

# The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

July 2014



## At the Helm

**Martin Clark, Commodore**

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

We have reached the middle of the year 2014!! What a great start this year has been. Lots of new and old members are enjoying the fellowship of boating and the general love of the sea with others. There have been many great cruises and parties already. Spring Fling was a signature event! There are many more to come. I like to say, TMCA is a perfect blend of petroleum refinery and corn/wheat distillery!

Behind the cruises and day-outings are a myriad of technical details and know-how to keep the vessels operating and in compliance. I thought I would share a few things I have recently learned:

1. The EPA has mandated changes in fuel lines to address passive fuel vapor emissions of gasoline engines. They are talking about diurnal fuel evaporative emissions that occur as a result of venting fuel tank vapors during daily temperature changes while the engine is not even running. Evaporative emissions permeate fuel lines, fuel vents, plastic fuel tanks and outboard engine primer bulbs. Older boats will not be required to replace existing fuel lines, so the newer technology applies when replacing lines. Annual inspection of fuel components are required. There has always been a requirement since the 70's (they may be found in Title 33 CFR, Part 183, Sub Part J and Title 40 CFR Parts 1045 and 1060). For those of us who did not know about the annual inspection requirement, this comes as news.
2. If your boat is taking on water and overwhelming the bilge pumps, you can divert the stern drive or inboard into an emergency pump by disconnecting the raw water intake and piping it to the bilge while the engine is running.
3. Wave height nomenclature is being revised:
  - 2 feet: everybody is fine
  - 3 feet: at least one crew member adopts a thousand-yard stare
  - 4 feet: crew tries not to speak in an attempt to quell dry heaves
  - 5 feet: churning stomach begins

Vice Commodore Clark has resurrected an old club favorite: The TMCA Style Show! Come to our July meeting to view the "beautiful people" of TMCA wearing new tropical fashions and new TMCA shirts, hats, and a jacket available for order.

Look to [Texas Mariner.Com](http://TexasMariner.Com) for our records and notices. Those wanting to log on for the first time, enter either your old user name or the first letter of your first name and your last name for user name. Everyone has a password of *tmca2014*. With your logon, you can access *My Account* under the *Membership* tab. In *My Account* you can update phone and address data, boat data, etc. The password you enter and re-enter will replace the generic *tmca2014*. Register for events under the *Registration* tab. Navigating the site is a snap! The *Calendar* tab is operational now and other tabs are under construction.

Registration via the web site for the events continues to grow. Event organizers can contact the Rear Commodore or Cruise Leader to set up your cruise. It's great seeing the list of people signing up, and be sure to add your photo to your profile. It helps us put a face with the name.

Best wishes for great summer!

*Martin Clark,  
Commodore*

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## **The Corner of Vice**

**Mary Lou Clark, Vice Commodore**

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

Ahoy TMCA members and Happy Fourth of July! I hope everyone is enjoying summertime and taking advantage of lots of opportunities to be out on the water. Our TMCA activities directors, Jim Lee, Cruise Leader and Bronwyn Lee, Rear Commodore in charge of all socials are always working to offer you choices of activities for each weekend so take advantage of all the great cruise and party offerings and join up for a cruise and/or party. That is the best way to enjoy being a member of TMCA – get involved with the activities. We are a truly active boating organization – please be active with us. Check out the calendar on our website, ([www.texasmariners.com](http://www.texasmariners.com)) for what's going on and then join the fun!!!

We had a wonderful speaker this June, Dr. William Merrell, of Texas A & M in Galveston. He gave us an update on the Ike Dike plans. We will have more information on this very important issue in the near future.

**In July our Monthly meeting will be July 18 beginning at 6:00 at the Kemah Elks Lodge.** We plan to have a different type of meeting this time just to keep things interesting. We are going to have a style show which will showcase some new TMCA clothing items that have been requested by members. We will also have fashions from our wonderful, local Tropical Express shop in Kemah. The models will all be TMCA members, both women and men. There will be the normal social and dinner hour as well as a short upcoming events and business meeting. Then the fun will begin with the Fashion show. You will be able to buy/order the TMCA attire that night. **Mark your calendars now for a fun meeting!**

Have a wonderful, safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July! I'll see you on the water or at the docks.

