



Dec 2010

Sarah Rapp

## The Holiday Season is Here!!

It seems hard to believe the holiday season is here. There is no time more fitting to say Thank you! It has been a great pleasure working with all of my guests, homeowners, property managers and providers of so many services. I treasure our relationship and enjoy working with each and every one of you.

This newsletter should be extremely fun and informative as I had the opportunity to spend an extended girlfriend weekend on North Captiva in September (unfortunately all details cannot be revealed as this group reminds me "what happens on the island stays on the island!"). In addition I spent a week on Boca Grande during October exploring the sights and sounds of this classic historical old Florida town. I am excited to share my experiences.

I know I share this sentiment in each time I write. My goal is to listen to your needs, match you with the perfect beach home and guide you through the travel maze. I do this from my thorough knowledge of each property and experiences I have had doing just what you will be doing.....traveling! Whether you want to go low budget or all out, I have the answers to fit your needs. You can think of me as your travel coach. I am customer focused, open to feedback and truly want your vacation experience to be wonderful.

In closing I wish you and your family a Happy Holiday Season and a New Year of health, happiness and prosperity!

With my sincere gratitude to you! Sarah

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## The Holiday Season is Here!!

The Christmas week (12/26-1/2) is nearly sold out. Why? Because North Captiva Island is a fabulous place to spend the holiday season. We still have many homes available prior to Christmas. The good news about this week is that it is LOW season rates. Some of those houses include Windswept, Birds of Paradise, Cinco de Mayo, The Silver Seashell, Longboat Pearl, Sea Shack, Osprey Nest and more. Many of the homes only require a three night stay.

Holiday week homes that are still available include the Palm Court, Surf's Up and Snails Pace. These won't last long and they are all gems.

Though the Christmas week is nearly sold out, there still are some spectacular homes available for the New Years Holiday (3 night minimum). Some of these fabulous homes include Isla Vista, Sea Glass, Oyster Shell, Sunset Cottage and Palm Court.

Each year there is one or two weeks that are completely sold out for spring break. This year the week of March 26<sup>th</sup> is filling up quickly. The time is NOW to reserve your vacation home for this particular week.

### Inside this issue:

Dunes of Boca	2
Let's go to Boca Grande	2
See and Do on Boca Grande	2
What Happens on the Island	3
Stays on the island	3
Conch House	3
Specials	4
Relay for Life	4



### Inquiries and reservations for North Captiva and Boca Grande:

- Toll free (866)587-6420.
- Mobile (740)334-8840
- Our guidance and information is from experience. We know the drill! We know what works. We look forward to assisting you with your vacation plans.

## One Week, One Beachfront Villa, One Awesome Island Getaway



As I write this newsletter, it takes me back to two weeks ago when I was staying at the Tropic Ten – Dunes of Boca beachfront villa. This villa is located on the north end of Boca Grande. The grounds are meticulously maintained in this gated community and the views are priceless. What is that saying in real estate; location, location, location! This is it. The Tropic Ten is an extremely spacious and fully stocked with just about everything you need. Books, games, beach towels, every kitchen item imaginable and I must not forget...a commercial ice maker. Just steps away from the screen porch are miles of beaches for enjoyment. The shells were awesome and abundant. The sunsets were breathtaking and the pool was refreshing. Escape is closer than you think. The Tropic Ten offers you the opportunity to leave your worries behind.

## Let's Go to Boca Grande!

The historic village of Boca Grande, on the island of Gasparilla, is located on the southern tip of Cape Haze Peninsula on Florida's Southwest Coast midway between Tampa and Fort Myers. The location enables visitors to arrive at many different airports including Tampa, Sarasota, Fort Myers and Punta Gorda. I flew in to the Fort Myers airport (RSW) and rented a car for my trip. The drive took me approximately one hour door to door. I would recommend renting a car rather than hiring a car service. Prior to arriving at the Gasparilla Island Bridge, I did my grocery shopping at the Cape Haze Publix market. It is within 2 miles of the bridge and easy to find. Crossing the bridge you will need \$5.00 for entry, but not on the exit. Cash is the form of payment you will need. I must warn you there are six different speed bumps after you go through the gate. Twenty miles an hour is the speed limit. Any faster you will crack your eggs like I did going over the last bump.

