Gale Tales

Manatee Sailing Association

Volume 41 Number 11 www.msasailing.org November 2026

Up Coming Events

Event	Date	Time	Place
MSA Meeting	Nov 4	5:00 PM	Mean Deans
Sail-a-way	Nov 11	3:00PM	The Cross, Gulfport and Don Cesar
Christmas Party	Dec 12	4:00 PM	Roger's House
Opera House Tour	Dec 15	10:30 AM	Sarasota Opera House
Installation Dinner	Jan 17	TBD	Terra Ceia Country Club

LET'S GO SAILING



NOVEMBER 11TH-14TH



AHOY MATES!

This is your Crusty Curmudgeonly Co-Commodore with Episode IV of my tall tale of "My Passage".

This episode features an exciting event but first I'll bring you up to date on our trip. Today we were threatened by about ten thunderstorms, of which only one small one brushed us giving the boat a much needed fresh water rinse. The salt spray coats everything giving it a kind of grainy stickiness. Put in another context, I can see how frustrating it would be to some life raft survivors to watch all these rain-laden storms sailing by, tantalizing close, but out of reach because of adverse winds. Our main concern with thunderstorms was strong, gusty winds and a lightning strike which might disable the Sat-Nav. It seems to be a competent nav system except we can only get a fix when there is a satellite overhead, and

sometimes it isn't up there when you need it. (It makes one appreciate the ease and dependability of GPS today.) Our position today is encouraging; 40 nm NE of Samana Cay, Bahamas with only 61 miles to our first major waypoint off San Salvador where we will turn westward through the Bahamas Islands chain. I can now see how delivery passage can be rather tedious, especially in the open ocean. I'm able to get used to the constant rolling and pitching, the rotating duty periods, the endless expanse of empty water and sky as far as you can see, but I cannot and don't think I could ever get used to only 3 1/2 hours or less of sleep at a time. The first 15 minutes after the alarm sounds is hell. Your mouth feels like an open sewer, your eyes won't open and when they do, they won't focus. Your body is screaming, "Don't get up you fool." And if Satan himself offered me six more hours of sleep for my soul, I'd say without an instant's hesitation, "Gimme a pen. Where do I sign?" After that first 15 minutes it isn't so bad, but you never feel rested; however, if you stay busy at least the time does click by.

At 1812 we arrived at the first waypoint off San Salvador. We have run 670 NM in 4 days, 9 hours, and 42 minutes for an average speed of 6.3 knots. The island is not yet visible, being too low and too far over the horizon but we should see it soon. All I can think about is Haagen Daz vanilla ice cream and eight hours of uninterrupted sleep, neither of which is remotely possible, so I'll take a sea shower and try for four hours sleep instead. I felt better after the shower and San Salvador came into view about a half an hour before sunset. We could see the lighthouse atop a hill and what appeared to be water tanks just north of the light. I can understand more clearly now the elation Columbus and his crew must have felt after coming into these islands after seeing nothing but ocean for months. Their first thoughts must have been, "Finally land, but where are we?" It's comforting to have the navigation equipment we have today because we will be passing between quite a few islands in the next couple of days and even though we will be out of sight of land most of the time one can't be too careful in the Bahamas. Our route will take us through the Bahamas via Providence Channel to the Gulfstream then across the Stream to Ft. Lauderdale.

My midnight watch was without the moon. The sky is virtually clear of clouds and the visibility is unlimited. The clarity and number of stars is incredible tonight. Looking straight up the masthead seems to carve a great swath through the Milky Way as the boat rolls from side to side. I can't help but imagine it is pointing the way to a different kind of wilderness, a frontier to be explored and peopled just as the oceans we now navigate. Crossing oceans once seemed impossible, but man in his inquisitiveness

continued to press what was perceived by many as ultimate limits. I hope this same curiosity and courage will enable mankind to reach and colonize other star systems in the same way.

