

April 2022



The Marco Men's Club

Newsletter

P.O. Box 5035
Marco Island, FL. 34146
www.MarcoMensClub.com

Established 1992
A non-profit organization

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Number 24. **My final President's Message.**

To paraphrase the ancient Chinese Curse (which incidentally is not Chinese) “**may you live in interesting times**” we have done that. This “Chinese Curse” can alternatively be viewed, as **a time of opportunity**, rather than a time of hardship. The past two years have seen the Marco Men's Club not only survive but thrive. This has been due to the hard work of our Board of Directors as well as our many Committee Chairmen and Event Hosts.

The pandemic required us to use alternative methods and venues for our Board and General Meetings. It required us to be cautious when we restarted our social calendar. Through all of this, I do not know of any member who has acquired or died of a COVID-19 infection as the result

of a club activity. We have had many new members join our club this year and our calendar has been full of things to do. The participation has been great.

Our March calendar was packed. I would like to thank **Dave Tobiasz** for hosting the Men's Only Lunch after our general meeting. **Rob Reiley** organized a great evening at Artis-Naples for the Chris Botti concert. The St. Patrick's Day celebration was a fun time at the Marco Brewery with our perennial **Leprechaun, Dave Walsh**. Pictures are available on the website (marcomensclub.com). We had the opportunity to see an exciting Everblades hockey game thanks to **Jack Martin**.

Our golf and bocce leagues remained active.
Bocce standings to date: **Tuesday Team Ann** and **Thursday Team**

Davis will compete for Tournament Champion. Tournament Champion will be announced next month.

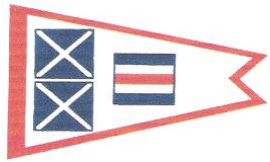
Our many discussion groups continue to meet with new participants joining each time. If you wish to participate and haven't done so yet, check out the times and places noted on the "Club News" page in this Newsletter.

The season is not yet over. We have many activities planned for April and May. On April 1st we'll be attending a performance of "**America's Sexiest Couple**" at The Marco Players; on April 16th we'll see "**My Fair Lady**" at Artis Naples; on April 25th we have the **Four-man Golf Scramble** at Eagle Lakes G.C. In May we have the **30th Anniversary Ball** on the 5th; and we'll be seeing a performance of "**Love and Money**" at The Marco Players on the 7th.

Again, check our website and download the appropriate flyer to reserve your space. If you see that a cutoff date has passed and you would still like to attend an event, contact the host and see if he can fit you in.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the present and past Board members as well as the Committee Chairmen and Hosts who have helped me, personally, to fulfill my duties. It has been my privilege to serve as President of the Marco Men's Club for 2020 and 2021. Our new Board of Directors and Officers will begin their terms of office on May 1st. I am confident that our new president, **Warren Uhl**, and the new board will lead you to a successful and enjoyable 2022 club year.

Jerry Swiacki



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Club News

COMPUTER/TECHNOLOGY CLUB

Computer/Technology Club typically meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 11:30 AM at CJ's. This is an informal round table discussion group.

Beginners, experienced and in-between are all welcome. Reservations are not required.

Contact **Charlie Erker** at 239-259-8054
Or charles.a.erker@gmail.com .

INVESTMENT DISCUSSION CLUB



This is a gathering where opinions are valued, facts are appreciated and experience is not

necessary, but prized. An open and broad discussion of topics relating to investment raised by those present, is conducted. The Club typically meets the second Wednesday of the month at 1:30PM at the Marco Lutheran Church. We will be meeting in the choir room, please enter through the administrative offices.

Contact **Don Koppel** Ph:856-906-4318. Meeting status will be through an eBlast the week before the meeting.

BOCCE BALL



We played our last games March 31st. Eighty members with a few friends have been at it since January. As of

this writing we have six teams on two days fighting for the top spot in the Tournament Play. Winners will be announced at the awards luncheon at the Brewery April 5, noon. All may attend. The season play where each team played all other teams ended March 3, and the winners were:
Tuesday-Team Ann, Gary and Ann Vanic with Dave and Sandy Fuhrman.
Thursday-Team Davis, Ray and Kathy Davis with Dave and Maureen Hodgkinson. **Congratulations!** I point out they both are still in the running for Tournament Champions. Time will tell. I will announce Tournament Champions next month. With that, Bocce goes back into Hibernation until next year. **I'm looking for someone to step up and take care of next season while I am Club President.** It involves a few hours each week and some skills with excel and email. Not at all difficult. Questions Contact **Warren Uhl** at 727-247-5167
MMC.BocceLeague@gmail.com

For Bocce results/news click on link:
<https://marcomensclub.com/BocceBall.htm>

Travel Discussion Club



The next Travel Discussion Club meeting will be on Wednesday, April 6th at CJ's starting at 11AM.

