

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

The Marco Men's Club

January 2025

Newsletter

Established 1992
A non-profit organization

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year!

I hope all of you had a great start to the new year! It's January and that means if you have not renewed your membership, you're late. You still have a little grace period which will end Jan. 8th (Jan. monthly mtg.). So, please go to the web site and renew with a credit card or bring a check to me or Rudi ASAP. As the season gets rolling, the club has planned some great events. The anniversary lunch will be right after the

general meeting. The Welcome Back Party is set at The Speakeasy. In February, we have the new member breakfast, the ever-popular Sweetheart Ball (at a great price this year) and a couple theater events planned.

Don't forget some of the other fun groups will be in full swing: Golf, Bocce, Travel Group and Co-Ed dinners. So, one more time, please renew your membership before it's too late.

January is also election time for new officers. **Warren Uhl** and **Dave Tobiasz**, our Nominating Committee, have put together the new list of candidates.

President: **Mike Ballenger** (returning)
Treasurer: **Rudi Landwaard** (returning)
Secretary: **Jerry Defibaugh** (returning)
VP: **Don Koppel** (returning)
VP: **Rob Reiley** (returning)
VP: **Mark Geis** (new)
VP: **Glenn Davis** (new)
VP: **OPEN**

I would like to thank the outgoing members of the board, **Tom Kramer, Mark Haynes** and **Arne Sandburg**, for all their hard work during this last year.

Voting for the new board will be at the General Meeting in January, followed by the anniversary lunch. Remember you need to sign up and mail in a \$10 check which will be returned to you at lunch. The flyer is posted on the website.

January fun facts

Jan 3, 1922 English explorer Howard Carter discovered the Tomb of Tutankhamun.

January 24, 1965 the first Boeing 747 completed a passenger paying flight across the Atlantic.

January 26, 1788 Captain A Phillips guided a fleet of 11 ships carrying convicts to New S. Wales-founding Australia.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

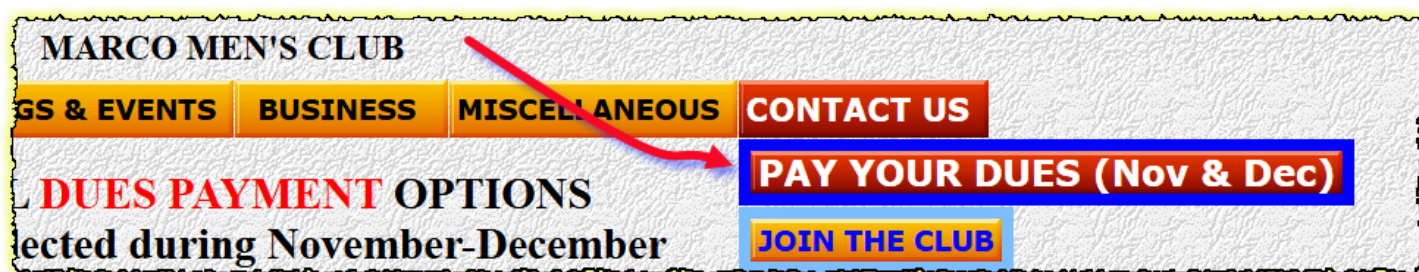
In 1920 The League of Nations was established.

In 1945 Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated for his 4th term.

Mike Ballenger

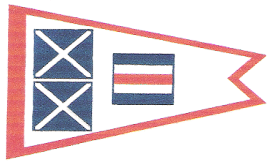
Gentlemen,

If you did not renew your club membership by December 31, 2024, there is still the grace period ending January 8, 2025. At the end of the grace period, we will begin to remove unpaid members from the active roll. 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>



January 2025

The Marco Men's Club Club News

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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! Next meeting will be Thursday, January 16th. 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

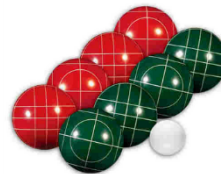


This is a gathering where opinions are valued, facts are appreciated and experience is not

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.

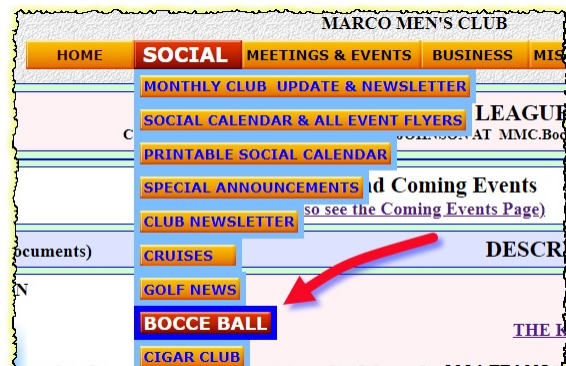
BOCCE BALL



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 MMCBocceLeague@gmail.com

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.



Co-Ed 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 will meet on Thursday January 9th at 1:00PM in the Lutheran Church Choir 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 dahlquistbruce@gmail.com

SPORTS UPDATE

Spring Training Baseball

Tickets are available for Boston Red Sox vs New York Mets, Sunday March 2, 2025. \$40 per ticket, Flyer available on club website. 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 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

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

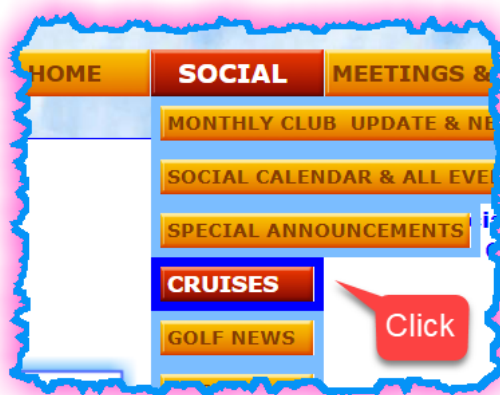
16+ NIGHTS – 13 NIGHTS CRUISING
FAR EAST ON CELEBRITY’S “5.5”
STAR SHIP “**SOLSTICE**”.
CRUISE INCLUDES 2 NIGHTS PRE
STAY IN SINGAPORE AND AN
OPTIONAL 2 NIGHT STAY IN HONG
KONG.
FOR CRUISE DETAILS, FORMS AND
INFORMATION, PLEASE ACCESS MMC
WEBSITE.

