



Gale Tales

Manatee Sailing Association

Volume 39 Number 12

www.msasailing.org

December 2024

Up Coming Events

December 2024



Event	Date	Time	Place
Victorian Christmas Stroll	Dec 2	1:00 PM	Historic Plant Museum
DWBH	Dec 4	5:00 PM	Sword Fish Grill
Boat Parade	Dec 14	6:30 PM	Manatee River
Christmas Party	Dec 15	4:00 PM	Lund's Condo Clubhouse

On the Horizon

Event	Date	Time	Place
Kite Festival	Jan 18	10:00 AM	Treasure Island Beach
Installation Dinner	Jan 19	6:00 PM	Terra Ceia Country Club
Member Meeting	Feb 12	5:00 PM	Modern Chop

DECEMBER 15TH

CHRISTMAS PARTY!



AHOY MSA MEMBERS, FRIENDS, AND FAMILY,

The hurricane repair, restoration and rebuild continues. People are learning (or remembering) a lot about what rain, wind, salt water and sand can do to homes, cars, marinas and boats. I wish for everyone to take a breath and remember that it actually could have been much worse – so we should be thankful for that.

DWBH for December is 5PM on 12/4/24, on the back tables inside at the Swordfish Grill in Cortez. Many beach businesses are welcoming patrons back. Please come for some worry-free happiness (with MSA) and great fish dinners. See you then.

The MSA Christmas Party will be held on Sunday evening 12/15/24 at Lund's condominium clubhouse in Cortez. It should be a very Merry event!

Our Change of Watch and Installation of Officers will be conducted on January 19th 2025 at the Terra Ceia Country Club. Hope to see you all there. We have Chuck Weirick again as our DJ/Horn player!

MSA Membership Meeting – Our next Membership Meeting is 2/12/25 at 5PM at

the Modern Chop, 1830 59th St W Bradenton, FL 34209 We will have a quarterly membership meeting with updates from our officers, committee chairs



View south from the sand dunes at Block Island

and a DRAFT calendar for the year.

My sea story for this month is about our return trip from Long Island Sound in June of 2021 after the Sam Weatherill Race around Block Island. Immediately after the race, we all returned home for a well-



The Mahogany Shoals at Great Salt Pond, Block Island

deserved rest and undeserved return to work. But plans for the trip back for S/V Tomfoolery were well underway. We needed to get the boat back to the Hudson River and through the locks back to Seneca Lake. We also wanted to cruise around Long Island sound for a week or so. First up on the list was a return to Block Island which was an easy downwind sail from Old Saybrook, CT. We anchored in Great Harbor at the Shoals Marina which has been continuously operated by one

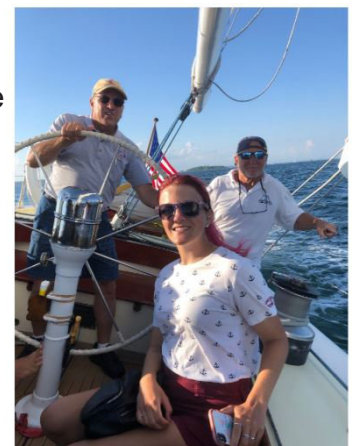
family for 10 generations! The next day we rented scooters and made a trip all the way around the island. The high cliffs and historical stops along the way made for an interesting visit. We stopped by an original 1661 Farm (more than 360 years old) with a wide variety of wild animals, it's much more like a Zoo!. That evening we had Striped Bass Dinner at "Dead Eye Dicks" at the Marina and planned our next visit.

The next morning, we sailed into Newport, RI for a tour of the city and a lobster dinner. We ended up with that and much more when we were able to take a ride on one of several classic World Cup 12 Meter yachts in town. The New York Yacht Club is a sight to see from the water. The next day we sailed west into the wind that was to be the prevailing wind for the remainder of the trip. We made it to Stonington, CT in time to watch the Wednesday night races from a slip in the Yacht Club Marina. In the bar that evening, we met the son of the Rear Commodore of the Essex Yacht Club who had organized the "Sam Wetherill Race" we had competed in the last month. Small world this. In the days that followed we sailed, and motor sailed into the wind staying at the marina's in Port Jefferson and Port Washington. These several days sailing on Long Island Sound were idyllic and often turned into history lessons as we learned about the places we were visiting.



