

Texas Mariners Cruising Association

# The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

October 2017



## At the Helm

**Charles Parette, Commodore**

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

It's October 2017, and we're all still recovering from Hurricane Harvey.

I encourage each of you to continue focusing on what is important; take care of yourself, your home, and your family/friends. Please keep those less fortunate with damaged, or flooded homes in your prayers.

I helped fill 6 big roll-off dumpsters, just from our street. Our neighbors are still pulling out debris. If you need help, don't hesitate to ask, and if you're ok, consider volunteering/helping out.

We took the boat out for a nice ride the other day, and of course something stopped working. We have a vent in our windshield, and it is supposed to open with an actuator. We pushed the button, but nothing happened, so I removed it, took it apart, and decided that it wasn't worth fixing, so we've ordered a replacement. I'll bench test it at home before we install it on the boat. I drained our fresh water tank, refilled with water and a little bleach. Then drained again, so now it's clean and ready for our next overnight trip.

The Harvest Moon Regatta is right around the corner, and I've got the beautiful TMCA trophy ready for our winner. The dinner/party/awards is Saturday, October 7 at Lakewood Yacht Club. Purchase a wristband at LYC, and congratulate all the TMCA participants. It's sure to be a good time.

We're busy working on the Allen's Landing Cruise. After Hurricane Harvey, we've been monitoring Buffalo Bayou and the pier at Allen's Landing. The water is down, but deposited some trees, and up to 3 feet of sand on the pier. The city has started working to clean the landing, but there is a long way to go, we'll see what the status is when we get closer to the Oct 20 cruise date. I understand the city has many other pressing priorities, but we'll hope for a quick cleanup. We're working on the Coast Guard Approval for Security Zone Transit, and finalizing city permits. The dam releases has us

keeping a watchful eye on the current there as well. There are lots of open issues right now with this cruise, but we're planning to be ready.

We enjoyed the dock parties, and other September events, and are looking forward to TMCA's version of October-fest fall fun. Be sure and keep track of the activities on our website, and sign up.

You can keep track of TMCA events several ways, weekly updates, Monthly Newsletter, our TMCA website calendar. If you would like to join the TMCA Yahoo Group, go to <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/tmcamariners/info>. Another way to share stories, pictures, and videos is on our Facebook group. Go to our Facebook Group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TMCAgroup>, we broadcast our general meetings live in our Facebook group.

Our next general meeting is Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 6pm at the Elks lodge in Kemah.

It's time to elect new officers for 2018, If you are interested, have suggestions or recommendations, please let me know.

If you want to be around a bunch of like-minded boaters, who use their boats, come to some our events and meetings, I'm sure you'll have a good time.

Let's go boating, and we'll see you on the water.

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***Charles Parette,  
Commodore***

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### [The Corner of Vice](#)

**Larry Friemel, Vice Commodore**

Email: [ViceCommodore@TexasMariners](mailto:ViceCommodore@TexasMariners)

What a September we experienced! I'm hoping you and your loved ones made it through Hurricane Harvey without harm and your homes were not severely impacted. As you know, our region will take some time to recover from this terrible event and get back to normal. Hopefully you will be able to get out on the water for a few hours or participate in one of the TMCA social or cruising events we have planned this month, just to relax for a while or take a break from recovery activities.

Our guest speakers last month were representatives from Sea Scouts Ship 1836. They provided a great

overview of the many activities our local area Sea Scouts are currently participating in, to educate youths on maritime skills both in the classroom and on the water. The Sea Scouts are about education and training to prepare youths for the future and possibly of entering a career in commercial, military, law enforcement or other maritime organizations.

