



Gale Tales

Manatee Sailing Association

Volume 39 Number 3

www.msasailing.org

March 2024

Up Coming Events

March 2024

Event	Date	Time	Place
DWBH	Mar 5	5:00 PM	RJ Gators
Race to Little Harbor	Mar 15	10:00 AM	R2 Manatee River
Cruise	Mar 15	5:00 PM	Little Harbor & Harborage
Polo	Mar 24	11:00 AM	Sarasota Polo Club



Ahoy MSA Members, Friends, and Family,

This month's sailing story – A few years ago we chartered a 45 ft Jeanneau Sun Odyssey out of Dania Beach, FL just north of Fort Lauderdale. We had a tentative plan to sail south for the Miami Boat Show but that didn't last very long. We tacked back and forth into a strong southeast wind which combined with the 4 knot Gulf Stream flowing north meant that we went nowhere. After a few hours we decided to head back to the slip at Dania Beach and make a new plan. We had friends that were anchored at Lake Worth (West Palm Beach) in their 38ft Cabo Rico Pilothouse that they had sailed from Watkins Glen, NY the previous year. So, the next day we headed north and covered 52 miles in one day with the wind, my asymmetric spinnaker and the current helping us. (I brought my asymmetric spinnaker from our Hunter 336 in a big suitcase on the flight to Florida since the charter boats don't provide them.) We met our friends from NY (who were shocked to see we made it) and they guided us into the shallow anchorage. The boat had a 63 ft air

On the Horizon

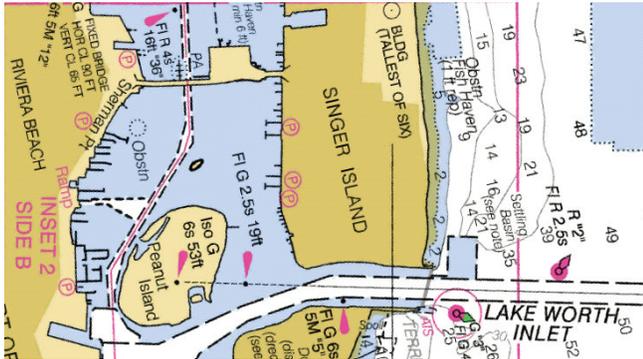
Event	Date	Time	Place
DWBH	Apr 3	5:00 PM	Scarapino's
Terra Ceia Regatta	Apr 20	11:00 AM	Terra Ceia Bay
Regatta Party	Apr 20	4:00 PM	Tropic Isles
MSA Meeting	MAY 8	4:30 PM	Mean Dean's Local Kitchen
Social Event	May 17	2:00 PM	Tampa Bay History Center

Cruise/Race to Little Harbor



March 15th

draft and the fixed bridge at Lake Worth is 66 ft, so we held our breath sneaking under that. It looked from the deck like we would hit for sure. But the math worked



so no problem. We saw Tiger Woods' M/V Privacy at the Old Port Cove North Basin Marina. We passed by Peanut Island which is a huge boat party island on weekends. We stayed two days sailing, swimming and hanging out and then needed to head back south.

We encountered rough seas heading straight out of the inlet. A wave crashed over the bow and sent some water below.

We had to air out some bedding that day. So we decided to return to the Intracoastal and motor back to Fort Lauderdale. We passed through 21 bascule bridges in the Intracoastal Waterway heading south. The bridge openings are timed well so that if you motor at 5 knots you are making it through most of the bridges. But you still need to contact each bridge tender on the VHF for safety. South Florida along the waterway is the land of the rich and famous. (We watched home prices on Zillow as we



Sailing Sir Francis Drake Channel

passed along the route.) We made it back to Dania Beach and returned the boat to the charter company. Great Trip!

BVI Trip – Lynne and I just came back from a 10 day trip to British Virgin Islands. We sailed Sir Francis Drake Channel from Road Town to Virgin Gorda, and then on to Anegada, Marina Cay, Jost Van Dyke, Soper's Hole and back. I'll save that one for another day.

MSA Florida Southern Trip – Frank Lloyd Wright the American Architect. This was a terrific trip to see the 12 buildings on the campus designed by this original thinker! The details that went into the site design to accommodate and accentuate the grounds and the orientation of the sun to provide natural light into the buildings were amazing. Lakeland is a pretty town

with lots of things to see and great restaurants. Thanks Gail!

