

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

The Marco Men's Club

April 2023

Newsletter

Established 1992
A non-profit organization

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Gentlemen, this is my last Presidents Message. Next month the new board and President, **Dave Tobiasz** will take the reins. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as your leader. While I do have another year on the board as President Emeritus, without any defined duties it is a “cakewalk.”

Eleven months ago, I wondered how to measure my time as President. I laid down two measures: event attendance and membership numbers. At this time last year membership numbers were at 409 and now are slightly down at 390. Sadly, widows went from 17 to 24 this year. Seven members passed. The decrease may be partly due to a post “COVID world.” I don't know. We have picked up 28 new members since September. I'm not particularly worried about the

numbers as membership-wise we are getting many younger guys who will, hopefully, be future leaders. Attendance is a bit harder to judge. Our premier event, Sweethearts Ball, was definitely down this year. Theater had to cancel two events based on participation but sold out on many others, with more offerings than in past years. Even a simple coed lunch at the Little Bar sold out with 60 attending. St Patrick's Day party was a hit with 73 attending. I believe attendance-wise we are in good shape. But the trend may be away from expensive dinner dances to other less formal venues. As a small example of success, the island has a Cigar Group that meets weekly at CJ's on the Bay. It had humble beginnings 8 or 9 years ago. At one time it was primarily softball players, 6 on a good day. Today we get 25 guys or so each week and most are MMC members. A stunning change. Through word of mouth and much prodding it

has brought a number of guys into the club.



My biggest fear going into “my year” was the possibility of having to replace **Bob Marks** as cruise director. Little did I know that would fall into place, as Bob handpicked his successor. I had a number of chairman changes as I always found someone ready to step up and assume duties. Volunteerism at its best. My thanks to those of you who did.

Speaking of leaders, as reported **Silky Sullivan** has some medical issues that forced him to step down as Travel Discussion Group leader. I am pleased to report **Joe Covelli** has agreed to take over the group. Joe and Rose Anna have traveled extensively on cruises, in Europe and the US. With support from others, they will do a good job. Joe has been a member just a bit under one year. Thank you, Joe. **Dave Walsh**, did a bang-up job with his St Pat’s party. Pictures are on the website. We also got good coverage in the Costal Breeze and the Marco Eagle. We were Irish for two hours for

sure. A shout out to Speakeasy for the best corn beef I’ve had on the island.



Jerry Defibaugh is hosting an 18-hole Co-ed Mini Golf and Lunch April 13th; the cutoff date is April 6th. Hurry!... **Dave Walsh** is hosting a dinner and theater event here on the island. “The Foreigner” is set for Saturday the 22nd of April. And yes, our own **Jay Terzis** is playing Sergeant Froggy. Cut off is the 14th. Don’t call Dave’s cell phone, it doesn’t work at his house. He was last seen spinning at a high rate of speed a few feet off the ground. Lastly, **Chris Hansen** has our spring Golf Scramble at the Glades Country Club planned for Friday, April 28th, deadline for signing up is the 14th.

Bocce rolled to a stop last month. Much thanks to **Rick Johnson** for guiding us through the season. And, the end of season bash at the Brewery last month.

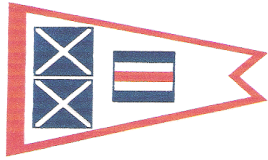
The Men's Club is restarting its annual Blood Drive. COVID put the kibosh on it a few years back. We have 23 slots remaining for a May 4th 1:30 to 3:30 "drawing" here on the island. See the flyer on the Events page.

With **Bob Marks** retiring, **Sal Soldano** is looking for a new "straight man" to spar with. He prefers someone with an accent. Any volunteers?

The club is what you make of it. Get involved, sign up for a venue, and meet new friends. Tell a joke at our meetings.

Warren Uhl

April 2023



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Club News

COMPUTER/TECHNOLOGY CLUB



Steve Furlong is now facilitating the club discussion. The goal remains the same, use the experience and wisdom of

the group to help folks with technology. Need help with your new iPhone, Ring camera, iPad or other device? Having problems downloading a new App? Don't understand what this thing called WhatsApp is and how it can save you money on your next cruise trip? This is the place to get help! Please note the new time and place. The club, which typically meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 10:30 am at the Marco Lutheran Church Choir room is currently on hiatus until Fall.

