



Gale Tales

Manatee Sailing Association

Volume 41 Number 2

www.msasailing.org

February 2026

Up Coming Events

Event	Date	Time	Place
MSA Meeting	Feb 11	5:00 PM	Mean Dean's
Murder on the Ringling Express	Feb 22	2:00 PM	Florida Railroad Museum
DWBH	Mar 11	5:00 PM	Avocadoes
Polo	Mar 15	11:00 AM	Sarasota Polo Club
Cruise	Mar 26	4:00 PM	Bradenton Beach



AHOY MSA

As your 2026 Co-Commodore allow me to introduce myself. I was born in Knoxville, TN in 1942. Six months after my birth my mother and I flew to Miami to join my father who had just joined Eastern Airlines as a DC-3 pilot and Miami, FL was to be his base. So, during my early years in Miami we lived in Biscayne Park and Miami Shores, both northern suburbs of Miami. In those days, the 1950s, Biscayne Bay was pristine compared to today with a fair amount of undeveloped coastline and plenty of fish in its waters. At ten years of age I was allowed to go to the bay by myself and I spent the next five years mostly fishing and going to school. At age 15 we moved to South Miami again near Biscayne Bay but the south end this time and it was like being reborn as far as the places and things for a kid to do went. Here I got my first boat, an 8

FEBRUARY 22ND



FLORIDA RAILROAD MUSEUM

1/2 foot pram and with my Dad's 5 HP outboard on it, went all over south Biscayne Bay and the northern Keys camping and fishing with my buddies. It was the best part of my life so far. At about 16 I bought a 22 foot Chris Craft speed boat hull and refinished the hull inside and out and repowered it with a straight-six engine and now my buddies and I could cruise the Bay in style. It was a rather beautiful boat with classic lines. My next boat was an airboat I built and in which we explored the Everglades and had much fun and adventure.

I subsequently went to Uni. of Florida for 3 1/2 years in an architecture program that was not a promising career path for me, so I left school to learn to fly. Back in Miami I got married, found a job as a yacht carpenter at a well-known yard, Bertram's Yacht Basin, where I worked for a year learning many woodworking tricks which have been useful to this day and flew on weekends getting my Private, Commercial, and Instrument ratings which allowed me to apply to the airlines. Of course, Eastern was my first choice being the hometown airline plus they had just bought a bunch of B-727s and didn't have enough pilots to fly them so I figured they needed them, even under qualified pilots like me. I was right and fortunate to be applying at that time and was hired with less than 200 hours of single engine, fixed gear, fixed pitch prop time. I was amazed but very happy. Nowadays it takes 6 to 8,000 hours of turbine and glass cockpit time to even

apply successfully. I was sent to Boston to fly the L-188 Electra on the first and famous no-reservations-required shuttle between Boston, Washington, and NY LaGuardia. I did that for about a year then transferred to Atlanta and upgraded to the B-727 which is still my favorite airplane. I have 10,000 hours in that plane and it is a wonderfully capable flying machine.

Now begins my sailing career in earnest. I and a friend went in together and bought a 23 foot Neptune monohull lake-sailer and had that for quite a few years and enjoyed it, but I had dreams of a sailing catamaran in the Florida area. I nurtured that dream for about 10 years with a picture of a 34 foot Gemini 105 Mc catamaran taped in front of my desk until finally I bit the bullet and bought one in 2010 docked in Hobe Sound, FL just south of Stuart on the East Coast. It was a perfect boat for me, big enough to comfortably have another couple on board yet small enough for me to single-hand when I wanted to. I sailed that fine boat up and down the southern half of the East Coast from Vero Beach down as far as Tavernier in the Keys. This period of sailing came to an end when I wearied of the 11 hour drive from my house just SW of Atlanta to Hobe Sound so I decided to take the boat to a marina closer to home i.e. Panama City. When that was accomplished, the boat was only 6 hours from my house and will be much easier to sail more often.