MSA Member's Meeting at Mean Deans Restaurant on 2/7/24 – 30 members attended the 1st 2024 Membership Meeting. Meeting notes from November 2023 mtg

were approved and we received Reports from the Treasurer (Tom for Linda) and 2023 Auditor (Gina). Chuck highlighted the next cruise for March 15,16,17 to Little Harbor and the Harborage. Sue set the date for the MSA 2024 Regatta for 4/20/24

and party location will be the Tropic Isles Clubhouse. Gail gave details on the Trip to Florida Southern University (Frank Lloyd Wright) and is working on a Polo date for us next.

Tom Briggie honored Patti Korn with the Past Commodore's Plaque and Sue Davidson presented Patti with a bouquet of roses. We all thanked Patti for her service to MSA in 2023.

The next members' meeting is May 8th at Mean Dean's at 5PM. Our guest speaker

will give a talk on Celestial Navigation. (Happy Hour ends at 5PM so arrive around 4:30PM to get a beverage and a table in the side room.)

Tom Briggie is setting up the DWBH events (3/5/24 at RJ Gators, 4/3/24 at Scarapino's) See you there!

Fair Winds and following seas,

Jim McGinnis
Commodore

MSA MEETING FEBRUARY 7TH



**MSA SAIL-AWAY
MARCH 15-16, 2024**

Hello to all you sailing cruisers,

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

Away is a northern route and a modest time away from home.

Our first day's destination will be

Little Harbor Marina on March 15, 2024.

(813-645-2288)

(606 Seagrape Dr.,

Ruskin, FL. "JB" or

Jenni are the

managers of this

marina and see 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 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. 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. We will communicate further instructions with the boats that are planning to participate.

We will meet for Happy Hour on my boat ("Wanderin' Starr") around 5pm and compare race times over some snacks and libations. I think we'll plan to have dinner

at either Hooks Waterfront Grill or Sunset Grill and Beach Bar restaurant both within walking distance of our slips. They are modestly priced restaurants and if you have any knowledge of them or preference please let us know.

The approach to Little Harbor is as follows: From Marker "6D" (GPS waypoint FWO131) marking the east side of the ship channel west of Little Harbor, 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. (1110 3rd St. St. Pete, 727-821-6347) 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



Little Harbor Marina





Harborage Marina

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. (More information on the approach to the Harborage soon)

Chuck and Sal

Please RSVP to let us know you are coming by sea or land:

Chuck- 678-524-3545,
chuckfulton7134@gmail.com

Sal- 941-705-4455,
salfonso1958@gmail.com

DON'T WORRY BE HAPPY MARCH 5TH



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MSA SOCIAL EVENTS

POLO SUNDAY MARCH 24TH, 2024

We have a reservation to attend a day at the Polo Matches! Whoo-hoo! Why was I



even surprised at how different the process was to attain this not so simple feat? Everything changes in life and it has been more noticeable since Covid which was approximately the last time we attempted to participate in this wonderful outing as a club event. I was able to reserve 3 tailgate

spaces for our group on the North side of the Sarasota Polo field (8201 Polo Club Lane) but it came at a cost. However if we meet the requirements, the admission should still be under \$20 per person. The biggest change in

this venue is that now there is a parking fee. These matches have become so popular that they are sold out for weeks in advance and still fans wait in line with the hope of getting in. So, please be advised that there is a \$10 parking fee per car. It stands to reason that carpooling makes good sense (cents). I will need a participation of no less than 24 members



with a max at about 32 to cover the cost. If that does not happen, it is possible to cancel with a refund 7 days prior to the event if needed. In the past this event was very well attended so I am not concerned with these numbers and be mindful that I will keep an eye on the weather forecast.

As we have done in the past, I will provide pulled pork sandwiches and I ask members to bring an appetizer, side dish or desserts to share. The Polo Theme for March 24th is a Hawaiian Luau and traditionally prizes are awarded for a tailgate group with the best themed drinks, food and decorations. So go a little crazy with the theme if you like! Please bring a

comfortable chair for viewing the match, your personal beverages, a hat, sunscreen and if possible, tropical attire. We will have set up tents to provide shade and will provide tables for our delightful feast. I think arriving at

about 11 A.M. gives us plenty of time to enjoy some food and fun before the match which starts at 1 P.M. sharp. Please make your reservations ASAP by emailing me at gailgordon56@gmail.com no later than March 14th. Let's enjoy one of the oldest sports events in recorded history, Polo, with our best MSA friends in a gorgeous setting in Sarasota. See you there!

