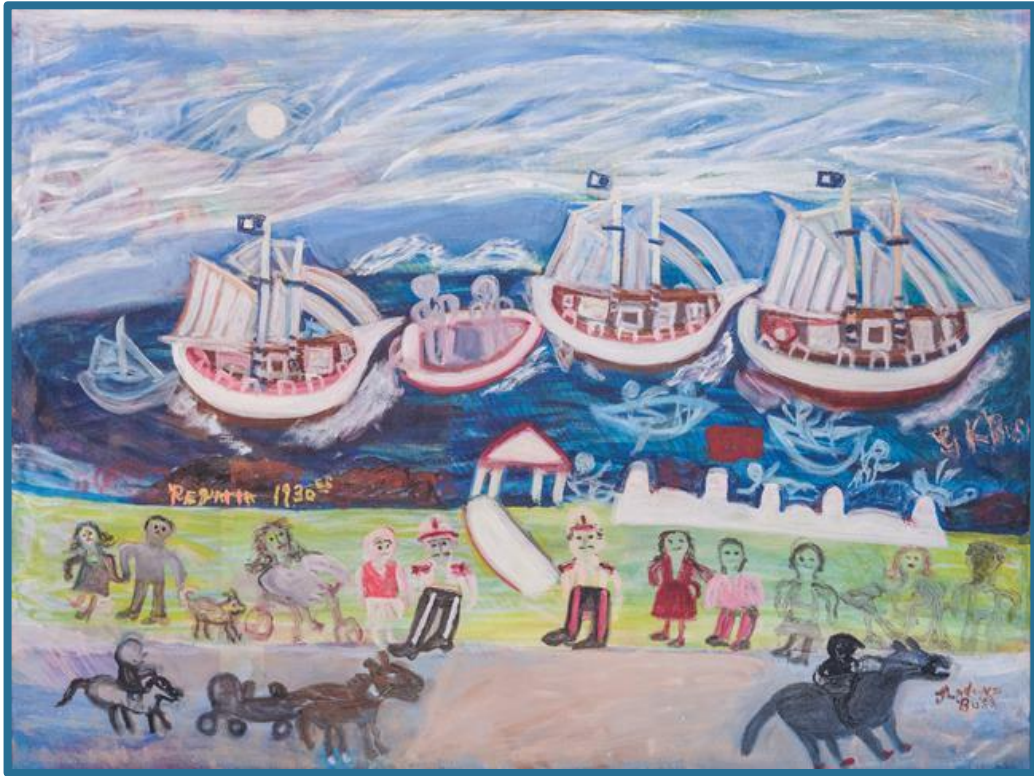


# EASTER IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

CREATIVITY : HERITAGE : EDUCATION



1930s Regatta – Painting by Gladwyn K Bush, “Miss Lassie”

## Come to Cayman’s Easter Regatta!

The Cayman Islands may seem like a far-flung, remote location, but they are full of activity for tourists and locals alike around Easter time.

In the Cayman Islands, it's a longstanding tradition for families to go to the beach together for all or part of the four-day long Easter Weekend. They set up camp on Good Friday, then swim, fish, barbecue, and play games on the shore.

Many Easter events are held at the big hotel and resort chains on the islands. These include visits from the Easter Bunny, egg hunts and other Easter games, face painting and of course a proper Easter dinner.

Kitefest takes place this time of year when the winds are high, as does the Round the Island Easter Regatta sailboat race in Grand Cayman. Chalkfest offers artists a chance to compete and show off their work, while plenty of music, games, and fun is available to entertain families who attend.

