



*Hayden Blaylock*  
**Key West Challenge**  
Benefiting the Diabetes Research Institute



**KEY WEST | APRIL 21-24, 2022 |**

**SUNSHINE**  
GASOLINE DISTRIBUTORS, INC.



# —2022— KEY WEST CHALLENGE



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For over 35 years the Hayden Blaylock Key West Challenge has enjoyed incredible success thanks to hundreds of good people. Anglers, volunteers, boat captains, jobbers, vendors, and tournament board members pool their efforts to create a truly unique event. The 2022 tournament is dedicated to all the men and women who have made the Hayden Blaylock Key West Challenge a wonderful fishing experience.

PROGRAM DESIGN AND PRODUCTION BY SANDY HUSMANN

Photos by Larry Blackburn and many team anglers. Editorial content by Carol Shaughnessy.

# Can catching a fish help lower blood sugar levels?



There's plenty of anecdotal evidence that fishing is good for your health, but we don't claim it can lower elevated blood sugar levels or cure a disease as debilitating as diabetes. However, anglers who compete in the annual Hayden Blaylock Key West Challenge certainly feel great knowing that their participation supports the efforts of the Diabetes Research Institute (DRI). Internationally acclaimed for its work in islet cell transplantation, the DRI leads the way in cellular therapies aimed at restoring insulin production and reversing diabetes in those who suffer from the disease. Sunshine Gasoline Distributors is proud to sponsor the Key West Challenge and we hope that, through this partnership, each day brings us a bit closer to finding a cure for diabetes. For more information about the tournament visit: [sunshinekeywestchallenge.com](http://sunshinekeywestchallenge.com).





# —2022— KEY WEST CHALLENGE



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# SCHEDULE

## THURSDAY, APRIL 21

Arrive in sunny Key West and take a short cab ride from the Key West Airport to the Opal Key Resort & Marina (245 Front St.) formally the Margaritaville Resort & Marina. Anglers may check-in, pick up ditty bags and name tags, sponsored by **Sunshine Gasoline Distributors**, in the Marina Building, Dewey Boardroom (2nd floor) between **11:00 am - 6:00 pm**.\*

*\*Thursday night late arrivals please check-in before breakfast on Friday 6:30-7:30 am in the center courtyard where breakfast is being served.*

### CAPTAINS MEETING/BOAT DRAWING & COCKTAIL PARTY

Meet your captain from **6:30-8:30 pm** at the Opal Key Sunset Pier (245 Front St.), sponsored by **Motiva Enterprises**. Enjoy appetizers and cocktails while drawing for your team boat, meeting your Captain and reviewing the rules.

***Please wear your name tag, as this will serve as entrance into all events.***

## FRIDAY, APRIL 22

### BREAKFAST BAR

A good morning breakfast buffet sponsored by **McLane** will be served at the Opal Key Marina Courtyard between **6:30-7:30 am**. After breakfast teams pick up box lunches, sponsored by **DB Trucking**, including a lunch for your Captain and Mate, beverages sponsored by **Coke Florida**, and return taxi vouchers. Please have your crew together as taxis will be waiting to depart.

### FISH THE CHALLENGE

Your outdoor adventure begins as taxis, sponsored by **Corner Capital Investments**, begin picking up anglers at **7:30 am** from the Opal Key Resort & Marina to board your appropriate boat. Fish from **8:30 am until lines out of water at 3:00 pm**; please ask your Captain to call for pick-up on your voyage back to the dock, so a taxi will be waiting for you upon arrival.

### LEADER BOARD RECEPTION

Team leaders report the day's catch and turn in score sheets to Findlay Sinclair at the Opal Key Resort & Marina (245 Front St) pool bar (upstairs) from **4:00 to 6:30 pm**, sponsored by **Sunshine Dade Investments**. Anglers may sip cocktails, enjoy bites, or swap fish stories. The evening is free on Duval Street. Your name tag will serve as your entrance into the event.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 23

### BREAKFAST BAR

A good morning breakfast buffet sponsored by **ESP Transport** will be served at the Opal Key Marina Courtyard between **6:30-7:30 am**. After breakfast teams pick up their box lunches, sponsored by **DB Trucking**, including a lunch for your Captain and Mate, beverages sponsored by **Coke Florida**, and return taxi vouchers. Please have your crew together as taxis will be waiting to depart.

### FISH THE CHALLENGE

Your outdoor journey continues as taxis, sponsored by **McLane**, begin picking up anglers at **7:30 am** from the Opal Key Resort & Marina to board your appropriate boat. Fish from **8:30 am until lines out of water at 2:30 pm**; please ask your Captain to call for pick-up on your voyage back to the dock, so a taxi will be waiting for you upon arrival. Head to the Opal Key Sunset Pier (245 Front St.), kindly turn in your score cards to Findlay Sinclair as soon as possible, so the final scores can be tabulated.

### COCKTAIL PARTY and AWARDS BANQUET

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served from **5:30-7:00 pm** on the Opal Key Sunset Pier sponsored by **Great Dane Petroleum** followed by dinner and the awards program. This begins promptly at **7:00 pm** hosted by **Sunshine Gasoline Distributors**. Your name tag will serve as entrance into the event.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 24



*Depart at your leisure with memories of catching "the big one," and colorful stories of Duval Street! Until next year....*

**PLEASE NOTE:** All attendees are asked to check-in at the Opal Key Resort & Marina prior to the start of the event in the Marina Building, Dewey Boardroom (2nd floor), Thursday the 21st between 11:00 am-6:00 pm.

***Your name tag will be needed to enter all tournament functions — please keep it with you at all times!***





# YOUR SUPPLY CHAIN ADVANTAGE IN ACTION.

McLane wishes all the anglers at this year's **Shell Key West Challenge** an abundance of big catches and great memories. We thank you for supporting the Diabetes Research Institute and its mission of finding a cure.

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To learn more, contact Steve Yawn at 601-307-8580.



# —2022— KEY WEST CHALLENGE



# WELCOME

Dear Anglers,

Welcome to the 35th Hayden Blaylock Key West Challenge benefiting the Diabetes Research Institute at the Miller School of Medicine.

We are so grateful for the support of Maximo Alvarez and the Sunshine Gasoline Family, and the continued support of Motiva, Shell Oil Products US and Shell Lubricants, along other great vendors who have contributed to



**CRYSTAL BLAYLOCK SANCHEZ**

*Tournament Director*

our ongoing cause for so many years.

I know you join my

family in hoping that there will soon be a cure for Type I Diabetes, and with your contined support we believe there will be!

While you are in Key West I hope you enjoy the beautiful weather and amazing fishing with some of the finest Captains in the Keys, and take in the beautiful waters and wonderful attractions of Key West.

*Tight lines and calm seas!*

Dear Anglers,

It is with great pride that we welcome you to the 2022 Hayden Blaylock Key West Challenge, sponsored by Sunshine Gasoline Distributors.

