



Gale Tales

Manatee Sailing Association

Volume 41 Number 3

www.msasailing.org

March 2026

Up Coming Events

Event	Date	Time	Place
DWBH	Mar 11	5:00 PM	Avocadoes
Nautical Flea Market	Mar 14	9:00 AM	Florida Maritime Museum
Polo	Mar 15	11:00 AM	Sarasota Polo Club
Cruise	Mar 26	4:00 PM	Bradenton Beach
DWBH	Apr 8	5:00 PM	RJ Gators
Terra Ceia Regatta	Apr 18	12:00 PM	Terra Ceia Bay
Tampa Bay Rowdies	May 2	7:30 PM	Al Lang Stadium



AHOY MSA

Last month you heard from co-commodore Chuck, so now it is my turn. I'd like to tell you about our trip last summer, 2025, but to avoid boring you, I will break it into parts. This month will be my Part I installment, and then I will tell you about my latest project.

Adelia and I had the opportunity to spend some time at my brother's condo in Maine. When we were up there the prior year, we went tent camping in Acadia National Park. We had previously camped in a tent once, a decade ago. It was a bit of a challenge then, but what a difference a decade makes. In the tent, we were crawling around on the floor trying to find our clothing in the dark at 3:00am and proceed to get dressed sitting on the floor. Then I would trip on the lip of the tent on the way out. We decided this

Cruis to Bradenton Beach and Whale Key



March 26 to 29th



past summer to add to the trip by buying a popup camper. The first thing we did was figure out what towing capacity we would need for the camper. The next step was to sell the oldest car and shop for an SUV. We found a nice used camper in good condition. My towing skills were close to non-existent. I once towed a 19-foot motor boat and several times towed an 8 foot dinghy. I was so relieved when co-commodore Chuck volunteered to tow the camper home. A variety of things needed to be done. It's just like buying a used boat. There is a lot to learn and then you need to buy the necessary parts and do the work. I also hooked up the wiring for the lights but needed help with a wire to the new break controller that I installed in the car. I also had air lifts installed in the rear springs.

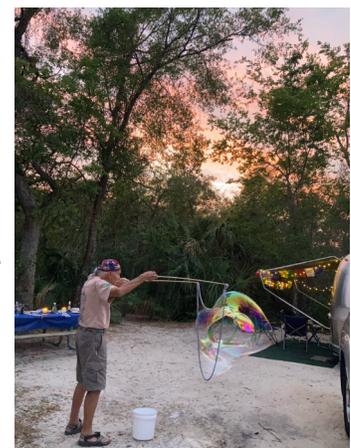
The next step was to go on a local camping trip to learn how to safely tow the camper,



pull into gas stations and restaurants and especially how to backup into a campsite. Setting up and later collapsing down a popup camper is a bit complicated. It was time to put the pedal to the medal so to speak and take it on a camping trip. Luckily Chuck and Gail were willing to be our test partners. So, we took off with them and their "Bambi" camper to Blue Springs State Park North East of Orlando next to the St. Johns River. We saw a rabbit, large fish in the clear springs, a couple of deer and a giant turtle. Then we rented kayaks and Chuck led us into a waterlily choked area with a variety of birds. Just before we left



that area, we were surrounded by floating plants which had a bunch of baby alligators floating on them. I wanted to wait to see if the mother gator was nearby, but fear won out and we paddled like crazy to get away. It was fun to cook dinner with the camper's stove and our new pots and pans. Chuck put on his famous giant bubble show. END OF PART I



When we arrived home from our 3 month trip, I decided to take on a monumental project that was way overdue. This was partly inspired by a sale on a kit for a shed that I wanted to build. The shed is 8 feet by 15 feet. With a great deal of help from my friend and MSA member Tom Briggie, we built the shed. Building it took about 4 days of hard work and the electrical took another week.

