Texas Mariners Cruising Association

The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

September 2018

At the Helm

Larry Friemel, Commodore
email: Commodore@TexasMariners.com

September is here and your TMCA event volunteers have another fun filled month of club activities planned for us. They continue to select venues and destinations that allow those who don't have a lot time to travel by boat (or land yacht) to be part of all the fun things we do in TMCA. As always, we will continue to have our traditional longer distance cruises for those who can plan more time off. The mission is always the same, good times and creating great memories while promoting safe boating with our fellow mariners. Whether it's a short hop to Moody Gardens, a trip down the coast or a themed dock party, our event leaders strive to plan venues that will be of interest to all members. You don't have to travel great distances to have a really great experience! A recent example, was our cruise to Double Bayou last month. The weather conditions, food, music and fellowship could not have been any better. Even the famous Double Bayou entrance channel had plenty of water depth for a stress-free passage! So, check out the TMCA calendar and plan to attend one or all of the fun activities we have planned this month.

On the subject of fellow mariners, TMCA members will again this year be supporting the Port of Houston Seafarers Center Christmas Gift box program during the holiday season. This TMCA tradition goes back many years and brings joy to all our fellow voyagers who are away from their home ports. Please consider participating in the wonderful tradition. Details will be provided at our next meeting.

Your Board recently held its third quarter meeting to review year to date club business and activities. I am pleased to report our club is as strong as ever, with lots of really fun and educational boating activities planned for the remainder of the year and into 2019! Please check out our individual officer newsletters and monthly meeting reports for all the latest details.

Let's keep our fingers crossed our weather patterns continue to be favorable and remember to keep those storm check lists and supplies up to date. We still have a few months to go before those first cool fronts arrive to help keep the storms away.

Special reminder:
Please note, due to scheduling conflicts at our normal meeting location, the October monthly meeting will be at the El Lago Center Event Room located at 411 Tallowood Dr. in El Lago, TX 77586
Be safe and hope to see you soon.

Larry Friemel,
Commodore

The Corner of Vice
Jeff Kaspic, Vice Commodore
Email: VC@TexasMariners

Hello To All!! While it has been **HOT** .... the boating has been fantastic!

It happened again... after 2 meetings of consistent listening to the speakers, some members resorted to talking over the Commodore and making it very difficult for the members who want to listen and receive information to do just that. Once again, members made mention of this as well. We all know that the Elks does not have the best acoustics and we are competing with the bar for quiet. When you have conversations after the Board has called the meeting to order, your inconsideration ruins the experience for all those trying to partake in the meeting. If all you want to do is come for dinner that's fine, but please don't ruin the meeting experience for the vast, I repeat vast, majority of members engaging in the content. Once again, if you insist on talking after the meeting has started, talk quietly in the front room or nosily in the parking lot. Let's try to make it through the next 3 meetings without having to publically announce proper meeting manners we all should have learned in grade school.

Last month's speaker was TMCA's Bryan Austin who conducted a training on AIS. I think all would agree that the training was superb and if you don't have AIS now it will be on your boat in the future. In September, Dr. Gregory Kutsen will be our guest speaker. Most may know Greg as one of the founders of Mantus Anchors and a very big promoter of TMCA, but he is also an MD. Dr. Kutsen, will discuss preparing for medical emergencies while cruising. If you are planning on cruising or just want to be medically prepared on our local waters, please plan on attending.

Please note that the October meeting has been changed. The location is El Largo Civic Center and the date is October 19. The official TMCA website calendar will be updated with details.
WALKING THE DOCK

Like many of you still working, I have to undergo safety refreshers quite regularly. Recently, it was time for fire extinguisher safety training ---- again. While listening to the same definition of PASS - Pull the pin - Aim - Squeeze the two handles together - I thought a refresher for our recreational boating life made some sense. The USCG has established regulations for marine fire extinguishers and the

following link will provide the latest requirements; http://www.uscgboating.org/recreational-boaters/index.php?m=rb

The following tables are available from numerous sources and will help explain the requirements.

Minimum Number of Hand-Portable Fire Extinguishers Required

VESSEL LENGTH	NO FIXED SUPPRESSION SYSTEM	APPROVED FIXED FIRE SUPPRESSION
Less than 26'	**1 x B1**	**0**
26' up to 40'*	**2 x B-I or 1 x B-II**	**1 x B-I**
40' to 65'**	**3 x B-I or 1 x B-II and 1 B-I 2**	**2 B-I or 1 B-II**

* I recommend always upsizing quantity when at a requirement break ** If you have a boat larger than 65", I can't count higher!