Main topic will be European river Cruises, but anyone can suggest a topic by emailing me.

You can stay and have lunch with us, or go after the meeting – your choice.

Please bring your questions, ideas, and suggestions.

Hints for those planning trips:

1. Check online for specific requirements when you plan your trip.
2. Take proof of your vaccination status.
3. Consider purchasing travel insurance.
4. Double-check your passport early. It takes 4 ½ months to renew.
5. Apply for TSA PreCheck or Global Entry.
6. Pack multiple masks. (Pack extra masks, hand sanitizer, Lysol spray, wipes, and water in your carryon bag).

Let me know if I can help in any way.

Contact **SILKY SULLIVAN**

marcosilky@yahoo.com or 239-404-3249.

SPORTS UPDATE

The Miami Dolphins schedule will be released in May. We have booked group tickets with a \$1000 deposit. Several mid-west teams are coming in-Packers, Steelers, Vikings, Browns. Exact dates have not been established yet. Last years seats for NY Giants were \$120 in the bleachers and this year's prices will probably be more. I would like to hear from members that would like to go to one of these games. No commitment until a schedule is released. We need a minimum of 10. Please email me with thoughts or ideas.

Jjtpm11697@yahoo.com Thanks!

Jack Martin 347-837-2131

HOSPITALITY

Thanks to the guys who set up the room. Chairman **JERRY DEFIBAUGH, RICH CARLSEN, DON LALLY, DEREK MULLINDER AND DON KOPPEL.**

MMC HATS AND SHIRTS

The order form for Hats and Shirts is available on-line on the MMC Website, under the **MISCELLANEOUS** header. Click on **CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES** to obtain Order Form and Instructions.

SICKNESS AND BEREAVEMENT

Please telephone **George Vitta** at 586-942-8056 or email

golflover3@yahoo.com regarding information of illness or death of members, their spouse, and immediate family. George will notify the MMC board.

CRUISES



GUESTS OUTSIDE GROUP AFTER MAY 20TH, SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE SPACE: HOWEVER, THE MMC AUSTRALIA CRUISE PACKAGE AFTER MAY 20TH WILL HAVE A COST INCREASE OF \$2,542 PER PERSON. OUR CRUISE AC2 CATEGORY CURRENTLY COSTING \$5,490 PER PERSON, WILL COST AFTER MAY 21 \$8,032, REPRESENTING AN ADDITIONAL \$5,084 FOR A DOUBLE STATEROOM.

THE MMC “50th” CRUISE AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND OCTOBER 22 - November 5, 2022

ABOARD CELEBRITIES 5 STAR SHIP, **“THE ECLIPSE,”** 15 DAYS, 14 NIGHTS VISITING 7 PORTS, “2” NIGHTS HOTEL TO ENJOY SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA TOURING SYDNEY AND THE COUNTRY, ON CLUB’S PRIVATE COACH. **THREE FREE CELEBRITY PERKS.**

THE CLASSIC BEVERAGE PACKAGE, SHIP GRATUITIES AND WI-FI. CLUB IS RECEIVING A LARGE REQUEST FOR THIS CRUISE SPACE.

**CURRENTLY 93 PEOPLE
CONFIRMED IN 50 STATEROOMS.**

A VERY POPULAR CRUISE. LIMITED STATEROOMS AVAILABLE IN EACH CATEGORY. A CELEBRITY’S STATEROOM ON-BOARD BONUS CREDIT FOR \$200 FOR BOOKING CONFIRMED BY MAY 4TH. ALL FLYERS WITH CRUISE DETAILS AND RESERVATION FORMS AVAILABLE ON CLUB’S WEB-SITE.