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
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



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.

MARCO MEN'S CLUB					
HOME	SOCIAL	MEETINGS & EVENTS	BUSINESS	MISCELLANEOUS	CONTACT US
TRAVEL INDEX					
Welcome to TRAVEL with the Marco Men's Club. We offer 3 ways to engage with the club and find the travel opportunities that interest you. Follow the links below: Bon Voyage!					
TRADITIONAL CRUISES	TRAVEL DISCUSSION GROUP	TRAVEL CLUB			
Over the years the Men's Club has planned and traveled on more than 59 cruises, both ocean and river cruises, all around the world.	This co-ed group meets monthly to discuss topics of relevance to the participants including upcoming cruises, destination and tour operator recommendations and much more.....	Started in 2023, the Travel Club plans non-cruise group trips. Their first trip was to several National Parks.			
CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION	CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION	CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION			

January 2025

The Marco Men's Club

Speakers Calendar

Program Director "OPEN"

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.

January 2025

Golf News



John Laird, Golf Chairman

Cell: 920-366-4652

Email: jglaird64@gmail.com

January Golf News

Hibiscus Golf Club:

In November we returned to Hibiscus Golf Club for in-season play through April 2025. For a one-time fee of \$375 you can join the Frequent Player Program that offers savings on every round of golf you play at Hibiscus through April 30, 2025. November & December golf rates are \$116 plus tax without the Frequent Player Program and \$90 plus tax with the Frequent Player Program. Late December through April "in season" winter rates are \$170 plus tax (\$180.20 total) without the Frequent Player Program and \$132 plus tax (\$139.92 total) with the Frequent Player Program.

Please play ready golf and keep pace with the group in front of you. Nobody likes slow play!! Equally important is for all golfers to both fill in their divots with the cart-side seed mix and to also repair at least one ball mark on every green.

Lastly, please patronize the Hibiscus restaurant and on course beverage cart whenever convenient, and please acknowledge the bag check-in and check-out team with a gratuity.

Sign-up & Waitlist Procedure:

Our golf group is allotted 13 tee times so we have room for 52 players. Those golfers playing on a Monday who wish to play the following Monday can sign-up in the pro shop when they pay their greens fees. No write-ins or sign-up of other players not playing that Monday will be allowed. For those not playing on a Monday but wanting to play the following Monday, please email or text the monthly coordinator no earlier than Tuesday morning at 8:00 AM EST. Once the 52 spots are filled, a waitlist will be established based on when the golfer signed up. Those who volunteer their time as monthly coordinators will be given priority status on the waitlist jumping to the top of the waitlist. Numerous coordinator opportunities for 2025 still exist so please contact me if interested. Guests will only be allowed if open spots exist after the sign-up and waitlist procedure has run its course. Please stay in close touch with the monthly coordinator if you are interested in bringing a guest.

Winter Golf Championship:

The Winter Championship will be held over three successive Mondays in February, or February-March. Dates for this year's championship have yet to be determined. The golfers will pay \$10 to play in the tournament and the field will be divided into approximately equal size groups between

“A” and “B” flight players. Playing in this tournament guarantees you tee times for the three consecutive Mondays unless we have more than 52 players sign-up. An unlikely scenario, but if it occurs, waitlist rules would apply to determine who gets into the tournament. Cash prizes will be awarded for top three LOW NET scores in each flight. The traveling trophy will be awarded to the winner in each flight. More information to come in early January.

Spring Scramble:

Our spring scramble event will be held in late April. In past years, we've played at the Glade Country Club in Naples and we're hoping to return there for this year's event. Stay tuned, more information to come in January.

MMC GOLF COORDINATORS WINTER 2025

January	Monday	Roger Smith	rsmith186@aol.com	910-975-5221
January	Friday	Lou Makris	loumak42@aol.com	781-258-0456
February	Monday	Ron Bales	rpbmi@comcast.net	239-389-5587
February	Friday	Lou Makris	loumak42@aol.com	781-258-0456
March	Monday	Alan Hoffmann	aishoffmann@gmail.com	239-259-4056
March	Friday	Lou Makris	loumak42@aol.com	781-258-0456
April	Monday	Mark Coyne	markcoyne1020@gmail.com	609-517-1351
April	Friday	Lou Makris	loumak42@aol.com	781-258-0456

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

John Laird

2025 MMC THEATER SCHEDULE

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.

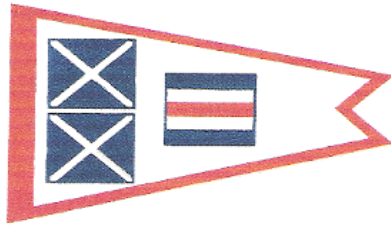
Waitress **Saturday, April 26** **Broadway Palm (Ft. Myers)** **11:30 lunch, 1 pm show**

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!”

Version 5



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. **January 2025**

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
2024: Mike Ballenger			