

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

The Marco Men's Club

April 2025

Newsletter

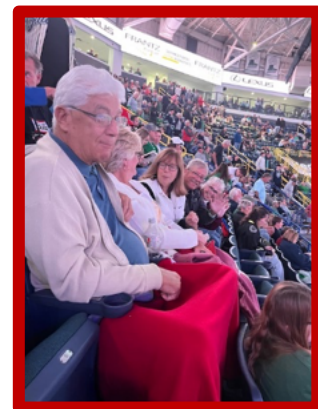
Established 1992
A non-profit organization

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings!

It's a sure sign spring has come to Marco Island when the car carriers are back and picking up cars to ship north. As March comes to a close, we look back at many of the month's club events such as the spring training game with the Red Sox and Mets, St. Patty's week at Speakeasy, a pizza party after our general meeting, a couple of plays and lastly a great hockey game with the **Everblades winning in overtime.**



As we move into April, the island begins to slow down and some of our members begin to head back north. Safe travels and we look forward to your return next season. However, we still have a few things left on the

agenda. **Don Koppel** put together “The Spring Fling” at the Glades CC and we have over 50 couples signed up for a night of dining and dancing. Thanks, Don, for all your hard work. We have Collier County Commissioner Rick LoCastro speaking at the General meeting. He brings his unique outlook as to what’s happening around Collier County; don’t miss it. For all the theater junkies, The Theater Group has 3 more plays scheduled. The golfers will end their season with the annual Spring Golf Scramble at The Glades CC on April 28th. Lastly, we will end the month with a highly competitive round of mini golf, followed by lunch at La Tavola. We sure have been busy, and thanks to all the VP’s and hosts for all their hard work.

APRIL FUN FACTS

April 12, 1861: The Civil War started as Confederate troops fired on Fort Sumter SC.

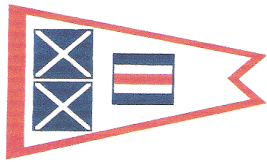
April 14, 1865: President Lincoln was shot at the Ford Theater.

April 15, 1912: The HMS Titanic hit an iceberg and sunk on its maiden voyage.

April 29, 1913: Gideon Sundback was granted a patent on a separable fastener, commonly known as the zipper.

Mike Ballenger

MMC President



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

April 2025

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 and dates forthcoming.

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

Or stevenrichardfurlong@gmail.com.

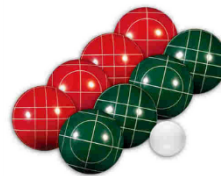
INVESTMENT DISCUSSION CLUB



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.

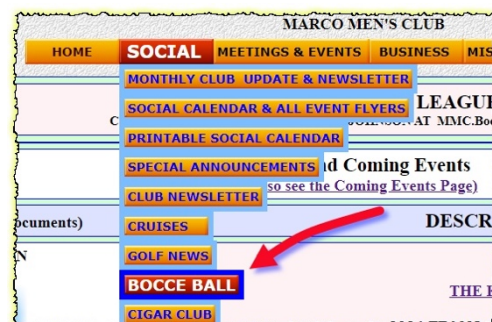
Contact **Don Koppel** Ph:856-906-4318. Meeting status will be through an eBlast the week before the meeting.

BOCCE BALL



Congratulations to Team Tobiasz on Tuesdays and Team Baden on Thursdays for winning the regular season titles. The single elimination playoffs started last week. Next week the two playoff winners will meet to determine the overall winner. An awards luncheon will be held on April 10th. For more info, 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



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

The April meeting was held on Wednesday, April 2nd 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.

Contact **Bruce Dahlquist** 847-815-9474 or dahlquistbruce@gmail.com

SPORTS UPDATE

Members enjoyed a great hockey game on Wednesday, March 26th with the Everblades winning in overtime. Jack would welcome suggestions from members regarding future sports events. Please 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 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

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 “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 “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, EPHEBUS,
ISTANBUL (OVERNIGHT), SANTORINI,
OLYMPIA, ROME.

