

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

The Marco Men's Club

Newsletter

April 2024

Established 1992
A non-profit organization

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings!

It's April already, which means this will be my last update from the President's seat. What a wonderful, but quick year! I want to thank all the board members and committee chairs for the work in keeping the Men's Club a fun experience for all!

This year we enjoyed many of the member favorites and faced some historic challenges.

The golf group was a sellout all year long as the team worked to find open courses amidst several renovations. Sports took us to a football game, a hockey game, and a spring training game!

Theater offered 12 plays split among the ACT on Marco, the Naples Players, and the Broadway Palm.

We had a great Holiday Luncheon and a wonderful Sweetheart Ball.

For travel three cruises were planned: Caribbean, Alaska, and the British Isles. There was a cruise survey about where you might want to go next! We also started a land travel group with a trip planned to Yellowstone, the Badlands, and Grand Teton. The travel group is also planning a December trip to St. Augustine for holiday lights, December 8 to 10, 2024. By the way, the Holiday Luncheon will be Friday, December 13th, not to interfere with this trip.

The monthly meetings continued to bring us interesting speakers across a broad spectrum of topics.

We are still looking for someone to take the lead in securing future speakers. Other regular groups continued: Investments, Travel Discussion, Technology Discussion, and Cigars at CJ's.

Bocce had another fun season with more than 23 teams participating!

Unfortunately, we had to cancel last year's Hurricane Ball as the facility faced last-minute structural issues and had to close the day before our event. Our other big challenge continues – inflation!

Our VP team continues to work to bring fun dinners and parties, but prices continue to increase everywhere. The \$5 Footlong is now nearly \$9 and the Quarter Pounder Meal is about \$14.

Looking forward:

Our April meeting (Wed the 10th) will feature Lt. Brian Sawyer of the Collier County Sheriff's Office talking about the state of fraud and current trends in scams around the county.

April 11 brings us Mini-Golf followed by lunch at La Tavola

April 29 is the Golf Scramble at The Glades Country Club

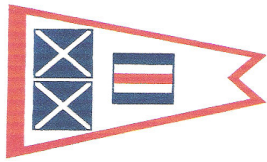
May 16 is a Co-Ed lunch at the Glades Country Club

Watch for a French dinner, on May 24th – **I love Paris in the Springtime!**

Get Involved – both the VP team and the Theatre team are already planning activities for the coming 12 months and will be looking for Event Hosts.

VPs/Theatre leads do most of the planning. You collect checks and names, fill out and send a regular listing of attendees to get posted to the website, coordinate with the VP/Theatre team lead regarding the venue and then welcome everyone at the event. For most events your dinner/theatre tickets are free to you and your spouse for doing this hosting!

Dave Tobiasz



April 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 past meetings 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

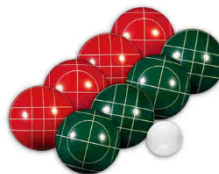


This is a gathering where opinions are valued, facts are appreciated and experience is not

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.

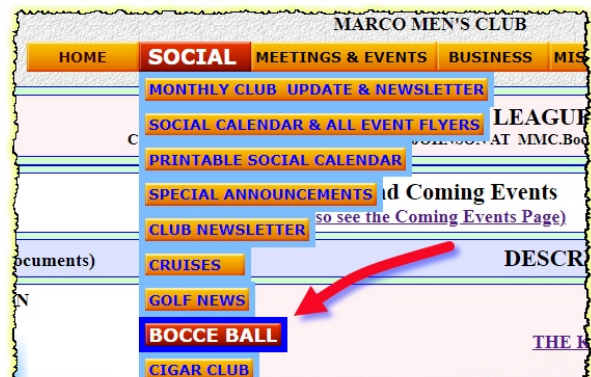
BOCCE BALL



The 2024 MMC Bocce league completed another successful season with 23 teams participating. Team Rhoads won the Tuesday league and Team Davis

won the Thursday league. Both regular season winners were upset in the playoffs. Tuesday Playoffs were won by team Dave and Thursday Playoffs were won by team Melka. Team Dave went on to win Overall Playoff Championship. An awards luncheon was held Thursday April 4th with almost forty attending.

