



Gale Tales

Manatee Sailing Association

Volume 40 Number 5

www.msasailing.org

May 2025



Up Coming Events

May 2025

Event	Date	Time	Place
Kentucky Derby Party	May 3	5:00 PM	Roger's Home 7304 19 th Ave W Bradenton
Membership Meeting	May 14	5:00 PM	Modern Chop Restaurant

On the Horizon

Event	Date	Time	Place
DWBH	June 11	5:00 PM	Anna Maria Oyster Bar Palmetto



May 3rd

AHOY MSA MEMBERS, FRIENDS, AND FAMILY,

Ahoy MSA Members, Friends, and Family,

DWBH at Motorworks was a great time. Since 2014 World Class Beers right here in Bradenton. Nice to see you all. Thanks Tom! Declan and Pat made a special appearance back from Europe.

I really want to Thank Chuck Fulton and Sal Alphonso for being our Cruising Capt.'s over the last 2 years. We had a lot of fun going to Apollo Beach, St Pete Harborage Marina and Bradenton Beach, The Shore, & Sarasota Basin by Hart's Landing. These guys and Gail of course, made these weekends memorable. And now we are accepting nominations for a new Cruising Capt. Please consider nominating someone for the role or better yet volunteering to take this role. Marinas and waterfront properties should be in better shape for us to visit next year.

MSA Membership Meeting – Our next Membership Meeting will be May 14th at

5PM at the Modern Chop Restaurant. We will have a quarterly membership meeting with updates from our officers and committee chairs. I have been working on getting a guest speaker from Mote Marine, Selby Gardens, FISH Preserve and CAPT Rick Hagan. Two have said yes but must schedule in the Fall. So, I will give a presentation on my trip to Lake Ontario 300 Ocean Race and Clayton, NY last summer.

Linda Briggles has been doing a great job with the books – we still are in the black! And Tom and Linda, thank you for bringing a big crew and our new member Deb Harris out on the Freedom Boat.

Tom also has a DWBH set for Anna Maria Oyster Bar Ellenton on June 11 at 5 PM!

Florida Weekend Sail – I'd like to tell you about our sail this past weekend. Lynne and I chartered a Catalina 30, S/V Latitudes (that we have rented a few times before) for the Terra Ceia Regatta. We picked up the boat Friday at 9AM at a private home dock in Sarasota. (The home port dock SaraBay Marina has not been rebuilt yet from damage stemming from Hurricanes Debbie, Helene and Milton.) We motored 5 hours up the Intracoastal Waterway, through the 2 bascule bridges which open to let us pass at 1215 HRS Cortez Bridge and 1245 HRS Anna Maria Island Bridge to Terra Ceia Bay. Friends had warned that Green Can "7" was missing as we entered near Bird Island. So, we were careful to follow the GPS course on Navionics. We were also fortunate to have a nearly high tide. Having both my cell phone Navionics app and a Garmin Chartplotter on the boat (set at a different range scale) was excellent. Even so, the depth was only about 5 feet

at one point, and we draw 3ft 10in. We saw dolphins several times along the way and 3 large dolphins came right next to the boat as we entered Terra Ceia Bay.

We arrived about 3PM on the dock at the home of Denny and Brigid Vitton. Denny had just finished his new dock since the storm, and we were the first to use it. We



Crew of the S/V Latitudes Denny, Rick, & Jim

got power sorted out on the boat, dock lines adjusted and had a cocktail. John Castellana and Sheryl joined us all for dinner with lots of stories of Terra Ceia Regatta's of years past, sailing on Lake Ontario and around the world.

The next day my crew of Denny and Rick were ready to leave the dock at 10AM as planned. We headed out to Terra Ceia Bay to learn the idiosyncrasies of this boat. I was at the helm. We had white caps just starting as we left the Tropic Isles Marina and decided to leave the reef in the main. We could shake it out later if needed. The traveler and main sheet seemed to work ok. Denny adjusted the blocks for the Jib sheets to accommodate a reef in the headsail. We threw in a few tacks in the building breeze. We spoke to the Race Committee on VHF and they had set out 4 race marks N, S, E & W on the bay. We kept pushing buttons until we figured out how to enter the race



