



Gale Tales

Manatee Sailing Association

Volume 41 Number 1

www.msasailing.org

January 2026

Up Coming Events

Event	Date	Time	Place
Kite Festival	Jan 17	TBD	Treasure Island
Installation Party	Jan 18	6:00 PM	Terra Ceia Country Club



AHOY MSA MEMBERS, FRIENDS, AND FAMILY

Sailing S/V Wasp in Central Park

On a summer day in 2019, I had the opportunity to sail a radio-controlled boat in Central Park, NYC and jumped at the



chance. The Conservatory Water pond is just north of E 72nd Street near the Boat House Restaurant. People have been sailing model boats here since 1875. There is even a scene in Breakfast at Tiffany's of the Boat House. The current Kerbs Boathouse, built in

Installation Dinner & Dance



January 18th
Terra Ceia Country Club

1953, provides rentals and storage for the radio-controlled sailboats. If you get a chance, try it. As all sailors know, if even two sailboats spy each other on a lake, they are racing in some form. I admit that happened to me even when the



competition was mostly 7- to 10-year-olds in these unfamiliar NYC waters. My sailboat choice was a beautiful 4-foot sloop with a tall mast and a deep bulb keel. I was smitten. It took me a few minutes with the remote control to get the hang of it and be able to hold a course. Then I saw a solid puff indicated by the cat's paws ahead and deftly turned to weather. Telltales streaming, she heeled right over and began picking up speed across the pond, passing every boat in the area. Sweet. I have no idea how much influence the book about Stuart Little



has had on my life, but I have never forgotten this scene or his bravery in the face of a raging sea and overwhelming conditions. If you are not familiar with the book from 1945, take a look at Chapters 6 and 7 at this [Link](#).

Oh yeah – I got the Tee shirt.

On November 12th at the membership meeting at Modern Chop, we voted in a new 2026 Slate of Officers, with this experienced team, the Club will be well served!

Rick Jackerson and Chuck Fulton – Co-Commodores
 Tom Briggle - Vice Commodore,
 Linda Briggle - Treasurer
 Claude Solomon - Secretary
 Gail Gordon – Social Secretary
 Sue Davidson – Race Captain
 Deana Boydston - Membership Chair
 Jim McGinnis - Cruising Captain

Mark your calendar for January 18th 2026 @ 6PM for the Change of Watch Party at the Terra Ceia Yacht Club and we will see you there.!

Fair winds,
 Jim

HOLIDAY MUSIC

Members of MSA were pleased to attend an evening with The Bay Chorale and enjoy the beautiful music of Christmas & Chanukkah. MSA's friend Diana Martin is a member of the Chorale and we all strained our necks trying to find her in the group. Ahh, there she was last row 3rd right. LOL. Not only was the music beautiful, but we could also see it was heartfelt by the joy on performers faces.

The Bonnie Gray "That's Dancing" were also at Neel Performing Center to delight



us with their performance dancing to the music. We could not help but smile and enjoy ourselves. Our Members were also able to see two scholarship winners as they performed solos for the audience.

Dinner at Mean Deans followed; and as always it was delicious. The evening was a lovely way to begin the holiday season.

Linda Briggle
 MSA Treasure

Certified Health Coach

Betty Burton, RN, MSN

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THE 2026 MSA INSTALLATION BANQUET

"THE SILVER SAILS CELEBRATION"

JANUARY 18, 2026



You are cordially invited to attend MSA's Installation Baquet featuring the theme of a "Silver Sails Celebration" on Sunday January 18th. We will be honoring the faithful officers of the past year and welcoming a new MSA board for 2026. Happily, we will be returning to the Terra Ceia Country Club located at 2802 Terra Ceia Bay Blvd, Palmetto. The evening will kickoff 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. Who will have the honor of receiving the "Toot Your Own Horn" Award, "The Salty Sailor Award", "The Boat of the Year" and the coveted "Member of the Year" Award? Once the



presentations and installation ceremonies are finished we let the real celebration begin. We dance till we drop!



The cost to attend the Silver Sails Celebration, dinner and Installation of Officers is \$40 per person and reservations must be made on or before January 10th, 2026. The invitation is

included in this newsletter. Please fill it out and send it in ASAP. We have just spent the past year 2025 as MSA's Ruby Jubilee Anniversary of 40 years. We may be getting older but just maybe the best is yet to come as we look forward to the next decade. As an Olympic athlete may be thrilled to achieve a Silver medal, he is always striving for that illusive Gold. So wrap yourself in shimmering silver on January 18th and join us at the Installation Banquet with excitement for the New Year and what begins the next decade of MSA adventures. See you there!





You are cordially invited to attend

The Silver Sails Celebration



and

The 2026 MSA Installation Banquet

January 18th, 2026

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 10th, 2026

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

SOMETIMES IT TAKES A VILLAGE!

Months ago, Chuck and I found a great trip on sale for an unbelievable price and without thinking too much about it, we booked it. It wasn't until we were approaching our departure date that I realized that I might have a problem. You see, the exotic trip encompassed the first two weeks of December just when Holiday events and parties filled the MSA calendar. I thought to myself, no worries! Gail, with careful planning and good organization, everything will fall into place without you having to be there. I had the good sense of asking for help from MSA members who I hoped would be dependable and willing to run the event in real time with enthusiasm and gusto. I also had the good fortune that some always busy, loyal and involved members happily volunteered to do just that.