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



This is a gathering of those interested in discussing and sharing travel experiences and tips. We also want to provide

backup information on upcoming trips and tours. Add your input, ask any questions. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 1:00PM. Next meeting will be May 1st at the Lutheran Church Choir Room. If you have any questions or suggestions for upcoming meetings, please contact me prior to the meeting. The Travel Discussion Group typically does not meet during the summer months.

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

SPORTS UPDATE

We had a successful close to the Sports Season with a great hockey game on March 6th and a beautiful day at Jet Blue Park on March 24th.

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

Saint Augustine Christmas Trip



December 8 to December 10

Trip includes round trip coach from Marco Island to St Augustine. Two nights Holiday Inn Express Vilano Beach. 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 to sign up.

SICKNESS AND BEREAVEMENT



As posted in January, 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 29th. A Celebration of Life Service will take place at United Church of Marco Island, April 6, 2024 at 10:00AM. A brunch is planned following the service.

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

Please contact **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 “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**

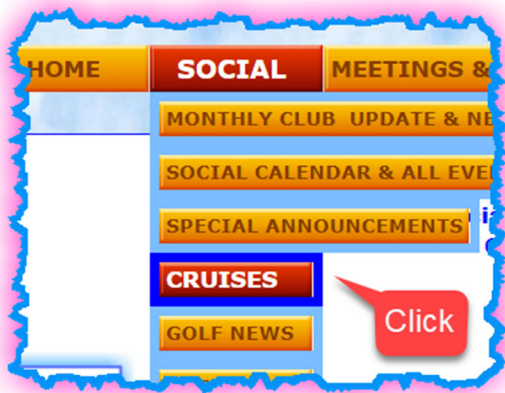
OCTOBER 22 – NOVEMBER 3, 2024

“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

April 2024

The Marco Men's Club

Speakers Calendar

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 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 2024

Golf News



John Laird, Golf Chairman

Cell: 920-366-4652

Email: jglaird64@gmail.com

April Golf News

Our Winter Golf Championship was recently completed over 3 consecutive Mondays. Congratulations to **Alan Hoffmann** and **Tim Sullivan** for winning the A and B flights respectively!

Our annual Spring Scramble will be held on Monday April 29th at the Glades Country Club in Naples. The event Flyer and sign-up sheet can be found on the Marco Men's Club website. This event includes an 18-hole scramble with cart, lunch, team prizes, course events, raffle and \$40 in PGA Superstore gift cards.

Thank you to **Tony Tomassone** for coordinating the group purchase of the Southwest Florida PGA pass.

In May we will be transitioning from Hibiscus to a different course to be determined for Monday play. There will be two options for Friday play, the traveling group that plays different courses/private clubs every week, and the Lou Makris TGIF group that plays at the Glades Country Club and/or Royal Wood Country Club every week.

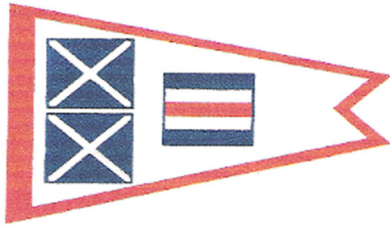
MMC GOLF COORDINATORS SPRING/SUMMER 2024

April	Monday	Bob Bart	bobbart1@gmail.com	416-520-2798
May	Monday	OPEN		
May	Friday	OPEN		
June	Monday	Bob Vanderselt	bvanderselt@stomaventures.com	314-378-0516
June	Friday	Frank Sroka	fsroka74@gmail.com	239-272-4328

We are in need of a coordinator for Mondays in 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.

April 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: Dave Tobiasz
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/Jerry Poulin
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	

2024 BOCCE AWARDS



Team Dave Overall Playoff Champions