Marino's S2 heeling on Terra Ceia Bay

mark points into the Garmin GPS. Four boats were entered in the Race: (2) S2's (John Castellana on PolyEster with the all female crew of Bobbie and Sue, and Marino Garci on Cohete with the young bucks and (2) Catalina 30's: (Latitudes and Zigzag with Ed Hartung and his crew.) Thank You Sue and Clay for setting everything up! Suffice it to say, the wind built to 18 Kts and gusted to well over 25, so we had our hands full. We did two races and finished last in both. Darn. Even with all the (loud encouragement) yelling I did too! We rounded up a few times in the gusts but so did everyone else. Denny, Rick and I were a good team as it took heading up into the wind and hauling on the traveler lines to move the main sheet block at all. We got an override on the main sheet winch a couple times which was not set up well on the boat. It can be interesting in winds

that gusty when you can't let out the mainsail.

We got to the After Race Party just as it was hitting full swing with a food truck and music at the beautiful house of Candy and Todd right on Terra Ceia Bay.



Party Central at Terra Ceia

We ended up third in the Regatta as John's S2 retired after the first race. Sue and Gail handled the awards and the Rubber Duckie drawing. I called high and luck would have it Lynne won the Prize with RD#50. Thank you both for putting all that together. Tom and Linda brought a power boat and encountered the rough and windy conditions. All in all though, it was a really great day on the water.



Winnings from the TC Regatta

The next day Lynne and I returned the boat to Sarasota. The winds were even stronger, and we were fighting 3-foot

seas in fairly shallow water. By the early afternoon I had a little concern that we were running out of fuel in heavy winds in the Intracoastal Waterway. The fuel gauge was bouncing off E to ¼ tank. I

shut off the engine and rolled out the jib part way trying to conserve fuel. I called the boat owner on my cell, and he told me that ¼ tank really means more than half full on that boat. Oh, that's good to know! Getting back to the dock was no problem.

Lynne and I are visiting Normandy Beaches in France, her brother and family in Portsmouth, England and more over the next two weeks. After the MSA Membership Meeting, we are heading back to NY 5/15/25. Looking to launch S/V Brewster in Watkins Glen, NY by 5/24/25.

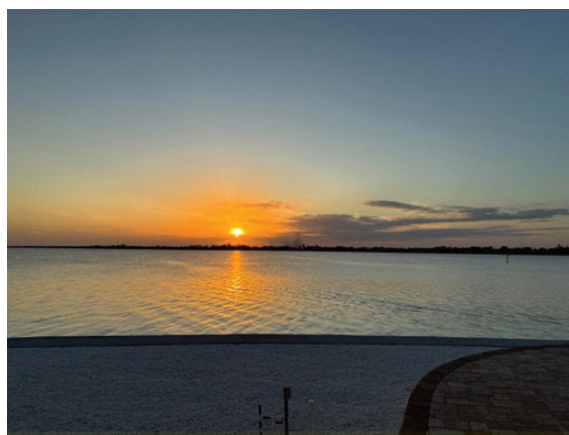


Figure 5 Sunset on Terra Ceia Bay



TERRA CEIA REGATTA



Blue skies and gusty winds were prevalent in the 27th annual Terra Ceia Regatta won by Marino Garci, captain aboard the sailboat Cohete.

Garci and his crew of three navigated the two courses on April 19 to take home the coveted first place trophy that was awarded at a victory party on the shores of Terra Ceia. Games and a scavenger hunt also took place by boat in the canals off the bay.

Sponsored by the Manatee Sailing Association awards were presented to the top four places. In second place by handicap was the boat Zig Zag, captained by Ed Hartung and his crew. MSA Commodore Jim McGinnis and crew took home the third place trophy while John Castellana and crew finished fourth.



The Manatee Sailing Association promotes sailing in the area with social comradely by offering dinner gatherings, meetings with presentations and trips to local attractions. Visit msasailing.org for more information, newsletters and membership applications.

Pictured:

Marino Garci (left) captain with crew of the sailboat Cohete holds the first place trophy won in the 27th annual Terra Ceia Regatta held April 19, 2025

MSA SCORES A WIN AT A DOUBLE HEADER ON APRIL 9TH, 2025!