My experiences on the island were abundant. I met so many friendly folks as I strolled along the main street. Along with the spectacular endless beaches, I ate at some fabulous restaurants, explored the abundant history of Boca Grande and met with a wonderful team of folks organizing the Boca Grande Relay for Life. As you read on you will find some of notes from this fabulous trip.

As your planning your next getaway to warmth, Boca Grande should be on the top of you list. It is fabulous place to stay, play, explore, relax and escape.

## See and Do on Boca Grande

I look forward to sharing more in my next newsletter about the next three special spots I visited during my October visit, but I cannot go without a mention each of these locations.

The Johann Fust Community Library, a gift to the people of Boca Grande by winter residents Mr. and Mrs. Roger Amory is truly an island gem. Quite frankly visiting this library was surprisingly a special highlight of my trip.

The Boca Grande Community Center is another very special place for guests to visit. This center offers a wide variety of amenities and services for the residents and guests of Boca Grande. You can visit their website: <http://www.friendsofbocagrande.com>

Port Boca Grande Lighthouse and Museum is managed and operated by Barrier Island Parks Society. Located at the southern tip of Boca Grande, the Lighthouse and Museum offer breathtaking views and abundant history. Take some time when you visit this location. It is fascinating and in addition there is a spectacular public beach.



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## What happens on the island stays on the island!

Without divulging too many details, I must say my island getaway with 7 dear friends was an absolute blast. I know they would agree. We spent 5 glorious nights with some of the best weather imaginable during the month of September on North Captiva Island. If laughter is the best medicine, we had a good dose of healthy times. The highlights and recommendations from our trip include:

### Moonlight water taxi with Capt. Teddy and Capt. Mark

Our group arrived at 8:30 pm. so we had to schedule a private water taxi. Kayla from the island club was so helpful. She gave me the captain's number and asked to call when we were close. The ride over under the starlit sky was breathtaking. Capt. Teddy and Capt. Mark provided spectacular customer service and were very informative to the guests. Josh from guest services at the North Captiva Club was waiting for our arrival. Josh would not let us lift a finger.

### Grocery delivery by Sandie's Grocery Service – a must!

Ok folks, this is a true luxury. Working with Sandie was seamless. She was so kind with all our pre trip questions. There was always a comment from Sandie not to worry about anything. Her grocery service is one I highly recommend. It made our arrival so wonderful and her presentation of the fruits and vegetables was beautiful. Sandie called us the day after arrival to make sure everything was there. This is truly first class service she provides.

### Fishing with Capt. Dennis

Our group renamed Capt. Dennis the Fish Whisperer. Dennis can tell what a fish is before you even pull it out of the water. His talent and knowledge of fishing are overwhelming. It is fishing charter that will not disappoint you.

### Island hopping with Captain Matias from Boats and Fun

Our boat departed from Boats and Fun (on island boat rental and fun shop) with Captain Matias at the wheel. After a briefing on safety, the fun began. Matias did break for dolphin and manatee. We boated to South Beach Grille on Boca Grande for lunch. Everyone's favorite was the grouper Reuben. Later we explored around Cayo Costa and Matias took us into the manatee cove to look for manatee. Success as we found manatee. To wrap our island hopping trip, we stopped Cabbage Key for some beverages. The staff at Cabbage Key explained the history of the island and the inn. We all decorated dollar bills for the wall. Captain Matias is just a delightful guide. He is a great photographer too!

### Dinner cruise on Island Girl to the Collier Inn on Useppa Island

Capt. Emily and Capt. Terry were spectacular guides to our trip to Useppa. This is an island that is extremely private and filled with so much history. Captain Emily filled our group in on the history of the island. She provided us so much knowledge. Our dinner was spectacular and ride back to North Captiva was filled with another breathtaking sky.

This too was a favorite of everyone.

### Daily items included!

Walks on the beach, books by the pool, catch phrase with cocktails, sunsets on the roof, golf cart rides, the pool bar at the island club, laughter, laughter and laughter.....repeat for 5 days.

