



# 'Tigua Tails



## Beach Heats Up

The Village has put off further public discussion on restricting the waters off Port Antigua and White Marlin until a special meeting on August 12th. This is due to the efforts of people who, at the last minute, have been very critical of the proposal and vocal in their criticism of Board of Directors as well as the process the Board used to try to reach some type of compromise.

No one wants to exclude our vessels from the beach, but the situation has reached a point that action must be taken before someone is injured or killed. The options the Board looked at ranged from vessel decals, to wrist bands, to hiring private security guards. Since these are public waters, the actions that PAPOA or the Village can implement are extremely limited.

The Board proposed the Village institute a buffer area that would exclude vessels yet allow them to anchor further out in shallower water and still have room for paddle boards and such closer to shore. Due to implementation and



Are all these boats really from Port Antigua???

Photo courtesy of Sue Miller

enforcement concerns, this option was rejected by the Village and replaced with the 300 foot exclusion zone.

President Dave and the Board have worked tirelessly on this, enduring sometimes vicious and personal attacks in the process. Nonetheless, they continue to meet and work with the Village to find a better solution. They deserve our support in this. We cannot allow the status quo.

sons for this:

- Increased fixed costs,
- Higher expenditures needed for security
- Set asides for infrastructure replacement and emergencies.

A [special page](#) regarding the Assessment and requested increase has been put on the website. It answers some questions you might have as well as graphically depicts the projected budget. Visit the page by logging on to the member's page and clicking the Assessment menu item.

The delay in the annual meeting, coupled with the three year restriction on holding another vote on the issue should it fail to pass, may result in a delay in the assessment vote. When it does come, please support your Board of Directors and the Association by voting "Yes" to this measured and reasonable proposal.

If you have any additional questions or wish to comment, email [info@portantigua.net](mailto:info@portantigua.net).

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**PAPOA Board Member Resigns.** Long time board member Bill Hardy, Maintenance Committee Chair and all-round good guy, announced his resignation from the Board of Directors. Bill's skillful negotiation of the various maintenance contracts as well as his dedication to keeping PAPOA's infrastructure both functional and attractive will be missed. Thank you, Bill.

**Hurricane Season** is heating up. This is an unusual season in that we are also facing COVID-19 restrictions and your "normal" hurricane plans may need to be modified. Be sure you are prepared: Check your insurance documents, have an evacuation plan, be sure your shutters are working, stock up on the necessities including any medication and pet supplies. And be sure to talk to your neighbors about what you will be doing with your boat should you need to center it in the canal. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) has a pretty extensive outline for what you should do.

**Assessment.** The Port Antigua Property Owners' Association is facing a budget shortfall in 2020 over \$20,000. There are several rea-

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## From the President...



Calm Days

Friends and Neighbors. Thank you for the responses, both pro and con, to the Village's proposed 300 foot vessel exclusion zone. I, too, enjoy taking my grandchildren to the beach via boat and don't want to see that taken away. On the other side, there is the very real issue of boats being recklessly operated near swimmers and waders. And the "party" situation has become so bad that families with children can't go there because of the behavior they will witness. We have examined many of the proposals offered in lieu of

this measure and have shifted monies from various accounts to hire additional deputies during the busiest weekends. Many of the fixes to this problem were discounted because anything that limits the overwater access by the public in favor of any one group (us) is not legal. Administration of a decal or wrist band program would not be worth the marginal benefits if any. We are also exploring options at increasing the parking at the beach. The 300 foot exclusion zone is the same proposal that the Vil-

lage made back in 2014 which failed. Why is it being reconsidered now? Social media. Port Antigua is prominently featured on several sites and has become a destination for the party-hardy crowd. Until the lure of a wide-open, no-law atmosphere is removed, this situation will only get worse.

I am continuing my efforts with Village staff to see if we can find a better, more palatable solution and ask for your continued support in this most difficult job.

- Dave Webb

## Association Officers' Reports

**The Secretary Says...** The Village is soliciting comments about the performance of its trash collection vendor, Advanced Disposal. Email your comments to pub-

lic.works@islamorada.fl.us or to [me](#), and I will forward them.

-Caren Brinson

**From The Treasurer...** It is THAT time of year, again. The 2021 will be particularly chal-

lenging and the Finance Committee is having its first meeting on August 12th to begin the task. If you are interested in participating, please send me an [email](#).

- Rita Klopf

## Committee Reports

**Maintenance** The Boat Ramp gate has been a real problem over the past several months. Please, check the road clearance on the trailer hitch and be sure your motor is "tilted." This is an expense we can avoid. And, please, do NOT prop the beach gate open. The bottom of the gate is really taking a beating from the rocks people are using.