After my retirement from the airlines, I decided to move me and the boat to Florida where I wanted to be all along. In May of 2016 my sailing buddy and I took the boat from Panama City to Cove Sound Marina in Cortez, FL and my subsequent sailing on the West Coast of Florida extended from Marco Island to Pensacola with all the stops and anchorages in between. It was a pleasure to own and sail this boat, but I recently got too old to do it safely and efficiently so I sold it this past November. After 15 years it was a sad day but still a relief not to have to do all the work required to keep a boat running. Now I'm boatless like many of our members as we age out of the ability to do an activity as strenuous as sailing. It's sad but inevitable, I guess, if you live long enough.

My aim now is to keep MSA alive and well with the help of Rick Jackerson our other Co-Commodore and the very capable Board of Directors which is Vice-Commodore Tom Briggle, Cruising Captain Jim McGinnis, Racing Captain Sue Davidson, Secretary Claude Solomon, Treasurer Linda Briggle, Social Secretary

Gail Gordon, Membership Chair Deana Boydston, and Past Commodore Jim McGinnis. With all that fine help how can 2026 be anything but successful?

A brief synopsis of our Board meeting on Jan. 21st:

We decided that there would be general meetings with dinner at Mean Dean's (6059 26th St. West, Bradenton) quarterly on the second Wednesday i.e. February 11, May 13, August 12, and November 11, 2026 with January 2027 having the Installation Dinner as usual. Your Board is going to try to have some interesting speakers this year for our general meetings and I will let the chairpersons of the other board positions fill you in on their plans for 2026, but I can tell you they have some great ideas in store for us.

Fair winds and smooth sailing even if it's not in your own boat,

Chuck Fulton,
Co-Commodore

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TALES OF A KITE FESTIVAL

I watched the weather reports for Martin Luther King weekend, January 16th, 17th and 18th, as if I had money riding on it. The week prior was unseasonably cold with fronts coming in right and left. Even with the questionable forecast, I kept seeing advertisements on TV and other media touting the many facets of the upcoming Kite Festival scheduled for that very weekend on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday



on the beach in Treasure Island. I had been there when it was cold and windy one year and it was unbearable. We were frozen and got sand blasted. I was focused on Saturday the 17th, the day I had planned an informal MSA event to attend the 2026 Treasure Island Kite Festival. I didn't have a huge response for those planning to join me but these were my MSA friends and members and I didn't want them coming up here and being

disappointed. The good news was that of the entire weekend, Saturday was

supposed to be the best day of the weekend....a cold start followed by a high of 68, no rain and a little wind. If that forecast held, we were going to be just fine.

Saturday morning, we packed the car with beach chairs, several blankets and a picnic basket and headed up to St. Pete about 9:15 A.M. We dressed for the cold morning adding parkas, hats, scarves and gloves to our ensembles. We arrived shortly after 10 A.M. and drove around the beach area looking for a place to leave the car. Parking was a crapshoot in Treasure Island and could turn out to be very expensive if you were not lucky. I was hoping we would have more parking options coming early and I wanted to be there first to be available for assistance to arriving members. We found a spot we



had used before, a short walk from the event on a side street. We took the last of

about 5 free parking places. Toting our beach caddy filled with our stuff, we made our way to the beach behind the old

Thunderbird hotel still under reconstruction from the damage of the 2025 hurricanes.

Bob and Karen Stewart called and said they were already on the beach and we

met up within minutes. We settled on picking a spot directly behind the ropes of the exhibition area. I was thrilled once again by looking up at the cobalt blue sky filled with huge colorful stationary kites.

Oh yes, this is what being at the kite festival was all about.

Bob and Karen had decided to get a hotel room, so they had their bikes in tow. I think renting a hotel room may be next year's plan for this activity. About an hour later, Rick and Adelia Jackerson and

Jim and Lynne McGinnis joined the growing circle of beach chairs.

