

The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

July 2015



At the Helm

Bob Nickelson, Commodore

[email: Commodore@TexasMariners.com](mailto:Commodore@TexasMariners.com)

Wow, I can't believe half of the year is already gone. We finished out June with a fun ride on the "Beast" - a big thanks to Karen and Capt. Doug Chappell for putting it all together. Now we start the second half of the year with a lot more cruises and parties scheduled.

We have been living aboard now for nine months and have been fine tuning all of our systems to count down our Great Loop departure in January, 2016. My cousin and her husband who live on their boat in Ensenada Mexico (just south of San Diego) will start the trip with us. Plans are take a couple months to get around the Gulf coast to Key West and then maybe to divert on a side adventure to Cuba - we will be sending back posts and pictures along the way. Our biggest challenge

so far is not getting all of our "stuff" on board, but to remember where we put everything after we stowed it away - our next big issue will be where to keep the folding bikes - spaces are getting tight.

With the second half of the year approaching, hopefully we are past all of our bad weather and with the list of upcoming cruises and parties, I encourage everyone to participate and enjoy the benefits of your TMCA membership. With around six hundred members we are continually being recognized by other organizations as the "place to be" - this was not an overnight happening, but from a lot work in the past from previous and current Board members and numerous committee volunteers - makes me proud to be associated with TMCA.

Be safe and keep'em between the reds & greens.

**Bob Nickelson,
Commodore**



*Charles Parette,
Vice Commodore*

The Corner of Vice

Charles Parette, Vice Commodore

Email: ViceCommodore@TexasMariners

Our next monthly meeting will be Friday, July 17, at the Elks Club, 623 Hanson Road in Kemah. Socializing begins at 6:00, and due to increased attendance, dinner orders will also begin at 6:00. The business meeting starts at 7:30, followed by the program.

Our speaker for July will be the Galveston Bay Power Squadron who will detail many marine educational opportunities available. This will be a fun evening, so mark your calendar to attend.

Remember, if you need a TMCA name badge, or a replacement badge, see Kathy Houser at the welcome table. It will be ready for you at the next meeting.



The Social Scuttlebutt

Charlene Lim, Rear Commodore

email: RearCommodore@TexasMariners.com

Jim and Doris Lee must not have put enough mojo into the Hurricane Stay Away Party. We had our 1st tropical storm and it's only June. Next year Jim and Doris need to juice up the volume on their Hurricane stay away party. All kidding aside, their party was delightful. Thank you guys for hosting the dock party and I hope you do it again.

You just have to love the folks at Mantus Anchors. They held their 3rd year anniversary party and it turned out marvelous. Lots of food, drinks, music and fun, what more can one ask for? These guys know what they are doing by inviting TMCA. Feed us a little food, give us a lot of drinks, and before you know what's happened, you find yourself loading a couple of new anchors in your trunk. Hmmm, great sales approach.... Thank you

so much for inviting TMCA to the party. 2016 is just around the corner and I sure hope they have a big party for their 4th. I love anniversary parties.

It brings great sorrow to me to announce the death of the June Fajita party. I was really looking forward to kicking back and knocking down a couple a fajitas by the pool, but it seems a fajita party was not in the cards for June in 2015. I would like to thank Dawn McGee, Pam Gasper and all the

other fajita party planners for all their hard work. I know they put in many hours working to lining up everything. It's a sad Fajita day in all our lives. Let's bow our heads and take a sip of margarita.

Now that that is out of the way, I'll tell you the good news.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE ALL NEW

VIVA LA VIDA Y FIESTA!!

AUGUST 8TH

The NEW "Viva La Vida Y Fiesta!!" (AKA: *Live your Life and Party!!*) is the Fajita party on steroids. The Venue will be at the spectacular Portofino Marina and the fabulous 2nd Wind band has promised to BLOW the house down with rocking good music. I can't disclose all the details yet, but I can tell you the price will be greatly reduced and the food is going to be better than ever before... Register on the TMCA website quickly to reserve your spot. Take a big gulp of your margarita in celebration. Saluda!!!

The Beastie event was Kawabunga Beastly GREAT. Thank you so much Doug and Karen Chappell for putting this event together. You guys out did your selves on this event. FUN boat ride and super-duper fireworks....