SOURCE: <https://publicholidays.la/cayman-islands/easter/>

# THEN...

## THE ORIGINS OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS EASTER REGATTA (January 1935)

**REGATTA:** A boat or yacht race, usually an organised series of such races, forming a sporting and social event.

- The first Cayman Islands Regatta, locally known as the January Regatta, seems to have originated back in 1934 when the newly appointed Commissioner, Allan Wolsey Cardinall, founded the Cayman Islands Yacht and Sailing Club.
- The first regatta was held under the auspices of the Club during the last week in January 1935.
- During the 1930s the event was often favoured by the presence of one of His Majesty's war ships.
- George Town was decorated with flags and bunting and even decorated motor cars and horses could be seen along Hogsty Bay.
- Everybody wore their finest clothes when they gathered along the sea front.
- Only commercial vessels were entered in the races and sometimes as many as 20 schooners could be seen with their white sails set, white painted hulls and newly varnished and well greased masts shining like gold in the sun.
- Small crafts such as catboats, sometimes as many as 100 or more catboats (coloured the bluest blue cruising on a sea of the most beautiful shades), dinghies, punts and canoes also, had sailing competitions.
- Every ship was Cayman-built and Caymanian-manned.
- All these working vessels were built for turtling, and very often came from the same Caymanian builders.
- However, knowledge of the sea and wind, the currents and tides were the principal factors enabling one to outsail the others.
- A special event during the Regatta was a race for Model Yachts. Boys and youths wishing to enter their model boats had to notify Mr. E. O. Panton. This was advertised by A.W. Cardinall, Rear Commodore.
- The Regatta closed with a gala ball in the Town Hall on the evening of the third day when trophies and prizes were distributed.

**NOW...**

## THE CAYMAN ISLANDS SAILING CLUB ROUND - THE - ISLAND RACE ANNUAL EASTER REGATTA (2021)

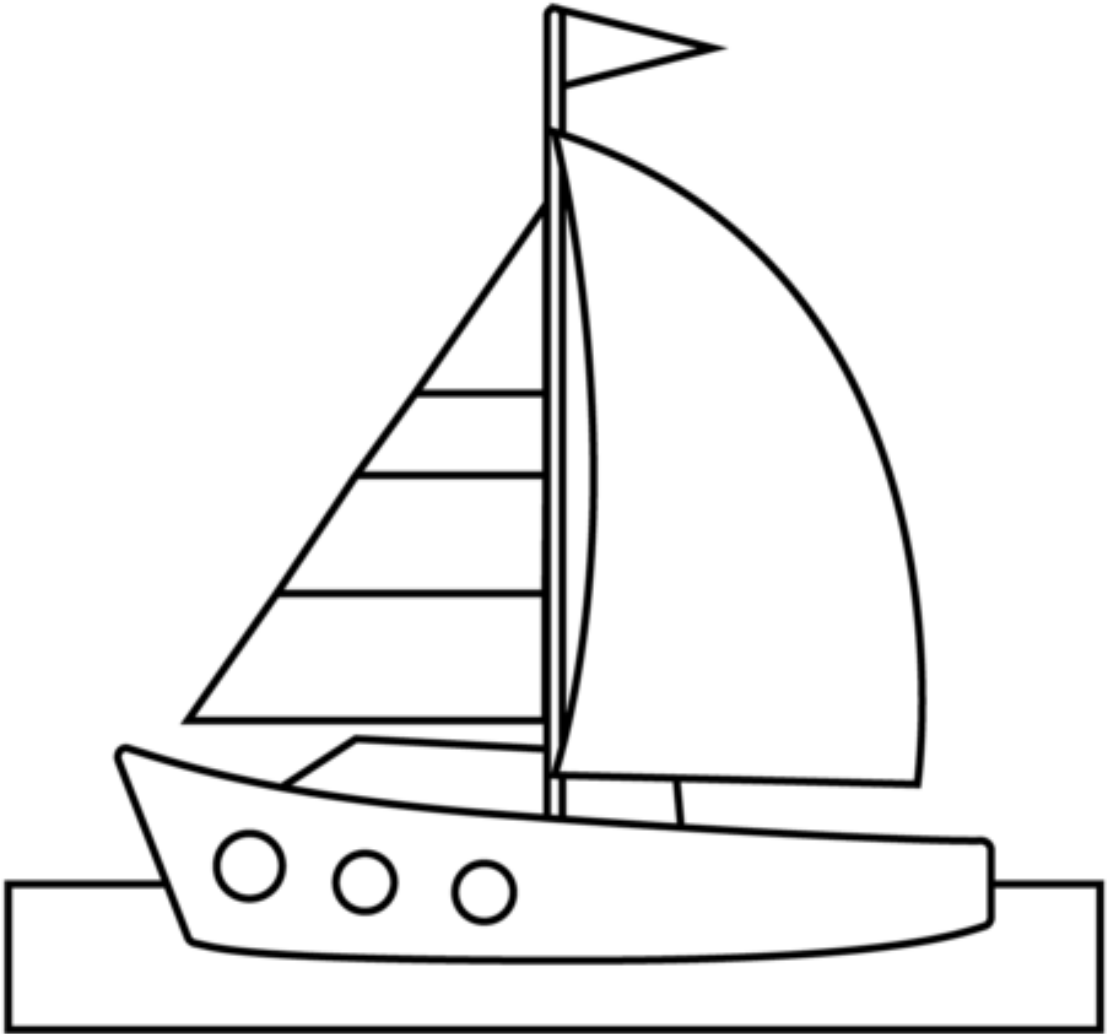
- ✦ The annual event, held on Good Friday, 2 April in 2021, featured 13 catamarans and monohulls battling rough seas over a 42-mile course.
- ✦ **CATAMARAN RESULTS:** Simon Whicker's 33-foot catamaran, *Seawind*, prevailed, crossing the finish line in 4 hours and 54 minutes.
- ✦ *Bamboozle* came second, 2 minutes and 22 seconds behind the winner.
- ✦ After a late start, *Resolution* finished third, after the fastest elapsed time at 4 hours, 30 minutes and 10 seconds.
- ✦ **MONOHULL RESULTS:** 1<sup>st</sup>: *Calypso*; 2<sup>nd</sup>: *Mirikama*; 3<sup>rd</sup>: *Java Knight*.