The MSA Social Event for December was in the works months ago when I ran into Diana Martin, a former MSA member. She mentioned to me that she had thought about a possible outing for us. For several years, she sang in the Bay Chorale of Bradenton, and they put on a popular and well attended Christmas Concert in December. I was

interested and asked her to contact me when the concert date and time was selected. All was going well until Diana ran out of tickets and couldn't get more until after I was to leave on my trip. I had no choice but to hand over the problem to my volunteers, Tom and Linda Briggle. Without hesitation, they embraced the situation and released me



from my concerns. In fact, Linda was out of town herself until just before the concert, which was scheduled for December 7th. Somehow, Tom and Linda and Diana managed to get the 14 tickets in time and deliver them to members on the afternoon of the concert. These folks have super powers or something!

I heard the concert was a festive and fun start to the Holiday Season. Of course, MSA members always enjoyed a good meal, some spirits and great MSA camaraderie so just a quick ride from the venue, the group had a reservation for dinner after the concert at Mean Deans. There is a saying out there that goes something like this: if you need to get a

job done, ask a busy person. The Briggles volunteered and not only got the job done, but they did also it with style and finesse. Thank you from all those who attended the event and most of all, a big thank you from me who was not there to see it through. Well done, the Briggles!



It was early October when an MSA member asked me if the club was planning on having an MSA Christmas Party. I hadn't given it much thought at that time but the question got my attention. I made a few calls which left me in a quandry. Because of health issues, accidents and upcoming surgeries, all the usual suspects for hosting were crossed off the list of possibilities. As an easy solution, I wondered if we should consider having a low-key party at a local

restaurant. I started doing a bit of research. As they hosted the Christmas party at their clubhouse last year, I texted Bob and Linda Lund for an approximate number of MSA members that had



attended. Linda replied, gave me an estimate and then added that if we hadn't decided on a place yet that they would be happy to host this years Christmas party in the clubhouse again. I took a moment to scream some "yippees and woohoo's" into the air and then nonchalantly texted back, "that would be lovely, thank you".

Within days, the Lunds had selected a date, reserved the room, created a theme and planned a party. They consulted with MSA Race Captain Sue Davidson for thoughts to add festive ideas to the already blossoming Holiday soiree. The result was an MSA Christmas Luau



featuring tropical attire, Hawaiian Leis and a baked ham covered in pineapples. I spent my free time before I left for my



trip, putting together some decorations for the tables and to facilitate my MSA friends as much as possible. From long distance, I saw photos of the preparations being made, the set up and the joyous event in progress on the afternoon of December 14th when over 30 MSA members shared some warm Holiday cheer. Once again, MSA crisis was averted thanks to some loyal and supportive MSA members and their quick responses that assisted and helped with providing wonderful club activities. Thank you Bob and Linda Lund and Sue Davidson and all the MSA members who made these miracles happen.

I am back from my trip, and I don't at this time have any long term travel plans to

distract me from my club duties. But I have a different problem that may involve additional help and concern. I came back from my trip with an "injury" which has put a dent into my physical abilities for some time. So, I may still need "a village" for awhile until this problem is solved. I may just be looking for a few more "superheros" to come to my rescue. You ask: Gail what happened? I answer: There I was on the highest mountain peak in northern Thailand, hiking down



from the clouds on a steep and slippery path alongside a raging river..... At least it's a good story!

Gail Gordon
MSA Social Secretary



TREASURE ISLAND KITE FESTIVAL 2026 JANUARY 16TH-18

I will tempt you one last time with this exciting event, The 2026 Treasure Island Kite Festival. It's because when the conditions are right, it is an outstanding way to spend the day. Yes, yes, seldom



do all the components fall into that category but we can only hope. Last year a hurricane's damage devastated Treasure Islands infrastructure and at last minute, the event was called off. The year before that, the sun was shining but it was very cold and blustery on the beach. We could only handle a few hours but the show went on. Yes, I know parking is a challenge and sometimes expensive but if you are creative and don't mind a bit of walking, it is doable. In spite of all that, a

few of us have experienced a day so filled with music, amazing kite dancing routines, colorful formations floating in the sky, wonderful relaxing beach time and the company of dear friends. Yes, it was perfect. Keep an eye on the weather, pack a picnic lunch, grab a beach chair and blanket and join me on Saturday January 17th for the annual Treasure Island Kite Festival. When it's good, it's perfection! We can only hope!

IN THE WORKS

POSSIBLE MSA SOCIAL EVENTS

- Mote SEA Marine Back Stage Tour
- Roundtrip Local Ferry Ride with lunch at Bridge Street AMI
- Pittsburg Pirates Spring Training Baseball Game
- Dinner and a Movie
- Sunday Brunch at the Polo Match

Gail Gordon
MSA Social Secretary



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



MSA 2026 Officers

Commodore - Rick Jackerson &
Chuck Fulton
Vice Commodore - Tom Briggle
Cruising Captain - Jim McGinnis
Racing Captain - Sue Davidson
Secretary - Claude Solomon
Treasurer - Linda Briggle
Social Secretary - Gail Gordon
Membership - Deana Boydston
Past Commodore - Jim McGinnis

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