

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

The Marco Men's Club Newsletter

December 2024

Established 1992 A non-profit organization

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings!

I hope everyone survived Thanksgiving and were able to enjoy some quality time with family and friends. Now if we can get through the next couple of weeks without blowing the budget, life may return to normal. In November we had a great turnout for lunch at Ori's Bakery; nineteen members enjoyed some great food, pastries and conversation. Thanks to **Rob Reiley** for hosting. At the general meeting, Ginny from the Friends of

Fakahatchee, gave an interesting talk on the nearby treasure. The new boardwalk is open and for any of you adventurous souls we have been invited to take the guided swamp walk. Me, I think the tram tour is more my speed. The Theater Group enjoyed the play "A Christmas Carol." This event was sold out and if you're a theater lover, the flyers are out for many of the upcoming plays and the tickets will go fast.

The upcoming events for December include the holiday luncheon at Naples Lake CC. This event sold out quickly. The Theater Group is heading to ACT for "Every Christmas Story Ever Told" and dinner afterwards.

Lastly, as we all gather with family and friends for the holidays, on behalf of myself and the Board of Directors, we wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Fun Facts

Coca-Cola played a major part in depicting Santa as we see him today. In 1900 Coca-Cola felt Santa needed a makeover.

Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer was a marketing tool and story created by Montgomery Wards in 1939.

Jingle Bells was originally written for Thanksgiving and was the first song played in space on December 16,1965 aboard Gemini 6, which then became a Guinness world record for the first sound ever played in space.

Santa must travel to 822 homes per second to get all the presents delivered on Christmas Eve.

Happy Holidays.

Mike Ballenger

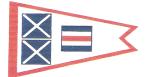
Gentlemen,

Once again, it's time to pay your dues for the upcoming Marco Men's Club membership year. From almost any page in the website use the dropdown menu 'CONTACT US' as shown in the screen capture. It will take you to the Dues Payment Landing Page where you can pay by credit card (preferred) or by filling out the PDF form and sending in your check.



...Or you can follow this link for the same result: https://marcomensclub.com/DuesPaymentOptions.htm

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Club News

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! Next meeting will be Tuesday, December 17th. 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 <u>stevenrichardfurlong@gmail.com</u>.

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. <u>The Club meets the 3rd</u> <u>Wednesday of the month at 1:30PM at</u> <u>the Marco Lutheran Church in the choir</u> <u>room, please enter through the</u> <u>administrative offices.</u> **Contact Don Koppel** Ph:856-906-4318. Meeting status will be through an eBlast the week before the meeting.

BOCCE BALL



The Bocce season will commence on January 7th and 9th. The regular season will last 11 weeks, followed by playoffs and then an award luncheon. The

standings and schedule will be updated weekly on the Club website. At this point the Tuesday league has 12 teams and is full. Thursdays has 11 teams so there is room for one more team. If you have a team please contact Rick Johnson at <u>MMCBocceLeague@gmail.com</u>

Sign-up deadline is December 15th. The schedule will be finalized and sent out in late December. 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.



TRAVEL DISCUSSION GROUP



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

Travel Discussion Group met on Wednesday December 4th at the Lutheran Church Conference Room. We, as a group, will be identifying and discussing potential future travel opportunities. Spouses/SO are invited and encouraged to attend. Contact **Bruce Dahlquist** 847-815-9474 or <u>dahlquistbruce@gmail.com</u>

SPORTS UPDATE

Spring Training Baseball

Tickets are available for Boston Red Sox vs New York Mets, Sunday March 2, 2025. For more Info: **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 <u>order form</u> for Hats and Shirts is available on-line on the MMC Website, under the MISCELLANEOUS header. Click on CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES to obtain <u>Order Form</u> and Instructions.

MMC TRAVEL CLUB

The travel club would welcome your thoughts, ideas and interests on trips, be it ground travel or cruises.

Contact Jerry Poulin 508-868-1716 / gpsp@aol.com or Tim Clune 248-980-6142 / tclune@gmail.com

CRUISES



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





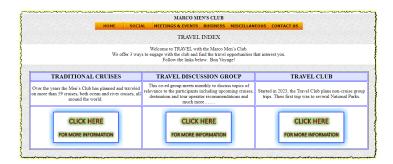
Contact Bill Rogers at: 239-259-8945

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.



SICKNESS AND BEREAVEMENT



Club member Don Mills who was hospitalized last month has been moved from the hospital to a rehab facility.

Please contact **George Vitta** at 586-942-8056 or <u>golflover3@yahoo.com</u> regarding information of illness or death of members, their spouse, and immediate family. George will notify the MMC board.