There have been three satellite passes since 0400 but the Sat-Nav rejected all of them for bad data so we have been on dead reckoning since then. We have been without a positive position fix for 6 hours and at 7 knots that's 42 miles. We should pass no closer than 12 miles from Eleuthera but the island is very flat and may not be visible; we've added a few degrees east to our heading so that we will err away from the island. I was working up a course plot when Greg came by and asked why it's called "Dead Reckoning" and I said, "I think it's because if you don't reckon your course carefully, you might get yourself dead." He said, "I was afraid of that." We did sight Eleuthera and it looked to be about 10-12 miles away so our course line is still good.

I was at the helm checking my "6" for any traffic behind us when I noticed a white boat about 6 miles away. A couple of minutes later I checked again and it was twice as big and throwing a huge bow wake like it was doing 20 to 30 knots or more. By now we knew we were the quarry and sure enough a Coast Guard cutter pulled alongside and radioed for us to lower all sail and prepare for boarding in 15 minutes. I turned into the wind while Leonard and the boys lowered the sails and got fenders over the side. The cutter lowered a Zodiac inflatable over the side with four men in it. I turned us back on course and throttled up to cruising speed. We might as well be going in the right direction while this unwelcome visitation was going on and the guys from the cutter didn't seem to object. It was now about 1630 and we had been enjoying the best wind in the past two days and looking forward to making it to the entrance of the Providence Channel before dark so we could establish a good heading into the Channel, which would give us a good sighting of the north end of Eleuthrea. That would assure us of a wide berth from the shoals a few miles into the Channel.

Sorry Maties, but I'm up to my word count limit and you are going to have to wait until the next installment of my tale to find out what the Coast Guard did over the next two hours.

We are approaching the end of the year but there are still events to come. The next two are:

- Nov. 4, 5pm General meeting (with speaker) at Mean Dean's,
- Nov 11-13 Sail-Away,

Fair winds and smooth sailing,

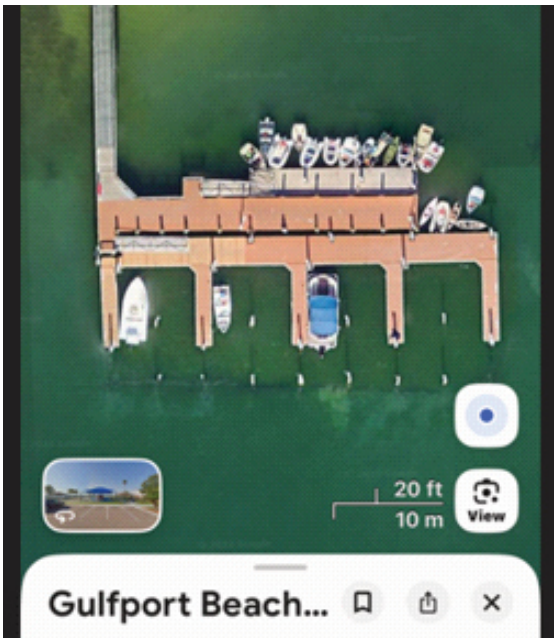
Your Co-Commodore
Chuck Fulton

CRUSING NEWS

Ahoy all,



This month we have our MSA Cruise to the Don Cesar Hotel and Gulfport! Nov 11 to 14 2026 (Wednesday to Saturday). All are hoping that the weather will cooperate! 4 Boats are committed. I'll send an MSA blast email this week to find out who will be coming by landyacht so I can estimate attendance for our dinner reservations. **Since the clocks move back an hour this weekend I decided to advance the times an hour each day. Sunset is now around 5:40PM.**



Docks at Gulfport and Dinghy Dock.



Docks and ramp at the Anchorage behind Don Cesar

Wednesday 11/11/26, MSA cruisers will rendezvous at **3PM** at Desoto Point "The Cross" for a night on anchor. 4PM Dinner will be a pitch in. The park closes at 5 so that won't include land yachts.

