



# Gale Tales

## Manatee Sailing Association

Volume 39 Number 6

[www.msasailing.org](http://www.msasailing.org)

June 2024

### Up Coming Events

June 2024

Event	Date	Time	Place
DWBH	June 12	5:00 PM	Anna Maria Oyster Bar, Ellenton
Rowdies Game	June 15	7:30 PM	Lang Stadium St Pete

### On the Horizon

Event	Date	Time	Place
Classic Movie	July 5	7:30 PM	Sarasota Opera House



### AHOY ALL,

My newsletter this month is coming from Cape Cod, MA where Lynne and I and my son Scott are visiting family, cousins and friends. I spent every summer as a kid in East Brewster on Cape Cod and have some of the same friends from 60 years ago. Yesterday, one close friend walked on the sand out 2 miles at low tide to 3 ft deep water just as the tide turned and caught a legal size 30 inch striped bass. Charter fishing boats were fly fishing for the stripers also in the shallow water and doing very well.



Schools of stripers were all around. We helped him carry the fish back to the house and had a discussion of great fishing memories over the years. You know how that goes.

This month I wanted to talk about the preparation I am doing for the Lake Ontario 300 Race July 13 to 16 2024. The Lake Ontario 300 is a 300 mile race from Toronto to Niagara Light off NY to Main

Duck Island to Oswego and back to Toronto. My crew will be my brother, my son and a good friend who happens to have sailed



Race Crew

Lake Ontario with his family in the summer as a boy.

My brother owns a 36 ft Gulfstar center cockpit sailboat in Belfast, Maine. So we have some experience but not at this level

of Ocean Racing. Anyway there is lots to learn and prepare for. It's called an "ocean race" because it meets the criteria for the CAT3 Off shore safety requirement of going out of sight of land and over night. There will be 75 boats and consist of full crew like us, Single Handed and Double Handed crews with monohulls and catamarans. Those who have sailed Lake Ontario in bad weather know that it can be much like an ocean. Some of the tasks to prepare include adding an Automatic Identification System (AIS) to the boat that allows us to see the freighters on Lake Ontario and be seen. I had to upgrade my DSC VHF radio identification from US only to International to go into Canada.

I have a 3 page list of boat requirements like life jackets with spray hoods, and safety lines and jacklines to prepare the boat. I am fortunate to be able to borrow a lot of the gear, like PLB's, from a friend that I crewed for when we raced in Long Island Sound. I rented an EPIRB for the duration of the trip. Sue Davidson recommended that I get a high quality SOLAS Flare so that is now onboard. Also required is to join US Sailing and obtain a PHRF-LO handicap

(Performance Handicap Racing Fleet-Lake Ontario) from the racing organization that handicaps each of the boats. I had to have my sails measured in multiple dimensions by a sail maker and submit a page of measurements on the boat to receive the handicap number.

So my boat is waxed and bottom painted and back in Seneca Lake. But now I have to prepare to take the mast down and load/ support the mast and boom on the boat to take it through 3 days of locks in the Erie Canal to get to Oswego, NY. The Erie Canal system is 88 locks from Erie, PA to the Hudson River in Albany and we will take an offshoot of the canal that goes north to Lake Ontario. I'll let you know how the preparations are going next month.

Lynne and I are happy to be back in NY. The weather has been terrific since we arrived so we transitioned north at just the right time. We are seeing our other Watkins Glen, NY Marina friends and community. At the same time we are missing our friends in FL and MSA activities! My activities in NY includes beer can racing with our Finger Lakes Yacht Club (very similar to MSA) and Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association. (In SLPWA we are preparing for "Clean, Drain, Dry" messaging for boaters who could unintentionally transfer invasive species from one Finger Lake to another, reducing sediment and nutrient water run-off into the lake and fighting the Hemlock Wooley Adelgid (which kills Hemlock trees).

So until next month, have a great time and take care of friends and family. Thanks to all who sent Luann a note. Carolyn said she really appreciated it.

