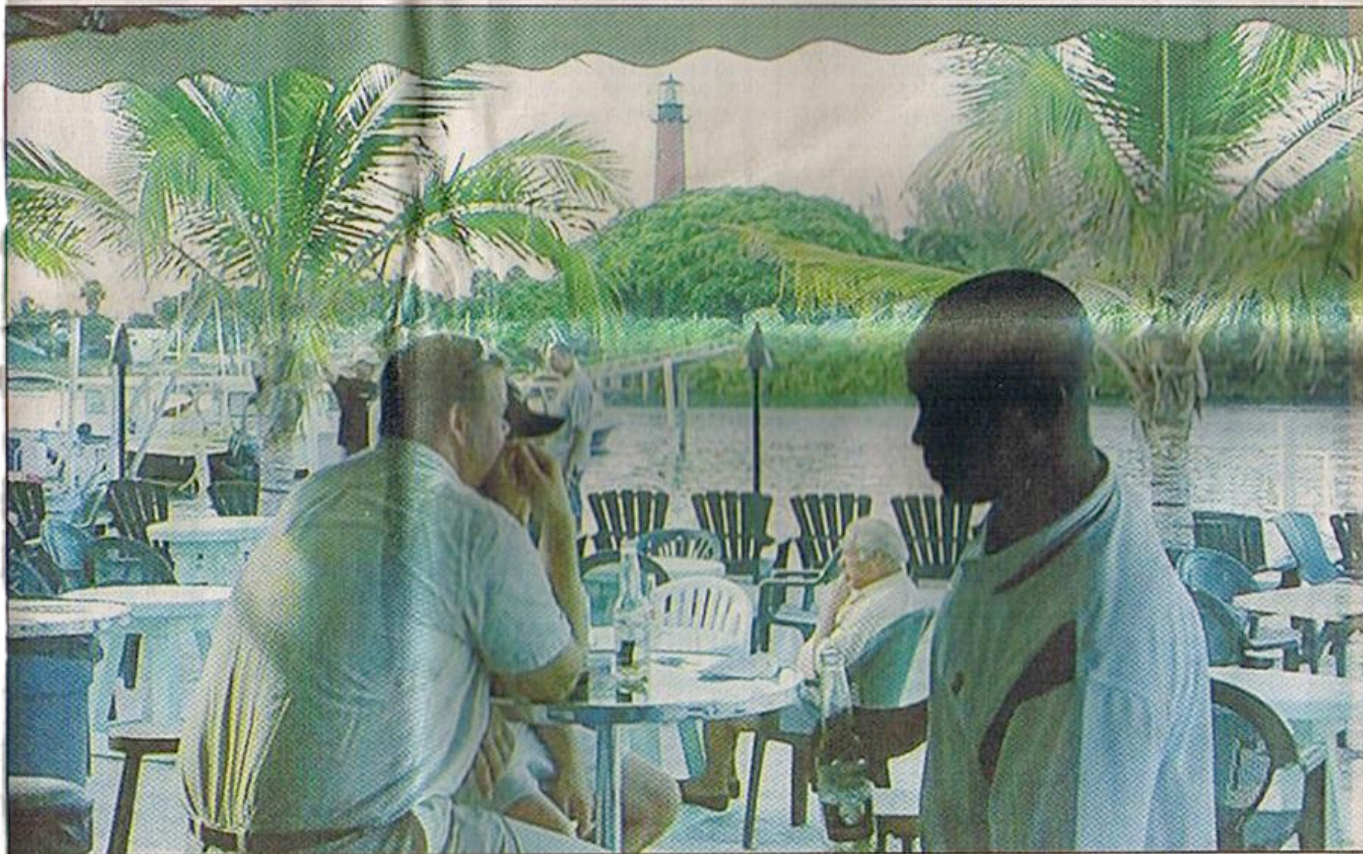


Castaways:

Where it's cool to be Square



Guests enjoy the view of the Jupiter Inlet and Lighthouse while sipping their drinks at the Square Grouper.

ALEX LUCES The Jupiter Courier

Jupiter's favorite T-shirts-and-flip-flops watering hole could be honored as the country's best beach bar.

By Alex Lucas
Staff Writer

With thousands of miles of beaches framing much of the United States, where is the best beach bar? Try the Square Grouper at Castaways Marina, a tiny place with a huge reputation and dedicated clientele hidden in one of Jupiter's most scenic sites.

The Square Grouper has been nominated for Grolsch beer Best Beach Bar Award in a national competition being conducted this summer by the royal Dutch lager. The contest began Memorial Day weekend, and if you want to vote — sorry, too late. But you can look forward to either toasting the Square Grouper or helping owner Jim Burg cry in his Grolsch on Labor Day weekend.

If you go

Castaways Marina - Square Grouper Tiki Bar is located at 1111 Love Street, Jupiter, Fl., (561) 575-0252 and is open daily from noon to midnight.

when the results will be announced.

"I come to Grouper's for the atmosphere and the view," Paul Devenoge, 39, a union plumber from Jupiter, as he sipped a cold brew in the shaded part of the bar.

"It's laid back. It reminds me of the Bahamas, mainly the Keys," said Ron Simon, 44, a drywall contractor from Jupiter.

The "best beach bar" award is based on the relaxed atmosphere, the crowd, the beach and the design of the bar itself. This summer,

Grolsch will send guests to the establishment to conduct site observations. The Square Grouper's tiki bar, in existence since February 2003, is part of Castaways Marina, which has been around for more than three years. The dock where Castaways is located has been around for 40 years.

And just what is a "square grouper?"

Well, it doesn't swim but it does float — we're talking bales of marijuana dropped off at sea — and the bar highlights its contraband name with a couple of pictures involving big-time drug busts.

This Grolsch nomination comes on the heels of the Town of Jupiter's proposed Riverwalk project.



A photo of a police drug bust involving a bale of marijuana — sometimes known as a "square grouper" when dumped at sea — is displayed at the Castaways Marina bar.

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