

P.O. Box 5035  
Marco Island, FL. 34146  
[www.MarcoMensClub.com](http://www.MarcoMensClub.com)

The Marco Men's Club

May 2025

# Newsletter

Established 1992  
A non-profit organization

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### *Greetings!*

As we move into May, the traffic seems lighter, the restaurants have a few more open tables and a welcome calm has descended upon our island. As many of our members head north for the summer, we wish you safe travels and look forward to your return in the fall. As with the island slowing down, so are we. We have a Co-Ed dinner planned and one last Theater event to enjoy. At our general meeting we will have an open lunch (show

of hands) at Cocomo's for all who wish to attend. At the end of the month, we will have the third annual mini golf tournament. This is always a hard-fought tournament, with member foursomes competing for that grand prize of a very expensive trophy followed by lunch at La Tavola.

May also brings together our new Board of Directors. Our new VP's are **Mark Geis** and **Glenn Davis**. Returning VP's are **Rob Reiley** and **Don Koppel**. We are still on the hunt for one more VP. If you're interested, please see me or any VP. **Reggie Gabriel** has volunteered to take over the recruitment of speakers for our general meetings next year. Welcome aboard and thank you Reggie! As I start my second term as President, I would like to recognize and thank all the Board Members for all their hard work. From the hospitality guys who supply us with coffee and treats, to all the hosts that help with events, and to all the members that organized Bocce, Golf, Theater, travel etc..... You all make this club function and fun.

At the general meeting, I will be asking for a vote to amend the club's bylaws. This change will allow renters who show a signed lease of 30 days or longer, to join the

club. There are many snowbirds that rent for the season and may enjoy what the club has to offer.

Membership has slipped in the past few years and the Board of Directors feels this may help bring in new members. We see this as positive for the future of the club.

### Fun Facts for May

May 1,1960 American U-2 spy plane was shot down over Russia...oops bad day for President Eisenhower.

May 5,1862 Mexico defeated the French, we celebrate to this day with Margaritas.

May 5,1893 Wall Street crash began, over 600 banks closed.

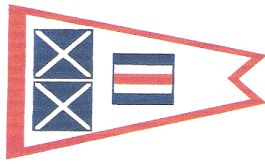
May 6,1937 German airship Hindenburg burst into flames and crashed. Maybe flying around in big balloons filled with flammable gas wasn't such a good idea.

May 10,1889 A riot erupted outside the Astor Opera house in New York over the dress code. No shorts allowed. Could you imagine that in Florida?

May 17,1792 Two dozen merchants and brokers established the New Stock Exchange. Don Koppel thinks this should be a National Holiday 😊.

***Mike Ballenger***

MMC President



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# 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? Want to learn about Artificial Intelligence? This is the place to get help! The final meeting of the season was held March 31st at Ori's; the subject of the meeting was iPhone hints and tips. Spouses and significant others are welcome and encouraged to attend. Information on future meetings will be announced at a later date.

Contact **Steve Furlong** at 309-662-9101

Or [stevenrichardfurlong@gmail.com](mailto:stevenrichardfurlong@gmail.com).

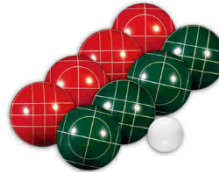
### INVESTMENT DISCUSSION CLUB



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.

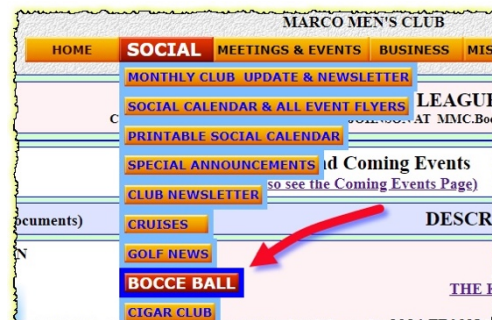
### BOCCE BALL



The Bocce league ended with a playoff. Team Tobiasz won the playoffs beating Team Baden. The season ended with an awards luncheon at the

Marco Brewery with 20+ in attendance. For more info, contact **Rick Johnson** at: [MMCBocceLeague@gmail.com](mailto: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



We continue to discuss and evaluate current, planned and future travel events.

The final meeting of the season was held on Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Lutheran Church choir room. The meeting focused on the upcoming Blue Danube Cruise, where there was a slide presentation and 14-page handout highlighting many of the sites that will be visited on the cruise, while sharing insights, background, related trivia and tips. Sharing information on the Marco Men's Club Facebook page. Questions answered relating to the upcoming Colorado Historic Trains Tour. Discussed the Travel Preference Survey. Received feedback on the recent Asia Cruise. Meetings will start again in September, with the time and date to be announced this summer.

