

Texas Mariners Cruising Association

The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

January 2016



At the Helm

Jerry Simoneaux, Commodore

email: Commodore@TexasMariners.com

2015 was a record-breaking year for TMCA in so many ways and we have every reason to be optimistic about our future. This past year, our members enjoyed more than 35 events from our regular monthly meetings and dock parties to special events such as Mardi Gras in Galveston, the Nauti White Party, and the Commodore's Ball where we filled the Lakewood Yacht Club room to capacity. More than 550 boats participated in 35 cruises, even in spite of uncooperative weather at the beginning of the year. 130 boats and approximately 350 people went to Spring Fling at Pleasure Island in Port Arthur. We are approaching the 700 mark for dues-paid members and we are in the best financial position

ever in our 37-year history.

The numbers for 2015 are outstanding; however, they are not the only metric by which we measure our success. The main purpose of our club is to provide many and various opportunities to have a great time. You may have heard us jokingly say, "we broke the fun meter on this one!" Well, I think the "fun meter" is one of the most important indicators of how well we are doing. The number of events and participants is important, but what really counts is how much you enjoyed it.

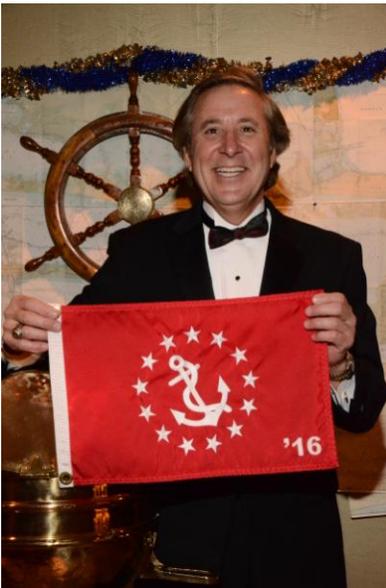
The duty of any board of directors is to maximize shareholder value. For us, that means maximizing your fun. Our organization has reached a new level and we will be building on exceptional leadership over the past several years. We are filing full tax returns now instead of sending off a yearly "post card" return. We are able to offer multiple cruises at a time and completely fill them, and our events attract record participation. It is the task of your 2016 board to review our successes and failures with an eye to the future to develop procedures and infrastructure to make sure you get the most out of your membership for years to come. The theme for our board this year is "Invest in Fun".

As a member and stakeholder in TMCA, I want you to feel free to contact me or any board member with your ideas, input, and even gripes. Your opinion is very important to me and to

our club. Let us know how we're doing. One of the best and first ways to get involved is to attend the Planning Meeting at the Elk's Lodge on Saturday, January 9 at 9:00 a.m. You can also join a committee, lead a cruise, or host a dock party or other special event. If you're new or a little shy, I encourage you to participate in any of our activities and you will be warmly welcomed.

Throw off the bowlines. Catch the trade winds. Explore. Dream. Discover.

*Jerry Simoneaux,
Commodore*



The Corner of Vice

Charles Parette, Vice Commodore

Email: ViceCommodore@TexasMariners

I'm honored to be the Vice Commodore for 2016, and plans are already underway for some interesting speakers for our general meetings.

Mark your calendar for our Member Orientation January 16, 9:00 – 12:00 at the Elks Club. This meeting is not only for new but also current members. You'll be able to meet the 2016 board and learn how you can get the most out of your membership. We'll highlight some of our upcoming events, how to use the web site, and learn about some of our cruising destinations. You'll be able to meet like-minded members who want to use their boat. Whether it's education, social, or cruising – or all of the above, it's available at TMCA.

