

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

The Marco Men's Club

Newsletter

August 2024

Established 1992
A non-profit organization

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings!

As we move into the dog days of summer, we begin to spend more time indoors and find ourselves keeping one eye out for hurricanes.

I was reading a recent Coastal Breeze and saw the editorial by our own “**Stef**” **Stefanides**. In his column he gave our club a nice plug. But what caught my attention was a comment about how much he enjoyed playing golf and having great conversations with other members.

When my wife and I first moved down here full time I remember resisting a couple of friends trying to get me to join. But what often happens is we decide we need to get out more and meet new people. So here I am a few years later writing the President's Newsletter. My reason for bringing this up is that the heart of any club is its membership. Whether its playing golf, enjoying a night at the theater and dinner afterwards or just lunch with the guys, it's fun! The last couple of years our membership has remained stagnant. The best way for the club to attract new members is through word of mouth. So, when you come to the next general meeting either bring a friend or grab a couple of our new Club Wallet cards which have general information and an easy way to remember how to get to our web site for more details. The hope is if you meet someone who is interested in the club you will hand out the card and invite him to a meeting.

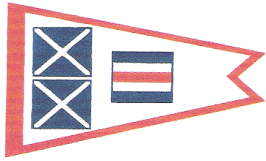
Upcoming events: The August men's lunch will be at KJ Sushi & Asian Bistro after the meeting. We will take a show of hands for who would like to join us, and we'll head over after the meeting. On August 15th we will have a co-ed dinner at the new La Mesa restaurant. See the flyer on the website.

The theater list for the season is out; check the newsletter and website for details and sign up early!!

Fun Fact:

On August 7, 1942 US and other allied forces landed on Guadalcanal marking the start of the first major land offensive of WW2 in the Pacific. From then on Japan was always on the defensive.

Mike Ballenger



August 2024

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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.

INVESTMENT DISCUSSION CLUB

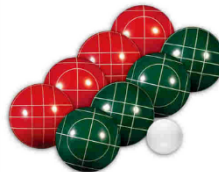


This is a gathering where opinions are valued, facts are appreciated and experience is not

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.

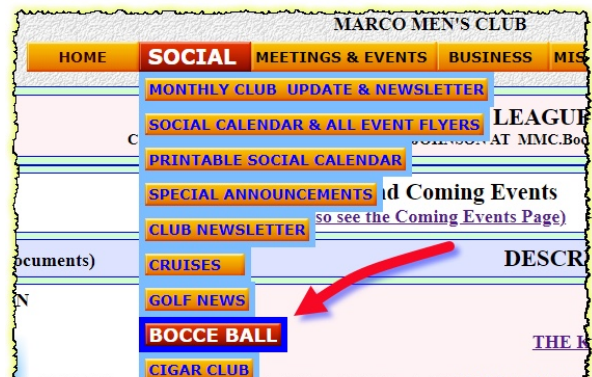
BOCCE BALL



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. Next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 3rd, at the Lutheran Church Choir Room. If you have any questions or suggestions for upcoming meetings, please contact me prior to the meeting. **Travel Discussion Group meetings on hiatus until September.**

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.

Contact **Jerry Poulin** 508-868-1716 or gpsp@aol.com to sign up.

SICKNESS AND BEREAVEMENT



Illness Update on Member Jerry Swiacki

The following information comes from Silky Sullivan who spoke recently with Linda about Jerry's challenges:

Jerry was diagnosed with cancer in his tongue, but the cancer spread after surgery. There were complications caused by this and led to further surgeries and a delayed recovery.

As of now, Jerry needs assisted breathing and nutritional support as he works on recovery. He is resilient and is fighting the good fight.

Linda and Jerry would love to hear from any Marco Men's Club members/spouses.

You can reach Linda at: 239-394-9285

Or email her
at: lindajoturner@comcast.net

Or you may send cards to Jerry at 667
Thrush Court, Marco Island, 34145

Please contact **George Vitta** at 586-942-8056 or 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 “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.

THE MMC “58TH” CRUISE
FAR EAST CRUISE, INCLUDES
SINGAPORE, THAILAND, VIETNAM
AND CHINA
FEBRUARY 27, 2025 – MARCH 15, 2025

16+ NIGHTS – 13 NIGHTS CRUISING
FAR EAST ON CELEBRITY’S “5.5”
STAR SHIP “SOLSTICE”.
CRUISE INCLUDES 2 NIGHTS PRE
STAY IN SINGAPORE AND AN
OPTIONAL 2 NIGHT STAY IN HONG
KONG.

FOR CRUISE DETAILS, FORMS AND
INFORMATION, PLEASE ACCESS MMC
WEBSITE.