- Bernie Merida, Chair

**Security** The Beach has been the focus of everyone's attention recently. The number of boats has ranged from over 300 on Saturdays to 40 on Sundays. It also has been featured as the "HOT SPOT" to visit on several social media sites. Our deputies have done a good job keeping the trespassers off the beach, but it is a daunting task.

The deputies have key cards, and you may see them strolling on the beach or sitting in their cars filling out forms. Often, they are not being paid by PAPOA, but have to do their paperwork somewhere and PAPOA encourages them to be here. A very common tactic in law enforcement involves the mere presence of an officer deterring misbehavior. If you see them in their cars, or on the beach, smile, wave and appreciate their being here. They are there to protect you!

- Oscar Callejas, Chair

**Recreation** Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the formal gatherings of the Association have been postponed. We will be buying additional trash cans for the beach with the money we have saved.

- Esther Merida, Chair

**ACC** If you are planning construction or renovations, PLEASE let the ACC know. See the website for when and what is needed.

- Ray Bana, Chair

**Nominations** There is an opening for the Board. Pending legal review, our present goal is to fill it at the August meeting by appointment. The seat will be open for election at the next annual meeting, and since the term ends in April 2023, the member may stand for reelection (if she/he wants) at that time. If you are interested in serving, please send an email with any information you want the Board to consider to us at [info@portantigua.net](mailto:info@portantigua.net).

- Esther Merida, Chair

**Association Manager** Homes in Port Antigua are selling at an all time number and all time high prices! My desk is busy with requests for owner financial information. Fifteen so far this year! We



A misadjusted hitch or dragging motor and your ramp is open to all!

I was worried about being bored during quarantine, but losing your mind is actually quite time consuming!

hate to see our friends and neighbors leave but are happy to welcome the new ones. So if you see your new neighbors, say hi and welcome them. Share some good news with them.

On a disappointing note, there are still nine owners who have not paid their dues and/

or late fees. Their gate cards have been turned off. This year, turning off the gate key prompted eighteen owners to get caught up. This last nine must be absentee owners who do not use the gates. When they come to town, I'm sure we will get them caught up too!

-Mari Joiner, CAM

## Miscellaneous Stuff



### Scary!

One of our residents went for an unexpected and very scary swim recently when the truck he was backing down the boat ramp didn't stop. The truck, putting a trailer in for a haul out, ended up almost fully submerged in the canal. Fortunately, the driver was pulled to safety through the passenger's window by a passing bicyclist. There were no injuries other than to the truck which was a total loss.

**Trash on the Beach** The tremendous pressure on our beach by people escaping COVID hot spots, and the busy holiday weekends have often resulted in over flowing cans and trash discarded where it shouldn't be. Please consider taking what you bring in back home with you.

**Warning...Don't Get TOWED!!!** The emergency access gate (it is marked and can't be missed) MUST be kept clear. Paramedics have used it to get to injured and sick people on the beach. Any vehicle, including golf carts, blocking it will be removed at the owner's expense. This

can cost up to \$500 to get the vehicle back (and PAPOA doesn't even get a dime)!

Speaking of **Golf Carts** Residents have been complaining to the Village that carts in Port Antigua are "out of control." Please be sure they are operated responsibly.

And we have a request from your fellow members: **Don't hold the TIKIS's.** There was one that had stuff under it from early morning to late evening one day July 4th weekend. To make matters worse, no one ever showed up!



A quiet and wet Memorial Day



Overflowing



## A Busy Fourth

Falling on a weekend this year, with the great weather and the "usual" weekend crowds, we had a very busy and sometimes hectic Fourth of July

The Tikis were fully utilized, and the boat traffic off the Beach was heavy. Unfortunately, the aftermath was left for a few volunteers to clean up, and thank you to Esther, Bernie, and Caren for picking up litter and bagging trash.

**Fireworks on the Beach...** While fireworks for the 4th of July were legal statewide, the law does not apply to Homeowners' Association or to privately owned property.

Fireworks on the Port Antigua beach are not allowed for several reasons: safety (they really are dangerous), the fire hazard they pose to the flammable tikis the Association just had rethatched at considerable expense, the litter they cause, and the liability which may be incurred by PAPOA should something bad happen.

One resident set up a substantial display in a vacant lot adjacent to the beach, aiming his pyrotechnics over the beach and the tikis. Deputy Johnson approached the resident who told him he had permission from the lot owner. A phone call revealed otherwise, and the resident was escorted off the private property.

