

Texas Mariners Cruising Association

# The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

<http://www.tmca.nu>

**January 2014**



## **At the Helm**

**Martin Clark, Commodore**

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

A new year begins. A new group of club members have been elected into leadership positions in the TMCA. While I am not at all certain members of the club made a wise choice for Commodore, I do know that the other five board members chosen to lead in 2014 were very wise choices indeed. Marylou is full of energy and ideas. She will make a splendid Vice Commodore and Education Committee Chair. Look for some great programs at our monthly general meetings. Bron Lee is a party-giver of great talents! She has hosted numerous events and cruise socials. Club members are going to be able to choose from dozens of fun socials and parties, this year. Jim Lee is full of enthusiasm, and

has lots of plans for cruise destinations and events. The Nickelsons are giving us one more year of their time and talents to keep our finances and club records up-to-date and organized. We really appreciate them so much. While not elected this time around, Steve Lee, the immediate Past Commodore, will provide lots of advice and energies to make this another strong year for TMCA.

The club depends on additional volunteers to lead various committees. Linda Schoene has led our internet and web site committee for several years now. We owe Linda a huge hug for staying on top of the technology and helping members utilize our web site. Sometimes I read where a member makes light of our technology, but I can tell you that the computer product that Ed Herndon and Robert Van Burkelo gave to the club is top notch. And we are always working to make it work better and easier for everyone. Heading up our Newsletter Committee is Sue Bertram, a very talented business woman. Another top-notch businesswoman, Nancy James, has volunteered to head up the Publicity Committee. Many thanks to Christopher Bown for volunteering to produce our 2014 Directory. B-T-W, NOW is the time to tell Chris your ideas about how the directory can be made better, in your opinion. We are aiming to publish in late March after membership rolls are finalized. And then there is the one-and-only Philip Kropf. Philip is doing a fantastic job heading up the Historical Committee. He has the answers about most anything that has happened in the club in the past. Those who attended the 2012 Commodore's Ball saw pictures and stories going way back to our origins in 1978-79. Philip also serves as the Recreational Boating representative on several Bay Area boating and conservation organizations, and he is also serving as TMCA's Community Liaison Chair.

We took a poll recently and discovered that almost half our membership has at one time hosted a party, led a cruise, or took part in a community boating activity. Volunteerism is so personally rewarding. I hope you are making plans to attend our 2014 event Planning Meeting to be held on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Come out and volunteer to host an event. You will have more fun and network with other members much better than simply by participating. We all help each other! Make plans, too, to

attend our Member Orientation Meeting on Jan. 25. We teach members how to host events, how to advertise their event on our web site, and how to find the best anchorages on the Gulf Coast. Your new board will be working hard to produce a good year for TMCA. We hope you have a lot of fun!

See you soon.

*Martin Clark,  
Commodore*

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## The Corner of Vice

**Mary Lou Clark, Vice Commodore**

Email: [vcomm@tmca.nu](mailto:vcomm@tmca.nu)

Happy New Year TMCA! We are looking forward to a spectacular year in 2014. Plans are underway to make this a great year on and off the water for our members.

The first order of business is the **Planning Meeting**, which will take place on January 11, 2014 at the Elks Lodge beginning at 9:00 a.m. We hope many of you will attend and offer to lead a cruise, host a party or volunteer as a helper for one of our many events. The best way to enjoy TMCA is to become involved in the activities so don't be shy....step up and get involved! Come and mark your calendars for the many exciting events that will happen in 2014! Donuts, kolaches, coffee, tea, and juice will be served.

Our first monthly meeting is January 17, 2014 at the Elks Lodge. The Bar opens at 6:00 p.m. and orders for dinner are taken beginning at 6:30 p.m. The business meeting begins at 7:30 and the program speaker should begin by 8:15. Our speaker for the January meeting will be United States Coast Guard **LCDR Xochitl L. Castaneda**. "Xochi" is **Chief of Waterways Management for Sector Houston/Galveston**. The U.S. Coast Guard defines waterway management as "the proactive stewardship of America's navigable waters to promote their safe, efficient and environmentally sound use among competing interests."

The Waterways Management division works to provide access to a safe, secure, efficient, and environmentally sound waterways system by providing navigation systems, bridge administration, and marine transportation system services. Xochi's presentation will describe how her division works every day to keep our area waterways safe and open for traffic, both for the commercial users, and for us recreational boaters also! Be sure and attend the meeting to hear this very interesting presentation. Meeting will adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

January 25 is the **Member Orientation** meeting. Please join the 2014 TMCA Officers and Navigation Staff for an informational meeting on January 25 at 9:00 a.m. at the Elks Lodge in Kemah. This is the meeting where members can ask all the boating and Club questions they want and the Officers and Navigation Staff will attempt to answer them. You will learn navigation tips, waypoints to destinations, tips about various anchorages and general helpful knowledge for navigating the bay area and Gulf Coast. This is also where each officer explains what his or her office does for the club.

