

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

The Marco Men's Club

June 2025

Newsletter

Established 1992
A non-profit organization

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings!

June is here and the Island has begun to switch into summer mode. Traffic is lighter (except for Memorial weekend) and some of the restaurants are going to summer hours. Even stopped by a local Happy Hour and didn't have to wait for a seat.

At the General Meeting the membership voted to add renters on Marco Island, Goodland and Isle of Capri who have signed a lease agreement for a month or longer, to be eligible to join the club. We hope to add some of the snowbirds who come down for the season to our membership.

In May we had another great co-ed dinner at La Mesa. Everyone had their fill of chips and salsa and their favorite drink before dinner arrived.



June will be a light month. We will have an open lunch at Cocomo's after the General Meeting. All are welcome to join us. We will take a count during the meeting and let Cocomo's know how many to expect.

June is also the start of the Hurricane Season. At the July meeting Chief Byrnes will speak on Hurricane preparedness. It's always good to refresh your memory of how to be ready and what to do in the event of another storm. Let's hope for a quiet hurricane season!!!

Lastly, the new VPs are working on a co-ed dinner in July. Watch for more information as we set things up. In August, we have the "Hot August Nights Co-Ed Dinner" at Bistro 821 in Naples. The flyer is posted on the website.

June Fun Facts

June has the longest daylight hours in the Northern Hemisphere.

June 6th was the start of the end for Germany during WW2. Does Normandy ring a bell?

June 20th, 1975 "JAWS" was released, and I haven't been in the ocean since.

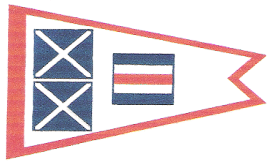
In June 1997 the first Harry Potter Book was published and Universal Parks said we should build a theme park based on this book and we will make millions.

June 16th the world's first roller coaster opened at Coney Island, New York.

June 30th the first Superman comic book was published.

Mike Ballenger

MMC President



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The Marco Men's Club

Club News

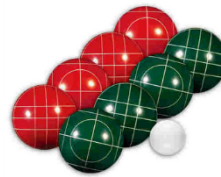
COMPUTER/TECHNOLOGY CLUB



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. Club is looking for someone to chair the computer/technology club. If interested, please contact any board member or club officer.

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

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

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.



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 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. Look for an announcement in late July or early September regarding the dates for meetings in the fall.

Contact **Bruce Dahlquist** 847-815-9474 or 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

HOSPITALITY

Thanks to the guys who set up the room. Chairman, **DON KOPPEL, RICH CARLSEN, CHRIS HANSEN, 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.

(\$100 discount if booked by June 30, 2025)

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 “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.

THE MMC “63RD” CRUISE **ANTARTICA WITH PRE-CRUISE** **BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA** **JAN 13, 2027 – JAN 30, 2027**

16 NIGHTS – 14 NIGHTS
CRUISING ANTARTICA ON
CELEBRITY SHIP “EQUINOX”.
2 NIGHTS PRE-STAY IN BUENOS
AIRES ARGENTINA.
ROUND TRIP BUENOS AIRES
ARGENTINA, USHUAIA ARGENTINA,
CAPE HORN CHILE, GERLACHE
STRAIT-PARADISE BAY-SCHOELART
CHANNEL ANTARTICA, ELEPHANT
ISLAND ANTARTICA, PORT
STANLEY FALKLAND ISLAND,
PUERTO MADRYN ARGENTINA,
MONTIVIDEO URUGUAY.

