

Press Release – December 31, 2003
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BRINGING THE SAILING COMMUNITY BACK TO CENTRAL FLORIDA

SAILING - ANYTHING BUT BORING...

"With your rail in the water and everyone hiked out on the high side in neck to neck competition, it's easy to see how we get hooked - it's a huge adrenaline rush," says Willie Blevins regarding his favorite sport - sailboat racing.

Willie and his wife, Denise, own the FUN Maritime Academy on Lake Monroe, and are dedicated to educating the public about this great family sport. And to prove it, they are hosting the Catalina 22 Mid-Winter Regatta February 19th through the 22nd.

"We really want to see this lake bursting with activity. So we're doing everything we can to get more sailors on the lake. We've created the Boating Club for those people who want to sail, but don't have their own boat, and we also give Sailing Instruction," says Denise. "And it's all fun, but we really love the competitive racing," adds Willie.

The Regatta will draw 20-30 sailboats, many from out of state, and begins at 3:00 Thursday, February 19th with a rigging party on the ramp. Races are held Friday through Sunday with an awards presentation Sunday at 2:00.

This is the first time the Catalina Mid-Winters have been held in Sanford. And the new Sanford Riverwalk is scheduled to be complete in February, giving spectators a great vantage point to view the races.

Spectator boats are cautioned to stay clear of the race course and maintain a safe distance from participating boats. And spectators are welcome to watch from the beach at the marina.

The FUN Maritime Academy is the first business to open its doors as part of the Riverwalk. Their services include beginning and advanced sailing lessons, sailboat, pontoon boat and skiff rentals, and a boating club where members pay a flat monthly fee and have access to the fleet of sailboats.