We want everyone to feel comfortable and welcome in TMCA; this is the meeting to help orient you to the workings of the club. We welcome new and veteran members to the meeting. All questions are welcome!

Donuts, kolaches, coffee, tea and juice will be served. Meeting will adjourn at 11:30 a.m.

*Marylou Clark,  
Vice Commodore*

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## **The Social Scuttlebutt**

**Bronwyn Lee, Rear Commodore**

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

First and foremost I would like to thank you all for giving me the honor to serve as your Rear Commodore for 2014. I am looking forward to an exciting year of social events, ranging from the traditional parties, to some events with totally new themes, and also reviving some that we have not had for several years.

There are two very important dates in January for TMCA that shape the rest of the year. The first one is the Annual Planning Meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup> at the Elks Lodge. Be sure to come and share your ideas! It starts at 9am and generally lasts until around noon. Come early for coffee and donuts and catch up with old and new friends before the meeting. We will be looking for folks to lead cruises, host socials at destinations, host dock parties etc. Never hosted a TMCA party or got questions? Our 2014 Cruise Captain, Jim Lee, and I are here to help! There is always a posse of volunteers who have either done an event in the past or are willing to step up with their time and talents to assist someone that might be just that little bit intimidated to take on an event. I know I was when Steve and I first joined the club. And now it has turned into good fun, taking sign-ups, making reservations, planning pot-lucks, and even docking boats at Beason marina!

The second big day on the January calendar is our Annual Member Orientation on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Again, this will be held at the Elks Lodge, from 9am till noon. This is a morning well spent, even if you have attended before. The 2014 Board members will be on hand to give an outline of each officer's duties. We will have segments on cruising destinations, navigation in our area, parties and boater education. There will be opportunities for Q and A as well. Plus, more donuts and coffee!

Then ... have an afternoon nap, do a little therapeutic shopping, practice your dice throwing ... because this evening (Jan.25<sup>th</sup>) is our Bunco and Bring a Soup party, at the Elks Lodge. If you have never played Bunco with 100 people, here's your chance! Members, please bring a soup, chili or gumbo to share. The Officers will provide the dessert. We will start serving at 6pm and Bunco will follow around 7pm.

Several dates to pencil in on your calendar for February are the Dock Party on Friday Feb.7<sup>th</sup> (location TBA) and also the Mardi Gras dinner at FishTales restaurant in Galveston on Feb.22<sup>nd</sup>. More details to follow.

See you on the 11<sup>th</sup>!

*Bronwyn Lee*  
*Rear Commodore*  
*TMCA Knows Fun!!*

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## **The Cruise Corner**

**Jim Lee, Cruise Captain**

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

Happy New Year TMCA! As we begin another great TMCA year, Rear Commodore Bron Lee and I will host the Annual Planning Meeting on January 11 at the Kemah Elks Lodge located at 623 Hanson Rd, Kemah, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Every club member, new and old, should plan to attend. Why? Because we will plan our 2014 cruising and social schedule at the meeting, so it is a great way to see what activities are being planned and by who, where and when we are going, and what we are going to do when we get there. Please be a part of this plan, either as a leader or co-leader of a cruise or social activity, and we need to hear from you. Imagine an entire year of TMCA cruises and social events planned in less than 3 hours. Come and be a

part of it!

Formation of the Cruising and Social Committees will be made at the planning meeting, so another good reason to come to the meeting.

I have prepared a “framework” calendar that will be the starting point for cruise and social planning purposes at the meeting. This information will be posted on the website and also on Yahoo and will give you some ideas to help your thinking about what, where, and when. This will have information about marinas, some potential cruise destinations and day trips (last year's highlighted in bold), activities going on in the area, holidays, major events on or near the water (some events don't have published dates yet), celestial phases of moon and sun, and other sundry data that may help you in your planning and thinking. There are only a couple cruises shown on this calendar, ones that have been booked in advance. Take a look at it and see what works for you.

### **The cruising events in January are:**

- January TMCA Frostbite Cruise will be the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> with a destination and cruise leader to be determined.

. GBCA Icicle Series will be every Saturday in January and February 1<sup>st</sup> from 11:30am to 3pm. The TMCA cruise leader will be Ron Eddleman, if you want to participate call 936-328-7361 or by email [ron\\_1056@yahoo.com](mailto:ron_1056@yahoo.com).