Block Island Restaurant

Oyster Bay, NY and Teddy Roosevelt's home at Sagamore Hill comes to mind. We were now just 25 miles from Manhattan on Long Island Sound. We headed back past Execution



Our Crew

Katie, Tom and Mike sailing a 12 M

Rock, through Hell's Gate past Roosevelt Island and around the Battery to Liberty Marina. Our last Lobster Dinner on the trip was at Surf City Restaurant on the New Jersey side of the Hudson River. Great views from there of the NY skyline and the Statue of Liberty. The rest of the trip was heading towards increasingly fresh water, although the Hudson River is tidal all the way to



Albany. We took the mast down at Castleton Yacht Club, no problem. Just north of Albany we headed back up the Waterford Flight and entered the Erie Canal once again. Then we endured five days motoring back through the locks to Seneca Lake and the end of our saga.

Classic 12 Meter Yacht in Newport, RI



New York Yacht Club, Rhode Island

MSA SOCIAL EVENTS

MSA ANNUAL CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PARTY

Mark Your Calendar for Sunday December 15th 2024 at 4 P.M. to gather at the Lund's



Condo Association clubhouse (128th St. W. in Cortez) for a Holiday Event of Food and Fun with your MSA Friends. Bob and Linda Lund and Sue

Davidson are already decorating the room and planning the evening to include some fun MSA camaraderie as well so watch for their upcoming email filled with all the details. There will be a return of some traditional MSA elements from our past and there will be some new and exciting shenanigans to participate in. Take a break from all the Holiday stress and chaos and enjoy a few hours with your MSA family. You will totally enjoy the evening!

Coming Soon! January 2025 MSA Social Events

Annual Kite Festival Saturday January 18th 2025

Please join me on Saturday January 18th at the Annual Treasure Island Kite Festival

located at 10700 Gulf Blvd. on the beach in front of the Thunderbird Hotel running from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. I have attended this

weekend event for the last two years and have been stunned at the visual beauty and skilled expertise of the kite



performances done strictly by hobbyists who have spent hours choreographing their routines. Bring a beach chair, a blanket if it's cool and a picnic lunch and spend a day listening to wonderful music from as far back as the 1940's to the present day hip hop and watch the skies fill with gorgeous synchronized kites dancing with uncanny rhythm to the tunes. This is a free event and weather sensitive. It can be cool or breezy along the water so dress accordingly. Remember Treasure Island was hit hard with the recent hurricanes so I will alert you to available parking and meeting point info closer to the date.

MSA Annual Installation Banquet Sunday January 19th 2025

You are invited to MSA's Ruby Jubilee Celebration starting at 6 P.M. at the Terra Ceia Country Club located at 2802 Terra

Certified Health Coach

Betty Burton, RN, MSN

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P.O. Box 4101
Anna Maria, FL 34216

Ceia Bay Blvd. This is the night that we dress up and formally thank the MSA Board Members for their faithful service in 2024 and welcome the 2025 MSA Board Members offering them our support and fellowship in the New Year. But there is something else to be celebrated that night that deserves our full attention. Manatee Sailing Association has reached a landmark point in its history. The year 2025 will mark the clubs 40 year anniversary. This is the night that we will raise a glass to "MSA"! We have been through good years and lean years but along the way we have not only survived, we have thrived. We have grown and we have matured but we are still kicking with the best of them. If you research the word "jubilee" it has a slightly royal connotation to it. We deserve that bit of class. It comes with age! I hope you agree and will honor us with your presence on this special occasion.

The evening will start off with a Happy Hour at 6 P.M. with a cash bar followed by a buffet dinner at 6:30 P.M. featuring

Chicken Piccata, Beef Lasagna and Pot Roast, salad and assorted vegetables.

Music will be provided by our favorite entertainer, DJ Chuck Weirich. After dessert and coffee, the installation of officers will take place along with the presentation of awards. Once the ceremonies are finished we let the real celebration begin. We dance till we drop! The cost to attend the Ruby Jubilee Celebration, dinner and Installation of Officers

is \$40 per person and reservations must be made on or before January 9th, 2025. This special event only happens once in a lifetime and we should be proud of the honor. Please join me in celebrating a gem of an organization, Manatee Sailing Association and wish her a Happy 40th Anniversary.

Gail Gordon
MSA Social Secretary



MSA Meeting November 13th



**SUNDAY DECEMBER 15TH 2024 AT 4 P.M.
LUND'S CONDO ASSOCIATION CLUBHOUSE
4110 128TH ST. W. CORTEZ 34215**

CHRISTMAS PARTY CONTEST - CHILI COOK OFF

1. Create your chili (meatless, white, spicy, surprise)
2. Bring warm chili in a CROCKPOT with a spoon/ladle
3. Bring \$5.00 entry fee - winner gets the chili pot.
4. MSA will supply shredded cheese and sour cream.