**SOURCE:** Cayman Compass, Seaford Russell Jr, 12 April 2021



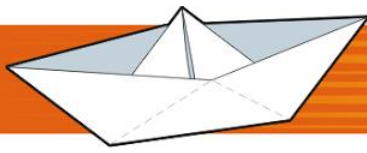
*Seawind* After Winning the Race (Photo: Supplied to CaymanCompass.com)

# YACHT



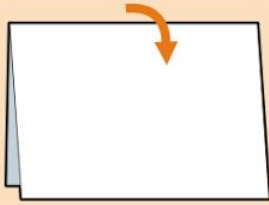
## DIRECTIONS:

- Colour this drawing of a yacht.
- Use your computer to find line drawings of other boats that race in the Cayman Easter Regatta: catboat, dinghy, punt, canoe.
- Download and colour each one.
- Use another clean, unlined page and draw and colour a picture of the sea.
- Staple all the pages together with your beautiful cover on top.
- Give your handmade book a title and print your name under the title. You could write **Boats In Cayman Easter Regattas**.
- Share your picture book with family and friends.



# How to make a paper boat

1



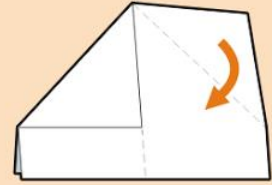
Start with an A4 sheet of paper.  
Fold in half, top to bottom.

2



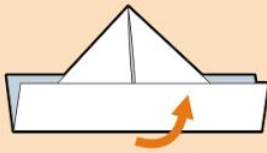
To find centre, fold in the  
other direction and unfold.

3



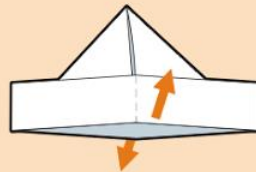
Fold corners down  
using centre fold as a guide.

