

The Marco Men's Club Newsletter

May 2007

Established 1992 MMC is an independent, not for profit organization
It is not affiliated with any other organization

E-mail:
tom@traeger1.com

PO Box 5035,
Marco Island,
FL 34146

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the last board meeting, I requested and received permission from Editor in Chief Alan Wetjen to exceed my usual one page for this message.

Twelve months ago, I thought, "Tom, how are you ever going to find enough topics to write about during the next year?" Well, not only did I find enough topics, but I could probably use another year to finish all that I would like to say.

For the past several months I have been telling you about some of my board members and what they have accomplished for all of us as Marco Men's Club members. I intend to use my final message to continue that theme - they deserve it!

When the 06' 07' board convened for the first time, it was a good board. What I have ended up with is truly a "Dream Team" in every sense of the term. We were loaded with inexperience in June of 2006, including myself! Through perseverance, hard work, the exchanging of ideas and many discussions, it is my belief we morphed into a fantastic community of friends and colleagues that I am humbled to have been a part of.

Some, but not all of the accomplishments of this board are: we managed to convince most of you of the necessity of increasing the membership; we initiated several new functions and events such as the Oktoberfest at Coral Gables, re-instated some old ones such as the Hockey Game at Everblades Stadium, purchased a new sound system for the club, secured storage space for our increasing inventory of assets, standardized a form for the annual audit of our books, created not only a website, but a new position on the board of webmaster, created a new committee called the Forward Planning Committee, increased the hosts allowance from fifty dollars to one hundred dollars to reflect the increases in prices all of us are experiencing, booked the first ever New Years Eve Cruise and finally at the May installation dinner, we will honor three individuals for their contributions to our enjoyment of life on Marco Island as well as members of MMC, by presenting them with our new "Marco Men's Club Award of Excellence". All of these accomplishments were the result of a hard working team of individuals who were dedicated in pursuing a higher level of enjoyment as a club dedicated to providing its members with quality entertainment and activities. Mission Accomplished, "SIR"!

Now, who were these individuals who brought this about? Well, for those who pay attention to my Epistles, last month I mentioned several of them and in doing so also stated that there are no "unimportant jobs in the Men's Club". Member at Large - seemingly an innocuous title until you take into account that this fellow sets up our speakers as well as acting as emcee' at certain functions and giving advice in areas the rest of us are unfamiliar with. A gentleman by the name of Joe Varano has performed this function to perfection. I came to rely on Joe for numerous jobs that he gladly accepted and completed with great satisfaction to us all. It was Joe's suggestion that we re-instate saying the Pledge of Allegiance at the start of our general

meetings, it was he who emceed' the Past Presidents luncheon at Carrabba's, the 2nd annual Jerry Stought Crazy Hat and Shirt day event, the joke day contest and several others. Not only is Joe a handsome guy, he is intelligent and has fantastic ideas. There is no doubt that he has a great future in the MMC.

At this point, allow me to introduce you to Wayne Boose, the, "Welcome Marco Men's Club" guy who we've all grown to love and know. He had the position that I will hold during the coming year as Immediate Past President. It is with sincere sadness that Wayne will not be at the BOD meetings for the coming year. His insight and advice were of great value, not only to me, but to the board in general. There were numerous times during the past year when I had a problem and needed Wayne's consul. Rarely even during Wayne's presidency as well as this past year did we disagree on any particular subject. If I needed advice, I would consult with Wayne. Not only was he a great president, but he and Adele have been great friends as well. Semper Fi Wayne!

Now we get to the meat of the Men's Club, the guys who make the decisions as to where we will go for entertainment and food, as well as one of them may one day lead this club to greater heights than it has already attained. These are the Vice Presidents, the gents who report directly to me and who do everything that I tell them to do! At this point, I can only assume that those fellows on my board who are reading this as you are are probably gagging in laughter at that suggestion!

I'll start with the one individual who will not be returning to the board for personal reasons. Gene Stillwell, What a fantastic soldier Gene has been. This fellow has taken us to places and done things that are simply beyond expectation. Regardless of what I asked Gene to do, he did it with gusto, enthusiasm and a dedication that was truly heartwarming. He had organized the past two picnics we held at Gene Sarazen Park both of which were complete successes as far as MMC was concerned. He was also involved in the 2006 Christmas luncheon which was a resounding success. All of us on the board are deeply indebted to Gene for his hard work and dedication. Thanks Gene for a job well done. You have our praise and admiration.