Take Care, Jim  
Commodore

## **THE TAMPA BAY HISTORY CENTER MAY 14TH**

“RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!” That was what our waitress shouted while we grabbed our drinks and hurried to the other side of the room in the café. But I have gotten ahead of myself and I should start the story at the beginning. Several months ago when I was trying to fill in the blank spots on our MSA Social Event



Calendar, I penciled in the Tampa Bay History Center with the idea that I would try to find someplace more exciting to spend our time if at all possible. So just in case, I called to get info on the facility which was located in the exciting and historical Channelside Area of Tampa. I spoke to Ryan who was so delighted to have us come to visit that I told him to put us down for sometime in March. I never let on that secretly I was trying to book a Sunday that same month for Sarasota Polo but was having a terrible time. The History Center would be a last resort. When after much stress and strain, Polo finally became a reality; I rescheduled the History Center for 2 months later in May. I don't know why but I never expected this outing to be anything special so I tried to build fun stuff around it. I planned to arrange a ferry ride for our transportation (which didn't happen) and I called over a month ahead to reserve a table at a very special restaurant nearby (which was already booked up). So with some

disappointment I settled for less or so I thought!

We were not a very large group, but 11 faithful MSA members showed up on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:30A.M. at the Columbia Café which was conveniently a part of the History Center complex. I thought keeping it simple at this point was the best way to go. Park once and done! It was quite hot and humid that day and I didn't realize that the outside patio of the café was the only area for dining (the smaller part located inside where it was cool was a bar and snack venue). As I walked from the garage nearby to the cafe, I noticed some dark rain clouds gathering overhead. Oh great, I thought! We arrived at the restaurant high and dry but before anyone else and we took our seats at a long table at the far end of the covered patio overlooking the Riverwalk. Helen Chouinard and Arja Adair were not



far behind us. We ordered our drinks and looked at the menu and waited for the others. All of a sudden it started to rain hard, really hard. The waitress came over and said no problem! (Although we had a roof over us, the breeze was blowing some rain inside the area.) She pulled down a screen to protect us. But then the wind got crazy and several of the wait staff came to help her hold down the swinging panels. It seemed like help

came out from every corner trying to assist the girls. Chairs were tipping over and sliding across the floor, menus were flying missiles, water glasses were falling over and we were getting soaked. After a few unsuccessful attempts of closing the

screens, everyone gave up and ran to the other side of the room. "Run for your lives" our waitress yelled as we grabbed our drinks and found an unoccupied table that was somewhat protected from the storm. But now I was worried about the rest of our club

members either trapped in their cars or worse, soaked to the skin and windblown. As luck would have it everyone arrived safe and sound (maybe a little damp) and yes, eventually we had our lunch!

Now we needed to get to the Tampa Bay History Center for our 1:30 P.M. tour. That was easy! Choices were up a short flight of stairs or take the elevator. We were in the building! And what a building it was! 3 floors of exhibits above a huge glass



enclosed atrium lobby built above the Café gave us a hint of what was to come and frankly, nothing short of a pleasant surprise. Our docent, Shelly was waiting for us and warned us that there was so

much to see we could be here for days! Why didn't I know this?

Through the doors we went back to another time! Shelly showed us what our Florida peninsula looked like a zillion years



ago and what type of animal life was found there. We were then introduced to Florida's first people. We were shown a Cinema worthy film titled the "Winds of Change" when Spanish conquistadores and Florida's original tribes met for the first time.

From that moment, the course of history was changed. We studied an incredible exhibit of Seminole and Miccosukee tribal artifacts which included everyday life settings and featured their unusual and distinctive native clothing. One of the highlights was another interactive experience about a Seminole Indian chief back in 1830 who led his people into battle with the U.S. Army, titled Coacoochee's Story. It was a thought provoking and an unsettling life like drama that was extremely well done. On a lighter side, we visited an old Cigar town known as Ybor City and learned how the Cuban settlement here in Tampa Florida was started.

Another highlight was taking the mega sized elevator to the next level. It was a monster! Getting to the third floor was fun





but once there we had to need to participate! First stop was to check out a Florida cattle drive. It was a problem pulling away some Florida Cowboys and Cowgirls from riding off into the sunset on a bucking bronco to help bring in the herd. But the next exhibits brought us back to reality. It showcased how Florida served during wartime scenarios and how this state was affected by the Civil Rights Era. Again, thought provoking.

