



Gale Tales

Manatee Sailing Association

Volume 39 Number 2

www.msasailing.org

February 2024

Up Coming Events

February 2024

Event	Date	Time	Place
MSA Membership Meeting	Feb 7	5:00 PM	Mean Deans
Frank Lloyd Wright Architectural Tour	Feb 27	11:30 AM	Florida Southern College



MSA Newsletter Jan 2024

Ahoy MSA Members, Friends, and Family,

Sailing Story – my sailing story this month is to describe our northern sailing club in Watkins Glen, NY, the Finger Lakes Yacht Club. It's a similar size club to MSA in terms of membership and we don't have a clubhouse or any facilities. We have 8 club races during the summer and a couple of special events that fill the summer months on Seneca Lake. We have cookouts and a couple cruises on a typical year.



On the Horizon

Event	Date	Time	Place
DWBH	Mar 5	5:00 PM	RJ Gators
Cruise	Mar 15	4:00 PM	Little Harbor & Harborage
DWBH	Apr 3	5:00 PM	Scarapino's
Terra Ceia Regatta	Apr 20	11:00 AM	Terra Ceia Bay
Regatta Party	Apr 20	4:00 PM	Tropic Isles

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT CAMPUS TOUR



FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE, LAKELAND

FEBRUARY 27TH

Seneca Lake is about a mile wide and 34 miles long North/South so that's a lot of fetch when the wind is coming straight out of the North. On a fortunate west wind, we can sail almost the whole lake on 1 tack. Typically, for our races the winds are swirling and changeable when we race in the afternoon - which makes for



a lot of fun. We have from 5 to 10 racers depending on the availability of boats. The biggest difference is that we are all docked in the same marina and have the chance to “discuss” the race with a few beverages and find assistance on any topic at any time. It’s a great little community.

Utah Trip – Lynne and I met our son in Salt Lake City for a week 1/19/24 for our annual ski trip. Scott does most of the skiing. Lynne and I do some touring (although I skied Alta one day without injury!). We had a few great dinners and enjoyed a visit to Antelope State Park which is an island in the middle of the Great Salt Lake. We are planning a trip to Lake Tahoe area next year.



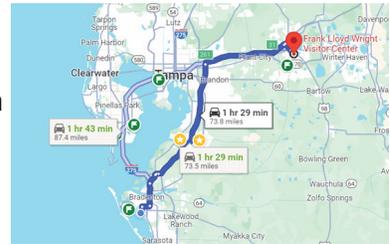
Installation of Officers – We had a great turnout at the 2024 Installation Dinner at Terra Ceia Bay Country Club on January 14th. Oooh La La - it was a moment in Gay Paree for MSA. I met several Club members who had not attended in a few years, and it was a great time for them to catch up with club activities. Everyone I talked to was pleased with the location, the food and the music. Patti did a great job as master of ceremonies. Thank you to Gail for putting the event theme “La vie en Rose!” in place. Congratulations to our Annual Award Winners!

1/17/24 we had an MSA Officers 2024 Calendar Meeting- I was pleased to get almost all of the officers to the Calendar Planning Meeting – (Linda Briggles is out of town –

helping her sister convales) We talked about the Member Meetings, Don’t Worry Be Happy Meetings, Cruises, Trips, Beach parties and more. It will be a great year with this group in charge. The full year calendar will be added to the newsletter and updated as things change and new events are planned. The next meeting is February 7th at Mean Dean’s at 5PM. Happy Hour ends at 5PM so arrive around 4:30PM to get a beverage and a table in the side room. The Meeting Agenda will be a focus on the years’ events planned so far and an opportunity for members to give feedback on what other things they would like to do.

Tom Briggles is setting up the DWBH events (3/5 at RJ Gators, 4/3 at Scarapino’s), Sue Davidson is working on the MSA Regatta (4/20), Sal and Chuck have a couple cruises planned (3/15 to Little Harbor and the Harborage and 5/3 to Mar Vista Anchorage) and Gail Gordon is getting us ready to visit Frank Lloyd Wright Center (2/27). Just a quick trip up the road.

I’ll ask each of them to provide more information and coordination of details at the Membership Meeting.



We are deeply saddened to hear that we lost our fellow member Jim Dayton this month. Our thoughts and prayers are with Deb and family.