Now comes the fun part. I go through 13 years of accumulated precious stuff, I mean junk. What do I keep and what do I toss? At the same time, I'm organizing sailboat stuff, motor boat stuff, dinghy stuff, outboards, kayaks, bikes, etc. All my tools and supplies. Get rid of one refrigerator, 3 bicycles, weight set, dive tanks, extra sails. It won't be long before I can see the pool table that has been buried in the "pool room" for 13 years.

Past commodore Jim McGinnis is organizing a great boat trip to Bradenton Beach and, perhaps, to a new Bar/ restaurant called Nautilus on March 26, then to Whale Key and the Dry Dock restaurant March 27. Sue Davidson is setting up the Terra Ceia Bay boat race, with a party at the Tropic Isles set up by Denny Vitton and John Castellano, both on April 18. My big question is - can I get the sailboat or motor boat working by then?

Don't miss out on Avocados March 11, compliments of Tom Briggie and the Sarasota Polo Club March 15 compliments of Gail Gordon.

Don't forget, "If it's going to happen, then it's going to happen out there, so let's get out there."

Rick Jackerson
Co-commodore

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THE MURDER MYSTERY ON THE RINGLING EXPRESS

I prepared for days to have something to report when I attended the 2026 MSA Board Meeting in January. After being the Social Secretary for this club for over a decade and planning a social event for almost every month of those years, my brain was devoid of new ideas. But I persisted and finally accumulated a list of events and outings that I could present to the new board as possibilities. There was however, a small problem. Most of these outings came at a higher price tag than I usually planned on. But with each new idea I mentioned during the meeting, the board seemed willing and almost eager to give them a try. So the next day, I made calls, asked questions, bought tickets and



made reservations. I went out on a limb knowing that MSA members enjoyed having fun, enough to make all these possibilities a reality. One of these outings happened on Sunday February 22.

I sold all the tickets and even had to purchase one extra. We didn't have a mob coming but a respectable number of MSA members planned to attend a new train excursion at the Parrish Railroad Museum.



Just before 2 P.M. on a blustery day, we boarded the vintage train along with a sold out crowd. We had assigned seats all together in a train car that was commissioned way back in 1939. We heard the conductor yell, "All Aboard!" Old backwoods Florida was the landscape we saw out our windows as the train whistle blew to announce the start of our journey. In those few seconds it was as if we entered a time machine that went back 100 years. Passengers from another era joined us introducing themselves as if we had no idea who these celebrities were.

First to pass through the car was Annie Oakley toting a big rifle, on a train no less. What happened to security? She was bickering with her cowboy husband Fred



Annie Oakely & Fred Butler

Butler. Next, Mr. and Mrs. John Ringling came through to welcome us as their guests for the day. Mabel looked gorgeous wearing a very ornate chapeau. The opera singer Jenny Lind entered the car, and we noticed



John & Mable Ringling



Jenny Lind & PT Barnum

a rather sparkly expensive necklace that looked out of place on her outfit. Mabel was looking at it as well. Finally, Ethel Merman stumbled into the car ready to pick a fight or at least belt out a song. She was a bit

tipsy and not from the train movement either. In between all the celebrities, a quiet little guy, dressed to the nines, wandered in an out. Someone recognized him. It was P. T. Barnum. We were all duly impressed as we were in the company of greatness.



Ethel Merman

It wasn't long before we could tell the train was slowing down and then we heard a blood curdling scream. P.T. Barnum was dead! He was found on the train shot in the back! The Ringlings, obviously upset, told us that Detective Marlowe had been called and he would meet us all when we stopped in Willow. We would be detained there until he questioned us. We were all suspects!

The train stopped at what looked like a farm area, a place called Willow. The Ringlings were kind enough to have a lunch buffet ready for us as we entered a pavilion where Detective Marlowe was waiting. As we ate from a variety of tasty culinary options, the detective brought the

celebrities up to the stage for questioning. It was obvious he had a hunch. As he showed us the evidence, he had collected in short order, the famous detective was determined to get to the bottom of this terrible crime. It was also apparent, as each suspect was interrogated that they in fact were nervous because they broke into a song to alleviate the tension.