Also take note of special women's only program conducted by the Galveston Bay Sail and Power Squadron beginning January 6. Vicki Berkebile is coordinating the program with GBSPS for a multi-week training program on engines. Yep, that's right. It's for women, taught by women. You'll learn how gasoline inboards, outboards, and diesel engines work in a low stress, fun, and non-judgmental environment. The course covers repairs that do-it-yourselfers can perform, and teaches how to diagnose problems that might be beyond your ability to fix, or how to share information with your mechanic so the right repairs get performed. The course is \$95 or \$65 if you're a member of GBSPS. Contact Vicki Berkebile Vicki@azello.com or Pam Sanders, GBSPS pssanders3@gmail.com. Sign up on the TMCA web site so we know who all is planning to attend.

The January meeting will be January 15 at the Elks Lodge, 623 Hanson Road, in Kemah. Socializing begins at 6:00 p.m., dinner orders start to be taken at 6:00 p.m., business meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. and the program starts at 8:00 p.m. Our speakers will be our very own Tom and Deb Taylor. They've taken their boat cruising, from Clear Lake to Florida, to the Bahamas and back. This will be a delightful program and it will be fun to hear about cruising from both Tom and Deb's viewpoints. Come enjoy dinner and drinks at great prices. Be sure to bring your name badge.

*Charles Parette,
Vice Commodore*



The Social Scuttlebutt

Ladye Jane Stone, Rear Commodore

email: RearCommodore@TexasMariners.com

As I look forward to 2016, I want to thank you all for giving me this opportunity. I follow in the footsteps of many great Rear Commodores and hope to continue the tradition in equally grand style. This year begins with several new things for me – along with my new role, *Pier Pressure* also has new canvas and inboard a/c, as well as a new view from her slip in Portofino. I think we'll both have a fun year!

The first event in January and quite possibly the most important of the year, is our Planning Meeting on the 9th at 9:00 a.m.! Download and bring our [working calendar](#) with you. (If you have problems with the link, it's on the home page of the web site under Cruising). This was probably the best meeting I participated in last year – I learned where all the fun begins, saw how the group works together and was inspired to 'raise my hand'. This is truly the members' meeting – it's your opportunity to share ideas, offer suggestions and volunteer to help with parties. I encourage you to come to the meeting and 'jump in' as I did! There's no need to feel intimidated if you've never hosted an event, the officers and other seasoned members will graciously offer assistance. I can tell you first hand, that the best way to get the most out of your membership and meet other members is to get involved and I will need everyone's help to make this a fun and memorable year.

Another fun event this month is the Bunko party on the 16th at 6:00 p.m.! This has become an annual event and as I understand, one of the most fun also, so you don't want to miss it. Not to

worry if you don't know the rules – there will be a brief training session before play begins and prizes will be awarded. This is a great way to start meeting other members. Everyone brings a soup or gumbo to share and the officers will furnish deserts. Registration is now open on the web site, so please sign up on the web site and please let me know if you can provide a card table.

I will be looking for volunteers for the Social Committee, so if you have interest in helping with this, please contact me!

Ladye Jane Stone
Rear Commodore
TMCA Knows Fun!!

The Cruise Corner



Christopher Bown, Cruise Captain

email: Captain@TexasMariners.com

Hello TMCA and welcome to 2016!

I would first like to thank all of you for electing me to Cruise Captain. It is an honor and I hope that I will live up to your expectations.

Yearly Planning Meeting - Our first big meeting will be on Saturday, January 9th from 9:00am to 12:00pm. It is held at the Elks Club, which is located at 623 Hanson Road, Kemah, TX 77565. This is where you the members get to decide where and what we are going to do this year. We always have some cruises that carry over from year to year, but our cruising area is huge and we have all kinds of choices and places that we can explore. Your suggestions are vital and help to keep this club

exciting. Don't be shy about suggesting a new location or a new theme. We are all about fun and with nearly 700 members we should be able to have some really exhilarating cruises. Download and bring our [working calendar](#) with you. (If you have problems with the link, it's on the home page of the web site under Cruising).

