



MARCH 2023 MOAA NEWSLETTER/FERNANDINA BEACH

NEXT GENERAL MEETING WILL BE ON 08 MARCH 2023 AT 5:30PM FERNANDINA BEACH GOLF CLUB (FBGC).

CALENDAR EVENTS

- 08 Mar: MOAA Meeting
- 12 Mar: Daylight Saving
- 17 Mar: Saint Patrick's Day
- 20 Mar: Start Spring
- 29 Mar: Vietnam Vet Day
- 01 Apr: April Fools
- 07 Apr: Good Friday
- 09 Apr: Easter
- 18 Apr: Taxes Are Due
- 28 Apr: Ardor Day



Space Shuttle Astronaut
BOB SPRINGER



STS-29



STS-38

The MOAA Nassau Florida Chapter will be having its monthly meeting on 08 March 2023 at 5:30 pm. Our guest speaker will be Bob Springer who is a retired American astronaut and test pilot who flew as a mission specialist on two NASA Space Shuttle missions in 1989 and 1990. A decorated aviator in the United States Marine

Corps, Springer also flew more than 500 combat sorties during the Vietnam War. He has logged over 237 hours in space and 4,500 hours flying time, including 3,500 hours in jet aircraft.

As always, spouses are invited and encouraged to attend, since they are a key component of the group and can contribute with valuable input. As a reminder, in accordance with our arrangement with the golf club, if you reserve a lunch/dinner, you have obligated the chapter for your expense and will be requested to reimburse the chapter. However, if you can provide at least 24-hour notice prior to the event of your change in plans, we can then modify the number of meals requested from the club and remove this obligation. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated, as we have reached this agreement with the club in an attempt to keep the individual cost to a minimum. Dinner will be **\$20.00**, the food is so good we had to raise the price a little, to be paid at the door. To make, change or cancel your reservation, please contact Paul Booton (pbooton@comcast.net).

*“There is no security on this earth; there is only opportunity.”
– Douglas MacArthur*



Our February general meeting was a complete success, we had over **36** people present for John Crawford, the county Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, presentation. He was dynamic and entertaining, not to mention very informative. He has a very large role in our county government and many of us were unaware of just how important his job is. He also highlighted a service

by the Clerk's Office called Property Fraud Alert. Property Fraud Alert sends recipients that have signed up for the service to receive an email or phone notification alert of a filing with the name of the person that is registered for the service. To sign up for this service and more information about him, go to www.nassauclerk.com.

Congratulations to MOAA's past president Charlie Finnigan LTC (ret), who was presented with the "Leadership Award" by "The Florida Council of Chapters" for his outstanding job as our MOAA President for the last five years.

"Well done CHARLIE"!!



We have 84 active members that support our JROTC scholarships with their \$25.00 annual dues. They are due every January. Please pay Bob at the door or go to www.ncflmoaa.org

We have a limited amount of these MOAA collectible mugs available for purchases. GET YOURS NOW!!! They make great gifts. Once we are sold out, that is it!!!! Until we order some more.



MOCAMA SOCIAL EVENT

On 8 February, we held our first evening social (or “join-up”) and, judging from the great attendance, it was a hit. We had over 36 members, guests and future members attend our join-up at Mocama. Everyone made very positive comments throughout the evening and the staff allowed us into the back area by the vats to take a group picture. Based on the turnout and response, we will definitely keep our evening socials as a regular event. Stay tuned for information about our next join-up!



New military lounge opens at Jacksonville International Airport

If you are interested in volunteering, please go to <https://bit.ly/3xJUy3>. The military lounge is located on the baggage claim level in the site of the former United Service Organization center at JAX — which closed in October.

FERNANDINA BEACH HAPPENINGS FOR MARCH 2023



AMELIA ISLAND CONCOURS

A MOTORING EVENT LIKE NO OTHER

2-5 March 2023 | Amelia Island, FL

Four days of automotive excellence

Now in its 28th year, The Amelia is fully loaded with something for everybody. Bring the whole family for automotive fun that will delight all ages, get behind the wheel of a cool car, take a close up look at some of the world's most impressive vehicles at Sunday's Concours d'Elegance and more. Go to <https://bit.ly/3ET5APd> for more information.

Council on Aging, COA (bingo, line dancing, ask a lawyer, cooking, pet therapy, etc.). If you are active or just want to do something, this is the place for you. They have **four** different calendars of events that cover just about every aspect of life. Go to <https://bit.ly/2TPpFNp> for more information on activities and social engagements.



