



Gale Tales

Manatee Sailing Association

Volume 40 Number 2

www.msasailing.org

February 2025

Up Coming Events February 2025

Event	Date	Time	Place
Member Meeting	Feb 12	5:00 PM	Modern Chop
Art to Stage Tour	Feb 24	11:00 AM	Van Wezel Theater



AHOY MSA MEMBERS, FRIENDS, AND FAMILY,

On the Horizon

Event	Date	Time	Place
Cortez Nautical Flea Market	Mar 8	9:00 AM	Florida Maritime Museum
Sand & Kite Festival	Mar 8&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

Our Installation of Officers was conducted on January 19th 2025, at the Terra Ceia Country Club. We had Chuck Weirick again as our DJ/Horn player. Your club officers committed to their roles for a second year and are brimming with enthusiasm.

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 and a DRAFT calendar for the year. The highlight for the evening will be a slide show by Gail and Chuck on their bucket list trip from Patagonia to Cape Horn. They have promised to return from India in time. Tom has a DWBH set for March 12 at RJ Gators and we will have more details on the Calendar.

Van Wezel Art to Stage Tour



February 24th

On March 8th, MSA will set up a table for members to sell items at Cortez nautical flea market, located behind the Florida Maritime Museum in Cortez. Contact Jim McGinnis if you have items to sell or could take a 3 hour shift at our table.

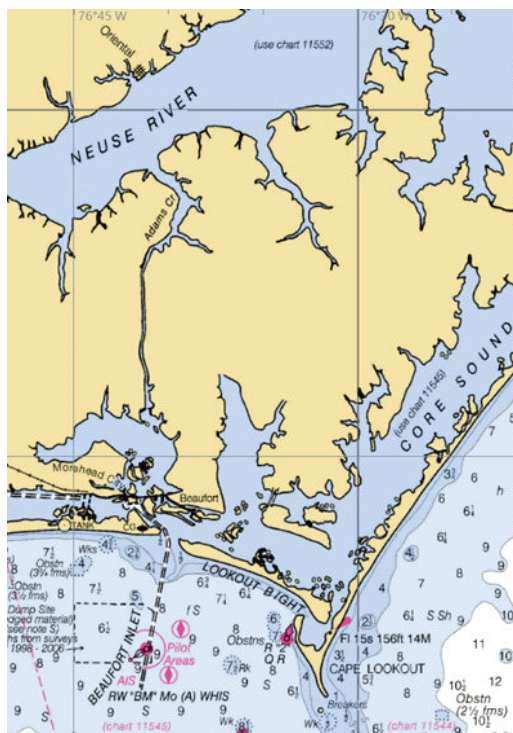
My sea story for this month relates to the first time I chartered a sailboat. It was June of 1990. We had a group of friends at work at Corning in Wilmington, NC who liked to talk about the idea of an offshore sail. Eventually, we figured out who was really interested and put together a crew list. One guy had been a delivery captain and was an experienced sailor and could play a guitar. So he was in. I had sailed several different types of small sloops but nothing over 20 ft. But I had recently completed the ASA 101-103 Bareboat Chartering courses. I made some phone calls and figured out where a decent boat was located. In Oriental, NC there is a small marina on the Neuse River which flows into Pamlico Sound. A

sailor was renting out his 1978 Morgan Out Island 30 "Saba Spice" for weekend Charters. (This boat is a smaller version of the classic 41 ft Morgan Center Cockpit that for years was the go-to charter boat in the Caribbean islands.) He recommended a trip from Oriental down the Intracoastal Waterway ("the ditch" to Beaufort, NC and Morehead City. (BO-Fort" which is not to be confused with Beaufort, SC "Bew-Fort") We decided to go a little further to Cape

Lookout and Lookout Bight. The Bight is located midway between Cape Fear to the south and Cape Hatteras 65 nm north. We drove up to Oriental on Friday night after work and the crew stayed the night in the boat in the slip. Motoring down the ICW was uneventful. The Ditch – the ICW is 20 nm from Oriental, NC to the Atlantic Ocean. We tracked our course on a paper chart and watched the channel markers carefully to make sure we stayed in the dredged portion. We headed east and anchored off Shacklefords Bank. After