Fair Winds and following seas,

Jim McGinnis
Commodore

FIRST MSA SAIL-AWAY OF THE NEW YEAR

Hello to all you sailing cruisers,

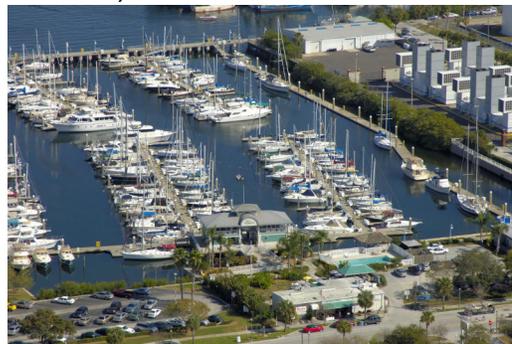
It's time to begin cruising again and your cruising committee, Chuck Fulton and Sal Alfonso, are determined to get you out on the water as much as possible in 2024.

Tentatively we are planning a cruise each month if possible or at least every other month beginning in March. A northern route and a modest time away from home is planned for our first cruise so we can all get back in the groove as painlessly as possible. Our first day's destination will be **Little Harbor Marina (813-645-2288) on March 15, 2024**. "JB" is the manager of this marina and he sees no problem with 3 to 5 boats coming on 3/15/24. We will no doubt be in the slips in the West Basin. We will each need to call him to make our reservations. As you probably know Little Harbor is located just north of Shell Point (mouth of the Little Manatee River) and south of Mangrove Point on the east shore of Tampa Bay. **Address 606 Seagrape Dr., Ruskin, FL.**

Since this leg will be the longest on our cruise we would like to do an informal, unofficial race on it. We will rendezvous near Marker FL R "2" (middle of the Manatee River mouth) at 10am March 15 and begin from there. Everyone will keep their own times from the start line (a line drawn East-West through the "2" marker) until passing the Finish Line which will be the ship channel marker "6 D" (FW0131) when you will stop your clock. The total straight-line



Little Harbor Marina



Harborage Marina

distances is 13.7 NM, and of course keep a close watch for ships in the main channel. Write your times down and we'll get together in the Little Harbor Marina that evening to find out who sailed the fastest and most efficiently and won.

The approach to Little Harbor is as follows: From Marker "6D" (GPS waypoint FW0131) marking the east side of the ship channel steer 090 degrees mag. to the channel lead-in marker "LM". Then a straight shot to Marker G "1" (keeping R "2" well to the right), then about 100 degrees to

Markers R "4" and "G "5". Now turn south staying 50 to 75 yards off the shoreline until sighting a line of channel markers leading east into the West Basin and you are there.

On March 16th we'll depart Little Harbor and sail westward across Tampa Bay to the Harborage Marina in St. Pete for a day of fun. This is a very nice marina immediately south of the St. Pete airport that most of us

have been to but here we now have to make reservations for a slip on www.dockwa.com so I would suggest that you make yours as soon as possible.

That evening if you so desire we can walk to town and have a nice dinner at one of the many restaurants in this lively city. We're looking forward to

your participation and hope you join us on this first sail-away of 2024.

Chuck and Sal
MSA Cruising Captains

Note: If slips are not available at the Harborage, we will sail from Little Harbor to Gulfport to utilize their mooring field or marina.

MSA SOCIAL EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2024

Field Trip to Florida Southern College 2/27/2024

For over a decade I have been planning MSA social events in our community and just beyond to St. Pete, Sarasota and even further to Tampa. I have been holding off scheduling trips with longer drives but I think it's time to test the waters. This outing is just too good to pass up! AND it came recommended to us by Terry Parker and he should know. You see, Terry is an architect and very familiar with the special treasures to be found at Florida Southern College. Florida Southern is the oldest four year college in



the state established in 1883 and it finally settled to its current location in Lakeland in 1922. It has a student body of over 3000 students with 130 full time faculty members. It offers 50 undergraduate majors as well as post graduate programs. The present campus comprises 70 buildings on 110 acres of land. But the reason we will be going there for a visit is because Florida Southern College is the home to the world's largest single site collection of Frank Lloyd Wright architecture. This collection has earned honors for Florida Southern College such as being listed on the National Register of Historic Places, belonging to the National

Historic Landmarks of the United States and is protected by the World Monument



Annie Pfeiffer Chapel

Fund for its cultural significance. Besides that, the Florida Southern Campus has been selected as the most beautiful in the country! Not bad, huh?

