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FEATURES

Caribbean Water Sports specializes in 'awesome'

BY STEVE GIBBS

Free Press Staff

KEY LARGO — Six hundred feet above Florida Bay, two Vermont girls could see for 20 miles in every direction.

Katie and Lily Feldman, 17 and 11, respectively, were flying high over the water behind a Caribbean Water Sports parasail boat, captained by Captain Darrell McCullough with mate Jeff Boyd aboard.

The vacationing students had just been launched off the back of the 30-foot boat that the Key Largo Grande (formerly the Sheraton Beach) Resort-based CWS uses for parasailing. Their dad, David Feldman, clicked photo after photo of his daughters.

Their aunt, Nina Smiley, watched as her nieces swayed in the wind overhead. They were in the Upper Keys to visit their parents, Fred and Frieda Feldman, residents of The Harborage.

The girls were strapped in securely, each wearing a life vest, as Locke slowed the boat and Katie and Lily slowly descended towards the water. With a deft hand on the throttle Locke eased them both into the water up to their waists before accelerating and pulling them back up. The look of surprise on the girls' faces brought laughter from their dad and aunt.

"Awesome" was Lily's reaction after the 15-minute ride.

Caribbean Water Sports has been offering awesome experiences for 18 years at the Grande, located at mile marker 97, bayside.

Wed, Apr 5, 2006

WEATHER FORECAST

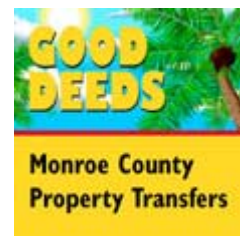


Brianna LaPorte, Fifth grade, Sugarloaf Elementary School

Seven Day Forecast

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Provided by National Weather Service



THIS DAY IN HISTORY

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OUR NEWS PARTNER

Weekly news for Islamorada, Key Largo & the Florida Keys

"We have the whole world coming here looking for entertainment," said CWS owner Darrell McCullough. "We try to provide them with an experience they can take home with them and remember for a long, long time."



VISITING THE KEYS?



Along with his brother, Brooke, McCullough made the change from "real work" to water sports when he moved from Miami-Dade County to Key Largo in 1983.

Find everything you need to know to plan a Florida Keys vacation, from 5-star resorts to scenic campgrounds. You'll find it all in our [Vacation Planning in the Florida Keys](#).



After a two-year stint at John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, where he learned the business, Brooke McCullough founded Caribbean Water Sports on the beach at the Caribbean Club on Blackwater Sound .



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For the water-oriented McCullough family, this was a natural. Brooke has since moved on to provide water sports at Hilton Head Island in South Carolina, while Darrell remained in the Keys and built a small Hobie Cat rental business into his big-time operation, first at the Grande (Sheraton) and then, for several years, at Cheeca Lodge in Islamorada.

Search our [archives](#) for past stories using keywords, publication date, or author.



Missed your paper today?

In addition to parasailing, the beachfront business offers a variety of on-the-water fun.

PHOTO GALLERY

For redelivery or account credit, call us in Key West at (305) 292-7777 extension 3, in Islamorada call (305) 853-7277, or e-mail us by [clicking here](#).

Long-time Key Largo Capt. Donovan Berg, and Captain Jesse Fox leads two-hour Everglades eco-tours each day, weather permitting. The cost is \$55 for adults and \$45 for children.



Check out the Photo Gallery Weekly for New Keys Photos!

[Click here to view photos](#)

Trip Bissell offers sailing instruction and mans the counter with Evelin Moorhead and Jesse Fox, CWS' activities coordinator. Bissell, like most of the crew, is a top-notch sailor.



Visit Key West Paradise on the web!

Reserve a hotel, book a charter, see what there is to do in Key West! Live Webcams!

The 13-foot Hobie Waves rent for \$85 for two hours, \$115 for four hours and \$145 for all day. It is an easy boat to sail and instruction is available at a cost of \$80 an hour and \$120 for two hours.

CWS also rents the 16-foot Hobie Getaway, which has a larger capacity, for \$95, \$130 and \$155 for the same time periods. .



Snorkel tours go out to the reef on the Caribbean Cruiser, a new 26' Glacier Bay twin hulled cruise boat, with Captain Tom Perkins at the helm. The three-hour private charter tour costs \$375 for up to six persons. Snorkel equipment is included if you don't have your own and towels, drink and fruit are included in the excursion.

The Sunset Champagne Cruise lasts for an hour-and-a-half and departs one hour before sunset daily, weather permitting, of course. Guests are asked to sign up by 4:00 p.m. for the \$40

trip.

Yamaha Waverunners, with a capacity of three persons, cost \$75 for a half-hour and \$109 an hour.

CWS also provides paddleboats, kayaks, wet suits and mat floats. Private charters and group rates are available for all activities.

And for those looking for a bird's eye view of the Keys, the PAPO certified parasailing program costs \$70 for one and \$140 for two flying tandem. They run specials for the 10 & 11 am trips with reservations the evening before.

To contact Caribbean Watersports, call 852-4707, or call the hotel at 852-5553 and dial extension 537. Reservations are recommended. You can visit the CWS Web site at www.caribbeanwatersports.com.

sgibbs@keysnews.com



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This site created and maintained by Key West Citizen IT Department.