With most of the world recovering from the last two years of the global pandemic, we are pleased to carry on the legacy of coming together through the great sport of fishing, fun and friends all while raising funds for a worthy cause.

We would like to thank all of our many great tournament sponsors for their generous support this year.

While 2021 saw a slimed- down version of our yearly fishing event,



**MAXIMO ALVAREZ**

*Owner and President  
Sunshine Gasoline Distributors*

we are still proud of the \$50,000 we were able to raise for the Diabetes Research Institute. We are firm believers in their mission of developing and rapidly applying the most promising research available to treat and cure those now living with diabetes.

Even though last year's

tournament was smaller than we are used to, that did not diminish the fantastic win by the team of Great Dane Petroleum.

Congratulations to Steve Nale, Danielle Watkins, Juan Barcia, Zenome Ayala and Captain Billy Wickers on their win. We wish them along with all of our participants the best of luck for this year.

Lastly, we would like to thank Crystal Blaylock for her tireless dedication in bringing this year's tournament to life. We appreciate all of your hard work and effort.

*Thank you and everyone for your continued support!*





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# Diabetes Research Institute

FOUNDATION

March 2022

Dear Friends,

I am thrilled to be welcoming all of you to the 2022 Hayden Blaylock Key West Challenge! With the pandemic hopefully nearing a close, we are thrilled to welcome back our incredible community of friends both old and new. I continue to be amazed at the dedication of the team who have worked tirelessly for so long to help support our mission and even more incredible to note that this event has raised over \$1 million towards our goal of finding a cure for type 1 diabetes.

This past year, we have doubled down on our efforts to support our scientists in their relentless pursuit of a cure. With over 40% of all individuals who passed away from Covid-19 having had diabetes as a co-morbidity, our role is even more important than ever. We will continue advancing research to patients until we reach our ultimate goal of a biological cure. This is our mission and our promise to you.

The ongoing support of Shell, Shell Lubricants and Motiva Enterprises, Sunshine Gasoline Distributors, and people like Crystal Blaylock and John Sanchez and their sons, Matthew and Cameron, as well as all of the hardworking people who helped to make this event a success, is what enables us to continuously move forward.

With your help, we will find a cure for the millions of people, including Matthew Sanchez and myself, who are living with the disease. Thank you so much for being here, and for your tremendous support. Enjoy the weekend in Key West and be safe!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Kramer'.

Sean Kramer  
CEO

Diabetes Research Institute Foundation

To learn more about the Diabetes Research Institute,  
please visit [www.diabetesresearch.org](http://www.diabetesresearch.org) or call 800-321-3437



# KEY WEST CHALLENGE





## 2021 RECAP



*Great Dane Petroleum fishing on the "Linda D V" clinched the first place spot in last year's Hayden Blaylock Key West Challenge.*

# 2021 HBKWC: Overcoming All Challenges

**I**n a year like no other, the 2021 Hayden Blaylock Key West Challenge served as a testament to, and a confirmation of, our will and desire to overcome all challenges, both in our lives and on the water.

Coming on the heels of an unprecedented global pandemic, the 2021 Challenge allowed all of our participants to renew our relationships, our cause, and ourselves while enjoying the spectacular Key West weather, water, sunshine, and fishing.

Held from April 29 through May 1, the Challenge brought together old friends and new from: Sunshine Gasoline Distributors, Sunshine Dade Investments, DB Trucking, Great Dane Petroleum Contactors, Corner Capital Investments, Florida Turnpike Services, and ESP Transport, all whom enjoyed Key West's warm hospitality and exciting nightlife while helping raise funds for the University of Miami-based internationally renowned Diabetes Research Institute.

Fishing commenced Friday morning with lines in the water at 8:30 AM.

Anglers got off to a great start with the day ultimately producing a rare and exciting sailfish release caught by Richard Wheeler, President of Florida Turnpike Services. Wheeler, who has been participating in the Challenge for 28 years was fishing on the *Reef Runner* with Captain Anthony Saldano. By the time "lines out of the water" was announced by committee boat chairman Findlay Sinclair at 3:30 PM, several of the teams had scores of 200 plus points with enthusiasm running high for the next day's adventure. The lead at the end of day one was held by Great Dane Petroleum, which scored 275 points fishing aboard the *Linda D V* with Captain Billy Wickers Jr.

The Leaderboard Reception at the upstairs bar at Opal Key Resort and Marina allowed the Day One anglers a chance to submit their scores and check out their competition's achievements for the day. In the relaxing ocean view setting, several anglers were happy to share their thoughts on the Challenge and being back in Key West. Dustin Watkins from Great Dane Petroleum enthused about what a great day he had on the water and the





The Aramco logo consists of the word "aramco" in a lowercase, sans-serif font.

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A background image of a city skyline at dusk, featuring a large Ferris wheel in the foreground. The Ferris wheel has a red and white structure. The city buildings are lit up with warm lights. The sky is a mix of blue and orange.

# how

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# 2021 RECAP

# 2021 HBKWC: Overcoming All Challenges

(continued)



*Tournament Director Crystal Blaylock Sanchez welcomed anglers and a great time was had by all at the 2021 Hayden Blaylock Key West Challenge.*

impressive variety of fish his team had encountered, while David Sarabia from P&S Electric recounted more great fishing and a tricky misadventure with some sweaty beer cans. Each angler shared their delight in being back in Key West; "It's great to reconnect with friends I usually only see remotely." said Richard Wheeler. "I will be back next year!"

Day Two proved to be very eventful as several teams enjoyed enormous success on the water. But the real excitement came in the last half hour of competition when the lead for first place changed hands four times! It was a catch that was reeled in during the last minute that lifted Great Dane Petroleum on the *Linda D V* over the edge to clinch the first place spot in last year's Challenge. Second place honors went to the Sunshine Gasoline/DB Trucking team on the *Jolly Roger*; the team who had been in the lead with less than 60 seconds to go. A photo finish indeed! Third place honors went to Florida Turnpike Services on the *Reef Runner*. Our congratulations to them all!

Matthew Sanchez kicked off the Awards Dinner and Banquet held on the Sunset Deck at Opal Key Resort and Marina by thanking the anglers and sponsors for their continued support. Matthew also thanked and paid tribute to his late grandfather, Hayden Blaylock, the namesake and founder of this longstanding non-profit tournament that has raised over



a Million Dollars for diabetes research. Matthew recounted his story and his lifelong battle against Type 1 diabetes, sharing that his diagnosis had inspired his grandfather and his mother, Crystal Blaylock Sanchez, to devote the Hayden Blaylock Key West Challenge to helping raising awareness and supporting ongoing efforts to find a cure for this debilitating disease.

Matthew then introduced Crystal who took the stage to thank all of the major sponsors along with Sean Kramer from the DRIF who thanked the crowd for years of participation.

Findlay began the awards program as a gorgeous sunset descended on the evening. The anglers enjoyed a surf and turf dinner

while accepting awards and cheering for the winning teams. Another successful Hayden Blaylock Key West Challenge was ending as anticipation for next year's tournament was just beginning.





