

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

The Marco Men's Club

October 2023

# Newsletter

Established 1992  
A non-profit organization

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

September with only 30 days sped by. But what great events and happenings! First, congratulations to **Tim Clune** and **Jerry Poulin** on the first Men's Club Travel Group Trip!

The 9 Day Tour of Mt. Rushmore, Yellowstone, Grand Teton and the Badlands was a success!



Before the trip the club enjoyed several great meals:

The annual steak dinner at **Andre's**.

Lunch at **Ori's Bakery and Café**



If you missed these events, there are more coming in October! First, for you foodies - October 11 – Octoberfest Italian Style at the Italian Deli. Then the annual Hurricane Ball on Saturday October 21 at Bistro Soleil.

If theatre is your preference – “Hairspray” on October 12 at the Broadway Palms and “39 Steps”, October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Marco ACT.

The 54<sup>th</sup> Men’s Club cruise departs October 15<sup>th</sup> – a river cruise in France.

Meanwhile the Fall Golf Scramble is set for October 23<sup>rd</sup> at The Glades CC. Flyers keep posting for other events throughout season – plan early and don’t miss out on the fun with your fellow members!

In September, **Warren Uhl** was selected to head up this year’s Nominating Committee. They are working on filling a couple of VP opportunities.

November will bring Bocce sign-ups, so watch for more info on this.

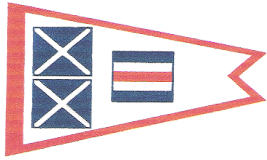
Also, November brings dues renewal. There will be a blast regarding this when the website is ready to take your on-line payment!

Finally, October 30<sup>th</sup> is National Candy Corn Day! For 140 years we have been loving or hating this treat!



Enjoy!!

***Dave Tobiasz***



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1992

October 2023

# The Marco Men's Club 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! The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 5th at 10AM at Ori's. Bring your topics to discuss! Last month we spoke about Chat GPT and AI tools. We will continue that discussion in December. Please bring your topics!! Spouses and significant others are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Contact **Steve Furlong** at 309-662-9101  
Or [stevenrichardfurlong@gmail.com](mailto:stevenrichardfurlong@gmail.com).

## INVESTMENT DISCUSSION CLUB



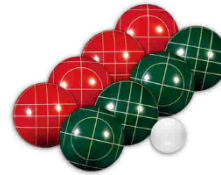
This is a gathering where opinions are valued, facts are appreciated and experience is not necessary, but prized. An open and broad discussion of topics relating to investment raised by those present, is conducted. The Club meets the 3rd

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



Good news for the Bocce League. The Bocce courts at Mackle Park went through a major renovation this summer. Looking forward to

seeing you all this November.

Contact **Rick Johnson** at [MMC.BocceLeague@gmail.com](mailto:MMC.BocceLeague@gmail.com)

## TRAVEL DISCUSSION GROUP



Lively discussion planned regarding latest travel developments and favorite destinations. Air travel, cruising, over the

road – new regulations, procedures, requirements and pronouncements. War stories. Add your input, ask any questions. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at noon in the Marco Lutheran Church Choir Room.

Contact Joe Covelli at 412-527-5876 or [jeffersonjoe@comcast.net](mailto: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 was a 9 Day classic tour of many of our National Parks; MT RUSHMORE, YELLOWSTONE AND GRAND TETON WITH BADLANDS. The Total Cost was \$3164 per person. The trip began on September 19 from RSW and ended on September 27 departing from Salt Lake City.**

Contact **Tim Clune** [tclune@gmail.com](mailto:tclune@gmail.com) 248-980-6142 with your suggestions for a future MMC group trip.

## SPORTS UPDATE

There is 1 ticket left for NY Jets vs Miami Dolphins on Sunday, December 17, 2023 at 1PM. Price is \$155 per ticket. Section 338PT. Seating through Group Sales was limited to the top 5 rows in a section, which is about 40 rows up. The only alternative was the "Party Terrace" which is located on the bottom level of the 300 section-**no stairs**. There are no assigned seats but there are bar stools available for those that arrive earliest. There is also direct access to a bar. This was the best alternative to walking up 40 rows.

