



Gale Tales

Manatee Sailing Association

Volume 40 Number 1 www.msasailing.org January 2025



Up Coming Events

January 2025

Event	Date	Time	Place
Kite Festival	Jan 18	10:00 AM	Treasure Island Beach
Installation Dinner	Jan 19	6:00 PM	Terra Ceia Country Club

AHOY MSA MEMBERS, FRIENDS, AND FAMILY,

Happy New Year 2025! It is unbelievable that we are 25% through the new century. Best wishes to all! Health, Happiness and Peace on Earth.

On the Horizon

Event	Date	Time	Place
Member Meeting	Feb 12	5:00 PM	Modern Chop
Antique Boat Show	Mar 21	10:00 AM	Mt Dora/ Tavares

We had a terrific MSA Christmas Party at Lund's condominium clubhouse in Cortez. Great turn-out and a very Merry event! I thought I had an ugly sweater, but I was severely outclassed. Unlimited chili and cornbread with sour cream was the big winner that night. We had 9 chili's for the competition and a couple more by the end of the night.

MSA Installation Dinner

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

RUBY RED
Gala

Terra Ceia Country Club
January 19th

Our Installation of Officers will be conducted on January 19th 2025 at the Terra Ceia Country Club. Hope to see you all there. We have Chuck Weirick again as our DJ/Horn player! Gail will be back in the country to make it all right. Please make your reservations as soon as possible! We need to get the final head count for the Club.

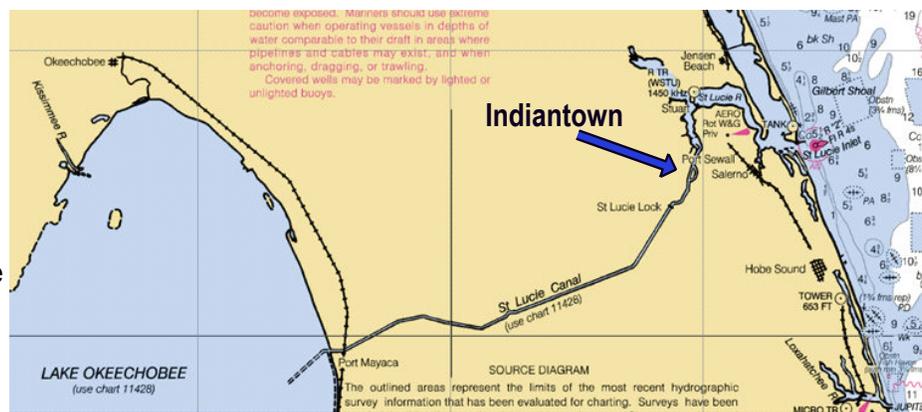
MSA Membership Meeting – Our next Membership Meeting is 2/12/25 at 5PM at the Modern Chop 1830 59th St W Bradenton, FL 34209. We will have a quarterly membership meeting with updates from our officers, committee chairs and a DRAFT calendar for the year.

My sea story for this month describes a friend's experience in a unique marina on the east coast of Florida. Indiantown Marina is a protected hurricane hidey hole and a great spot to work on your boat. It's a jumping off point for heading to the Berry Islands and the Bahamas. Many sailors come to Stuart and the Jenson Beach area but our good friends picked Indiantown after looking at the options. This marina is on the St Lucie Canal heading to the St Lucie Lock on Lake Okeechobee. We visited our friends Jeff and Claudia on their Nauticat 30. It's a beautiful 1975 pilothouse ketch with teak decks. At 7150lbs, ~ 40ft Air draft and 4.5ft draft, it is relatively Intracoastal Waterway friendly.

The Indiantown marina office crew was terrific and encouraged cruisers to have packages and mail forwarded there for what appeared to be any amount of time. There was a pile of boxes and Amazon shipments that Jeff sorted through to find their engine parts, medicines and care packages from relatives. The marina has a large travel lift, plenty of parking and nice picnic area with a pool. Jeff had made good friends with a number of sailors in the marina working as a team on

bottom painting, electronics and diesel engines. Great marina for an extended stay to work on a boat.