# KEY WEST CHALLENGE





# KEY WEST CHALLENGE





# 2021 KEY WEST CHALLENGE WINNING TEAMS

## CHARTER BOATS

POSITION	BOAT NAME	TEAM NAME	TOTAL
First Place	Linda D V	Great Dane Petroleum	965
Second Place	Jolly Roger	Sunshine Gasoline/DB Trucking	945
Third Place	Reef Runner	Florida Turnpike Services	925

## COMEBACK AWARD

BOAT NAME	TEAM NAME	TOTAL
Wild Bill	In It To Win It	905

## TOP FEMALE ANGLER

Danielle Watkins



# 2021 KEY WEST CHALLENGE LARGEST CATCHES

## SPECIES

SNAPPER	J. Voltz	12 Pounds
MACKEREL	Neno Mironti	8 Pounds
GROUPE	Danielle Watkins	21 Pounds
BARRACUDA (est)	Luis Lago	30 Pounds
BONITA	Dustin Watkins	13 Pounds
AMBERJACK (est)	Steve Nale	45 Pounds
SHARK (est)	Dustin Watkins	200 Pounds
TUNA	Danielle Watkins	10 Pounds
KINGFISH	Steve Nale	31 Pounds
DOLPHIN < 20 LBS	J. Voltz	19 Pounds
DOLPHIN > 20 LBS	Larry Martinez	26 Pounds
GOLIATH GROUPE	Pedro Sarabia	33 Pounds
WAHOO	David Sarabia	57 Pounds
SAILFISH RELEASE	Richard Wheeler	





# THE TIME FOR A CURE IS NOW

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation, which was founded in 1971 by a small group of parents who wanted to find a cure for their children with diabetes. Underscored by the pandemic, the need for a diabetes cure has never been more urgent, as people living with the disease are more vulnerable to serious health complications from COVID-19. **Fueled by a team of top researchers, an international community of scientists, and a committed cadre of donors, the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation is a united force moving relentlessly toward a cure.**



**463 million** adults  
living with diabetes  
worldwide



**1.6 million** Americans  
living with type 1  
diabetes including **200,000**  
children and adolescents  
under 20 years old



**34.2 million** Americans  
living with diabetes



**14.4%**  
people hospitalized  
with severe COVID-19  
developed diabetes



**>40** cure-  
focused  
scientific projects and  
clinical trials happening  
now at the DRI



**>260 million** invested  
in groundbreaking  
cure research at the  
DRI since 1971



**>10 years** off insulin  
DRI clinical trial  
participants



**23** medical  
centers  
in **12 countries**  
collaborating with the  
DRI to speed progress  
toward a cure



**87,000** square-  
foot  
facility houses state-of-the-art laboratories for the DRI's  
multidisciplinary teams of researchers, engineers and clinicians



**1** singular goal  
at the DRI  
to find a cure  
for diabetes

Sources: Diabetes Research Institute Foundation, International Diabetes Federation, Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism





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AMANDA STANTON - [astanton@federalheath.com](mailto:astanton@federalheath.com) | ext. 2175

VICKY HERNANDEZ - [vhernandez@federalheath.com](mailto:vhernandez@federalheath.com) | ext. 2063

SHERRI MCFADDEN - [smcfadden@federalheath.com](mailto:smcfadden@federalheath.com) | ext. 2068

JEANETTE VELEZ - [jvelez@federalheath.com](mailto:jvelez@federalheath.com) | ext. 2062







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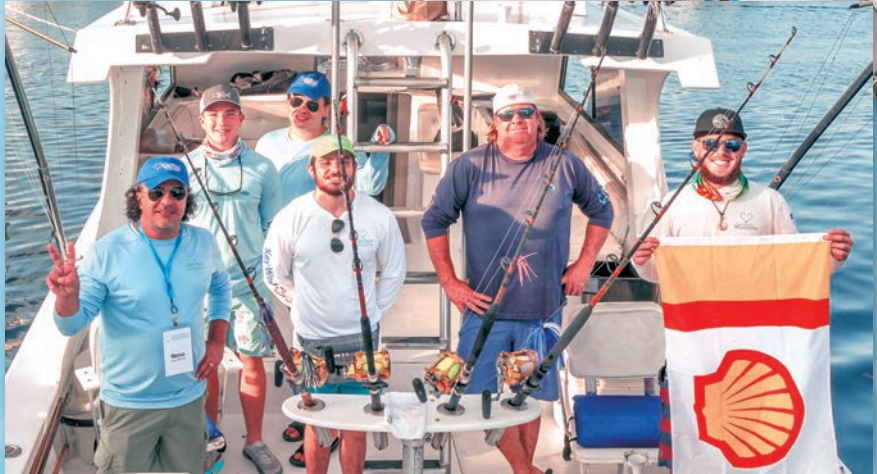
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# HAYDEN BLAYLOCK KEY WEST CHALLENGE —Angler Spotlight—



**Andy Weber**



## Andy Weber: “Wahoo!” and a New Tradition

While 2021 was Andy Weber’s first year to participate in the Hayden Blaylock Key West Challenge, he’s absolutely certain it won’t be the last. Instead, he looks on it as the start of a new tradition.

As the founder and president of Corner Capital Partners (or, as he describes it, “chief bottle-washer”), Weber feels his company’s connection with the tournament is worthwhile for many reasons.

“We like to work and associate with good people and have fun while we do it,” he said. “Life’s too short to invest time with things that aren’t meaningful – whether relationships, business, events or charities.”

Another major attraction is the chance to drop a line in Key West waters. An avid angler who lives outside Austin, Texas, Weber has spent time fishing for bass in Texas, targeting redfish and trout on the

Gulf Coast, and even free-diving for some ocean spearfishing. But his Key West experience really stands out.

“I caught and released my first nurse shark ever last year, and I caught the only wahoo for our boat,” he recalled. “I now know why they’re called wahoo – that’s what my teammate Rob Thomas yelled when we hooked it!”

As well as enjoying the on-the-water challenge, Weber lauded the tournament for its blend of professional organization, friendly and welcoming staff, expert captains and uniquely relaxing atmosphere.

“Most importantly, it really is for a good cause,” he said, citing the steadfast support the tournament has provided to the Diabetes Research Institute over the years. “It’s a very sincere and special event.”