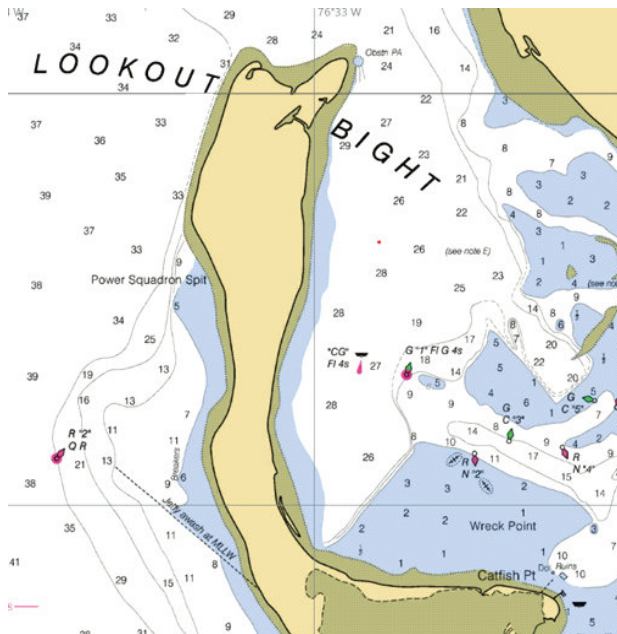
lunch, we headed into the beach to go swimming and surfing. We were immediately greeted wild horses that live on the island. They looked at us with an inquisitive stare. That was awkward. We headed back to the boat when we noticed a dark cloud heading our way. We decided to sail to Lookout Bight to get out of the weather. Pretty soon the wind was building and we could see the dark squall rain heading towards us. We dropped the sails and started motoring as fast as possible. In minutes, the wind was driving huge

raindrops that blasted the boat and were stinging us. Visibility was dropping as we entered the Bight and set the anchor in good sand and 30 ft of water. We sat out the storm and saw that there were about 10 boats in the Bight that were in a similar condition. It's 5 o'clock somewhere. That evening we cooked steaks on the grill and could see the Cape Hatteras and Cape Lookout Lighthouses winking.



Oriental to Shacklefords Bank and the Bight

Inside Lookout Bight there is a nasty shoal. The depth on the chart goes from 26 ft to 3 ft in less than 25 meters. The area is aptly named Wreck Point and features a couple of wrecks noted on the chart. From where we were anchored, we could see a 40 ft house boat that had blown on to the shoal. I never heard if their anchor dragged, or they just hit the shallows that afternoon in all the excitement. We took the dinghy to see what was going on and met a few people that were trying to help out. But the tide was still dropping at 4 PM and it was decided that by midnight everyone in the



Shallows in Lookout Bight

Bight would come over just before high tide and see if we could push it off. Not sure if it was the tide, a favorable wind or the liberal application of alcohol on the happy crew but one way or the other it was soon floating again. A beach party ensued. The next morning we sailed offshore a bit and then headed back to Oriental. We returned the boat in by the end of the day. In 48 hours

we learned to sail that boat pretty well. We also got a few lessons in keeping an eye on the weather, planning the next safe anchorage and anchoring in a crowded bay. We were hooked.

Jim McGinnis
Commodore
s/v Brewester

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Karen and Bob Stewart
Deb Harris, DVM
Rick Hagan

Certified Health Coach

Betty Burton, RN, MSN

941.518.4493
www.facebook.com/betty.h.burton
HappyHealthyYouCoach@gmail.com



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Ed Hartung
USCG Licensed Capt.



