



Gale Tales

Manatee Sailing Association

Volume 40 Number 3

www.msasailing.org

March 2025

Up Coming Events

March 2025

Event	Date	Time	Place
Cortez Nautical Flea Market	Mar 8	9:00 AM	Florida Maritime Museum
Sand & Kite Festival	Mar 9	10:00 AM	Treasure Island
DWBH	Mar 12	5:00 PM	RJ Gators
Antique Boat Show	Mar 21	10:00 AM	Mt Dora/ Tavares



AHOY MSA MEMBERS, FRIENDS, AND FAMILY,

MSA Membership Meeting – Our Membership Meeting was 2/12/25 at 5PM at the Modern Chop Restaurant. They did a very nice job for us. We had a quarterly membership meeting with updates from our officers, committee chairs and a DRAFT calendar for the year. Gail and Chuck presented a slide show on their bucket list trip from Patagonia to Cape Horn. Their photos and stories from sea at the bottom of the world were awesome.

The Cortez Nautical Swap will be held 9-1PM on March 8th 2025 and we are going to have 2 booths this year. One will be for boating equipment sales, and one will be an education focused booth with knot tying opportunities for the general public. Denny, Brigid Vitton, Tom Briggie, Deb Jacobs and I will be there for the event. Please let me know if you have anything to donate to MSA for us to sell or consignment sales for items you want to sell. I will come by and pick it up this week. Whatever you have we will sell it! Tom and I will welcome anyone that would

Sand and Kite Festival



Treasure Island March 9th

like to join us to demonstrate Bowlines, Round Turn and 2 half hitches, Clove hitch, Reef knots and more!

Tom has a DWBH set for March 12 at RJ Gators 5PM see you there!

Around 1990, I bought a 16.5 foot Catalina Capri Sailboat from a friend at Christmastime in Wilmington, NC. We decided to go for a day sail on Christmas Eve in the afternoon as the weather was predicted to be breezy and not too cool. We had brought a couple sandwiches and beers for the trip and expected to be back at 4:30PM. As we sailed out towards the barrier islands (Lea-Hutaff Island and Figure 8 Island) we noted that there were almost no other boats out there! Hutaff is an unspoiled barrier island only accessible by boat. We planned to sail in the small bay just inside the barrier islands as the wind was out of the west and we could head north-east and south-west. The surf was particularly rowdy that day (waves were 3-4 ft) and the wind and tide were pushing us out towards the breakers. We managed to hold course though and had a great sail. Around 3PM, as we were heading north-east on a tack towards Hutaff, the rudder broke off the back of the boat! We saw later that metal fatigue of the casting of the pintles and gudgeons had caused the rudder to pop off. The situation became urgent as we

were now drifting rapidly with the outgoing tide like a river into the breakers just outside the entrance to Rich Inlet. Still holding on to the tiller, my friend grabbed the rudder and began using it as a paddle. I grabbed the small paddle we did have and

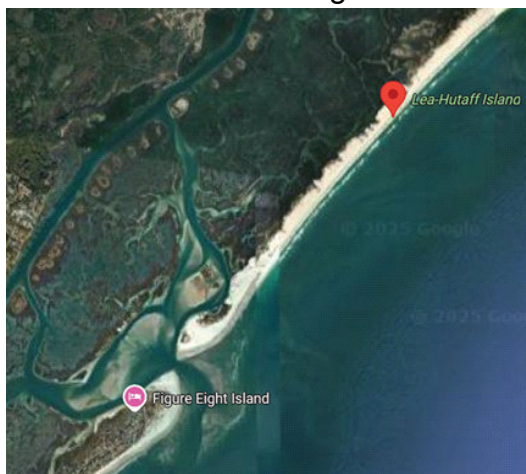
we began to make progress towards Hutaff Island. We landed on the sand and pulled the boat up on the beach in just a few minutes. You may notice a wreck on the chart just outside the inlet. (That is not us but I now know how it got there.) We didn't see any other boats around, so we ate the sandwiches and drank a couple beers. Still seeing nothing we started thinking

about spending the night on this deserted barrier island. It was getting cooler as the sun sets earlier in December. We took the sails down. We didn't have a VHF radio and cell phones weren't invented yet. Then