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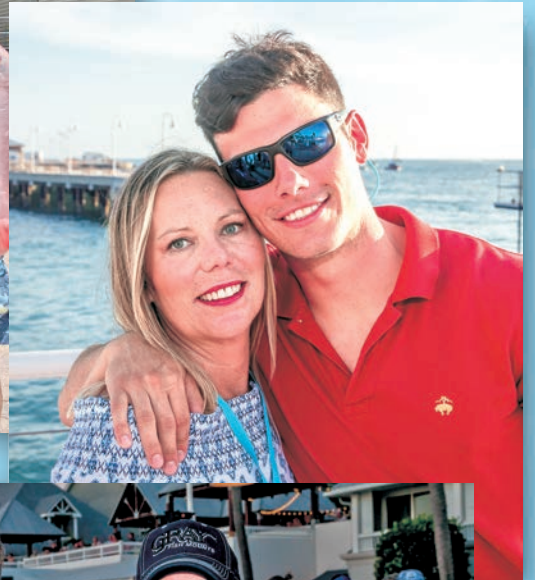


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# KEY WEST CHALLENGE







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# RECONNECT *In The Keys*

ROB O'NEAL/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU

For decades the Florida Keys island chain has been famed as a realm of natural beauty, open spaces and infinite horizons. A relaxing, rejuvenating escape from the pressures of everyday life. A place that values sustainability and the preservation of environmental wonders. An enticingly exotic locale, despite being located at the southernmost tip of the continental United States.

These days, after more than a year of the global coronavirus pandemic — with vaccines increasingly available and travel concerns easing — people are hungry to reconnect with the individuals and activities that matter most to them. And the Florida Keys are uniquely positioned to satisfy that desire.

Stretching 125 miles out into blue-green water, the Keys are a string of small, vibrant island communities linked by the breathtaking Overseas Highway, Florida's only federally designated All-American Road.

Along the subtropical island chain, visitors can find vast open-air natural areas of land and sea, offerings that support wellness and personal enrichment, and opportunities for connection and reconnection with valued people, places and pastimes.

The Keys encompass four national wildlife refuges — including a Lower Keys preserve created to protect tiny, shy Key deer — as well as 10 state parks, two national parks and the protected waters of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary that surround the entire island chain.

Those open spaces offer seemingly

endless opportunities to reconnect with the natural world after coronavirus confinement, discover the renewal that comes from “unplugged” time spent immersed in nature and share unforgettable experiences with friends and family.

In the Keys you can strengthen bonds with family members while kayaking through the tranquil Lower Keys backcountry, observing the graceful sway and dance of sea birds and tropical fish, or sharing the magic of a dolphin-watch excursion. Reconnect with friends as you discover the rejuvenating rhythm and flow of paddleboard yoga or dive into the blue depths to encounter colorful marine life.

Reawaken your creativity during intimate classes led by Keys artists and artisans, or reconnect with your significant other on a slow, romantic sunset sail followed by a water's-edge seafood dinner under the stars.



KARA PASCUCCI/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU/HO

Make a lasting difference during your vacation with a “voluntourism” adventure, helping to preserve the continental United States' only living coral barrier reef — an environmental treasure that parallels the Keys.

And because the island chain offers some of the best saltwater fishing in the world, there's nothing like heading out with a buddy or two and a Keys charter captain for an interval of open water, clean salt air and a heart-pounding test of will and skill.

In fact, the Keys' easygoing vibe and rich variety of experiences mean you can make your visit an opportunity to reconnect with whatever and whoever matters most to you.

Today, while coming to terms with a world significantly changed by COVID-19, it's more important than ever to do just that — and to reconnect with the activities and adventures that make your senses tingle and your smile spread from ear to ear.

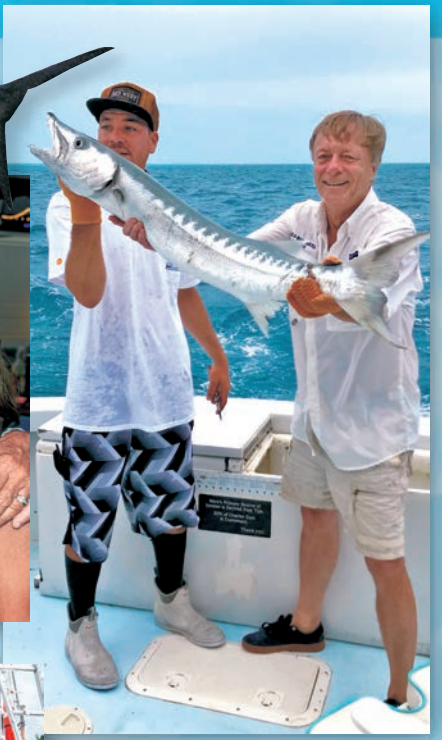
Because in those rare and magical moments of joy, you reconnect with the person you really want to be.



ANDY NEWMAN/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU



# KEY WEST CHALLENGE





# KEY WEST CHALLENGE







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# HAYDEN BLAYLOCK KEY WEST CHALLENGE

## —Angler Spotlight—



**Richard  
Wheeler**



## Decades of Tournament Support

**R**ichard Wheeler may have retired as CEO of FTS, which has handled the Florida Turnpike Service Plaza fuel operations since 1995, but he has no plans to “retire” from fishing the Hayden Blaylock Key West Challenge.

In fact, he’s been a welcome presence at every tournament since approximately 1993, when he decided to treat some customers to the angling experience as a reward.

“No one ever has to ask me to go fishing twice,” admitted Wheeler, who maintains the annual tradition for several reasons.

“FTS continues to use the tournament as a way to provide our top management an exciting weekend while giving back to our community — both great lessons,” he said.

A resident of South Florida’s Miami Springs, Wheeler is a seasoned angler who has pursued a variety of targets over the years. Two, however, stand out as favorites.

“I will always select large dolphin due to their incredible leaps and strength,” he said, “but a wahoo every now and then keeps the heart going.”

His most significant tournament catch, though, wasn’t either species. It came on an occasion when weather issues and partying on Key West’s Duval Street meant several teammates were no-shows.

“I ended up with three sails in 15 minutes on spinning gear, soaking wet from backing down through the waves,” he recalled triumphantly.

Other memories involve colleague Craig Lynch catching a tarpon from the dock, which unfortunately didn’t count, and his team picking up “largest fish” awards. While the team has never scored higher than second place, Wheeler considers that a great excuse to keep coming back.

“Key West is special, as are all of our fuel industry friends,” he summed up. “And somehow it all works for a great cause as well.”





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# Experience Key West



ANDY NEWMAN/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU

People can climb 88 steps to the top of Key West's historic lighthouse for a panoramic view of the island city.

**K**ey West, where the Florida Keys Overseas Highway ends at Mile Marker 0, blends 19th-century charm with a laid-back contemporary atmosphere. Continental America's southernmost city offers palm-shaded streets, picturesque historic homes with "gingerbread" trim, a nightly waterfront sunset celebration and a flourishing arts community.

Visitors will find environmental attractions and eco-experiences, a lively culinary scene and sites to tour including the 1930s home of literary

legend Ernest Hemingway and the "vacation White House" of former President Harry Truman.

To truly enjoy Key West, embrace the easygoing vibe, glean tips from friendly locals and experience both well-known and off-the-beaten-path offerings.

What are some "don't miss" stops?

**Key West Tropical Forest & Botanical Garden.** At the gateway to Key West lies a secluded 15-acre conservation habitat and subtropical botanical garden. Just off College Road at mile marker 5 bayside, the garden features more than 6,000 rare and endangered plants and trees, and provides habitat for 39 butterfly species and 202 native and migratory bird species. Explore 12 self-guided nature trails and boardwalks, two 1.5-acre butterfly habitats and much more.

