

## Forgotten Coast Rally – Update (April)



Hello Cruisers of all types! Large Sailboats, small sailboats, trawlers – even RVs and land-based travelers.

You may recall we have been planning a destination trip to Apalachicola. I am happy to say that over the past couple of months many boats have expressed interest in joining us – from Point, Pensacola, Navarre, and other nearby YCs

It's getting close, and warmer weather is on the radar. Tentative dates for the trip still look good. Note that these are tentative, and we would certainly adjust if needed based on weather at the time:

- **Flexible Start** - Leave Josephine/Pensacola area around April 29, 30, May 1. This will allow anyone wishing to participate in the Ingrams Bay Raft-up or Dauphin Island Race to have flexibility.
- **Raft up** at Cape San Blas or Marina stop in the newly opened Port St. Joe Marina Thursday/Friday May 4-5.
- **Cruise** up the ICW/Apalachicola River to Apalachicola (note, controlling bridge height is 65 ft, depth is at least 6-8 ft)
- **Meet up/party** in Apalachicola weekend of May 6-7
- **Flexible Return** - Depart and make own way/schedule home.
- **For those wishing to continue** – we have a contact/invitation to continue on to Tampa Sailing Squadron or possibly St. Pete's YC. I am happy to discuss this if anyone is interested.

Please note the idea is to leave sufficient flexibility for all boats to pick their own route and schedule, but have a common destination. Boats can certainly travel in groups and pick their own route, stops, and schedule. There are several GYA clubs along the route with docks, and nice anchorages. You may choose to break up the trip and go either ICW or offshore depending on your choice, vessel, and conditions.

If you are thinking of using marinas along the way or in Apalachicola – it's time to make your reservations if you have not done so. While there are plenty of spots along the way, space in Apalachicola can be limited. Same day spots are usually available on a first-come basis on the City sea wall or at the Municipal Marina. We are staying at the Apalachicola Marina (opposite

the Ice House) and can host a pot-luck dinner there on May 6 – so plan on bringing a dish to share. I did talk to the dockmaster at the newly opened Port St. Joe Marina, but as of a couple of weeks ago, they were still waiting for the transient docks to be completed. However, Cape San Blas is typically a great anchorage.

Stay tuned for more information on the Forgotten Coast Rally and send any comments by text or email to Neil Davies 251-752-4133, or [ndaviesgeo@me.com](mailto:ndaviesgeo@me.com), we are currently in Europe, but return April 21.