Jeff and Claudia also have 2 large dogs (English Setters). Lynne and I stayed at the Seminole Inn nearby. It's a historic hotel built in the early 1900's to take advantage of the new railroad station nearby. Socialites stopped there on their way to Miami. Wallace Simpson's uncle owned it. She invited the Vanderbilt's and other US royalty to visit. Yes, she's the one that married a prince and caused him to abdicate the British Crown in the 1930's. The hotel is historic but maybe not worth a visit today unless you are in the area.



Jeff had invited us to go for a day sail on Lake Okeechobee so we headed down the canal towards the lake. The bridge is only 48ft high so that's a limit for many coming through but not for us. Years ago, an enterprising guy set up a business using water barrels to tip sailboats over to fit under the bridge. Alas, he is not there anymore. (Probably a law against it now.) We went through the lock with about 25

jet skiers that were headed for a beach spot. That was noisy! We powered out of the lock and sailed the boat out into the lake. Depth varies from 10 to 13 feet in the channel across the lake. Lake Okeechobee is like the biggest pond you ever saw. There was fairly light air that day and the boat was crabbing sideways almost as much as going forward. The wind soon freshened and she began to track pretty well in just more than 8 knots. In early afternoon, we headed back through the lock and returned to the marina. At about dusk, Claudia started charging around the boat closing all the

screens. Mosquitos were soon thick in the air outside and she was looking for any holes that that might be letting them in. So beware. We had a terrific dinner on the boat and really enjoyed the day. When it was time to leave we said our goodbyes and ran down the dock ahead of the mosquitos and back to the Seminole Inn.

Again – Happy New Year and see you at the Installation Dinner.

Jim McGinnis
Commodore
s/v Brewester

MAKING 2025 YOUR BEST YEAR YET ON THE WATER

The New Year is about embracing change and pursuing growth, whether through learning new skills, exploring unfamiliar waters, or simply finding more joy in your maritime pursuits. By adding these unique resolutions and bucket-list goals to your plans, you can make 2025 a year of adventure, connection, and deeper appreciation for the sea.

For the Sailors: Master the Art and Explore New Waters

1. Learn a New Sailing Skill:

Whether it's perfecting a downwind spinnaker set or mastering the nuances of celestial navigation, make 2025 the year you challenge yourself to grow as a sailor.

2. Participate in a Regatta or Sailing Rally:

If you've never raced, join a local regatta, or try an organized sailing rally like the Terra Ceia Regatta. The camaraderie and competition are unforgettable.

3. Sail to an Unfamiliar Destination:

Chart a course to somewhere new — a remote cove, an island you've never visited, or even an international harbor. Expanding your sailing grounds is one of the most rewarding experiences.

4. Volunteer for a Youth Sailing Program:

Share your passion by mentoring the next generation of sailors. Organizations like the Sea Scouts or local yacht clubs often need experienced sailors to teach skills and inspire young enthusiasts.

**HAPPY NEW YEARS!!!
JANUARY 2025 MSA SOCIAL EVENTS
A SPECIAL MSA WEEKEND**

**ANNUAL KITE FESTIVAL
SATURDAY JANUARY 18TH 2025**

Please join me on Saturday January 18th at the Annual Treasure Island Kite Festival located at 10700 Gulf Blvd. on the beach in front of the Thunderbird Hotel running from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. I have attended this weekend event for the last two years and have been stunned at the visual beauty and skilled expertise of the kite performances done strictly by hobbyists who have spent hours choreographing their routines. Bring a beach chair, a blanket if it's cool and a picnic lunch and spend a day listening to wonderful music from as far back as the 1940's to the



present day hip hop and watch the skies fill with gorgeous synchronized kites dancing with uncanny rhythm to the tunes. This is a free event and weather sensitive. It can be cool or breezy along the water so dress accordingly. Remember Treasure Island was hit hard with the recent hurricanes so I will alert you to available parking and meeting point info closer to the date.