**Please plan to attend the Annual Planning Meeting on January 11, 2014 at the Kemah Elks Lodge 623 Hanson Rd, Kemah, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. We need your ideas and input!!**

*Jim Lee,  
Cruise Captain*

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## **Secretary's Report**

**Barbara Nickelson, Secretary**

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

It is still **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL** time. We have received payments from many of you, but we still have many that have not paid. TMCA Annual Dues are due on January 1<sup>st</sup> and must be paid by February 1<sup>st</sup> to be included in the next membership roster/directory. Membership will be terminated if dues are not received by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Renewals received after March 1<sup>st</sup> shall be treated as a new membership and initiation fees charged. It is \$50 for a dual membership or \$35 for a single membership. You can go online to pay by PayPal with your credit card or you can pay with a check made out to TMCA and mailed to

TMCA

P. O. Box 946,  
Kemah, TX 77565

We really owe a big thanks to Pam Gasper for all of her hard work on *all* of our parties this year but we really need to thank her for the beautiful job she did on the Commodore's Ball. It was so elegant and the music was fabulous. It was my first time to hear the Grateful Geezers and I was truly impressed. They played a great assortment of dance music and it seemed like everyone hit the dance floor at some time or other. The trio of musicians that played during dinner was a very nice touch as well. I think everyone had a really good time. Thank you Pam!!!!

We are off to a New Year and I can hardly wait. The planning meeting is coming up on January 11th and I hope everyone can come and participate in laying out the plans for 2014. Let's all help Jim Lee and Bron Lee have a very successful year (which I know they will) but it takes a village literally!!! They cannot do it themselves. We have to do our part and volunteer to host parties and lead cruises. Please come and help us get the year started.

Congratulations to Martin and Mary Lou Clark for winning the Don Smith Award. I can't think of anyone more deserving than these two for all the hard work they do for this organization!!! I am so proud for them.

Your secretary,

***Barbara Nickelson,  
Secretary***

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## **Dollars And "Sense" from the Treasurer**

**Bob Nickelson, Treasurer**

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

What a quick year – a lot to be thankful for – good friends, good parties, good adventures. Hope everyone had wonderful Holidays and wish all a Happy Safe New Year.

2014 is soon here and I'm honored to serve as Treasurer again for next year. We have already started working on Budgets and all that "Bean Counting" stuff – with a year behind me it's pretty much just putting it on auto pilot and let all the party and cruise committees plan and send the dollars in for me to track.

In our boating world, 2014 will be one to get ready to move to our boat. Goal is to move aboard the end of the year and get use to the "down-size" and prepare all systems to leave the end of 2015 on our much anticipated adventure – The Great Loop. In between, we are planning more fun TMCA cruises.

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

***Bob Nickelson,  
Treasurer***

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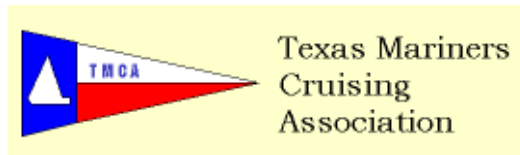
**[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)**

### **2014 TMCA Officers**

<b>Commodore:</b>	<b>Martin Clark, m/v Impulsive</b>	<b>281-435-1253</b>
<b>Past Commodore:</b>	<b>Steve Lee, s/v Waltzing Matilda</b>	<b>281-802-9838</b>
<b>Vice Commodore:</b>	<b>Marylou Clark, m/v Impulsive</b>	<b>281-435-7428</b>
<b>Rear Commodore:</b>	<b>Bron Lee, s/v Waltzing Matilda</b>	<b>281-844-0667</b>
<b>Cruise Captain:</b>	<b>Jim Lee, m/v Almost Paradise</b>	<b>713-828-5133</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Barbara Nickelson , m/v Docketari</b>	<b>713-899-1098</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Bob Nickelson, m/v Docketari</b>	<b>713-826-7551</b>

## 2014 TMCA Trustees

Trustee 2011 Commodore	Doug Chappell	Doc Trauma	281-330-1163
Trustee 2008 Commodore	Marion Herndon		281-703-9322
Trustee 2010 Commodore	Ron Eddleman	s/v Stellar of Course	936-328-7361
Trustee 2002 Commodore	Gloria Rooney	s/v St. Somewhere	281-499-4413



*Please send any articles you would like included in the TMCA Mariner to TMCA Mariner Editor at [newsletter@tmca.nu](mailto:newsletter@tmca.nu)*

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