As we begin October TMCA activities (hopefully with some cooler days and calmer waters), I wanted mention October is a great time of year to consider a short day trip to Redfish Island. It's a wonderful place to stop for lunch, hone your anchoring skills and test your boat systems away from the dock. That way, when the winds and waves do increase, we are familiar with the operation of each system and we can feel more confident operating them if the need arises. We are really lucky to have this great anchorage and it's a popular spot on the weekends. On a recent solo trip out to Redfish, I was motoring along on my normal track and noticed directly in front of me, a pipe sticking up about two feet above the water surface. It was positioned in a way, that if I had hit it, there was a good possibility it would have done damage to the running gear or hull. I quickly slowed to a stop and marked the spot on my chart plotter so we can avoid this area in the future. This was a good lesson for me to always keep a sharp eye out and never let my guard down even in calm and familiar waters. Especially now, with all the recent flooding in the bay area from Hurricane Harvey, all sorts of debris will be making its way into the bay system. It will be even more important to keep a sharp look out for changes in the appearance of the water surface. That change in the water surface appearance, could mean something might be floating just below the surface that could possibly ruin a fun day on the water. Lori and I will be extra focused on our look out duties and traveling at a slower pace for a while until the bay is back to normal. Another great place to anchor is Nassau Bay, located just west of the South Shore lighthouse on Clear Lake. The TMCA raft up cruise to this location in August was an awesome event, with most members' boats only having to make a short cruise to this great spot. We really enjoy the Nassau Bay anchorage and again it's another protected

area to hone your boating skills, exercise the engine(s) and gear, swim or just relax away from the dock.

On another note, as we have recently experienced, these pesky tropical systems can really affect our local waters and cruise schedules (even if they are not close or turn into full fledged Hurricanes) so check the web site often for all the latest on our planned October activities.

Hope to see everyone soon, be safe, and remember to fly those TMCA burgees!

**Larry Friemel,  
Vice Commodore**



**The Social Scuttlebutt**

**Lori Friemel, Rear Commodore**

**[email: RearCommodore@TexasMariners.com](mailto:RearCommodore@TexasMariners.com)**

As our community continues to recover from the storm, it is clear this will have a lasting impact on our area. To see so many with damage step in to help others has been inspiring. With so many areas affected we have had some cancellations and event changes. Please check the calendar for updates, changes and for any new information about the upcoming events.

I had the opportunity to go out on the bay shortly after the storm to help with water quality surveys and dolphin sightings. As expected, there was a major impact from the fresh water influx to the water quality. A majority of the dolphin were already showing skin problems, poor health and altered behavior. Mariner, the dolphin named from the proceeds of the TMCA cookbook, has been sighted since the storm. The bay and the dolphin will take some time for recovery and will continue to be monitored by the Galveston Bay Dolphin Research and Conservation Program.

The in-town **Pool 🏊 Dock Party** was a Hawaiian themed gathering of friends, pool fun and relaxation. Guests brought donations for Harvey Recovery and TMCA members affected by the storm. A 'valuable prize' was awarded to the dish to share contest winner for 'Seafood Slide'. There were so many delicious dishes I don't know how the judges were able to pick just one. Great job Catherine and Jim Eisele for hosting so soon after the storm and making this such a fun and festive luau.

The **Cajun 🍲 Gumbo Fay Dodo Cookoff** brought out some of our great Cajun cooks. With grand pots of gumbo and potato salad this was a gathering of delicious food and friendly competition among friends. Great bayou music and a beautiful evening. Prizes were awarded to the winner and runner up. Bon ton roule! Great job putting this event together Charlene & Steve Lim and Buz & Sandy. Always an adventure of fun!

Bring your donations and come to the **Seafarer's Box 📦 Wrap-Up party Saturday, October, 7, 9am-noon**. We will fill shoe boxes with donated items and wrap them for the seafarers. Donations may be supplies, shoe boxes or monetary. Any money received will be used by TMCA shoppers to buy additional supplies for more boxes. If you are unable to attend the event, you may give any donations to me at any other event. Be sure to note donation is for the Seafarers Boxes. For ideas on items to donate, check the website for a list or request a flyer. The seafarers really appreciate this gift, especially when they are so far from home and family.

The **Windemere El Lago 🍷 Wine Tasting Saturday, October 14, 6-11pm**. Due to the damage at the Windemere Mansion, this event has been moved to the El Lago Center. Enjoy an evening of Spanish flavor and sounds. Flamenco jazz guitarist John Acevedo will serenade us with beautiful music while we enjoy some wine tasting and delightful dish to share creations. This is a fun time to get together with friends to socialize, mix and mingle. Please register to find out what wine to bring and for ideas on what dish to bring. Don't forget your chair and beverage.

