

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

The Marco Men's Club

November 2024

Newsletter

Established 1992
A non-profit organization

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings!

November is here and the heat and humidity have begun to make way for more pleasant weather. It also means the busy season is right around the corner and our northern members will be returning. The Golf Groups will fill up, the Bocce Ball Group will begin to look forward to this year's competition, the theater choices are out and there is a lot to choose from. In other words, we are getting busy! Last month as you know we had to cancel the general meeting due to Hurricane Milton. We will try and reschedule the speaker from Celebrity Cruise Lines for later in the season. We did get in our Octoberfest co-ed luncheon with 6 couples enjoying some great German food from Kretch's. Our Hurricane Dance was sold out and over 110 members enjoyed dinner and music at Glades CC. A big thanks goes out to our host **Don Koppel** for an outstanding job. The Theater Group enjoyed a night out for the play Rumors, which also was sold out and the group of 24 headed over to Alberto's after the play to wine and dine.

Our cruisers headed for the British Isle Cruise; they all should be back by the time this newsletter goes out. We hope it was fun...

Coming up on November 30th, we have the play A Christmas Carol. On December 15 we have the play Every Christmas Story. Lastly the holiday luncheon on the 13th at Naples CC is **sold out**.

Our next two big events will be the welcome back party at Speakeasy and the Sweetheart Ball in February. Watch our web site for information and upcoming flyers.

Fun Facts about Thanksgiving.

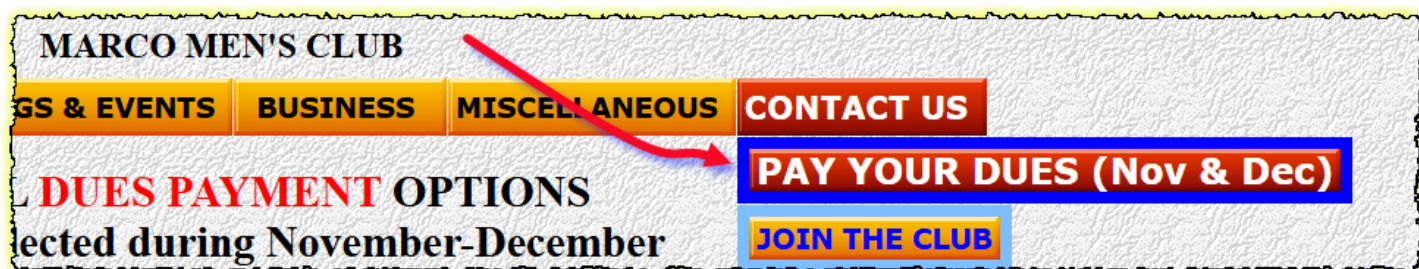
The first Thanksgiving was in 1621 and lasted 3 days. Thomas Jefferson disliked the holiday and said it was ridiculous. President Harry Truman pardons the first turkey (his approval numbers went sky high with turkeys) The average number of calories consumed on Thanksgiving is 4,500. Lastly the average cost of dinner this year according to the American Farm Bureau is \$64.05 for a group of 10. That is up 20% from last year (Can't be on Marco)

If you are traveling home or staying, safe travels and have a wonderful time with friends and family.

Mike Ballenger

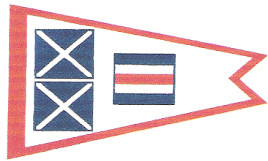
Gentlemen,

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 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

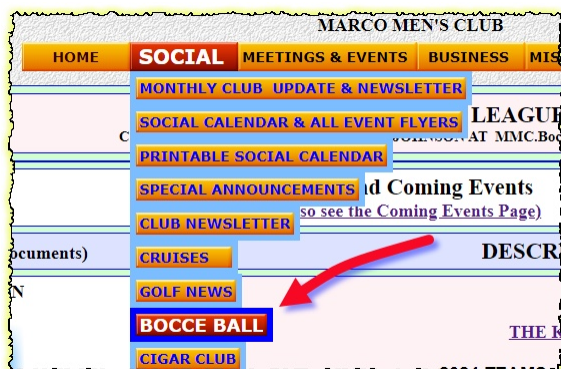


It's time to get a team together and sign up for the 2025 MMC Bocce League. The League will have two groups, one playing Tuesdays and the other

playing Thursdays. The games will be at 4:00 and 5:00PM and there is room for up to 12 teams each day. League play will begin on Tuesday January 7th and Thursday January 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. The MMC Bocce League is open to members and their guests. There will be a fee of \$10 per team. Please register your team by sending the names, email addresses and phone numbers of all your team members and specify which day you would like to play. Send your information to Rick Johnson at MMCBocceLeague@gmail.com

If you do not have a team, let us know and we will do our best to find you a team. Sign-up deadline is December 15th.

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 will be meeting on Wednesday December 4th at 1:00PM in 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 dahlquistbruce@gmail.com

SPORTS UPDATE

Following a very successful sports season; plans are in the works for the upcoming season.