December 2024

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

December 11, 2024 Robert Edward Meldman Tax Litigation Attorney

Marquis Who's Who, the world's premier publisher of biographical profiles, is proud to name Robert Edward Meldman a Lifetime Achiever. An accomplished listee, Mr. Meldman celebrates many years' experience in his professional network, and has been noted for achievements, leadership qualities, and the credentials and successes he has accrued in his field. Mr. Meldman has been a taxation and tax litigation attorney for 53 years at his private practice in Milwaukee, also serving in a string of partnerships with legal firms. Since 2006, he has been of counsel for the firm of Reinhart, Boerner, and Van Deuren in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Mr. Meldman has been admitted to practice in three states, Wisconsin, Florida and Colorado in addition to the 5th and 7th Circuit Court of Appeals, the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, the U.S. Tax Court, and the U.S. Supreme Court. He was named 1992 Outstanding Tax Professional by Corporate Reports Wisconsin magazine and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Tax Association. Born in Milwaukee to Louis Leo and Lilian Meldman in 1937, Mr. Meldman

attended the University of Wisconsin and earned a BS in 1959. After his marriage to Sandra Jane Setlick, he matriculated at Marquette University in Milwaukee with an LLB and was admitted to the bar in 1962. In 1963, he earned an LLM in taxation from New York University, and started his practice in tax law. Mr. Meldman became the president of Meldman, Case & Weine Limited in 1975, and worked there for 10 years. In 1985, he went on to become director of the tax division for Mulcahy & Wherry in Milwaukee, and in 1991, he became a shareholder in Reinhart, Boerner, and Van Deuren, s.c. In addition to his practice of tax law, Mr. Meldman also served as executive in residence with the Deloitte & Touche Center for Multistate Taxation and as adjunct professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the T.C. Beirne School of Law at the University of Queensland as well as the Marquette University School of Law. He had served as director of the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he has also served with the tax advisory council.

Mr. Meldman has accrued many memberships in professional societies, including the American College Tax Council, the American Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, the Milwaukee Bar Association, the Wisconsin Bar Association, the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific , the Friends of Gold Meir Library , the Marquette University Law Alumni Association, the Milwaukee Athletic Club, the Wisconsin Club, and B'nai B'rith, which named him as a trustee and recipient of the 1969 to 1970 Ralph Harris Memorial Award at Century Lodge.

For years of dedication to tax law, Mr. Meldman was selected for inclusion in numerous volumes of Who's Who in America, Who's Who in American Law, Who's Who in the Midwest, Who's Who in the World, and three volumes of Who's Who in Finance and Industry from 1985 to 1999. Mr. Meldman has four grandchildren, and loves to spend his winters in Mexico.

January 8, 2025 Chris Byrne

Fire Chief Marco Island

Chief Byrne began his fire service career in 1983 as an entry-level firefighter with the Marco Island Fire Control District, which became a municipal fire department in 1998. He worked his way through the ranks culminating with promotion to Deputy Fire Chief in 2001. In 2016, Chief Byrne retired after 33 years of service with the Marco Island Fire Rescue Department. He was not retired for long before being called back in September 2017 to act as Safety Officer for Hurricane Irma. He continued with the City as Incident Commander of Recovery. In August 2020, Chief Byrne was appointed Fire Chief of the City of Marco Island Fire Rescue Department. Chief Byrne holds a BS degree in Management from International College. Associates Degree in Fire Science from Edison Community College.

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.

December 2024





John Laird, Golf Chairman Cell: 920-366-4652 Email: jglaird64@gmail.com

December Golf News

There was 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 in unable to host our group.

In November we returned 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

December	Monday	George Vitta	golflover3@yahoo.com	586-942-8056
December	Friday	Lou Makris	loumak42@aol.com	781-258-0456
January	Monday	Roger Smith	rsmith186@aol.com	910-975-5221
January	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

ACT(Marco)

Every Christmas Story Sunday, Dec 15

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 popculture, and every carol ever sung. A madcap romp through the holiday season!



The Play That Goes Wrong Sunday, Jan 19

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 <u>ACT(Marco)</u>

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 <u>ACT(Marco)</u> 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 <u>Sugden (Naples)</u> 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."

3pm

Sugden (Naples) 2pm

3pm

Four Old Broads Sunday, April 6 <u>ACT(Marco)</u> 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 <u>B.B. Mann (Ft. Myers)</u> 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.

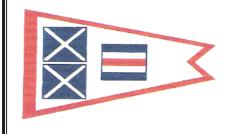
Waitress Saturday, April 26 Broadway Palm (Ft. Myers) 11:30 lunch, 1 pm show

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!

Version 4



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.

December 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, Rich Carlsen, Don Lally, Lou Makris 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	2023: Dave Tobiasz

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