

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

The Marco Men's Club Newsletter

February 2025

Established 1992 A non-profit organization

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to February!

The season is off to a great start with more and more of our members returning from up North. We had a great turnout for the anniversary lunch; over 40 signed up for a picnic-style chicken and fixings. The Welcome Back Party at Speakeasy was sold out and from what I could tell, all had a good time. A big thanks goes out to VP **Rob Reiley** for putting it all together. As of this writing, our club has a decrease of about 16% in

membership. The Board of Directors has been discussing new ways to attract new members. One of the changes we would like to make is to open membership to snowbirds who have signed 30 days or more rental leases on Marco, Goodland, and The Isles of Capri. To be eligible the applicant must show a signed lease agreement for the current enrollment period. In order to make these changes to the club's constitution and by-laws, the membership will need to vote on this change at the May General Meeting.

February 1st was our Welcome to New Members Breakfast. It was nice to meet and get to know some of our new members. The Sweetheart Ball is also one of the club's big events in February, and it gives attending members a chance to see if they still can fit into a suit jacket and long pants.

Coming up in March, tickets for the Spring Training Baseball Game between the Red Sox and Mets is <u>sold out</u>. There will be an in-house pizza party after the general meeting.

Pre-St Pat's Day Co-Ed Lunch Party is set for Monday, March 10, 2025 at The SpeakEasy; flyer available on website to sign up.

FUN FACTS IN FEBUARY

February 1,1865 Abraham Lincoln signed the 13th Amendment, which outlawed slavery.

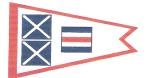
February 12,1962 John Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth.

February 4,1861 Apache Chief Cochise was arrested for raiding a ranch, then escaped and declared war against us which lasted for 25 years.

February 15,1898 The USS Maine exploded in Havana Harbor contributing to the outbreak of the Spanish-American War.

Mike Ballenger

February 2025



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

The Marco Men's Club

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 Friday, February 28th. All meetings will be held 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 started 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

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 February meeting of the Marco Men's Club Coed Travel Discussion Group was held on Wednesday the 5^{th,} at

1:00PM in the Lutheran Church Choir Room.

<u>Agenda</u>: Reviewing the survey of the British Isles and St Augustine trips. Finalizing the Land Travel/Cruise. Survey to be sent out to all members of the MMC. Reviewing the upcoming Cruise Expo. Reviewing the upcoming Land Travel presentation. Discussing how we might learn about OAT travel opportunities. Reviewing what information is available on the Travel Discussion Group website. 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 for the Boston Red Sox vs New York Mets game on Sunday March 2, 2025 are sold out. Next up will be an Everblades hockey game. 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 Order Form and Instructions.

MMC TRAVEL CLUB

St Augustine Christmas Lights Trip December 8, 2024





Sept 5, 2025 - Sept 12, 2025 Colorado's Historic Trains Featuring 6 Scenic Rail Excursions and 3 National Parks.

Departure September 5, 2025 for 8 days.

Tour Highlights: 14 meals: 8 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 4 dinners. All hotel accommodations. Round trip airport transfers, round trip Denver. Rocky Mountain National Park. Leadville Colorado and Southern Railroad. Durango and Silverton Railroad. Mesa Verde National Park. Cumbres and Toltec Scenic railroad. Royal Gorge Route railroad. Pikes Peak Cog Railway.

Price is \$3099 pp land only and includes land touring and all tour excursions. Air pricing is available on request. Optional travel protection is \$249 PP. Non-refundable deposit \$200 PP. With air \$349 PP. Credit card payments only.

To book, contact Jerry Poulin at $508-868-1716 \text{ or } \underline{\text{gpsp}@aol.com}$ For further information contact Jerry or Tim Clune at 248-980-6142.

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.

THE MMC "61ST" CRUISE GREEK ISLES & TURKEY SEPT 17, 2025 – SEPT 30, 2025

12 NIGHTS –10 NIGHTS CRUISING GREEK ISLES & TURKEY ON CELEBRITY SHIP "EQUINOX". BARCELONA, MYKONOS, EPHESUS, ISTANBUL (OVERNIGHT), SANTORINI, OLYMPIA, ROME. 2 NIGHT PRE-STAY IN BARCELONA, SPAIN WITH CRUISE ENDING IN ROME, ITALY. 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 Bob Bixler at: 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 trip planned September 5-12, 2025; Colorado's Historic Trains. More info on club website.