Contact **Steve Furlong** at 309-662-9101

Or stevenrichardfurlong@gmail.com.

INVESTMENT DISCUSSION CLUB



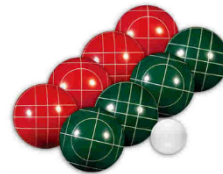
This is a gathering where opinions are valued, facts are appreciated and experience is not

necessary, but prized. An open and broad discussion of topics relating to investment raised by those present, is conducted. The Club meets the 3rd 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



The Bocce season has ended, 21 teams (84 people) participated. Team Dave won the Tuesday league and team Ray won the Thursday

league. The season ended with playoffs for the Tuesday and Thursday teams with the winners for each day facing off to name an overall champion. Team Ray went on to be overall champion.

A luncheon was held at the Marco Brewery, 25 + attended and trophies were awarded. To view standings/photos click on <https://marcomensclub.com/BocceBall.htm> Contact **Rick Johnson** at MMC.BocceLeague@gmail.com

TRAVEL DISCUSSION GROUP



The Travel Discussion Club which typically meets in the Marco Lutheran Church choir room at 12:00PM the first

Wednesday of the month, is currently on hiatus until September.

Contact Joe Covelli at 412-527-5876 or jeffersonjoe@comcast.net

MMC TRAVEL CLUB



Marco Island Men's Club has added a new benefit to all members. We have been working on establishing a group travel activity

alongside our Cruise offerings. Future trips will include many destinations that club members have suggested: USA, Europe, South America etc. Our first trip is a 9 day classic tour of many of our National Parks; MT RUSHMORE, YELLOWSTONE AND GRAND TETON WITH BADLANDS. The Total Cost is \$3164 per person. The trip begins on September 19 from RSW and ends on September 27 departing from Salt Lake City. To view package details, refer to [Travel Club](#) on Club Website.

Contact **Tim Clune** tclune@gmail.com 248-980-6142 with your suggestions for a future MMC group trip.

SPORTS UPDATE

Waiting on the Miami Dolphins season schedule to be released.

For Info Contact **Jack Martin**

Jjtpm11697@yahoo.com

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



I am saddened to report the passing of club member Donald Boston on March 16th. Our thoughts and prayers go out to wife Doris and their family. Don is the brother of fellow club member Ken Boston (wife Julia). Memorial services will be held up north at a later date.

Club member Ron Spering was involved in a car accident on Friday, March 31st. He was in serious condition at last update on April 5th but progressing fairly well. Fellow club member Don Koppel may be contacted for further information.

We recently learned that Dr Eugene 'Gene' Cislo passed away on March 6th. Gene was a founder of the MMC golf league. A link to his online obituary is provided.

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/marco-island-fl/eugene-cislo-11184893>

Remembering Ned Wright, past president of MMC who passed away July 20, 2022.

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.

THERE'S A NEW FEATURE ON OUR WEBSITE

Do you visit our website on a small screen device like a cell phone or tablet? Do you find the drop-down menus at the top of each page difficult to manage? Then this feature is designed just for you!

