

# *DeFever Cruisers* 2015 Rendezvous

*North Palm Beach, Florida    March 20 – 23*

**The next big Florida Rendezvous is set for March 20 through 23, 2015.** Our venue is the Old Port Cove Marina, the Windsor Gardens Hotel and Conference Center, and the North Palm Beach Country Club, all located near each other in the Village of North Palm Beach, in Palm Beach County, Florida. The cost for a member will be \$140 or less. (Working on the budget now.)

**The weather is sunny and beautiful in Palm Beach County in March.** If you can't come by boat, fly into Palm Beach International which is 25 minutes away, or drive. It's our high season, so do plan ahead. Usually about half of our attendees travel by land or air from around the world.

**A more relaxed schedule is planned this time.** "The rendezvous was over too quickly!" And, "I didn't get a chance to talk to everyone!" We've heard both, more than once. So, this time we've added a day to the schedule to give everyone more opportunities to visit, enjoy great local dining, and relax a little more. Here's the schedule summary:

**Friday, March 20th:** Arrival Day. Registration and Docktails at the Marina.

**Saturday:** Seminars, Lunch on your own, Open Boats, Dinner at Country Club.

**Sunday:** Seminars, Lunch, Auctions, Free Time, Dinner on Your Own.

**Monday, March 23rd:** Open boats, Free Time, Floating Social Hour Goodby.

Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>: Mini Rendezvous Anchor Up for Boat Show. (optional)

Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>: First day of the West Palm Beach Boat Show.

**The Old Port Cove Marina is rated 5 stars in Active Captain.** It's the same superb location that we used in 2012, but even better. Sandpipers, a nice restaurant, is now open right at the marina. Special slip rate will be \$1.45 per foot including power and wifi. Longer term "deals" may also be available. Our first night "Docktail Party" plus our popular "Open Boats" will be held here. We will also have a "Floating Social Hour" to say goodbye on Monday. Our chartered bus will transport boaters from the marina to the seminars and the country club dinner. Latitude: 26°49.937'N / Longitude: 080°03.248'W. Look at [www.opch.com](http://www.opch.com) for details. You can call the marina right now at 561-626-1760 to make a reservation – but be sure to say "DeFever Cruisers" for the great rates. Come early, stay late.

**The Windsor Gardens Hotel and Conference Center** is a small hotel with a first-class conference center located about a mile from the marina. We will have perfect meeting rooms for two concurrent sessions. You can anticipate 8 to 12 good seminars on cruising adventures, and technical subjects. If you will be arriving by land or air, we recommend that you stay here.

Trip Advisor rates the hotel 4+ on a scale of 5. Make a reservation now by calling them directly at 561-844-8448 and asking for the DeFever Cruisers discounted rates which start at \$175 per night for a King room. You can cancel later if needed. March is high season so reserve early.

**The North Palm Beach Country Club** is a public club with a Jack Nicklaus course so you can play golf if you stay a day or two longer. It's just a mile from the marina. We will meet there for social hour and dinner on Saturday night. See <http://npbcc.org> for info.

**The Palm Beach Boat Show** starts March 26<sup>th</sup>, just three days after our rendezvous ends. The 30th Annual Palm Beach International Boat Show, March 26 - 29, 2015, is one of the top five boat shows in the country. We plan to have a mini rendezvous and anchor in Lake Worth, near the show, to continue the fun. You can go to the show by dinghy. Hang out for a few days with your friends.

**Start Your Summer Cruise from Here.** April is a good month to head for the Bahamas or the Florida Keys. You could start your cruise north to the Chesapeake, or the Great Loop and do a side cruise to explore the St. Johns River for a week or two to let the frozen north thaw out. It's a perfect time of year to see old Florida. You could also extend your stay at the Old Port Cove Marina or you can anchor nearby. You may find a buddy boat to cruise with while you are at the rendezvous. Who knows, maybe a mini rendezvous will emerge in the Bahamas!

**If you have never attended one of our big Florida rendezvous, don't hesitate.** Usually about 30 percent are "first-timers." About half the people arrive by boat. The rest fly or drive from about 14 states, and sometimes from Australia and Canada. It's always a friendly crowd of the nicest people. We'll make you feel very welcome and introduce you to interesting people. A DeFever Cruisers Rendezvous is a wonderful opportunity to make lasting friends, learn way more than you expected, and really enjoy the experience. We can testify to that -- this will be our 18<sup>th</sup> rendezvous.

*Hank and Nancy Haeseker, rendezvous chairs*