THE OPPORTUNITY TO BOOK MMC SPACE FOR AUSTRALIA IS FAST COMING TO A CLOSE ON MAY 20TH. WE MAY CONTINUE TO BOOK

THE MMC “51st” CRUISE CHINA, TAIWAN, JAPAN FEBRUARY 17- MARCH 4, 2023

SIXTEEN DAYS, TWELVE NIGHTS SAILING ABOARD CELEBRITY’S 5 STAR SHIP **“THE SOLSTICE”**, VISITING 10 PORTS OF CALL IN CHINA – TAIWAN AND JAPAN. “3” FREE PERKS: THE CLASSIC BEVERAGE PACKAGE, SHIP GRATUITIES, UNLIMITED SURFING WI-FI, PLUS AN EARLY BOOKING BONUS FOR \$200 ON-BOARD STATEROOM CREDIT FOR BOOKING CONFIRMED BY APRIL 12TH. A PRE-CRUISE VISIT STAYING IN HONG KONG, CHINA 3 DAYS/2 NIGHTS, ENJOYING MMC PRIVATE HONG KONG TOURS. 5 STAR HOTEL, DAILY BREAKFAST, HOTEL AND SHIP TRANSFERS, MIAMI ECONOMY ROUND TRIP AIR. TOKIO SHIP AIRPORT TRANSFERS, PORT CHARGES, TAXES.

**CURRENTLY 11 STATEROOMS
BOOKED, 19 GUESTS.**

**CELEBRITY’S POLICY UPDATED
COVID-19 INFORMATION:**

- **GUEST DIAGNOSED WITH
COVID-19 WITHIN 14 DAYS**

**BEFORE DEPARTURE
RECEIVES 100 PERCENT OF
MONIES PAID.**

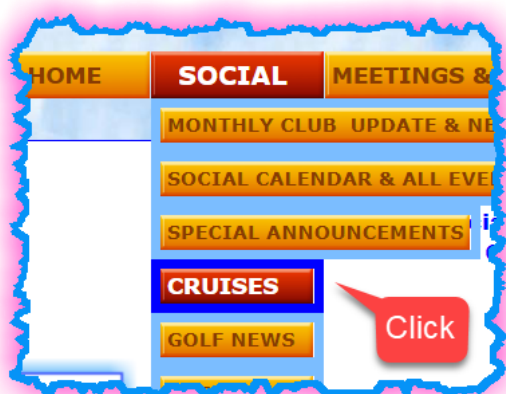
- **GUEST WHO BECOME
INFECTED WITH COVID-19
ABOARD SHIP WILL BE FLOWN
HOME AT CELEBRITIES'
EXPENSE BY PRIVATE PLANE.**

**TO VIEW TRAVELEX INSURANCE
COMPANY POLICY**

PLEASE GO TO THE MMC WEBSITE
& USE THE DROPDOWN MENU,
AVAILABLE ON ALMOST EVERY
PAGE, FOR ALL THE LATEST
INFORMATION ON MMC **CRUISES**.

...OR FOLLOW THIS LINK:

<https://marcomensclub.com/Cruises.htm>



**Contact Bob Marks at:
bobmarksmi@hotmail.com
239-642-0370**

The Marco Men's Club

Speakers Calendar

Peter Piro, Program Director

April 13, 2022

Mr. Chris Byrne

Marco Island Fire Chief

Fire Chief Chris Byrne began his fire service career in 1983 as an entry-level firefighter with the Marco Island Fire Control District, which became a city fire department in 1998. He worked his way through the ranks culminating with promotion to Deputy Fire Chief in 2001. In 2016, Chief Byrne retired after 33 years of service with the Marco Island Fire Rescue Department. He was not retired for long before being called back in September 2017 to serve as Safety Officer for Hurricane Irma. He continued with the City as Incident Commander of Recovery and the City's liaison to FEMA. In August 2020, Chief Byrne was appointed Fire Chief of the City of Marco Island Fire Rescue Department.

Chief Byrne holds a Bachelor's Degree in Management and an Associate's Degree in Fire Science and is a licensed Paramedic. He specializes in Incident Management.

He resides on Marco Island with his wife, Julia, and son, Joseph

May 11, 2022

Ms. Linda Oberhaus

An update on the status of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking in our community.