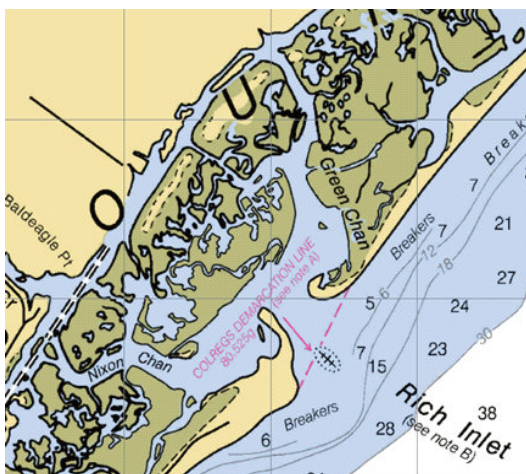
after a little while, we heard an outboard heading out of the marsh. It looked like a couple shrimpers were heading our way in a small johnboat. They could see our predicament and offered to tow us back to the marina which we accepted! We loaded the boat back on the trailer and headed home. Lynne asked why we were so late getting back for dinner

and I said that we were shipwrecked on a deserted island. Which was true!

Jim McGinnis
Commodore
s/v Brewester



Rich Inlet north of Figure 8 island



Strong tidal current in Rich Inlet

"THE COLOR PURPLE"

AN MSA TOUR OF SARASOTA'S VAN WEZEL PERFORMING ARTS HALL

by Gail Gordon

It's likely that no other building has transformed Sarasota as much as the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall. Before the Van Wezel, the Sarasota Orchestra (then the Florida West Coast Symphony) performed its concerts in the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium. There were few concerts with big name singers and no place for major orchestras. The only place to see live theater here in

Sarasota was at the Players Center or Asolo Repertory Theater. It was the talk of the town during construction and when its unique clam shell like roof began to take shape and its distinctive purple color covered the outer and inner walls, it was quickly dubbed, "the Purple Cow". Amid landscaped coastal parkland overlooking



the Sarasota Bay, a purple theater with a scalloped concrete roof, the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, opened in 1970. It was inspired by a shell that washed up on the shores of the Sea of Japan and was retrieved by

Frank Lloyd Wright's widow, Olgivanna. The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation was responsible for the construction and it was partly financed by a generous gift from Lewis and Eugenia Van Wezel, hence the name.

On a rainy cold Monday in February, 14 MSA members braved the day to get an up close and personal look at this historic icon in Sarasota. Our first introduction was a private study of the incredible art displayed in the lobby of the purple hall. I have been here so many times and never really looked at the artwork. I was too busy people watching and finding my seat to be attentive to the walls. But today Anne, our docent and



a charming artist herself, introduced us to some local artists and their art that lives on the Van Wezel walls on loan from the Arts Advocates of Sarasota. The first piece was outside in the round-a-bout in front of the lobby. I never knew it was there because I always use the rear entrance. It was titled "Applause". It was a perfect metalwork rendition of two hands coming



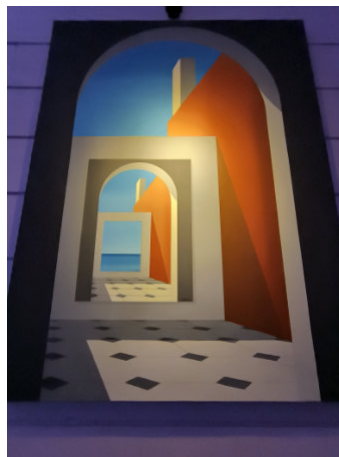
together. You almost waited to hear the sound of the clap! Then inside Anne took us from one magical piece of art to another asking us to anticipate what the artist was trying to tell us. There was such a variety of work as well.....contemporary modern sculptures to classic oils. We all had our



favorites but most unusual was a piece of art that was totally unexpected. "Princess Grace" was a portrait which showed the beautiful princess's royal side and then in another image, her relaxed side,

the actress at work. Beautiful!

We were surprised when our docent, Anne asked us to inspect a painting of arches that overlooked the sea entitled "A World Within". We found three distinct paintings within the one canvas, each signed by the artist.