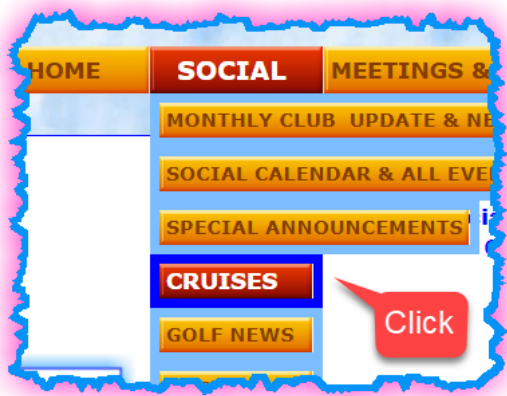
FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT
BOB BIXLER, MMC CRUISE
CHAIRMAN. 989-859-7559, EMAIL
Marco.Mens.Club.Cruises@gmail.com

**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>



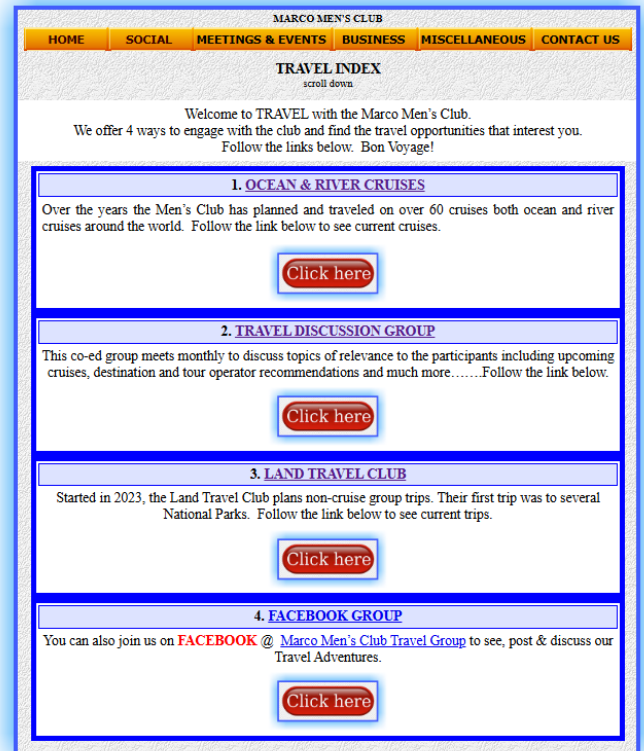
Contact Bob Bixler at:

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. 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](#). In addition, the club now has a Facebook Page dedicated to travel - check it out. You can read about the experiences of other members and your own. More info on club website.

To help organize the four 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 following). From there you can choose the category you are interested in.



SICKNESS AND BEREAVEMENT



I am saddened to inform you of the recent passing of Lithia Burger, wife of club member Jim Lane. No additional information available at this time.

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

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.

July 9, 2025

Chris Byrne

Fire Chief Marco Island

**Chief Byrne will be speaking on
Hurricane preparedness.**

Chief Byrne began his fire service career in 1983 as an entry-level firefighter with the Marco Island Fire Control District, which became a municipal fire department in 1998.

He worked his way through the ranks culminating with promotion to Deputy Fire Chief in 2001. In 2016, Chief Byrne retired after 33 years of service

with the Marco Island Fire Rescue Department. He was not retired for long before being called back in September 2017 to act as Safety Officer for Hurricane Irma. He continued with the City as Incident Commander of Recovery. In August 2020, Chief Byrne was appointed Fire Chief of the City of Marco Island Fire Rescue Department. Chief Byrne holds a BS degree in Management from International College. Associates Degree in Fire Science from Edison Community College.

August 13, 2025
Samantha Malloy
Marco Parks & Rec

September 10, 2025
“Stef” Stefanides
Hurricane Hunter Aircraft

October 8, 2025
Pat Rutledge
Historical Society

November 12, 2025
Casey Lucius
Assistant City Manager

December 10, 2025
John Johnson
Iguana Hunter

January 14, 2026
Dave Martinas
MIT Artificial Intelligence

February 11, 2026
Rene Champagne
Marco City Counsel

Reggie Gabriel
Program Director

June 2025

Golf News



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

June Golf News

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 Friday Roaming 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 three months are as follows:

MMC GOLF COORDINATORS SUMMER 2025

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

We still need a coordinator for Friday in 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 – 2026 MMC THEATER SCHEDULE

“And Then There Were NONE” Sunday, October 5 **Sugden** (Naples) 2pm **\$42**

Get ready for a night of intrigue, suspense, and shocking twists with Agatha Christie’s classic murder mystery *And Then There Were None*! As ten strangers find themselves trapped on a mysterious island, secrets unravel, and the body count rises keeping you guessing (and gasping) until the very last moment!