Gentlemen... This is a 'Woman of Consequence' and a speaker NOT TO BE MISSED! On Wednesday, May 11, 2022, the Marco Men's Club is honored to welcome Ms. Linda Oberhaus as our guest speaker. Her topic will be as follows: **"An update on the status of domestic violence & human trafficking in our community."** As attested to by the vitae below, Ms. Oberhaus is consummately qualified for the position she holds. This presentation will shine a bright light on the effects of domestic violence and human trafficking right here in Southwest Florida. With more than 30 years of professional experience in the human services field, Linda Oberhaus is the CEO of The Shelter for Abused Women & Children in Naples, FL. She has led The Shelter for Abused Woman & Children since 2007 as its Chief Executive Officer, and in 2021 became President of FPEDV, Florida's new federally recognized domestic violence coalition. Ms. Oberhaus previously served as the Executive Director for the certified domestic violence center in Tampa, Florida. Her current Vitae and Credits:

- Harvard Kennedy School, 2012 Performance Measurement for

Effective Management of
Nonprofit Organizations

- Harvard Business School, 2009
Strategic Perspectives in
Nonprofit Management
- Eckerd College, 2004 Leadership
Development Institute
- MASTER'S DEGREE, Social
Work University of South Florida
2000
- BACHELOR'S DEGREE, Social
Work University of South Florida
1994

June 8, 2022

Mr. Mike McNees

City Manager Marco Island

**STAY INFORMED! Come learn more
about your community and what it takes
to run it! The Marco Men's Club
welcomes Mr. Mike McNees, City
Manager of Marco Island on Wednesday,
June 8, 2022!**

Mike McNees assumed the role of
Marco Island City Manager on July 1,
2019. Before that he served as City
Manager for Melbourne on Florida's
Space Coast.

McNees started his thirty-plus year
career in public service in the early
1980's when he moved from the private
sector into an entry-level job in Collier
County Government. 17 years later he
left his position as Assistant Collier
County Manager to become City
Manager in Sarasota, Florida, a position
he held for six years. He then moved to
the mountains to become the first

County Administrator of Blaine County,
Idaho which covers 2800 square miles
and includes the Sun Valley ski resort.

In 2009 Mike was recruited by a former
associate to the position of Chief
Operating Office for USA Track and
Field, and a year later was unexpectedly
thrust into the Chief Executive Officer's
role. In two years in that position, he
took Team USA to the Pan American
Games in Guadalajara, Mexico, and to
World Championship events in Istanbul,
Turley and Daegu, South Korea, while
negotiating the necessary contracts for
the execution of the 2012 USA Olympic
Track and Field Trials in Eugene,
Oregon. McNees subsequently returned
to public service in Melbourne in early
2013.

Mike is a native Hoosier who received a
degree in Chemistry from Indiana
University, where he was a Big Ten
Conference Champion in track and
field. He served as Assistant Track
Coach at Louisiana Tech University
while earning his Masters' Degree in
Business Administration.

July 13, 2022

Steve (Stef) Stefanides

**Writer/Columnist-Marco Island
Coastal Breeze**

Gentlemen... this is one not to miss! a
great contributor to our island and a
consummate weaver of tales!... Steve
(Stef) Stefanides!

Steve Stefanides, better known
throughout the island simply as "Stef"
has been a fulltime resident of Marco

Island for 32 years, having arrived on Marco in 1990 from his home state of New Hampshire. He had originally purchased his first residence in 1986 and would visit often during the four years before making Marco his permanent residence.

Before moving to Marco, he attended public schools and would graduate from the University of New Hampshire system with a B.S. in Education and was very active within his community. He would serve in elective office as a City Councilor in Concord New Hampshire for two terms, as well as a term in the New Hampshire House of Representatives and the Merrimack County Delegation.

He would serve six years with the NH National Guard with the 397th Medical Detachment. He would obtain the rank of Staff Sergeant (E6) and would be in charge of the Detachment's Flight Medics on Huey Helicopters within the state.

"Stef" would spend four years as a career firefighter with the City of Concord Department before teaching history two years before beginning an almost 40-year career in sales and marketing for two U.S. manufacturers of fire and EMS apparatus and equipment. Those assignments would place him in charge of distribution channels domestically and internationally as well as serving as the special projects manager for the V.P. of Sales.

Over the years he has been very active within the community serving on a number of committees and boards throughout Marco, including the

YMCA's Board of Directors, Transition Committee for Facilities for the City, Master Planning Committee for the Veterans Community Park, City of Marco Island Budget Review Committee, the Disaster Relief Fund Raising Committee for Hurricane Katrina Victims, the Marco Island Sunrise Rotary, Board of Directors for Sunrise Rotary, the Original Veterans Memorial Planning Committee, President of the Board of Directors for the Town House Square Condo Association and for 16 years the Chairman of Christmas Island Style.