**MSA ANNUAL INSTALLATION BANQUET
SUNDAY JANUARY 19TH 2025**

You are invited to MSA's Ruby Jubilee Celebration starting at 6 P.M. at the Terra Ceia Country Club located at 2802 Terra Ceia Bay Blvd. This is the night that we



dress up and formally thank the MSA Board Members for their faithful service in 2024 and welcome the 2025 MSA Board Members offering them our support and fellowship in the New Year. But there is something else to be celebrated that night that deserves our full attention. Manatee Sailing Association has reached a landmark point in its history. The year 2025 will mark the clubs 40 year anniversary. This is the night that we will raise a glass to "MSA"! We have been through good years and lean years but along the way we have not only survived, we have thrived. We have grown and we have matured but we are still kicking with the best of them. If you research the word "jubilee" it has a slightly royal connotation to it. We deserve that bit of class. It comes with age! I hope you agree and will honor us with your presence on this special occasion.

The evening will start off 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

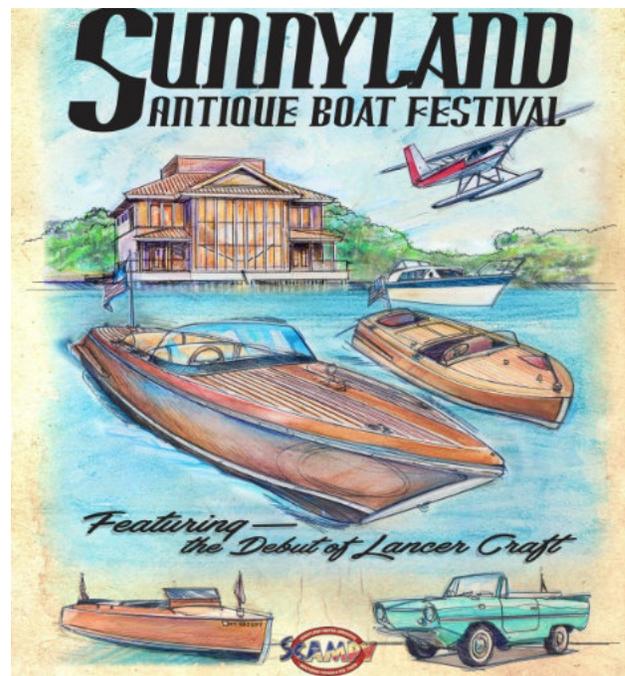
entertainer, DJ Chuck Weirich. After dessert and coffee, the installation of officers will take place along with the presentation of awards. Once the ceremonies are finished we let the real celebration begin. We dance till we drop! The cost to attend the Ruby Jubilee Celebration, dinner and Installation of Officers is \$40 per person and reservations must be made on or before January 9th, 2025. This special event

only happens once in a lifetime and we should be proud of the honor. Please join me in celebrating a gem of an organization, Manatee Sailing Association and wish her a Happy 40th Anniversary.

Gail Gordon
MSA Social Secretary

Important Information about a Future MSA Field Trip Weekend An MSA Weekend Field Trip to Tavares in the Mt. Dora area for the 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. Our footprint is over a third of a mile long and we usually have 250 to 300 boats on display. Our gate attracts 8 to 10 thousand people and there is literally something for everyone at our event. Our nautical flea market has more than 80 vendors with many hard to find marine parts for sale. We will have several stunning outboard motors on display as well as numerous race boats. Our annual event is in conjunction with spring break as is the kick-off show for the boating season. People from all over the U.S. attend our show and we have representation from over 26 different states. We have several corporate sponsors that make our show a success and they offer many marine products to include new and restored vintage boats. The Sunnyland Chapter is the largest chapter in the Antique and Classic Boat Society (ACBS) and represents the entire state of Florida. Our show is run with all volunteer help. This is our 44th anniversary show and each year our show gets bigger and better. 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. However, there are many other hotel and rental possibilities in both the Mt. Dora and



