

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

The Marco Men's Club

# Newsletter

March 2024

Established 1992  
A non-profit organization

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### Greetings!

We are well into season and busy as always on the Island!

Hope you signed up for the many fun events coming in March.

Our regular meeting is Wednesday, March 13. The speaker will be retired Federal Judge turned suspense novel writer Stephen McGuire. After the meeting there will be a pizza taste testing, but you need to sign up in advance, so they know how much pizza to order.

Everblades Hockey game on March 6<sup>th</sup> was a **Sold Out**. Spring Training Baseball, March 24<sup>th</sup>, Red Sox vs Braves is **Sold Out**.

Pre-St. Patrick's Co-Ed Lunch on March 8<sup>th</sup> was a great success with 71 in attendance. Dave Walsh always throws a great party!

### Survey Says .....

We want your input regarding future cruises. A survey was emailed out on February 28<sup>th</sup>. If you complete it by March 31<sup>st</sup>, you will be entered in a drawing for \$500 off of your next cruise sponsored by our travel agency-S & K Travel. Find Cruise survey at end of newsletter.

**Volunteer Needed.**

**We are looking to fill the following role:**

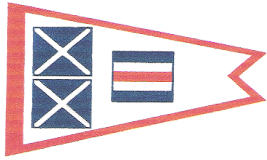
**Program Director -**

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.

In the meantime, our April speaker will be Lt. Brian Sawyer of the Collier County Sheriff's Department speaking about fraud and the current scams going around.

The Travel Club has announced a 2-night trip to **St. Augustine**, December 8 to December 10, for the Christmas Lights Events. Look for flyer on website.

***Dave Tobiasz***



March 2024

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## COMPUTER/TECHNOLOGY CLUB



Next meeting, April 18th at 10AM at Ori's Bakery. 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](mailto:stevenrichardfurlong@gmail.com).

## INVESTMENT DISCUSSION CLUB

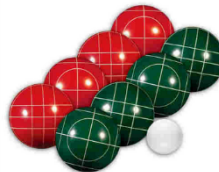


This is a gathering where opinions are valued, facts are appreciated and experience is not

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 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.

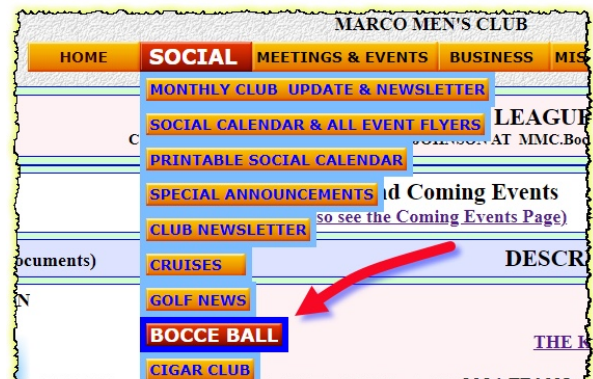
## BOCCE BALL



The regular season of the MMC Bocce league has ended. Congratulations to Team Rhoads for winning the Tuesday League and Team Ray for winning the

Thursday League. A single elimination tournament is now underway with the winners of the Tuesday and Thursday playoffs to determine an overall playoff champion. A luncheon will follow to present the champions with trophies.

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](mailto:MMC.BocceLeague@gmail.com)

## TRAVEL DISCUSSION GROUP



Lively discussion planned regarding latest travel developments and favorite destinations. Plan your travels for the 2024 year and beyond. 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 April 3rd at Ori's Bakery & Café.

Contact **Bruce Dahlquist** 847-815-9474 or [dahlquistbruce@gmail.com](mailto:dahlquistbruce@gmail.com)

## SPORTS UPDATE

Wednesday March 6<sup>th</sup> Everblades Hockey Night was a **Sell Out**.

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

**SOLD OUT**

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 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

### *Saint Augustine Christmas Trip*



*December 8 to December 10*

Trip includes round trip coach from Marco Island to St Augustine. Two nights Hilton Garden Inn Historic District. Two breakfasts and one dinner from Old City House including taxes and gratuities.

**Package Includes:** Castillo de San Marcos Fort Tour.

Flagler Memorial Presbyterian Church. Fountains of Youth Archeological Park. Lightener Museum.

Nights of Lights Riding Tour.

Lighthouse and Maritime Museum.

Villa Zorayda.

Ximenez Patio House.

Price per person for double occupancy is \$858. Single price is \$1158.

Final payment due September 2, 2024.

Cancellation fee is \$100pp before final payment. Travel insurance is additional.