P.O. Box 4101
Anna Maria, FL 34216

**THE TREASURE ISLAND ANNUAL KITE
FESTIVAL
POSTPONED DUE TO HURRICANE
DAMAGES!**

By Gail Gordon

If it hadn't been for a few MSA members who got curious, about 20 or so of us would have driven up to the beach in Treasure Island for a day of sun, fun and kites only to be disappointed! I couldn't believe that at the last minute when the weather looked better and better, the event crash landed. But why?

Chuck and I drove up to Treasure Island Saturday January 18th with our picnic lunch and a few kites in hand to see exactly what was going on. We parked on the street without any trouble since there weren't many other visitors



around. But as we walked toward the beach and stood in front of the 1951 vintage Thunderbird Hotel, the damage and destruction was monumental. We wondered if the building could actually be saved. There were a few nearby hotels with signs that read "open" but everything looked broken and bent. Even the access to the beach was restricted due to debris still scattered around. But as we looked up to the sky, kites were soaring proudly and there were lots of them. There were people sitting on the beach enjoying a day of slightly warmer temperatures. I talked



to a few folks hoping to get more information about the postponement but they were as surprised as we were. So we picked a spot on the beach ourselves and watched at least 50 or so kite enthusiasts fly their kites along with some professionals who practiced their routine without music or fanfare.

Chuck tried out his newest kite purchased 2 years ago at the festival and even attracted an expert to help him out with instructions and hints. We spent several hours hanging out and actually playing at the beach, something we had not done in a long time. Even without a formal festival, it was still fun!

But it was on the walk back to the car that I finally put 2 and 2 together. The actual infrastructure of Treasure Island is in a rather precarious state at present. None of the metered parking lots were in working order and most of the government buildings like the city hall were washed away or abandoned. I heard a rumor that plans were in the works for sometime in March as a new date of the Treasure Island Kite Festival. I'll keep a vigil but I think it will take a long time to get this beach town back in business. The most surprising thing was that the beach looked perfect! Oh well, I'll keep my fingers crossed!

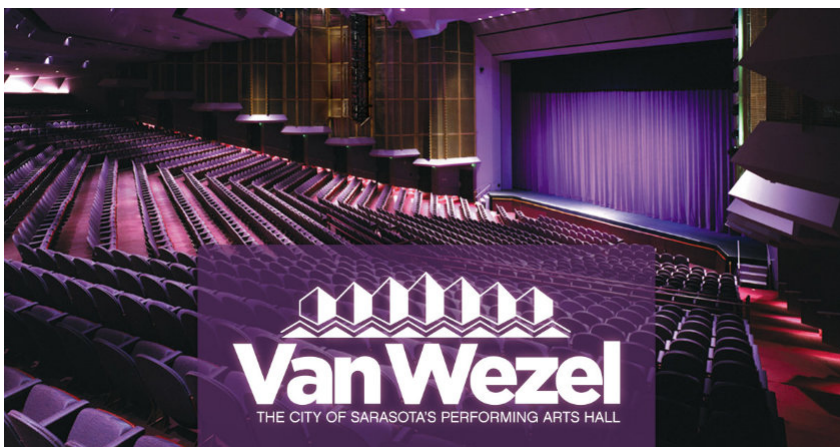


**Behind the Curtain of the Van Wezel
Theater
From the Art to the Stage
Monday February 24th at 11 A.M.**

Some have you have seen the artworks displayed on the walls of the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall on the way to your seats to enjoy a great show. Maybe you even stopped to admire a painting. You may not have known these paintings and sculptures were created by noted Florida artists and are on loan from Arts Advocates, the Sarasota-based organization whose mission is to connect the community to the arts. Art Advocate is a membership organization dedicated to inspiring creativity and advancing education. Arts Advocates has the foremost collection of works by Sarasota Art Colony artists on public view. The entire collection contains more than 60 pieces representing a wide range of media and styles dating from the 1930s to the present. Selections of the Arts Advocates collection are on display at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, and at the Arts Advocate Gallery inside the Crossings at Siesta Key Mall.