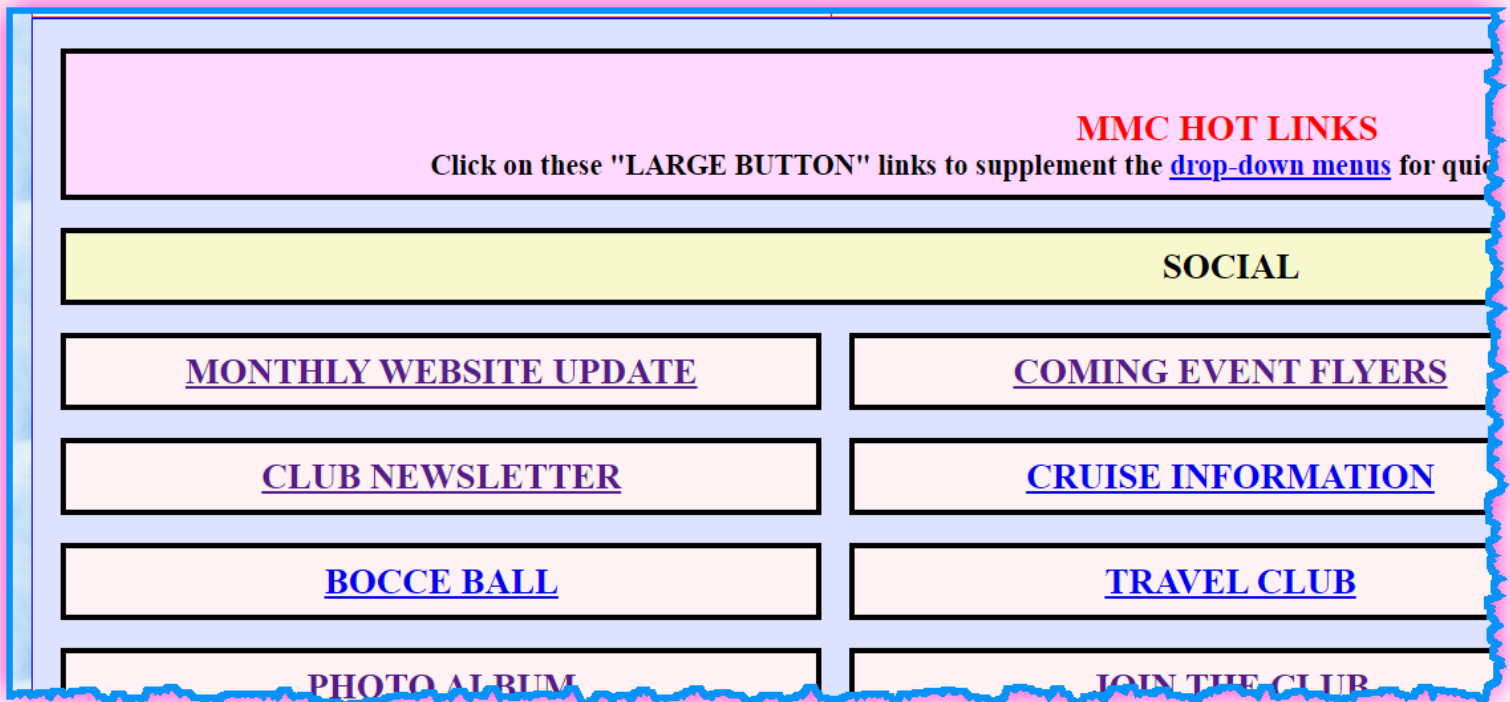
Go to the HOME PAGE (<https://marcomensclub.com/>) from anywhere in the website and look for this image on the left, near the top of the page.



Touch or click the image and you will be quickly scrolled down the same page to our new and improved MMC HOT LINKS table. This Table contains BIG BUTTONS that provide 'finger sized' access to all the same pages as the drop-down menus. The links are grouped in the same categories and are in the same order as the drop-down menus, so you can quickly find what you are looking for.

Touch or click the BIG BUTTON and you will be transported instantly to the webpage of your choice.

Here's a sample of the new MMC HOT LINKS Table.



If you find yourself lost on the website, you can always click on the HOME button in the drop-down menu on any page and repeat the process above to get to the MSC HOT LINKS table.

CRUISES



THE MMC “53RD” CRUISE ‘ITALY, CROATIA, GREECE, MONTENEGRO’

JUNE 15 – JUNE 28, 2023

CRUISE SOLD OUT

FIFTEEN DAYS, THIRTEEN NIGHTS, VISITING “8” PORTS OF CALL IN “4” EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, SAILING ABOARD CELEBRITY’S NEWEST “5” STAR SHIP THE “**BEYOND**”, 10 NIGHTS DEPARTING ROME, ITALY, 2 NIGHTS POST CRUISE STAY IN ROME’S QUIRINALE HOTEL WITH INCLUSIVE DAILY BREAKFAST AND TOURS.