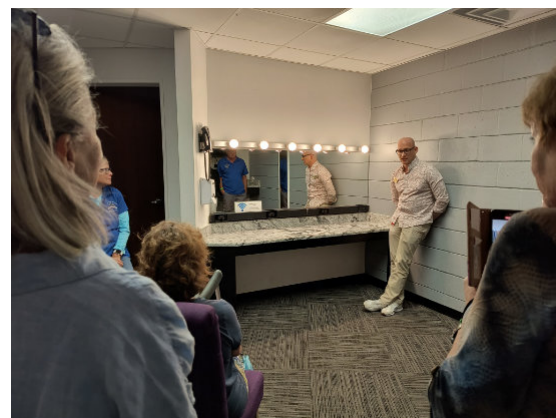


The painting I thought would be perfect in my home was a large canvas titled "Containers". It was created with an airbrush and covered over with paint splashes in the bright colors similar to the



colors of my walls. I loved it! We must have strolled by several dozen spectacular pieces until it was time to meet our second docent of the tour, Justin.

Justin took us to the heart of the hall, behind the scenes. He explained that the Van Wezel was a "presenter" theater. It was not able to create productions on its own. It didn't have the necessary equipment. It was designed for productions-on-tour to come to them. So just past the "Stage Door" we entered a huge room where 3 semi trailer truck sized doors could open and allow the trucks to back in and unload. The opposite wall of this room offered them a large opening which led directly to the stage. Sets would be constructed from the floor to the rafters for the presentation of plays and musicals. Justin then showed us the primary dressing room for the headliner



star. I have to say, it wasn't fancy but it did have a private bathroom and was only a short walk to the stage. From there we walked onto the stage itself! It was a totally different view then when sitting in the seats.

Looking up revealed a series of curtains and rods where lots of sets and equipment could be lowered or brought



up. Over to the side were rows of heavy cords each counterweighted so only one person was needed to control it. Behind the curtain was a mass of machinery and technology!

Justin himself was an actor and played in at least 9 Broadway productions in New York City before he came to the Van Wezel so he was privy to a lot of “footlight stories”. He told us that on the walls in the lower level dressing rooms there were posters of weasels with a circle and cross

bar over them so performers would pronounce Van Wezel correctly, not Van Weasel. He told us the saying “Break a Leg” had a much different connotation than what we knew. “Leg” was the stage name for the side curtains and when a performer broke or opened the curtain to go out on stage and broke or opened it to go back after his performance, then he was rewarded with a paycheck. So the saying “Break a Leg” meant, you are going to get paid today. Another most interesting story was about an item on the stage called a “ghost light”. He explained that it was there for security, history and a good story. These lights were a bare bulb with a wire cage around it on a pole and near the audience end of the center stage. When all the hall’s lights were turned off, this light remained on. It provided a view of a 10 foot drop into the orchestra so that provided a warning as a safety hazard. Its historical reference was to the pilot light located at the center stage that was needed long ago when the footlights were all gas. And the good



story part was that most theaters have a ghost and Justin told us that usually a ghost was afraid of the dark, so there you have it.

We finished up with a discussion about the need for a larger hall. At present the Van Wezel has 1741 seats, no match for the larger Straz Theater in Tampa. That's why the Van Wezel has not been able to get big names and productions as the price per seat would be too high. However, the original Purple Van Wezel Hall needed to be saved and hopefully repurposed. Being an icon of the city made her too important to give up. Plans are still in the works for the new building and nothing was set in stone yet. It will take a decade or two before a new performing arts theater will finally come to be. Justin said that the architecture will be of the highest standards of technology in order to prevent damage from storms. The Van Wezel suffered a great deal of damage from the recent hurricanes.

The time flew by and we were sad when we were escorted to the lobby to end our

tour. We only scratched the surface of the amazing story of Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall. But my eyes were opened now and the next time I walk through this hall I will greet the building with a greater appreciation since now we have a more intimate connection.



Thank you for joining me once again. It was a good day in the neighborhood!