Well after we had finished our lunch and our yummy dessert, Detective Marlowe turned the case over to us, the makeshift jury. We were to vote on who was the most likely murderer among the famous seven. Everyone of us had different ideas, but I was sure of myself. I went up to Annie Oakley's husband Fred Butler and gave him my verdict. He was guilty because when it came down to it as everyone knows....."its always the Butler"! After Marlowe confirmed my suspicion, the whole group broke into song of relief and we were free to get back on the train. But as we made our return to Parrish, even our conductor serenaded us with a great voice and music from the Big Band era. The whole time we were on this excursion, it felt as if we were extras in a movie, a musical in fact! Thank you for joining me on this exciting new adventure. I hope you agree with me that it was worth every last penny.

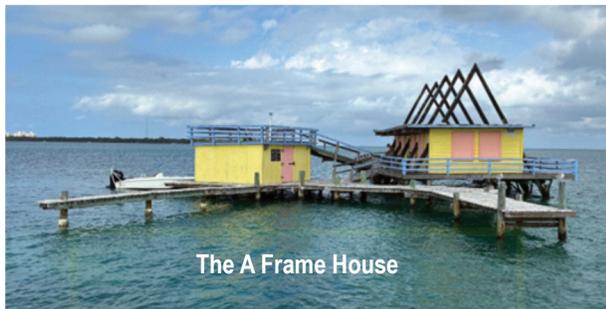


Gail Gordon
MSA Social Secretary

CRUISING

Ahoy all,
As you know we are planning an MSA Cruise from March 26-29. We are making plans for a visit to Bradenton Beach on Thursday, 3/26 in the anchorage there and then 3/27 at Whale Key on the backside of Longboat Key. (Just north of the Publix on Longboat Key.) A third night option would be south of Marina Jack's in the mooring field/anchorage. For people that need to plug-in there are wet slips at the Moorings Longboat Key Marina for ~\$6/ft/night. For people arriving by land yachts, we will make plans to meet you all at the Bridgetender or possibly the new Nautilus Bar one day. We have 4 boats with an expressed interest so far and hoping to gain a few more. Please send me a note if you are interested/available for any of the above or can contribute some other ideas for the weekend. jmcginni@stny.rr.com c:607-346-5408

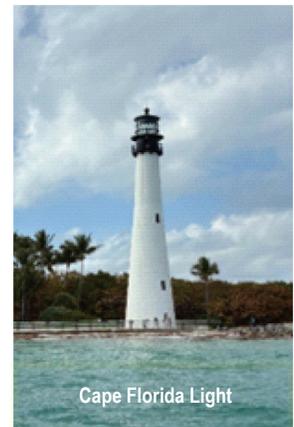
Also, see you at the Nautical Swap on 3/14 in Cortez. Tom Briggie is sending a note in this newsletter.



Lynne and I visited Stiltsville, FL this week. Stiltsville is a group of 6 houses about a mile south of Key Biscayne in Miami built in about 6 feet of water. We took a National Park tour boat out to Key Biscayne and saw Ricard Nixon's house in a beautiful area of

Biscayne Bay. These Stiltsville houses are the last survivors of many hurricanes to hit the area. They were started in the 1930s, by an enterprising gentleman "Crawfish

Eddie Walker" selling bait off a grounded barge. During Prohibition more buildings appeared and some wild parties took place. 27 houses were built at one time and they stayed in a few families for a couple of generations. When the US National Park took over the area in 1999, the houses were condemned and marked for destruction. A group of families contacted their congressman and applied for relief. The end result was a public/private trust that now holds the houses and the owners are declared as permanent park caretakers. Nice Day trip from Miami.