Tavares area. 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

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Betty Burton, RN, MSN

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P.O. Box 4101
Anna Maria, FL 34216

MSA CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 15TH

Something old, something new, sprinkled with a few crazy things to do... That was our 2024 Christmas party. As we all know, 2024 was not a usual year. Hurricanes were devastating for so many of our members, including Ed and Betty Burton who had originally offered to



have the Christmas party at their house. So, where could we have our party this year on late notice? Commodore McGinnis put the call to Bob&Linda Lund asking if they could offer their clubhouse. Not a problem to use the clubhouse but another issue to actually put together and host an event on short notice. As usual, our club has so many wonderful people who step up and make the event happen.

Even though Gail and Chuck were going to be gone, Gail put together festive table decorations. As well, she revived an old MSA tradition of Christmas ornaments. I cannot imagine the number of hours it took for her to make the beautiful Christmas tree ornaments we can add to our collection. Thank you so much for your work, Gail.

Helen Chouinard and Lynn McGinnis helped to organize and set up the clubhouse. Bob and Jim strung up the lights and hung the decorations to make it festive. We thought

we would sprinkle in some fun with an ugly sweater contest... Who better than Sue Davidson to organize this event. But Sue took it to a new level and suggested we have a chili cook off as well! What a fun, successful event. Once again, the call goes out to our members and we had nine pots of varied and delicious chili to taste. Who knew there were so many different variations of chili—from a green chili to a chicken chili to hot and spicy chili, a somewhat vegetable chili and many variations in between. Carla Morgan walked away with the winning chili pot of money. Congratulations to her!

Let's not forget the ugly sweater contest. With 11 entries, Arja seemed to be the clear winner of the ugliest... Sweater that is!

Many thanks to Sue for an outstanding job of organizing the main event. She continues to put FUN in MSA. And to Helen, Lynn, Jim, Arja and Clay for the support and help. It was so appreciated.



Our thanks to everyone for coming and enjoying the season. There were 40 of us there with smiles and well wishes for the coming year ahead. Merriest of holidays to you all and cheers to 2025.

Linda and Bob Lund

CHILI COOKOFF

A Jumbo Thank You to our members who slaved over a hot stove and then delivered their creations to our Christmas party.

I'd like to acknowledge the creative chefs that competed in our Chili Cook-off.

Carla Morgan, our Contest WINNER, brought her historic and beloved "Wick Fowler's Chili" with Texas roots and Carla's yummy tweaks.

Deb Jacobs: Creamy crockpot white chicken chili

Linda Marquardt/Bob Lund: Smoky Ancho chili pepper chili with their roasted, re-hydrated, and pureed ancho chilis.

Bobbie Goss: Green Turkey Chili, a Salsa Verde white bean concoction with garlic and warm spices like cumin.



Patti Korn: Vegetarian chili with EXTRA veggies.

Karen Stuart: Gasless Ghirardelli Chocolate chili (no beans)! Sweet potato was her surprise ingredient.

Rick/Adelia Jackerson: The Best Chili Recipe

Sue/Clay: Clay's Lotta Work chili

Sara Weintraub and John arrived too late to compete.

Sue Davidson
s/v Grrrrrr

[Click Here for Christmas Photo Album](#)

You are cordially invited to attend
MSA's Ruby Jubilee Celebration

and

The 2025 MSA Installation Banquet



January 19, 2025



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 9, 2025

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

**MSA'S VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS
STROLL AT THE PLANT MUSEUM
DECEMBER 2ND**

About 20 years ago I happened upon the Christmas tradition of a Holiday decorative version of the Plant Museum. I had been in Tampa on another mission and we noticed a festival in progress beneath the famous onion shaped turrets of the University of Tampa. I don't remember much about that experience so I was excited when I recently scheduled an MSA tour during the month of December.