I was just going along minding my own business when Tom Briggie sent me an email reminder about a DWBH on April 9th at Motorworks. There was an attachment at the bottom of the email that had something to do with a concert at the Bishop scheduled for the same evening. I glanced at it and thought that it looked very interesting but the club was already committed to the DWBH. Tom said that he and Linda had tickets already. He added, wouldn't it be fun if MSA members could tack the concert on to their evening as well. Motorworks was at 5 P.M. and the concert was at 7! It sounded that with a little organization, it would be doable! I went on line and purchased tickets for Chuck and myself but was unable to add any extras to our order. The next morning as soon as the Bishop opened I was on the phone asking about a group package. I was told, the concert was almost completely sold out! Only 11 tickets remained! I grabbed them up immediately hoping I could sell them in the short notice of a few days. 24 hours later the tickets were gone! A total of 15 members would participate in this Double Header Event!

I had no idea what exactly I had signed up for. The



attachment described Matt Venuti as a "one man show". He was a multi-instrumentalist/singer-songwriter and multimedia artist best known for his

distinctive sound and performances using rare and expressive acoustic and electronic instruments. He was the first artist to bring these strange instruments to the stage. Okay, that all sounded good! The article went on to say, Matt had toured the country doing this concert to sold-out audiences in theaters, Clubs and festivals. Ok, I was feeling better! But, it was the next part that clinched it for me. Aside from his concerts, one of Matt's most popular offerings included performing a live music soundtrack to

stunning visuals from nature that he had captured while on tour and when he was "Artist In Residence" in some of our greatest National Parks. He had been invited to the Bishop because recently he had added awe-inspiring footage from Space creating a mesmerizing live show called "AmeriCosmos. This was going to be some show! I was excited!



We had a good turnout at Motorworks that Wednesday evening including most of the 15 members that had purchased tickets to the concert. We enjoyed a beer or two and some food and the incredible camaraderie of our fantastic MSA

members. By 6:30 P.M. we had parked our cars at the Bishop and were in line for the doors to open. Every seat in the planetarium was taken by 7 P.M. when Matt Venuti took his seat at center stage. He gave us a bit of personal history, introduced us to some wild and crazy musical instruments and then settled back to not only an audio presentation but an incredible visual journey of our gorgeous country. The music almost put us in a trance and elevated the mesmerizing video into a sensory experience. This was a concert that included all the senses. The 90-minute program flew by in a flash. I felt as if I had a mental massage. Thank you, Tom Briggie, for pitching this amazing show in my direction. I'm so glad we were able to make this Double Header Event a Big Win.

Gail Gordon
MSA Social Secretary



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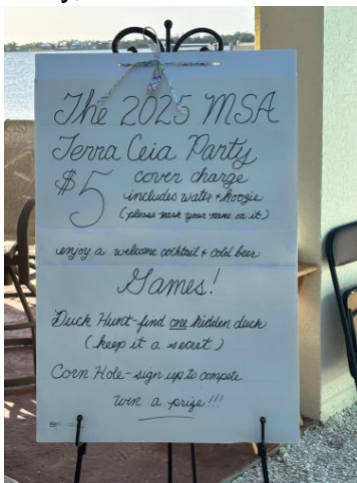
Ed Hartung
USCG Licensed Capt.



P.O. Box 4101
Anna Maria, FL 34216

AN MSA MAGICIAN IN OUR MIDST!

I do not know what I was thinking but I didn't give this years Terra Ceia Regatta's prospects much hope. I mean really, our club has matured over the years and many of us for one reason or another have become "boatless". How could we have a regatta without a bunch of boats for participation? To add insult to injury however, I had heard that we did not even have a place to hold an "after race" party. Honestly, in the back of my mind I was actually looking for a substitute event to add to the calendar to take the place of Terra Ceia. When our resident Magician texted me in March, just a month before the traditional target date to discuss the where, when and how of a possible MSA Terra Ceia Regatta, I was shocked. However, this "Magician" had before taken a bit of this and a bit of that and yes, magic had happened. That's how the 2024 Terra Ceia was created and that's one of the reasons the 2024 MSA Christmas party was so successful. Her wizardry has become legendary! Does this MSA member have a name? You bet, Sue Davidson, MSA's Race Captain!



