

KEEP ON HOPPIN'



Bar Hoppin' With Hops

The Keep On Hoppin' Tour
Hops MacBarley's 2014
Key West Bar Boondoggle

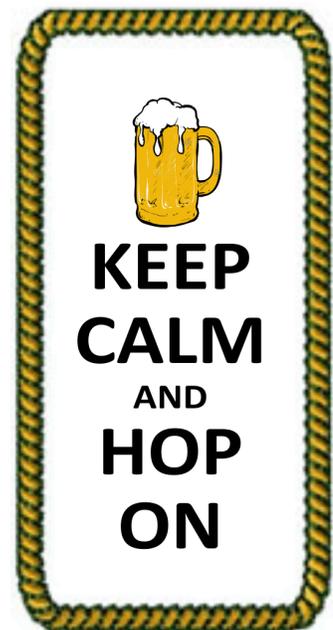
Just when I thought I was out, they draaaaaawww me back in...

The bars, that is. Key West keeps giving birth to new ones, and they have that lure, that pull, that irresistible *biere artisanale* that just says, *Hop me, Hops, hop meeeee*. They writhe and moan and grunt and sweat and beg, *hop me, hop me, hop me, ohhhh baybeeee, hop me like a freight train*. They do. Really. At least, I think they do.

Well, whatever. Five months off was enough. It's time to rally H-Troop, release the hounds, and get back to the hunt. The herd has taken root, the wind is in the wassails, and the chaff is off the cuff. Let's hop some barrrrrs.

There will be no push for any set number of days, weeks or even months. We're hoppin' from here to the Hopocalypse. I have compiled a short list already, and there will always be more to add. The attrition rate from the last two tours was almost one bar per month (10 of 100 went under in 2012, 11 of 100 in 2013). The rate of new openings is not very different.

Four new hotels -- all with bars -- are *scheduled* to open before the year is out, but there are some serious doubters about that. Some other overhauls are in progress. Even a brewery is on the way. If we ever get to point where we lament, "No more hops to hop," I'm sure we won't have to wait long. Key West does like its bars.



Should I compromise? Include adjacent islands? Stock? Sigsbee? Sunset Key? Should boats count? Only if they're docked? Ahhh, screw it. We'll make it up as we go along. My Tour, my rules, subject to no appeal. I can justify anything if I put my mind to it.

It might take a while to reach the coveted 300, but, dad gummit, we'll get there.

Takes time, you pick a bar to go, and just keep hoppin' on...