

# Florida Rendezvous–New Location, Same Great Time



The 2017 Hatteras Classic Club Winter Rendezvous moved 50 miles north to West Palm Beach. Cassandra and Gordon Earle planned a fun-filled 3 days and it began Thursday afternoon, March 2 with cocktails and snacks on the dock at Palm Harbor Marina. Twenty-two members attended along with 2 prospective members, friends of the Earles, Walt and Susan Kirkbride, owners of a 65' LRC at the marina. That night everyone went to dinner on their own at the many restaurants available near the marina.

Friday morning some of the ladies went shopping along famous Worth Avenue while other members went to a presentation by Brady Atwater at the Residents Inn on Seakeeper stabilizers. The stabilizers were impressive and by all reports performed well, but the cost for a retrofit was "out of sight." Everyone gathered for lunch at the famous Taboo Restaurant on Palm Beach Island. The meal was wonderful and we departed the island just before the bridges were closed for the president's arrival that afternoon.

At 2:30 all had a real treat, a ride on "Diva Duck," a vehicle that goes on the road and in the water. There were small craft advisories and Lake Worth was very rough; everyone wondered if the water part of the ride would be cancelled. Fortunately, this was a specially-built vehicle for road and water, not one of the original, unseaworthy Army models. This truck/boat took the 3 foot seas amazingly well, drier than a Hatteras, and no one got soaked. When "Diva Duck" approached the steep boat ramp, everyone was worried it wouldn't make it up to dry land, but the captain/driver increased speed and climbed the ramp just fine. That evening, members returned to Palm Harbor Marina, thankfully inside, for drinks, snacks and pizza.

Saturday morning's schedule had some at the nearby outlet mall and while others went to a class by Bob Stone of DRSA on LED lighting. The lights were of good quality and DRSA would custom make anything, however the selection in 32V was limited. After lunch "on your own," members met at the Flagler Museum on Palm Beach Island. The museum, home of oil tycoon and Florida developer, Henry Flagler, was a magnificent example of early 20th century opulence in architecture, furnishings and art. Flagler's private railroad car was on the grounds and was also included in the tour. Afterwards, it was on to the legendary Breakers Hotel for a drink or two.

A private room at Il Bellagio restaurant at City Place in West Palm Beach was the site of the Saturday group dinner. Sunday morning was the official end of the rendezvous, but the Earles had graciously invited anyone still in town to their home for dinner.

Many thanks to Gordon and Cassandra Earle for planning and hosting this event and also to Irv Kaufman for arranging the speakers. As usual, a great time was had by all!









