

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

The Marco Men's Club

October 2024

Newsletter

Established 1992
A non-profit organization

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings!

October is here and the trees have begun to turn colors, from summer green to winter green. Yep, that's Florida for you. The other sure sign that winter is coming is the return of car carriers bringing snowbirds' cars back to Marco. But more important it's time for the Nominating Committee to begin its search for next year's Board of Directors. If you would like to be more involved in the club's workings and would like to help out in planning our club functions, the committee will be on the hunt. The Search Committee members will be announced at the general meeting. Just let one of them know you're interested.

In September, we continued our experiment of announcing that we would all meet for a men's only lunch after the general meeting. We had a nice group meet up at Joey D's afterwards, for a little conversation and fun. Date night was held at Andre's Steakhouse and 14 members enjoyed a nice evening out on the town. The monthly speaker was our own VP Mark Haynes on "How AI is Going to Affect Us All." Great talk Mark, thanks.



Coming up in October, we will have a Co-Ed Oktoberfest lunch at Kretch's. Check out the flyer on our website. The Hurricane dinner/dance is coming up on the 19th and is sold out! An outstanding job was done by Don Koppel.

If you read this before the general meeting, we have a special speaker from Celebrity Cruise Line to discuss and answer questions about cruising. For this meeting we are inviting wives or significant others to listen to the presentation (that's because we all know who makes the travel decisions).

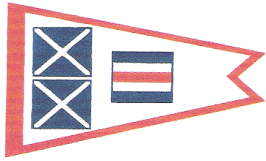
Lastly, our Theater Group has posted the rest of the flyers for this year's events. Check the website for details.

FUN FACTS:

On October 9, 1845, the US Naval Academy was founded.

In 1941 President Roosevelt approved the program to research the possibility of atomic weapons.

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! On October 28th, we will talk about AI tools that can be used for everyday use and any other issues that the group wants to discuss. All meetings will take place at Ori's at 10AM. Spouses and significant others are welcome and encouraged to attend. Contact **Steve Furlong** at 309-662-9101

Or stevenrichardfurlong@gmail.com.

INVESTMENT DISCUSSION CLUB

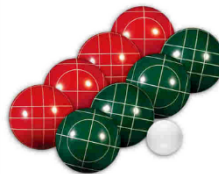


This is a gathering where opinions are valued, facts are appreciated and experience is not

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.

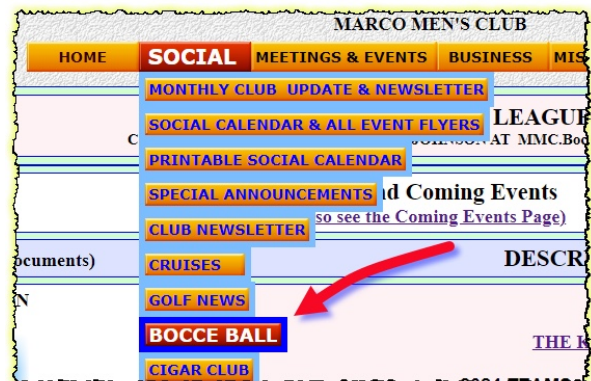
BOCCE BALL



We have reserved the Mackle Park courts again for 2025. MMC will have three courts on both Tuesday and Thursday as we have in the past. There

will be room for 24 teams. Play will begin the week of January 6th. A communication concerning final details and sign-up information will be sent out in November.

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



The Marco Men's Coed Travel Discussion Group is focused on supporting upcoming Marco Men's Club trips and cruises. At

the September meeting, we provided support travel information to those who will be taking the upcoming British Isles tour. This included travel tips, as well as history and details on sites to be visited. We, as a group, will be identifying and discussing potential future land travel trips. Men and woman are invited.

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

SPORTS UPDATE

Following a very successful sports season; plans are in the works for the upcoming season.

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 MAKKRIS.**

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.

TRIP SOLD OUT

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

SICKNESS AND BEREAVEMENT



I am saddened to report that past President Jack DeHanas passed away on Monday morning September 30, 2024. Our thoughts and prayers are with Rachel and the DeHanas family. He will be cremated and a graveside service will be held at the VA Cemetery in Sarasota. More details to follow.

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”

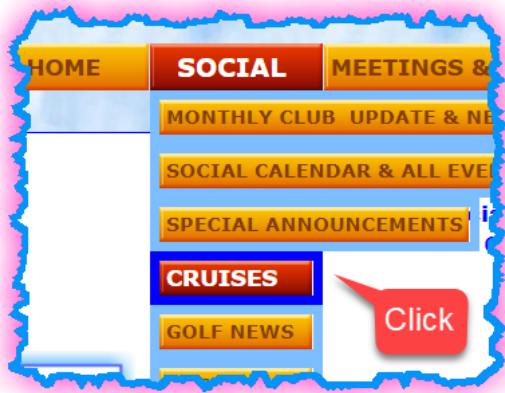
FOR CRUISE ITINERARY, PLEASE
ACCESS **CRUISE INFORMATION** ON
CLUB WEBSITE.

THE MMC “60th” CRUISE
AMAZON RIVER CRUISE
OCTOBER 10, 2025-OCTOBER 19, 2025

9 NIGHTS CRUISING AMAZON RIVER
ON SEABOURNS “6” STAR ULTRA
LUXURY ALL SUITE SHIP “VENTURE”.
1 NIGHT PRE-STAY.

AMAZON CRUISING WITH AN
EXPEDITIONARY TEAM.