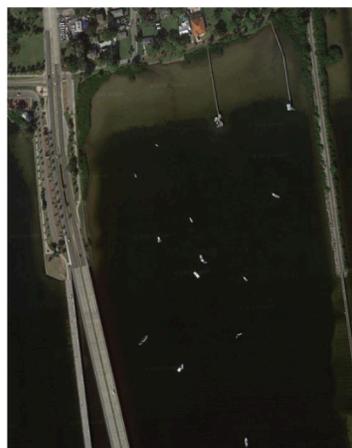
Jim McGinnis
Cruising Captain
S/V Brewster

Palmetto Bay Oyster Restoration & Aquatic Habitat



At the MSA February 11th meeting, Rowena Young-Gopie of the Palmetto Community Redevelopment Agency spoke to us about their project to improve aquatic habitat and water quality in Palmetto Bay. The Palmetto Bay project area is the portion of the Manatee River located between the Green bridge and US 301/41 bridge

representative of the aquatic habitats that are monitored three times a year.



Historically the Manatee River was known as the Oyster River and provided the indigenous Calusa Indian society with a vital source of food and water.



where reef balls have been placed. A grid system of the

The project has shown improved oyster growth and provided habitat for Spade fish and blue crabs inside the

area allows divers to locate reef balls to document growth and changes to the habitat. The "A" markers are



Spade fish and blue crab inside a reef ball



Oyster growth in the habitat

NAUTICAL FLEA MARKET MARCH 14

The Florida Maritime Museum in Cortez has once again granted us a free booth in their Nautical Flea Market on March 14. Last year was phenomenal for donated equipment that was sold for the benefit of MSA.

It was also a great display of knot tying by Jim McGinnis. He was demonstrating some skills when a customer challenged him to a specific knot. He was timed first. Jim had his turn and tied the same knot with one hand and beat the challenger on time. It was a feat for folklore.

If you have used nautical gear to donate or sell please call Tom Briggie at (614) 263-6552 and we will pick it up that week. Your unwanted gear is their

treasure. They have 20 different vendors at this point to sell so you can attend at the Florida Maritime Museum at 4415 119th Street West, Cortez from 9AM -1 PM on March 14. They still have room for a couple more vendors so you can contact them at fmminfo@manateeclerk.com or (941) 708-6120 if interested. It should be fun, educational and you may find the perfect accessory

for your boat.

Tom Briggie
Vice Commodore



The poster for the Cortez Nautical Flea Market features a light blue background. At the top left is a blue anchor icon, and at the top right is a blue fishing rod with a fish. The title "Cortez Nautical Flea Market" is in bold blue text. Below the title, the date and time "Saturday, March 14 | 9AM-1PM" and the address "4415 119th St W, Cortez FL, 34215" are listed. The central illustration shows a wooden booth with a blue and yellow striped awning. Under the awning are various nautical items: a blue surfboard, a fishing net, a red and white lifebuoy, and a wooden fishing rack with several fishing rods. Below the illustration, the text reads "Find great deals on new and used fishing gear, nautical art, and more!". At the bottom, the Florida Maritime Museum logo is displayed with the tagline "heritage · culture · tradition".

SUNDAY BRUNCH AT THE POLO MATCHES

It has been a few years if you can believe it, since we have enjoyed the heart stopping excitement of having the ground shake beneath our feet as a team of huge horses race close by us on the way down the emerald green field to score a point for their team. So, I thought it was time to pack up our big tents and tables and chairs and gather to raise a glass of champagne to one of the oldest known team sports in the world. Polo originated in Persia over 2000 years ago and was later adopted by the Western world from its modern form developed in India.



Polo has been called the “Sport of Kings” but over time has become a spectator sport for equestrians, high society and regular folks like you and me. The sport has evolved and developed and has become popular around the world with well over 100 member countries in the Federation of International Polo and is played professionally in 16 countries.

There is nothing else like it! Polo is an exhilarating exhibition of teamwork and coordination between horse and rider. What other competition team sport requires you to whack a ball, maneuvering your way through a cluster of thundering hooves, your one hand gripping the reins, your other hand hoisting a mallet, all the while you are racing full-out... balancing on the back of a powerful horse? This is the incredible sport of Polo!