A docent will take you on a tour of the paintings and sculptures at the Van Wezel Theater including those by Robert Chase, William Hartman, Eugene White, Ben Stahl, Julio de Diego, Thornton Utz, Frank Colson, and Dean Mitchell, to name just a few. Then after the art experience you will step onto the stage where a Van Wezel guide will give you a peek behind the

curtain to learn about the many hands that create thrilling shows for your enjoyment. You will see the ropes and pulleys that "fly" the scenery on and off the stage, the movable orchestra pit, dressing room, and loading dock where traveling shows back up their 18-wheelers to move their shows onto the stage. All the while you'll be dazzled by stories and anecdotes around



the colorful world of show business!

Please join me for this private, docent led 1 hour and 30 minute tour of the special art pieces located in the Van Wezel Theater and a backstage look at how the theater operates when the big shows are in town. The price of a ticket is \$15 per person (with a minimum of 12) and the proceeds benefit the Van Wezel's Education/Outreach programs, Community Engagement and the Arts Advocates. As always we plan to have a fabulous lunch (TBA) near the Van Wezel in Sarasota after the tour at about 1 P.M. Please email me at gailgordon56@gmail.com with your reservations no later than February 20th. Hope to see you there!

UPCOMING MSA MARCH SOCIAL EVENT:

Weekend in Mt. Dora for the Antique Boat Show

Friday March 21st to Sunday March 23rd

"The Sunnyland Antique Boat Festival is in its 44th year and is the largest classic wood boat show in the U.S. With over 250 boats. The nautical flea market has more than 80 vendors with many hard to find marine parts for sale.

The Sunnyland Chapter is the largest chapter in the Antique and Classic Boat Society (ACBS) and represents the entire state of Florida. The show started in Sanford, moved to Mount Dora and for the past 14 years the show has been in Tavares."

Folks, the dates for this wonderful MSA field trip are March 21st, 22nd and 23rd. As driving up and back home in a day would be undesirable, an overnight stay of at least one or preferable two nights in the Tavares/Mt. Dora area would promise to make this event a delightful adventure. But it is imperative to make reservations NOW in order to find a reasonable hotel in the area. Most allow free cancellation close to the booking date so check that before confirming your reservation. Remember, this is prime season for snow birds, Spring Break time and there will be an influx of 80 vendors looking for a place to stay as well. There is a gorgeous historic resort directly on Lake Dora that I originally had my eye



on called the Lakeside Inn. But instead I booked a cottage walking distance to the Mt. Dora town center so we could use it as a gathering place for a Happy Hour or a cook-out for the group.

The boat show will be located in Wooten Park 123 South Joanne Ave in Tavares. During the weekend I will try to organize meeting points for getting together at local restaurants and offer a few group activities other than the boat show.

Please make your decision to join us now and reserve a room ASAP. Don't delay! This will be a first of its kind in MSA Social Event history and I hope I can pull it off successfully. Please let me know if you are planning to attend this event by emailing me at gailgordon56@gmail.com. I hope to see you there!

Gail Gordon
MSA Social Secretary

**MSA'S 40TH RUBY JUBILEE/2025
INSTALLATION BANQUET
NOW A PART OF MSA HISTORY**



found it important to honor this great achievement. I hope you all felt “honored” during our big celebration because YOU are MSA!

It took some time for the light bulbs to go off in my head! As I was searching for a theme for the Installation Banquet I resorted to all sorts of poems, songs, book titles, catch phrases and sailing terms. After all these years, we’ve come up with a lot of different themes for our parties. I was afraid I had used all the good ones. I was drawing a blank. One day I had to send an anniversary card to my sister and Voila! I saw a card with a plastic Ruby on it. The card celebrated 40 years. I quickly did the math and bam!.....We had a theme! Our Ruby Jubilee! But more than that, we had to make this a big deal because it really was. Ruby is the gemstone for 40 years and jubilee has a slightly regal connotation. Perfect!