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

Saint Augustine Christmas Trip



December 8 to December 10

Trip includes round trip coach from Marco Island to St Augustine. Two nights Holiday Inn Express, Vilano Beach. Two breakfasts and one dinner from Old City House including taxes and gratuities. **Package Includes:** Castillo de San Marcos Fort Tour. Flagler Memorial Presbyterian Church. Fountains of Youth Archeological Park. Lightener Museum. Nights of Lights Riding Tour. Lighthouse and Maritime Museum. Villa Zorayda. Ximenez Patio House.

TRIP SOLD OUT

Contact **Jerry Poulin** 508-868-1716 or gpsp@aol.com to sign up.

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

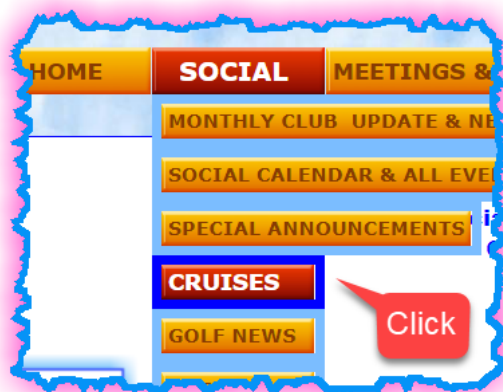
9 NIGHTS CRUISING AMAZON RIVER
ON SEABOURNS “6” STAR ULTRA
LUXURY ALL SUITE SHIP “**VENTURE**”.
1 NIGHT PRE-STAY.

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



A Memorial Service for John Sieff, who passed away on Sunday, August 11, 2024, will be held at the United Church of Marco Island on Saturday, November 30th at 11:00AM.

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.

The Marco Men's Club

Speakers Calendar

Program Director "OPEN"

November 13, 2024

**Naturalist, Virginia Palmer-Skok,
Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State
Park**

Naturalist Virginia Palmer-Skok is a public speaker and published author of several books and many articles that highlight her passion for history and the wonders of nature that fascinate her. One of her great loves is the Everglades where she conducts conservation research on wildlife and endangered plants. In addition to her writing and photography she loves to share her passion with others by providing swamp walks in hopes to entice them to enjoy this paradise and to protect it. She serves as the President of the Friends of Fakahatchee, a not for profit dedicated to the financial and volunteer support to preserve the unique ecology and cultural heritage of Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park and to educate the public about its importance.

Right in Marco Island's backyard is the magical Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park. Come hear a fellow Marco Islander talk about the largest Florida State Park and its unique history. It is here where visitors get the chance to see megafauna including panthers, bears and more. The famous Fakahatchee intrigues

all that visit whether it is for hiking, birding, photography, animal and butterfly watching, biking, or even getting your feet wet on a swamp walk. Written about in the 1989 bestseller The Orchid Thief, the Preserve is known as the Orchid Capital of North America. There is a reason why visitors often get the "Fak A Habit" and return many times.

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.

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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.

November 2024

Golf News



John Laird, Golf Chairman

Cell: 920-366-4652

Email: jglaird64@gmail.com

November Golf News

There will be 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 is unable to host our group.

In November we will return 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

November	Monday	Ken Burnham	burnham@umass.edu	413-531-7799
November	Friday	Lou Makris	loumak42@aol.com	781-258-0456
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

A Christmas Carol **Saturday, Nov 30** **Broadway Palm (Ft. Myers)** **11:30 lunch, 1:00 show**
Ebenezer Scrooge and his infamous “Bah, Humbug!” takes the stage in this beloved musical. Scrooge is visited by the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future to show him cheerful memories from his past, cruel realities from his present and the very likely future. Scrooge learns important lessons about his impact on the lives of others, especially Bob Cratchit and his ailing son, Tiny Tim. This classic story captures the essence of the holidays and is perfect entertainment for the entire family.

Every Christmas Story **Sunday, Dec 15** **ACT(Marco)** **3pm**
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 pop-culture, and every carol ever sung. A madcap romp through the holiday season!

2025

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.

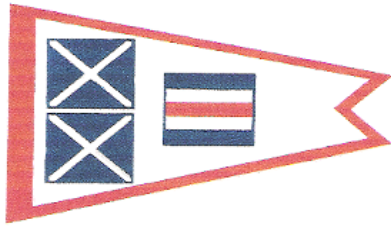
The magnificent score of *Les Misérables* includes the songs "I Dreamed a Dream," "On My Own," "Bring Him Home," "One Day More," "Master of the House" and many more. Seen by over 130 million people worldwide in 53 countries, 438 cities and 22 languages, *Les Misérables* is undisputedly one of the world's 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!"



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.

November 2024

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice President: Don Koppel
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Treasurer: Rudi Landwaard

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Membership Chair: Byron Farrell
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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
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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