Thursday 11/12/26, we will sail/motor to a small anchorage behind the Don Cesar Hotel. Gary Morgan tells me we've anchored there before. Boats should arrive before **3 PM** for the anchorage. Blocking the ramp is not allowed so we will secure dinghies on an anchor, (Thanks Denny) and then meet the MSA members piloting land yachts at the Don Cesar for Dinner at **4PM!** The restaurant is called "**Society Table".** Their menu is online. Yes - it's a bit pricey but there are reasonable burgers and salads.

Friday 11/13/26, we will sail/Motor to Gulfport and anchor (free) or pick up a mooring ball for $25 with Dockwa. Marina

| City of Gulfport Website https://mygulfport.us/marina/
Land yacht Captains and crew can meet us at **Pia's Trattoria** http://www.piastrattoria.com 3054 Beach Blvd S, Gulfport, FL 33707 (727) 327-2190 at **4PM.**

The dinghy dock is **completely rebuilt** at Gulfport and there are temporary slips for boats over 17 ft on the south side of the dock (4 Hour docking limit).

Saturday 11/14/26: Return to Home Ports! Let me know if you are interested. jmcginni@stny.rr.com. Thanks!

Jim McGinnis
Cruising Captain
S/V Brewster

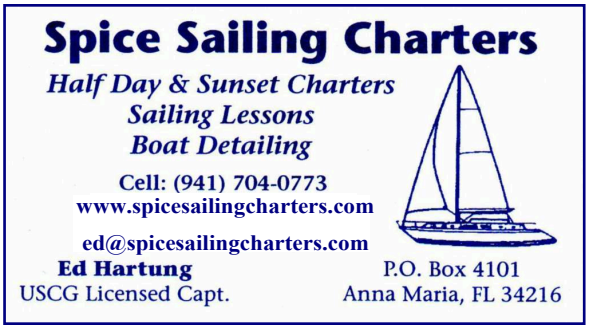


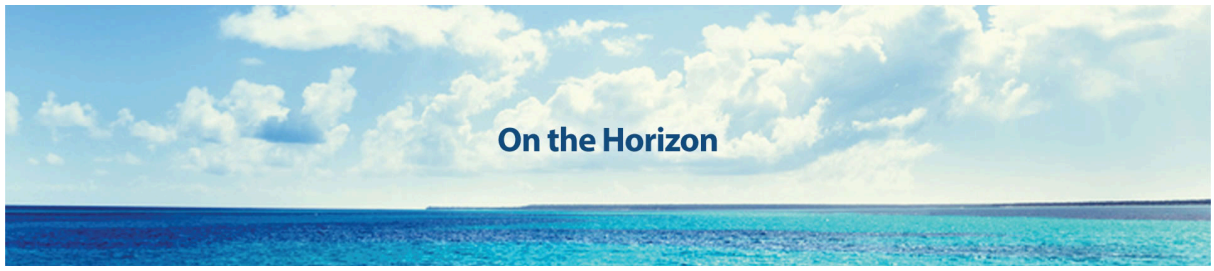
Front desk and bar at Pia's Trattoria



Open air seating at Pia's







ATTENTION MSA MEMBERS!
A LINE UP OF GREAT EVENTS IS COMING YOUR WAY!

MSA Quarterly General Meeting at Mean Deans Restaurant
November 4th at 5P.M.

Randy Runels, manager of Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserve, will be our guest speaker for the meeting. He will discuss future plans for Terra Ceia Bay. (Please note the change of date for this meeting.)

MSA Sail-A-Way to the Don Cesar and Gulfport
November 11th through 14th

Non-sailing members are invited to meet at the Don Cesar at the restaurant "Society Table" on Thursday November 12that 4 P.M. and Pia's Trattoria in Gulfport on Friday November 13th at 4 P.M. for camaraderie, food and spirits. For more details check the article in this issue of the Gale Tales or contact Cruising Captain, Jim McGinnis.

IN THE DISTANT FUTURE....

The MSA Annual Christmas Party for 2026
December 12th at 4 P.M

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You are cordially invited to attend the MSA Annual Christmas Party at the home of Roger Cappello (7304 19th Ave NW Bradenton). Please bring a dish to share and a Holiday spirit, as we will raise a glass to celebrate another fabulous year in MSA. More info later.

