



Gale Tales

Manatee Sailing Association

Volume 41 Number 9

www.msasailing.org

September 2026

Up Coming Events

Event	Date	Time	Place
Dinner & Movie	Sep 4	4:45 PM	Sarasota Opera House
DWBH	Sep 9	5:00 PM	Hickory Hollow
Beach Party	Oct 17	11:00 AM	AMI Bayfront Park
Pops Concert	Oct 24	7:00 PM	Vinoy Park, St Pete
Halloween Party	Oct 31	5:00 PM	Jackerson's House



DINNER AND A MOVIE



**SEPTEMBER
4TH**

**SARASOTA
OPERA
HOUSE**

Ahoy MSA Mates

"My Passage - Part III"

It was amazing how living and working these kinds of 24 hour watches changed the normal definition of day and night. Now it was more a continuum of activity, a cycle of time periods, some of which were work, some were sleep, and some were recreation, which was to listen to music on one's Walkman, reading, or conversation. The repetitive shifts destroyed one's ability to keep track of what day it was or of how many days had elapsed because every time you went to sleep and woke up again your brain thought another day had passed. When you did this 3 or 4 times in a 24 hour period you felt like many days had passed even though it had only been a few. It was rather disconcerting to be so unaware of the correct passage of time. This passage was not a difficult work load or physically demanding, but it was relentless and it certainly was not as

romantic or relaxing as the image of sailing a boat up through the Caribbean might have suggested. Long distance sailboat passage was serious and must be treated as such. We were now 218 NM from San Salvador which was our turn point into the shallower waters of the Bahamas. The Turks and Caicos Islands were 45 NM behind and southwest of us and soon we would be abeam Crooked Island and as far offshore into the Atlantic as we would get on this trip.

The wind picked up during my midnight shift to 15-25 knots from the NE and occasionally the boat speed would hit 10 knots and we had averaged between 7.5 and 8.5 knots for the last ten hours or so. It seemed like we were flying compared to the 5-6 knots of the past few days and it made the helm much more responsive. Course corrections could be made quicker and with less rudder input. The swells were running 6-8 feet today but even with the additional headway, maintaining a heading was a constant chore. Every swell induced a rolling, turning motion to the boat and needed to be counteracted with rudder. The heading did not stay constant for more than 10-15 seconds at a time. Wouldn't an autopilot have been a good thing to have aboard? I'm surprised Leonard hadn't invested in one but I guess since island sailing didn't require much time following a course line, he didn't see the need to spend the money.

I slept in the forward V-berth last night to get away from the prop shaft noise as it watermills. (It sure isn't wind milling down there.) Being right in the bow at the waterline is like being in an inverse bathtub; all the water and noise is just outside the container instead of inside. I can hear the

water swirling along the hull next to my head which is much more sleep inducing than the prop shaft noise, however there being no free lunch, the boat's motion is much more pronounced. I noticed while at the helm the bow describes something of an ellipse as the swell lifts the boat and at the same time swings it in a direction usually opposite that of the swell travel; a rather complex motion to be sleeping through, but who cares as long as you are asleep.

My two hours at midnight that night were spent watching a nasty thunderstorm overtaking us from behind and trying to maintain a heading in increasing winds and swells. The thunderstorm intensified for an hour and a half as did the lightning, curiously noted by the depth finder readout. In water deeper than 200 feet the readout is blank, but every time lightning flashed the readout flashed a reading. Perhaps a current was induced into the water which gave the depth finder some kind of signal. I know it's not the bottom it's reading because it is 30,000 feet deep here. The storm's track was slightly more westerly than ours and although the top of the anvil cloud overtook our position the cell passed 7 to 8 miles off the port side. Had it come any closer I was going to wake Leonard to see if he wanted to change course.

The 6 to 9 am watch was uneventful with 20 knots of wind steady from the northeast. It is a bit curious why the wind direction has shifted from 110 degrees of the last few days to 50 degrees today. I hope the low pressure system that was on the satellite photos I brought is not catching up with us. It was far to the southwest when the picture was taken and I find it hard to believe it

could be that much closer and southwest of us now, which is what it would take to cause a northeast wind in this area. The barometer is 30.13, up from 30.12 of yesterday, so I guess it's too early to know for sure. We did sight a container ship about 0830 passing about 8 miles west of us. They are huge and through the binoculars look like a floating city with derricks and cranes all over the deck.