Unfortunately, at that hour, they were required to pay a big fee for parking but as this was the only cost of the day, it was manageable. By 11 A.M., the show was in full swing and we had front rows seats to

witness complicated kite flying routines set to music. We started to remove layers of clothing as already the temperature had far exceeded the forecast highs and by midafternoon, it was close to 75 degrees with almost no wind. We were actually sweating!



The MSA gathering at the kite festival was complete when Bob and Linda Lund and Deb Jacobs added their chairs to our group for a total of 11. They found at midafternoon inexpensive beach parking was available. It was a nearly perfect day after all and once again, we

enjoyed sun, sand and surf among some of the most talented kite performers in North America who displayed their expertise to the public free. It was worth the effort, and I can hardly wait until next year! Thank you for joining me.



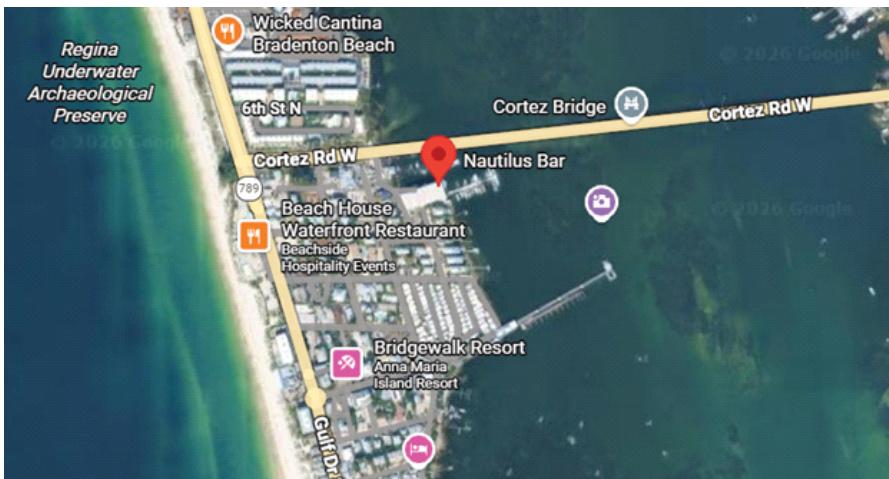
Gail Gordon
MSA Social Secretary

CRUISING

Ahoy all, I'd like you to hold the dates for an MSA Cruise late March, 3/26 to 3/29. 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 there. 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

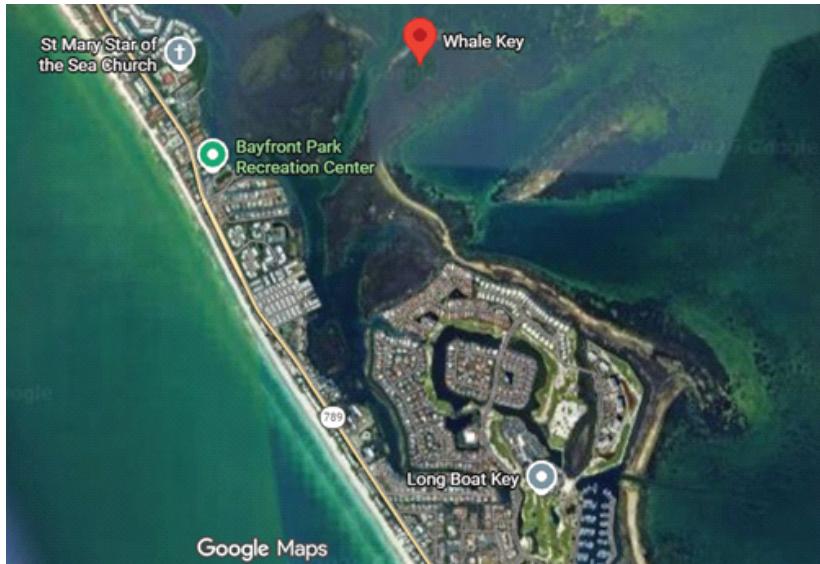
Bridgetender or possibly the new Nautilus Bar one day and at the Dry Dock Waterfront Restaurant on Longboat the next day. We have 4 boats with an expressed interest so far and hoping to gain a few more. Please send me a note if you are interested/available for any of the above or can contribute some other ideas for the weekend. jmcginni@stny.rr.com c:607-346-5408