Other toppings may be provided by the chili chefs.

MSA will also supply mini tasting cups and all papergoods.

5. Members will vote on BEST CHILI.

This will be an anonymous self-served taste test.

Each chili pot entry will receive a number.

Chef tasting notes/instructions may be written beside the chili number.

No names.

6. No Chili? No problem!!

Bring a side dish, appetizer or dessert.

7. BYO drinks

8. Got a Question? Contact sue@StarboardMedia.com



IT'S TIME TO GET UGLY!

Join in the Fun with an Ugly Xmas Sweater

No pressure- but wear it IF you own one!

--Tacky prizes for tacky attire--

RSVP to

Sue@StarboardMedia.com if entering Chili contest (so we have enough powerstrips/outlets for the crockpots.

But, last minutes entries are OK too.



Come out and show your holiday spirit by participating
in the annual Manatee River Holiday Boat Parade.

Saturday, December 14, 2024

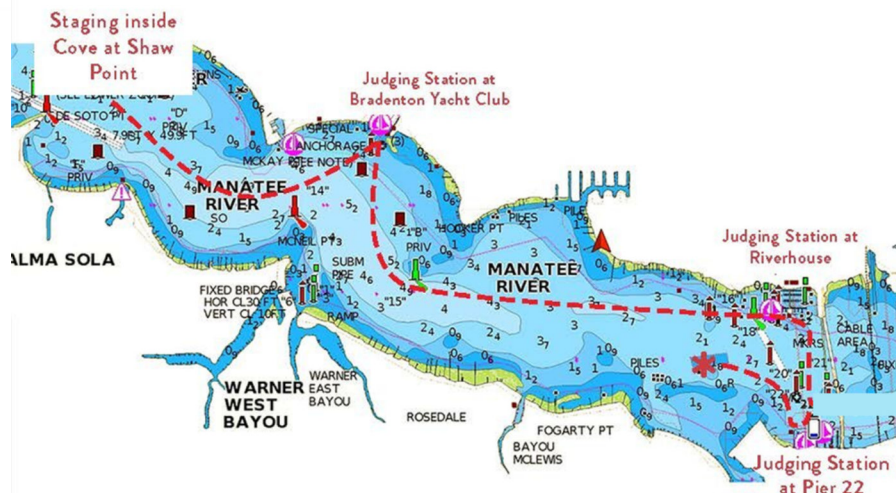
No Cost to Enter - Cash Prizes & Gifts

Mandatory Captain's Meeting

Thurs., Dec. 12th | 6:30PM at Twin Dolphins Marina

Click link below to register and for additional information.

Sponsorships Welcomed!



You are cordially invited to attend
MSA's Ruby Jubilee Celebration

and

The 2025 MSA Installation Banquet



January 19, 2025



at the

Terra Ceia Country Club

2802 Terra Ceia Bay Blvd, Palmetto

Happy Hour 6:00 P.M.

Buffet Dinner 6:30 P.M.

featuring the music of Chuck Weirich

Reservations must be received by January 9, 2025

Cut and send:_____

Name _____

Number of guests attending ----- at \$40 per person

Total remitted -----

Send check made out to Manatee Sailing Association to:

MSA Box # 14482 Bradenton, Florida 34280-4482

THE HISTORY OF THE PLANT MUSEUM

MSA'S SOCIAL EVENT

DECEMBER 2024

On December 2nd 2024 several MSA Members will be enjoying a Victorian Christmas Stroll at the Historic Plant Museum in Tampa. I thought it might be interesting to include a bit of a history lesson about the facility in this issue of the Gale Tales.

During the 1880's, Henry Bradley Plant was building an empire of railroads, steamships and hotels. He wanted that empire to have a palace and that palace was the Tampa Bay Hotel. The hotel was built by Plant personally, not investors, at a cost of \$2,500,000 and an additional \$500,000 for furnishings. It took two years to build, covered 6 acres and was 1/4 mile long. Its 511 rooms were among the first in Florida to be completely electric. Advertised as completely fire proof, the building contained poured concrete reinforced with rails and cables in between floors. The building had all of the latest luxuries including a billiard room, barbershop, shoeshine service, beauty shop, flower shop, telegraph office, formal dining room, Grand Salon, Music

Room with orchestra, and telephones in all guest rooms.