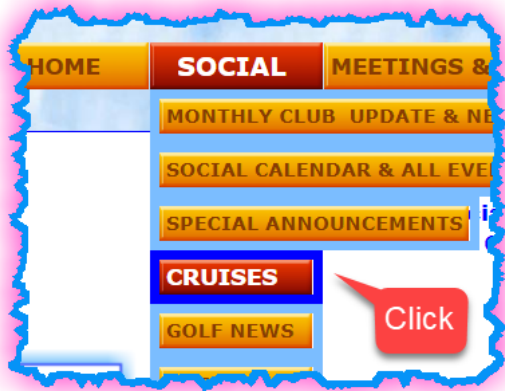
THE MMC “59TH” CRUISE
COLUMBIA AND SNAKE RIVER
CRUISE
LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION
MAY 27, 2025 – JUNE 4, 2025

9 DAYS, 1 NIGHT PRE-HOTEL, 7 NIGHT
CRUISE, SAILING ABOARD
AMERICAN CRUISE LINES “5” STAR
RIVERBOAT “SONG”
FOR CRUISE ITINERARY, PLEASE
ACCESS **CRUISE INFORMATION** ON
CLUB WEBSITE.

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

August 2024

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

August 14, 2024

**Ed Brandt, Brigadier General
United Church of Marco Island**

Ed Brandt is the Interim Pastor for United Church of Marco Island. He began the position on May 1 and is an ordained Presbyterian Minister. He retired from the National Guard in 2020 with over 31 years of military service both as a traditional and full-time member of the National Guard. Ed deployed to Iraq from 2008-2009 as a Brigade Chaplain. There, he was responsible for the spiritual welfare of over 1200 soldiers, supervising two Battalion chaplains. He received the Bronze Star for meritorious service.

His military assignments included Division Support Command, Forward Support Battalion, Troop Command, Signal Brigade, Executive Officer, Training Officer, Staff Chaplain, and US Army Deputy Chief of Chaplains, Army National Guard and Chief of Chaplains, National Guard Bureau.

Ed's military service has taken him to Serbia, Czech Republic, Guam, Puerto Rico, and South Korea as well as Alaska, Hawaii, and the majority of the lower 48. In 2019 he was preacher at

the Easter Sunrise Service at Arlington National Cemetery and in 2018 delivered the commencement address for the University of Findlay, Findlay, Ohio. He retired in 2020 at the Rank of Brigadier General.

Ed has served pastorates in Pennsylvania, Delaware, California, Michigan, and now Florida. Congregations served range from 50 to 2200 and has served as Solo Pastor and Head of Staff for multiple staff churches.

He is a graduate of Findlay College, Princeton Theological Seminary, and received his doctorate from Lancaster Theological Seminary. He was the first National Guard Chaplain to be appointed to in-residence attendance at the US Army War College.

Ed is active in the community belonging to the Pelican Bay Rotary Club, serving on the Collier Mosquito Control District, various Veterans organizations and numerous regional and national boards. He is married to the former Jane Stewart and together they spoil four granddaughters with three children scattered across the country.



Program Director “Open”

August 2024

Golf News



John Laird, Golf Chairman

Cell: 920-366-4652

Email: jglaird64@gmail.com

August Golf News

Results of Spring Scramble held Monday, April 29th at The Glades CC in Naples. A great turnout with 52 golfers competing in the event. Congratulations to all the winners!

Scramble Team Results:

1. Ed Gerri, Mark Prather, Dennis Rosene, Bob VanderSelt: -11
2. Andy Hayward, Jeff Kazcka, Garland Kight, Harry Weathers: -8
3. Vito Iacovazzi, Tracy Juels, Reggie Gabriel, Bob Bergen: -7

On Course Prizes:

Longest Putt – Ron Bales

Long Drive – Vito Iacovazzi

Closest to the Pin-

Hole 2- Jeff Kazcka, 6 feet 3 inches

Hole 8 – Chris Hansen, 11 feet, 1 inch

Hole 10 - TK Rao, 15 feet

Hole 14 – Henry Olivera, 10 feet, one inch

Holes 16 – Henry Olivera, 5 feet, seven inches

We will be at Royal Wood in Naples on Most Mondays this summer. The Rate is \$45.00 plus tax. Our Friday monthly coordinators will book the traveling group at various nice courses around the area.