It's 1830 and we have just finished eating dinner. Leonard's cooking has been good. He can boil a Eureka dinner-in-a-pouch with the best of them. Actually that's not as simple as it sounds. Keeping a pot of boiling water from spilling and scalding you on a rolling sailboat even with a gimbaled stove is not an easy task. The dinners in a bag are rather good, quite tasty in fact considering their ease of preparation. What wouldn't the sailors of old have given for Chicken in Wine Sauce or Mountain Trout Almandine every night instead of hardtack and beef jerky?

The immensity and loneliness of the open sea can make a person very introspective before long. In a day's time the sighting of a ship or a bird was an occasion that we all take notice of. We

speculated what a lone bird was doing way out here or where the ship was going and watch them until they are out of sight. They seem to be links to the rest of the world.

I've come to my allotted limit of words for this article so I will pause here again. Don't touch that dial because some interesting and exciting stuff is coming soon in "My Passage Part IV".

Remember Cruising Captain Jim McGinnis is hosting a Sail-Away for November 4th, 5th, and 6th. The evening of the 4th will be on anchor at the Cross (Ft. Desoto National Park, land yachts will not work here as the parking lot closes at 5pm), the 5th will be at anchor behind (east of) the Don Cesar Hotel, and the 6th will be either on a mooring ball, at anchor off the Gulfport Casino, or in the Gulfport Marina (your choice) (check with Gulfport Casino for the latest on their dinghy dock). Those of us who now sail "land yachts" will meet the real sailors at the Don Cesar Hotel restaurant, the Society Table and at Pia's Trattoria in Gulfport both at 5 pm. Until next time I wish you fair winds and calm seas,

Chuck Fulton
Co-Commodore

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Anna Maria, FL 34216

DINNER AND A MOVIE

You are invited to join your MSA friends to one of this year's Summer Classic Movies at the Sarasota Opera House (61 N.

Pineapple Ave.). I have selected for us to see a favorite film of mine that will be shown on Friday September 4th, "The Princess Bride". The movie is a 1987 American fantasy/adventure/comedy directed and produced by the late great Rob Reiner starring Cary Elwes, Robin Wright, Mandy Patinkin, Andre the Giant, Chris Sarandon, Christopher Guest, Wallace Shawn, Peter Falk, Fred Savage, Billy Crystal and Carol Kane. What a lineup of amazing stars!

The charming film tells a story of a swashbuckling farm hand named Wesley accompanied by some unusual companions who befriended him along the way, who must rescue his kidnapped true love, Princess Buttercup from the evil Prince Humperdinck. The movie features a narrative style by presenting the story as

a book being read by a grandfather to his sick grandson. I have never seen this on the big screen, and I can only imagine how much more exciting it will be.



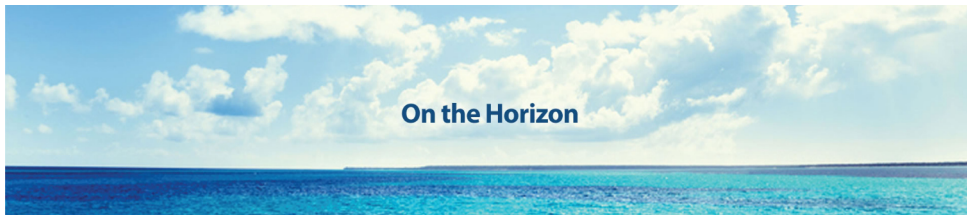
Of course, we will have some food, drink and camaraderie before the movie. After doing an extensive search on foot near the opera house for a nearby restaurant that wouldn't require a lien on your house or your first-born child, I have come back to old reliable and always good, Patrick's on Main. Because the movie is starting earlier this summer at 7 p.m., I think it would be a good idea to

meet at Patrick's (1481 Main St.) no later than 4:45 p.m. to give us plenty of time to get to the opera house. The cost for the movie is a delight at only \$12. Please RSVP to gailgordon56@gmail.com no later than September 1st to reserve your seat. See you there!

