

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

The Marco Men's Club

# Newsletter

May 2024

Established 1992  
A non-profit organization

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### Greetings!

As I step into my new role as President, I would like to thank our outgoing President **Dave Tobiasz** for an excellent job. But, since Dave has done such a great job, we couldn't just let him retire.

I'm glad to report he will be taking over as the Chairman of the Theater Committee. He's already hard at work lining up next year's theater events. More to come as we get choices and dates.

I also want to thank our outgoing VP **Steve Furlong** for all his help this past year. Our new slate of VPs for the upcoming year are as follows. **Tom Kramer** has stepped up to a new role as Senior VP. Thank you, Tom! Our new VP's, are **Don Koppel** and **Mark Haynes**, and our returning VP's, are **Arne Sandberg** and **Rob Reily**. Hopefully, Rob will find his way back to Marco after his little cruise around the world. Also, I would like to thank **Rudi Landwaard** who will stay on as our Treasurer and **Jerry DeFibaugh** will stay on as Secretary.

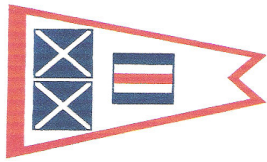
Tom and his VP team are beginning to put together next year's events. In May we have two events coming up. First a co-ed lunch at the Glades CC on May 16<sup>th</sup>. This event is filling up fast due to a great price, so get your reservation in quick. Second, due to the Summer Olympics in Paris, our annual celebration of Bastille week has been moved to Wednesday May 22 and is now "Springtime in Paris" at our favorite French café. The flyer has been posted, hope to see you all there.

Our cruisers are off to Alaska the last week of May, Bon voyage and safe travels!

In June the club is looking at a men's lunch at Cocomo's after the general meeting, cost and menu TBD.

See you all at the general meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

***Mike Ballenger***



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## COMPUTER/TECHNOLOGY CLUB



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! Spouses and significant others are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**Club meetings on hiatus until fall.**

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.

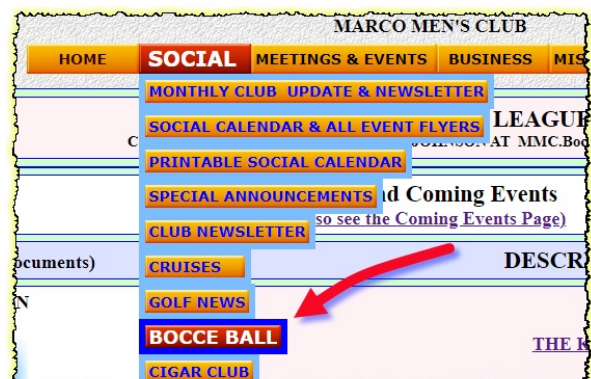
## BOCCE BALL



The 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 September 4<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:dahlquistbruce@gmail.com)

## SPORTS UPDATE

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

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 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](mailto:gpsp@aol.com) to sign up.

## SICKNESS AND BEREAVEMENT



I am saddened to report the passing of long-time club member and program director John DeMado. John passed away on Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> after a long battle with cancer with his loving family by his side. As program director he brought us many interesting speakers over the years.

Services for John will be held at a future date in Connecticut.

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 “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**

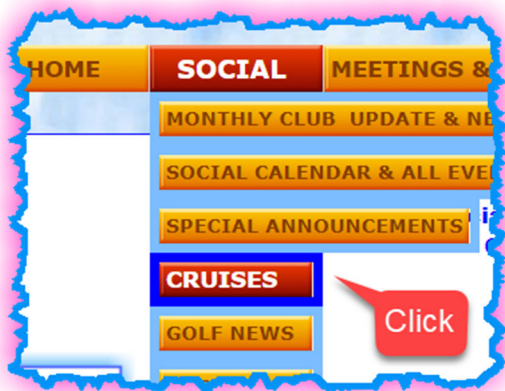
**OCTOBER 22 – NOVEMBER 3, 2024**

“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)

May 2024

# The Marco Men's Club

# Speakers Calendar

Program Director "OPEN"

**May 8, 2024**  
**Tarik N Ayasun**

Tarik will be speaking to the Men's Club about the history and current status of the Middle East.

Born April 1949, in Istanbul, Turkey  
University of Maryland 1969-1973  
Military Service 1975-1976  
Became U.S. Citizen 1977  
Started Taray Int'l Corporation in 1979  
Celebrating 45 yrs in business this year  
Involved in International trade for 48 yrs  
Marco Island Resident since 1986  
President Marco Island Chamber of Commerce 1994  
Leadership Collier Class of 1994  
Marco Island Rotary Club President 2018  
Marco Island Charter Middle School Board member 1999-2018 and President 2018-2022  
Marco Island Police Foundation Board Member 2010 – Present  
Marco Island Code Enforcement Board Chairman 2007 – 2010.  
Physicians Regional Hospital Board of Trustees 2013 – Present.  
Member LCEC Board of Trustees, Member 2019 – Present  
Collier County Code Enforcement Board 2021–Present

Board Member "Our Daily Bread" 2024  
– Present  
"Lifetime Achievement award for Service to Community" by the Marco Island Chamber of Commerce 2012  
Rotary Club "Spirit of Marco Award" 2015

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**Program Director "Open"**



May 2024

# Golf News



John Laird, Golf Chairman

Cell: 920-366-4652

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

## May Golf News

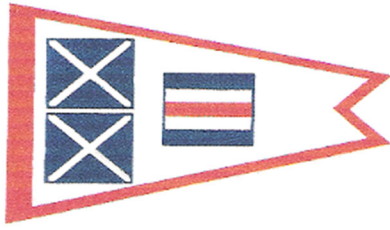
Monday golf now through October will be at Royal Wood Country Club in Naples (Near rattlesnake Hammock Rd. & Santa Barbara Blvd). Greens fees will be \$45.00 plus tax. There may be some Mondays where we need to play elsewhere due to course maintenance. Lely was not a good option for us this year with greens fees being \$110.00 in May and \$89.00 June through October. Also, their Classics course will be closed all summer so our tee times wouldn't start until 10:00AM to accommodate member play before us.

### MMC GOLF COORDINATORS SPRING/SUMMER 2024

May	Monday	<b>John Laird</b>	<a href="mailto:jglaird64@gmail.com">jglaird64@gmail.com</a>	920-366-4652
May	Monday	<b>Dan Rathka</b>	<a href="mailto:dcrathka@mifl.biz">dcrathka@mifl.biz</a>	239-398-3608
May	Friday	<b>Mike Mueller</b>	<a href="mailto:mikemfla@comcast.net">mikemfla@comcast.net</a>	239-272-8695
June	Monday	<b>Bob Vanderselt</b>	<a href="mailto:bvanderselt@stomaventures.com">bvanderselt@stomaventures.com</a>	314-378-0516
June	Friday	<b>Frank Sroka</b>	<a href="mailto:fsroka74@gmail.com">fsroka74@gmail.com</a>	239-272-4328

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.*

**May 2024**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** Mike Ballenger  
**President Emeritus:** Dave Tobiasz  
**Senior Vice President:** Tom Kramer  
**Vice President:** Mark Haynes  
**Vice President:** Don Koppel  
**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](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	2023: Dave Tobiasz