

The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

<http://www.tmca.nu>

September 2013



At the Helm

Steve Lee, Commodore

[email: comm@tmca.nu](mailto:comm@tmca.nu)

I hope you are having a great summer so far. We have had a few extra hot days but I don't think it's been as hot as it could have been for a summer in Texas. By the end of next month we will be back into the really nice weather and won't have to run those air conditioners all the time!

On my last return trip from Galveston along with my battery problem I also developed another issue. As most TMCA trips go we have the wind on our nose going and returning from most destinations and this trip was no different. After six hours of motoring and we were in the Kemah Boardwalk channel, I noticed the engine was running hotter than normal. When I slowed down the RPMs, we cooled back down to normal but would start heating up when returning to cruising speed. This was not too much of a problem as we were almost home and running slow was OK. If we had developed this issue several hours earlier it would have been a different story. Since we were so close to port I had the convenience of dealing with my overheating problem while safely tied up to the slip. Turns out all that was wrong was a loose fan belt. Changing a fan belt is probably one of the easiest things you can do to your engine... if you are prepared. You will need a few things to do this job properly. First, I hope you have a new spare fan belt on board, the proper tools to do the job and most important, a proper pry bar for tensioning the belt. I have several spare belts and plenty of tools but I found that I had nothing to use as a pry bar. I am writing about this so that it will bring it to your attention about the need for a pry bar if you don't already have one onboard. I asked several other dock neighbors if I could borrow one and it turned out that the best we could come up with between us was a teak wood flag staff. The moral of this story is to be prepared to do any repair or maintenance duty, hopefully without leaving your boat. Raw water impellers and plenty of fuel filters and belts are a must have, and any special tools needed to perform the maintenance are also a must have as part of your onboard supplies.

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN!..... I would like to encourage anyone interested in running for a position on the Board of Directors for next year (2014) to attend the October meeting. Due to some prior scheduling conflicts, this meeting will be held a couple of weeks early, on October 4, 2013. Please make note of the change of date so you won't miss the meeting. We will accept nominations from the floor at the October meeting, which must also be seconded. You must be present to be nominated, and be willing to serve.

ALL candidates will have the opportunity to give a campaign speech, humorous or otherwise!
As required by the By-Laws, the Nominating Committee has already met and nominated one member for each of the following offices:

Commodore - Martin Clark
Vice Commodore - Marylou Clark
Rear Commodore - Bronwyn Lee

Secretary – Barbara Nickelson
Treasurer – Bob Nickelson
Cruise Captain – Jim Lee

*Steve Lee,
Commodore*



The Corner of Vice

Jerry Grooms, Vice Commodore

Email: vcomm@tmca.nu

The Toga party trip to Harborwalk was a big success and very well attended. That is to say, all slips were full with a waiting list. What a variety of Togas we had. Personally I found out the entry into HW's channel is very "thin." But the food and fun was anything but thin.

2014 Spring Fling will be a "Trip far, far away" to Port Arthur and the folks at the Port Arthur Marina went all out to at our August TMCA meeting to express their interest in having TMCA come on over!

Guess it's necessary to remind everyone we are almost in to the worst part of Hurricane Season. Extra precautions need to be taken to protect your boat and marine equipment. I still say, "Hurricanes are not as bad as Tornadoes," Hurricanes don't sneak up on you like some storms. This means we have warnings about approaching storms so you should be able to prepare for the event---doesn't mean there won't be damage!

Be wise-prepare!

From the Viceside!

*Jerry Grooms,
Vice Commodore*



At The Port Report

Pam Gasper, Rear Commodore

[email: rcomm@tmca.nu](mailto:rcomm@tmca.nu)

The annual Labor Day Weekend cruise to Moody Gardens promises to be another great event. Curtis and Diane Eddington are your social hosts, and among the happenings are docktails, a poker run, and dining out on Sunday. Please contact them if your plans include joining them in any of the activities.

Dig out your polyester suits and platform shoes! Our September dock party will be a Disco Dancing Inferno, on Friday, Sept 6 at Legend Point Marina. Hosts are Jerry Simoneaux and Christopher Bown. After entering the marina gate, turn left and park anywhere. The clubhouse will be at the end of the short road. As with all dock parties, the bbq pit will be hot at six if you choose to grill. Bring a dish to share, your beverage of choice, and chairs. Pools, hot tubs, and a tented disco dance floor with disco ball all ensure a most entertaining evening. Contact Jerry for the gate code. His contact info is Jerry@simoneaux.com or 713-577-9587.

Is Saturday, September 28 marked in big letters on your calendars? TMCA will be celebrating its 35th anniversary and we want you to be there. We will be partying at the Nassau Bay Pavilion. To find the venue, take Upper Bay Road all the way out to the Pavilion. Upper Bay Road intersects NASA Road 1. The barbecue meal is totally provided by TMCA and will be served by our own renowned Bottom Feeders. All you have to bring is your beverage of choice and chairs. All paper goods, tea, and ice will be provided as well. Ben Reyna (aka Senor Beans), long-time TMCA member and friend will be our entertainer. The time? 4 pm – 10 pm. As this is a fully catered event, we need your RSVP in order to provide an accurate number to the caterer. Please RSVP to me no later than Saturday, September 21. My contact info is pgasper690@aol.com or 832-444-4751.

