



Gale Tales

Manatee Sailing Association

Volume 40 Number 12

www.msasailing.org

December 2025



Up Coming Events

Event	Date	Time	Place
Christmas Concert	Dec 7	4:00 PM	Neal Performing Arts Center
Christmas Party	Dec 14	3:00 PM	Lund's Club House
Installation Party	Jan 18	TBD	Terra Ceia Country Club

A Tropical Christmas Party



December 14th

AHOY MSA MEMBERS, FRIENDS, AND FAMILY

Sailing from Puerto Rico

In late October, Lynne and I met four friends in San Juan, Puerto Rico for a couple day tour on the island and 5 days on a Lagoon 42 Catamaran. We flew into San Juan on the heels of Hurricane Melissa which ended up blasting Jamaica and Cuba but left Puerto Rico untouched! We rented a car and drove to Old Town San Juan for a visit to the old forts and bustling center of the old city. On the way to the boat, we stopped for a few hours at El Yunque (White



Mountain) National Rainforest. It rains nearly every day there and the plant life is straight out of Jurassic Park. Huge ferns that would grow close to the ground most places were stories high. A well-designed high elevation visitor center was lightly manned during the US Gov't shutdown but open to tourists.

We continued to Safe Harbor Marina Del Rey.

Fajardo PR. It's now the largest marina in the Caribbean, more than 2000 boats. The charter contract was with Samboat, a rental broker for the boat owner. Jose from Sail Caribe (another company) was responsible for the boat check out and safety briefing. Safe Harbor operates the marina. Everything was first class – Showers, bathrooms top end. Staffed golf carts are available all day and evening to transport you from the Check-in point to the boat with your gear and food. There is a nice on-site restaurant with very decent prices. We stayed on the boat Thursday night and got familiar with basics on the boat.

On Friday AM, Jose introduced us to Finegirl – 42 Ft Lagoon Catamaran 2024 – very lightly used. Powered 2 big Yanmar diesel engines and by a generator that powers the watermaker and 4 air-conditioning units!

Jose explained that there are no marinas to stay at once we leave Fajardo and the boat is self-sufficient. We ran the anchor and bridle down and back up with the electric windlass. We also tested the dinghy which was a 4 person RIB with a 20HP Honda. Thankfully Jose piloted the

catamaran in the tight squeeze through the marina to the gas dock and topped off fuel and water. We ran the jib out and raised the main sail up at the gas dock using the electric winches. We talked about the weather and Jose advised that we get all the way to Culebra – 20 miles, 4 hours on Friday since rain and wind was expected Saturday.



We picked a large, protected bay “Honda Ensenada” as our destination. We left Jose at the gas dock and cast off the lines. I use Navionics GPS app on my phone for navigation as we learned to operate the Raymarine chart plotter at the helm “on the fly”. The trip to Culebra -was 20 miles directly into the wind so we motored at 6 knots to arrive well before dark. Arriving as planned we were near the town of



An uninvited guest on the dinghy

Dewey on Culebra. We dropped anchor in 15ft of water and set it carefully. We took some bearings, and I set the anchor alarm on my phone to alarm if we drifted significantly at night. Dinner, Cards and lights out.

Saturday was a rainy windy day but enjoyable on the water. We saw a sailboat near us drag its anchor and end up near shore in soft mud. A power launch from the local area came quickly to his rescue and pulled him to deeper water near to high tide.

The next day we headed to Playa Tortuga Beach on uninhabited Culebrita which Jose had recommended. This beach is one of the most protected and beautiful island beaches any of us had ever seen. There were turtles swimming near the boat and a couple of stingrays jumped out of the water. We snorkeled on a shallow reef and swam into shore. Sand was light and nearly devoid of shells. Just a fabulous spot.

The next day we sailed down wind to Flamenco Beach on Culebra which is a popular tourist spot accessible by land and boat from Dewey. There were a few people there and a slight swell with seas making the anchorage a little rolly. We all decided to sail back to Playa Tortuga and enjoy our favorite spot for a few more hours. That night we anchored at "Bahia de Almodovar" which Bob Lund had told me about. The anchorage has a few mooring balls (that



Mooring ball floating near shore. Not a good sign

we decided not to trust) since we saw one floating against the mangrove. This spot is open to the wind for nice air at night but protected by a

reef that stops any waves. Super spot. No other boats in sight. We decided that this area was so nice that we didn't need to make the trip to Vieques which was another 20 miles.