Contact Jerry Poulin 508-868-1716 or [gpsp@aol.com](mailto:gpsp@aol.com) to sign up.

## SICKNESS AND BEREAVEMENT



### Notice of Celebration of Life - Robert "Bob" Marks

Founding Club member, past President and Cruise Director, Robert Marks, left us on January 9th. His wife Susan, who was ill, passed away on January 29<sup>th</sup>.

A Celebration of Life Service will take place at United Church of Marco Island, April 6, 2024 at 10:00am. Brunch will be served.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the United Church of Marco Endowment Fund. Contributions may be sent to:  
United Church of Marco Island  
c/o Endowment Fund  
320 North Barfield Drive  
Marco Island, Florida 34145

In the event of any questions, Sherry Rawdon, a long-time family friend and colleague of Bob's may be reached at 731-784-5562 Office/Home or 731-616-1359 Cell Email address is: [sherrytravel@hotmail.com](mailto:sherrytravel@hotmail.com)

### Anthony "Tony" Buckun deceased February 11, 2024

Club member (since 2014). Information provided courtesy of the Naples Daily News. There was no information on memorial services.

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

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

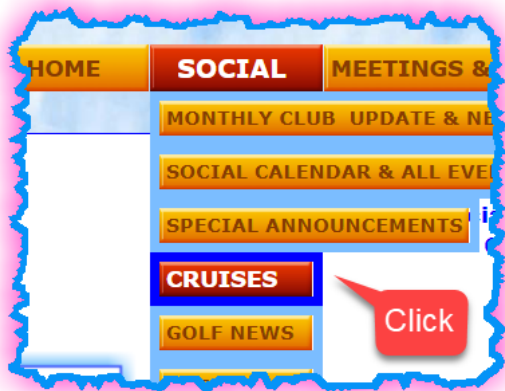
“10” PORTS OF CALL... AMSTERDAM,  
NETHERLANDS...EDINBURGH,  
SCOTLAND...KIRKWALL,  
SCOTLAND...ULLAPOOL,  
SCOTLAND...BELFAST, NORTHERN  
IRELAND...HOLYHEAD,  
WALES...CORNWALL,  
ENGLAND...PORTSMOUTH,  
ENGLAND...HON FLEUR (PARIS)  
FRANCE...BRUGES, BELGIUM.  
CRUISE PACKAGE INCLUDES: 11NTS  
ABOARD 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.

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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

[marcomensclubcruises@gmail.com](mailto:marcomensclubcruises@gmail.com)

March 2024

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

**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.

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**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



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”**

March 2024

# Golf News



John Laird, Golf Chairman

Cell: 920-366-4652

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

## March Golf News

Our Winter Golf Championship is currently underway with 41 players competing in 2 flights for the coveted titles and accompanying traveling trophies. Results will be posted in the April Golf News.

Our annual Spring Scramble will be held on Monday April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Glades Country Club in Naples. Please save the date! More detailed information and sign-up sheet to follow in the next couple of weeks.

**Tony Tomassone** is coordinating the group purchase of the Southwest Florida PGA pass which allows for discounted play on many public and private clubs in the area May-October. Please contact Tony immediately if interested in purchasing the pass.

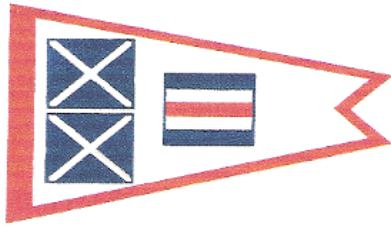
## MMC GOLF COORDINATORS WINTER / SPRING 2024

March	Monday	<b>George Vitta</b>	<a href="mailto:golflover3@yahoo.com">golflover3@yahoo.com</a>	586-942-8056
April	Monday	<b>Bob Bart</b>	<a href="mailto:bobbart1@gmail.com">bobbart1@gmail.com</a>	416-520-2798
May	Monday	Open		
May	Friday	Open		

We are in need of coordinators for May. Please contact me if 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.*

**March 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/Flyer Gatekeeper:** Lou Makris  
**Constant Contact eBlasts:** Les Konkoly  
**Investment Discussion Club:** Don Koppel  
**Computer/Technology Club:** Steve Furlong  
**Travel Discussion Group:** Bruce Dahlquist  
**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	

# 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

Scan or take a picture and send to either Bill Rogers [marcomensclubcruises@gmail.com](mailto:marcomensclubcruises@gmail.com) or Dave Tobiasz [dtobiasz@comcast.net](mailto:dtobiasz@comcast.net)  
Thanks for your input!