Certified Health Coach

Betty Burton, RN, MSN

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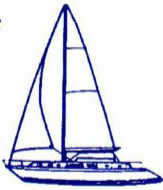


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UPCOMING MSA SOCIAL EVENTS FOR MARCH 2025

Saturday March 8th CORTEZ NAUTICAL FLEA MARKET

MSA will have a table set up behind the Florida Maritime Museum showcasing Manatee Sailing Association to sell items



and hopefully encourage possible new members by sharing information about our amazing club. Contact Jim McGinnis if you have items to sell or could take a 3

hour shift at our table.

Sunday March 9th TREASURE ISLAND SAND AND KITES & COASTAL DELIGHTS



"After a challenging few months of recovery from Hurricanes Helene and Milton, Treasure Island is thrilled to announce a "sand-sational" new event that combines two of

its most popular attractions: sand sculptures and kite flying! Back to the Beach: Sand & Kites & Coastal Delights will revive Treasure Island Beach on March 8-9, ushering in a spirited celebration of resilience, community, and coastal beauty. This festival will offer something for everyone. Visitors will be amazed by a giant sand sculpture symbolizing Treasure

Island's journey of recovery and renewal. Above, the sky will come alive with colorful and creative kites. Throughout the day, the festival will buzz with live music, delicious food truck offerings, and unique goods from local vendors, creating a festive atmosphere for families, friends, and beach lovers alike.

The "&" in "Sand & Kites & Coastal Delights" is more than just a symbol; it represents the essence of Treasure Island and Visit St. Pete



Clearwater's theme: We are more than a beach. Treasure Island is a beach & fun events, a beach & community, a beach & resilience. The ampersand conveys the idea that our island is a place where the beach connects to so much more that makes our destination special.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 9, 2025, and head to Treasure Island Beach



for a special celebration. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day, so gather your crew and get ready to soak up the sun,

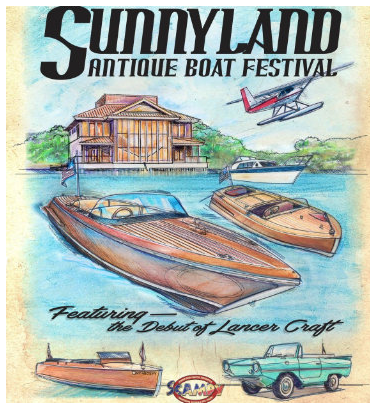
fun & community spirit. Let's all come together to celebrate the strength of our community, appreciate the beauty of our beaches, and demonstrate that Treasure Island is open, vibrant, and still shining.

Join us for "Sand & Kites & Coastal Delights," where the sand meets the sky & the community shines bright." We will plan

to gather Sunday March 9th on the beach hopefully just behind or near the ruins of the old Thunderbird Hotel. Bring a beach chair and a picnic lunch for convenience or purchase food available at the event. Please let me know if you will be joining us by emailing me at gailgordon56@gmail.com or text me at 404 426-2679 so I can provide you with last minute information. This is more than just a day at the beach, it's a celebration!!!! See you there!

**March 21-Sunday March 23rd
MT. DORA WEEKEND
THE SUNNYLAND 44TH ANNUAL
ANTIQUE BOAT SHOW**

The Sunnyland Antique Boat Festival is in its 44th year and is the largest classic wood boat show in the U.S. Their footprint is over a third of a mile long and they usually have



approximately 150 to 200 boats on display. The gate attracts six to eight thousand people and there is something for everyone at the event. The nautical flea market has more than 40 vendors with many hard to find marine parts for sale. They will have several stunning outboard motors on display as well as numerous race boats. Festival of Speed car display will be on Ruby Street. Their annual event is in conjunction with spring

break as it is the kick-off show for the boating season. People from all over the U.S. attend the show, and they have representation from more than 26 states. They have several corporate sponsors that make their show a success and they offer many marine products to include



new and restored vintage boats.

At this time most of the arrangements and reservations have been made for this MSA weekend event but if anyone would like to take a scenic drive to one of the most charming areas in the state, I would highly encourage your participation. This is a three day event and the exciting day to day schedule is available on line. The cost for the show is a mere \$10 which includes all 3 days. There is free parking at the Travares City Garage with shuttle service to the show. Please contact me at gailgordon56@gmail.com or text me at 404 426-2679 for more information concerning this weekend event. See you there!

Gail Gordon
MSA Social Secretary

[Click here for more more information.](#)



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 2025 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