I have a head ache--- what does BI and BII mean? The USCG rates BI and BII extinguishers by weight or volume. The following table provides the classification:

USCG Class	UL-Listed Equivalent	Foam (gal.)	CO2 (lb.)	Dry Chemical (lb.)
B-I	**5-B:C**	**1.25**	**4**	**2**
B-II	**10-B:C**	**2.5**	**15**	**10**

Aspirin has not kicked in .... but we must press on!

All fires are not created equal. The following description was taken from a non-copyrighted source.

The ABCs of fire classification

- **Class A** fires leave an ash—all combustible solid materials, such as paper, wood, cloth, rubber, and many plastics including the fiberglass reinforced plastic used for decks and hulls.
- **Class B** fires boil—all flammable liquids, including stove alcohol, grease, gasoline, diesel, kerosene, oil, oil based paint, teak oil, paint thinners, acetone, varnishes, and flammable gases or fumes.
- **Class C** fires involve a charge—all energized electrical equipment. Class C fires are identified for their potential to electrocute or shock a person if you apply electrically conducting water-based extinguishing agents. Turning off the electricity is the top priority when fighting a Class C fire. Usually you can turn off the main battery switch. Safe and effective circuit protection is

likewise crucial for preventing Class C fires. ***<u>Cutting the power will change the status of a Class C fire to a Class A and/or B fire.</u>***

What hand held fire extinguisher do I need already!

The most effective way is to match the requirement set forth by the USCG (BI or BII table above) for your boat length and buy a USCG approved fire extinguisher(s). In case you want to know, the difference between the UL and USCG ratings, here is the answer. The UL system incorporates a number followed by letter(S). The letter signifies the firefighting "capacity" as compared to other extinguishers followed the by the classification of the fire. The USCG only considers the weight or volume of the extinguishing agent. Wait, there is more to consider.

What type of extinguishing agent?

Boat U.S. provided the following breakdown of the different extinguishing agents.

Water – Good for Class A fires. Extinguishers are heavy, difficult to store, and are NOT for use on flammable liquid or electrical fires.

Carbon Dioxide (CO2) – Good for Class B and Class C fires. No residue. Easy to use. Useful only in confined interior spaces. Does not cool fire.

HFC-227ea – Relatively non-toxic Halon replacements are effective on all fire classes. Expensive.

Novec™ 1230 – New 3M agent is an environmentally-sustainable replacement for HFC-227 or FM200. No potential damage to the ozone layer or global warming potential. Effective on all fire classes and leaves no residue after use.

Halotron 1 – EPA-approved. Safe for computers, electronics, even clean rooms, and leaves no residue after use.

Dry Chemical – Low toxicity. Inexpensive. Effective on Class B and Class C fires. Not effective on Class A fires. Difficult to clean up.

Tri-Class Dry Chemical – Low toxicity. Inexpensive. Effective on Class B and Class C fires. Moderately effective on Class A fires. Difficult to clean up. Corrosive. Not a good choice for helm or nav station.

Aqueous Foam – This relatively new technology is extremely easy to use effectively on Class A, B, and C fires. Avoid excessive skin or eye contact.

There is more to marine fire extinguishing than hand held units. Many vessels have fixed fire suppression/extinguishing systems mounted in the engine room. These operate by a thermal trigger (typically fires at 175^0F or manually at the helm) When activated, the tank dispenses its entire volume of Halon or HFC-227ea displacing the Oxygen and hopefully extinguishing the fire. Please note that when the tank dispenses your engine(s) may not automatically shut down, therefore once you hear

the alarm at your helm going off you must immediately shut down your engine(s) and generator. Failure to do so will draw the extinguishing agent into your engine thus reducing the agent's volume in your engine room thus reducing its effectiveness.