And so, she did it again! On April 19th, the Saturday before Easter, magic happened. The weather was spectacular sunny and clear, albeit a bit windy for the race. Of course Sue had little to do with that. And somehow, as tradition held true, a sailboat race on Terra Ceia Bay started at noon. 4 courageous captains and crew sailed the course as MSA sailors had been doing for years. Sue pulled out all the stops and made it happen! If that wasn't enough, she also came up with a Treasure Hunt game on the water for some of the non-sailors, which would have been fun on a less windy day.

The game was abridged for safety reasons by the Briggles whose vessel was struggling with the less than favorable conditions. Around 3 P.M. the race drew to a close, scores were tallied



and those on the water came to shore to relax and party. But where did they go?

Sue had somehow persuaded good friends of hers, Candy and Todd, who lived in a sort of castle directly on the water of Terra Ceia Bay to allow our crazy club to take up residence in their resort style back yard for a few hours. To help with party expenses, a small cover charge of \$5 (which included an MSA koozie and cold water) was collected as 47 members gathered to celebrate the day. A welcome drink, the winner of last years TC drink contest,



greeted each member on arrival. Cold beer provided by the club was waiting in a cooler for sailors and partiers all afternoon. A Food Truck was parked on the side of the house to provide yummy Greek Food to hungry sailors and friends. Ice Cream was served as the sun became low in the sky. These pleasantries were all arranged by a talented magician!

Winners were announced around 6:30 P.M! We gathered along the waters edge to hear the results of the 2025 Terra Ceia Regatta as follows: 4th place.....John Castellano, 3rd place.....Jim McGinnis, 2nd place.....Ed Hartung and not really a surprise, Marino Garcia took the 1st place trophy home for another year. However, each participant was given a prize for pulling together a crew and showing up to race today. Without them, we wouldn't

have had a regatta. A special gift was presented to Tom Briggie for piloting the motorboat for the Treasure Hunt for members who wanted to play. And apparently he was playing the game too because he won a prize for the least points scored. A Duck Hunt Game was part of the afternoon festivities as well and the winner was Lynne McGinnis. Linda Briggie won the Corn Hole Championship. As the afternoon turned into the evening, a glowing sunset completed the day as members and sailors began their departure home via car or boat. It had been a surprising day when with a



little magic, the improbable happened. Thank you, Sue, for all your amazing wizardry!

Gail Gordon
MSA Social Secretary





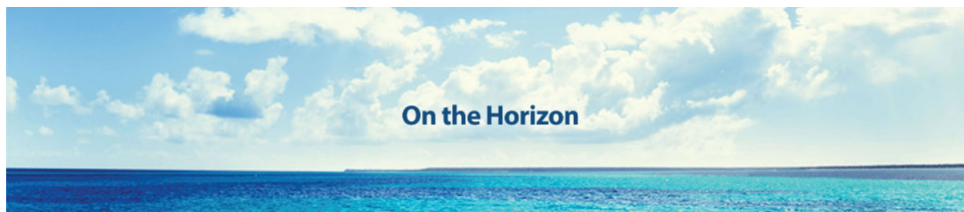
CALL TO POST" FOR THE 2025 MSA KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY

All the preparations for the Saturday May 3rd Kentucky Derby Party are in place. The Mint Juleps are chilling, the hats are getting their final touches and waging a bet is still possible. Its not too late to add your name to the list of racegoers gathering at Rogers Cappello's home at 7304 19th Ave Northwest to sing "My Old Kentucky Home" as the horses are "Called



Run For The Roses

to Post" at the gate for the 151st Running of the Roses at Churchill downs. The party starts at 5 P.M., bring an appetizer to share, a personal beverage if you desire (beer and wine will be provided) and a festive hat to wear as we honor the traditions of race day. This is the last MSA party until late fall so don't miss the opportunity to join your friends and cheer for the best horse of the day! See you there! P.S. The Post Time of the 1 and ¼ mile Race is scheduled for 6:57 P.M. and usually takes a mere 2 minutes.



I don't have the MSA Social Activities and Events Calendar planned for the summer months yet. There are the usual suspects such as the Summer Movie Classics at the Sarasota Opera, or a Rowdies Game in St. Petersburg or in fact a Marauders Baseball game right here in town. However, I am always looking for something new and different to do in the

hot summer weather. Ideas are always welcome! So keep a look out for emails with details of upcoming events as the summer draws near.