A Back Stage Tour of the Historic Sarasota Opera House
December 15th at 10:30 A.M.

It seemed appropriate that if we have, over the years, become a more frequent visitor to this outstanding facility in our own backyard that it might be of some interest to learn its history and inner workings. In contrast to the Van Wezel, which only invites complete tour companies with all their own equipment, the Sarasota Opera House creates its own sets and costumes on site and hires it performers to staff the show. I have scheduled a time (which was no easy feat since the staff can only do this in betweens performances) for Tuesday morning December 15th at 10:30 A.M. The cost is $15 per person for the tour, which takes about an hour. After we have become better acquainted with the Opera House, we will take a stroll down Main Street Sarasota and have a scrumptious lunch at one of Sarasota's great cafés, C'est La Vie. The restaurant creates delicious food with a rich French influence plus the bakery is famous for its French pastry. Join us for a fun event! Please reserve your space on the tour by emailing me at gailgordon56@gmail.com. See you there!

Installation Dinner
January 17, 2027, Time & Details TBD

We will gather at the Terra Ceia Country Club Terra Ceia Bay Blvd., Palmetto to once again give thanks to our outgoing 2026 MSA Board and welcome in the new MSA 2027 Board. We will enjoy a lively Happy Hour, a delightful buffet dinner and a surprise dessert. Awards will be presented to several distinguished MSA members who have gone above and beyond the call of service to benefit the club. To add an element of excitement, the theme for this year's MSA Installation Banquet is……."Starry, Starry Night!" Save the date!

Don't Worry Be Happy
Febuary 9, 2027 at 5:00 PM

Join your MSA mates for dinner at Rocco's Italian Kitchen, located at 3561 53rd Ave, Bradenton, FL. Noted for their extensive menue, inside guests are surrounded by scenes of Italy, along with images of legendary actors from The Godfather, a tribute to Italian-American culture and cinematic heritage that sets the tone for a rich experience.

Sarasota Opera House HMS Pinafore
February 21st, 2027, at 1:30 P.M

I have reserved tickets at the Sarasota Opera House for the live production of Gilbert and Sullivan's HMS Pinafore for Sunday February 21st at 1:30 P.M. I have selected a matinee so that we can have an early dinner afterwards at one of Sarasota's finest and be back home early in the evening. The seats are located together in the first few rows of the balcony and are $55 each. Pleas mark your calendar and save the date. I will be making reservations in December.

Sunday Brunch at the Polo Match
March 2027 date TBA

Details of the outing will be available later. Remember, for all those who purchased tickets for last year's rained out polo match, this outing will be a free event.

The Sailor Circus 78th Spring Show at the Big Top
April 2027 date TBA

It's been a few years since we have had the pleasure of supporting our local talented teenagers who have chosen to learn the ropes at putting on a top notch circus. This has been a long-standing tradition in Sarasota as this particular talent had started and was a part of Sarasota's High School Athletic Program back in the mid- fifties. The kids became so good at their craft that they became world celebrities and even appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show. The rest is history! Join me at one of the great live circus performances in our area and support a fabulous youth program. More info later!

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Gordon
MSA Social Secretary

WEATHER OR NOT!!!

By Gail Gordon

When I was writing my article last month and listing our events calendar for October, I had to take a step back. Almost every weekend includes some sort of club activity or club event. I was exhausted just looking at it. I never really gave a second thought about the weather ever being a problem. How could I have been so careless? I expected warm, not hot, days filled with sunshine and occasional clouds, and I believed that the Gulf would still be temperate enough to be able for seasoned Floridians to take a swim. The thought of a possible shower was not out of the ballpark, but it would be simply "short and sweet" and over with quickly.





The week prior to our MSA Annual Picnic, the weather channels became a bit more of an interest to me. By this time however, the picnic date we had selected for the Bay Front Park Pavilion on Anna Maria Island which had been reserved and paid for months ago, was not exchangeable or refundable any longer. It was time to confirm my personal weather forecast with that of the professionals. Hummm! The forecast wasn't perfect but it didn't look too bad.