But the “Piece de Resistance” was on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. This one was created for sailors!



Here was a full scale replica of an 18<sup>th</sup> century sailing sloop. We were invited to go aboard to suffer a “Pirates Fate” with the crew as they sailed on the high seas. FYI, we ultimately went down with the ship! In flames! We reviewed the use of the ancient methods of sailing by the stars with Celestial Navigation. On this floor there were all sorts of 400 years old artifacts on display retrieved from the bottom of the ocean most of which was buried treasure from ship wrecks. In addition, there were also more than 500 maps, charts and documents in the Cartography section that dated back 500 years. One last door opened to a spectacular present day open air view of Tampa



Bay from ships to shops in one sweeping vista. We were breathless! Shelly spent the afternoon giving us just a taste, a sampling of this incredible museum that I almost overlooked. Think what we would have missed. And the History Center even had a world class gift shop as well. What more could you want, folks? I recommend visiting this museum when you have some free time. It was well worth it! Thank you for joining me on this day of unexpected surprises.

Gail Gordon  
Social Secretary

**SAIL-AWAY TO MAR VISTA AND  
HART'S LANDING  
APRIL 2 TO 4**

This was MSA's second Sail-Away of the 2024 season and it was quite successful.

Our participant sailors were Denny and Brigid Vitton in

"Aurora", Jim and Lynne McGinnis in "Latitude", Mike and Gina Spellacy in "Esprit de Mer", and Chuck Fulton and Sal Alfonso in Sal's Catalina "Boatnuts".

In addition were our landlubber dinner guests, Gail Gordon, Bob and Linda Lund, Deb Jacobs, and Rick and Adelia Jackerson. Sal and I were first to arrive in the Mar Vista cove and found a spot to anchor right in front of the Shore Restaurant where the group was going to meet for dinner tonight. This cove is wind protected and deep with 9 to 11 feet of water in most of its area except for the far south part. We dropped anchor and



after the rode paid out I backed down on it to make sure it set but it didn't. We were dragging so we pulled it back up and came

around to a spot just east of the first one and this time the anchor held but when the wind fared us out on the anchor rode, we were too close for comfort to another sailboat. So we picked it up again and this time got a spot between two other boats with plenty of room between them but fairly close to the Shore restaurant's docks (this would come back to haunt us later tonight).



Denny and Brigid were next to arrive, then Mike and Gina, soon followed by Jim and Lynne. Jim and Lynne tied up "Latitude" at the restaurant's dock which was the most convenient spot of all.

After a bit of rest, we unlimbered our dinghies and went to the restaurant dock and tied up to the stern of "Latitude" to join Jim and Lynne and the other sailors for evening cocktails on their boat. After that we all went into the restaurant at 5:30 where we had a fine

meal in a great location. A few landlubbers, Rick, Adelia, and Gail, who came by land-yacht joined us for dinner for a total group of 11. The hostess seated us at a table that was outside but on a kind of private veranda overlooking the water where we could see our boats contentedly bobbing at anchor. The weather today was perfect with lots of sunshine, a pleasant temperature, a few puffy Florida clouds, and a pleasant breeze. Our food was well prepared, delicious, and presented by several waitresses and one especially who looked after us very efficiently and professionally. The Shore Restaurant was rather expensive but there were some items on the menu that are more modestly priced and it was a delightful place for dinner.