**Key West Garden Club at West Martello Tower.** Explore this tranquil natural spot that overlooks the Atlantic Ocean where White Street meets Atlantic Boulevard. West Martello Tower is a never-used Civil War-era fort whose weathered brick walls frame exotic orchids and bromeliads, rare and indigenous palms and plants, a peace garden with labyrinth, a butterfly garden and a white perfume garden. The oceanfront gazebo offers breeze-cooled serenity.

**Curry Mansion.** Discover the legacy of Key West's first millionaire, William Curry, at the inn and museum located at 511 Caroline St. The Victorian-style mansion, whose antique-filled public areas are open

for tours, features period furnishings and decor, spacious verandahs, a "widow's walk" and gingerbread-adorned exterior. Historians believe Key lime pie was originally created in the Curry Mansion kitchen.

**Honest Eco Sustainable Nature Tours.** Step aboard SQUID, Key West's first electric-powered charter boat, for an Honest Eco dolphin watch and guided snorkel excursion. The unique vessel was built by Captain Billy Litmer, Honest Eco's founder and a biologist and passionate environmentalist, and is docked at 231 Margaret St. in the Historic Seaport. Equipped with Sunflare solar panels, SQUID provides an extraordinary wildlife experience while having little impact on the environment.



ANDY NEWMAN/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU

The Mel Fisher Maritime Museum contains treasures and artifacts from two Spanish galleons shipwrecked in 1622 in waters off Key West.





COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA

*Civil War–era Fort Zachary Taylor is the centerpiece of a state park that also features Key West residents’ favorite beach. Now a National Historic Landmark, the majestic fort attracts park visitors interested in exploring.*

**Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park.** Head to “Fort Zach” at 601 Howard England Way to swim and laze beside the Atlantic Ocean. The park’s shady, breeze-cooled picnic area overlooks a 1,000-foot beach that Key Westers regard as the island’s best. Snorkel in the relatively deep near-shore water, spotting colorful tropical fish, or explore the weathered Civil War–era fort that gave the park its name.

**Key West Butterfly & Nature Conservatory.** Walk among hundreds of living butterflies at the state-of-the-art solarium and nature exhibit at 1316 Duval St. In the glass-domed tropical butterfly habitat, observe butterflies from 50 to 60 species in a lush rainforest-like setting, alongside tiny exotic birds and two glorious pink flamingoes — who also star in daily “Flamingle” encounters. Don’t miss the on-site gallery!

**Historic Old Town.** Take a morning stroll or bike ride through Key West’s Old Town, the largest predominantly wooden historic district in the United States. Allow yourself time to wander and discover restored Victorian homes and cottages, chat with locals and enjoy the fragrance of flowers blooming

behind white picket fences. Then stop for Cuban coffee and cheese toast at one of many neighborhood emporiums.

**Mel Fisher Maritime Museum.** View treasures and artifacts from the Spanish galleons *Nuestra Señora de Atocha* and *Santa Margarita*, shipwrecked off Key West in 1622, at the 200 Greene St. museum. The facility’s 17th-century maritime and shipwreck antiquities include gold and silver bars, coins, weapons and more recovered by shipwreck salvor Mel Fisher and his crew in the 1980s.

**Key West Food Tour.** Savor the flavors of the island city on a stroll-and-taste exploration of cuisine and culture created by third-generation native Analise Andrews. Several themed walking tours are offered, with guides leading participants to multiple local emporiums for samples of food and libations. As well as experiencing the rich culinary scene, guests gain insights into Key West’s vibrant heritage and easygoing way of life.

**Key West Lighthouse & Keepers Quarters.** Completed in 1848 and standing at 938 Whitehead St.,

the lighthouse guided mariners through Key West waters until it was decommissioned in 1969. Climb an 88-step spiral staircase to the observation platform for a panoramic view of the island, learn about courageous male and female lighthouse keepers, and see historic artifacts, photos and journals. In addition, small groups can book the exclusive 90-minute Key West Lighthouse Sunset Experience.

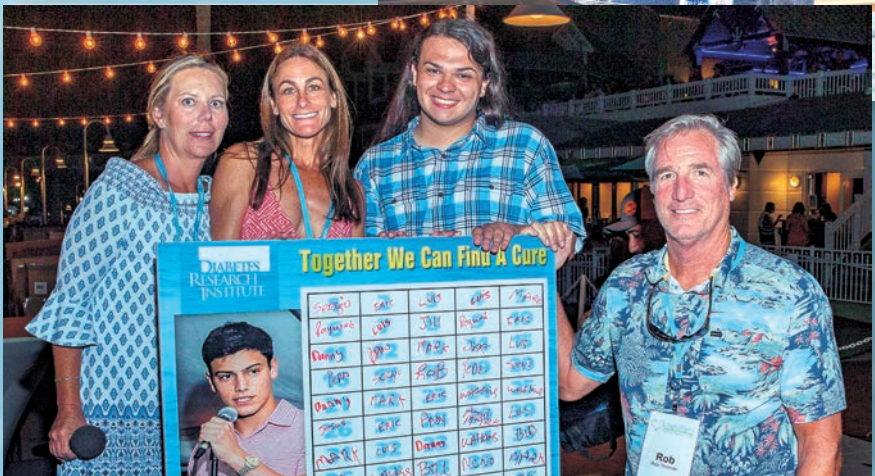
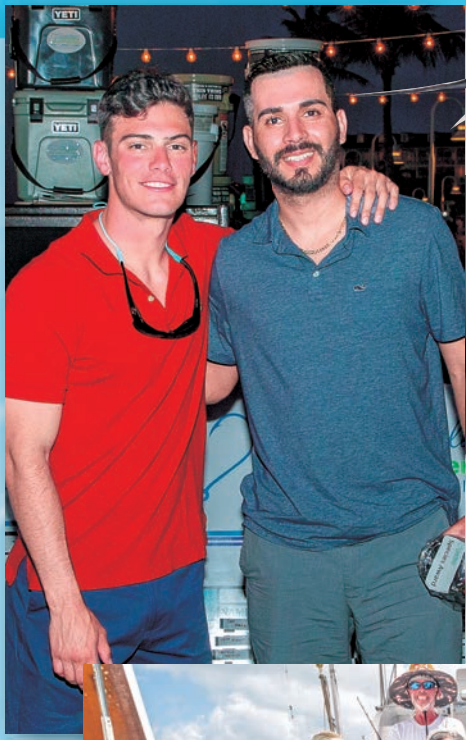


ANDY NEWMAN/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU

*Few people visit Key West without sampling Key lime pie, a tart and creamy delicacy renowned as the island’s signature dessert.*