8 Flags Road Tour

March 3, 2023, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Centre Street

The annual classic car tour that ends in Fernandina Beach will be hosted by Hagerty on Friday, March 3, 2023. Approximately 55 cars will line Centre Street to be viewed. For more information, please contact Tim Pendergast at tpendergast@hagerty.com. Crescendo Amelia series.

Crescendo Amelia is proud to announce the return of our Amelia Island Dance Series, just steps away from the beaches of Fernandina Beach, FL. Perfect for dancing or just enjoying the sounds of a classic big band with a modern flair, these events offer a variety of music from the 1920's through the 2000's. Sadler Ranch also has one of the largest & best wooden dance floors in the area. Full bar conveniently located inside the venue with The Loop Pizza & Grill right next door. A variety of ticketing options are available online including reserved tables & local business sponsorships. Sunday from 4pm-7pm. Go to www.crescendoamelia.com for more information and other dance dates.



“From the Chapter President”

We have kicked off 2023 with a bang with two great events, so far! On 8 February, we held our first evening social (or “join-up”) and, judging from the great attendance, it was a hit. We had over 36 members, guests and future members attend our join-up at Mocama. Everyone made very positive comments throughout the evening and the staff allowed us into the back area by the vats to take a group picture. Based on the turnout and response, we will definitely keep our evening socials as a regular event. Stay tuned for information about our next join-up!

John Crawford, the county Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, was the guest speaker at our February meeting on the 14th. He was dynamic and entertaining, not to mention very informative. He has a very large role in our county government and many of us were unaware of just how important his job is.

Our next general meeting will be held on 8 March at 1730 (that’s 5:30pm for our Air Force members;) This will be the first evening meeting we’ve held. Our plan is to do one evening meeting per quarter to allow participation by those who are unable to attend the luncheons. Our guest speaker is retired NASA astronaut and USMC Col Bob Springer. Bob is a Vietnam vet and went on two space shuttle missions. It is guaranteed to be a very interesting presentation. The food will be a hot dish and the price will be \$20. I’m looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Finally, let me know if there are any suggestions you have for upcoming events. We want to attract more members and I am always looking for new ideas.

See you soon,

Mike



Why Join the MOAA Nassau County Chapter

1. Make Yourself Heard: MOAA's chapters provide critical grassroots support for MOAA's national legislative agenda. Our benefits are under attack, and MOAA is in the fight to preserve them. Chapter members let their legislators know what's on their minds and open doors for MOAA's legislative team in Washington, D.C. In these difficult times, MOAA members need to stick together, and our chapters are the best way we know to do that.

2. Give Back to the Community: Chapter members are MOAA's ambassadors in their communities, supporting countless programs that make a difference in the lives of others. These members continue their "officership" service and are giving back in the truest sense.

3. Expand Social Opportunities: MOAA chapters sponsor interesting programs and opportunities to interact with civic, political, military, and business leaders on issues important to members.

4. Network With Fellow Officers: Chapters include second-career members in the work force and retired servicemembers who have contacts in their communities that can be valuable to transitioning officers.

5. Stay Informed: Chapter newsletters, websites, and meetings provide you with the latest information on local, state, and national issues and changes to military benefits.

6. Influence State Legislation: Most states have a council of chapters that unites chapters in the state. These councils, and independent chapters in states without a council, often lobby for and pass state level legislation that affects military members and their families, such as exempting military retired pay from state income tax or increasing funding for state veterans' programs.

7. Find Camaraderie With a Purpose: MOAA chapters unite active duty, former, and retired officers from every branch of service, including National Guard and Reserve, as well as surviving spouses. These centers of camaraderie not only give you a chance to connect with other members with similar backgrounds and interest, but to also develop close and lasting friendships.

Never Stop Serving!

Never Stop Serving!

