

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

The Marco Men's Club

Newsletter

February 2024

Established 1992
A non-profit organization

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings!

Congratulations to our new officers for 2024. They begin their terms May 1st:

President: Mike Ballenger

VP: Tom Kramer

VP: Rob Reiley

VP: Arne Sandberg

VP: Don Koppel

VP: Mark Haynes

Treasurer: Rudi Landwaard

Secretary: Jerry Defibaugh

The Speaker for the **Regular Meeting on Wednesday, February 14th** will be Brittany Piersma, Field Biologist with Audubon Western Everglades.

By the time you are reading this, 50 members will have attended the **New Member Breakfast** on February 3rd at La Tavola welcoming the 2023 new members to the club.

Survey Says

We want your input regarding future cruises. A survey is at the back of this Newsletter. It will also be handed out at the Travel Discussion Group meeting and our February Regular Meeting.

Volunteers Needed.

We are looking to fill the following roles:

Program Director -

We are looking for someone to take over the lead in scheduling the speakers for our regular monthly meetings. John DeMado has been doing a great job but will be stepping away from the role.

He has speakers scheduled through February.

Hospitality Team Member -

Helps set up coffee and donuts at our regular monthly meetings; helps with check-in.

Bruce Dahlquist will be taking over the Travel Discussion Group. The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 7th at 10:30 at Ori's Bakery.

Get your reservations in for **The Sweetheart Ball** - Thursday, February 15th at Naples Lakes Country Club. A great meal is planned along with dancing and of course, cocktails! Sign up now!

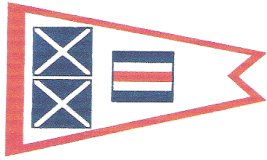
The Regular March Meeting, (Wednesday, March 13th) will bring us a **Pizza Tasting Lunch**. The flyer is posted – only \$13pp.

Theatre Update – Renovations at the Sugden Theatre (home of the Naples Players) are behind schedule.

They are rescheduling their spring lineup. “**The Producers**” show re-scheduled for July 7th has been replaced with the musical “**42nd Street**”. Check with **Don Lally** about your tickets if you already ordered. There are additional seats available for the new show. A new flyer will post soon. 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.

The Travel Club has announced an 8-day trip aboard the **Rocky Mountaineer Train** including hotel overnights and visits to Arches and Canyonland National Parks, plus lots more. They are also working on a 2-night trip to **St. Augustine** in December for Christmas Lights Events.

Dave Tobiasz



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COMPUTER/TECHNOLOGY CLUB



Next meeting, Feb 13th at 10AM will be 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. Bring your topics to discuss!

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

Or stevenrichardfurlong@gmail.com.

INVESTMENT DISCUSSION CLUB

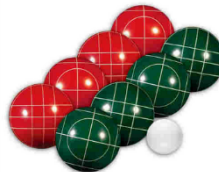


This is a gathering where opinions are valued, facts are appreciated and experience is not

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 kicked off on January 2nd. Eleven teams signed up to play on Tuesday and twelve teams on Thursdays. You can always find the latest Bocce

information from any page in the website by following the dropdown menu link shown in the image below.



Contact **Rick Johnson** at MMC.BocceLeague@gmail.com

TRAVEL DISCUSSION GROUP



Lively discussion planned regarding latest travel developments and favorite destinations. Plan your travels for the 2024 year.

Popular River Cruise destinations and tips from seasoned travelers. Spouses and significant others are encouraged to attend. Add your input, ask any questions. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 10:30AM. Next meeting will be February 7th at Ori's Bakery & Café.

Contact **Bruce Dahlquist** 847-815-9474 or dahlquistbruce@gmail.com

SPORTS UPDATE

Wednesday March 6th Everblades Hockey Night. Tickets Reserved - First Come, First Served. **VIP Row - Breakaway Sports Pub - Food & Beverage Service Available.**

Tickets \$38 each.