Also, anyone interested in an early season Everblades game or the Harlem Globetrotters in early May, please let me

know. **Contact, Jack Martin** at 347-837-2131 or [jjtpm11697@yahoo.com](mailto:jjtpm11697@yahoo.com)

## HOSPITALITY

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

## 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 long-time club member Peter Arcidiacono on September 12, 2023. Our thoughts and prayers are with wife Patricia and the Arcidiacono family.

Please telephone George Vitta at 586-942-8056 or email [golflover3@yahoo.com](mailto:golflover3@yahoo.com) regarding information of illness or death of members, their spouse, and immediate family. George will notify the MMC board.



# CRUISES



**THE MMC “54<sup>th</sup>” CRUISE**  
**ESSENCE OF BURGUNDY & PROVENCE**  
**RIVERBOAT CRUISE AND TOUR**  
**ABOARD AMAWATERWAYS**  
**“AMACELLO”.**  
**GENEVA, SWITZERLAND – NICE, FRANCE**  
**OCTOBER 15 – OCTOBER 26, 2023**

BURGUNDY & PROVENCE (GENEVA TO NICE) RIVERBOAT CRUISE AND TOUR ABOARD AMAWATERWAYS “AMACELLO”, GENEVA SWITZERLAND – NICE FRANCE – 11 DAYS AND 10 NIGHTS WITH 3 NT EXTENSION OPTION. A “5” STAR CRUISE...HOTELS...LAND TOURS SERVICE, GRATUITIES.... ACCOMODATIONS IN CRUISE FLYER. CURRENTLY “19” PEOPLE RESERVED SPACE. LIMITED STATEROOMS AVAILABLE. A RIVER CRUISE IS AN EXCELLENT WAY TO ENJOY SMALL INLAND AREAS LARGE OCEAN LINERS CAN NOT SAIL. RIVER CRUISING IS A TREAT WITH ONLY 75 STATEROOMS.

**THE MMC “55<sup>th</sup>” CRUISE**  
**CRUISING SAN JUAN, ST. MARTIN, ST. THOMAS, DOMINICAN REP.**  
**MARCH 9 – MARCH 16, 2024**

SEVEN NIGHTS ABOARD CELEBRITY’S NEW “APEX” 5 STAR RATED SHIP. THE NEWEST SECOND SHIP IN CELEBRITY’S “EDGE” CLASS. IN ADDITION TO ALL THE AMENITIES MMC EXPERIENCED ON THE “EDGE”, MAGIC CARPET, BEAUTIFUL DESIGN, DÉCOR, INFINITE VERANDAH, BLU ROOM DINING EXCLUSIVE FOR (AQUA CLASS A2) THE NEW ICED MARTINI BAR, A CRAFTED SOCIAL BAR WHERE GUESTS CAN EXPERIENCE DRAFT BEERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. THIS SHIP OFFERS FINEST ACCOMODATIONS, “4” CARIBBEAN PORTS OF CALL, EXCLUSIVE OF MEXICO PORTS IN VIEW OF COUNTRIES PRESENT PROBLEMS.

CRUISE “7” NIGHTS ABOARD NEW APEX, REQUIRING NO AIR, ONLY ENJOY A MMC ROUND TRIP MARCO COACH TO SHIPS FT. LAUDERDALE, FL, PORT. THIS MMC CRUISE PACKAGE, INCLUDES ROUND TRIP COACH FROM MARCO ISLAND TO SHIPS FT. LAUDERDALE, FL. PORT., “7” NIGHTS ABOARD CELEBRITY’S LUXURIOUS NEW SHIP, “THE APEX”, CLUB’S STATEROOMS HAVE THE INFINITY BALCONY, “3” FREE PERKS. 1-CLASSIC BEVERAGE PACKAGE. 2. GRATUITIES. 3. WI-FI, ALL TAXES, FEES, & PORT CHARGES. MMC HAS A SECURED EXCELLENT DISCOUNTS WITH OUR “GROUP RATE”. CURRENTLY “33” PEOPLE BOOKED. SAILING ABOARD A NEW CELEBRITY SHIP IS A WONDERFUL TREAT.