One night in Honda Ensenada, we transported everyone to a restaurant "La Cocina del Navegante" (The Kitchen of the Navigator) on shore with the dinghy. We all ordered the dinner special which has a piece of grouper wrapped around a pile of scallops and shrimp. Oh my, oh my! Mojito's were the drink special and I don't recall how many of those we ordered. It



Sunrise in Marina Del Rey

got late!

The last day we got up and set the sails back to Fajardo. The wind was right on the stern, so we broad reached and made just two jibes to cover the 20 miles. Perfect sailing for the big catamaran. All in all, this trip was very different from our trips to BVI as the area is not nearly as populated and no cruise ships. We had a blast and could do another trip to Vieques someday.

Our last MSA Membership Meeting was 11/12/25 5PM at Modern Chop. The speaker that evening was Maddie Frick



who presented an inside look at the Florida Maritime Museum. She did a super job and provided a lot of background on the history of this gem of our Florida Gulf Coast.

On November 12th we also voted in a new 2026 Slate of Officers:

Rick Jackson and Chuck Fulton – Co-Commodores

Tom Briggie Vice Commodore,
Linda Briggie Treasurer

Claude Solomon. Secretary
With this experienced team, the Club will be well served!

Mark your calendar for January 18th 2026 @ 5PM for the Change of Watch Party at the Terra Ceia Yacht Club!

Fair winds,
Jim

A Tropical Christmas Party December 14th

Linda and Bob Lund invite you to the
MSA Christmas Luau

Location:

Lunds Clubhouse
4212 126th St W., Cortez

Date/Time:

Sunday December 14th at 3:00 PM



Don your festive tropical attire for the MSA Luau Themed Christmas Party.

The club will provide a delicious baked ham with pineapples and we ask that you bring Luau themed appetizers, salads, side dishes or desserts to share.

Bring your favorite beverage and spirits for your own enjoyment.

Please email Linda at lrmarquart@msn.com or text message at (605) 310-6039 if you plan to attend.

THE 88 PIANO BAR NOVEMBER 9TH

I don't think too many MSA members who signed up for the 88 Piano Bar Social Event on November 9th knew what they were getting into. For starters, on arrival we discovered that parking was most challenging. As per usual in the fall and winter, the nearby Anna Maria Oyster Bar was busy for the dinner meal. But I did not expect that the entire rather large parking lot would be completely full! It was necessary to search in adjacent lots and on the street to secure a parking space, which from there, required a bit of a walk back to the venue. As we entered, a sign at the door indicated that the night-club was completely sold out for the evening. It was "Boomers Night" at the Piano Bar and the big attraction was a live band playing music from our youth, the 60's, 70's and 80's.

Apparently, there were a lot of "Boomers" living in this area!

I had made a reservation for a table for 20 and the manager made sure we had a good spot near the dance floor. After 6 p.m. our group started to arrive and we all ordered a drink, some so festive that they were illuminated. The music was great but the problem was that it was too loud. We could barely hear the person sitting directly next to us even if they yelled. Many members were wearing hearing aids and it



took only a moment for them to turn off the volume completely. Did we really enjoy the music that loud when we were kids? Maybe that was why so many of us

needed hearing aids at this time to begin with! Everyone got on the dance floor sometime during the

evening. But some members danced quite a bit. Rick and Adelia Jackerson were presented with a peace sign necklace for their lively



participation. Several of us ordered food like pizza or appetizers and surprisingly they were quite delicious and nicely priced. Most of all, this entire venue was a surprise to all of us. Who knew it was almost hiding here in the corner of this familiar shopping center?

The lights, the crowds, the noise, the dancing became almost an assault on the body, but it was FUN!!!! For a few moments, we forgot our aches, pains and concerns to just let go and remember how it

felt to be young again. I was quite confident that everyone enjoyed this "out of the ordinary" evening that didn't require a plane ride or a fancy hotel. I wouldn't want to visit the night-club everyday but for just a token \$5 cover charge and maybe purchasing a drink, we were transported to another time, another era of our lives when being a little