“Pretty Woman” Saturday, November 8 - [Broadway Palm](#) (Ft. Myers)

11:30AM lunch/1:00 PM show **\$78**

Based on the film from the 90s, get ready for a feel-good love story! When a sharp-witted Hollywood escort meets a high-powered businessman, their deal-for-a-week turns into something neither expected. As she takes on Beverly Hills high society, he learns there’s more to life than boardrooms and billion-dollar deals. With plenty of laughs, romance, and unforgettable music, *Pretty Woman* proves that love can rewrite the rules—and that sometimes, the independent Cinderella rescues her Prince!

“Baggage” Sunday, November 16 – [ACT](#) Marco Island, 3PM

“Winter Wonderettes” Saturday, November 29 - [Broadway Palm](#) (Ft. Myers)

11:30AM lunch/1:00 PM show **\$58**

The fabulous Winter Wonderettes are back, bringing festive cheer to the Harper’s Hardware holiday party. With classic ‘60s holiday hits, hilarious mishaps, and a dash of Christmas magic, this fun-filled musical is filled with laughs and heartwarming moments. Join the Wonderettes for a rockin’ good time that will have you singing along and feeling the holiday spirit all season long!

“Little Women” (The Musical) Sunday, December 7 - **Sugden** (Naples) 2pm **\$42**

Celebrate the holidays with the heartwarming magic of *Little Women: The Musical*, a timeless tale of love, family, and resilience. With its unforgettable songs and the March sisters’ inspiring journey, this cherished classic is the perfect way to embrace the joy and spirit of togetherness this season!

“Side Splitting Selections from Holiday On Ice” Sunday, December 14

[ACT](#) Marco Island, 3PM.

2026 THEATER SCHEDULE

“Miss Magnolia Senior Citizen Beauty Pageant” Sunday, January 18

ACT Marco Island, 3PM

“Fiddler on the Roof” Thursday, January 29 - Broadway Palm (Ft. Myers)

11:30AM lunch/1:00PM show **\$78**

This Tony Award-winning classic follows Tevye as he navigates the challenges of tradition, family, and change in his close-knit Jewish village. As his five daughters seek love on their own terms and outside forces threaten their way of life, Tevye must balance

faith, love, and resilience. With a rousing and heartwarming score featuring Tradition, Matchmaker, Matchmaker, If I Were a Rich Man, and Sunrise, Sunset, Fiddler on the Roof is a powerful celebration of family, hope, and the enduring human spirit.

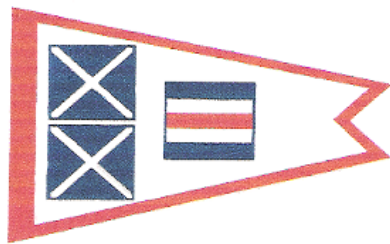
“Beau Jest” Sunday, February 1 - Sugden (Naples) 2pm **\$42**

Get ready to laugh with Beau Jest, the delightful comedy about Sarah, a young woman who hires an actor to pose as her perfect boyfriend to please her traditional parents. But when the charade spirals hilariously out of control, secrets are revealed, hearts are opened, and everyone gets more than they bargained for in this heartwarming tale of love, identity, and family.

“California Suite” Sunday, March 15 – ACT Marco Island 3PM

“9 to 5” Sunday, March 22 - Sugden (Naples) 2pm **\$42**

An uproarious and uplifting musical that will have you laughing, singing, and rooting for the underdogs! With Tony-nominated toe-tapping songs and unforgettable moments, 9 to 5 The Musical is a celebration of friendship and resilience and proves the power of standing up for what’s right.



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.

June 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, Chris Hansen, 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: **OPEN**
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	2025: Mike Ballenger		

NEWSLETTER EDITED BY LOU MAKRIS

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