Contact **Bruce Dahlquist** 847-815-9474 or [dahlquistbruce@gmail.com](mailto:dahlquistbruce@gmail.com)

## SPORTS UPDATE

Jack would welcome suggestions from members regarding future sports events. Please contact:

**Jack Martin** at 347-837-2131 or [jjtpm11697@yahoo.com](mailto: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 LAND TRAVEL CLUB



**Sept 10, 2026 - Sept 17, 2026**  
**Colorado's Historic Trains**

Featuring 6 Scenic Rail Excursions and 3 National Parks.

Departure September 10, 2026 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 \$3,369 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 or [gpsp@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:gpsp@aol.com) or **Tim Clune** 248-980-6142 / [tclune@gmail.com](mailto:tclune@gmail.com)



# CRUISES



**THE MMC “59<sup>TH</sup>” 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.

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**THE MMC “61<sup>ST</sup>” CRUISE**  
**GREEK ISLES & TURKEY**  
**SEPT 17, 2025 – SEPT 30, 2025**

12 NIGHTS –10 NIGHTS CRUISING  
GREEK ISLES & TURKEY ON  
CELEBRITY SHIP “**EQUINOX**”.  
BARCELONA, MYKONOS, EPHEUS,  
ISTANBUL (OVERNIGHT), SANTORINI,  
OLYMPIA, ROME.

2 NIGHT PRE-STAY IN BARCELONA,  
SPAIN WITH CRUISE ENDING IN  
ROME, ITALY.

**THE MMC “62<sup>ND</sup>” CRUISE**  
**BLUE DANUBE RIVER CRUISE**  
**APRIL 12, 2026 APRIL 25, 2026**

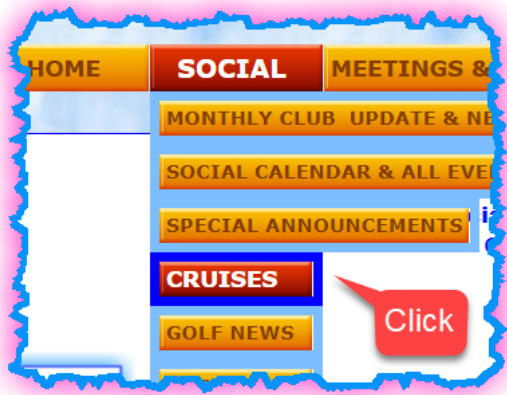
**BUDAPEST...VIENNA...DURNSTEIN**  
**...LINZ/PASSAU...REGENSBURG...N**  
**UREMBURG...PILZEN...PRAGUE**

MMC IN PARTNERSHIP WITH S&K  
TRAVEL IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE  
AN AMA WATERWAYS RIVER CRUISE  
ON THE BLUE DANUBE RIVER  
INCLUDING 7 NIGHTS ON THE RIVER  
AND 2 NIGHTS IN BUDAPEST PRE-  
CRUISE AND 3 NIGHTS IN PRAGUE  
POST-CRUISE, DEPARTING APRIL 12  
AND RETURNING APRIL 25, 2026  
ABOARD THE “**AMASONATA**”.

WE CAN’T WAIT TO WELCOME YOU  
ABOARD THIS UNFORGETTABLE  
EUROPEAN CITY ADVENTURE.  
SPACES ARE LIMITED.

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT  
BOB BIXLER, MMC CRUISE  
CHAIRMAN. 989-859-7559  
[Marco.Mens.Club.Cruises@gmail.com](mailto:Marco.Mens.Club.Cruises@gmail.com)

**GO TO THE CLUBS WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EACH CRUISE. USE THE DROPDOWN MENU (See Image Below) ON ANY WEBPAGE. CLICK ON “CRUISES” TO GO TO THE INDEX FOR ALL MMC TRAVEL. SELECT “OCEAN & RIVER CRUISES”. YOU WILL SEE ALL THE LATEST FLYERS, RESERVATION FORMS AND MUCH MORE INFORMATION.  
...OR FOLLOW THIS LINK:  
<https://marcomensclub.com/Cruises.htm>**



**Contact Bob Bixler at:**  
[marcomensclubcruises@gmail.com](mailto: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 #62, Blue Danube River Cruise. These have been so popular that in recent years we have expanded the Travel Options. We now have a “**CO-ED TRAVEL DISCUSSION GROUP**” that meets monthly in season and a “**LAND TRAVEL CLUB**” that sponsors a wide range of other domestic and foreign activities. They currently have a trip planned September 10, 2026; **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 [golflover3@yahoo.com](mailto:golflover3@yahoo.com) regarding information of illness or death of members, their spouse, and immediate family. George will notify the MMC board.



The Marco Men's Club

# Speakers Calendar

Program Director Reggie Gabriel

**May 14, 2025**

**Rebecca Mazerowski**  
**Museum Manager**

Rebecca Mazerowski 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.