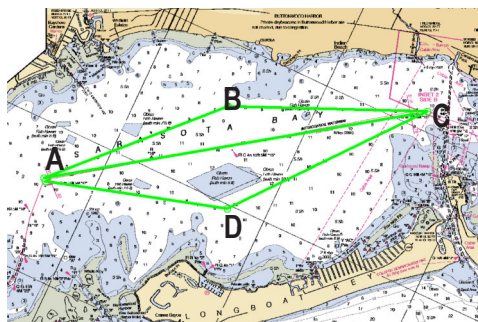
After dinner we all made our way back to our boats and the landlubbers went to their homes for the



night. The temperature was about perfect for sleeping and I was doing just that when I heard Sal up and thumping around on deck. I got up to see what was happening and immediately saw that the wind had changed direction by nearly 90 degrees and was now blowing from the south instead of from the west-southwest. Our stern was now uncomfortably close to the restaurant's docks so at one o'clock in the morning we started the engine and weighed anchor again and moved farther south to put some distance between us and the docks. We got a good set on the first try and were able to go back to bed and get some more sleep before our informal race tomorrow down Sarasota Bay.



The morning dawned another perfect day in Paradise. We had good coffee from Sal's exotic coffee/cappuccino/espresso machine, had a bite to eat, and prepared to weigh anchor again. The forecast for today, Friday, was for light winds from the south until about noon then by 1300 to 1400 southwest winds from 10 to 15 knots for the rest of the afternoon. We had decided the race would start around noon but Mike and Gina were ready to go well before that and had left early for the Bay and the race course. The course was a shape that could be described as two obtuse triangles pushed together on their long side. With the north corner being Point A, the east corner being Point B,



the south corner being Point C, and the west corner being Point D. We planned to sail the course A, B, C, D, A, C which would total 14 NM if we had the wind and the time for the whole distance.

This morning Rick joined Jim and Lynne on Latitude for the race and Sal and I followed them out of Mar Vista Cove and headed for the course about 1100. When we arrived Mike and Gina were already out of sight down the course so just before passing Point A we raised the sails and shut down the engine and the race was on! And the wind, just as forecast, was almost nonexistent. It was 2 to 3 knots and all over the compass so we just barely made headway for

the first hour or so. We tacked back and forth making very little headway down the course line but gave it our best. While we were nearly becalmed we were inundated with love-bugs. They covered the boat and our legs and bodies and we squashed them all over the cockpit sole as they landed on the fiberglass. It was going to be a mess to clean up all these love-bug corpses when we got home, and

thank goodness they don't bite or sting. About 1230 the wind began to increase and pretty soon we had enough to actually proceed down the course towards Point B. Then the wind became 10 to 12 knots from the SW and we were making good progress on

the course. We rounded Point C at the south corner and turned to the NW and the wind got really good and on a broad reach we hit 7 knots over the ground

twice and 6 knots often. Now we were really sailing! Earlier when the wind was so light, I had decided to shorten the course and make the finish line at Point C, but now that the wind was good I texted everybody that we would make the finish line Point D. However, Mike and Gina missed my text and had already dropped their sails. (From this we decided to use a VHF Channel for all race communications from now on. No texts which are too easy to miss.) Earlier Denny and Brigid had texted us to tell us that they had a battery/starter problem at Mar Vista Cove and may not make the race which did become the case.



Here are the final times:

**POINT A TO POINT C:**

- 1st- Latitude (Jim/Lynne/Rick) (1:59)
- 2nd- Boatnuts (Sal/Chuck) (2:02)
- 3rd- Esprit de Mer (Mike/Gina) (2:23)

**POINT A TO POINT D:**

- 1st- Boatnuts (Sal/Chuck) (2:35)
- 2nd- Latitudes (Jim/Lynne/Rick) (2:49)

Mike and Gina's slow times don't speak to their lack of skill, but to the fact that they left Mar Vista Cove the earliest and were in the morning doldrums longer than anyone else. Obviously that must be why real races start with all the boats crossing the start line at the same time. I guess even with these unreal, unofficial races we should try to begin as close as possible to the same time.

After the "race" we all headed south towards the Ringling Megabridge to anchor in Hart's Landing Cove for the night. This cove had good protection from all directions except westerly which, of course, was the wind direction today. However, it was rather deep with 10 to 12 feet of water all the way around the cove

so one could snug up to the shore and have some wind protection and still have good water. You just need to anchor far enough off shore so as not to get blown on to the beach shallows if the wind direction changes. We first chose a spot in the middle of the cove not far from Mike and Gina but the wind swung us too close to another boat so we moved farther into the cove near the east shore on the other side of Mike and Gina and that worked well. When Jim and Rick came into the cove they had the most trouble anchoring and tried several times without getting a good set when they discovered the shank on the anchor of their rented boat was bent. They found another anchor buried in a locker and after digging it out finally managed to get a good set. Now they were ready to join us for dinner.