*Marylou Clark,  
Vice Commodore*



## **The Social Scuttlebutt**

**Bronwyn Lee, Rear Commodore**

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

As this newsletter comes out we will be celebrating America's 238<sup>th</sup> birthday. Whether you are at Harborwalk, at Oak Island, Pelican Rest, Moody Gardens or at home, I hope you have a wonderful holiday weekend and enjoy a fun filled time with friends and family! Steve & I actually met during the year of the US Bicentennial, but it was not till I became a US citizen in March of 2008, that I could truly appreciate the significance of this holiday.

Since the first Friday of July is actually July 4<sup>th</sup>, the dock party(s) will be held in conjunction with the two main cruises over this weekend. Docktails at Harborwalk will be at 5:00pm on Friday 7/04, and then dinner is on your own (break into small groups). For those still awake to watch the fireworks, we will be serving homemade ice cream and fixins'! I believe the cruisers going to Beason marina at Oak Island will gather at the pavilion for docktails and/or a potluck dinner.

And – if you are not cruising over the holiday, please be sure to come along to the club's Ice Cream Social the following Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm at the Waterford Pavilion B. We'll be cranking up lots of ice cream! Bring an appetite, some drinks and a small dessert if you wish. Please let us know if you're coming by signing up on the new website [www.texasmariners.com](http://www.texasmariners.com) under Registration, or on Yahoo, or send me an email, so that we'll know how much chocolate fudge to get! Even if you're not sure till the last minute, please come anyway!

The big **Fajita Fiesta Party** is right around the corner – July 19<sup>th</sup> – at Portofino Harbor Marina. This is one of the signature parties of the year and is always a great event. I encourage you to sign up ASAP, and let's make this a record year! This is a catered event and we will need to know attendance numbers in advance. Payment will be required in advance, no tickets sold at the door. \$20.00 per person for a fantastic fajita dinner, live music, pool games and entertainment!

Price will include a Live Band - HOTLINE starts playing around 6:30 pm.

Menu will include a Full Mexican Food Fiesta! Dinner will be served 6:00 - 7:00 and will include Beef and Chicken Fajitas, Rice, Beans, Tortillas, Chips, Salsa, Guacamole and Queso.

There will be a Men's sombrero Contest and Ladies Senorita Bonita Dress Contest!

You may bring your own beverages and coolers, but absolutely NO GLASS CONTAINERS at the Pool.

Swimming and Fun starts at 5:00 pm. For guaranteed seating, we advise to bring your own chairs.

You can now sign up for the Fajita Fiesta party online from the TMCA web site. You will need to sign in and then click the Registration link. Scroll down to the Fajita Fiesta party. You can also pay on line by all credit cards, select the PayPal option. You may also make out checks to TMCA and mail to:

Rhonda Eckenroth, 702 Rim Water, Alvin, TX. 77511. **Deadline is July 14.**

Dan and Jennifer LaFon will be hosting the August 1st Dock party at 2234 Brae Lane in League City! Bring something to put on the grill, a dish to share and your favorite drink! Please, no glass on the pool deck though. Grill will be ready at 6 pm. You might also want to bring a folding chair.

Directions by land: From FM 2094, turn onto either Coryell or Bayou Dr. (directly across from the

Clear Creek HS Stadium or Education Admin building). If you would like to come by dinghy please give Dan a call ahead of time and he can give you directions and advise of the current water depth (which is usually enough for dinghies).

Labor Day is a little ways off but it's not too early to make plans to join the cruise to Moody Gardens for the **Labor Day Luau Cruise!** The drawing for slips will take place at the next club meeting on Friday July 18<sup>th</sup>. There are several ways to participate in the lottery drawing – 1. Sign up by logging into the new website and go to Registration where you can pay the slip rental by credit card. 2. Print the Slip Request Form ([here](#)) and mail it with your check for \$130, for the two night's rental. 3. Print the Slip Request Form and bring it to the meeting on July 18<sup>th</sup>, with your check for \$130, for the two nights slip rental. Please note that ALL requests and registrations will go into the drawing, but you “do not have to be present to win”!

Till next time, enjoy your summer and I hope to see many of you at the upcoming socials!

*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)

We are heating up TMCA and heading into our hotter months so remember we are in hurricane season. As a boater's reminder, here are some points to make sure you have addressed: 1. Make sure your insurance is up to date with the coverage you expect, especially for named storms 2. Make sure you have a plan, as most insurance companies require a formal written storm plan, 3. Check with your marinas in advance to make sure you follow all required storm procedures with them, 4. Take an inventory of your vessel by taking pictures or a video of your boat and 5. Keep these documents in a safe place off your boat (on-line examples are Google drive, iCloud, etc.).

