Wednesday: Show Me the Money 7 pm

4th Thursday: Civic Club Pot Luck Dinner and Meeting 6 pm

Hall Rentals Available, call Greg Bianchini 917-862-3979 for info.

209 Ocean Bay Drive (at MM 99 Oceanside)

This Valentines Day, take a romantic, nostalgic ride on the African Queen!

The iconic vessel the African Queen is located in Key Largo. Made famous in the 1951 movie of the same name starring Humphrey Bogart and Katherine Hepburn, she still remains a timeless classic. This famous steamboat is available for daily canal cruises in the Port Largo Canal area and also for private events.



The newly restored African Queen in 2012 with Stephen Bogart, son of actor Humphrey Bogart, aboard. Photo by Andy Newman/Florida Keys News Bureau.

HISTORY OF A CLASSIC

1912 - The African Queen was built in 1912 at Lytham shipbuilding in England. Originally she was named the S/L Livingstone She was immediately shipped to the British East Africa Railways company on the Victoria Nile and Lake Albert. Lake Albert is located on the border of the Belgian Congo and Uganda. She was built in a narrow way to navigate this river and was used to carry mercenaries, missionaries, cargo and hunting parties on their voyages.

1951 - John Huston saw the vessel and commissioned her for the movie he was directing "The African Queen" She was renamed

after her starring role.

1968 - The vessel was purchased by a restaurant owner in San Francisco and brought to the US for charter operation.

1970 - A man named Hal Bailey from Oregon purchased the boat for the price of her boat yard bill and took her to

Oregon for charter operation which was so successful he decided to bring her to Florida for year-round charter operation.

1982 - In 1982, late attorney (and Bogart buff) Jim Hendricks, Sr., discovered the vessel languishing in an Ocala, Fla., cow pasture and purchased the piece of movie history for a reported \$65,000. An equal amount of funds was invested to get the boat operational and Hendricks began offering visitors rides in 1983 while the vessel was homeported at Key Largo's Holiday Inn.

Among the vessel's highlights outside of the Florida Keys, Hendricks shipped the African Queen to England for the Queen Mother's 90th birthday celebration and for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Dunkirk evacuation in the English Channel. It also visited Sydney Australia, New York and Ireland.

In 2001, the African Queen's engine broke, yet it

remained on display for curious tourists and film buffs to view.

2012 - Captain Lance and Suzanne Holmquist signed a long-term lease with Jim Hendricks' son to restore the vessel in time for her centennial year celebrations. The Holmquists have overseen repairs and have taken pains to date it as it appeared in the film, replacing steel in the hull, replacing the boiler and oiling the black African mahogany to condition the wood. Once finished they put her back into operation as she once was offering canal and dinner cruises in Key Largo.

You can book a 1.5 hour cruise that departs from the Marina Del Mar and travels down the Port Largo Canal to the Atlantic Ocean before turning around to return. \$59 pp. Available at 10am, 12pm, 2pm, 4pm, & 6pm.

For private cruises and gift certificates, contact them directly at 305-451-8080 or 305-896-8004, or suzanneholmquist@bellsouth.net



The African Queen arrives at the Pilot House during a dinner cruise.

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