JULY 3RD "Patriotic Blow out Dock Party"

"Patriotic Blow out Dock Party" Mark and Linda Weidemann are Hosting a "Patriotic Blow out Dock Party" at their fabulous waterfront home on Friday July 3rd -6:30pm.....It's going to be a real BLAST!!!! Fireworks start at 9pm. Bring a dish to share, Mix up and bring your favorite patriotic red-white and blue beverage and a chair. Kick back and enjoy an evening with friends while you watch the fireworks. FUN FUN FUN!!!! They are located on Clear Lake in the Glen Cove subdivision between Waterford Harbor and Marina Del Sol. Boats are welcome to dock alongside. For draft information please contact Mark and Linda Weidemann, lweid@yahoo.com. Remember to wear your best looking red white and blue outfit. 2022 Cove Park Drive, Kemah TX 77565

Make sure to mark your calendars for the Luttgeharn's August 7th dock party. If you have not been to one of their parties you don't know what you are missing. Oh man these guys are true party animals. You got to go to this one.

New Events are popping up all the time, check the TMCA website regularly. Log in to see all the good stuff. Join Yahoo Groups and the TMCA Facebook groups for special updates.

Charlene Lim
Rear Commodore
TMCA Knows Fun!!

The Cruise Corner

Jerry Simoneaux, Cruise Captain
email: Captain@TexasMariners.com



You know it's great to be a TMCA member when, while on vacation somewhere in the middle of the Caribbean, you bump into other TMCA members.

Christopher and I took several family members to the British Virgin Islands last month for a much needed



vacation right after Spring Fling. It was our second time to go, and the first to charter a catamaran. We had a great time, but that is a story for another day. When we returned to the marina after our incredible 7-day sail, we ran into Dave Glasscock and Marion Herndon (who was already lounging at the pool). John Allison and other members were on their way to begin their sailing vacation. We excitedly told them about our trip and said we couldn't wait to hear about theirs when they got back home.

Our club is growing in numbers and we are expanding our ability to offer a variety of cruises—something for everyone. For example, we had two cruises planned in May over the Memorial Day weekend: Spring Fling on Pleasure Island, which drew a huge crowd, and a cruise to Moody Gardens that was completely booked. In July, we have two more concurrent cruises over the Independence Day weekend. Dr. Ron and Shelia Swatzyna are leading a sold-out cruise to Harborwalk and Philip Kropf is leading a group to Oak Island (Double Bayou, to some) for an old-fashioned, small-town celebration. You can still register for the Oak Island Cruise. Log on to our web site, click “registration” and sign up!

Later this month, on July 18, Ladye Jane Stone and Philip Kropf are co-leaders for an ice cream social cruise to Bayland to celebrate National Ice Cream Day. Lots of activities are planned. Check the calendar on our web site for details and sign up now!

Our former Cruise Captain, Jim Lee, is taking us on a “Wonderful One Day” exploration of Moses Lake on July 25. The annual Wonderful One Day is loaded with fun, adventure, and the occasional water fight (so bring your water guns!). This year we will be exploring Moses Lake in dinghies and small boats. Our fun-filled day will begin at “The Fish Spot” where we can put in by trailer or come from your local area (call or email Jim for directions by water). We will shove off from “The Fish Spot” in the back of Moses Lake / Dollar bay, Texas City around 10am. Sign up online today!

On a slightly different topic, I want to thank our members who participated in the Sailing Angels Summer Sailstice on June 20. Sailing Angels provides educational and recreational therapy by introducing the joy of sailing to children with cognitive, physical or emotional needs or chronic illnesses, and our wounded warriors. Twelve boats participated with 29 volunteers to host 70 participants, reports Captain Dave McCabe of Sailing Angels. We are truly a social club with a heart.

See you on the water!

Jerry Simoneaux
Cruise Captain



Secretary's Report

Kathy Houser, Secretary

email: Secretary@TexasMariners.com

May was a wonderful fun-filled month of vacations for me. It included my going Orlando, Florida for a conference and New Smyrna Beach Florida to visit good friends. The best part of my May vacations was sailing the Baltic Seas with my husband Neil and good friends Martin and Marylou Clark.

We flew to Copenhagen and stayed there two days. Copenhagen is the capital of Denmark and is filled with canals, cobbled squares and copper spires. This is also Scandinavia's most cosmopolitan city. We explored the winter residence of the Royal Family and saw the changing of the guards. We walked through the bustling harbor of Copenhagen and took a boat ride through the canals and even saw the "Little Mermaid."

We boarded our ship in Copenhagen and cruised to the port of Warmemunde, Germany. From this port we took a wonderful 2 ½ hour chartered train ride to Potsdam and Berlin. In Potsdam we visited the Manor where Truman, Stalin and Churchill signed the agreement on how to divide Germany after World War II. After lunch we went to Berlin and saw "Check Point Charlie" and took picture of ourselves with one foot in East Germany and one foot in West Germany. Berlin was a very cosmopolitan beautiful city. I would have like more time to explore it.