As the week went on, however, the rain chances started to increase. And by Wednesday, things started to get interesting. The updated forecast was not for a passing shower or two, which we could have worked around. But what all the professionals were saying was rain would be starting Saturday in the early morning and lasting ALL DAY. A front would be sitting over most of the coastal areas.

On Thursday, I called the Morgans. They were aware of the weather situation and thankfully had not yet purchased the food for our picnic. At 9 A.M. Friday morning, the MSA commodores and several board members had a conference call to finalize a decision to have or have not, a picnic. After studying many weather apps and TV stations, all agreed to take our losses and sadly cancel the event. While watching the rain showers for most of the day on Saturday October 17th, I was grateful that we had made the right decision. Besides, we still had two other weekend events to enjoy! No worries!

Being a firm believer that lightning does not strike twice, I looked forward to our next

Social Event on Saturday October 24th. The plan was that a group of MSA members would brave the drive and parking challenges and attend the Free Pops Concert at the Vinoy Park. This was our third year joining the thousands of other folks for an opportunity to listen to incredible (FREE) world class music while drinking champagne (NOT FREE) and sitting under the stars. What could possibly go wrong? I tried to be optimistic, but when I heard that the Spellacy's who had planned to take s/v Esprit de Mer up to St. Pete for the weekend festivities, cancelled due to high winds……I sunk into a mild depression. Geez! What the heck was going on?



I paid closer attention to the forecast once again. Well, it looked like it would be a very nice day…to start……..but by evening the wind would kick up and by Sunday become quite gusty and this condition would extend well into the following week. Okay, not good for casual sailing, I agree. But we will be fine! Right? I advised everyone about the weather, and we all brought a light jacket just in case.

Chuck and I always arrived early to stake out a claim on available land in the Vinoy Park before the thousands of other attendees showed up. We set up our boundaries, arranged chairs and cocktail tables until finally we were able to put our feet up and relax in the exquisite afternoon sun listening to the bay waters lap gently at the quay. Ahhhh! Lovely!

Around 4:30 or 5 P.M most everyone in our group had found our little MSA settlement. Chucks MSA Anchor Flag raised on a high pole had become a





lighthouse beacon for direction. Finally, corks popped and snacks were offered. And after a while, I must say that we were all getting a little wobbly and not because of the champagne. The wind was starting to really have a kick to it. Just as the sky was beginning to lose the light, the glow of an almost full moon brightened the night. The sun was gone, the wind was ripping and we got cold!

Our little light jackets didn't do much to keep us warm in 20 MPH winds coming off the water. We had to hold onto our hats, and the musicians had to hold onto their sheet music. Everything not nailed down was going to take flight. We noticed that the crowds did eventually gather to hear a concert but not as many as in past years. And many folks left at Intermission. Most of our group managed to hang tight till the concert was over but nary a second later. We were all gone in a flash. Phew! That was close! We were almost shut out due to the weather once again!

Thank goodness, the next event was going to happen in rain, sleet, snow, dark of night, or whatever the weather could throw at us. Well, maybe not everything, but I was fairly certain we were a "go" for the MSA Almost Annual Halloween Costume Party on October 31st!





THE ALMOST ANNUAL 2026 MSA HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY

Even though the weather was not going to be a “Have or Have not” issue with the MSA Halloween Party, I watched the forecast each morning anyway. “Cloudy with showers” was the tale of woe for the day with the worst of the weather coming later in the weekend. We were tough sailors; we could manage that. Our dear MSA members Rick and Adelia Jackerson opened their wonderful home (party central) once again to welcome all sorts of ghouls and goblins to gather, eat, drink and be merry.