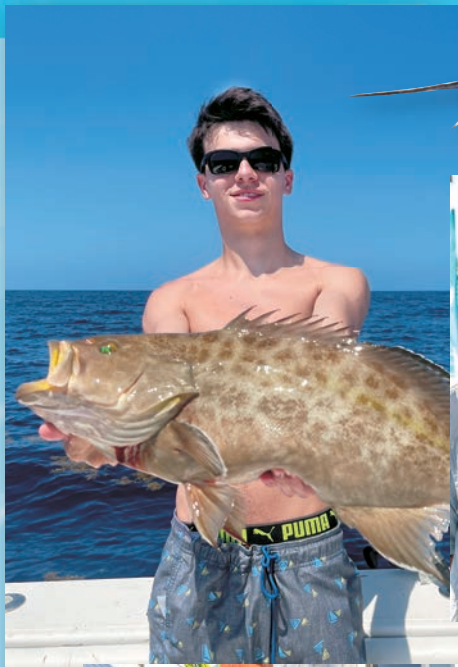


# KEY WEST CHALLENGE



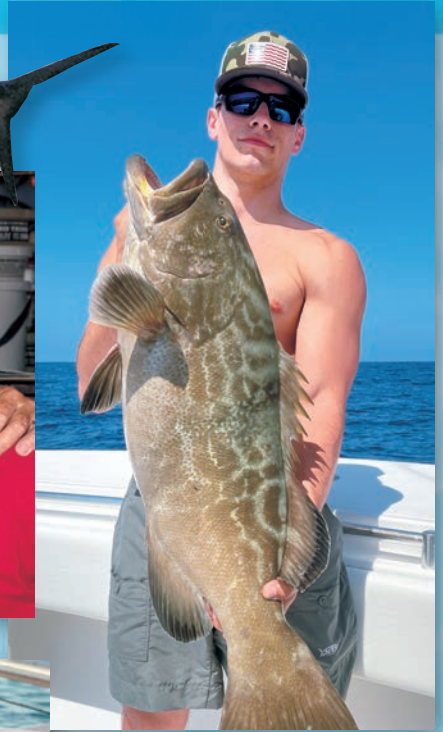
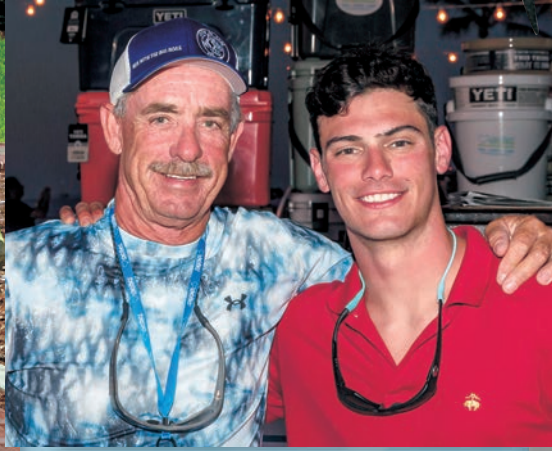


# KEY WEST CHALLENGE





# KEY WEST CHALLENGE

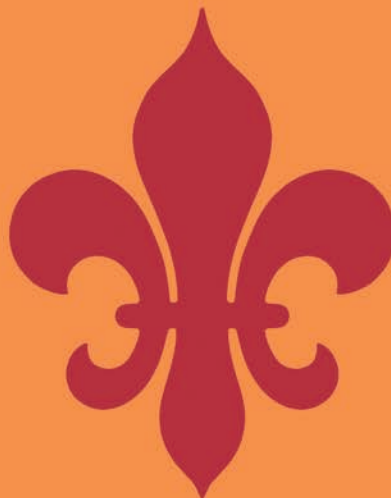






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# KEY WEST CHALLENGE





# Take A Ride In Truman's Presidential Limo!

*(Yes, Really!)*



History fans who visit Key West's Harry S. Truman Little White House, Florida's only presidential museum, can do more than explore the home where Truman spent nearly six months of his 1945-1953 presidency. They can also choose to ride around the island city in a limousine he used during his term in office.

Yes, an actual presidential limo — a vintage Lincoln Cosmopolitan, whose black paint gleams so brightly that it reflects the two American flags flying proudly above its front fenders. And it's complete with an intercom system, a hydraulic privacy shield and plenty of security elements. (There's no AC, but it features an airflow controller to ensure passengers' comfort.)

And there is literally no other experience like sitting in it, where Harry Truman himself once sat, being chauffeured through the Key West streets once traveled by America's 33rd president.

"This limo is one of nine that were situated at different cities throughout the United States for use by the president when he would travel to different locations — because back in that period, the presidential limousine did not travel on the presidential plane," said Clinton Curry, director of operations for the Little White House.

Truman first visited Key West when his doctor ordered rest to fight a bad cold. Entranced by the island, he quickly adopted the

one-time commander's quarters on the Key West naval station as his "Little White House."

In fact, he felt so comfortable in Key West, away from the pressures of Washington D.C., that he kept coming back. During his island sojourns, he spent time taking brisk morning walks, playing poker, swimming and fishing. He even adopted the locals' casual dress code, favoring tropical shirts and slacks on many occasions.

"President Truman made 11 presidential visits to Key West, totaling 175 days of his presidency — essentially running the United States from the Key West Little White House," said Clinton.

Today, visitors to the house can tour airy, comfortable rooms that have been carefully restored to their Truman-era appearance, and listen to guides tell tales of Truman's presidency and Key West sojourns.

Actually, some 90 percent of the current furnishings also graced the property during the former president's era. The Little White House showcases authentic artifacts include Truman's handmade poker table, one of his beloved tropical shirts and the desk where he carried out his official duties.

Despite the house's easygoing atmosphere, Truman made some of the most important decisions of his presidency from his island retreat. Historians believe he decided to adopt the Marshall Plan to aid postwar Europe while he was in Key West — as well as

deciding to relieve General Douglas MacArthur of his command, and to forego running for reelection.

But what about that limousine?

Little White House visitors can indeed ride in it. Not just any visitor, however. In addition to regular tours of the place, the museum recently debuted an exclusive White Glove Tour for small groups — and the once-in-a-lifetime presidential limo ride is a highlight of the new tour.

White Glove participants also get exclusive access to certain Little White House areas and artifacts, and explore galleries of priceless Truman objects that aren't on public display.

Led by guide Zabrina Adorno, who has a remarkable knowledge of Truman history and lore, they even put on white gloves to handle presidential belongings — including Truman's prized whiskey jigger.

And then, after immersing themselves in the former president's Key West life, they step inside the elegant black limo, settle into the soft gray upholstery where Truman and his fellow dignitaries once sat, and are chauffeured around the picturesque streets of the island's historic Old Town.

"I have been told by guests who have toured that it was one of the most special moments in their trip to Key West — that riding in the limo around Old Town was just one of the most magical moments of their trip to the island," said Clinton.



# KEY WEST CHALLENGE







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## New Book Celebrates 'Buffett Backstories' and Key West Connection

Jimmy Buffett discovered Key West in November of 1971, brought by fellow troubadour Jerry Jeff Walker and his lady, a former Florida Keys resident, for a brief impromptu visit.