Gail Gordon
MSA Social Secretary



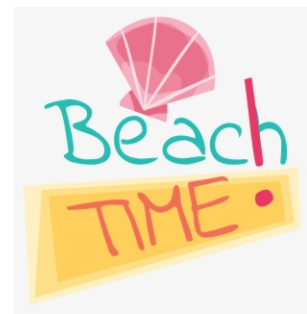
P.S. If you decide at the last minute that you would like to join us, movie tickets may be purchased at the door. If you would also like to join the group for dinner at Patrick's, please text me at 404 426-2679 so I can alert the restaurant. Thank You!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 17th at 11 A.M. The MSA Annual Beach Party and Picnic

Grab a towel, a hat, some sunscreen, a chair, something to drink, (no glass or alcohol please), a dish of your choice....an appetizer, salad, side dish or dessert to share and meet your MSA friends at Bayfront Park on Anna Maria Island for a day of sun, surf and best buddies. Don't forget your bathing suit either because the water will be just right. The club will provide hot dogs and hamburgers plus all the fixings. Invite members you haven't seen in a while and make the day even more special.



There will be games like spin the bottle (not what you are thinking), corn toss and cards if you get tired of soaking in the aqua marine water. You can stay and watch the sunset at the end of the day. Take your shoes off and feel the sand between your toes. See you there!

October 24th at 7 P.M Florida Orchestra Free Pops Concert at the Vinoy Park

This is one of the reasons we love living in this area! Pack a picnic, bring some champagne, grab a chair or blanket and head out to the Vinoy Park in St. Petersburg



for a night under the stars listening to music that lifts the soul, all while hearing the gentle waves from the bay water as they hit the shore just steps from where you sit. The famous world class Florida Orchestra will thrill us with blockbuster movie themes, Broadway favorites and the best of Classical music. All this for free! I know you want to jump up and cheer, but we

have been asked to save our voices for the grand finale when we and the thousands of spectators will be asked to join in to sing Beethoven's Ode to Joy! I know parking is a challenge and it's quite a walk to the park from everywhere but it's worth it. I will be there with an area marked just for us so look for the anchor flag and MSA posters. See you there!

October 31st at 5:00 P.M. The Almost Annual MSA Halloween Costume Party



Don't get left out in the dark. Search the back of your closet or check out the thrift shops because it's time to think about a costume for this year's MSA Halloween Party. Club members have the market cornered on great costumes but let's add some pizzazz to the party mix.

A theme! Get a little creative and get dressed up as a favorite character of movies, TV or theater.....live or dead.....fantasy or real. You could be King Kong or

Faye Ray; you could be Abbott or Costello; you could be Butch Cassidy or the Sundance Kid; you could be Mickey Mouse or Donald Duck! The sky, my friends is the limit! Knock yourselves out! Well, not too much because we want you to come to the party. Please bring a personal beverage of your choice and a dish to share. Don't wait until the last minute! Greatness takes a little time. Prizes will be awarded for creativity and execution of the theme. Once again, the Jackson's have been so gracious to open their home to us. More info later! See you there!

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We're back to your favorite DWBH
restaurant September 9

We've heard your requests to return and
booked a DWBH at Hickory Hollow
Barbeque, September 9 at 5 PM. The
restaurant is located at 4705 US-301 N
in Ellenton.

Tom Briggie



HIDDEN TALENT FOUND!

by Gail Gordon

Phew! It's been hot! Not that this summer's Florida heat was unexpected, but yes, it has been oppressive lately. That and the lack of things to do that we have not already done especially in the summer heat after all these years of social events, has left me stymied. I was toying with taking August off from planning another event but instead I reached way



down into my "reserve" pocket and pulled out an idea. A friend of mine had taken her 10-year-old grandson to a local business, "Painting with a Twist" for his birthday and the artwork that they left with that day to my surprise, was outstanding.



I was shocked. So I thought, what the heck. We could enjoy some wine and cheese and have an art lesson, all inside, out of the heat in total comfort. I was concerned, however, that we were big serious, sophisticated seniors who were also members of this sailing club, what would we want with an art lesson? Shock and surprise! In the middle of



summer when so many of our members were away, a total of 13 budding artists signed up to join me for a bit of fine art that turned into FUN ART.