July has many cruising options for TMCA, as we should with over 500 members and 200 boats. While the club plans cruises during January for the year, there is always room for more. This July 4<sup>th</sup> falls on a Friday, and members, we have a few cruising options to choose from. Some will enjoy the 4<sup>th</sup> with family watching the Kemah Boardwalk Fireworks, some will be joining the planned cruise to Beason Park on Oak Island, and some will be staying cool in the Harborwalk marina pool. It's all good, as early estimation is that at least 40 boats, or 20% of our member's boats, will be out enjoying America's birthday. It is not too late, if you are still looking for someplace to go checkout the calendar at <http://texasmariners.com>.

We had these four cruises in June:

Jun 7	Nassau Bay Raft-up
Jun 14-15	Howl at the Moon/Redfish
Jun 21	Summer Solstice Sailing Angels Cruise
Jun 28-29	Topwater Cruise to Sunny San Leon

We have these cruises in July:

July 4-6	Beason Park Fourth of July Cruise / Dock Party
July 4-6	Impromptu Cruise to Harborwalk
July 12	Open Cruise Day (Social to be an ice cream social)
July 25	Kemah Fireworks Raft-up
July 26	San Bernard One Day (Dingy and Small Boat)

To see full cruise details and sign up go to <http://texasmariners.com> and make you are watching Yahoo Groups at <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/tmcamariners/info>

And plan for these in cruises and August and September

Aug 2	Clear Lake Dingy Poker Run
Aug 9-10	Bayland Cruise - Catfish Fry
Aug 16-18	Harborwalk Cruise
Aug 23-24	Galveston Art Walk Cruise to Harbor House
Aug 29-31	Labor Day Cruise to Moody Gardens
Aug 29-31	Freeport Blues Festival Cruise
Sep 6	Trinity River One Day (Dingy and Small Boat)
Sept 13-14	Sangria and Sunset cruise to Bayland Marina

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

***Jim Lee,***  
***Cruise Captain***



## **Secretary's Report**

**Barbara Nickelson, Secretary**

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

Here we go with another newsletter. It seems I no sooner finish one then I turn around and it is time for another. Where does the time go? We always stay so busy and I guess that is a good thing. I cannot even imagine what boredom would be like. Hope to never find out.

Bob and I just returned from a trip to Key West. We had a short visit there when we took the cruise earlier this year and decided then that we had to go back for a longer visit. What a COOL place!!!! We loved it. We rented a townhouse in the Truman Annex. We could walk about two blocks and be in the middle of the downtown district or we could walk about three blocks the other direction and be on the beach. It was a fabulous location. In eight nights, we never had a bad meal. As a matter of fact the meals were "over the top" delicious. There are so many great restaurants and we didn't have time to visit a lot of them. But we will be going back. The snorkeling was wonderful. We took a day trip out to the Dry Tortugas and explored Fort Jefferson and then we spent a couple of hours snorkeling out there. It was like snorkeling over a salt water aquarium. It was beautiful!!! We saw some of the most beautiful fish and coral. You just can't imagine seeing that kind of view unless you are diving but there you can. It was incredible. Highly recommend it. A great place to visit. Great shopping, great restaurants, lots to do. What more could you ask for?

I hope everyone has had a chance to see the new website that Linda Schoene and her team have put together. It is great. Please make sure to go on the site and update all of your information. I still need to add pictures to our site which I plan to do very soon. The more complete we get the site, the better it is for everyone. We all need to do our part on it though.

The membership slowed down considerably this month but we do have a few new members to welcome. They are as follows:

William Capece

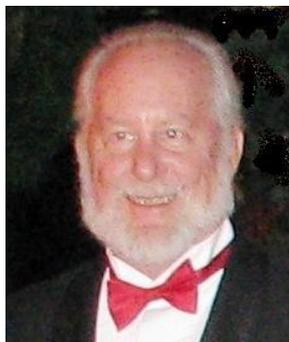
Dennis Herlihy

Steve Evnochides

Linda Dimitropoulos

Take care and happy boating. See you on the Water!

***Barbara Nickelson,  
Secretary***



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

Bob Nickelson, Treasurer

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

Not a lot to report in area of "bean counting" this time of year – I am in the process of closing out the numbers for Spring Fling and from all the preliminary indications are that the 2014 Port Arthur venue proved to be a great success – I will have all the actual numbers in July.