Not long afterward, Jimmy returned and settled in — and began writing songs that not only energized his musical career, but came to define it. Along the way, he inspired millions of people to share his love for the easygoing subtropical island.

As well as being Jimmy's home during some of his most productive years, Key West — and its people, laid-back lifestyle and cheerfully outlaw vibe — became the subject of some of his most enduring tunes.

Now, 50 years after Jimmy's fateful first trip to the island city, Key West native Scott Atwell has unveiled a fascinating book titled "Buffett Backstories: Fifty Years, Fifty Songs."

Scott, a seasoned broadcaster and PR specialist, got the idea for the book while hosting an all-Buffett weekly radio program on a local FM station. Each week, the program featured an in-depth exploration of the origin of one of Jimmy's songs — often accompanied by interviews with people who had inspired or witnessed the tunes' creation.

"As the stories gathered," Scott wrote in the book's preface, "it soon occurred to me that I would have collected fifty backstories by the time we were celebrating the fiftieth

anniversary of Buffett's first visit to my hometown."

The book does indeed feature the history behind fifty songs. Because of Jimmy's fondness for Key West as a subject, many of them involve his experiences, adventures and "partners in crime" on the renegade island of the 1970s and early 80s. And in chronicling the songs' genesis, Scott paints a vivid picture of an unforgettable place and time.

Jimmy's lyrics are rich in references to Key West spots such as Fausto's Food Palace and the Chart Room Bar. His songs memorialize Key West characters like the late Captain Tony Tarracino, a colorful former mayor featured in "Last Mango in Paris," and the late Phil Clark, whose real-life exploits unfold in "A Pirate Looks at 40."

All find their way into the pages of "Buffett Backstories" — as do mentions of Key West's hardscrabble shrimping industry, long-ago square dance club called the Nautical Wheelers, and the role the Old Seven Mile Bridge (the centerpiece of the Florida Keys Overseas Highway) played in the writing of Jimmy's biggest hit, "Margaritaville."

In fact, Scott also relates that the first public performance of "Margaritaville" took place in Key West.

Fittingly, in the mid-1980s Jimmy founded the Margaritaville Store in the island's funky waterfront enclave of Lands End Village. A Mecca for his fans, the store is now located beside his original Margaritaville Café on Duval Street. His unmarked yet renowned recording studio, Shrimp Boat Sound, overlooks the former shrimp docks.

Today, though Jimmy's brand has expanded far beyond stores and cafés, Key West remains the geographical focus of the "Margaritaville mystique" embraced by his fans.

And there's no better way to celebrate the 50th anniversary of his arrival in the island city than by delving into "Buffett Backstories."

Engaging and well-written, with an undeniably authentic tone, the book features a foreword by Jimmy's longtime tour manager, Bob Liberman. It also contains a guide to some of the Key West sites that had meaning in his musical history.

So pick up a copy, grab a cold one and start reading — because "Buffett Backstories" is a world-class treat for fans of Jimmy Buffett and the island that became his inspiration.



Enjoy  
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### Sustain

#### Ensuring Islet Cell Survival

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The BioHub strategy builds upon decades of cure-focused research and addresses critical challenges that stand in the way of a biological cure. It is based upon the premise that:

- If we need to transplant insulin-producing islet cells to replace



those that are destroyed by the immune system, then we must engineer a mini-pancreas in a **Site** within the body to house the cells.

- If we are to **Sustain** the survival of the transplanted islets, then they need protection from the immune system rejection, as well as from the autoimmune attack that initially caused the onset of the disease.
- If we can halt autoimmunity with safe and effective immunotherapies,

then we may be able to **Sustain** natural insulin production before all the insulin producing cells are lost.

- If we can halt autoimmunity, we may regenerate a person's own insulin-producing cells, creating a natural **Supply** within the body.
- If we need more insulin-producing cells for transplant, then we must create an unlimited **Supply** for millions of people with diabetes who can benefit.

These three principal research avenues, collectively referred to as the "Three S's" — **SITE, SUSTAIN, SUPPLY** — are being vigorously pursued simultaneously by the DRI's investigators and all of our global collaborators in a waste-no-time approach.



# HAYDEN BLAYLOCK KEY WEST CHALLENGE

## —Angler Spotlight—



**Steve  
Nale**



**Danielle  
Watkins**

### *Steve Nale and Danielle Watkins:*

## **A Winning Combination**

**F**ather and daughter Steve Nale and Danielle Watkins not only work together guiding Great Dane Petroleum Contractors, but they also led the Great Dane team to a first-place finish in the 2021 Hayden Blaylock Key West Challenge.

“Standing up and accepting our first-place prize with all the members of our Great Dane team was a memory we will never forget,” said Watkins.

Nale is president of Great Dane, a petroleum contractor that specializes in gas station construction, fuel installation and station maintenance, and Watkins is CFO and vice-president of construction. Both live in South Florida’s Fort Lauderdale area, and the company has participated in the tournament for five years.

“We love being a part of such a great charity event to raise money for the Diabetes Research Institute – we think it’s important to bring awareness and funding to the disease in hopes to find a cure in the near future,” Watkins explained. “Also, the friendships and camaraderie that come from this charity tournament have lasted years and will only continue to grow with further participation – and the world-renowned fishing in Key West has its perks as well.”

In addition to the overall tournament win, the Great Dane team scored several biggest fish honors and Watkins was named top lady angler. She also boated an impressive mahi-mahi that later earned separate recognition from the acclaimed Key West Fishing Tournament.





Both Nale and Watkins are experienced anglers whose catches include a 170-pound yellowfin tuna in Costa Rican waters, plenty of mahi-mahi (their favorite species to target) and a white marlin off Fort Lauderdale. Even so, the 2021 Blaylock Challenge has its nail-biting moments as the competition heated up on the final day.

"Hearing the radio talk from other boats in the tournament, we discovered we were tied for first going into the last five minutes of the tournament," Watkins recalled. "We quickly ran to shallower water, knowing we had a chance to add a bonita to our list of species, which would push us into the number-one spot."

Fishing on the *Linda D V* with Captain Billy Wickers, the team quickly hooked a fish. As the minutes ticked down to lines-out, virtually everyone on the boat was fervently hoping that it would prove to be the much-needed bonita – and that it could be landed in time.

"One of our anglers, Dustin, grabbed the rod, sat down, and the pressure and fight was on," said Watkins. "With everyone screaming to get the fish in before time was up, he was able to land a bonita with three minutes of fishable time left."

Fortunately for the Great Dane contingent, the team they were tied with didn't have the same last-minute success. Nale and Watkins called the win an honor and credited it largely to the skill of their captain and mate.

"The tournament does such a great job picking the captains," Watkins enthused. "They know the waters, know the fish and know how to catch them. We will most definitely be defending our title this year!"