When Henry B. Plant brought the railroad to Tampa in 1884, he opened the door for many businesses to flourish. The railroad was at the center of the city's economy.



From downtown, it ran to Port Tampa City where one could board a Plant Line steamship to Mobile, Alabama, Jamaica, Cuba, or Bermuda. Investors were leery of building a hotel of the magnitude Plant envisioned,

so Plant decided he would build it himself. Some accommodations were suites of three to seven rooms that provided a degree of luxury never before seen in Tampa. Most of the rooms had private baths and all had electricity and telephones. Guests and luggage traveled between the five floors in two of Florida's first passenger and freight elevators. Guests reveled in this atmosphere of heady opulence, surrounded by exotic furnishings, porcelains, Venetian mirrors, and sculptures handpicked in Europe by Mr. and Mrs. Plant.



Open from December to April throughout the 1890s, the Hotel was a lively place with magnificent balls, tea parties, and organized hunts during the winter

social season. Guests enjoyed an array of diversions, including wild game hunting, fresh and salt-water fishing, sailing, rowing, and canoeing. Bicycles and carriages were

at their disposal. Rickshaws were available for tours of the property or an afternoon ride to see and be seen. The Hotel also boasted a golf course, tennis and shuffleboard courts, billiards, croquet, and even a racetrack. The Music Room hosted grand balls and orchestra concerts during the week. The Tampa Bay Casino seated 2,000 people and billed national and international performers such as Nellie Melba, Sarah Bernhardt, John Philip Sousa, and Anna Pavlova. The Casino also served as a spa with a heated indoor swimming pool located below the removable floorboards to reveal a relaxing oasis. The Grand Salon, or parlor, was a place of inspiration filled with European statues and Venetian-style mirrors.

A sweeping veranda on the east side of the Hotel afforded guests with a tranquil setting from which to

enjoy the view of the Hotel's extensive gardens. Following a formal eight-course dinner of fine wine and haute cuisine in the Dining Room, guests could stroll along the serpentine walks that wove through an exotic landscape of tropical flora and garden statuary. The Flower House, filled with rare plants from all parts of the world, was one of three charming conservatories on the grounds.

The grounds of the Hotel were just as awe-inspiring as the building itself, spanning 150 acres. The amenities included an 18-hole golf

course, flower conservatory, tennis courts, a croquet greensward, boathouse, hunting and fishing grounds, stables, racetrack, kennels, exposition hall with Florida products on view, Casino with a 2000-seat auditorium, heated swimming pool, bowling alley, spa facilities and card rooms -- totaling 21 buildings in all.

The building was bought by the city in 1905 after the death of Henry Plant in 1899. It operated as a hotel until 1932. In 1933, the Tampa Municipal Museum was established in the south wing of the first floor in order to preserve the legacy of the Tampa Bay Hotel. The remainder of the building, as well as the



property, became home to The University of Tampa. The Museum houses original Hotel furnishings and art objects collected by Mr. and Mrs. Plant from Europe and the Orient. The Tampa Municipal Museum became the Henry B. Plant Museum in

1974. Since then, its mission has been to interpret the Tampa Bay Hotel and the experiences of the diverse individuals who contributed to its success. The Museum ignites thought and transports visitors to another era through exhibits and innovative programs, so that they may be educated and inspired by the lifestyles, times and experiences of Florida's early tourist industry.

POPS IN THE PARK

MSA SOCIAL EVENT FOR NOVEMBER 2024

I must confess I pulled the idea of this as an MSA Social Event right off the top of my head! My original outing fell apart just when I was going to open it up to the group. Once again the affects of the hurricanes interfered with our plans. So at the "Survivors/Halloween Party when Jim McGinnis, our commodore asked me to mention our next event, I blurted out "the

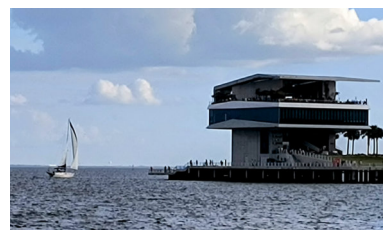


Pops Concert in the Park"! Chuck and I were going to go ourselves but I had no idea how to organize a "group" attendance to this usually "packed to the gills" outdoor activity.

I felt slightly calmer when I only had a couple of members respond but the 2 last days before the concert, the sign-up sheet jumped to 12! Oh boy! I did a little fast research and found out about a free shuttle from the downtown area because I knew parking around the Vinoy Park would be a challenge. Chuck and I decided to try to get to the park no later than 3:30 P.M. to set up our chairs and tie a tape around an area big enough for our group. We parked a street over from the park with 2 hour parking signs posted everywhere and

hoped we wouldn't get a ticket. We didn't!