We had to get ashore since the plan was to walk the mile to Patricks 1481 restaurant in downtown Sarasota for our 7 pm dinner reservation. We unlimbered the



dinghies and Sal and I took Mike and Gina into the Hart's Landing dock where we learned that one couldn't leave their dinghy unattended because of liability issues. After trying unsuccessfully to cajole and/or bribe the young man who was running the bait shop, Sal volunteered to stay with the dinghies while the rest of us went to the restaurant. We all walked quickly to the restaurant since our reservation time was getting close, but Bob and Linda Lund along with Deb Jacobs were already there and holding down the fort for us. Downtown Sarasota was jumping and jiving tonight since it was Friday and every restaurant and sidewalk café was full to overflowing. We had a good dinner there



and it was modestly priced so everybody seemed to enjoy the experience. Sal had asked me to bring him back a burger-all-the-way with fries which I did and he devoured it right on the dock so he was obviously hungry after a couple of hours of doing dock/dinghy/duty. I think he should get some kind of award for volunteering to do this dinghy watching. It was above and beyond the call of duty. Thank you, Sal.

With this current Hart's Landing docking policy I think this could be the last time we'll utilize their dock, but we could anchor in the cove and dinghy around to Marina Jack's' which has a generous dinghy guest policy (but is often crowded with dinghies) or to O'Leary's Tiki Grill and pull the dinghies up on the little sand beach they have. The Sarasota Bay mooring field, just off Marina Jack's, was \$48/night and very exposed to waves from the open bay.

Boats going by can make it quite rolly and/or rough depending on the wind.

We all retired to our boats for the night to get some sleep. The next morning was another beautiful day and the planned activity was to go to the Toasted Mango restaurant for breakfast. This is one of my favorite restaurants but I couldn't go for a couple of reasons. First, since we hadn't made contingency plans for docking the dinghies we were stuck with Denny Vitton's clever method of circumventing this unfortunate rule which was to take his dinghy to the rocky "beach" in this cove and tie it up there which made its occupants have to wade to the shore then walk the 3/4 mile to the restaurant in wet shoes and I didn't want to do that. The second reason was Sal wanted to get home early today so we needed to get going as soon as we could. I didn't mind that; after all Sal brought his boat and let me come with him on this sail-away since my boat is still on-the-hard being worked on. So six of the others in our group got to enjoy the Toasted Mango while Sal and I were motoring up Sarasota Bay. I hope someone had a big toasty Belgian waffle smothered in strawberries and whip cream for me.

If it doesn't get too hot too soon here in SW Florida, we hope to have another Sail-Away before too long. They are a fun way to get together with our boating friends and get out on the water and polish our sailing skills. I hope to see you there too. We will keep you posted on that future sail-away.

Sweet winds and following seas,

Your Cruising Captains,  
Chuck Fulton and Sal Alphonso

## MSA SOCIAL EVENTS

### **ROWDIES NIGHT GAME IN ST. PETE JUNE 15TH**

Summers have always been a little tricky for me when planning an MSA Social Event. Well one thing for sure we know it's going to be very hot outside and most likely very humid. That's a given. And sometimes we have to worry about late afternoon thunderstorms. So venues inside with A/C are most welcome. But there are a lot of great outings held outdoors in the summer and I don't want to discount them either. So taking all that into consideration I came up with a plan. We will do a little of this and a little of that. First up! I am planning an outdoor event in the less steamy hours of the evening for our MSA Social Event in June. It's an activity we are somewhat familiar with but most of us have never attended an actual live professional game. This will certainly be a first for me. So with that in mind, I would like to invite MSA members and friends to join me at Al Lang Stadium in downtown St. Petersburg on June 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30P.M. to watch the Rowdies play a professional game of soccer against one of their most