I go way back in club history but not back to the beginning. MSA has been around for 40 years and I came in around year 10. It was then I remember that MSA’s racing years were beginning to wind down and



some old members and some new members (me) were more interested in cruising. It was around that time that some of the original members went elsewhere to compete in races. So the club, over the years has had to tack one way and then another to compensate for different ideas and attitudes and yes, ages. That’s how we’ve survived and thrived. So when it came to our banquet /anniversary party the board

Members started to arrive just before 6 P.M. on Sunday evening January 19th. The rain had stopped earlier but the cold winds were beginning to blow. Once inside the Terra Ceia Bay Country Club, guests were greeted with tables all aglow. Set in red with touches of gold, the décor had an unusual elegance about it. A crown centerpiece paid homage to the special guests attending. Giant rubies were sprinkled in abundance among red roses. And if there was a fashion statement to be made that evening, it was the color red. Both ladies and gents paid tribute to the club.



Our favorite DJ, Chuck Weirich played soft music as about 45 members gathered in fellowship around the bar. At about 6:30 the delicious buffet dinner was served and members filled their plates yummy lasagna, beef stew and flavorful chicken and found a seat near MSA friends. For dessert, gold trays of red velvet cupcakes topped with rosettes of cream cheese frosting were presented to each table. Once our royal bellies were full, Commodore Jim McGinnis began the festivities of the evening. First,



Jim took some time encouraging members to tell a story or two from MSA history that members may not know about. Ed Hartung, who was a member in the early years, gave us some insight to what the club was like. Jim



had asked me to share some memories and I reminisced about a lot of things like Terra Ceia weekends, Party barge at the Vinoy, and my surprise marriage ceremony during an MSA meeting. Jim used the words “Be Inspired” as his message for the evening and as I looked around at all the faces of the members that night, I was indeed inspired. On that note, the 2024 MSA Officers were asked to come to the front for recognition. And then the 2025 MSA Officers were announced. There were no changes as all officers stayed on another year. Now that’s inspiring!

The presentation of MSA Awards was the next order of business. The Boat of the Year Award was given to Chuck Fulton and his S/V Wanderin’ Star. He along with Sal Alfonso have been and are still MSA Cruising Captains. Their organization of 2 great sail-a-way weekends in 2024 meant a lot to the club. And to add more to the accolades to the amazing duo, Sal Alfonso won the coveted Race Series Award. Congratulations to both.



Next came The Member Of the Year Award which was presented to Sue Davidson for her service as Racing Captain. She organized, planned and created a very successful 2024 Terra Ceia. And she had the inspiration to add some spice to our MSA Christmas Party with a Chili Bake Off. Way cool Sue!



The Salty Sailor Award went to the Mike and Gina Spellacy who did not look too “salty” that evening. Donning a fashionable top hat Mike, and Gina who sparkled and accepted the honor gracefully and with style.

Last but certainly not least, was the ever growing Toot Your Own Horn Award! Looking regal and elegant Bob and Linda Lund gathered at the stage to accept the honor. Linda held



the awards long chain of recipients as Bob with ease blew the horn like a professional. Congratulations all!

But there was one more presentation to be made! The officers of MSA proudly

presented Gary and Carla Morgan a Lifetime Achievement Award for all the years of participation, enthusiasm, and service in every capacity. They also received from members

a rousing ovation! No one deserves this honor more! If that is not inspirational, I don't know what is! Great job MSA! Congrats!

Now never let it be said that sailors do not know how to party! And in this department, MSA members are top of the line. To the

music of our favorite DJ we twisted and shouted, slow danced, did the electric slide and the Macarena and anything else we could manage for the rest of the evening. Yes, we'd be sore the next day but we'd worry about that then. This night was a

night to celebrate and by gosh we did it royally. I have been a member for about 30 years and I have never been prouder of that fact then I was at this event. Thank you MSA for being an

organization that has become my family, my inspiration, a big part of my story and my heart. Our diamond celebration is only 10 years away. Hope to see you there!

Gail Gordon
MSA Social Secretary

[Click here to see photo album](#)





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.

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 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