In St. Petersburg, Russia we enjoyed a two full-day tour. We walked the grandiose grounds of Catherine's Palace, presented to her by her husband, Peter the Great. Strolled the halls of the Hermitage Museum, the most prestigious museum in the world. We explore the gardens of the Grand Palace and visited St. Peter and Paul Cathedral.

In Tallinn, Estonia, we enjoyed a scenic drive around the Old Town with magnificent views of the medieval city walls. We visited the Russian Orthodox Church and admired its stunning icons. In Helsinki, Finland we chose a tour "By Land and by Sea." By sea we boarded a Hydrofoil boat and passed by islands full of museums, parks and gardens, waterfront saunas and Helsinki's icebreaker fleet that was docked for the summer. Helsinki by land we were able to shop for local handicrafts in the Market Square, and then pass landmarks including the Presidential Palace and Uspenski Cathedral.

We were not able to visit Stockholm, Sweden for the port was fogged in and our ship could not enter. But this gave us an extra day to explore and enjoy our ship for we had been going on excursions every day.

The ship we sailed on was the Norwegian Star and it was beautiful and filled with many creature comforts and things to do. We all enjoyed this cruise and highly recommend it.

Thanks to Spring Fling we do have a several new members so please join me in welcoming them:

Donald Wood,
Matt and Debi Hammond
Deneen Taylor
Deborah Caylor
Tommy Tamburello
Autumn Plotner
Greg Kutsen
Mark & Mary Harrison
Randy Plotner
Orlando & Sylvia Saenz
Trent McBride
Ben & Trisha Garber
Gary & Toni Hanson
Keith & Amy Gray
Dennis & Lynette Gillenwater
David & Stephanie Sassi

Have a happy and safe 4th of July and I am looking forward to seeing you all at the July meeting.

Kathy Houser
Secretary



Dollars And "Sense" from the Treasurer

Debbie Sturgeon, Treasurer

[Email: Treasurer@TexasMariners.com](mailto:Treasurer@TexasMariners.com)

There's not a lot to report regarding the accounts right now. I am waiting for the last few invoices to come in for Spring Fling and then I will close out the numbers. So watch this space!

Most of the activities in the general TMCA operations are member funded cruises during the summer, and after a flurry of registration following on from Spring Fling, membership revenue is minimal right now. Our bank balances are good and all revenues/expenses are within our planned 2014 budget.

On a personal note, I'm hoping that the monumental task of replacing our refrigerator is coming to an end, and that you will see Sol Purpose out in the bay in the very near future!

Debbie Sturgeon,
Treasurer



Community Liaison Committee Chair

Philip Kropf
PKropf@flash.net

As I write this on June 29th the year is already half over! Incredible!!! And we have already had a named tropical storm to get all of our attentions! Carrying on however, my column as usual contains updates on various important items previously discussed, and also some new items. I hope that this information is both interesting and useful as we move into the second half of 2015.

1. The planned June 13-14 cruise up to Bayland Marina had to be cancelled due to weather issues (and then also a second ad-hoc Bayland cruise the following weekend due to a lack of sign-ups), and so I have yet to cruise up into the Bayport channel area to see for myself how the Bayport **Channel Deepening and Widening Project** is progressing! But it does continue, and will be ongoing through at least the end of the year. The dredge Linda LaQuay continues work in the western portion of the channel and all of the dredge pipelines are still in place, as well as are three locations where booster pumps have been installed.

On July 18-19 there is another planned TMCA cruise up to Bayland Marina (click [here](#) for cruise details) and so we will definitely be traversing this area. And whether you are part of that cruise or not, **if you are at any time sailing up near Bayport it is critical that you look at the latest information on the POH Deepening & Widening website for a map of where this equipment is located and then where the safe “recreational boater crossing area” is located. (You can access that map by clicking [here](#).)**

The POH website provides more detailed project information, including a link to a very informative pdf file (click [here](#)) created by the POHA and Orion Marine Group. The Linda LaQuay is required to have AIS working at all times and can be seen on www.vesselfinder.com and on your vessel's AIS. She is also required to answer all VHF calls on channel 13.

2. As mentioned in three of my recent columns, important changes have come to the **USCG Vessel Traffic Service** (<http://www.uscg.mil/vtshouston/>) “geographic reporting sectors”. If you want to read the full explanation, please go back to the April newsletter (click [here](#)) and become familiar with these changes just in case you ever have to call the VTS while you are out on the water. Such situations might include difficult weather conditions (like dense fog!) or some emergency situation, and you should know where you are on the water and then which VHF channel to call!