On arrival to the park, I was stunned. Other than the stage and few blankets and chairs dropped here and there, we had the place to ourselves. Hmmmm! Chuck erected a flag with an anchor image on it so our group could find us when the crowds arrived. Then we set up a wide area and surrounded it with pink tape and plopped in our chairs to wait foroh, hours before the others were due to arrive! But we had our seats right in front of the stage so it was worth the effort!



At about 5ish, we had all our 12 MSA members in their chairs setting up snacks and opening bottles of wine and prosecco. We were close to the shoreline and the breeze was heavenly. Amazingly, as the evening progressed, the air was cool and delightfully pleasant and surprisingly there were no bugs! We nibbled on cheese and crackers and fruit and finally we pulled out the fried chicken and thick sandwiches and then the yummy chocolate. Our tummies were happy! There was a pre-concert program that entertained us while we munched on our food. But at 6:30 P.M. sharp the World Class Florida Orchestra took their places on the stage. Led by an



energetic young woman Chelsea Gallo, our maestro for the concert, we sat back under the stars and took in the amazing music of the night. We heard a sampling from movie themes, Broadway shows and classical favorites. There was a tribute to the armed services since Veterans Day was in 2 days. But the musical piece that got us fired up was the incredible William Tell Overture with none other than the sounds of cannons blasting forth. I have goose bumps just thinking about it! At 8 P.M. sadly the concert came to a close and the 5000 people in attendance left the park in the afterglow of a special evening that cost nothing other than a few hours of their



time. I gained a hint of how to affectively arrange this event for a group and I hope next year we will have a bigger turnout because..... of the 12 MSA members that attended this event, everyone seemed to be very pleased with the last minute event. Thank you for joining me!

Gail Gordon
Social Secretary





Manatee Sailing Association

2025 Membership Renewal

Name(s): 1. _____ Date: _____

2. _____

Other members in household: _____

Mailing address: _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell 1: _____ Cell 2: _____

Email #1 _____ Email #2 _____

Boat Make and Size _____

Boat Name _____ Sail # _____ PHRF _____

I voluntarily assume all risks of participating in Manatee Sailing Association events, on land or water, and agree to hold harmless against any and all losses and/or claims incident thereto, the Manatee Sailing Association (a 501(c) nonprofit, all volunteer, organization), its officers and members. If I have a vessel, I certify that my vessel complies with U.S. Coast Guard requirements and that I maintain insurance policies sufficient to protect myself and my property, including liability, medical and property coverage, which insurance is primary and non-contributory.

Signature: _____

Annual Dues: \$100 for first member of a household plus \$25 for each additional member of the household.

If paid before January 1, 2025 the annual dues are discounted: \$90 for first member of a household plus \$15 for each additional member of the household.

Please mail or email form and send check to:

**Manatee Sailing Association
PO Box 14482
Bradenton, FL 34280**

MSA@MSASailing.org



Manatee Sailing Association New Membership Application

Name(s): 1. _____ 2. _____

Other members in household: _____

Address: _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell 1: _____ Cell 2: _____

Email 1: _____ Email 2: _____

Boat Make/Size _____ Boat Name _____

I voluntarily assume all risks of participating in Manatee Sailing Association events, on land or water, and agree to hold harmless against any and all losses and/or claims incident thereto, the Manatee Sailing Association (a 501(c) nonprofit, all volunteer, organization), its officers and members. If I have a vessel, I certify that my vessel complies with U.S. Coast Guard requirements and that I maintain insurance policies sufficient to protect myself and my property, including liability, medical and property coverage, which insurance is primary and non-contributory.

Signature: _____

Annual Dues: \$100 for first member of household plus \$25 for each other members of household.

Please mail or email application to:

Manatee Sailing Association or msa@msasailing.org
PO Box 14482
Bradenton, FL 34280

Contact MSA at:
msa@msasailing.org
or
www.msasailing.org



MSA 2024 Officers

Commodore - Jim McGinnis
Vice Commodore - Tom Briggie
Cruising Captains - Chuck Fulton and
Sal Alfonso
Racing Captain - Sue Davidson
Secretary - Lynne McGinnis
Treasurer - Linda Briggie
Social Secretary - Gail Gordon
Membership - Deana Boydston
Past Commodore - Patti Korn