4



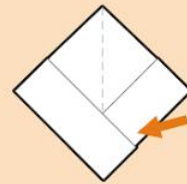
Fold flaps up on  
both sides.

5



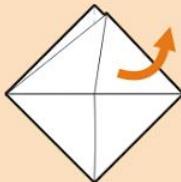
Put thumbs in middle  
and open out...

6



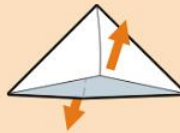
...until it makes a square.  
Tuck corners of one flap  
under the other.

7



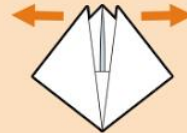
Fold up at both sides.

8



Put thumbs in middle  
and open out again...

9



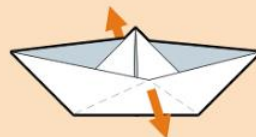
...until it makes a square.  
Pull corners out...

10



... and press flat.

11



Open out to make boat shape.

12



# CRAFT ACTIVITY – COCONUT BOAT

Why not have your own boat races, in a swimming pool or in shallow waters at the beach?

Watch the video at the link below and then make your own coconut boat!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HAh8A\\_lzco8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HAh8A_lzco8)

## DIRECTIONS:

- Use the pictures below of coconut husk and coconut shell boats that children used to make long ago.
- Ask your parents or grandparents to help you with this project. They may even help you to get prizes for the winners of the races!
- Invite your family and friends to make their own coconut boats so everyone can join in the fun.



Photo: [tripadvisor.com](https://www.tripadvisor.com)



Photo: [shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com)

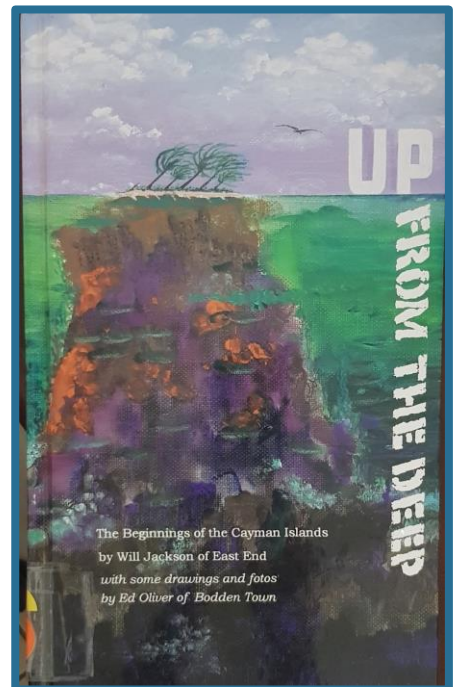
# READ MORE ABOUT OLD EASTER CELEBRATIONS IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

## Up From The Deep by Will Jackson of East End (pages 119-120)

(Available at the CNCF Research Library, public libraries and local bookstores)

It was almost a certainty that there would be turtle meat over all the Island on Saturday morning, would be served for Sunday dinner. The old folks ate fish all through the week but never on Sundays. Always there was turtle or pork or perhaps even a fowl which they cooked all day Saturday to get it soft enough to eat Sunday. Easter Sunday the sick, the lame and the lazy all went to Church, even if it was one of two visits they make for the year, the other being Christmas Day. If they held Sundays as being holy normally, the Easter Sunday was held reverently sacred. Some of the younger folks took parts in the sacred concert which possibly was rendered in every church in the Island.

So, Sunday night the elderly went to be entertained by the children. Even as now, in the old days, the younger set went picnicking on Easter Monday. The prime fete of the day would usually be a cook-out with fried fish and boiled conchs eaten with lime juice to relish. The old-time pot cakes were present. The young people sailed in boats and swam to enjoy themselves. No, life in the old days was not drudging or boring for young people; they had their enjoyments quite respectfully. No smoking, no drinking, no wild sex parties and dopes. Easter Monday was the end of the Easter season for another year.



THE END