I was not surprised when I had just a few participants that were willing to make the hour long drive to downtown Tampa let alone manage the street parking in the congested area. But I was happy to have 8

MSA members join me on what turned out to be a delightful day. We met in the lobby of the Plant Museum at about 11 A.M. and were welcomed by a volunteer, one of 500, who explained the course of action for our self guided tour. This was the actual museum area of the historic Tampa Bay Hotel built by Henry Plant in 1891 to the outrageous cost of \$2.5 million. The rest of the extensive complex is now the campus of the University of Tampa. We could see beyond the glass doors where students were collecting for classes.

The first order of business was to take a seat in one of the decorated hotel rooms and watch a film about the construction and operations of this exclusive resort that featured electricity, air conditioning and heat and telephones in every room. That gave us a taste of the elegance that we were about to see as we



wandered from room to gorgeous room set up as it had been in 1891. The Christmas Trees in the video room were decorated with railroad memorabilia as homage to Henry Plants illustrious career.

Each of us found different items that interested us so we split up and explored on our own. The decorative theme of each room was inspired by 19th and 20th century practices, trends and traditions. Some of the Christmas trees in each room were decorated in authentic Victorian fashion with antique ornaments and other trees

presented ideas with 21st century style. The old hotel was designed in the style of a Moorish Palace and the exotic architecture accented each and every room. We were privy to



experience the elegance of one of the recreated guest bedrooms located under one of the hotels signature turrets. We did not have access to the second floor as these rooms were now classrooms but



having a view of the gorgeous staircase was enough to recreate how guests must have felt in the opulent environment.

I will mention a few of the things that turned my head as we walked through

the historic halls. I was stunned with the antique typewriter in the library. My family has inherited an antique sterling silver typewriter from the 20's but this one particular piece on display was much older and far more interesting. Then in the sports room, there was a case that held a baseball signed by Babe Ruth. As I read the inscription, the first athletic venue in Tampa was right here at Plant Baseball



Field on the grounds of the hotel. Ruth hit a home run in this field that may have been the longest run of his career at an astonishing 587 feet, setting a record for a Spring Training Game! Who would have thought? The last item I'll

mention that was of special interest to me was in the last room on our tour. This piece of furniture was a monster! It was huge! It had to be! It was called an "orchestration". Plant so loved this piece that he put one in his home. Imported from Germany, the automatic musical instrument's ornately carved cabinet housed a masterpiece of modern engineering. Compressed air operated organ pipes, a bass drum



with cymbals, a snare drum and a triangle to replicate the sounds of a band or orchestra. We listened to a recording of how it sounded and apparently the museum sometimes offered live concerts on occasion. After we toured the exceptional Holiday expo we met on the veranda for warm cider and cookies.

We did not have far to go for our lunch opportunity in the form of another historic facility. The Oxford Exchange, built at the same time of the Tampa Bay Hotel, was just across the street. Originally this structure housed



several retail stores and businesses until 1920 when it was abandoned. Thankfully restored to a grander scale, we found this meeting place to be well attended and gorgeously furnished. We entered the Exchange to a boutique gift shop brimming



with wonderful items for purchase. To the left was a Champagne Bar where guests could choose their favorite bubbly. In the middle of that was a solarium room for an outside venue in dining. There was an elegant coffee bar next to an Old World

library where one could read or even work in this peaceful splendor. At the far end was a book store that was touted as one of the world's best. And if that wasn't enough there was another bar that I mistook as a wine tasting bar but no! It was a place where one could design their own individual scented candles. Yes, indeed there was a restaurant and we did have a wonderful and unusual lunch there. It was very busy and I'm afraid noisy but we managed to communicate anyway. I must say that we enjoyed our Holiday experience today and felt the Christmas Spirit more intensely as a result. All our senses were involved in the journey. Thank you for joining me on this step back in time and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Gail Gordon
MSA Social Secretary





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