Gail Gordon
MSA Social Secretary

AN EXOTIC GETAWAY JUST DOWN THE ROAD

By Gail Gordon

For the last few weeks we have been busy with one project after another and I for one was getting tired of the routine. So last Sunday we took a risk and drove north up 41 for slightly less than an hour, turned right for a block

on Palm River Road and entered into a different World. This was a world of colorful orchids hanging from the low branches of the many shade trees along the water. It was a place of peace and meditation. It was a place of gilded arches and windows and prayer.

But mostly it was a place where one could savor the flavors of a

faraway place. Could this be Thailand? No, we had just turned into the packed parking lot of Wat Mongkolratanaram Buddhist Temple in Tampa. Apparently, every Sunday morning of the year from 9 A.M. to 1

P.M., crowds have frequented this charming

religious temple for some of the best food at incredible prices around. The first stop after finding a parking space which was no easy task, was to stand in awe of the beautiful Wat shimmering in the morning light.

Then we gravitated over to a line on a long open porch. We asked a few people waiting how this worked. Along the side of a large building were the many food stations. Most items were prepared for

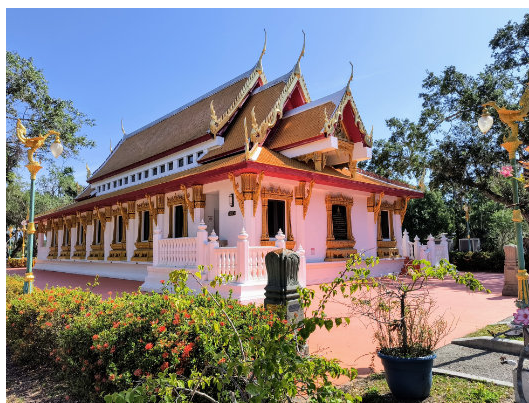
take away. We had not brought a cooler so our only option was to eat there. There were spring rolls, wings, crab Rangoon, chicken satay and most of the traditional Thai street foods.

There were also sweets although the Mango cheesecake we heard so much about was sold out. We came too late.

The next area was a Pad Thai station where they made your food to order. But the object of our attention today was to try the noodle soup that this community was famous for. There was beef, pork and vegetable choices served to go or to eat there. We chose the later of course. All food items were paid in cash. A

humongous bowl of soup was only \$12. We took our food to one of the tables set up along the banks of the Tampa Canal Extension under the shade of the many trees. The soup was steaming hot and delicious! As we looked around it was difficult to remember

where exactly we were in the world. It felt exotic and foreign. We had only just heard about this amazing place not far from home which is why I am sharing it with you. After our meal we visited the Temple. Shoes off and respectful clothing was required. And if you are lucky enough to be there on a Buddhist holiday, you will get to see a traditional presentation. After this exotic getaway, I was ready to get back to my old routine. I felt like I had been on vacation without stepping on a plane or suffering jetlag.





Manatee Sailing Association New Membership Application

Name(s): 1. _____ 2. _____

Other members in household: _____

Address: _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell 1: _____ Cell 2: _____

Email 1 _____ Email 2 _____

Boat Make/Size _____ Boat Name _____

I voluntarily assume all risks of participating in Manatee Sailing Association events, on land or water, and agree to hold harmless against any and all losses and/or claims incident thereto, the Manatee Sailing Association (a 501(c) nonprofit, all volunteer, organization), its officers and members. If I have a vessel, I certify that my vessel complies with U.S. Coast Guard requirements and that I maintain insurance policies sufficient to protect myself and my property, including liability, medical and property coverage, which insurance is primary and non-contributory.

Signature: _____

Annual Dues: \$100 for first member of household plus \$25 for each other members of household.

Please mail or email application to:

Manatee Sailing Association or msa@msasailing.org
PO Box 14482
Bradenton, FL 34280

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



MSA 2025 Officers

Commodore - Jim McGinnis
Vice Commodore - Tom Briggie
Cruising Captains - Chuck Fulton and
Sal Alfonso
Racing Captain - Sue Davidson
Secretary - Lynne McGinnis
Treasurer - Linda Briggie
Social Secretary - Gail Gordon
Membership - Deana Boydston
Past Commodore - Patti Korn