Frank Lloyd Wright was an influential architect of the 20th century. In 1938, the Florida Southern College president, Ludd M. Spivey, approached Wright with the task of transforming the 100 acre lakeside orange grove into a modern campus. The collection of architecture at the college is called "Child of the Sun". This name came from Wright's idea of removing the uninspired buildings of the existing campus and replacing them with a campus that would according to Wright "grow out of the ground into the light, a child of the sun".



Wright's works on campus:

Annie Pfeiffer Chapel, Danforth Chapel, Water Dome, Usonian House Buckner building, Polk Science, L. A. Raulerson Building Ordway Building, Watson Fine Building, and The Esplanades

The Frank Lloyd Wright Visitors Center is located at 840 Johnson Ave in Lakeland. Please join me for a docent led 90 minute guided tour on February 27th at 2 P.M. of this incredible architectural wonder. The tour will begin with an overview of the campus project detailing how Frank Lloyd Wright assembled his vision for the college as well as the unique method of construction he chose for the site. As we walk the campus grounds our guide will inform us of the history and design of all 13 Wright designed structures. In addition the interiors of the Annie Pfeiffer Chapel, the Danforth Chapel and the new Usonian Faculty House will allow us to take time to explore their beauty from within. Cost for this guided tour is \$32 per person. Please make a reservation for this event by emailing me at gailgordon56@gmail.com. by February 23rd. I will provide driving information and routing to those joining the



tour closer to the date. Consider car pooling as it would add a fun dimension to the outing. Please be mindful that there will be some walking on this tour so comfortable shoes are very important.

Prior to the Campus tour I am planning to have lunch in Lakeland. We will be in the historic area and although there are many

really nice restaurants for lunch, I have my sights set on 2 that would be a treat. Both are close by the college. One option is in an old Federal Building over 100 years old. And the other is outside on Lake Mirror in the gardens. I will keep you posted as to which one will work best for us. I plan to meet at our lunch spot early like 11:30A.M. and then we will drive over to

the campus for our 2 P.M. tour. I hope you will consider this outing as an adventure of historical proportion and join us on our first ever MSA Field Trip. If this is a success, there are a lot more exciting options available to us. I hope to see you there!

Gail Gordon
MSA Social Secretary

**POLO JUST GOT A BIT MORE
CHALLENGING!**

By Gail Gordon

For many years in the recent past, MSA members have gathered in the spring for a ritual that we have grown to love.....attending Sunday Brunch at the Polo Matches. We skipped a year or three due to Covid and last year I was away most of March and April. This event required a lot of planning and I wouldn't have been around to execute it. But in 2024, I'm afraid organizing this outing just got a lot more complicated! First, it was almost impossible to get a real person to explain to me the current procedure required to get a tailgate space to be able to watch a polo match. In years past we just showed up at o'dark hundred and waited for the gate to open and then made a mad dash for the field to get at least 3 spaces together where we could set up tents, tables, chairs, food and drinks etc. As I understand it, and I may not.....we have to rent the tailgate spaces in advance in a sort of a first come, first serve basis as they become available by booking online. At a certain hour (which I don't know) a



particular Sunday Polo Match scheduled in the future will become available and one has to reserve and pay for it online before anyone else gets to the site. I would need about 3 spaces together for 30 members attending which is an issue in itself. The spaces have various rates due to better viewing locations on the field which really isn't so much the problem as at most the cost per person will be \$20 instead the lowest rate of \$15. Also because of these last weeks of less than ideal weather conditions, matches were cancelled. Those who had booked spaces get to reschedule first. So having a match completely sold out is a very possible situation. I am just letting you know in advance, that (A.) I don't give up easily and (B.) I am persistent and will try my best to check the website repeatedly and if possible book a date for the 2024 Polo Season and (C.) If I can't work the new system, I will have another option for us so don't be too disappointed. And of course, maybe I will learn how to actually beat the system in 2025 which will put me ahead of the game so to speak. So stay tuned to the blow by blow action on and off the field. I'll keep you updated! Thank you in advance for understanding.

Spice Sailing Charters

*Half Day & Sunset Charters
Sailing Lessons
Boat Detailing*

Cell: (941) 704-0773
www.spicesailingcharters.com
ed@spicesailingcharters.com

Ed Hartung
USCG Licensed Capt.



