

# THE CITIZEN

KEY WEST

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Lucas Oil team looking to break Key West-to-Cuba record — Page 1B



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## KEYS CALENDAR

### TODAY ON TV

#### AUTO RACING

FOX — NASCAR, Monster Energy Cup, Food City 500, at Bristol, Tenn., 2 p.m.  
NBCSN — IndyCar, Grand Prix of Alabama, at Birmingham, Ala., 3:30 p.m.

#### COLLEGE SOFTBALL

ESPN2 — Baylor at Oklahoma, 1 p.m.  
ESPN2 — Oregon at Arizona, 3 p.m.

#### DRAG RACING

FS1 — NHRA, Spring Nationals, finals, at Houston (same-day tape), 6 p.m.

#### GOLF

EUROPEAN TOUR — GOLF — European PGA Tour, Shenzhen International, final round, at Shenzhen, China (same-day tape), 6 a.m.

PGA TOUR — GOLF — PGA Tour, Valero Texas Open, final round, at San Antonio, 1 p.m.  
CBS — PGA Tour, Valero Texas Open, final round, at San Antonio, 3 p.m.

GOLF — Web.com Tour, United Leasing & Finance Championship, final round, at Newburgh, Ind., 3 p.m.

GOLF — Champions Tour, Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf, final round, at Ridgedale, Mo., 5 p.m.

#### MLB

RAYS — SUN — Houston at Tampa Bay, 1:10 p.m.

MLB — Regional coverage, Boston at Baltimore OR N.Y.

Yankees at Pittsburgh, 1:30 p.m.

FSN — Marlins at San Diego, 4:40 p.m.

ESPN — Washington at N.Y. Mets, 8 p.m.

#### NBA PLAYOFFS

ABC — Eastern Conference, first round, Game 4, Cleveland at Indiana, 1 p.m.

ABC — Western Conference, first round, Game 4, Houston at Oklahoma City, 3:30 p.m.

## POWERBOAT RACING

# HIGH POWERED

## Lucas Oil gunning for Key West-to-Cuba record

BY J.W. COOKE  
Key West Citizen

It was in 1958 that the long-standing record of fastest crossing from Florida to Cuba was set by Forest Johnson in a time of six hours and 24 minutes.

Two years ago, on Aug. 1, 2015, with Apache Powerboats owner Mark McManus operating the throttles, Roger Klueh driving, engineer John Pompei at the gauges and Damien Sauvage navigating the team broke the 57-year-old mark by nearly five hours in a 50-foot V-bottom that had previously won the 1992 and 1993 world championships in racing under the flag Apache Heritage.

In 2015, with the boat now named Apache Star, the team set the new record, covering the 110 miles from Key West to Havana in one hour, 30 minutes.

The crew departed from Stock Island Marina and experienced rougher than expected seas of 8 to 10 feet, their crossing became the first since 1963 that an American pleasure boat with an American crew has been authorized by the U.S. government to visit Cuba.

See LUCAS OIL, page 3B



Nigel Hook will be trying to break the record for the fastest time from Key West to Cuba.



## HOME COOKEN'

# Conchs still have shot, even with record below .500

BY J.W. COOKE  
Key West Citizen

It had been nine years since the Key West High School baseball team last finished a regular season with a losing record, but Saturday afternoon's rainout to Hallandale leaves the Conchs without a chance to climb out of

a two-game hole with just one remaining contest left on the schedule.

Coach Ralph Henriquez reiterated that he knew when he created this schedule it was going to be a challenge for his young team, but did not expect the struggles Key West has faced at the plate.



See COOKE, page 3B

## Lucas Oil

Continued from page 1B

Their new mark would be only the third world record in the category since Gar Wood established his name a top the history books in 1922.

This June, another familiar name to the Key West World Championships will look to become the fourth and new record holder as Nigel Hook and his No. 77 Lucas Oil SilverHook offshore powerboat team, that includes driver Jay Johnson, will challenge the current endurance mark.

They will attempt the trek during the week of June 19-23, which will also be a part of the second Lucas Oil Ocean Cup after the first

took place between Golden Gate and Queen Mary down the coast of California from San Francisco to San Diego.

"A Cuba record always been in my mind since my first race in Key West and, for many reasons, the time is right now," Hook said. "During our recent meeting with the Commodore of the Hemingway International Yacht Club, it became obvious that Commodore Eschrich and I share a similar passion for ocean sports. Commodore Eschrich and I have started a special friendship and, with his support, we plan for this to become an annual event. There is a strong history of offshore racing between Cuba and the U.S. dating back to 1922."

The Lucas Oil Ocean



Nigel Hook, left, stand with the Commodore of the Hemingway International Yacht Club, Jose Miguel Diaz Eschrich, during a recent meeting in Havana, Cuba.

Cup will be internationally-approved and sanctioned by the American Power Boat

Association, governed by the Union Internationale Motonautique with race management by Powerboat P1. Another element of this event will be to support the kids from the Key West Community Sailing Center, a nonprofit organization.

The SilverHook team will begin its quest from Mallory Square and the start timer will be triggered just south of Sunset Key. The timer stops at the channel marker in front of El Morro Castle in Havana.

"After crossing the line and setting that one-way record, Jay and I will run up the Malecón coastline, which is Cuba's most famous sea-side avenue, to do a flyby of the U.S. Embassy before circling back around and touching land in Havana Harbor for a brief interlude with our

friends in Cuba," said Hook who plans on making the trip in roughly an hour.

The return leg will be straight back to Key West setting the reverse, round-trip world record from Cuba to Key West and Hook believes he will be able to do this all due to a state-of-the-art vessel that combines technology developed between his company DataSkill along with IBM Watson IoT Edge Analytics and Cisco running predictive analytics onboard — turning Hook's offshore boat into "a flying data center."

"We are merging artificial intelligence and augmented reality into ocean racing because with this technology, we will transform our sport," said Hook. "And this time in international waters."

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