MMC GOLF COORDINATORS SUMMER 2024

August	Monday	Steve Billmyer	stevenjb@centurylink.net	360-378-7860
August	Friday	Glenn Davis	gdavis@apexpkg.com	215-872-1779
September	Monday	Tom McCullough	tamccullough@comcast.net	570-690-4055
September	Friday	Tony Tomassone	tonytom_52@msn.com	610-937-2324

John Laird

2024-2025 MMC THEATER SCHEDULE

Chicago Saturday, Sept 28 Broadway Palm (Ft. Myers) 11:30 lunch, 1:00 show

Set amidst the razzle-dazzle decadence of the 1920s, CHICAGO is the story of Roxie Hart, a housewife and nightclub dancer who murders her on-the-side lover. Desperate to avoid conviction, she dupes the public, the media and her rival cellmate, Velma Kelly, by hiring Chicago's slickest lawyer to transform her malicious crime into a barrage of sensational headlines. Hear favorites *All That Jazz*, *Cell Block Tango*, *Razzle Dazzle*, *Roxie* and more! Don't miss the longest-running American musical in Broadway history!

Rumors Sunday, Oct 13 Sugden (Naples) 2pm

By Neil Simon-When the host of an evening dinner party goes missing, guests arrive, rumors run wild, and chaos ensues in this laugh-out-loud journey of mistaken identities, absurd misunderstandings, and tangled truths. *Rumors* will keep you laughing and guessing until the final curtain.

A Christmas Carol Saturday, Nov 30 Broadway Palm (Ft. Myers) 11:30 lunch, 1:00 show

Ebenezer Scrooge and his infamous "Bah, Humbug!" takes the stage in this beloved musical. Scrooge is visited by the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future to show him cheerful memories from his past, cruel realities from his present and the very likely future. Scrooge learns important lessons about his impact on the lives of others, especially Bob Cratchit and his ailing son, Tiny Tim. This classic story captures the essence of the holidays and is perfect entertainment for the entire family.

Every Christmas Story Sunday, Dec 15 ACT(Marco) 3pm

Instead of performing Charles Dickens' beloved holiday classic for the umpteenth time, three actors decide to perform every Christmas story ever told — plus Christmas traditions from around the world, seasonal icons from ancient times to topical pop-culture, and every carol ever sung. A madcap romp through the holiday season!

The Play That Goes Wrong Sunday, Jan 19 Sugden (Naples) 2pm

From Mischief, Broadway masters of comedy, comes the smash hit farce. Welcome to the opening night of the Cornley University Drama Society's newest production, *The Murder at Haversham Manor*, where things quickly go from bad to utterly disastrous. This 1920s whodunit has everything you never wanted in a show—an unconscious leading lady, a corpse that can't play dead, and actors who trip over everything (including their lines). Nevertheless, the accident-prone thespians battle against all odds to make it through to their final curtain call, with hilarious consequences! Part Monty Python, part Sherlock Holmes, this Olivier Award-winning comedy is a global phenomenon guaranteed to leave you aching with laughter!

The Buddy Holly Story Saturday, Feb 8 Broadway Palm (Ft. Myers) 11:30 lunch/1:00 show

More than 50 years after "the music died", the story of this true rock and roll icon comes to life in this musical journey through Buddy's impressive rise to fame. Buddy's original sound and dazzling talent are highlighted with live renditions of his greatest hits. You'll be dancing in the aisles and cheering for more when you hear over 20 Buddy Holly hits including *Maybe Baby*, *Every Day*, *Peggy Sue*, *That'll be the Day*, *Oh Boy*, *Rave On* plus Ritchie Valens' *La Bamba* and The Big Boppers' *Chantilly Lace*.

The Odd Couple Sunday, Feb 16 ACT(Marco) 3pm

This classic comedy opens in Oscar Madison's slovenly apartment as a group of his friends is deep into a game of poker. It is no wonder that Oscar is divorced if the condition of his apartment is any indication. The last of the group, Felix Ungar, arrives late and depressed: he and his wife have recently separated and he is trying to hold it together. Since Felix has nowhere to go, Oscar invites him to move in with him until he has a chance to figure things out.

At first, Felix's love of order is the perfect answer to Oscar's messy house, careless spending, and gambling problems. But soon his fussiness and hypochondriac ways prove extremely annoying to those around him, especially Oscar, who has to decide whether to let his friend stay and drive him crazy or throw him out to retain his sanity. Hilarity ensues as these two very polar-opposite friends have to figure out how to reconcile their differences.

Boeing, Boeing Sunday, March 16 ACT(Marco) 3pm

This 1960's French farce adapted for the English-speaking stage features self-styled Parisian lothario Bernard, who has Italian, German, and American fiancées, each a beautiful airline hostess with frequent "layovers." He keeps "one up, one down, and one pending" until unexpected schedule changes bring all three to Paris, and Bernard's apartment, at the same time.