Sunday March 24th Red Sox vs Braves
20 Tickets Reserved – First Come, First Served. **Tickets \$44 each.**

Both Flyers on club website!

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 LOU MAKRIS.**

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.

MMC TRAVEL CLUB



2024 Men's Club Trip
8 Day Rocky Mountaineer Train with Arches, Canyonlands and Tetons

September 14–September 21, 2024

Itinerary:

Day 1 Arrive Denver, Dinner and Hotel included.

Day 2 Rocky Mountaineer Train to Glenwood Springs Hotel with Breakfast and Lunch.

Day 3 Rocky Mountaineer Train to Moab Hotel and Arches National Park. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Day 4 Canyonlands National Park Breakfast. Evening boat tour on the Colorado River with Dinner.

Day 6 Travel to Jackson Wyoming Hotel with Breakfast.

Day 7 Grand Teton National Park, Breakfast.

Day 8 Return home from Cody Wyoming, breakfast included.

Price:

Tour Land only \$4658 pp

Tour with air from RSW \$5197 pp

Deposit is \$300 pp

Guaranteed space for 29 passengers is being held for 30 days until February 5th. After that it is space available.

Airport transfers will be arranged and added at final payment.
Insurance is optional and is \$349 pp.
5% discount if paid by echeck or check at final payment. Arrangements are made through **Gate One Travel**.

Contact **Tim Clune** tclune@gmail.com
248-980-6142 or Jerry Poulin 508-868-1716 gpsp@aol.com to sign up.

SICKNESS AND BEREAVEMENT



Steve Riley (update on memorial services; prior notice sent out 12/4) d. December 2, 2023

Celebration of Life will be held at 11:00 am at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Marco Island, February 17th, 2024. Other details are available at DignityMemorial.com.

William "Bill" Brennan d. January 2, 2024

Services for Bill took place on January 26 at San Marco Catholic Church per the notice sent out 1/14. Please visit DignityMemorial.com.

Randle Grossman (update on memorial services; prior notice sent out 1/8) d. January 6, 2024

Celebration of Life will be held at 11:30 am at San Marco Catholic Church on March 5th, 2024. Other details are available at DignityMemorial.com.

Robert "Bob" Marks (update on memorial services; notice sent out 1/11) d. January 9, 2024

I wanted to let you know that we received notification that **Susan Marks, wife of Bob Marks**, passed away 1/29. A Joint Celebration of Life for Bob and Sue will be held at 10:00 am at United Church of Marco on Saturday April 6, 2024.

Diana Winterhalter (wife of Bob Winterhalter) d. January 16, 2024

Diana fought courageously for several years against severe illnesses, having enjoyed victory more than once! While she could not overcome this latest challenge, she was a beautiful, loving and gracious warrior. Please visit DignityMemorial.com.

Herbert Jermanok d. January 23, 2024

Herb passed away peacefully in Atlanta, Georgia surrounded by his family. Herb's wife Ginny, pre-deceased him last November. They are survived by a daughter and a son. The children had a memorial service and luncheon at the JCMI for Herb on 1/28. Please visit DignityMemorial.com.

Charles 'Kenneth' Molander d. January 25, 2024

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Ken's wife Pam and their family in Connecticut. A Memorial Service on Marco Island is planned for a later date. Please visit DignityMemorial.com

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 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.

**THE MMC “57TH” CRUISE
CRUISING BRITISH ISLE PASSAGE
VISITING AMSTERDAM AND “10”
PORTS OF CALL
OCTOBER 22 – NOVEMBER 3, 2024**