One thing to keep in mind is that we are an extremely diverse group. We have sailboats, powerboats, small boats, large boats, motor homes and other types of transportation. Because of this we can handle scheduling multiple cruises and destinations during the same period. In the past some members have taken a group either down the coast or up the coast while other cruises are going on. We have had groups that have gone to one marina while another group goes to another location. We can do this. Last year Micky and Roberta Netherly led a cruise to Moody Gardens on the same weekend as Spring Fling. The point is that we have grown so big

that multiple cruises at the same time are possible. We don't all have the same types of transportation or desires as everyone else.

If you want to lead a cruise and you are not quite comfortable taking on that role just ask. We have all kinds of talented people in our group. We also have lots of information on our website. <http://www.texasmariners.com/> A lot of the local destinations have been traveled before and I'm here to help you make your cruise a success.

The easiest way to learn something new is by doing it. WE CAN DO THIS!
So, bring your ideas, thoughts and suggestions to the January 9th meeting and join in on all the fun and festivities. This is your club.

Save The Date



Yachty Gras Parade – January 30, 2016
Spring Fling 2016 – May 26th to May 30th
TMCA Cruise to Cuba – June 17th to June 24th

Christopher Bown
Cruise Captain



Secretary's Report

Kathy Houser, Secretary

email: Secretary@TexasMariners.com

Hey Mariners, I know it has been a while since my last update; I've been a bit busy with Christmas shopping and getting stuff done for the holidays. So what have you been doing - same thing I bet. So glad it is over so I can now concentrate on updating the TMCA website.

Yes my friends, it is time to pay your 2016 dues and if you think Santa was checking if you've been naughty or nice.....guess what I am doing. That's right fellow members I'm checking to see who has paid their dues and who has not paid. If you have paid, thank you and if you have not, I encourage you to go online, update your information, renew your 2016 dues by PayPal, or complete the form at the bottom of the newsletter and send a

check to Texas Mariners Cruising Association, P.O Box 946, Kemah, TX 77565 before the "Grace Period," January 31st. Dual Membership is \$50 and a Single Membership is \$35. After January 31st you will be charged a reinstatement fee of \$20 so please send in your money and start the New Year right. **MAKE A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION** to send in your renewal fee now!

We have several new members this month so please join me in welcoming them:

- Gary and Darlene Cryer
- Chris and Betsey Ceret
- Gilbert Arrazolo
- Smoke and Deb Williams
- Wade Lowry and Toni Lunsford
- Rick and Ruth Nizol
- Chris and Beverly Parish
- Eric and Kimberly Late
- Gilbert Arrazolo
- Mary Morgan
- Dave Mulcahy

If you would like a TMCA badge, new or old please let me know and I will make one for you. They will be ready for you at our next monthly meeting. If you need a Burgee, I have those too!

Look forward to seeing you in January!

Kathy Houser
Secretary



Dollars And "Sense" from the Treasurer

Neil Houser, Treasurer

Email: Treasurer@TexasMariners.com

MAY YOU ALL HAVE THE BEST NEW YEAR OF YOUR LIFE IN 2016!

I want to thank all of you in advance for your support, guidance and patience while I get my feet on the ground. I look forward to an exciting 2016 as your TMCA Treasurer and working with the other board members.

I have just started to wrap my arms around the job so it will be February before a full Treasurer's report will be available. So far I have made it to the PO Box to pick up the mail and the renewal checks that you all are sending in. This seems like a good place to begin.

*Neil Houser,
Treasurer*



Community Liaison Committee Chair

Philip Kropf

PKropf@flash.net

Happy New Year!!! And welcome to TMCA cruising in 2016!

It looks like our new Commodore, Jerry Simoneaux, wants me to keep writing this column for another year, and as I wrote last month, my involvement in the volunteer work that I have been engaged in, even before this committee was formed, was going to continue in any case, and so writing a monthly column to keep everyone abreast of things is not all that big of a chore. Representing the interests of recreational boaters to several maritime committees, and coordinating with representatives from various boating groups and other entities, is highly rewarding, and again, in our rapidly evolving port complex, there are a *lot* of things that can affect us adversely if none of us are on watch!!

