



**Lubbers
Line**

www.marcocruiseclub.com

Marco Cruise Club



MAY—JUNE 2009

Menu For Discriminating Boaters

Tuesday, May 5, 11:30 a.m. Board Meeting, Little Bar

Wednesday, May 6, Noon. Lunch Cruise to The Rod and Gun Club

Sunday, May 10, 5:00 p.m. Sunset Cocktails, Residents Beach

Sunday, May 24, 5:00 p.m., Sunset Cocktails , Residents Beach

Tuesday, May 26, 7:00 p.m., Regular Meeting, Marco Community Bank

Tuesday, June 2, 11:30 a.m., Board Meeting, Little Bar

Sunday, June 14, 5:00 p.m., Sunset Cocktails, Residents Beach,

Tuesday, June 23, 7:00 p.m., Regular Meeting, Marco Community Bank

Sunday, June 28, 5:00 p.m. Sunset Cocktails, Residents Beach



COMMODORES CORNER



It is now May and the snowbird season is coming to an end. I can see that the majority of the birds have already headed north. This means that a number of our club members will be away until this fall or winter. In light of this, I hope that the members who are full-timers here will make an extra effort to attend the club functions and events. I recently received the 2009 membership roster. I would like to thank PC Margie and PC Joe for all their effort and work in putting this directory together. Thank you, also, to our RC Tom Thacher for the photos in the roster.

Our sunset cocktail get together on April 26 was well attended on a perfect day. After hors d'oeuvres we were treated to 50's and 60's music by the band Magic Moments. It was a fun afternoon.

Over 20 members participated in the annual luncheon cruise to the Everglades City Road and Gun Club Wednesday, May 6. As most of you know, in season, we would have waited an hour for a table. But since it was May, we had the dining area to ourselves. We just walked right in and sat right down sounds like a song.) The seas were smooth and the dolphins followed us, playing in our wake. We had a delightful day.

The May 1-2-3-4 cruise to Gulf Harbor, Palm Island Marina, and Boca Grande was the last cruise of the season for Deena and me. We are returning north to Brewerton, NY on May 27. We will return here in time for our annual club Christmas party. I hope to see you all there. We will miss all of our club friends while we are up north. Have a healthy and happy summer.

Commodore Peter Procopio

A NOTE OF THANKS

To all the members of the Marco Cruise Club, I want to thank you for the loving thoughts during our difficult time. I specially want to Thank you all for visiting and fulfilling Wally's last wish, which was to see all of his friends. God Bless all of you. Faye

VICE COMMODORES REPORT

Greetings from the home of the NCAA Basketball National Champions. Karen and I are in North Carolina finishing up some needed tasks in order to get our beach place ready for the upcoming rental season. May is starting to show the effects of the season, in that things are starting to wind down. The trip to Everglades City was a great success with 24 people. The sunset cocktails for May are still set. The program for May's general meeting is not locked in yet, but I promise an interesting May program. As always, suggestions are welcome.

Ed Booth VC

REAR COMMODORES REPORT

As a very successful "high season" comes to a close the Marco Cruise Club can be very proud of our busy schedule. The overnight cruising schedule ended with a multi-port cruise to Gulf Harbor, Useppa Island, and Palm Island Marina led by Commodore Peter. Thank you to all who have participated in the overnight events. This is what makes our club strong.

As we continue into the "off season" we will make every attempt to plan activities for those who stay longer or are "year-rounders". Sunset Cocktails will continue on alternate Sunday afternoons along with day cruises to local ports. In addition, we may organize some "land" cruises to local restaurants or have a progressive dinner.

Several members suggested that we have a Spring/Summer Raft Up. If there is any interest we will make every attempt to place it on the schedule. Also overnight cruises are not out of the question and will be discussed at the Board meetings.

For those who are leaving or have left "fair winds and following seas" as you travel North.

Tom Thacher

Rear Commodore



COMMODORE PETER'S TRIBUTE TO WALLY GRAEFE GIVEN AT WALLY'S MEMORIAL ON APRIL 8, 2009

Good afternoon. My name is Peter Procopio and I am the Commodore of the Marco Cruise Club. Deena and I joined the Club in 2002. That's when we met the Graefes. Wally had a way of standing out in any gathering. He had presence. He was tall and distinguished looking. Wally was also personable. He was easy to talk with and he made an effort to chat with everyone at a party or a meeting or wherever he was. His quick wit and sense of humor made him well-liked by everyone. At our cruise club meetings, his off-the-cuff remarks kept the meetings lively.

In the late 1970s, the Graefes moved to Marco Island. They arrived by houseboat, having cruised all the way from Illinois. They lived on their boat at Marco River Marina while their home was being built on Tigertail Court. There wasn't much development on Marco in those days. Wally told me that he could check on the progress being made on their house by going up on his flying bridge and looking across all of the empty lots all the way to Collier Bay.

Wally and Faye joined the Marco Cruise Club in 1980. He was an active, involved member and in 1985 he was installed as our Commodore. He enjoyed the club functions and he treasured the friendships he made in the club. And he loved his Mainship Trawler, the Sandpiper. He prized that boat and he loved cruising. He spent hours working and tinkering on his boat and keeping it in tip top shape. It was a source of great pride to him. His favorite cruising destinations were Palm Island, Gulf Harbor, Pelican Isle, and South Seas Plantation. He even had a favorite shade tree at the pool at South Seas Plantation that he named the Yum-Yum tree. That's where you could always find Wally when the club was at South Seas Plantation. Wally always captained the annual Marco Cruise Club raft-up in Smokehouse Bay. Wally would arrive first at noon and set his anchor and everyone would raft up to the Sandpiper.

At my first raft up, I was concerned that Wally's anchor would not hold all seven boats, but Captain Wally assured me that additional anchors would not be needed. We had a gusty, breezy afternoon, but Wally's anchor didn't budge and held all seven boats securely in place. He knew his boat well and what it could do. The raft ups were great fun for everyone thanks to Wally. But the facet of his life that Wally valued more than his boat and cruising was his wife Faye and their children. Faye and Wally were married 62 years. They had 2 sons whom they loved and were proud of, and they had grandchildren that they cherished. Whenever they had a visit from one of their children or grandchildren, brothers or sisters-in-laws nieces or nephews, it gave him much pleasure to tell their

friends about it. The last time I visited Wally was a few weeks ago. One of the stories that he told me that day was about how he used to take his children water-skiing in Collier Bay right in front of his house. He told me that they would water ski and fish all day. Wally loved his family.

We will remember Wally always. We will miss his happy cheerfulness and his positive and upbeat attitude. We value the memories we have of him and we are all thankful to have had him in our lives.



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