



Gale Tales

Manatee Sailing Association

Volume 41 Number 6

www.msasailing.org

June 2026

Up Coming Events

| Event | Date | Time | Place |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|------------------------------|
| DWBH | June 10 | 4:00 PM | Anna Maria Oyster Bay at UTC |
| Gulf Island Ferry | June 26 | 4:00 PM | Riverwalk Pier |
| MSA Quarterly Meeting | Aug 13 | 5:00 PM | Mean Deans |
| Paint and Sip Social | Aug TBD | TBD | Painting with a Twist |
| Dinner & Movie | Sep 4 | TBD | Sarasota Opera House |



AHOY MSA MATES

This month I will tell you about the longest sailing trip I have ever made and I'm going to call it "Passage- Part One". It all began when I decided to take my family to the BVIs for a vacation in August 1987. We decided St. Thomas would be a lovely island to visit and enjoy so we flew down there landing in St. Thomas at the Cyril King airport then took a cab to a local hotel. In perusing the local activity brochures, I noticed an ad for a day-sail on a Morgan 46 named "Fantasy" with a husband and wife team as the crew. It sounded perfect for this occasion, so I called and booked it for two days hence.

When the day arrived, we took a cab to the American Yacht Harbor dock located in Red Hook Harbor at the east end of the island where we were met by Capt. Leonard Morton. Leonard welcomed us



aboard "Fantasy" and introduced us to his wife and First Mate, Judie, who showed us around their boat. We got underway and had a wonderful day-sail and enjoyed it so much I asked if next year we might come back and cruise with them for a week, but they said this day-sail was their swan song for chartering because they were taking the boat back to Ft. Lauderdale to sell it and go back to Tennessee to spend time with their families. I asked if they needed crew for the passage back to the States and they said "Yes" so we had a plan.

I took my family back home to Atlanta, repacked my bag and the next day flew back to St. Thomas to begin the passage. The crew was Captain Leonard, me, and two young men, Greg and Noel, from the fuel dock whom Leonard knew and who were accomplished sailors. We bedded down for the night and were up at 6am to get fuel and take on water, but had a two hour delay at the fuel dock because of inefficient new staff. Greg and Noel were going to be sorely missed at this fuel dock. I was the least experienced sailor in this group but I thought Leonard took me on because he valued my experience as an airline pilot with navigational skills. Now we were off and running with 950 nautical miles

(1,100 statute miles) to go to Ft. Lauderdale and approximately 7 days at sea depending on weather conditions and delays.

After clearing Red Hook Harbor, we raised the main and the jib but continued motoring for a while to make sure the batteries were completely charged. After we cleared Little Hans Lollok Island, we took up a heading of 330 degrees which roughly aimed us at San Salvador Island 650 miles away which was our turn point into and through the Bahamas Islands. Leonard divided the days and nights into watches for the three of us, three hours on, and six hours off in the daylight hours and 2 hours on and 2 hours off after midnight; eight hours on duty and 16 hours off every 24 hours. That didn't sound too bad, but I wondered how I would sleep after a few days of this kind of schedule in a pitching and rolling bunk. Since Greg and Noel had the first two watches that day, I took the helm at 1500 for the late afternoon shift. At 1300 Puerto Rico was still in sight, but the Virgin Islands were beginning to faint in the distant haze. The seas were gentle and the weather was scattered clouds, 12 miles visibility, temp 85, wind 110 degrees at 15 knots so it was a beautiful Caribbean day. Everything happened in slow motion on a sailboat. The

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distance I covered in an hour and thirty minutes as a pilot would take four days here. There were still seabirds flying around the boat and occasionally we passed through a school of flying fish which were pretty to watch skittering away as they glided a hundred yards or so on their oversized lateral fins spread out like little wings.

My first watch at the helm from 3 to 6 pm went quickly. We were now out of sight of land. Puerto Rico was the last island visible, but it too has receded into the haze. We saw no other boats since leaving St. Thomas. The sun was now setting on a perfect sailing day with benign seas of 3 to 4 foot swells, steady wind about 15 knots from 110 degrees and only a few clouds all day. The language of the boat was in two different dialects, above deck and below deck. Above were the sounds of the wind and sails and swish of the hull as it cut through the water and the sheet lines snapping from loose to taut and back again when the boat rolled. Below deck was the hollow reverberation of the mast made by wires running the length of the inside of the mast and slapping the aluminum sides as the boat rolled from side to side. Also below was the voice of the prop shaft and propeller as the movement of the boat through the water caused it to rotate. It almost sounded like the engine was running which it would be shortly when Leonard charged up the batteries for the night's run. Before it got dark Leonard and the boys took two reefs in the mainsail in case we got a blow tonight. Out on the deck at night was no place to be during a

thunderstorm; much safer to put the reef in while you could see what you were doing. Now to try to get some sleep amid all these new sounds and movement; it was not my usual nighttime sleeping environment.

I'm going to pause this story for now. Don't touch that dial! Some interesting things happened before we finished this passage and I will tell you about them in Part Two.