For the last several years he has been a writer and columnist for both the Marco Island Sun Times and now for the Coastal Breeze News. You may have read his weekly column "More Straight Talk," as it comes out every Thursday, along with articles that keep us up to date on city business and other information.

Up until two years ago Stef was an avid motorcyclist, having traveled by two wheels throughout the country and writing blogs while on those trips. Golf and boating have also been great loves of his.

Peter Piro

April 2022

Golf News



Chris Hansen, Golf Chairman

Cell: 630-674-5565

Email: chrishansen16@icloud.com

March Golf News

Golf Pass: Thanks to **Tony Tomassone** for the great work that he did signing up 35 of our guys for the S Florida PGA Golf Pass summer program. The cost will be \$40. We will be able to play some nice courses this summer and fall at reduced rates with the Golf Pass.

Bob Hansen made a Hole in One: Friday, March 18 at Hibiscus. #8, 170 yards, white tees with a 7 iron. 2nd hole in one. The most difficult par 3.

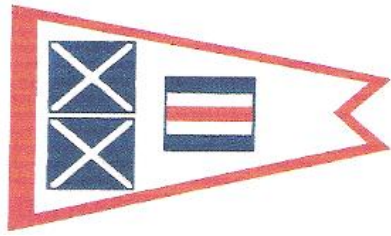
Spring Scramble update: Monday April 25 at Eagle Lakes Golf Club. 8:30 shotgun start. Teams will be evenly matched. \$80 for golf and lunch. Sign-ups due Monday, April 11. 45 have committed to play, 36 have paid.

Most Improved Player: the winner to be announced at the Scramble. **Jeff Dywan** is working on this. Turn in your scores!

MMC GOLF COORDINATORS SPRING/SUMMER 2022

April	Monday	Tony Tomassone	tonytom_52@msn.com	610-937-2324
May	Monday	John Laird	jglaird64@gmail.com	920-366-4652
May	Friday	Jeff Dywan	j.j.dywan@gmail.com	219-718-9615
June	Monday	Bob Vanderselt	BVanderselt@stomaventures.com	314-378-0516
June	Friday	Frank Sroka	fsroka74@gmail.com	239-272-4328

Chris Hansen



THE MARCO MEN'S CLUB

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Newsletter is published by the Marco Men's Club.

The Board of Directors is the Editorial Board. April 2022

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Jerry Swiacki

President Emeritus: Jeff Dywan

Senior Vice President: Warren Uhl

Vice President: Ray Seward

Vice President: Tim Clune

Vice President: Dave Tobiasz

Secretary: Mike Levine

Treasurer: Rudy Landwaard

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Membership Chair: Warren Uhl

Hospitality: Jerry Defibaugh

Public Relations: Dave Walsh

Theater Chair: Randle Grossman

Golf Chair: Chris Hansen

Sports Chair: Jack Martin

Bocce Coordinator: Warren Uhl

Program Director: Peter Piro

Cruise Chair: Bob Marks

Sergeant-At-Arms: Mike Levine

Sickness/Bereavement Chair: George Vitta

Newsletter Editor: Lou Makris

Membership Communications: Bill Rogers

Investment Group: Don Koppel

Computer/Technology Club: Charlie Erker

Travel Discussion Club: Silky Sullivan

Webmaster: Ed Crane

www.marcomensclub.com

Past Presidents (*indicates deceased):

1992: Paul Kurtzman

1996: George Kuntz*

2000: Jerry Stought*

2004: Bob Gaffney

2008: Fred Stavola

2012: Randle Grossman

2016: Dan Flynn

2020: Jerry Swiacki

1993: Bill Perdichizzi

1997: Alan Wetjen*

2001: Ned Wright

2005: Wayne Boose

2009: Joe Varano

2013: Jack DeHanas

2017: Silky Sullivan

2021: Jerry Swiacki

1994: Harold Penn*

1998: George Godfrey

2002: Al Bozzo

2006: Tom Traeger*

2010: Bill Sullivan

2014: John Superits

2018: Bill Rogers

1995: Bob Marks

1999: Jerry Stought*

2003: Ken Molander

2007: Joe Cassidy*

2011: Sam Miloro

2015: Warren Dettinger

2019: Jeff Dywan