It never ceased to amaze me, however, to see the extent that some of our members would go to be “in character” for this event and the process began to unfold at 5 PM on October 31st. Chuck Fulton, better known as our friendly Desert Bedouin and Gail Gordon, the Queen of Hearts, arrived early to offer assistance to the host and hostess. But on arrival, Adelia and Rick Jackerson were nowhere to be found. In their stead were scarecrows who were so cute they wouldn’t be able to frighten anyone. But we didn’t have to worry because not long after Super dog (Lucky) and her owner Superman (Tom Briggle) came on the scene to make sure that only very fun shenanigans were allowed. Before we could say “boo” to the host scarecrows, real estate agents (Mike and Gina Spellacy) looked like they were doing a TV commercial in the kitchen. Instead, the agents were helping the scarecrows in making frozen Daiquiris and I must say, they were indeed potent.

Just as we were settling down with a yummy pink beverage, a little pink MSA fairy (Patti Korn) flitted into the room. She was the spirit of MSA Parties Past with token bits of memorabilia dangling from her wand. Wait….Who let the dogs out???? Sammy and Sully (Betty and Ed Burton), tails a flying, charged into the room looking for treats. Once they were well fed, they joined Superdog for a quick nap. They rested at the feet of a most revered ancient Chinese sage, Confucius (Roger Cappello) who gave words of

wisdom to his followers. For legal advice, we had better luck with Ruth Bader Ginsburg (Marilyn Conner) who looked stunning in her pearls.

Between you and me, a good part of the evening was spent watching the dogs. You see, there was a new pair of sneakers (Cathy and Marino Garcia) just hanging around waiting to be chewed up by mans' best friend. Thankfully the shoes made it through the night without teeth marks.



Celebrities graced the door early in the evening. Annie Hall and Alvy Singer (Linda and Bob Lund) charmed the night away greeting everyone with La-de-da, la-de-da! Just before the dark of night set in, a spectacular moth (Thelma Rivera) passed through the house into the garden. We knew now that this was the time for spirits to rise. Stumbling around was a Senior Witch using her broomstick as a cane (Sheryl Rouleau) who had just a few magic spells left to cast. But that didn't stop her from trying some on ol' Groucho (John Castellana). His nose never got smaller! And the old witch couldn't make Gloria Swanson (Deana Boydstun) any younger. But I must say that the beloved Arlo (Ken Boydstun) looked alive and well! And the ol' witch couldn't make the Gangster and card shark (Gary Morgan) quit gambling so she gave up, had a drink and put her feet up. The old worn out witch sat next to upstanding senior citizen (Carla Morgan) who knew where the old gal could get a walker to retire her broomstick. And then, the Senior Citizen introduced the old witch to another witch (Lynne McGinnis) who was a fashionista and knew how to dress for a party……. with pearls and sparkly hair!



Just as the crowd was calming down, a red bombshell (Bobbie Goss) came flashing through the door, rocking and rolling all over the place in spandex! Yikes! But none of us were prepared for a serial killer and her wounded victim (Judy and Bob Wakelam) to wander through dripping blood all over the place. Clean up on aisle 9! Then, surrounded by a mysterious dense fog, an exotic fortuneteller (Deb Harris) entered the room and told us we had to gather round. She had a vision of the best character costumes of the night and we listened intently. She whispered that she saw a cool dude hippy with a mop of wild hair (Jim McGinnis) who would win 4th place! Gasp! Surprise!

We leaned in closer to hear her say….I saw the third place of the night, and it went to a pair of adorable scarecrows



(Rick and Adelia, our hosts). We couldn't imagine what would happen next! And then in a deep tone, the fortune teller called up two haunted pirate spirits (Karen Brazel and James Kramer) to receive their treasure of second place. We stood paralyzed! We waited in terror for her final and most important vision of the night! We held our breath! She whispered…. Gilligan's Island! What? Really? Well at least I won't have any nightmare! Yup!

Sue Davidson and Clay Smith apparently were rescued from their 3 hour tour! Phew! Well, that was the end of a perfect



evening! Congratulations to the Halloween costume winners and thank you to all who were dressed for the party and made it another unforgettable MSA evening!

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

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

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 Boydstun
Past Commodore - Jim McGinnis