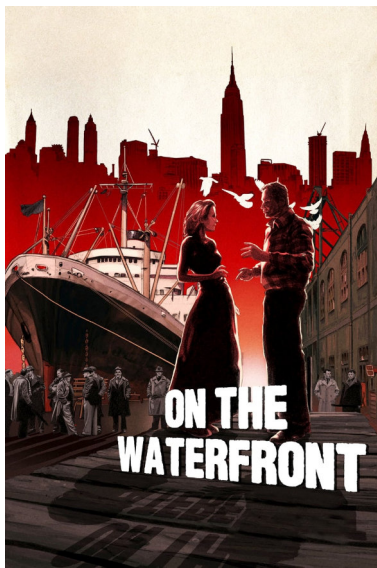


challenging competitors, Louisville City. This is the only home game scheduled for the month of June and I have been forewarned that it should be a really good match-up insuring really good attendance. I have purchased 10 tickets at this time and I have several more being reserved just in case. I have already started marking a sign up list but there is room for lots more! The cost of the ticket which is a group rate for the soccer game is \$25. These seats are overlooking the midpoint of the field enabling us to see both goal posts equally. (J.T. at the

Rowdies ticket offices selected them himself as he thought they provided a good viewpoint at a good price.) Just saying! Of course, since we will be downtown St. Pete on a Saturday evening I will schedule an early dinner in one of downtown St. Pete's fine restaurant (TBA) just walking distance away from the stadium so we can park once and done. That being said please be mindful that parking will most likely have a cost but I will have more information about that later. So in order to secure enough tickets that we can all sit together at the stadium please email me as soon as possible to [gailgordon56@gmail.com](mailto:gailgordon56@gmail.com). Hope to see you there!

### **ON THE HORIZON!**

Now to balance the scale as I said I'd try to do earlier, I would like to invite you for some cool air conditioned comfort at one



of our favorite summer retreats, Classic Movies at the Sarasota Opera House. I think I have selected the best movie on the agenda which is scheduled for Friday evening July 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 P.M. I know, I know, it the day after the 4<sup>th</sup> but I

couldn't pass up this opportunity. I've never seen this National Treasure, one of the greatest films ever made on the big screen before. This black and white 1954 film won 8 Academy Awards after being nominated for 12. Directed by the famous Elia Kazan, the film focuses on the union violence and corruption among the longshoremen on the waterfront of New Jersey during the 50's. The musical score

was composed by the late great Leonard Bernstein. The cast is extraordinary.....starring Marlon Brandon, Rod Steiger, Lee J. Cobb, Karl Malden and introducing Eva Marie Saint. The ticket price for this stunning movie is \$12. Of course I'll try to find a restaurant nearby that will serve us an early dinner



before the show. Please email me at [gailgordon56@gmail.com](mailto:gailgordon56@gmail.com) so I can get our tickets in advance. Hope to see you there!

Gail Gordon  
MSA Social Secretary

**Certified Health Coach**

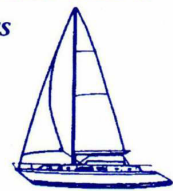


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**WELCOME TO 2024 HURRICANE SEASON  
JUNE 1ST TO NOVEMBER 30TH**

<b>2024 HURRICANE SEASON FORECAST</b>			
	<b>NOAA</b>	<b>CSU</b>	<b>AVERAGE</b>
<b>▶ NAMED STORMS</b>	<b>17-25</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>▶ HURRICANES</b>	<b>8-13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>▶ CAT 3+</b>	<b>4-7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>

***NAMES FOR 2024 HURRICANE SEASON***

Alberto  
Beryl  
Chris  
Debby  
Ernesto  
Francine  
Gordon

Helene  
Isaac  
Joyce  
Kirk  
Leslie  
Milton  
Nadine

Oscar  
Patty  
Rafael  
Sara  
Tony  
Valerie  
William



## 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](mailto:msa@msasailing.org)  
PO Box 14482  
Bradenton, FL 34280

**Contact MSA at:**  
[msa@msasailing.org](mailto:msa@msasailing.org)  
or  
[www.msasailing.org](http://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