Fred Stavola! Wow, what a job he has done. Part way thru this year, a vacancy occurred in the ranks of the Vice Presidents. Fred was already encumbered with the responsibilities of Treasurer, but I asked him to dig down to see if he had the energy to assume a dual role of his current position as well as that of a Vice President. His answer pleased me to no end and as they say, the rest is history. Fred was the instigator (even tho his name ends in a Vowel), of the Oktoberfest which was a huge success and hopefully the next board will include this event in its plans for the future. Fred has instituted and lobbied for several changes in our procedures and ways of doing business, for a complete list, contact me personally, otherwise I would

need two pages for him alone. Thanks Fred, you know I love you and not only were you a dedicated board member, but a loyal friend whom I respect and admire.

Pat Thawley: what an exceptional individual. Pat is a retired Air Traffic Controller, therefore quite capable of multi-tasking and decision making in the heat of confusion and turmoil. Prior to coming on the board, he was a complete stranger to me, but that soon changed with his methodical and reasonable responses to items that came before the board. It wasn't long before I and other board members were looking to Pat for his opinions and ideas on various items we were discussing. Eventually, I asked him to chair the Forward Planning Committee which will hopefully lead us into the future in an organized and intelligent manner. Any ideas you may have for our future, please contact Pat, he will listen and take your ideas under advisement.

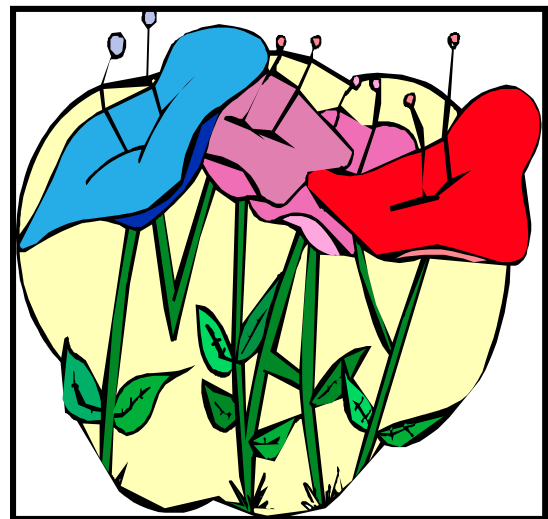
Prior to the start of my presidency, a gentleman that most of you knew and loved was to be inducted as a vice-president when he passed away in an untimely manner. This of course was our friend and fellow member Ray Dziejma. He had been our fishing captain, our men's only organizer as well as several co-ed functions including our ever popular St. Patty's day luncheon. He did all of this and more and was never a member of the board! He passed away suddenly to all of our astonishment and grief. I personally will never forget Ray; he was a true friend and enthusiastic member of the MMC. The only thing negative I ever heard about him was that he considered "Cracklin Jacks" as fine dinning! I and everyone in MMC loved and admired Ray, even his corny jokes. Ray was appointed to the board posthumously at the May 2006 Installation Dinner.

In July I recommended another stellar MMC member to replace Ray. This was my good friend Jerry Masters. It took no small amount of persuasion to convince Jerry to come onto the board. He was reluctant even though he had attended more events than most of our members and it was my wish to reward (REWARD?) him with a position on the board. I knew that he would be a good "Fit" and offer much to those of us on the board. We were not disappointed! Although I have previously said that Jerry was a "good friend", this didn't necessarily translate into an always "Agree with the President" mentality. Quite to the contrary! We had several disagreements that resulted in a stronger bond in our friendship as well as opening not only my mind to different approaches to a solution, but also the boards as well. My only wish is that next year if he orders hockey tickets, he doesn't order so many. Because of Jerry and his beautiful voice, I have attended many services at the United Methodist Church, despite the fact that I am a dyed in the wool Roman Catholic. I'm also quite envious of his hair!

In conclusion, let me expound on my greatest disappointment during the past year. That has been my Senior Vice President, the gentleman who is about to become your new president. There are actually two disappointments: 1st that the Pittsburgh Steelers who failed to repeat as world champions of the NFL, and 2nd, that I was never able to convince Joe who is a Filthydelphia Crows fan, to become a fan of the Steelers. On a more serious note, my Sr. V.P. has served MMC with honor and dignity since he has been a board member, first as Secretary and then as Sr. V.P. His knowledge of the By-Laws and Rules and Procedures are uncanny and always accurate. I was proud to have him as my second in command. Due to his knowledge and experience on the board, I never hesitated in asking him

questions concerning protocol and procedures. I always deferred to his experience and wisdom in these areas. Joe will be your quintessential leader, one who is a "Good ole Boy", but yet one who will direct the MMC on the correct path due to his insight and knowledge of getting along with people. Through my experience with Joe during the past three years, I can assure you that Joe will give serious consideration to all questions and debates that will come before the board during his tenure. With great respect and dignity, I am most proud to hand over control of Marco Men's Club to the next President, Mr. Joseph Cassidy! Joe, I wish you and your board nothing but the best in the coming year. You deserve it! Congratulations and God Speed. You will be in my prayers. Go Eagles!