And speaking of the 35th anniversary, remember that our limited edition 35th anniversary burgees are available for sale at all TMCA events and parties. The cost is \$25 and the Commodore asks that you either pay with a check or exact change.

If you have any questions, ideas, or suggestions, please call me at 832-444-4751.

Party on!

Pam Gasper
Rear Commodore



The Cruise Corner

Pieter Wybro, Cruise Captain

[email: captain@tmca.nu](mailto:captain@tmca.nu)

We had four great cruises in August.

The 'Wonderful One Day' San Bernard River Cruise was held on Saturday August 3. This one day TMCA classic was led by Ned and Jo Fitzgerald with several small boats cruising down the San Bernard River. Everybody had a great time with lunch on the river at 2J restaurant, enjoying scenery and friends, and frolicking in the river mouth beach on the Gulf.

The Past, Past Commodore Cruise/Roman Holiday to Harborwalk was held Aug 9-11. This was a great cruise and a great party led by past commodore and commodore Doug and Karen Chappell. The weekend was enjoyed by over twenty boatloads of TMCAers with many fun-filled events including the toga party. This was Admiral Hun's (Peggy Allison) favorite local cruise venue, and we had a celebration of her life.

The Catfish Cruise to Bayland Marina was held on August 17-18 and led by cruise leaders Christopher Bown and Jerry Simoneaux and seven boats and a few land yachters participated. It was a fun weekend with loads of activities including an old fashioned catfish fry, dingy up Goose Creek, and contests and prizes.

The "Gulp of the Gulf" Cruise led by Rick and Valerie Stewart was held August 23-25. A small group of sailboats ventured down to Galveston Yacht Basin on Friday afternoon. Saturday morning they did a day sail in the Gulf with near perfect weather conditions, followed by relaxing pool time and dinner at Olympia, and a Sunday return with a perfect sail home time to cap the weekend

September has a lot in store for us with a mix of venues that are new, oldies but goodies, and some we have not been to in some time.

Labor Day Cruise to Moody Gardens August 31-September 2. Cruise Leader Al & Kay Waghorne, Social Leader Curtis & Dianne Eddington. The TMCA at [Moody Gardens Labor Day Cruise](#) is full, but there is a wait list started, and there is plenty of room at the anchorage. If you want to be on the wait list fill out and mail [Moody Gardens Slip Reservation Request](#) and a check and send it to: Kay Waghorne, 14016 Blazey Drive, Houston, TX 77095. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES PLANNED:

- Friday, August 30 – Optional early arrival – activities to be developed.
- Saturday, August 31st - travel day followed by relaxing in lazy river or visiting the pool bar; docktails and dinner on the dock – times TBA
- Sunday, September 1st - breakfast on the dock; dinghy tour followed by lunch at Sand Bar; relaxing in the lazy river or visiting the pool bar; dinner at a Moody restaurant – times TBA
- Monday, September 2nd - breakfast on the dock; head home at your leisure.

Trinity River Wonderful One Day Cruise September 7. Cruise Leader Philip Kropf.

This is a brand new event that will take us to a seldom-visited, and yet close-by, very beautiful destination! It will be a Voyage of Exploration on the Trinity River in the Trinity River Island Recreation Area near Wallisville, Texas. Like some of our other explorations, this is for dinghies and small boats, and is a single-day event. The location is about 35 miles from Kemah by car. A full description of the event is contained in a pdf file which can be accessed on the website in the Tool Box/File Downloads section. Check it out and start making plans now for a yet another "Wonderful One Day" on the water exploring the Trinity River! Contact Philip Kropf 713-598-6454, pkropf@flash.net.

Gatorfest Cruise to Anahuac September 14-15. Cruise Leader Bill Berg/Philip Kropf. Texas Gatorfest is a truly wonderful event that takes place annually over in Anahuac on the other side of Galveston Bay. There is a long history of TMCA cruising over to this event, although this was not possible in several recent years due to a silted-in channel. But the channel was dredged in 2011 and one can now once again get there by boat. Getting to Anahuac, docking and anchoring and the activities at Gatorfest is described in a file on the website Downloads tab. Contact Philip Kropf 713-598-6454, pkropf@flash.net.

Smith Point Anchor Out Cruise September 21-22. Cruise Leader Jim and Doris Lee. We will be anchoring out, doing some afternoon dinghy exploring, dinner at A&D Restaurant, anchoring out overnight, or..., since it is a full moon weekend, cruising back to your home marina under the light of that bright (last official night of summer!) moon! We are looking forward to the usual TMCA fun! A&D Restaurant is a new venue and this cruise is meant to be an adventure, and that will just be part of it! More information will be provided on TMCA Yahoo Groups as we get closer to the event. Contact Jim Lee at 281-559-1426.