We arrived about 30 minutes before our 7 P.M. art lesson to have some wine and cheese, popcorn, munchies and yummy sweets and a large helping of MSA camaraderie. Aprons, comfy seats with backs as requested and stools were



provided along with all that was needed to complete our paintings. From thousands of possibilities, I selected a subject to paint, a scene that was very familiar to all of us. It was a view of our beautiful Florida beaches. We sat at elevated tables in a large room surrounded by artwork. Brandon, an accomplished artist himself, was our mentor for the evening. His sense of humor and



his experience in teaching beginners made the process even more enjoyable. I became relaxed and absorbed in my painting process, but every now and again I would look out and peek at the progress

of my companions. They looked almost intense as they tried with determination to master Brandon's instructions. At the end of the night, I was stunned at the finished artwork produced by our group. Friends

that I never expected to be creative were bursting with hidden talent. Each interpretation was different, but the beauty of our Florida landscape had been captured on each canvas. And to my delight, many members wanted to do this activity again in the near future. What a wonderful discovery! I've always known that my MSA friends were an amazing group of skilled, intelligent, hard working, fun to be with individuals. Now I can add creative, artistic and expressive to that impressive list.

Thank you for joining me on another MSA Social Event.



CRUISING EVENT

Ahoy all,

Planning is underway for an MSA Cruise to the Don Cesar Hotel and Gulfport Nov 4 to 7, 2026. Should be a fabulous event for boaters and non-boaters alike.

Wednesday 11/4/26, MSA cruisers will rendezvous at 4PM at Desoto Point "The Cross" for a night on anchor. Dinner will be a pitch in. The park closes at 5 so that won't include cars.



Thursday 11/5/26, we will sail/motor to a small anchorage behind the Don Cesar Hotel. Gary Morgan tells me we've stayed there before. Boats should arrive before 4 PM for the anchorage and then meet the MSA members piloting land yachts at the Don Cesar for Dinner at 5PM! The restaurant is called "**Society Table**". Their



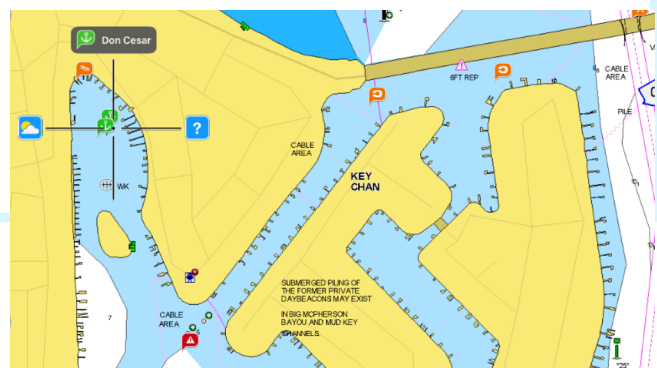
menu is online. Yes - it's pricey but there are reasonable burgers and salads.

Friday 11/6/26, we will sail/Motor to Gulfport and anchor (free) or pick up a mooring ball for \$22 with the Municipal Harbormaster Denis Frain at [\(727\) 893-1104](tel:7278931104) or dfrain@mygulfport.us. Land yacht Captains and crew can meet us at **Pia's Trattoria** <http://www.piastrattoria.com> 3054 Beach Blvd S, Gulfport, FL 33707 (727) 327-2190 at 5PM. The dinghy dock is questionable at Gulfport so we may need to pull dinghy's up on the beach like we did in downtown Sarasota last year.



Saturday 11/7/26 Return to Home Ports! Let me know if you are interested. jmcginni@stny.rr.com. Thanks!

Jim McGinnis
Cruising Captain
S/V Brewster



ON THE HORIZON

October 17th: MSA Annual Beach Picnic

11 A.M. Bayfront Park Pavilion Anna Maria Island

October 24th The Florida Orchestra

7 P.M. Free Pops Concert in the Park, St.Pete Vinoy Park

October 31st: Almost Annual MSA Halloween Costume Party

5 P.M. Rick and Adelia Jackerson's home

November 4th to 7th Cruising

The Cross, Don Cesar, and Gulfport

November 12th: MSA Quarterly General Meeting

5 P.M. Mean Dean's Restaurant

December 9th: DWBH

5 PM Rocco's Italian Kitchen, Bradenton

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



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
Social Secretary - Gail Gordon
Membership - Deana Boydston
Past Commodore - Jim McGinnis