Most of the activities in the general TMCA operations are member funded cruises during the summer, with the exception of the upcoming Fajita Party - membership revenue is also slow right now – bank balances are good and all revenues/expenses are within our planned 2014 budget.

"The older I get, the more wisdom I find in the ancient rule of taking first things first.

A process which reduces the most complex human problem to a manageable proportion."

Dwight Eisenhower

– Or in boat language – get thru the channel to the marina first and then worry about getting in the slip – one I often reverse. The more I boating stories I hear, the more I realize that things that happen in our boating experiences are nothing new - Happy Boating

***Bob Nickelson,  
Treasurer***

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## Community Liaison Committee Chair



Philip Kropf  
[PKropf@flash.net](mailto:PKropf@flash.net)

More miscellaneous notes and musings for this month's article...

1. As reported last month, another dredging project in our area is about to begin and that is the deepening and widening of the **Bayport** and **Barbours Cut** channels. (Click [here](#) for more information.) The Barbours Cut part of the project will begin very soon, but there should be no impact to boaters since that waterway is off-limits to us anyway, and there will be no dredge pipelines crossing any of our cruising routes. But the Bayport part, which will start probably near the end of the summer, is a different case, and as yet I do not have specific information on pipeline routes, etc. Stay tuned for more information!

2. Last month I wrote about my ongoing participation in the activities of the **Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee** ([www.lshsc.org](http://www.lshsc.org)), and all of its working group/subcommittees. I also am a member of the local USCG **Area Maritime Security Committee** (AMSC) (Click [here](#) and [here](#) for background info.) All AMSC and LSHSC meetings are open to the public and the next meetings of the full committees are July 31<sup>st</sup> and August 8<sup>th</sup> respectfully. Contact me if you would like more information on these organizations and would like to get involved.

3. As part of my own involvement in the committees mentioned above, and other committees also, I meet all kinds of interesting and very knowledgeable people who are actively working on a daily basis in making our ports and waterways safer, more secure, more environmentally healthy, and who are just involved in various maritime activities and projects. Quite frequently I inquire as to whether someone might be willing to come be a speaker at a TMCA meeting, and when the answer is a positive one I coordinate with our Vice Commodore to make it happen! (No, I do *not* wish to be Vice Commodore myself, thank you!)

So far in 2014 I have arranged to have the **Coast Guard's** LCDR Xochi Castaneda as our January speaker, **Galveston Bay Foundation's** Water Quality Program Manager Charlene Bohanon as our March speaker, and Walter Hansen, head of the restoration effort of the Danish rescue boat, **Hanne Frank**, at the **Holocaust Museum Houston as our May speaker**. And now coming up at our August meeting will be **Captain Brian Penoyer, USCG Commander of Sector Houston-Galveston and Captain of the Port**. We are indeed privileged to have a Coast Guard officer of Captain Penoyer's stature agree to be our speaker and he will have a lot of interesting things to talk to us about regarding port security issues, navigation, harbor safety, environmental concerns and more! And then for the September meeting we will have **Captain Bob Webbon** of the **Houston Pilots**. In addition to being a ship pilot, Bob is also a sailor, and I think that he should have some interesting insights on the interactions between recreational vessels and commercial vessels on the Houston Ship Channel.

4. Other ongoing and upcoming events...

- Monthly history lectures at the **Houston Maritime Museum** (<http://www.houstonmaritimemuseum.org/>), usually on the second Tuesday of each month.

- A meeting of the **Galveston Bay/Clear Lake Boater Waste Collaboration**, a committee chaired by Charlene Bohanon, already mentioned above. The meeting will be on either 7/22 or 7/23 (tbd), and if you are interested in this subject (and we all should be!) and want more information, please contact me.

- The 4<sup>th</sup> annual **Maritime Youth Expo** is coming up on 9/6. (re: the 2013 event at <http://www.txgulf.org/maritimeyouthexpo.php>) And this will be the same day and location as a major public event at the Bayport Cruise Terminal commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the Houston Ship Channel. More information to follow as it becomes available.

Hey, I may be the official "Community Liaison" guy, but you *too* can get out there and get involved in maritime community activities! There are plenty of things always going on, and most groups/committees/etc. would very much welcome your participation!

*Philip Kropf*  
*Community Liaison Committee Chair*

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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 Docktari</b>	<b>713-899-1098</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Bob Nickelson, m/v Docktari</b>	<b>713-826-7551</b>

### **2014 TMCA Trustees**

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



***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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