The Terra Ceia race and party is probably a distant memory by now, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank several people who made it such a success. First is Sue Davidson for setting up the race and overseeing it to a fun and exciting finish. Next, I want to thank Gail Gordon for her meticulous planning, making table decorations, and a special welcome rum drink for everyone, also Rick Jackson for scheduling the food truck, Simply Greek, and finally Roger Cappello for getting the Corn Hole game which he is contributing to the club. These people and all those who came made this Terra Ceia a great and memorable race and party. Thank you, ALL!

I'll make a brief mention of past and future MSA events before I close. Our Rowdies soccer game outing was a success, because the Rowdies won the game, are still unbeaten, and we did not get the forecasted rain that day. The general meeting at Mean Dean's was made even better by Jeanette Edwards' insightful presentation of her "Seabird Rescue"

business endeavor. Our own Social Chairperson, Gail Gordon, has scheduled a Gulf Island Ferry trip to Anna Maria Island on June 26 at 4pm and maybe we'll get to ride their new bigger boat this time. Our next general MSA meeting will be at Mean Dean's on August 13 at 5pm at which time I will have a Cortez Station Coast Guard representative, Elaina Stonestreet, speak to us, so be thinking of questions to ask her. We have a Classic Movie at the Sarasota Opera House on September 4 at 5pm. The Anna Maria picnic pavilion is scheduled for October 17 at 11am and the Jackerson's have again generously offered to host our

Halloween Party at their house on October 31. The last event of 2026 will be the Christmas Party with the location TBA. To start the New Year of 2027 we will have our MSA Installation Dinner at the Terra Ceia Country Club on January 17, so all you potential new commodores get ready to put on your captain's hat with the scrambled eggs on the bill.

Nautically and fraternally yours,
Co-Commodore Chuck

Summer Starts: Sunday, Jun 21 4:24 am EDT



**BEGINNING OF
SUMMER**

The first day of summer (June solstice) is when the sun is in its most northern position directly over the Tropic of Cancer. This is referred to as astronomical summer or the summer solstice.

I HAVE BEEN FEELING A BIT UNDER THE WEATHER LATELY!

by Gail Gordon

At the beginning of 2026, I penciled in the calendar, a rough plan for MSA Social Events with a suggestion or idea for every month of the year. Many would not work out, some would fall by the wayside, and some would end up being switched around to a better date. However, a few of those



event ideas did find their way written in permanent ink onto the calendar.

I had a Rowdies Match as a part of the plan targeted for late spring when the temperature would be pleasantly warm but not too hot and summer afternoon showers would not arrive for another

month or two. I made the call to the Tampa Bay Rowdies in mid January for scheduling information. An agent recommended purchasing the tickets at this early date. The total cost would reflect a few sizable discounts in our favor. He also suggested that we could move to a much closer seating area for just a few dollars more. Plus, he would hold several extra seats in our row for more members who may at the last minute want to attend. So, I bit the proverbial bullet and bought 10 tickets for a match set for May 2nd at Al Lang Stadium in St. Petersburg.

An announcement of this outing was mentioned in the March Gale Tales in “On the Horizen”. But when April came around and I only had 4 tickets spoken for, I started to get nervous. What was going on? Why didn’t members want to go to a professional soccer game? I had an “aha” moment when I realized from watching a news report that the Kentucky Derby was scheduled for the same evening. I had made a huge mistake in my planning. But amazingly as it always seems to happen, a few days before the event, all 10 tickets had been sold. I thought I could finally relax. I was wrong again.



When scheduling outside events that required a large monetary investment in advance with no chance to get a refund, the weather becomes of intense interest to me. It was a total shock when we were at this years "Sunday at the Polo Matches" enjoying our luncheon and each other when a local shower minutes before the start of the match, dumped enough rain on the field to scratch the event. At least we would be able to rebook another day for next year's polo season. So, in affect, we did not lose any money. But this time for the Rowdies match, there would be no refunds. Professional soccer was like American football in that they were "all weather" sporting events.



The forecast a week before the match looked perfect. Later in the weekend, on Sunday, a cold front was mentioned in the forecast that could bring some well needed rain to our drought conditions, but Saturday would be warm and sunny! However, as the week went on, the front kept moving closing and closer to Saturday. The day before the match, severe weather was forecast to



be on its way and would be on top of us just about the time we would be taking our seats at the stadium. And Saturday morning, the forecast moved up a bit earlier to include our drive to St. Pete. I paced the floor worrying about these predictions trying to figure out what we should do. I rationalized that at least we had early dinner reservations so if we could get there safely, not all would be lost. But the Soccer game.....in pouring rain..... might be a goner.

Courage and bravery are among the many characteristics of the members of MSA, I am sure of it! With an impending severe storm hovering over our area, somehow, everyone who had made a commitment to this event, with raincoat in hand, made it to the table at Gratzzi Italian Grill and afterwards to the Al Lang Stadium to watch a terrific match of professional soccer. And guess what? Although our seats were wet on arrival, nary a drop of rain fell on us during the 2 hours sitting in the open stadium. I finally relaxed, for real,

as we watched the match from seats so close to the field that we felt a part of the action.