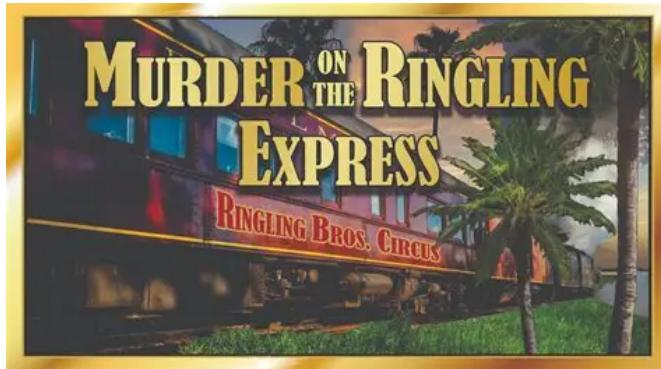
Jim McGinnis
Cruising Captain
S/V Brewster



Nautilus Bar at
Cortez Bridge

Whale Key - N
of Longboat Key
Moorings and
Publix on LBK





**AN APPOINTMENT WITH MURDER ON A
TRAIN RIDE TO WILLOW!
MSA SOCIAL EVENT FOR FEBRUARY 22ND
AT 2 P.M.**

All Aboard!!!! You are invited to participate in an afternoon of excitement as we may be a witness to a "Murder On The Ringling Express". The drama starts as we park our roadsters at the train station (Florida Railroad Museum located at 12210 83rd St. East in Parrish) and from there we will take a step back in time. Join John and Mable's Ringling's celebrity guests on a train journey filled with unexpected twists, catchy tunes and the allure of the open rails.

Guests will start their adventure on Sunday February 22nd at 2 P.M. sharp as we leave the station to enjoy a 30 minute vintage train ride to Willow. Upon arrival we will disembark for a 2:30 P.M. lavish outdoor luncheon and then participate in solving a mysterious murder case that involves some of the invited guests. Who did it and why? Once the case is finally solved, we will be free to journey back to Parrish for a final 30 minute train ride home.

The Murder Mystery Train Adventure last about 3 hours.

Several dinner options are available and must be pre-ordered with your reservations.

- Grilled Chicken Pomodoro topped with a San Marzano tomato basil sauce
- Chargrilled Pork Loin Chop basted with a maple cinnamon glaze
- Portabella Mushroom stuffed with spinach, zucchini, onion and topped with parmesan cheese

All dinners include a fresh vine ripened tomato salad, sides of zucchini pesto and roasted new curry potatoes.

Soft drinks and water are included. For dessert, strawberry shortcake will be served. Yum!

The cost per person for the backwoods Florida train excursion, a lavish luncheon and the exciting live Murder Mystery Drama is \$75 per person. I purchased a small group of tickets in advance. Be mindful that the possibility of acquiring additional tickets will diminish as time goes on so, please make your plans ASAP. Email me at gailgordon56@gmail.com for reservations as soon as possible.

**"SILVER SAILS"
THE 2026 MSA INSTALLATION BANQUET
AND PARTY**

Back in December when the board was finalizing on the details of the upcoming MSA Installation Banquet scheduled for January 18th, Gary Morgan, our Gale Tales editor, asked me to explain the meaning of my idea of "Silver Sails" as the theme for that event. Frankly, I was too embarrassed to admit that it all began when I had purchased a shimmery silver lame' dress on clearance that I had planned to wear that night. So I searched for a better answer to Gary's question. I have been in the club a long time, over 30 years now, and in that time, I have witnessed many changes in the club. However, the biggest change has been in me! I got older, along with most of the MSA members who have traveled these years with me.