THE CRUISE PACKAGE INCLUDES: CELEBRITY’S ROUND TRIP FT MYERS TO ROME ECONOMY AIR, 10 NIGHTS SAILING ABOARD CELEBRITY’S LUXURIOUS “5” STAR “**BEYOND**”. 2 NIGHTS POST IN HOTEL MILTON, EUROPEAN RATED FOUR STARS IN HEART OF ROME, DAILY HOTEL BREAKFAST AND TOURS, A \$150 STATEROOM ON BOARD CREDIT AND THREE PERKS: THE CLASSIC BEVERAGE PACKAGE. GRATUITIES, AND WI-FI.

THE MMC “54TH” CRUISE ESSENCE OF BURGUNDY & PROVENCE

**RIVERBOAT CRUISE AND TOUR
ABOARD AMAWATERWAYS
“AMACELLO”.**

**GENEVA, SWITZERLAND – NICE,
FRANCE**

OCTOBER 15 – OCTOBER 26, 2023

**A “5” STAR CRUISE – HOTELS –
LAND TOURS – SERVICE –
ACCOMODATIONS.**

11 DAYS AND 10 NIGHTS.

3 NIGHTS IN GENEVA,

SWITZERLAND IN BOUTIQUE

HOTEL, 7 NIGHTS ON AMA

“AMACELLO” CHALONSUR-SAONE

TO ARLES, ROUNDTrip ECONOMY

AIR, SHIP OFFERS LARGE

STATEROOMS WITH FRENCH

BALCONY, EUROPEAN “4” STAR

HOTEL, DAILY BREAKFAST,

TRANSFERS, YOUR CHOICE OF A

VARIETY OF TOURS IN EACH PORT,

PORT CHARGES, TAXES AND FEES,

MEALS WHILE ONBOARD

“AMACELLO”, UNLIMITED QUALITY

RED AND WHITE WINE, BEER, AND

SOFT DRINKS WITH LUNCH AND

DINNER, CHEF’S TABLE SPECIALTY

RESTAURANT, WI-FI,

PROFESSIONAL CRUISE MANAGER

ENTIRE TRIP, ENGLISH SPEAKING

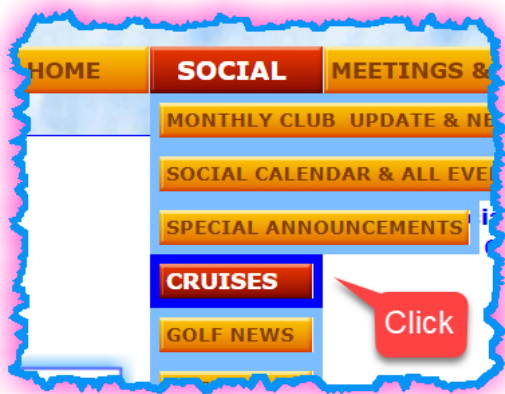
GUIDES AND AUTHENTIC LOCAL

ENCOUNTERS.

GO TO THE CLUBS WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EACH CRUISE. USE THE DROPDOWN MENU (See Image Below) ON ANY WEBPAGE TO GO TO THE CRUISE WEBPAGE FOR THE LATEST FLYER, TRAVELEX INSURANCE, COVID UPDATE AND MUCH MORE.

...OR FOLLOW THIS LINK:

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



Contact Bill Rogers at:

239-259-8945

973-978-8884

April 2023

The Marco Men's Club

Speakers Calendar

John DeMado, Program Director

April 12, 2023

Tom Williams

Author, Featured Writer, Marco Beach Boy

Among other things, Tom Williams is a novelist and creative writer. He is the author of the Beach Boy Chronicles featured as a weekly column in Marco Island's Coastal Breeze.

In 2023, Tom is celebrating 38 years as a US Coast Guard licensed sailboat captain on Marco Island. He is a veteran scuba diver specializing in shipwreck diving with a keen interest in deep-sea archeology. Also known as Capt. Tom, Williams has skippered guests for sailing excursions out of the Marriott Island Beach Resort aboard a 9-meter catamaran for 3 decades.

