

HEMINGWAY SOCIETY & FOUNDATION
IX INTERNATIONAL HEMINGWAY CONFERENCE
BIMINI, BAHAMAS
January 3-9, 2000

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MAY 10 BULLETIN: POETRY NOBEL LAUREATE DEREK WALCOTT HAS
ACCEPTED TO BE
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

A unique International Hemingway Conference will take place in Alice Town, Bimini, Bahamas, January 3-9, 2000. Bimini is a two island settlement forty miles off the south Florida coast, noted in days past for ship wrecking and rum running and big game fishing, and in more recent years for its seen-from-the air land formations resembling large fish, its fountain of youth and tradition of a visit by Ponce de Leon, its underwater seeming-road formations prompting annual seminars on Bimini as the Lost Atlantis, its deep "Healing Hole" of warm fresh water in the middle of a mangrove thicket in the Bimini flats, and still today its many world record bonefish triumphs, its internationally famous marlin tournaments, its cobalt blue

north side Gulf Stream (visible from shore) where Thomas Hudson fished, its vacant white beaches, its small Compleat Angler Hotel where Hemingway stayed in upstairs room #1, and where the Hemingway Museum houses 100 enlarged photographs of Hemingway on Bimini during the years 1935-37.

The narrow water entrance to North Bimini harbor divides North and South Bimini and provides access to various marinas, including Brown's Wharf (see Islands in the Stream), the government wharf, and the big Game Club. East of the main channel (where the Chalks' seaplane lands) lies 200 miles of Bahamas' shallow water flats. From the west beaches, one can sometimes see the rare green flash at the instant of sunset, and on the clearest of nights almost see the faint glow from the lights of Fort Lauderdale. Bimini is where Martin Luther King wrote his "I Have a Dream" speech, where Representative Adam Clayton Powell retired from the U.S. Congress to a little red-roofed house (still visible from the entrance), where in the Compleat Angler Gary Hart entertained a friend on his knee and allowed the picture to be taken that cost him his bid for the U.S. presidency. Several Biminities remember Hemingway, including his chair boy Manny Rolle, and Natty Saunders, a balladeer in Islands, now 90 years old. Alvin Taylor roamed with Jack Hemingway on the beaches when Hemingway was marlin fishing, and Alvin painted the sign-portrait of Hemingway that hangs outside the Angler Hotel.

Bimini is not what would think of as a big-time Caribbean tourist island, but as a small (geographically narrow), oftentimes laconic, pleasantly receptive fishing community that caters to big game (marlin, wahoo, and bonefish) fishermen, small bands of scuba divers and snorkelers, random spring college revelers from the States, and occasional New Atlantis buffs. Coastal South Florida lies due west, 200 miles of shallow Grand Bahamas flats lie due east. The Gulf Stream is visible from the west beaches.

CONFERENCE HOUSING

The symbolic conference center will be the small Compleat Angler Hotel (12 rooms) which features the Hemingway Museum and room #1 where Hemingway stayed: tel 242 347 3122; fax 242 347 3293. Single \$67.60/Double \$78./Double Deluxe \$88.20/extra person \$10.

The actual conference center will be the contemporary Bimini Big Game

Fishing Club and Hotel, a hundred and fifty yards up the street, with its 49 guest rooms (two double beds), cottages (two double beds, dining area, refrigerator), satellite TV, fresh water swimming pool, tennis court, poolside and sports bar, liquor store, souvenir shop and marina. Tel 800 737 1007, 242 737 3391, fax 242 347 3392; <http://www.bimini-big-game-club.com> email: biggame@janics.com We have negotiated wholesalers reduced rates which precludes travel agents and requires conference registrants to identify themselves as Hemingwayites. Bookings on-line or by fax or phone. Maid service \$2.50 per room per night. Numbers of available rooms precede descriptions: 4 Moderate single or double \$138 (triple \$158, quad \$178); 35 Superior single or double \$154 (triple \$174, quad \$193); 12 Cottage single or double \$181 (triple \$201, quad \$220); 7 Crewhouse single or double \$70 (triple \$89, quad \$108).

Sea Crest Hotel, Elaine Sweeting, North Bimini, 100 yards from Compleat Angler. Ten rooms and suites hotel. One two person bedroom--\$85, extra person \$15 per day. 2 bedroom suite \$190/day, 3 bedroom suite \$275/day. Tel 242 347 3071; Fax 242 347 3495.

SOUTH BIMINI

South Bimini Yacht Club: a 16 room new hotel with restaurant, serves breakfast, lunch, dinner. Each room has two double beds. Immediate walking distance to ten minute ferry to North Bimini. \$70/night. Tel 242 347 4444; Fax 242 347 4511.

Bimini Sand International: Frank Cooney. Condominiums with a kitchen and patio. One bedroom with an upstairs bed with one bathroom, for a couple and single to share. \$1000 per week (three units available). Two bedrooms with three bathrooms, and an upstairs living room with a sleep sofa. For two couples and a single to share. \$1500/week (four units available). This is a five star ***** accomodation. Transportation to ferry to North Bimini.

Bimini Reef Hotel on South Bimini. Beachfront, swimming pool, restaurant. 25 rooms. Contact Emeil or Mr.Cooney, tel 242 347 3500. Ten minute transportation to ferry.

EXCURSION TO CAT CAY: Barge excursion to and luncheon on neighboring island where Hemingway stayed while preparing final version of TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT.

THINGS TO DO ON NORTH BIMINI

Kayak Bimini: Day Trips; Half Day Trips; Sunset Cruises; Full Moon Paddles; Eco Tours (Bimini Healing Hole); Snorkeling; Kayak Rental Prices include paddle, backrest, lifejacket, safety and snorkeling equipment. Also wild dolphin excursions. ("More than reasonable prices"-DJ). Also scuba diving (air fills), bike rentals.

Golf cart rentals are available on North Bimini.

Long white vacant beaches where even in January the water is warm.

[There is also a scuba diving center on South Bimini: tel 242 347 4444; fax 242 347 4511: Scuba Bimini.]

Big Game Fishing: Marlin, Wahoo, etc, Captain Bob Smith. \$600/day.
Bonefishing: \$150 half day; \$300 full day: Bonefish Cordell, Bonefish Tommy and others. Reservations through Sir Michael Checkley: fax 242 347 3206.

REGISTRATION

BIMINI HEMINGWAY CONFERENCE, Jan 3-9, 2000
DATE _____

Name(s) _____

Please check number in appropriate boxes:

Registration fee all sessions (academic and social)=\$175. _____

Registration fee social functions only=\$145. _____

(includes keynote speech, final banquet, additional scheduled events, and vacant white beaches)

Bahamas Air roundtrip Fort Lauderdale/Bimini _____

(\$160 per person: this is the identical cost of Chalks International Airline from South Florida to Bimini)

Please check Jan 3 preferred flight time to Bimini:
12:00 noon___ 2:00___ 4:00___ (FIRST COME FIRST SERVED)
Jan 9 departure times: 8:00, 10:00, 12:00 (FIRST, etc)

Day Cruise to and luncheon at Cat Cay @ \$45/person _____

Please enclose check or money order TOTAL _____
made out to Hemingway Conference Bimini:
Mail to Don Junkins, 63 Hawks Rd, Deerfield, MA 01342

Donald Junkins
63 Hawks Road
Deerfield, MA 01342
Tel & Fax 413-774-3475