1. For example, just recently I posted a notice on our TMCA yahoogroups site about a worrisome development that I became aware of on a waterway that TMCA cruisers sometimes frequent when doing down coast cruising. **The Friends of the Lydia Ann Channel** have just announced that their organization has filed a lawsuit against the United States Army Corps of Engineers regarding approval of an industrial barge fleet, storage, and service facility in the channel. There is information on this situation at:

<http://www.guidrynews.com/15December/35715FLAC.pdf> and at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xl7XQBxzcDQ>, and then information on the “FLAC” group itself at: <http://savelydiaann.org/>. Within that link it tells how one can “Get involved” and help their cause by expressing your feelings on this matter.

2. As I did all during 2015, at least for the first half of 2016 I will need to continue to keep everyone informed about the ongoing dredging project that is much closer to home in the Bayport ship channel. Officially it is known as the **Bayport Channel Deepening and Widening Project**, and when I recently checked www.vesselfinder.com, the dredge Richard LaQuay was still operating out in the bay alongside the channel, and the submerged dredge pipeline leading over to the disposal area on the east side of the HSC was still in place. The most recent map of the pipeline layout and the “recreational boater crossing area” can be seen by clicking [here](#), however my personal recommendation at this point, if you do happen to be cruising to the upper part of the bay, is to just skirt to the east around the entire work zone and then travel northward using the barge lanes of the HSC until you are safely past this potentially dangerous area.

3. Switching to a very serious topic that only *partially* relates to maritime issues, I bring up the threat of terrorism in this country. Within the past two months we have all witnessed the dreadful events of both Paris and San Bernadino, and since then there has been a lot of rhetoric about what this country is, or isn't, doing to combat the threat of domestic terrorism, whether foreign-motivated or not! Portions of our population are ready to believe that we are perhaps going to have San Bernadino-style terrorism events on a regular basis, and although firearms violence is an everyday occurrence in most of our cities, one's individual chance of becoming a victim of domestic *terrorism* borders nearly on zero! (Some statistics say that you have a much greater chance of being struck by lightning <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/resources/RecentLightningDeaths.pdf> } or eaten by a shark! https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shark_attack#Statistics}) However..., having served for a decade now on the local **USCG Area Maritime Security Committee**, I can tell you with some degree of confidence that our port and our adjacent communities are I think better prepared for any kind of a terror attack than are probably most other areas of the country!

But it is the responsibility of us all to *help* the various governmental authorities keep us safe! Recently I have come across a whole spate of articles and web links that reinforce the important admonition: “**If you see something, say something!**” (<http://www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something>) For example, regarding more land-based issues, there is this: <http://www.guidrynews.com/story.aspx?id=1000074276>. And then, in the most recent issue of the Local Notice to Mariners (<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/pdf/lnms/lnm0851g2015.pdf>) there is the following message:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) encourages the maritime public to report information concerning suspicious activity to the local Federal Bureau of Investigation Joint

Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) Office, http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/investigate/terrorism/terrorism_jtfts, or to other appropriate authorities. The U.S. Coast Guard reminds the maritime industry that they may also report information concerning suspicious activity to the www.AmericasWaterwayWatch.org, the National Response Center (NRC) 1-800-424-8802 or 1-877-24WATCH.

There are many other links that I can provide on the topic, such as:

<http://www.dhs.gov/news/2015/12/16/update-national-terrorism-advisory-system> and http://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/ntas/alerts/15_1216_NTAS_bulletin_0.pdf

Also, when you are out on the water, be aware of where our local **USCG Security Zones** are located (http://www.uscg.mil/vtshouston/docs/SECZONE8_5x14.pdf and http://www.uscg.mil/vtshouston/docs/SECZONEfreeport8_5x14.pdf) and also know what “**MARSEC 3**” is (<http://www.lonestarhsc.org/docs/resources/USCG-Marsec-Levels.pdf>) and what the USCG *requires* of all of us boaters should that level of port security ever be called!