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

THE MMC “62ND” CRUISE
BLUE DANUBE RIVER CRUISE
APRIL 12, 2026 APRIL 25, 2026

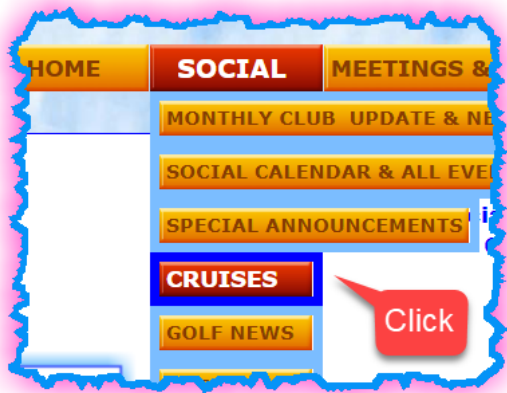
BUDAPEST...VIENNA...DURNSTEIN
...LINZ/PASSAU...REGENSBURG...N
UREMBURG...PILZEN...PRAGUE

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

**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

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 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

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 from 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.

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

April 2025

Golf News



John Laird, Golf Chairman

Cell: 920-366-4652

Email: jglaird64@gmail.com

April Golf News

Our Winter Golf Championship was recently completed over two Mondays. Congratulations to **Ron Bales** and **Mark Vierkant** for winning the A and B flights respectively!

Spring Scramble:

Our annual Spring Scramble event will be held at the Glades Country Club in Naples on Monday, April 28th. It's always a great time with course events, team prizes, raffle and a buffet lunch included. The event flyer and sign-up sheet can be found on the Marco Men's Club website. This event includes an 18-hole scramble with cart, lunch, team prizes, course events, raffle and \$40 in PGA Superstore gift cards.

Thank you to **Tony Tomassone** for coordinating the group purchase of the Southwest Florida PGA pass.

In May we will be transitioning from Hibiscus to a different course to be determined for Monday play. There will be two options for Friday play, the traveling group that plays different courses/private clubs every week, and the Lou Makris group that plays at the Glades Country Club and/or Royal Wood Country Club every week.

Our monthly coordinators for the next three months are as follows:

MMC GOLF COORDINATORS SPRING/SUMMER 2025

April	Monday	Mark Coyne	markcoyne1020@gmail.com	609-517-1351
April	Friday	Lou Makris	loumak42@aol.com	781-258-0456
May	Monday	OPEN		
May	Friday	OPEN		

June	Monday	Bob Winterhalter	robertswinterhalter@gmail.com	614-262-0021
June	Friday	Frank Sroka	fsroka74@gmail.com	239-272-4328

We are in immediate need of coordinators for Mondays and Fridays in May.

Scorekeeper:

The league would like to thank **Walter Richardson** for taking on the scorekeeping duties for the last year. Going forward we will need a scorekeeper who inputs weekly scores to maintain player handicaps which we use for our scramble events and Winter Championship. Please contact me if interested.

We need volunteers to make this golf group function properly.

None of the volunteer duties take much time, so please give serious consideration to stepping up and helping out the league and your fellow golfers.

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

John Laird

2025 MMC THEATER SCHEDULE

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.

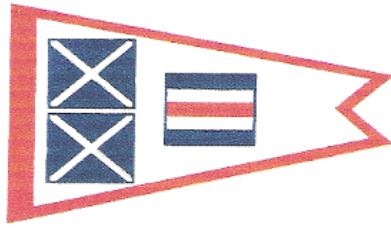
Waitress Saturday, April 26 Broadway Palm (Ft. Myers) 11:30 lunch, 1 pm show

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 8



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.*

April 2025

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Mike Ballenger
President Emeritus: Dave Tobiasz
Senior Vice President: Tom Kramer
Vice President: Don Koppel
Vice President: Rob Reiley
Vice President: Open
Vice President: Open
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

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](#)

Version 1 2025-0403 April NL