Tom Traeger.



MAY FLOWERS

CLUB NEWS

BRIDGE

Contact Dallas Schmidt @ 394-3352 for information and sign-up. Partners Bridge meets Friday nights and Men's Bridge on Wednesday afternoons.

COMPUTER CLUB

Contact Steve Ehrhorn @394-5861 or sehrhorn@Comcast.net. Computer Club meets the third Wednesday @10:00 AM at the Community Room at Marco Community Bank. This is an informal round table discussion group. Beginners, experienced and in-between are all welcome. Reservations are not required. Just show up.

COFFEE AND DONUTS

Thanks to the guys who set up the room this month: Chairman Gerry Gibbons, Mike Levine, Gene Stillwell, Phil Kostelnik, Fred Wojcik, Erwin Stegmaier, and Joe Rad. Special thanks to Norm Roberts, mike holder and sergeant at arms.

CRUISING

The 2007 Cruise is to Southeast Asia and China, October 15th through November 2nd. (20 days and 18 nights)

Six countries will be visited including Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Taipei, Japan and China. Ten ports of call include Bangkok, Singapore, Ho Chi Minh City, NhaTrang, Okinawa, Hong Kong, Taipei, Shanghai, Nagasaki, and Beijing. Contact Cruise Director Bob Marks for additional information. **SORRY, SPACE IS SOLD OUT FOR THIS CRUISE.**

NEW YEARS CRUISE

"5" Nights, Western Caribbean Cruise on Royal Caribbean's 5 Stars, Navigator of the Seas. Port of calls: Cozumel, Mexico and Belize City, Belize. Departs 12/31/08. Returns 1/5/08

Please contact Bob for assistance or reservations

APRIL ACTIVITIES ATTENDEES AND HOSTS

4/11/07 Sushi Blues Coed Dinner.....	40	Host Mike Levine
4/14//07 Lorraine.....	53	Host Joe Cassidy
4/16/07 La Grotta's Coed Dinner.....	56	Host Ed Eastwood
4/18/07 Couples Golf Outing.....	64	Host Carter Reese
4/21/07 Marco Princess Coed Dinner.....	114	Host Don Oakey
4/25/07 Island Café Coed Luncheon.....	60	Host Don Lally
4/26/07 Four Man Scramble.....	64	Host Ron Bales

SICK BAY

At this writing, Norm Roberts and Carol Hopp are still in the hospital, although they may be released prior to Thursday's general meeting. In any case ,we wish them both a speedy recovery.

DO YOU KNOW NEWS OF MMC MEMBERS WHO ARE SICK OR WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES?

Please telephone Joe Pucci at 732-5606 or e-mail him (jpucci11@comcast.net) regarding information on the above.

WANT TO SEE MORE PHOTOS?

The editor encourages submission of photos of Men's Club activities. We will publish those submitted in a timely manner.

See Fred Wojcik (389-0300) to order shirts and hats, at meetings.

Marco Men's Club Expresses its Deepest Sympathy to the family of John Brickley on his passing and to Ronald Scherer on the unexpected death of his daughter, Melissa Meyer

GOLF NEWS

by Ron Bales

Our four-man scramble was held April 26th at Glades Country Club with ideal weather. Play was a little slow due to another tournament, but the course was in beautiful condition. I would like to thank the Glades Country Club for their hospitality and excellent service. I would also like to thank Bob Marks and Marco Community Bank for donating gift bags and prizes, and Coral Island Golf Center for donating golf lessons and a free foursome at Fiddlers Creek. Lastly, I would like to thank the golf committee and especially Mike Callinan and Al Vacio for making this a successful event. I hope everyone had a great time. We had three teams tied with low scores of 64. The tie was broken by the best score on the lowest handicap holes. The winners are listed below.

We begin play at Lely on Monday, April 30 and should continue on Mondays until the end of October. We begin Friday golf on May 4th at courses selected by the weekly coordinator. Please see the list below for May coordinators.