Man of La Mancha Sunday, March 23 Sugden (Naples) 2pm

Man of La Mancha is one of the world's most popular musicals. Inspired by Miguel de Cervantes' 17th-century masterwork *Don Quixote* and set during the Spanish Inquisition, the original 1965 production won five Tony Awards, including Best Musical. Cervantes is in prison awaiting trial during the Spanish Inquisition. He and his fellow prisoners perform a play-within-a-play, telling the story of the elderly Alonso Quijana, who renames himself "Don Quixote" and goes on a quest to right all wrongs in the world. The rousing, Spanish-inflected score includes the classic numbers "The Impossible Dream," "I, Don Quixote," "Dulcinea," "I Really Like Him" and "Little Bird."

Four Old Broads Sunday, April 6 ACT(Marco) 3pm

Retired burlesque queen Beatrice Shelton desperately needs a vacation – and NOT another trip up to Helen, Georgia to see that "precious little German village for the umpteenth time." A Sassy Seniors Cruise through the Caribbean may be just the ticket if she can just convince her best friend, Eaddy Mae Clayton, to stop praying and go with her. Unfortunately, things have not been very pleasant at Magnolia Place Assisted Living since Nurse Pat Jones began working there. The newest resident, Imogene Fletcher, is suddenly losing her memory. Maude Jenkins is obsessed with her favorite soap opera and planning her own funeral. Sam Smith, retired Elvis impersonator, keeps trying to bed every woman in the building. A mystery unfolds with laughter as the gals try to outsmart the evil Nurse Pat Jones and figure out why so many residents have been moved to "the dark side," what exactly IS that mysterious pill, and what happened to Doctor Head? Hilarity ensues as Imogene goes undercover and Maude enters the Miss Magnolia Senior Citizen Pageant to throw Pat off their trail. If they can solve the mystery, they may make it to the cruise ship after all.

Les Miz Saturday, April 19 B.B. Mann (Ft. Myers) 2pm

This brilliant staging has taken the world by storm and has been hailed as "Les Mis for the 21st Century" (*Huffington Post*), "a reborn dream of a production" (*Daily Telegraph*) and "one of the greatest musicals ever created" (*Chicago Tribune*).

Set against the backdrop of 19th century France, *Les Misérables* tells an enthralling story of broken dreams and unrequited love, passion, sacrifice and redemption – a timeless testament to the survival of the human spirit. This epic and uplifting story has become one of the most celebrated musicals in theatrical history.

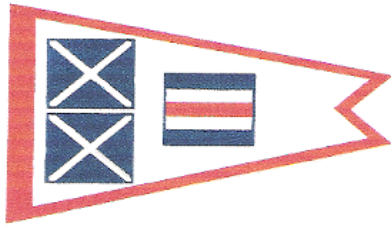
The magnificent score of *Les Misérables* includes the songs "I Dreamed a Dream," "On My Own," "Bring Him Home," "One Day More," "Master of the House" and many more. Seen by over 130 million people worldwide in 53 countries, 438 cities and 22 languages, *Les Misérables* is undisputedly one of the world's most popular musicals.

Waitress Saturday, April 26 Broadway Palm (Ft. Myers) 11:30 lunch, 1 pm show

The heartwarming musical of Jenna, a small-town waitress with a talent for baking pies. Trapped in a loveless marriage, Jenna finds solace and strength in her pies and dreams of a better life. When she unexpectedly becomes pregnant, Jenna embarks on a journey of self-discovery, supported by her quirky coworkers and a new doctor in town. With a stirring score by Sara Bareilles, *Waitress* serves up a story of resilience, friendship, and the pursuit of happiness.

Hallelujah Girls May 18, 2025 Sugden (Naples) 2pm

Hilarity abounds when the feisty females of Eden Falls, Georgia, decide to shake up their lives. The action in this rollicking Southern comedy takes place in SPA-DEE-DAH! the abandoned church-turned-day-spa where this group of friends gathers every Friday afternoon. After the loss of a dear friend, the women realize time is precious, and if they're going to change their lives and achieve their dreams, they have to get on it now! But Sugar Lee, their high-spirited, determined leader, has her hands full keeping the women motivated. Carlene's given up on romance, having buried three husbands. Nita's a nervous wreck from running interference between her problematic son and his probation officer. Mavis' marriage is so stagnant she's wondering how she can fake her own death to get out of it. And sweet, simple Crystal entertains them all, singing Christmas carols with her own hilarious lyrics. The comic tension mounts when a sexy ex-boyfriend shows up unexpectedly, a marriage proposal comes from an unlikely suitor and Sugar Lee's archrival vows she'll stop at nothing to steal the spa away from her. By the time the women rally together to overcome these obstacles and launch their new, improved lives, you've got a side-splitting, joyful comedy that will make you laugh out loud and shout "Hallelujah!"



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.

August 2024

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice President: Rob Reiley
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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	2023: Dave Tobiasz