**June 11, 2025**

**Zachary Burch**  
**Senior Communications and**  
**Community Outreach Manager**  
**Naples Airport Authority**

Zachary (Zac) Burch is the Senior Communications and Community Outreach Manager for the Naples Airport authority. In this role, Zac oversees all outreach to the public, tenants, customers and elected officials. He also oversees the airport's website, social media, advertising, media and public relations.

Zac grew up in Southwest Florida and attended the University of Florida where he received Bachelor of Arts degrees in

Political Science and German language and Literature.

Prior to working at the Naples Airport, Zac served as a Senior Legislative Aide for a member of the Florida House of Representatives representing Lee, Charlotte and DeSoto Counties.

Following his time with the Legislature, he served as the Communications Manager for the Florida Department of Transportation District 1 where he oversaw all communications, outreach and media responsibilities for 12 counties in Central and Southwest Florida.

Zac is the Chair of the Collier County Historic and Archaeological Preservation Board and serves as the Chair of the Florida Airport's Council Noise Abatement and Community Affairs Community. He was awarded the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) 40 under 40 award in 2022 and the Airport Business Magazine and Gulfshore Business 40 Under 40 awards in 2023.

**Reggie Gabriel**  
Program Director

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May 2025

# Golf News



John Laird, Golf Chairman

Cell: 920-366-4652

Email: [jglaird64@gmail.com](mailto:jglaird64@gmail.com)

## May Golf News

The Spring Scramble was held on Monday April 28<sup>th</sup> at The Glades G & CC in Naples. We had a great turnout with 55 golfers competing in the event. Congratulations to all the winners!

### Scramble Team Results:

1. Jim Smith, Bob Bart, Steve Billmyer, Tom McKenna: -7 (won tie-breaker)
2. Andy Hayward, Dan Rathka, Father Chuck Ruoff, Bob Streisel: -7
3. Henry Olivera, Bruce Dahlquist, Joe Cunneen: -6

### On Course Prizes:

Longest Putt – Bruce Dahlquist

Longest Drive – Scott Kelley

### Closest to the Pin:

Hole 2 – Chris Hansen, 14 feet

Hole 8 – Jim Smith, 5 feet, 1 inch

Hole 10 – Bob Hansen, 39 feet, 4 inches

Hole 14 – Joe Cunneen, 2 feet 8 inches

Hole 16 – John Laird, 13 feet

We will be at Royal Wood in Naples on most Mondays this summer. The rate is \$45.00 plus tax. Lou Makris will continue to run the Friday group at the Glades Country Club/Royal Wood CC. Our monthly coordinators will book the traveling group at various nice courses around the area as our other Friday playing option.

**Our monthly coordinators for the next four months are as follows:**

## MMC GOLF COORDINATORS SUMMER 2025

May	Monday	<b>Bob Carlson</b>	<a href="mailto:bobhcarlson@aol.com">bobhcarlson@aol.com</a>	508-886-3033
May	Friday	<b>OPEN</b>		
June	Monday	<b>Bob Winterhalter</b>	<a href="mailto:robertswinterhalter@gmail.com">robertswinterhalter@gmail.com</a>	614-262-0021
June	Friday	<b>Frank Sroka</b>	<a href="mailto:fsroka74@gmail.com">fsroka74@gmail.com</a>	239-272-4328
July	Monday	<b>OPEN</b>		
July	Friday	<b>OPEN</b>		
August	Monday	<b>Steve Billmyer</b>	<a href="mailto:stevenjb@centurylink.net">stevenjb@centurylink.net</a>	360-378-7860
August	Friday	<b>Glenn Davis</b>	<a href="mailto:GDavis@apexpkg.e">GDavis@apexpkg.e</a>	215-872-1779

We still need a Friday coordinator for May for our traveling group and both Monday and Friday coordinators for July. We also need a scorekeeper.  
It's time to step up to keep our golf group going!

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

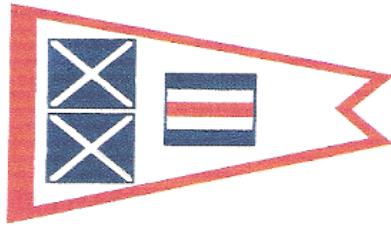
**John Laird**

# 2025 MMC THEATER SCHEDULE

**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 9**



# 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.* **May 2025**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** Mike Ballenger  
**President Emeritus:** Dave Tobiasz  
**Vice President:** Don Koppel  
**Vice President:** Rob Reiley  
**Vice President:** Mark Geis  
**Vice President:** Glenn Davis  
**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:** Reggie Gabriel  
**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  
**Ocean & River Cruise Chair:** Bob Bixler  
**Co-Ed Travel Discussion Group:** Bruce Dahlquist  
**MMC Land Travel Club:** Tim Clune/Jerry Poulin  
**Webmaster:** Ed Crane

[www.marcomensclub.com](http://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			

[NEWSLETTER EDITED BY LOU MAKRIS](#)

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