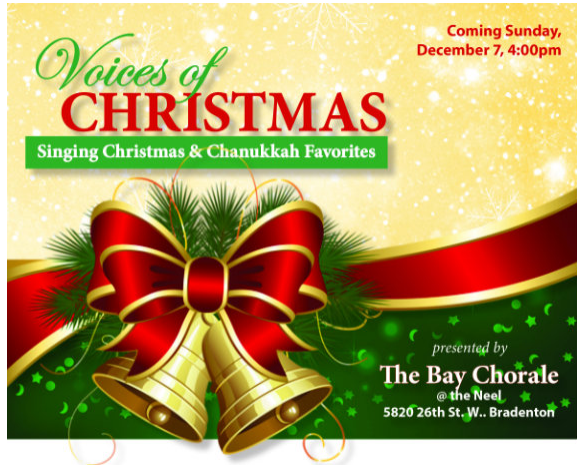
crazy was the norm. Thank you for joining me on a musical journey back to our youth!

Gail Gordon
MSA Social Secretary

MSA SOCIAL EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 2025

A Christmas Concert The Bay Chorale December 7th at 4 P.M.

Many MSA members will be celebrating the Holiday season at a concert presented by the Bay Chorale of Bradenton featuring Christmas and Chanukkah favorites at the



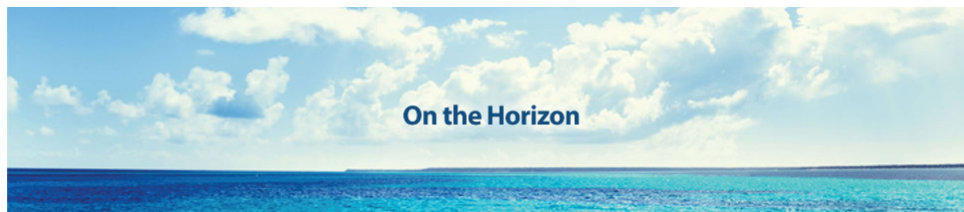
Neal Performing Arts Center (5840 26th St. W) at the State College of Florida. The tickets are \$15 and the proceeds provide scholarships to local music students. Not only will it elevate their Holiday spirits with wonderful music but they will cheer on one of the performers, MSA's dear friend Diana Martin, a former member. Afterwards (about 6:00 p.m) they will enjoy a Holiday dinner at Mean Deans (6059 26th St W.) just a skip and a hop from the concert. By now, tickets have been reserved and purchased but last minute attendance may be possible. If not sold out, tickets may be available at the door or online but please contact Tom Briggie at tbriggie@gmail.com to be added to dinner reservations. The concert is a popular event and MSA members are looking forward to starting the Holiday Season out with wonderful music. See you there!

MSA Annual Christmas Party December 14th at 3 P.M

MSA members are invited to a fabulous Christmas Luau at the Lunds Clubhouse (4212 126th St W., Cortez) on Sunday December 14th.



Wear your tropical shirts and shorts and your colorful sarong and a sun hat no matter what the temperature happens to be that day. We will be warm and wonderful inside. The club will provide a delicious baked ham with pineapples and we will ask you to bring festive Luau themed appetizers, salads, side dishes or desserts to share. (Please be mindful that there is no longer an oven at the clubhouse.) Please bring your favorite beverage and spirits for your own enjoyment. If you are planning to attend the Christmas party, please email Linda at lrmarquart@msn.com or text message at (605) 310-6039 so she can plan accordingly. We will spend a few hours of the busy Holiday Season together and enjoy food, fun and our MSA family. P.S. Grass skirts are optional! Hope to see you there!



**MSA 2026 INSTALLATION BANQUET
"SILVER SAILS"
JANUARY 18TH**

On Sunday evening January 18th we will celebrate another year of Manatee Sailing Association by honoring the officers of the past year and welcoming the new MSA board for 2026. Preparations have started and the date and the place have been selected. We will return to the Terra Ceia Country Club banquet room for our celebration. I have chosen the theme of "Silver Sails" to set the stage for the next chapter of our club. We have just spent the year 2025 as MSA's Ruby Jubilee Anniversary of 40 years. We may be getting older but

maybe the best is yet to come as we look forward to the next decade. As an Olympic athlete may be thrilled to achieve a Silver medal, he is always striving for that illusive Gold. So wrap yourself in shimmering silver on January 18th and join us at the Installation Banquet with excitement for the New Year and what begins the next decade of MSA adventures.

Gail Gordon
MSA Social Secretary

Certified Health Coach

Betty Burton, RN, MSN

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Anna Maria, FL 34216



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