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

WELCOME TO THE NEW MMC TRAVEL INDEX

The MMC has for a very long time offered international cruises, both ocean and river. In fact, we just posted cruise #60, a cruise on the Amazon river! These have been so popular that in recent years we have expanded the Travel Options. We now also have a “**TRAVEL DISCUSSION GROUP**” that meets monthly in season and a “**TRAVEL CLUB**” that sponsors a wide range of other domestic and foreign activities. They currently have a December bus trip to see the holiday decorations at St. Augustine.

To help organize the three activities we have added a TRAVEL INDEX to the website. When you follow the familiar **CRUISE** dropdown, or the corresponding “Big Button” link, it will take you to the **TRAVEL INDEX** (see image below). From there you can choose the category you are interested in.



October 2024

The Marco Men's Club

Speakers Calendar

Program Director "OPEN"

October 9, 2024

Celebrity Cruises District Rep

Matt Scheer

Details about the MMC Asia 2025 Trip, Destinations and much more.

November 13, 2024

**Naturalist, Virginia Palmer-Skok,
Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State
Park**

Naturalist Virginia Palmer-Skok is a public speaker and published author of several books and many articles that highlight her passion for history and the wonders of nature that fascinate her. One of her great loves is the Everglades where she conducts conservation research on wildlife and endangered plants. In addition to her writing and photography she loves to share her passion with others by providing swamp walks in hopes to entice them to enjoy this paradise and to protect it. She serves as the President of the Friends of Fakahatchee, a not for profit dedicated to the financial and volunteer support to preserve the unique ecology and cultural heritage of Fakahatchee Strand Preserve

State Park and to educate the public about its importance.

Right in Marco Island's backyard is the magical Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park. Come hear a fellow Marco Islander talk about the largest Florida State Park and its unique history. It is here where visitors get the chance to see megafauna including panthers, bears and more. The famous Fakahatchee intrigues

all that visit whether it is for hiking, birding, photography, animal and butterfly watching, biking, or even getting your feet wet on a swamp walk. Written about in the 1989 bestseller The Orchid Thief, the Preserve is known as the Orchid Capital of North America. There is a reason why visitors often get the "Fak A Habit" and return many times.

The position of Program Director is vacant. Anyone interested and wishing to learn more about the duties of Director, please contact any board member or club officer.

October 2024

Golf News



John Laird, Golf Chairman

Cell: 920-366-4652

Email: jglaird64@gmail.com

October Golf News

There will be no fall scramble this year as the venue we had scheduled (Glades CC) had to cancel due to unforeseen major issues with one of their clubhouse facilities which is shut down for extensive repairs. We hope to return there for our spring scramble but won't know if they can host our group until early 2025. In the meantime, I'll look into alternate venues in the event the Glades CC is unable to host our group.

In November we will return to Hibiscus Golf Club. For a one-time fee of \$375 you can join the Frequent Player Program that offers savings on every round of golf you play November 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025. November & December golf rates will be \$116 plus tax without Frequent Player Program and \$90 plus tax with the Frequent Player Program. January through March winter rates will be slightly higher and should be available soon.

MMC GOLF COORDINATORS FALL/WINTER 2024/2025

| | | | | |
|----------|--------|-------------------------|--|--------------|
| October | Monday | Bob Phelan | bobjphelan1@gmail.com | 239-272-4820 |
| October | Friday | Henry Olivera | (4 th & 11 th) | 305-742-8728 |
| | | Bob Winterhalter | (18 th & 25 th) | 614-264-0021 |
| November | Monday | Ken Burnham | burnham@umass.edu | 413-531-7799 |
| November | Friday | Lou Makris | loumak42@aol.com | 781-258-0456 |
| December | Monday | George Vitta | golflover3@yahoo.com | 586-942-8056 |
| December | Friday | Lou Makris | loumak42@aol.com | 781-258-0456 |

Thank you to all our coordinators! Our group would not function without you.

John Laird

2024-2025 MMC THEATER SCHEDULE

Rumors Sunday, Oct 13 Sugden (Naples) 2pm **SOLD OUT**

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!

2025

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.

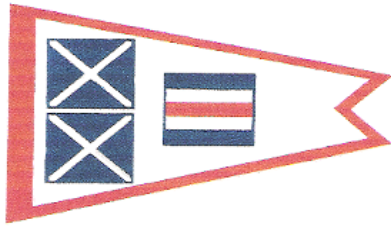
The magnificent score of *Les Misérables* includes the songs "I Dreamed a Dream," "On My Own," "Bring Him Home," "One Day More," "Master of the House" and many more. Seen by over 130 million people worldwide in 53 countries, 438 cities and 22 languages, *Les Misérables* is undisputedly one of the world's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

October 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

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Hospitality: Don Koppel, Rich Carlsen, Don Lally, Lou Makris
Public Relations: Dave Walsh
Theater Chair: Dave Tobiasz
Golf Chair: John Laird
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Bocce Coordinator: Rick Johnson
Program Director: "Open"
Cruise Chair: Bill Rogers
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Sickness/Bereavement Chair: George Vitta
Newsletter Editor/Flyer Gatekeeper: Lou Makris
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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):

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|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 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 |