TIPS

- I say you can never have too many hand held extinguishers. Just don't have the minimum USCG requirement, but think how you will egress from the vessel in an emergency. If the hatch above the master berth won't open, you need to get out through the companion way. Having an extinguisher in the master, guest berths and head makes sense to me as it may provide just enough suppression to exit the vessel. Of course have one secured at the helm and galley areas and please make sure to use the brackets that come with them for securing. The last thing you want is to be waked by an errant sailboat and have your extinguisher rolling around.
- If you have to deploy your extinguisher, replace it.
- Make sure extinguishers are readily deployable and that crew know where they are.
- Your fixed extinguishing system should be inspected once per year by a qualified professional.
- Check your handheld manufacturer's expiration date. NFPA recommends 12 years from date of manufacture which is stamped on the bottom of cylinder.
- Check your manufacturer's website for recalls. We all have heard about the Kidde recall. If your extinguisher is recalled, follow the directions for replacement. I had a Kidde and the replacement process was extremely easy.

I hope this refresher refreshed - see you on the water!

Jeff Kaspic,
Vice Commodore

The Social Scuttlebutt

Dee Latiolais, Rear Commodore
email: RC@TexasMariners.com

Hello everyone – Happy Labor Day! I hope that you are out on the water, enjoying the holiday!

The news is filled with memories of Harvey currently. I have to say that our TMCA members really pulled together during and since Harvey to assist with rebuilding homes and lives. A long time TMCA member recently said, "The charity and goodwill of TMCA is not ancient history" and reminded us, "Flag officers and members; this is your legacy". It is indeed. On a personal note, there are not enough words for Mike and I to be able to thank each and every one of you …. Manual labor, food, supplies, moral support and most of all …. All the love we have received from our TMCA family. We are forever grateful! Continuing on this note, we have our holiday drive for Seafarer's boxes coming up. Every year we have participated in this wonderful tradition of giving. A huge thanks to Roberta and Mick Netherly for assisting with overseeing this again. Roberta will be at our September monthly meeting to talk more about this. Jean Mason and Lori Friemel are working closely with them as well. We will have an example box on display at the meeting and donations will be accepted. Donations may be supplies or monetary. Any money received will be used by TMCA shoppers to buy supplies for the boxes. If you are unable to attend the meetings, you may give any donations to Lori or Jean at any other event.

August was full of fun for TMCA. Our members really stepped up to head some FUN events! The Swashbucklers Scar Bragging Dock Party @ Sam's Boat was a GREAT time – thank you Janis and Arthur! The food was great and the company was fabulous – we even saw a few people that have been out of pocket for a while.

The Havana Nights party was off the chain! Ladye and Lori pulled all the stops out on this party! The photo backdrops were amazing! Thanks you guys so much. Everyone is still talking about all the fun they had! Ole!

Looking forward, we have the super fun September Dock Party on Friday, Sept. 7th at the Blue Dolphin Marina! Pier #1 can accommodate lots of cars and anyone that wants to come on over in their dinghies can slip up to Mr. Happy's swim platform and an empty slip nearby. There is a covered patio deck, Bring a chair, a dish to share and your beverage of choice! For more info, contact Dan at: 713-851-5153.

On Saturday, Sept. 8th, we have the famous TMCA Fajita Festival at El Lago Pavilion. We will have fajita's catered by Fuzzy's, appetizers by our Fajita Festival volunteers and Greg Stephens providing music. Bring your swimsuit and chair! Full details are on the website. The fee is $17.00 – sign up today, **deadline is Tuesday, September 4**! Thank you to Marylou Clark for heading this up – it is going to be a blast!

We are preparing for the Commodore's Ball on December 15th. The invitations will be going out soon! We don't want anyone to miss out on receiving their invite to this exclusive event! PLEASE login to

the TMCA website and update your account info. Check your address, phone and email and make corrections for us please. Check out your boat info while you are there too. THANK YOU!

Bella says any day on the boat is a GREAT day!

Dee Latiolais
Rear Commodore
TMCA Knows Fun!!

The Cruise Corner
Bryan Austin, Cruise Captain
email: Cruise@TexasMariners.com

We have had a variety of cruises and boating events this past month. We went to Bayland Marina to usher in the new O'Neal's Pub which looks like a much needed addition to the marina. Our inaugural Amazing Dinghy Race saw eight teams journey across Clear Lake to solve clues and complete challenges. The dramatic finish saw Tom and Debora Taylor take the top honors. Next year's race should be even better. And finally, we had our annual cruise to Double Bayou and Doc's Fish Fry. What a difference favorable tides and good waypoints make. We saw no less than 7ft depth all the way in. Ernestine's fish fry'n and Sunday breakfast were as good as always.