IN THE WORKS:

MSA 2024 Annual Terra Ceia Regatta: On April 20th MSA members will participate in the annual sailing race around Terra Ceia Bay, an event that has been a part of our history for a very long time. A committee headed up by our Race Captain Sue Davidson is busy organizing the details of the day which of course will include some



sailing, landside activities, good food and great camaraderie. This year some new features will be introduced to include more members and increase the fun. So make sure the date is carved in stone on your calendar so you don't miss this exciting day on the water. Check out all the details in the April Gale Tales.

Tampa Bay History Center: Treasure seekers, conquistadors and pirates and members of MSA are invited to join me on an adventure at the Tampa Bay History Center located on downtown Tampa's

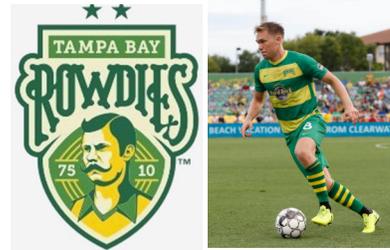


Riverwalk on May 17th at 2 P.M. We will have a private docent tour guide who will lead us through interactive exhibits and theaters within the 3 floors of the museum. We will explore a full scale replica of an 18th century sailing sloop and discover 400 year old shipwreck artifacts on view for the first time. We will have lunch at a restaurant prior to the tour at one of

Tampa's great restaurants. Watch for more information in the May Gale Tales.

On the Horizon: dates to be announced when scheduled

Tampa Bay Rowdies Soccer Game in St Petersburg



Summer Classic Movie Night at the Sarasota Opera House



Night Time Mini Golf at Smugglers Cove



Marauders Evening Baseball at Lecom Field



Gail Gordon
MSA Social Secretary

**FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE
ARCHITECTURAL TOUR
FEBRUARY 27, 2024**

Last year a member alerted me to a possible social event. I kept rejecting it because it would involve the longest drive we've ever had to conquer to get to an outing. I didn't think anyone would be interested in the logistical ordeal and therefore they wouldn't participate. So I put the idea on a back burner. But out of necessity as I was looking for new events lately, I must confess, I got a little desperate. I made a call and scheduled a date for a tour of the Frank Lloyd Wright architecture on the Florida Southern College campus for Tuesday February 27th, 2024. I crossed my fingers and hoped at least that a few members would join me on the visit. I was shocked when the final tabulation before the event totaled to 20 MSA members who agreed to take the plunge. I was excited and frankly a bit nervous. This event had better be worth the effort!

We started with a lunch in Lakeland, Florida at 11:15 A.M. at a popular restaurant located in a historic building, Mojo Federal Swine and Spirits. Parking was a bit tricky but everyone managed to be on time and ready to relax with some good Southern cooking. When entering the 100+ year old building we were



greeted with a huge brick wall featuring a mammoth bar filled with hundreds of bottles of whiskey. Yet the aroma of the BBQ was responsible for our immediate light headedness. And the menu got us salivating. Most of us savored pork, brisket or catfish, sweet potato mash, collard greens and bourbon baked beans. Portions were generous and the service was surprisingly good. After asking, I found out that this facility had been built in 1917 and was first a

Post Office, then an IRS Office and then a bank. For the last 6 years this delightful restaurant and bar had welcomed locals and visitors to enjoy some really good Southern cuisine in a delightful atmosphere. Today they welcomed members of MSA!