P.O. Box 4101
Anna Maria, FL 34216

**HERE WE GO AGAIN!!!
THE 2024 MSA INSTALLATION BANQUET**

By Gail Gordon

Just in case you were wondering. This MSA organization has been around since 1985! That makes us 39 years old! We



have grown, shrunk, had lots of money, been totally broke, been extremely active, gotten a little lazy but throughout the years, we have survived and thrived. We have become a tightly knit family that savors the

memories of all the good times we've enjoyed in the past and we are excited for what adventures are waiting for us in the future. Each year is different and unexpected. But some things never change. The MSA rite of passage, the Installation Celebration, is one of those staples that we plan and look forward to each and every year.

On January 14th, we honored those members who had taken on the responsibility of caring and nurturing our club for 2023 and welcomed and promised support for those who took over that privilege of serving for 2024. I have personally witnessed perhaps as many as 25 of these special ceremonies and have sometimes been involved with the where and how this special event takes place.

Since our general economy has been experiencing one of those financially lean periods, we needed to change our location for the annual banquet to a less luxurious setting to accommodate our situation. Yet

we didn't want to settle for less than we deserved. Thanks to some resourceful members, a new and rather perfect location was found, the Terra Ceia Country Club. And what transpired during the course of that evening confirmed that although we have matured over the years we are still a wild and crazy bunch of sailors. The room was perfect for socializing around the bar and visiting with new friends and some we haven't seen in awhile. It made the heart soar to welcome Juan and Alba Matoes and Sally and Tom Quinn to our special gathering. These folks are true celebrities in our MSA history.

After a delightful buffet dinner we settled down for the presentation. Our outgoing Commodore Patti Korn called her board up to the podium to express her appreciation for a job well done. Then as part of her final duties, she announced special awards and recognition to several members who went beyond their job descriptions.



The first award was "The Boat of the Year". This trophy had a past. The abstract wooden sailboat belonged to my husband, Don Gordon, and sat on his desk for years when he served in the Air Force in the DR. After he passed away I was cleaning out his things one day and decided to offer the large sailboat to anyone in the club. Charley Graeber



thought it would make a great trophy. Joe Jackson built the base and voila, "The Boat of the Year" Award was born. This year the honor went to S/V Aurora and Captains Dennis and Brigid Vitton. It was Brigid's birthday so congratulations were double fold!

The next award Commodore Patti presented was "Member of the Year". Of course there was another story concerning that trophy. This was created by the club in honor of my late husband Don. He was instrumental in making the first attempts of putting our newsletter solely on line. As a result, this award was designed to honor a member who has gone above and beyond the norm for the betterment of the organization. This couple more than fits that description.



2023 Members of the Year were Rick and Adelia Jackerson. The next trophy to be awarded had a more recent history. Marino Garci when he was commodore

had this trophy created to honor a member who encouraged the art and science of sailing. Marino had at one time been awarded the old carved figurehead for his service. After he added the base, Marino made his first presentation of the "Salty Sailor Award". This year, Sal Alfonso's name was added to the bronze plates as MSA's 2023 Salty Sailor.



The next and last award is my favorite because of who it honored and how it came to be. Sue Davidson was responsible for this creative beauty. She had the large conch shell horn made by an artist in Tampa, the Conch King. Each year a medallion would be added to recognize a member. Affectionately known as the "Toot Your Own Horn" Award, the original honor went to Ray Glover, who was a sail maker and beloved MSA member who had passed away much too soon. This award goes to an MSA member who has a specific talent in the club that needed to be mentioned. The 2023 recipient of this award goes to Deana Boydston. Her outgoing personality and warm friendship has become a shining beacon for our organization. Congratulations to all our special MSA



members who were honored this evening.

From that point on, Patti Korn, outgoing commodore, handed over the program to



the 2024 MSA Commodore Jim McGinnis. Now it was his turn to introduce the MSA Board for 2024 who have committed to carry on the tradition of this sailing organization. Introduced were as listed: 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. In addition, a special honor was bestowed to Gary Morgan who is our Newsletter Editor and MSA mentor. It was now time to party!