**THE MMC “56<sup>TH</sup> CRUISE  
ALASKA “8” NIGHT PRE-HOTEL/  
CRUISE ABOARD CELEBRITY  
“SUMMIT” WITH “6” NIGHT PRE-  
LAND OPTION.  
MAY 25 – JUNE 7, 2024**

“8” PORTS OF CALL...ANCHORAGE,  
TALKEETNA, DENALI, SEWARD,  
JUNEAU, SKAGWAY, ICY STRAIT,  
KETCHIKAN, VANCOUVER, BRITISH  
COLUMBIA.

PACKAGE INCLUDES: AIR (\$1200  
ALLOWANCE) 1 NIGHT PRE-HOTEL  
(EMBASSY SUITES ANCHORAGE), 7  
NIGHT CRUISE, TAXES, PORT  
CHARGES, TRANSFERS, UNLIMITED  
DRINK PACKAGE, GRATUITIES, WIFI.  
AQUA CLASS PASSENGERS DINE IN  
THE SHIP’S BLU DINING ROOM,  
AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVELY TO AQUA  
CLASS GUESTS. BLU REQUIRES NO  
ADVANCE RESERVATIONS FOR  
BREAKFAST OR DINNER.

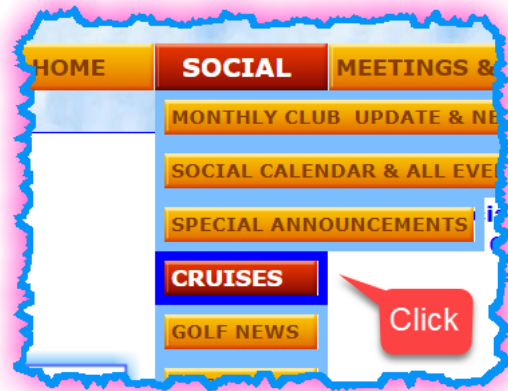
**OPTIONAL “6” NIGHT PRE LAND  
TOUR:** ARRIVE IN ANCHORAGE WITH  
AN OVERNIGHT AT ANCHORAGE  
MARRIOTT. LATER, EMBARK ON A  
LUXURIOUS RIDE ABOARD THE  
WILDERNESS EXPRESS GLASS-  
DOMED RAILCAR FOR A SCENIC RIDE  
TO ONE OF THE MOST PICTURESQUE  
TOWNS IN ALASKA – TALKEETNA;  
YOURS TO EXPLORE. FROM THERE  
YOU WILL BOARD YOUR DELUXE  
MOTOR COACH FOR THE RIDE TO  
DENALI AND YOURS TO DISCOVER. 2  
NIGHT STAY AT DENALI PARK  
VILLAGE. THEN EMBARK ON A  
SCENIC RIDE ABOARD A DELUXE  
MOTOR COACH TO ANCHORAGE,  
OVERNIGHT AT HOTEL ALYESKA  
(GIRDWOOD) AND THEN ON TO  
SEWARD WHERE YOU JOIN THE

CELEBRITY SUMMIT FOR YOUR 7  
NIGHT CRUISE TO VANCOUVER.

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**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

October 2023

The Marco Men's Club  
**Speakers Calendar**  
John DeMado, Program Director

October 11, 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 October 11, 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!**

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November 8, 2023

Dianna Dohm

Executive Director

Marco Island Chamber of Commerce

I am very pleased to have Ms. Dianna Dohm, Executive Director of the Marco Island Chamber of Commerce, address the MMC membership on this date regarding an exciting new initiative... **Marco Island residents are soon to be the benefactors of an expanded urgent care center!**

The current NCH Healthcare System's Urgent Care Center will be replaced, and longtime supporters are helping with the expense, which includes a private matching grant of five million dollars toward construction. The project cost of nearly \$18 million involves a two-story building at NCH's Marco campus at 40 South Heathwood Drive. The new center will encompass 24,000 square feet, with

the second floor of 12,000 square feet left as a shell for future use.