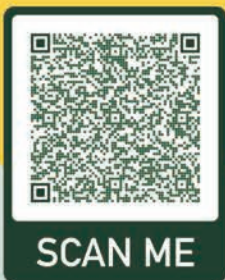




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ANDY NEWMAN/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU

*The restored Old Seven Mile Bridge ready for its reopening to pedestrians, bicyclists and visitors to Pigeon Key.*

## Reopened ‘Old Seven’ is Gateway to Fascinating Pigeon Key

**I**t covers only five acres of land, and seemingly houses little more than a sleepy cluster of buildings and vegetation. But when it comes to Pigeon Key, appearances are deceiving. Surrounded by turquoise water beneath the Old Seven Mile Bridge at Marathon, the tiny island looms large in the history of the Florida Keys.

And now, following the restoration and reopening of a 2.2-mile section of the bridge nicknamed “Old Seven,” Pigeon Key is more accessible than ever.

The island made its indelible mark on history thanks to a seemingly impossible project envisioned by wealthy railroad baron Henry Flagler.

When Flagler built the Florida Keys Over-Sea Railroad in the early 1900s — forever changing the face of the Keys by connecting the formerly isolated islands to

each other and mainland Florida — the biggest challenge was building a bridge in the Middle Keys across nearly seven miles of open water.

During its construction, Pigeon Key was a base camp for workers building the Seven Mile Bridge, the centerpiece of the railroad that became known as the eighth wonder of the world.

From 1908 to 1912, more than 400 workers lived in the railroad village on Pigeon Key — and despite its small size, it had a commissary and one-room school. Even after the landmark span was completed, maintenance crews continued living on the island.

Tragically, a 1935 hurricane ended the railroad’s reign. But that wasn’t the end of Pigeon Key’s importance. A highway soon replaced the track, and the island became headquarters for the Florida Road and Toll Bridge District.



Today the original Seven Mile Bridge no longer carries an endless stream of cars. Instead, drivers travel a newer span that was completed in 1982. The old bridge stretches alongside the modern one, sculptural and massive, with Pigeon Key beneath.

Pigeon Key is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a true American treasure — but, even so, it's far too often overlooked by vacationers driving through the Keys.

Do not even THINK about making that mistake.

Instead, spend a few hours exploring this spot whose history transports you back in time ... and whose geography means there's nothing on earth quite like it.

What the best way to reach the remote little island? Thanks to the completion of the \$44-million restoration — almost 110 years after the Over-Sea Railroad's first train steamed across the bridge and through the Keys — you can stroll, run, bike or even rollerblade along the 2.2-mile span to get there.

The journey feels like floating over water, with a soundtrack composed of the cries of circling sea birds and the hypnotic wash of waves. On the way, try peering into the blue depths below to spot sea turtles, rays, silvery tarpon and other marine creatures.

Once you arrive at Pigeon Key, there's plenty to see. Eight of the old railroad buildings still stand — the last cluster of Flagler-era railroad buildings anywhere in the world — overseen by the not-for-profit Pigeon Key Foundation.

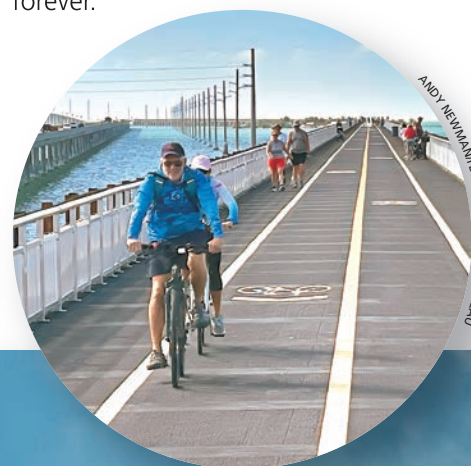
One of the original buildings houses a museum whose artifacts showcase "all things Pigeon Key" from its pivotal railroad days to current times. In this spot, where work crews expended unrelenting effort to build the railroad, you can really grasp the breathtaking (and nearly impossible) scope of Flagler's project.

In fact, you can spend the entire day on the island — enjoying a guided historical tour, soaking up subtropical sun and open-water

vistas, picnicking, doing some catch-and-release fishing, snorkeling along the shoreline and absorbing the atmosphere of an earlier era.

As well as reaching Pigeon Key by pedestrian or pedal power, visitors can currently take a ferry that departs from the Faro Blanco Marina in Marathon. In the spring of 2022, a 60-passenger tram is expected to debut to carry people back and forth along "Old Seven."

If you're visiting the Florida Keys, don't (and that means DON'T) miss the chance to discover the little island that played such a big role in history. It's an only-in-the-Keys experience that you'll remember forever.





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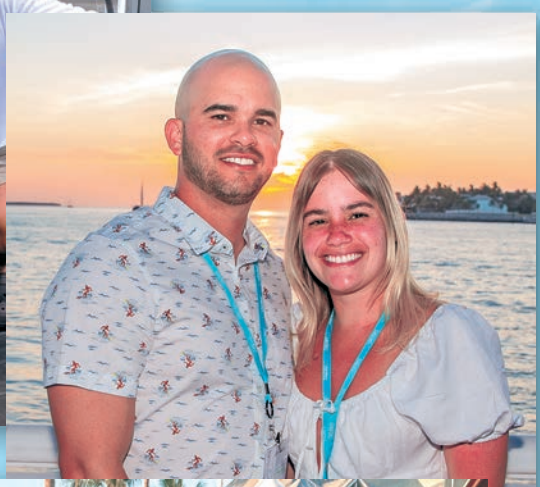
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# Behind the Scenes



We are grateful to have so many terrific volunteers at the Hayden Blaylock Key West Challenge working together each spring to help create an extraordinary fishing experience for our anglers. We would like to recognize and thank each of them:



Tournament Director **Crystal Blaylock Sanchez** works year-round making certain that hotels are booked, social events are scheduled, and that everything is in place for a great fishing and social event.



Assistant **Kathy Palomo** has been with the tournament for 16 years, and she handles everything from contacting Captains, to hailing cabs, to getting our teams together bright and early in the morning!

**Findley Sinclair** not only was instrumental in starting the tournament 34 years ago, but is our tournament scorekeeper, charters all the boats and is head of the rules committee.



Assistant **Monica Franceschi** is Findley's right hand when it comes to keeping all the scores straight, boat cards printed and manages name tags, she has been with the tournament for 8 years!



This year we welcome **Carol Shaughnessy**, long time Key West journalist who shares her intimate and extensive knowledge of Key West and the Keys in our program. We are so fortunate to have her join us as our tournament writer!

Our photographer **Larry Blackburn** started with the tournament last year and we are delighted to have such an experienced professional onboard.



Our graphic designer **Sandy Husmann** has been designing and producing our program for 34 years, working to create an attractive program that highlights our event and informs our anglers about Key West and the beautiful Florida Keys.



Tournament helper **Jacquie Gilgallon** works to sell the 50/50 board every year, while **Richie Husmann** and **Gil Ochoa** do everything from hanging banners to unloading drinks to passing out ditty bags.

**Jan Ledford** is an essential part of the team as we get ready for Key West!



***Our thanks to everyone who helps and supports our tournament!***



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