Now for the highlight of the field trip.....we drove just a few blocks further around beautiful Lake Mirror which hosted a large community of white swans to an area of Lakeland which was



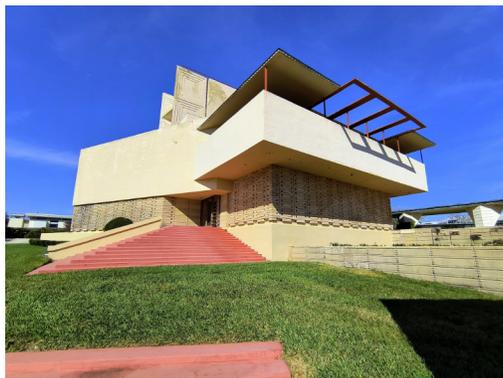
famous for its collections of Craftsmen Cottages and Sears and Roebucks mail order homes. Within this area was one of the most beautiful college campuses in the country, Florida Southern College. After having another challenge finding

parking, we assembled at the visitor's center, received our listening devices and met our charming guide, Rubin. Our first

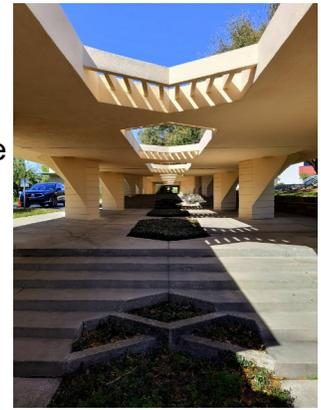
stop was for me one of the most interesting on the whole tour, an intimate look at one of Frank Lloyd Wright's Usonian homes. This home designed



originally in 1939 was actually meant to be housing for the professors on campus. At the height of the Great Depression, Wright envisioned the Usonian style home concept as a way to construct simple affordable homes for American families emphasizing the use of locally sourced brick, wood and other natural materials. Although 60 Wright designed Usonian homes could be found across the U.S., this new one constructed in 2013 at the college was the first of this particular plan ever to be built. Made of beautiful cypress wood and unusual handmade textile blocks of cement which featured details of colored glass insets, the small home accentuated a large central living space with minimalist details. The kitchen, bedrooms and bath were very small, however. Although the new construction was updated with amenities such as A/C, the intentions of Wright was to utilize the natural environment.



As we wandered about the campus we were introduced to one of the most interesting cloistered walkways I've ever seen. As in most of Wright's designs, low ceilings were incorporated in the design which



dramatized the huge thick patterned columns of the over 2 mile covered walkway that meandered around the buildings on campus. We stopped to admire the large fountain named the Water Dome. Today the spray was about 5 feet tall. But on special occasions the water

spray could reach a height of 45 feet in the air! One of those days happened to be Commencement when hopefully there was no wind. While inspecting the fountain and walkway, we happened upon an opportunity to enter the old library and study hall not usually included on the tour. This was a circular building which posed many architectural innovative designs. The huge long tables that wrapped around the curves were stunning. However, there was no electrical lighting in Wrights design, only natural light from windows. Studying at night presented a problem.

As we were nearing the end of our 90 minute walking tour, Rubin might have saved the best for last. The Annie Pfeiffer Chapel was a "wow". It is one of the most iconic structures on campus and



a National Historic Landmark. It was the first building designed by Wright to be completed on campus in 1941 at a cost of \$100,000 using student labor in return for tuition paid. The chapel was a simple geometric design with a low pitched roof and featured a huge skylight which flooded the chapel most of the day with natural light. The chapel was designed to seat 1000 people no more than 50 feet from the pulpit. Like most of Wrights structures on campus the chapel was constructed with textile concrete block detailed with colored glass.



Chapel was meant for intimate meditation and was the only Wright designed building on campus that utilized leaded glass. Facing west, the glass wall which represented a sunset by using inverted stripes of red and yellow glass was very bold and actually did not appeal to me. However, it created light in the chapel during the entire day and became an exterior lantern of sorts when the interior lights were on at night. This building was the most pristine, unchanged Frank Lloyd Wright design of the 13 Wright buildings on the Florida Southern College Campus. At about 3:45P.M., our MSA field trip was completed. We had learned a bit about Lakeland, Florida Southern College, Frank

Lloyd Wright and his architectural achievements. The weather was perfect, the outing was informative and as always, the company was outstanding! Thank you for joining me on this event and just maybe we can continue to visit places farther afield to stimulate our senses and

elevate our minds. And thank you Terry, sorry it took so long!

The last of our architectural studies today was a bit of a surprise. The Danforth

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



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Cruising Captains - Chuck Fulton and Sal Alfonso
Racing Captain - Sue Davidson
Secretary - Lynne McGinnis
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