That's it for now. Be safe and see you on the water,

*Pieter Wybro,
Cruise Captain*



Secretary's Report

Barbara Nickelson, Secretary

email: secretary@tmca.nu

This has been a really busy month for cruising. We have had some great times. The Past Past Commodores Cruise to Harborwalk was so much fun. Thanks so much to Doug and Karen Chappell for all of their hard work in making sure every little detail was perfect. The Progressive Dinner was so much fun and the Toga Party was well attended. I don't know the head count but I know the room was filled and everyone looked fabulous in their toga garb. There was a beautiful tribute to Peggy Allison and everyone wore their yellow flowers in her honor. Floyd's put on a wonderful buffet. The food was really very good. We need to all do our part to support them in their venture out at Harborwalk. It is to everyone's benefit to see that they make a go of it. Spread the word so that people know there is another destination where you can take your

boat (or not, it is close enough to drive out for the evening), have a nice dinner, lay out by the pool and have a few drinks. Because it is a little remote, there is not a lot to do other than relax and we all need a weekend like that occasionally. And it is wonderful to have a nice restaurant to go to that serves great food and is so convenient to the marina.

I didn't make it to the Gulp of the Gulf Cruise but I heard it was a fun experience as well. Rick Stewart led the boats out in the Gulf of Mexico and sailed the whole day. Way to go Rick!

We are also indebted to Rick for his efforts in getting Galveston Bay cleaned up. It is so nice to go out into the bay and not have to look at or worry about all of the derelict oil platforms and rigs that were just left out there and not being used. Philip Kropf helped in this endeavor as well. Thanks so much to both of you for your hard work. We appreciate you and your dedication to improving our waters.

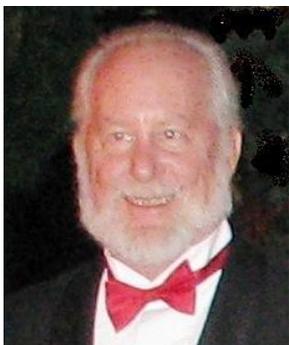
As I reported at our last meeting, our paid membership has hit the 500 mark (actually 507 to be exact). And we are getting new members every week. Let's keep this trend going. Spread the word and invite your friends, family, slip neighbors, or anyone that you think might want to join a fun and interactive boating organization. Let's welcome our new members - Don and Rosie Peck, Mike and Carolyn Byrne, Daniel Furr and Gale Bolter, Tom Anderson, Daniel Brock, Mark Racey, Charles Zajackowski and Cheryl Reberg, Mark and Linda Weidmann, John Gallerano and Lenora Davis, Paul and Diane Sullivan, Harold Campbell and Gilbert Garcia.

The summer is over and kids are now back in school. But as boaters we are just getting into our best season. Let's all take advantage of the time that we have to get on the water and enjoy everything that our area has to offer. I know Bob and I will be out there as much as possible and I hope to see you there.

Respectfully, your secretary!

*Barbara Nickelson,
Secretary*

Dollars And "Sense" from the Treasurer



Bob Nickelson, Treasurer
email: treasurer@tmca.nu

From the "bean-counters" view, now is the time of the year to look back at the past year's numbers, see what's left to spend this year, and to start planning for next year. Budgets are something everyone seems to hate, but used in the right way can be very helpful both in business applications and personally. TMCA's budget not only gives us the guidelines for spending (partying) during the year within our "means", but gives future board members the insight of what works and what doesn't for future expenditures – (parties). Personally, a household budget answers the main question everyone seems to have at the

end of the year – where did our money go?

"Never spend your money before you have it." – Thomas Jefferson

*Bob Nickelson,
Treasurer*

[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

2013 TMCA Officers

Commodore:	Steve Lee, Waltzing Matilda	281-802-9838
Past Commodore:	Doug Chappell, Dock Trauma	281-330-1163
Vice Commodore:	Jerry Grooms, m/v La Vie Dansante	832-221-1962
Rear Commodore:	Pam Gasper, s/v Kefee	832-444-4751
Cruise Captain:	Pieter Wybro, s/v Marco Polo	281-635-0249
Secretary:	Barbara Nickelson, m/v Docktari	713-899-1098
Treasurer:	Bob Nickelson, m/v Docktari	713-826-7551

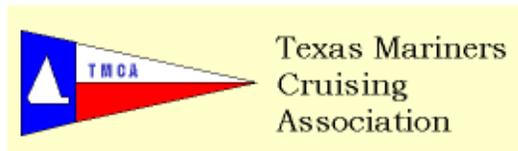
2013 TMCA Trustees

Trustee 2002 Commodore ~ Gloria Rooney, s/v *St. Somewhere*, 281-499-4413

Trustee 1984-85 Commodore ~ Wayne Christopher, s/v *Dolphin Dancer*, 281-761-4233

Trustee 1999 Commodore ~ J.J. Wallace, s/v *Gypsy Lady*, 832-347-6841

Trustee 2010 Commodore ~ Ron Eddleman, s/v *Stellar of Course*, 936-328-7361



Please send any articles you would like included in the TMCA Mariner to TMCA Mariner Editor at newsletter@tmca.nu