As an author, Mr. Williams lists the following books to his credit:

- Lost and Found: Exploring the high-tech possibilities that a satellite orbiting from above the earth could detect a super conductor, such as gold, and potentially find all the lost shipwrecks around the globe.
- Surrounded by Thunder—The Story of Darrell Loan and the Rocket Men: Though reading like

- an adventure novel, the characters, timeline, and incredible achievements of the early days of space exploration are true.

Topic: Adventures of a Marco Beach Boy!...

If you like storytelling, this talk is definitely a MUST!

May 10, 2023

Sarah Falkowski

Docent

Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

I am pleased to announce that our April speaker will be Ms. Sarah Falkowski, one of the fine docents that educate thousands of visitors each year for the Rookery Bay Reserve. She comes to us with vast experience and knowledge of the natural environment that surrounds us. I want to personally thank Dave Walsh for this wonderful speaker recommendation!

Managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in partnership with the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and Florida International University, the Reserve is responsible for managing wildlife and habitat within

its 110,000 acres boundary, which stretches from downtown Naples eastward through the Western Everglades, encompassing 40 percent of Collier County's coastline!

The Reserve operates programs in coastal research and monitoring, land and water resource management, and environmental learning and decision-maker training at the Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center.

Come learn more about the world around you!...

June 14, 2023

Tim Rose

Board Chairman

Marco Dementia Respite

**Marco Dementia Respite (MDR):
For Marco, By Marco.**

Tim Rose is the Board Chairman of Marco Dementia Respite (MDR). He and his wife, Denise, have been year-round residents on Marco for 16 years. Early in 2022, they formed a broad-based coalition that led to the creation of MDR, a new local charity *for Marco area residents* with early-stage Alzheimer's/Dementia and their caregivers... Services provided *by Marco area residents*.

Marco Dementia Respite (MDR) exists to provide a safe oasis for Marco-area residents with early-stage Alzheimer's/Dementia at no cost to the participant. They respond as well to a critical need for caregiver respite on Marco and formulating a more unified approach to senior care island wide. A ministry of Wesley United Methodist

Church in partnership with the Marco-area community, MDR is held on Mondays from 10:30 AM until 2:30 PM at Wesley United Methodist Church (Fellowship Hall). They will be adding a second day of programming (Fridays) in early 2023.

Tim will join us on June 14, 2023 to update MDR's progress to date... But even more important, he will provide us with their longer-term vision for senior care on Marco Island. **Please circle this date on your calendar!**

July 12, 2023

Amanda Nelson

Executive Director

Our Daily Bread Food Pantry

'Addressing the needs of those facing hunger in Collier County.'

Amanda Nelson is the Executive Director of Our Daily Bread Food Pantry. Ms. Nelson has over 30 years of Non-Profit leadership experience, most recently serving as the Executive Director of a Breast Cancer organization in Sacramento, CA. From AIDS to the arts to the environment, Amanda has made a career out of taking organizations to the next level, improving programs, mentoring staff, strengthening boards and growing donations and fundraising efforts.

Launched in 2016, The Pantry began serving the needs of school children on weekends by providing backpacks stuffed with food on Fridays. Since then, it has grown its services to include:

- A Saturday drive-through food pantry on Winterberry Drive.
- 15 mobile outreaches.
- A monthly Senior luncheon (Lunch with Friends) in partnership with the YMCA of Collier County.
- A *Backpack Program* for Manatee Elementary and Middle School as well as Marco Island Charter Middle School.
- A weekly Breakfast program for Marco Island Charter Middle School.
- Other strategic partnerships to provide for needs beyond nourishment.

Beginning in 2022, Our Daily Bread Food Pantry began fundraising to expand to a second location in order to continue providing critical food assistance to the over 152,000 individuals served in 2021.

Learn about the nutrition realities of our neighbors... Maybe you can help!

Please contact your Program Director, John DeMado, with any speaker recommendations or topics that you would like to have presented at the monthly meeting.