I could continue with more, but to summarize: “The Coast Guard also encourages members of the maritime community to participate in their local Area Maritime Security Committees. These local forums include representatives from the private sector, as well as federal, state, local and tribal governments. Maritime security is a shared responsibility, and the Coast Guard relies on the patriotism, vigilance and professionalism of the maritime community to help keep our nation secure.”

4. Now, switching to a less serious topic, monthly maritime history lectures for 2016 at the **Houston Maritime Museum** will be starting soon, and then usually occurring on the second Tuesday of each month. The first lecture, by HMM Collections Manager and Archivist Erica Peaslee on January 19th, will be entitled “**The Houston Maritime Museum: An Origin Story and Its Future**”. (Information on all upcoming HMM lectures can be found by clicking [here](#).) The museum provides sandwiches and beverages at these lectures, so come on out to see the amazing ship models and other objects in the museum, and learn about a bit of interesting maritime history. (And if you cannot make it to these lectures in person, videos are available online at by clicking [here](#). Check them out!)

I certainly don’t wish to usurp anything from the January lecture, but there is some history about the museum on their website at: <http://www.houstonmaritimemuseum.org/history/>. I mention that because Jim Manzolillo, the museum’s founder, was twice a speaker at TMCA meetings in the previous decade (he died in 2007). His life is a fascinating story, especially the part about his building shrimp trawlers in Mexico City!

Wishing everyone a fun and safe 2016 on our Galveston Bay waters, and beyond! Sorry that this was kind of a long column this month, but the port security stuff is obviously *very* important and I wanted to cover some of it as best I could! And as usual, if readers have comments, questions, ideas, or information on events that I may not know about, then I would definitely like to hear from you! Feedback is always *greatly* appreciated!!

Philip Kropf
Community Liaison Committee Chair



Renewing Dues via TMCA Web Site

www.TexasMariners.com

Log on to the TMCA web site

Go to **Membership → My Account**

Click **Edit → Update Your Profile** to update your information. You can update your user name, profile photo, contact information, change your password, and add/update your boat photo. When completed, scroll to bottom and click **Save**.

Renewing Membership

Once you're logged in, click **Membership → My Account → Membership** Tab. Select **Renew Now** to keep your current membership status (keep current single or dual membership), or **Upgrade** to change your current membership level (switch to different membership level).

You now have the choice to renew now by any credit card via PayPal (click **Subscribe**) or mail in a check (click **Pay Offline**)

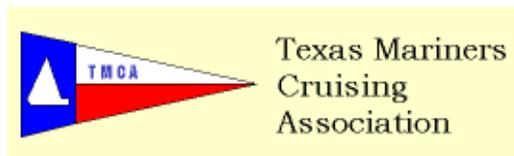
[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

2016 TMCA Officers

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Commodore: | Jerry Simoneaux, s/v Tradewind | 713-577-9587 |
| Past Commodore: | Bob Nickelson, m/v Docketari | 713-899-1098 |
| Vice Commodore: | Charles Parette, m/v Andiamo | 713-817-8263 |
| Rear Commodore: | Ladye Jane Stone, s/v Pier Pressure | 713-724-3535 |
| Cruise Captain: | Christopher Bown, s/v Tradewind | 713-577-9583 |
| Secretary: | Kathy Houser, m/v Attitude Adjustment | 281-804-4122 |
| Treasurer: | Neil Houser, m/v Attitude Adjustment | 281-772-4838 |

2016 TMCA Trustees

| | | | |
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| Trustee 2012-13 | Commodore Steve Lee | s/v Waltzing Matilda | 281-802-9838 |
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Please send any articles you would like included in the TMCA Mariner to TMCA Mariner Editor at Newsletter@TexasMariners.com