Established in 1991 as the first development in the award-winning, master-planned community of Lakewood Ranch, the Sarasota Polo Club has a remarkable legacy. In 1922, the property was settled as a 28,000-acre timber ranch. Originally, the cowboys who worked on the ranch began playing knock around polo games in their free time. Riding their quarter horses

with stock saddles, using makeshift equipment and knowing very little about polo, the cowboys played by their own rules. Rule #1 was the first rider to fall off their horse bought beer for the team, a tradition that

remains in place today. Eventually mallets, saddles and a few polo ponies were donated to the “cowboy games” and in 1991, a real polo club was born, the Sarasota Polo Club.

Today, the Sarasota Polo Club spans 170 acres. The world class facilities include 25 privately owned equestrian estates, seven grass polo fields, a regulation sized polo arena, a half mile all weather exercise track, dedicated stick & ball fields, the Sarasota Polo School, on site stabling and paddocks available for rental and so much more. So mark your calendar to be one of the privileged to see all this first hand while you sip champagne, enjoy some great cuisine and the company of your MSA friends.

**UPCOMING MSA SOCIAL EVENT
MARCH 15TH AT 11 A.M.**

You are cordially invited to attend a Sunday Brunch at the Polo Matches on March 15th at 11 A.M. at the Sarasota Polo Club, 8201 Polo Club Lane, Sarasota. We will be celebrating the “Wearing of the Green” in



honor of St. Patrick's Day as part of the festivities so I encourage you to participate in the fun. When you arrive at 11 A.M., a champagne drink will be waiting for you to get the party started.

Please be reminded to bring a chair, a sun hat, sunscreen, a dish to share (appetizer, entrée, side dish or dessert) and your personal beverage (alcohol is allowed.) I will bring pulled pork, rolls and cole slaw. Brunch will start about 11:30 A.M. to

give you time to enjoy your meal. During that time, you are invited to cross the field to check out the polo ponies getting dressed for the match or you can purchase a souvenir of the event in the gift shop at the clubhouse. Restrooms are on both sides of the field. But at 12:45 P.M. we will



be asked to clear the field and ready ourselves for the match to start at 1 P.M.

During the half time period, you will be invited to participate in the traditional “stomping of the divets” on the field. There is usually some fun entertainment going on at that time to enjoy as well. This is one of my favorite events and I am excited to invite you to attend. Please make your reservations by emailing me at gailgordon56@gmail.com no later than March 12th. The cost is \$25 per person and will be collected by ME on arrival at the BRUNCH. Please make checks payable to Manatee Sailing Association (or bring exact cash).

FYI: We are Tailgating on the North side of the field so when you drive in take a right on Fieldside Drive to park. Tell the attendants you are with the Manatee Sailing Association/ Gordon Reservation and they will direct you.

We will have our MSA signs up as well. See you there!

Gail Gordon
MSA Social Secretary



MSA Annual Terra Ceia Regatta April 18th

Saturday, April 18th, is our Terra Ceia Regatta date. MSA will rendezvous for Fun-in-the-Sun Boating on Terra Ceia Bay. Race and Party details will be provided in April.



Each year the details of the race and party change to meet our needs but the regatta traditions lives on. Stay tuned for upcoming information for this “not to be missed event” that has been around almost as long as the club has. See you there!

A Night with the Tampa Bay Rowdies May 2nd at 7:30 P.M.

Before it gets too hot and steamy let's rally to St. Petersburg to cheer on our home team at Al Lang Field. The Tampa Bay Rowdies are an American professional Soccer team based right

here in St. Petersburg Florida. The club was founded in 2008 and first took the pitch in 2010. Since 2017, the Rowdies have been members of the USL Championship in the second tier of the American soccer pyramid. A few years ago, a few members and I went to a Rowdies Game for the first time. I had no idea what was happening. So, I have since then done my homework. I've watched “Ted Lasso” 2 times! I decided to invest a few more dollars in better seats so this time we will be up close and personal with the field. Tickets have been ordered and reserved at \$34 each. As per usual we will have some dinner nearby prior to the “match”. (See, I'm learning!) Watch for emails to make your reservations. See you there!





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 2026 Officers

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