John DeMado

April 2023

Golf News



Chris Hansen, Golf Chairman

Cell: 630-674-5565

Email: chrishansen16@icloud.com

April Golf News

The Spring Scramble is scheduled for Friday, April 28 at The Glades G & CC in Naples. \$80.00 Members/Golf Only Players - \$90.00 non-member guests. Includes golf, cart, luncheon, prizes and awards. See flyer on club website.

Tony Tomassone signed up 55 players for the PGA Golf Pass discount card. We had less than 25 sign up when Tony started with it in 2022. With Golf Pass we're able to play some of the better courses in the area from May thru October at a big discount.

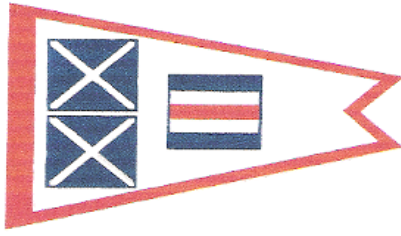
We will be at Eagle Lakes for April with tee times on Monday and Friday starting at 12 noon. The price will be \$97.23, includes tax and tip. If you must cancel, be sure to do that before you reach the 24-hour window ahead of your tee time. Eagle Lakes has made it clear they will charge any player who attempts to cancel within the 24-hour window. To cancel, call Eagle Lakes pro shop at 239-732-0034.

Hibiscus closes March 31 for installation of a complete irrigation system, plus renovation of tees and greens. They anticipate reopening prior to November 1st.

MMC GOLF COORDINATORS SPRING/SUMMER 2023

April	Monday	Ron Bales	RPBMI@comcast.net	239-389-5587
April	Friday	Mike Mueller	mikemfla@comcast.net	239-272-8695
May	Monday	Dan Wolfe	wolf@joink.com	812-239-3353
May	Friday	Bob Winterhalter	robertswinterhalter@gmail.com	614-264-0021
June	Monday	Bob Vanderselt	bvanderselt@stomaventures.com	314-378-0516
June	Friday	Frank Sroka	fsroka74@gmail.com	239-272-4328
July	Monday	Tom McCullough	tamccullough@comcast.net	570-690-4055
July	Friday	Bob Boland	rlboland@comcast.net	239-595-8780

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 2023

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Warren Uhl
President Emeritus: Jerry Swiacki
Vice President: Mike Ballenger
Vice President: Tim Clune
Vice President: Rob Reiley
Vice President: Arne Sandberg
Senior Vice President: Dave Tobiasz
Secretary: Tom Kramer
Treasurer: Rudy Landwaard

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Hospitality: Jerry Defibaugh
Public Relations: Dave Walsh
Theater Chair: Randle Grossman
Golf Chair: Chris Hansen
Sports Chair: Jack Martin
Bocce Coordinator: Rick Johnson
Program Director: John DeMado
Cruise Chair: Bill Rogers
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Sickness/Bereavement Chair: George Vitta
Newsletter Editor: Lou Makris
Membership Communications: Les Konkoly
Investment Discussion Club: Don Koppel
Computer/Technology Club: Steve Furlong
Travel Discussion Group: Joe Covelli
MMC Travel Club: Tim Clune
Webmaster: Ed Crane

www.marcomensclub.com

Past Presidents (*indicates deceased):

1992: Paul Kurtzman	1993: Bill Perdichizzi	1994: Harold Penn*	1995: Bob Marks
1996: George Kuntz*	1997: Alan Wetjen*	1998: George Godfrey	1999: Jerry Stought*
2000: Jerry Stought*	2001: Ned Wright	2002: Al Bozzo	2003: Ken Molander
2004: Bob Gaffney	2005: Wayne Boose	2006: Tom Traeger*	2007: Joe Cassidy*
2008: Fred Stavola	2009: Joe Varano	2010: Bill Sullivan	2011: Sam Miloro
2012: Randle Grossman	2013: Jack DeHanas	2014: John Superits	2015: Warren Dettinger*
2016: Dan Flynn	2017: Silky Sullivan	2018: Bill Rogers	2019: Jeff Dywan
2020: Jerry Swiacki	2021: Jerry Swiacki	2022: Warren Uhl	