The current center is more than 30 years old and new construction is needed in order to keep pace with our community's growth. With a population of 18,000 on Marco, the urgent care center is currently open daily and sees 45 patients a day during season. The number drops to 25 patients in the slower summer months.

Please be certain to attend this most important and informative presentation.

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**December 13, 2023**  
**Dr. Leslie Ricciardelli**  
**Collier County Superintendent of Schools**

## **THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN COLLIER COUNTY**

It is my distinct honor to present Dr. Leslie C. Ricciardelli to the MMC membership. Dr. Ricciardelli is the 20<sup>th</sup> superintendent of the *A-rated* Collier County Public School District (CCPS), which, in 2023, celebrates 100 years of excellence in education. CCPS is responsible for educating approximately 50,000 students and employing slightly under 7,000 full- and part-time employees. Dr. Ricciardelli's experiences and expertise within the district and the community have provided her with an in-depth understanding of the expectations and values the people of Collier County have of our public education system.

Earlier in her career, Dr. Ricciardelli worked in three other Florida counties — Broward, Orange, and Seminole — where she served as a teacher for students with disabilities and returned to Collier County to work as an inclusion teacher. Dr. Ricciardelli has served in a variety of capacities: exceptional student education assistant, teacher, assistant principal, principal, and various district leadership roles where she led in a variety of positions, including Executive Director for Secondary Programs, School Leadership and Performance Officer, and Deputy Superintendent. **Please come share the pride for what we do for students in Collier County!**

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**January 10, 2024**  
**Melissa Blazier**  
**Supervisor of Elections**  
**Collier County, FL**

## **Securing the Integrity of the Collier County Voting Process**

Melissa Blazier was appointed as Collier County Supervisor of Elections by Governor DeSantis in May 2023. She has worked for the Supervisor of Elections office since 2006 most recently serving as Chief Deputy Supervisor of Elections under Jennifer J. Edwards.

Blazier holds a bachelor's degree in business administration, magna cum laude, from Hodges University. She received her designation as a Certified Elections/Registration Administrator (CERA) from the National Association of Election Officials (Election Center)



and is a Master Florida Certified Elections Professional (MFCEP) through the Florida Supervisors of Elections (FSE).

She is a graduate of the Associate Leadership Collier program spring class of 2010, Leadership Collier class of 2014 and Leadership Marco class of 2019. Melissa was named one of Gulf Shore Business's Top Forty under 40 in 2014, Distinguished Fundraising Volunteer via the Association of Fundraising Professionals in 2018, the Leadership Collier Foundation's Volunteer of the Year in 2020 and was most recently named Kiwanian of the Year by the Kiwanis Club of Naples in 2022.

Blazier is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Post 135, Election Center, Kiwanis Club of Naples, Leadership Collier Alumni Association, League of Women Voters, Men's Republican Club of Collier County, Naples Republican Club, Republican Club of South Collier County, Republican Women of Southwest Florida Federated, and the Women's Republican Club. She currently serves on the Leadership Collier Foundation Advisory Council and is President of the Kiwanis Club of Naples.

***In an age where the legitimacy of the voting process has repeatedly been called into question, it is important to know what is done in Collier County to secure the integrity of the vote.***

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**February 14, 2024**  
**Brittany Piersma**  
**Field Biologist**  
**Audubon Western Everglades (AWE)**

I am pleased to present our Valentine's Day speaker, Ms. Brittany Piersma! Brittany will speak to the membership regarding the 3 critical conservation projects here on Marco: Burrowing Owls, Gopher Tortoises and Shorebirds.