This is my last newsletter as my two years as chairman have expired. Al Vacio is the new chairman, and with his experience, I am sure he will do an excellent job. Good luck, Al! I would like to thank Mike Callinan for his guidance and volunteering me for this position. I just hope he hasn't volunteered me to be chairman of the crocheting club next year. Seriously, it has been a great experience and I have enjoyed working with all of the committees. They alternate doing the monthly coordination of golf and it's not an easy job. We all owe them a great deal of thanks. I have tried to add a little humor to the golf report and I hope that I have not offended anyone. That was never my intent.

Four-man scramble Results:

1st Place: Ron Bales, Roy Zito, Fred Heidings, Neil Blaauboer.

2nd Place: Dave Ballentine, Jim McCully, Tom Green, Roger Pransky

3rd Place: Dave Moenkhaus, Roger Rubley, Jim Malerba, Steve Simak

Closest to the Hole:

Hole #2: John Weber

Hole #8: Tom Griffin

Hole #10: Frank Prainito

Hole #14: Jim Melerba

Hole #16: Dick Gady

Monday Golf at Lely

Tee off beginning at 8:00 AM

Reservations required by Wednesday each week

Coordinators: May— Al Vacio 393-0995

June— Fred Wojcik 389-0300

Friday Golf at Coordinators Choice

Reservations required by Tuesday each week

Coordinators: May 4— Tom Heffernan 389-5563

May 11— Bob Hansen 394-7775

May 18—Roger Pransky 642-7784

May 25—Paul Pransky 642-7649

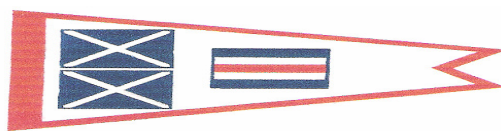
April In- House Tournament Results:

Flight 1: First: Don Phillips, Second: Ron Kelley

Third: Dave Ballentine

Flight 2: First: Ed Cooper, Second: Roger Hubley

Third: Ed Pchola



The Newsletter

is published monthly by the *Marco Men's Club*

The Board of Directors is the Editorial Board

2006-2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Tom Traeger	Immediate Past President	Wayne Boose
Sr Vice President	Joe Cassidy	Appointed Board Members	
Vice President	Jerry Masters	Membership Chairman	Ed Vesely
Vice President	Pat Thawley	Meeting Setup Chairman	Gerry Gibbons
Vice President	Gene Stillwell	Member At Large	Joseph Varano
Vice President/Treasurer	Fred Stavola	Newsletter Editor	Alan Wetjen
Secretary	Mike Levine	Web Master	Ed Crane

Past Presidents

1992- Paul Kurtzman	1993 Bill Perdichizzi	1994-Harold Penn
1995- Bob Marks	1996- George Kuntz	1997- Al 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	

YOUR MMC WEB CONNECTION

[Http://MarcoMensClub.com](http://MarcoMensClub.com)

MAY UPCOMING EVENTS

May 10	Thur	Coed Luncheon @ Mozarts	Pat Thawley	642-8476
May 12	Sat	5 Hr Riverboat Cruise on Capt. JR	Ed Eastwood	3894630
May 16	Wed	Bingo @ Marco Island Yacht Club	Phil Kostelnik	389-1188
May 19	Sat	Installation Dinner Dance @ Hideaway Beach Club	Tom Traeger	394-0154
May 21	Mon	Coed Luncheon @ Da Vinci's	Don Boston	389-0573
May 27	Sun	Swing @ Broadway Palm Theater in Ft Myers	Fred Stavola	389-1724
May 31-	Jun 6	St Louis/ Branson Trip (Thur-Wed)	Joe Rad	642-0319
Jun 4	Mon	Coed Luncheon @ Kretch's	Rich Carlsen	394-2181
Jun 6	Wed	Men's Only Luncheon @ Sunset Grill in Apollo	Ron Moores	389-8832
Jun 14	Thurs	Coed Picnic @ Sarazen Park	Ed Crane	393-0415
Jun 20	Wed	Bingo @ Marco Island Yacht Club	Phil Kostelnik	389-1188
Jun 28	Thur	Men's Only Luncheon @ Cracklin Jack's	Joe Varano	394-5099
July 18	Wed	Bingo @ Marco Island Yacht Club	Phil Kostelnik	389-1188
July 19	Thurs	Men's Only Luncheon @ Porky's	Gene Stillwell	393-2424
Aug 9	Thur	Coed Luncheon @ Guy Harvey's	Bob Hopp	642-0519
Aug 13	Mon	Coed Dinner @ Fitzgerald's	Bob Gaffney	394-2153