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 <u>golflover3@yahoo.com</u> regarding information of illness or death of members, their spouse, and immediate family. George will notify the MMC board.

February 2025

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

February 12, 2025 Robyn Johnson Executive Director of The Watermark at Marco Island

Robyn Johnson brings extensive local and national expertise to her role as Executive Director of The Watermark at Marco Island. With a career devoted to creating community-centered cultures that promote longevity-based wellbeing, healthy aging, and vibrant living, Robyn ensures that residents receive personalized, high-quality care grounded in compassion and innovation. A servant leader by nature, Robyn's inspirational leadership style empowers teams to excel in purpose-driven service. In Collier County, she partnered with NCH to implement the Blue Zones initiative in senior healthcare environments, spearheaded advancements for a center for innovation in memory care, and a state-of-the-art skilled nursing facility. Additionally, Robyn successfully directed an awardwinning assisted living and memory care community in East Naples. Her broader experience includes serving on the board of the Kim & Glen Campbell Foundation and as President of The Moments Memory Care in

Minnesota, where she advanced care models for high-acuity needs and fostered operational excellence. As National Director of Innovation, Strategy & Brand on the Executive Leadership Team at The Goodman Group, Robyn's work impacted 50+ senior living developments in the U.S. and London while forming impactful partnerships with Mayo Clinic, the American Red Cross, and the University of Minnesota Center for Spirituality and Healing

April 9, 2025 Rick LoCastro County Commissioner District 1

Rick LoCastro was elected County Commissioner of District 1 (East Naples, Marco Island, Isles of Capri, Port of the Islands, & Goodland) on November 3, 2020. A 1988 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, he served in the Air Force for 24 years and retired as a full Colonel in 2012. He's held positions in NATO, The Pentagon, and worked in 80+ countries. Rick is a former Commander at Andrews Air Force Base supporting Air Force One, was also the base commander of Eglin Air Force Base in Ft. Walton Beach

FL... and later returned to the U.S. Air Force Academy (where he was a 1988 graduate) serving as Base Commander there as well. After military retirement he was recruited to Naples as COO of Physicians Regional serving for 4 years and later was a senior executive at Avow Hospice. While in the military, he worked for two Presidents (Bush 41 & Bush 43), for General Schwarzkopf, and was the Aide to an air Force 4-star General for three years. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree the Air Force Academy and three Master's degrees. He is also a 2023 Leadership Collier graduate.

May 14, 2025 Rebecca Mazeroski Museum Manager

Rebecca Mazeroski is the Museum Manager of the Marco Island Historical Museum. She has an MFA in Museum Exhibition Planning and Design. She will present on "Marco Before the Mackles", a brief history of the island that indigenous peoples and early pioneers also found was a paradise.

The position of Program Director is vacant. Anyone interested in learning more about the duties of Director, please contact any board member or club officer.

February 2025



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

February Golf News

Hibiscus Golf Club:

In November we returned to Hibiscus Golf Club for in-season play through April 2025. For a onetime 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 later in February.

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 at a later date.

MMC GOLF COORDINATORS WINTER 2025

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 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 CoupleSunday, Feb 16ACT(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 <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 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 <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.

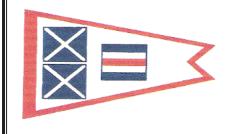
Waitress Saturday, April 26 Broadway Palm (Ft. Myers) 11:30 lunch, 1 pm show

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 6



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.

February 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: Bob Bixler 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 1996: George Kuntz* 2000: Jerry Stought* 2004: Bob Gaffney 2008: Fred Stavola 2012: Randle Grossman* 2016: Dan Flynn 2020: Jerry Swiacki 2024: Mike Ballenger

1993: Bill Perdichizzi 1997: Alan Wetjen* 2001: Ned Wright* 2005: Wayne Boose 2009: Joe Varano 2013: Jack DeHanas* 2017: Silky Sullivan 2021: Jerry Swiacki 1994: Harold Penn* 1998: George Godfrey* 2002: Al Bozzo 2006: Tom Traeger* 2010: Bill Sullivan 2014: John Superits 2018: Bill Rogers 2022: Warren Uhl 1995: Bob Marks* 1999: Jerry Stought* 2003: Ken Molander* 2007: Joe Cassidy* 2011: Sam Miloro 2015: Warren Dettinger* 2019: Jeff Dywan 2023: Dave Tobiasz