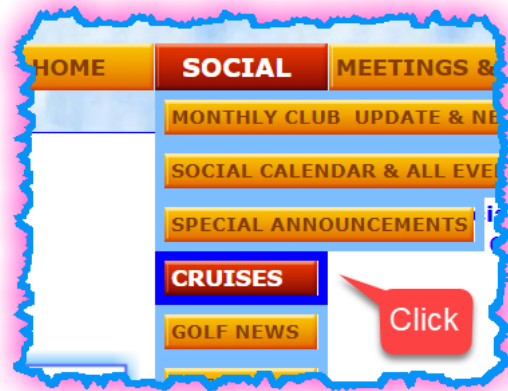
“10” PORTS OF CALL... AMSTERDAM,
NETHERLANDS...EDINBURGH,
SCOTLAND...KIRKWALL,
SCOTLAND...ULLAPOOL,
SCOTLAND...BELFAST, NORTHERN
IRELAND...HOLYHEAD,
WALES...CORNWALL,
ENGLAND...PORTSMOUTH,
ENGLAND...HON FLEUR (PARIS)
FRANCE...BRUGES, BELGIUM.
CRUISE PACKAGE INCLUDES: 11NTS
ABOARD OCEANIA’S “5.5” STAR SHIP
“SIRENA”, TAXES, PORT CHARGES,
GRATUITIES, TRANSFERS, \$1000 AIR
ALLOWANCE, \$400 PER PERSON
EXCURSION CREDIT, UNLIMITED
“HOUSE SELECT” BEVERAGE
PACKAGE WHICH INCLUDES
UNLIMITED CHAMPAGNE, WINE AND
BEER DURING LUNCH AND DINNER

AT DINING VENUES OR IN ROOM***,
AND SPECIALTY DINING.

**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

marcomensclubcruises@gmail.com

February 2024

The Marco Men's Club
Speakers Calendar
Program Director "OPEN"

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!

March 13, 2024

Stephen McGuire

Retired Federal Judge

Steve McGuire had a 30+ year legal career serving as an attorney and a federal judge in Washington, DC. Steve retired in 2008 as the Chief Judge of the Federal Trade Commission, where he received its Distinguished Service Award and was honored by President George W. Bush for his service to the nation's judiciary. Prior to FTC, he was an Administrative Law Judge at the Social Security Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency. He has two certifications from Harvard University, one from the John F. Kennedy School of Government, and the other from Harvard Law. Subsequently, he became Vice President for Corporate Compliance at the University of

Louisville Hospital. He has traveled to over 65 foreign countries, including 10 communist countries. Among his more memorable trips were those to Cuba (where his letter about the culture and lifestyle of Havana was published by Cigar Aficionado magazine), Africa, India, Vietnam, and Japan. In July 2019, he taught English to high school students in the Fujian Province of China.

Steve has authored three political thrillers, *Prior Restraint*, *Fractured Power* and *Secret Deceit*. He has appeared at over sixty speaking engagements in the past three years at bookstores, book clubs, libraries, country clubs, civic associations, art centers, and radio shows. Steve has been interviewed in over twenty radio shows and podcast; and featured in newspapers around the country, as well as in Spain and United Kingdom. He is a native of Louisville, Kentucky. He lives in Naples, Florida, with his wife, Doris, their golden retriever, Henry and a mini goldendoodle, Alfie.

Criminal Investigations. He is a Hostage Negotiator; having previously been a member of the SWAT Team for 16 years. He has a Master's Degree in Public Administration, a Graduate Certificate in Global Strategic Communication, and is a graduate of various leadership academies including the Command Officer Development Course and FDLE's Florida Leadership Academy. He is married to his wife, Sonya, and they have two children ages 10 and 13. He and his family are very active in community philanthropies which include: The Friends of Foster Children, the American Heart Association, and the SWFL Wine Fest. Sergeant Sawyer loves living in Collier County and can attest to the fact that this community, along with the Collier County Sheriff's Office, truly demonstrate that this is a great and safe place to live.

Program Director "Open"

April 10, 2024
Lt. Brian Sawyer
Collier County Sheriffs Officer

Lt. Sawyer will speak on the current state of fraud against seniors, what the county is seeing, and how to protect ourselves.