I wish I could say that we all were professional soccer experts, I can't, but we just may get there someday. This was our second outing to see the Rowdies, and I believe we enjoyed the match with a bit more knowledge than the last time.

We now know that there were no "time outs" in the game. The clock started and ran until 45 minutes were completed. It stopped for a 15 minute "half time", ran for another 45 minutes, and then stopped. The referee then added whatever extra

minutes were taken up during a pause for injuries or penalties or substitutes and added it at the end of each 45-minute segment of play time. In this instance at the end of this match, there were 4 minutes of play added after the clock stopped. We also knew that there were 11 players on each team; the goalkeeper, 4 defenders, 4 mid-fielders and 2 forwards. The goalie wore a different color than the team's uniform, so he stood out on the field. The Rowdies goalie, Jahmali Waite, was a cool dude wearing black digs while the goalie on the Indy Eleven team looked dorky in a mustard yellow outfit. Jahmali made about a million saves during the game and one

time took a leap and fall that scared us half to death.

By the end of the evening, the Rowdies moved to the top of the Eastern Conference standings with a win, 1 to 0, over the Indy Eleven. The key moment was when attacker, Russell Cicerone, helped pave the way for the winning goal, driving down the right edge of Indies goal box and cutting back before centering a pass to Mattheus Oliveira who then kicked the ball straight past the keeper.



The Tampa Bay Rowdies at the end of this game remained undefeated through the first seven matches of the season so far. We high fived each other as we walked back to our cars

thanking the weather gods for taking such good care of us. I was exhausted after stressing for days about the possible storm that had been predicted to ruin our expensive MSA event. As we drove home, I felt just a little bit..... shall we say, "under the weather"! Thank you MSA members for joining me on another rather exciting MSA adventure!

Gail Gordon
MSA Social Secretary

P.S. After another month of competition, the Tampa Bay Rowdies, to date are still "undefeated"! Go Rowdies!

MSA SOCIAL EVENT FOR JUNE 2026

WELCOME ABOARD THE GULF ISLAND FERRY!

Getting to and from Bradenton to Anna Maria Island has become much easier than ever before. Now, you don't have to deal with the terrible beach traffic or the difficult challenge of trying to find the illusive



parking spot. For a nominal fee we can sit back and enjoy a luxurious 50 minute cruise on our spectacular Gulf waters and be deposited stress-free on historic Bridge Street ready for food, drink and entertainment. The date I have selected for our little get-a-way is just before the crazy Holiday summer rush, Friday June 26th at 4 P.M. returning on the 8:30 P.M. ferry cruise.

We will park in downtown Bradenton in the free parking garage across from the Bishop and take the short walk along the river under the Green Bridge to the Gulf Bay Ferry Dock, (Bradenton Riverwalk Pier 452 3rd Ave W). The ferry will leave promptly at 4 P.M. so please be ontime. The MSA

reservation will be under my name, Gail Gordon.

We will arrive at Bridge Street just before 5 P.M. We will have a 5:30 P.M reservation at the Bridge Street Bistro located at 111 Gulf Dr. S Bradenton Beach on the 3rd floor restaurant. That will give us plenty of time to enjoy our meal and have a leisurely walk stopping to shop if desired at the boutiques along the way back to the ferry dock. The ferry will leave Bridge Street promptly at 8:30 P.M. If we are lucky, we will enjoy a stunning sunset on the way back to Bradenton. Please make your reservations for this summer cruise by emailing me at gailgordon56@gmail.com no later than June 23rd. The cost of the round trip ferry ride is \$11 for adults, \$7 for seniors and free to those 80 and older.

See you there! Gail



ON THE HORIZON

- July Social Event: Canceled! Gone fishing!!!!
- August Social Event: Painting with a Twist Party date and time TBA
- August 13th: MSA Quarterly General Meeting at Mean Deans at 5 P.M.
- September Social Event: Friday September 4th Dinner and a Movie, "The Princess Bride" time TBA
- October 17th: MSA Annual Beach Picnic at 11 A.M. Anna Maria BayFront Park
- October Social Event: MSA's almost Annual Halloween Costume party October 31st at the Jackersons time TBA

Gail Gordon
MSA Social secretary



We have a **DWBH** scheduled at the Anna Maria Oyster Bar in the Square at UTC on June 10, starting an hour earlier at 4 PM. The AMOB in the Square at UTC is located at 5405 University Pkwy Unit 110, Bradenton, 34201. As an added bonus we have 4 free tickets to Mote Marine Aquarium less than a mile away at 225 University Town Center Drive, Sarasota, 34243. It takes nearly 2 hours to see all the exhibits so a small group can start there at 2PM to enjoy the three levels in this new location off I-75. Email Tom Briggles at tbriggles@hot-lead.com and he will send the tickets electronically.



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 2026 Officers

Commodore - Rick Jackerson & Chuck Fulton
Vice Commodore - Tom Briggie
Cruising Captain - Jim McGinnis
Racing Captain - Sue Davidson
Secretary - Claude Solomon
Treasurer - Linda Briggie
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