Without skipping a beat, Chuck, our favorite music man, began his treasure trove of tunes from the 70's 80's, 90's and on, for us to dance and listen to. His expertise on the trumpet wowed the members and got everyone out of their seats to shake, rattle and roll. I can't remember a time when the dance floor was as busy as it was that night. I know I had a great time by how sore I was the next day. Imagine the scene, about 40 or so "not so young anymore" members shaking their bootie, twisting and shouting and electric sliding. It was quite the picture of one really good time with MSA friends. Thank you for all the efforts of those who made it possible! So MSA members, another new year is upon us! Hang on tight! Here we go again!



[Click here to see the entire banquet photo album](#)

GO FLY A KITE!

Well, at least it wasn't raining! That's what we thought when we put on our warm jackets, hats and gloves and threw some extra blankets in the car along with a picnic



lunch and some beach chairs. We were on our way to the 27th Annual Kite Festival in Treasure Island at the old Thunderbird Beach

Resort on Saturday morning January 13th. It was forecast to be a cool and very windy day with gusts at 30 to 35 MPH. Kites needed some wind but this much could present a problem for competitors trying to do tricks and formations with their light fabric airborne equipment. We didn't know what to expect.



We were lucky this time on arrival as we found free parking on one of the side streets. There were already spectators



mulling around the beach at 10 A.M. braving the weather as vendors set up their stationary kites that could rival the floats at the Macy's

Thanksgiving Day Parade. At about 11 A.M. the competition of young kite flyers began. These guys and gals had all they could do to execute maneuvers choreographed to selected music and stay upright on the sand being almost tossed around by the wind. It was impressive to watch these kids who must have spent hours



and hours practicing a hobby that didn't require a cell phone or computer. The sun was out although filtered through wispy clouds and I actually got a sun burn on my face. We had the wind to our back and we were wrapped up in the blankets but it was hard to stay warm enough. We watched in awe as in between the competition, the experts



came out and wowed the crowds with skills that boggled the mind. One fellow handled 3 separate kites, one line in each hand and one line strapped to his belt. Even in all that wind his kites danced to the music without missing a beat.

At about 2 in the afternoon, Chuck and I were shivering as the temp was going down lower and lower. As beautiful as the sky was, filled with the colorful decorations of elegant kite displays, we folded up our chairs and called it a day. Little did we know then, that this would be the best weather of the 2 day festival? We hoped next year would be warmer and kinder to the competitors and exhibitors who made this outstanding skill, an exquisite art form. We were still very privileged to enjoy the show! Mark your calendars for January 2025 Martin Luther King weekend at the Kite Festival!

Let's all fly a kite!

Gail Gordon
MSA Social Secretary

ON THE HORIZON: SPRING 2024

Tampa Bay History Center
801 Old Water Street, Tampa Date:TBA

Attention! Treasure Seekers, Conquistadores and Pirates! Enjoy swashbuckling drama and adventure on the high seas in this unusual gallery



experience. Explore a full scale replica of an 18th century sailing sloop and uncover

400 year old shipwreck artifacts on view for the first time. Located along the downtown Tampa Riverwalk, the history center features 3 floors of interactive exhibits and theaters. We will have a private tour guided by a passionate nautical expert who can give us insight into the history of navigating



the Florida shores. In addition we will travel on the Cross Bay Ferry to and from Tampa to accentuate the nautical theme of the day. Stay tuned for dates, times and details of this full day of activity on the high seas adventure! Arrrrg, mateys!

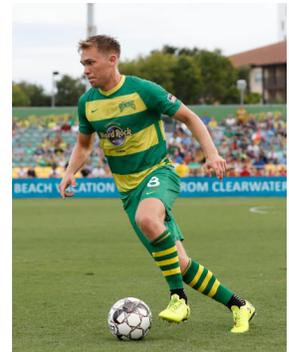
Rowdies Professional Soccer Game Al
Lang Stadium St. Petersburg
Date:TBA

The Tampa Bay Rowdies are an American professional soccer team based 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.

They play their home games right here at Al Lang Stadium. Please get excited to cheer our home team in a fast moving action packed game of soccer in our own backyard. As most of our kids and grandkids have had their turn on the soccer field, it's our time to see how the big leagues do it. Stay tuned for dates and details.



Gail Gordon
MSA Social Secretary

Certified Health Coach

Betty Burton, RN, MSN

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





Manatee Sailing Association

2024 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

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 2024 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