The **Harbour Island 🚤 Dock Party Friday, October 27**. The dock party is a bit later this month because most of our hosts are participating in the Harvest Moon Regatta. Come over, enjoy this beautiful location and spend an enjoyable evening with friends. Maybe we will get to hear some tales of adventure. Bring a dish to share, chair and beverage.

One of the premier cruises of the year - **Allen's Landing 🚤 Friday, October 20-22**. If you have not already signed up for this one you can still drive over and join in the fun. Bring a dish to share for the Friday night dock party followed by music and dancing. There are a lot of exciting activities planned for the group, explore downtown by Segway or even dinghy Buffalo Bayou. Don't miss the photo scavenger hunt! This is event is always a lot of fun!

Get your costumes and boat decorations ready for **Halloween👻 Double Bayou October 28-29**. Nothing is better than a bonfire and ghost stories on Halloween! Add a

toasted peep and it will be just about perfect. There are many more fun things planned so brave the trip over and join in the festivities!

The traditional favorite of many, the **French Picnic Saturday, November 25** will be held at the pasture on the East fork of Double Bayou. Start thinking of your dish for this epic contest. There is always great competition and even greater feasting! Check the website for more information on what extras to bring!

Just a reminder to save the date! The **Commodore's Ball is December 16, 2017 at Lakewood Yacht Club**. This is our big formal event of the year and one not to miss. The invitations will be going out in November, so be sure that your address and contact information is correct on the website. This is a special time of the year to celebrate and spend with friends and family. Reflecting on our cherished memories and looking forward to the future. Plan to join us!

I think in concentric circles. One thought leads to the next bigger, and sometimes, better thought. Which leads to the next, and so on. This string often leads to an idea, solution or sometimes a question. Like dropping a stone in the water, the original thought is long gone, but the ripples of thought from it have become amplified. I see that my actions, and the actions of others, are similar. One small action can start something larger. I can only lift a small corner, but together we can lift the entire load.

I have... changed an opinion, gotten an idea, laughed out loud, asked a question, been irked, thought twice, adopted a new attitude, nodded in agreement, felt embarrassed, been humbled, made a friend and so much more. All from the writing on other people's shirts!

***Lori Friemel***  
***Rear Commodore***  
***TMCA Knows Fun!!***

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### [The Cruise Corner](#)

**Ken Ekenseair, Cruise Captain**

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

Fall has come, and some would think that cruises are over! You would be so wrong to even think that.

We have the Allen's Landing Cruise, which is such a unique way to see Houston. Even if you do not do the cruise in your boat, go to the party. Even ask someone if you can ride back like I did last year.

We still have Halloween Cruise to Double Bayou, another great cruise where you can get off the grid some. Enjoy stars that you do not get to see from town. Help build a fire, tell stories, and roast

some peeps. This cruise may be the closest thing to experience what cruising life actually is.

We also have the Chilly Chili Cook Off at Beasons, which always includes a great game of screw your neighbor, a trip to the winery and visiting with our great TMCA friends.

Going to these locations as a new boater that has never been here - get a little shy about doing it. Ask questions! Ask for help. I can tell you we have never ever left anyone there. The cut going in is tricky, but with local knowledge it is a challenge you can overcome. Zee Great French Picnic is also coming up with another trip to Double Bayou. This event is so fun with all the French inspired food, or French named food with a lot of people dressing up French and I think we had some Canadian French there as well. There is also a big blow out end of the year at Moody Gardens for New Years Eve. So you see you still have plenty of time to get your boat out and have some fun.

This year weather has sure played a nasty role for our club. The cruise to No Where was cancelled, the Freeport Triangle was cancelled, and a Moody cruise was canceled all because of weather. Good calls on the cruise leaders. Harvey caused widespread damage and personal loss for several of our members. Some lost cars, and some lost homes. Without prompt, our TMCA members stepped up to help each other out. It is amazing how great this club truly is. Thank you all for being such great friends!