Nassau County Chapter Meeting and Social Schedule for 2023

| Date | Location | Time | Address |
|---------------|----------------------------|------|--|
| 10 January | Fernandina Beach Golf Club | 1130 | 2800 Bill Melton Rd Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 |
| 8 February** | Mocama Beer Company | 1730 | 629 S 8 th St Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 |
| 14 February | Fernandina Beach Golf Club | 1130 | 2800 Bill Melton Rd Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 |
| 8 March* | Fernandina Beach Golf Club | 1730 | 2800 Bill Melton Rd Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 |
| 11 April | Fernandina Beach Golf Club | 1130 | 2800 Bill Melton Rd Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 |
| 19 April** | TBD | 1730 | TBD |
| 9 May | Fernandina Beach Golf Club | 1130 | 2800 Bill Melton Rd Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 |
| 14 June* | Fernandina Beach Golf Club | 1730 | 2800 Bill Melton Rd Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 |
| 22 June** | TBD | 1730 | TBD |
| 12 September | Fernandina Beach Golf Club | 1130 | 2800 Bill Melton Rd Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 |
| 11 October* | Fernandina Beach Golf Club | 1730 | 2800 Bill Melton Rd Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 |
| 19 October** | TBD | 1730 | TBD |
| 14 November | Fernandina Beach Golf Club | 1130 | 2800 Bill Melton Rd Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 |
| Xx December** | Christmas Party - TBD | TBD | TBD |

* Indicates a late afternoon/evening chapter meeting (Held the 2nd Wednesday of the month)

** Indicates a social event

Never Stop Serving!

As of 1/15/2023

NASSAU CHAPTER MOAA challenge: Go to our website www.ncflmoaa.org to see all the local military store discounts, past/future events and much more. We want to get at least 15 visitors to the website this month. Our website needs more HITS.

MOAA Newsletter March 2023 (highlights)

(Free with your MOAA membership - sent to your e mail)

1. Venice and the Jewels of Veneto 2024 signature river course.
2. MOAA? Advocacy campaign to target TRICARE pharmacy cuts, housing costs.
3. MOAA staff, white house officials discuss DOD, VA, TRICARE priorities.
4. Bipartisan bill would repeal the 180-day rule and allow DOD to hire more veterans.
5. Why pay transparency laws may mean for your next salary negotiation?
6. How to use VA disability benefits to pay for dependents education.
7. Pentagon rethinking \$65.1 billion TRICARE management contract.

Veterans Affairs website (highlights)

(Go to VA.gov Home | Veterans Affairs to sign up for monthly newsletter)

1. Free career guidance from America's top companies.
2. 200 remote jobs from veteran-friendly employers.
3. Reflecting back – Military memories competition your chance to win \$250.00.
4. Five unique jobs with veterans' preference.
5. VA disability and VA pension: What's the difference.
6. Hire vets medallion award, apply by April 30.
7. Housing assistance
8. Pension and Life Insurance

If you know someone who wants to **join the MOAA** and meets the below eligibility requirements, please have them fill out the attached application and send it to Paul Booton at pbooton@comcast.net.

Eligibility: Regular Members are all individuals who are or have been a commissioned or warrant officer of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA and the US Public Health Service (USPHS), or the Reserve or National Guard of these uniformed services. A current or surviving spouse of a regular member may join as an Auxiliary Member.



NASSAU COUNTY FLORIDA CHAPTER

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Eligibility: Regular Members are all individuals who are or have been a commissioned or warrant officer of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA and the US Public Health Service (USPHS), or the Reserve or National Guard of these uniformed services. A current or surviving spouse of a regular member may join as an Auxiliary Member.

NAME: _____

Please PRINT (Last Name) (First Name) (MI) (Suffix)

MIL. RANK: _____ GENDER: { } M { } F BIRTHDATE: _____

(Spouse/widow(er) leave blank) (mm/dd/yyyy)

SERVICE: { } USA { } USN { } USAF { } USMC { } USCG { } USPHS { } NOAA

STATUS: { } Retired { } Active { } NG/Reserves { } Former Officer { } Spouse { } Widow(er)

Mail ADDRESS: _____ APT: _____

CITY: _____, FL ZIP: _____ - _____

HOME PHONE: (_____) _____ CELL PHONE: (_____) _____

EMAIL: _____ SPOUSE NAME: _____

National MOAA Member: { } YES { } NO National MOAA#: _____

WELCOME!

PLEASE CHECK CHAPTER ACTIVITIES IN WHICH YOU DESIRE TO ASSIST:

{ } Program/Event Planning (PP) { } Membership (MO) { } Legislative Affairs (LA)

{ } Phoning Members (PM) { } Personal Affairs (PA) { } Newsletter (NP)

{ } Public Relations (PR) { } ROTC/JROTC { } Advertising (AD)

{ } WEB Site (WM) { } Data Processing (DP)

Thanks for your Chapter membership commitment

Chapter Dues \$25.00 Annually Payable to "Nassau MOAA"

PLEASE SEND APPLICATION AND DUES PAYMENT TO:

Paul Booton, Database Administrator
Nassau County Florida Chapter of MOAA
474 Starboard Landing
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034-2780