Even though I am a "blonde", I have silver hair underneath. I went from a vibrant 50 year old to a very senior "senior" in a blink of the eye. We have been through good times and bad times together as a blended family and somehow, we have weathered the storms. Most of us don't even own a boat anymore. Yet, I still see us as we were in "the day", sails full of wind and cruising on the beautiful gulf water, together. So, in essence, that's what I thought of when I picked that theme. I hope you didn't mind the rather nostalgic "reflection".

Although it was a cold stormy evening, somehow all the details came together perfectly. I arrived at the Terra Ceia Country Club early along with our all-time favorite DJ, talented Chuck Weirich so we could set up equipment and decorate the tables. Gina and Mike Spellacy and Chuck Fulton were the "setting up" crew since I could not do much with my broken arm. The coastal turquoise blue



tablecloths added some warmth to the otherwise gray day. The silver stars and gems were a tribute to the members and the centerpiece of a ring of sails emphasized our history. Jim and Lynne McGinnis gave us a helpful push to be ready in time as MSA members arrived at 6 P.M to join the festivities. Chuck entertained us with his great selection of music as we all gathered around the bar to enjoy a drink and visit. Somehow, this particular banquet had a different flavor, it felt like a family reunion and I guess it was.

After some great MSA camaraderie, we took our seats and enjoyed a buffet dinner of our favorite comfort foods. After a dessert of some crazy turquoise blue cupcakes, Jim McGinnis, our outgoing commodore took the podium. He called up the 2025 MSA board to pay his respects and thank them for not one year

of service but two. It was then Jim's pleasure to announce the MSA awards for 2025. Bobbie Goss was presented the "Toot Your Own Horn Award" for her continued participation over the years. Next, not a surprise at all, Ed Hartung received the "Salty Sailor Award". I could not imagine a more appropriate title for him! And with great applause and ovation, Linda Briggle received the coveted "Member of the Year Award" for countless hours of work and dedication to MSA over and beyond expectation. I must add, that I myself received an honor that was very unexpected. The 2025 MSA board presented me with "A Lifetime Achievement Award". I was thrilled and touched by the sentiment.

Then as per tradition, Jim called up the MSA board for 2026: Commodore, Rick Jackerson and 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. We wished them luck as they started a new year of MSA history. After a few words from our co-Commodores, finally the dance floor was opened for all members to sway to the music for the rest of the night. And so, we did!

As I get older, I appreciate these times of celebration even more. We have a long

history together in a world where few things last. It is a pleasure and honor to raise my glass to an organization that has given us a lot more over the years than sailing. MSA, here's to you!

Gail Gordon
MSA Social Secretary

PS, I never got to wear that shimmery silver dress anyway. It wouldn't go over my broken arm!





Sunday Brunch at the Polo Matches! March 15th at 11 A.M.

Let's celebrate St. Patrick's Day and the Wearing of the Green at the Sarasota Polo Matches on March 15th in Lakewood Ranch. We start the festivities with a glass of champagne on arrival at 11 A.M. Bring a folding chair and a favorite dish to share, your own preferred beverage and an adventuresome spirit as we cheer on one of the oldest sporting events on the planet, polo. Brunch will be served about 11:30 A.M., which will give us time after to take a walk across the field to see the horses.



The match starts at 1 P.M. and be prepared to salute the players with a hand slap as they come onto the field. Feel the ground vibrate as the horses almost fly past us in pursuit of a winning goal. Join in at the traditional halftime entertainment with the "divot stomp". We've been here before and we know this has become a favorite Sunday outing in Sarasota and also with MSA. I have

reserved 3 tailgate spots together in the preferred center area for better viewing. Cost per person is just \$25. Make your reservations by emailing me at gailgordon56@gmail.com to hold your spot. See you there on the field wearing "Green" for St' Patricks Day and a day at the polo matches!

MSA Annual Terra Ceia Regatta April: date to be announced

Our racing Captain Sue Davidson is making plans for the 2026 Terra Ceia



Regatta as I write this article. 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



MSA 2026 Officers

Commodore - Rick Jackson &
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