As a final note from your Cruising Captain that is actually cruising. Will we end up in USVI? Well, the answer is yes. Talking with the company, all our boats made it; our issue is getting there. Several ports are closed and you cannot even enter. We will just take our time and enjoy life a bit. We enjoyed our stop at Port Eads in the south pass of

Louisiana on our way to Panama City, FL. Sunsets, hospitality, good food, were not in short supply at this marina. Then off to Panama City where we stayed at St. Andrews Mariana for a couple of days before we went to anchor off Shell Island for a few days. We are currently in Port St. Joe, FL, and are actually heading out to an anchorage today for a couple of days. We will move on to Dog Island before we make the jump over either to Tarpon Springs or St. Pete area.

Enjoy the rest of the season and keep that boat moving!

Ken Ekenseair  
Cruise Captain  
***TMCA – Cruising The World***

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### [Secretary's Report](#)

**Kathy Houser, Secretary**

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

Hello Cruisers!

I know many of you are still cleaning up from Harvey and my heart goes out to you. We have been helping our neighbors across the street and it has been devastating for them. We are so thankful that our house was untouched and hopefully will always remain so. We have lived in Nassau Bay for 41 years and have never had a drop of water in the house. Of course, that does not mean it will never happen and it has been very nerve racking to watch the water come up over the curb but never any further. Let's hope a hurricane never comes again.

In September Neil and I experienced a wonderful trip to New York State. We both grew up in Kingston, NY and still consider it our home. It is so beautiful there and the air so clean. We enjoyed visiting with friends and sharing many wonderful memories. Next year we are hoping to take our camper up there and stay awhile to get out of our Texas heat and make some new memories.



Well we are coming to TMCA's 2017-year end, but If you know someone that would like to join please tell them to go to the TMCA website and sign up by using PayPal, credit card or send a check to TMCA, P.O. Box 946, Kemah, TX 77565-0946. We love new members!

If you need a badge please email me at [kphouser@comcast.net](mailto:kphouser@comcast.net) with your name, boat name, and whether your boat is sail or motor. I will have them ready for you at the next TMCA General meeting.

Please help me welcome our new member:

Evan Kramer

Kim Hockabout

Lori Hefley

Mike Hutchinson

May God hold you in the palm of His hand until we meet again,

***Kathy Houser***  
***Secretary***

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**[From Your Bean Counter's Calculator](#)**

**Cookie Johnson, Treasurer**

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

Happy October! The weather is already starting to turn cooler. My biggest fear is a cold winter! I left snow and cold behind me!

All is well on the financial front for TMCA. I will have more tips next month!

***Cookie Johnson,***  
***Treasurer***

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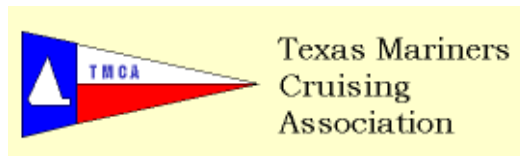
[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

**2017 TMCA Officers**

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<b>Past Commodore:</b>	<b>Jerry Simoneaux, s/v Rainbow</b>	<b>713-577-9587</b>
<b>Vice Commodore:</b>	<b>Larry Friemel, m/v Seascope</b>	<b>281 832 0361</b>
<b>Rear Commodore:</b>	<b>Lori Friemel, m/v Seascope</b>	<b>713 826 7998</b>
<b>Cruise Captain:</b>	<b>Ken Ekenseair, s/v Imagine</b>	<b>832-563-7116</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Kathy Houser, m/v Attitude Adjustment</b>	<b>281-804-4122</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Cookie Johnson, s/v Cool Change</b>	<b>970-486-0192</b>

**2017 TMCA Trustees**

<b>Trustee 2011</b>	<b>Commodore</b>	<b>Doug Chappell</b>	<b>m/v Koastal Kabana</b>	<b>281-330-1163</b>
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***Please send any articles you would like included in the TMCA Mariner to TMCA Mariner Editor at [Newsletter@TexasMariners.com](mailto:Newsletter@TexasMariners.com)***

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