Even though there were numerous signs posted on the Beach prohibiting fireworks, another resident was caught with fireworks by Deputy Johnson. That resident claimed he hadn't seen any of the 25 signs that had been posted. He, too, was escorted off the Beach.





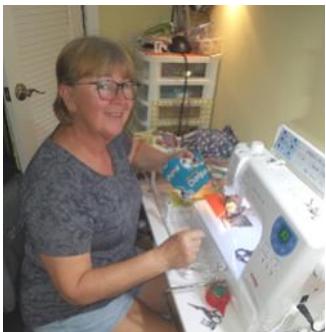
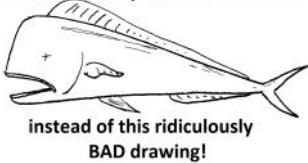
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Visit the website!  
[portantigua.net](http://portantigua.net)

Once again!

This could be a picture of YOUR fish



Rita hard at work



The Fills after COVID -19

Reopening

This newsletter is published by The Port Antigua Property Owners' Association for the private use of its membership. Please direct any comments or inputs to [newsletter@portantigua.net](mailto:newsletter@portantigua.net). Photos are especially appreciated. For regular PAPOA business, email Mari at [info@portantigua.net](mailto:info@portantigua.net).

### *A Favorite Recipe:*

#### **Fish Piccata**

Fish fillets	Lemon juice
Kosher salt and pepper	Fresh parsley
Flour	Capers
Butter	Chicken stock
	Olive oil

Salt and pepper fish fillets and then dredge in flour. Sauté in butter and a little olive oil (to avoid butter burning). When both sides are nicely browned remove from pan to serving dish and keep warm. Add about 1/3 cup of lemon juice and deglaze pan. Then add about 1/2 cup of chicken broth, capers to taste and chopped parsley. Juice should thicken up a bit. Pour juice over fillets and ENJOY!

From Michelle Bianchi

**Fishing Report** The rumor is that you have to go far offshore, 2,500 ft of water, to find a Mahi over 20". There is a lot of weed...and small fish for a lot of gas. The Yellowtail action has been slow due to clear water and not much current,

Often, the Filefish are eating the baits before they get to the Tails. And sharks have been a problem. On the good side, the Mangrove Snapper have been red hot during their spawn on the reef, 35-55 ft deep. Be safe out there!

**Long time Keys /Port Antigua resident Paul Kaub** has passed away at 87. A resident of Port Antigua since 1996, Paul was an active member of PAPOA, serving as treasurer for many years. He was also very active in the Matecumbe Angler's fishing club. Our condolences to his wife Norma and his family.

**P.A. Resident Makes Masks.** Rita Kolpf has made and donated over 1600 face masks and is still sewing! Way to go, Rita!

**Mini-Season** is still on. Monroe County refused to follow Islamorada's lead and request that the Governor suspend the two day frenzy called Sportsmen's Days this year. If you go out, please ensure you know the rules, and above all, be careful. The limit in Monroe County is six lobster per person per day.

**Fills Closed from 7/24—8/19.** The Village has closed most of the public boat ramps as well as area on US-1 known

as the Fills. Residents will be able to use Founders Park (including the ramp). See the [Village website](#) for more information.

**COVID-19 Cases Spike in Monroe County.** As of mid July, we have had over 900 cases since the reporting started, with the majority in Key West. BUT with 43 here in Islamorada, it is important that everyone wear their masks and practice social distancing.

**Missing the LMKA Newsletter?** There is a new one out. Due to copyright issues, PAPOA is no longer sending them along to the members. The newsletter alone is worth the price of a membership. And bonus: you are supporting a fine organization. See [their website](#) for information or email them at [LMKAnews@gmail.com](mailto:LMKAnews@gmail.com).

**Stone Crab Regs Changes** for 2020—2021 include increased claw size, and change of the season end date. Go to the [FWC website](#) for info.

### **Around the Islands**

**Solar vs Generator.** Wouldn't it be nice to get "free" electricity before and after the big storm? Solar power has become more common and more affordable. [FKEC even encourages members to install it.](#) But getting that electricity when the "grid" is down is more expensive than some realize. In a solar only installation, when the grid goes offline, so does the solar. FKEC does not want a solar system feeding electricity into a "dead" grid while they have crews working to restore power. To get solar power when the grid is down, a battery and Automatic Transfer Switch are "must haves" and right now batteries are expensive.

If you want to have clean, efficient power, solar may be the way to go. If you are just looking for backup after the big one, install a generator with the appropriate isolation switch. We don't want to electrocute the folks getting the grid back up!