Sawyer has been a member of the Collier County Sheriff's Office for 23 years. He joined the Crime Prevention Unit in 2018 from a long tenure in

February 2024

Golf News



John Laird, Golf Chairman

Cell: 920-366-4652

Email: jglaird64@gmail.com

February Golf News

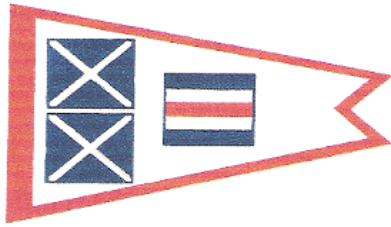
The newly renovated Hibiscus golf course opened December 1, 2023. The cost of the Frequent Player Card is \$325+tax and will cover December through April 2024. Green Fees for our group in December will be \$98 plus tax w/o the FPC and \$76 plus tax with the FPC. Green Fees January through March will 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.

MMC GOLF COORDINATORS WINTER 2024

February	Monday	Ron Bales	rpbmi@comcast.net	239-389-5587
March	Monday	George Vitta	golflover3@yahoo.com	586-942-8056
April	Monday	Bob Bart	bobbart1@gmail.com	416-520-2798

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.

February 2024

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: "Open"
Cruise Chair: Bill Rogers
Sergeant-At-Arms: Mike Levine
Sickness/Bereavement Chair: George Vitta
Newsletter Editor: Lou Makris
Constant Contact eBlasts: Les Konkoly
Investment Discussion Club: Don Koppel
Computer/Technology Club: Steve Furlong
Travel Discussion Group: "Open"
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	

Marco Men's Club Cruise Survey

1. Please rate the following locations in order of interest to you:

Interested (I) Would consider (W) Not interested (N)

- Around Hawaii
- Panama Canal (Florida to Florida)
- Panama Canal (Florida to West Coast or West Coast to Florida)
- The Amazon
- South America
- Santiago to Buenos Aires (or reverse)
- The Galapagos Islands
- The South Pacific
- Iceland/Greenland
- The Northeast and Canada
- The Far East (Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, etc.)
- Transatlantic Crossing
- The Baltic
- Spain/Portugal
- The Greek Isles
- The Caribbean
- The Riviera

2. Please rate the following locations in order of interest to you:

Interested (I) Would consider (W) Not interested (N)

- The Doro River (Spain/Portugal)
- France – Paris to Normandy
- France – Bordeaux
- The Rhine and Moselle
- The Danube
- US The Mississippi
- US The Great Lakes
- US New England Rivers and Intercostals
- US Southeast Rivers and Intercostals
- US Northwest Rivers
- Christmas Markets in Europe

3. How long of a trip would you consider (check all that apply)

- 7-10 days
- 10-14 days
- 14-21 days
- 21-30 days

4. How often do you cruise (including Men's Club cruises and other cruises)

About every other year 1-2 per year more than 2 per year

5. What size ocean cruise ship do you like (check all that apply)

- Less than 1000 passengers
- 1000-2000 passengers
- 2000-3000 passengers
- 3000-5000 passengers
- 5000+ Passengers

6. Please rate the following ocean cruise lines

Interested(I) Would consider(W) Not interested(N)

- Holland America
- Celebrity
- Oceania
- Azamara
- Seaborne
- Norwegian
- Royal Caribbean
- Carnival
- Princess

7. Would you be interested in a sailboat cruise such as Windstar Cruise Lines (circle)

Interested (I) Would consider (W) Not interested (N)

8. Would you take advantage of pre or post cruise land packages?

- pre
- post
- both

9. How far in advance do you prefer to book your cruises?

- less than 12 months
- 12 – 18 months
- 18 – 24 months

10. How many Men's Club Ocean Cruises have you been on

Not yet 1-3 4-6 more than 6

11. How many Men's Club River Cruises have you been on

Not yet 1-3 4-6 more than 6

Please print this off and bring to the February Regular Meeting or scan or take a picture and send to either Bill Rogers marcomensclubcruises@gmail.com or Dave Tobiasz dtobiasz@comcast.net

Thanks for your input!