The addition of a 3rd geographic sector now compresses the previous two reporting sectors so that, whereas VHF-12 previously was the channel to call anywhere in the bay, under the new realignment VHF-12 now only extends as far north as LT-33/34. Above that location, and all the way up to LT-122 near the Lynchburg Ferry, it is now VHF-11 that you would call. So now, if you don't have AIS on your vessel and you want to check on that traffic in the dangerous area just above Morgan's Point, you must go to channel 11 rather than channel 12. (The final geographic sector (on VHF-21A) goes from

LT-122 all the way to the Turning Basin, and we would only be interacting with that on our way to Allen's Landing.)

3. Last month I attended a "**Tides and Datums**" seminar designed for stakeholders in the marine industry. This seminar was designed to "clarify the issue of an impending change by the Galveston District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to move from their *Mean Low Tide* (MLT) vertical datum (upon which the current design depths of the federal channels in Texas are based, as well as the permits for private dock construction) to the *Mean Lower Low Water* (MLLW) datum which is used by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and most other Corps Districts and ports and harbors around the USA."

Other than new tide staffs that are being installed by the USACE at various locations around the bay and beyond, this change does not really affect us recreational boaters. And it is admittedly a very confusing subject, but if you would like to read a bit more about it, click [here](#) for a pdf file that attempts to explain it all.

4. For several months now I have been working with one of my USCG contacts on some much-needed revisions to several of the area **Security Zone** boundaries. The work is not yet completed and I will be updating you when it is. The CG treats these zones *very* seriously and you definitely do *not* want to enter one of them either accidentally, or especially on purpose! So if you are not sure where they are, now would be a good time to review them at: http://www.uscg.mil/vtshouston/docs/SECZONE8_5x14.pdf and http://www.uscg.mil/vtshouston/docs/SECZONEfreeport8_5x14.pdf

5. I mention regularly in this column the several important documents for recreational boaters to become aware of which are found under the "Resources" tab of the **LSHSC** website (<http://www.lonestarhsc.org/resources.php>). I maintain the "**For the Recreational Boater**" section located there, and if you have not done so previously, please become familiar with all the documents there which are of definite interest to recreational boaters.

6. Monthly maritime history lectures continue at the **Houston Maritime Museum**, usually on the second Tuesday of each month. Due to "TS Bill" the June lecture unfortunately had to be cancelled. The next lecture, on July 14th, by Brian Anderson from College of the Mainland in Texas City is entitled: "**Ship of Dreams': Cultural and Literary legacy of the Titanics**".

Information on all upcoming HMM lectures can be found by clicking [here](#). They have listed all of the upcoming lectures through October and they all look to be great topics! The museum provides sandwiches and beverages at these lectures so come on out, see the museum, and learn about interesting maritime history.

And as usual, if any readers have comments, questions, ideas, or information on events that I may not know about, then I would definitely like to hear from you! I do hope that some of you are actually reading this column, and some feedback would be greatly appreciated!!

Philip Kropf
Community Liaison Committee Chair

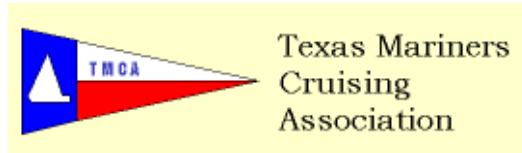
[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

2015 TMCA Officers

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Commodore: | Bob Nickelson, m/v Docketari | 713-826-7551 |
| Past Commodore: | Martin Clark, m/v Impulsive | 281-435-1253 |
| Vice Commodore: | Charles Parette, m/v Andiamo | 713-817-8263 |
| Rear Commodore: | Charlene Lim, s/v Sea Illusion | 832-483-8086 |
| Cruise Captain: | Jerry Simoneaux, s/v Tradewind | 713-577-9587 |
| Secretary: | Kathy Houser, m/v Attitude Adjustment | 281-804-4122 |
| Treasurer: | Debbie Sturgeon, s/v Sol Purpose | 832-474-5627 |

2015 TMCA Trustees

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Trustee 2011 | Commodore Doug Chappell | Dock Trauma | 281-330-1163 |
| Trustee 2008 | Commodore Marion Herndon | | 281-703-9322 |
| Trustee 2012-13 | Commodore Steve Lee | s/v Waltzing Matilda | 281-802-9838 |
| 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@TexasMariners.com

Texas Mariners Cruising Association, PO Box 946, Kemah, TX 77565-0946
<http://www.TexasMariners.com> | [Anti-spam policy](#) | [Privacy policy](#)