## It's back—the Conch House on North Captiva!



This news is exciting as I just spoke with the owners of the Conch House. Their home will be back available for rentals beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>. In addition, the owners have recently added marble countertops to their kitchen. It is beautiful. The Conch House is a spectacular 3 bedroom home with a private pool located just steps to the beach. The house is meticulously maintained as the owners spend a great deal of time their too. This house books up quickly as it is very

popular.



**The time is NOW to  
RESERVE your  
Holiday Rental.  
Spring Reservations  
have started.**

**facebook**

## North Captiva Island Club Specials

We are very fortunate to have a special relationship with the North Captiva Island Club. Because of this, we will be offering their specials to you! There is no time better than right now to plan your trip to North Captiva Island. I have detailed information on our website and I am happy to assist with finding the package that works best for you. Take a sneak peak below.

GREAT STAY GETAWAY PACKAGE: Available for arrivals from January 3rd, 2011 till February 12th, 2011 for selected units. PACKAGE TERMS: RENT 6 NIGHTS AND GET 7TH NIGHT FREE!  
Also included:

1. Pay for your Express Check in once and get free additional ferry trips during your stay. Great for grocery runs or trips back and forth to your car.
2. Choice of 2 tickets on the Nature & Dolphin tour or Sunset Margarita Cruise.
3. Choice of 2 complimentary rounds of golf or 2 tickets on the Captiva Island Day excursion.
4. 2 Complimentary cocktails at the Boathouse Restaurant.

4 NIGHT FALL SPECIAL: Available for arrivals between September 7th, 2010 and December 16th, 2010 excluding Labor Day weekend and Thanksgiving. RENT 3 NIGHTS AND THE 4TH NIGHT IS FREE! Many extras included with this package.

7 NIGHT FALL SPECIAL: Available for arrivals between September 7th, 2010 and December 16th, 2010 excluding Labor Day weekend and Thanksgiving. RENT 6 NIGHTS AND THE 7TH NIGHT IS FREE! Also Included:

1. \$100 excursion credit. Pick your trips.
2. Ferry Service and Parking are free for your group!
3. Extra Golf Cart rental - 1/2 price!
4. 2 free Cocktails at the Boathouse Restaurant
5. Free Lunch at North Captiva Island Club pool bar for 2.

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## Relay For Life – We have assembled our team!



I am pleased to announce that this year BeachVacation4me has formed a relay team of its own. The Boca Grande Relay for Life organization has named their event "Prime Time for a Cure". Teams were asked to select a new or old television show for their team name. Since my two children are my co-captains, we will be calling our team "Family Affair". Along with the donations that they receive, BeachVacation4me has pledged to give a percentage of each rental to this spectacular cause. We will have more information in our next newsletter. I hope you will join us in join us in raising donations and awareness for the American Cancer Society!!

# The Crew's Nest



This stunning multi-level, multi-deck home is located just yards from the pristine North Captiva beaches of the Gulf of Mexico. This island beach rental is designed with comfort and luxury in mind, and with the utmost attention to capturing the beauty of the creation all around.



Enjoy the Crews Nest, an architectural delight providing a standard of living second to none. This lovely 2,500 Square Foot beach view home is brand new and there is no shortage of quality and award winning elegance here. The designers of this beautiful home intentionally named this model "The Deck House" providing numerous decks off every level. The combination of interior elegance and exterior delight blend together seamlessly as it was always meant to be.

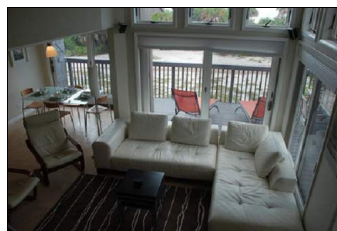


## Why not arrive by private plane to North Captiva!

North Captiva Island has a private airstrip for small planes. This private airstrip limited to Owner - members and the guests they invite. All use of the private strip is limited to preregistered guests who have reviewed and agree to the terms of the airstrip. Liability is a big concern and these rules must be adhered to. The strip is a 2300 foot long grass airstrip and about 175 feet wide.



The ByDesign beach house is one of the few homes with airstrip rights. When looking to fly onto the island, this is one great home to reserve. The location is awesome; it is meticulously maintained and fully equipped with everything you could possibly need.



Visiting the Islands  
will renew your  
spirits.