

The Marco Men's Club

November 2023

Newsletter

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

Established 1992
A non-profit organization

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings!

If you're in the early wave of those returning to the island – welcome back!

It's November and it's that time of the year – DUES are DUE! **Ed Crane** has done another great job setting up the website for easy credit card payment.

Check for an email blast with a link. Despite all the inflation, we are able to hold the dues at the current \$60 per year thanks to the

Board and Committee Chairs watching their spending!

Thanks to **Warren Uhl** for chairing the Nominating Committee for 2024 officers. The following are the list of nominees:

President: Mike Ballenger

VP: Tom Kramer

VP: Rob Reiley

VP: Arne Sandberg

VP: Don Koppel

VP: Mark Haynes

Treasurer: Rudi Landwaard

Secretary: Jerry Defibaugh

Final nominations will be from the floor at the regular December meeting with voting at the January meeting.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the Hurricane Ball the day before the event. During an inspection, the City's Fire Department closed the building at Bistro Soleil

for structural issues and it was too late to be able to rebook the event elsewhere despite efforts by host **Mark Haynes** and VP **Rob Reiley**. They had a great event planned.

In October we had an Italian Style Octoberfest at the Italian Deli, plus two theatre events: Hairspray at the Broadway Palms and 39 Steps at the Marco ACT. Also in October was the Fall Golf Scramble at the Glades.

Upcoming in November is a member's only taco bar lunch at Nacho Mama's and the sold-out Naples Players "The Marvelous Wonderettes".

The flyer for the annual Holiday Lunch is on the website. It will be Tuesday, December 12 at Naples Lakes Country Club. Put your sign-up form in the mail now!

Sign-ups for the 2024 Bocce League start soon – watch for a blast about this.

SAVE SOME DATES:

Wednesday, January 10th – Anniversary Lunch after the General Meeting

Saturday, January 27th – Welcome Back Party!

Saturday, February 3rd – New Member Breakfast

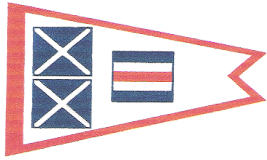
Theatre Update – Renovations at the Sugden Theatre (home of the Naples Players) are behind schedule. They are rescheduling their spring schedule as follows:

- "The Producers" show is moving from March to Sunday, July 7th. Check with **Don Lally** about your tickets if you already ordered; there may be additional seats available for the new date.
- The May performance of "The Play that Goes Wrong" will move to January 2025. More updates on this show when we announce our 2025 theatre schedule.

Whether you call it "stuffing" or "dressing" - Have a Happy Thanksgiving!



Dave Tobiasz



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COMPUTER/TECHNOLOGY CLUB



There will not be a November Meeting. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 5th at 10AM. We will meet at

Ori's. Spouses and significant others are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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! In September, we spoke about Chat GPT and AI tools; we will continue that discussion in December. Bring your topics to discuss! 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

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 League will start the first week of January.

As in the past there will be a Tuesday and Thursday group playing at 4 and 5 PM. We have room for 24,

four person teams (12 each night). An invitation to sign up your team will be sent out the first week of November.

Contact **Rick Johnson** at 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. Come join us and learn tips from seasoned travelers. Spouses and significant others are welcome. Add your input, ask any questions. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 10:30AM at Ori's Bakery.

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. **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 248-980-6142

SPORTS UPDATE

The NY Jets vs Miami Dolphins football game on Sunday, December 17, 2023 is **Sold Out.** I am looking to arrange transportation. Any suggestions for 10-12 people, please contact me.

Also, anyone interested in early season Everblades games or the Harlem Globetrotters in early May, please let me know. **Contact, Jack Martin** at 347-837-2131 or 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 club member John Miniutti on Sunday October 8th. John was being assisted by Avow Hospice. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Janet and their family. At this time, funeral and memorial arrangements are pending. Arrangements handled by Hodges and Josberger, www.hodgesjosberger.com. Cards may be sent to Janet Miniutti, 1583 Jamaica Ct, Marco Island 34145. 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



THE MMC “55th” 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 “56TH” 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.

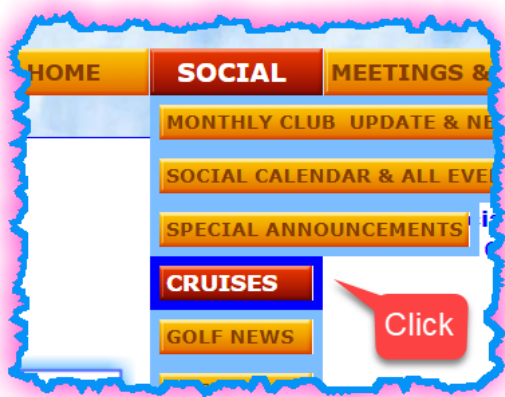
OPTIONAL “6” NIGHT PRE LAND TOUR: ARRIVE IN ANCHORAGE WITH AN OVERBIGHT AT ANCHORAGE MARRIOTT. LATER, EMBARK ON A LUXURIOUS RIDE ABOARD THE

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.

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

November 2023

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

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.

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 20th 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!

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.

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!

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

November 2023

Golf News



John Laird, Golf Chairman

Cell: 920-366-4652

Email: jglaird64@gmail.com

November Golf News

Our fall scramble was held on Monday, October 23rd, at The Glades Country Club in Naples. Congratulations to the winning team of Bob Vanderselt, Gary Papszycki, Warren Uhl and Henry Olivera who posted a 61 (-9).

The newly renovated Hibiscus golf course is scheduled to open December 1st. The frequent player card will cost \$325+tax and will cover December through April 2024. Green Fees for our group in December will be \$98 plus tax w/o the FPC and \$76 plus tax with the FPC. Green Fees January through March will be \$125 plus tax w/o the FPC and \$98 plus tax with the card. April fees will be comparable to December and will be finalized at a later date.

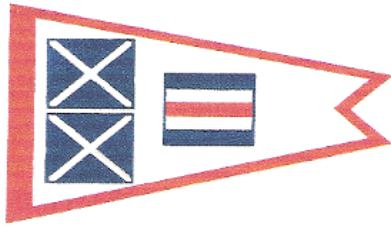
We will be playing at Eagle Lakes in November.

MMC GOLF COORDINATORS WINTER 2023-2024

November	Monday	Ken Burnham	burnham@umass.edu	413-531-7799
November	Friday	OPEN		
December	Monday	Lou Makris	loumak42@aol.com	781-258-0456
December	Friday	Lou Makris	loumak42@aol.com	781-258-0456
January	Monday	Roger Smith	rsmith186@aol.com	910-975-5221
January	Friday	Lou Makris	loumak42@aol.com	781-258-0456
February	Monday	OPEN		
February	Friday	Lou Makris	loumak42@aol.com	781-258-0456

We are in need of a February Monday coordinator. Please let me know if you are interested. 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. **November 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

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	