Brittany has a BS in Environmental Science and previously worked as a zookeeper at the Naples Zoo for 4 years. She has a wide range of experience with Southwest Florida's wildlife from volunteering with FWC (Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission), Rookery Bay, Panther Refuge, and Audubon.

Ms. Piersma worked as FWC's Critical Wildlife Area Shorebird Biologist for the last three summers on Marco Island, where she monitored nesting shorebirds out on Sand Dollar. The last two winters she worked as a Shorebird Steward for Audubon Western Everglades surveying the migratory flocks, training volunteers, and doing outreach with the public.

As Field Biologist for AWE, Brittany maintains continuing wintering bird surveys, assists with the burrowing owl program as well as our new Gopher Tortoise land study.

**Come learn more about the creatures that share Marco Island with you!**

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

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***John DeMado***

October 2023

# Golf News



John Laird, Golf Chairman

Cell: 920-366-4652

Email: [jglaird64@gmail.com](mailto:jglaird64@gmail.com)

## October Golf News

October looks to be a very busy month for golf at the various Country Clubs in our area.

Monday coordinator Bob Phelan will be arranging play at Naples Lakes and/or Royal Wood. While Rick Babuka, the coordinator for the roaming Friday group is planning on obtaining tee times at Royal Wood for the four Fridays in October. Lou Makris will have the TGIF group finish the summer season at The Glades.

Our fall scramble will be held on Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the Glades Country Club in Naples. Shotgun start at 8:30AM with lunch & prizes immediately after. Lou Makris will be e-mailing out the flyer and sign-up sheet. Information can also be found on the MMC website.

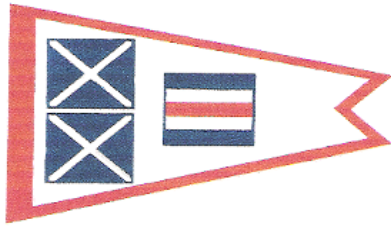
Hibiscus has been shut down since April 1<sup>st</sup> for a major renovation including a new irrigation system as well as other course additions/modifications. Due to unforeseen delays, they anticipate reopening by December 1<sup>st</sup>, a month later than originally planned. A progress update will be e-mailed to all golf members in the near future.

### MMC GOLF COORDINATORS FALL/WINTER 2023-2024

October	Monday	<b>Bob Phelan</b>	<a href="mailto:bobjphelan1@gmail.com">bobjphelan1@gmail.com</a>	239-272-4820
October	Friday	<b>Rick Babuka</b>	<a href="mailto:rickbabcon@gmail.com">rickbabcon@gmail.com</a>	859-358-8618
November	Monday	<b>Ken Burnham</b>	<a href="mailto:burnham@umass.edu">burnham@umass.edu</a>	413-531-7799
November	Friday	<b>OPEN</b>		
December	Monday	<b>OPEN</b>		
December	Friday	<b>Lou Makris</b>	<a href="mailto:loumak42@aol.com">loumak42@aol.com</a>	781-258-0456

**Thank you to all of the coordinators! Our group would not function without you.**

**John Laird**



# 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.*

**October 2023**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** Dave Tobiasz  
**President Emeritus:** Warren Uhl  
**Senior Vice President:** Mike Ballenger  
**Vice President:** Steve Furlong  
**Vice President:** Tom Kramer  
**Vice President:** Rob Reiley  
**Vice President:** Arne Sandberg  
**Secretary:** Jerry Defibaugh  
**Treasurer:** Rudi Landwaard

### APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

**Membership Chair:** Byron Farrell  
**Hospitality:** Don Koppel  
**Public Relations:** Dave Walsh  
**Theater Chair:** Open  
**Golf Chair:** John Laird  
**Sports Chair:** Jack Martin  
**Bocce Coordinator:** Rick Johnson  
**Program Director:** John DeMado  
**Cruise Chair:** Bill Rogers  
**Sergeant-At-Arms:** Mike Levine  
**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](http://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	