We kick off September with our Moody Gardens Labor Day cruise. We have a fun and unique day sail (or overnight anchorage) to Shell Beach (La Porte, north of Houston Yacht Club). Don't miss an opportunity to see a part of Galveston Bay we don't get too much. And finally, we go back to Bayland Marina to enjoy the Cajun Affaire Cookoff. Looking further ahead, if you have time for an extended cruise, Phil Gehren is heading down the Texas coast to South Padre Island in late October.

If you missed my presentation on AIS, you can access the charts and many other presentation files at my Microsoft OneDrive cloud storage location: https://1drv.ms/f/s!ArRJhT-VvoRXmAjNb2swxbhV22h6 . AIS (transmit/receive) is one of the best situational awareness devices you can have on your boat.

Please take some time to read this USCG Marine Safety Alert about your boat lighting. Additional lighting (rope lights, underwater lights, colored mast lighting) can confuse or diffuse the effectivity of the required navigation lights. https://www.boatingmag.com/led-navigation-lights-marine-safety-alert#page-2.

Finally, and probably most important, we are at the peak of hurricane season and it was this time last year hurricane Harvey dumped on us. The weather forecasters I follow are expecting September to see some activity in the Gulf. Don't let your guard down. This is the time when something forms in the Bay of Campeche and we have minimal warning. Make a plan, test your plan, and share your plan.

Bryan Austin
Cruise Captain
TMCA – Cruising The World

Secretary's Report

Dawn Gibler, Secretary
email: Secretary@TexasMariners.com

Happy September fellow mariners! It's time for me to prepare the addresses for the Commodore's Ball invitation mailing. Please log onto your account and make sure that your mailing address is up to date and while you're at it, verify your boat information.

If you have trouble signing onto your account feel free to contact me via email at secretary@texasmariners.com.

We now have 558 paid members. Please help me in joining the following new members to the club:

- Walter and Beverly Caldwell
- Darrell Cottle
- Jesse & Cindy Constantine
- Keith and Rebecca Dickey
- Kevin Gibson
- Gary & Cindy Gwaltney
- Mike and Karen Hays
- Kenneth and Bevin Horne
- Lee & Deloris Sitka
- Ida Jeffries & Danny Lackey
- Crista McLaughlin & Michael Vorpe
- Len & Mandy Meyers
- Steve Taylor

Dawn Gibler
Secretary

From Your Bean Counter's Calculator

Cookie Johnson, Treasurer
Email: Treasurer@TexasMariners.com

Summer has flown by this year and we have had so many fun cruises, events and parties! I hope you were able to attend several!

Last year I put together the super soaker dinghy poker run and this year I put together the Amazing dinghy race. I found in both cruises that budgeting for the event was tricky to say the least. When you price an event to cover the expenses, you have to estimate your participants. Underestimate and you can be short on funds, over estimate and you may be slightly over. It really had me thinking about how to be a good steward of the funds that come in and go out when leading a cruise.

The goal has always been to spend most or all of what we bring in. However, when leading a cruise, event or party, the goal is to break even unless it is a budgeted for event, such as the Commodores Ball or Women on the Water. Per our by-laws we are to have several (6) months operating expenses in reserves, and we do. We also need a minimum balance in our bank account that is untouchable money and we have that. The past several years we have spent quite a bit more than what we have brought in and dipped into our reserves. That's ok, that's what they are there for. However, we cannot do that year after year and also maintain any reserves. We must be good stewards of the monies we bring in and good stewards of our reserves. Do we have money, yes. Do we want to operate at a deficit, no.

I know we have members who put a LOT of their own resources into the club and we are so thankful for them and their generosity. My newsletter this month is an offer to help cruise and event leaders with the budgeting of their cruises. If you are leading a cruise or event and would like help setting the budget or determining the costs, you can call me and I would be more than happy to help you! We can look at current and past trends to help anticipate the participation. I can also help you reconcile your trip when it's time!

Happy September....see you on the water!

Cookie Johnson,
Treasurer

Click here for TMCA Calendar

2018 TMCA Officers		
Commodore	Larry Friemel, m/v Seascape	281-832-0361
Past Commodore	Charles Parette, m/v Andiamo	281-793-7268
Vice Commodore	Jeff Kaspic, m/v Bare Footin'	832-707-0265
Rear Commodore	Dee Latiolais, m/v Uncorked	281-948-2265
Cruise Captain	Bryan Austin, s/v Austintatious	832-221-5416
Secretary	Dawn Gibler, m/v Amanahecer	832-423-0617
Treasurer	Cookie Johnson, s/v Cool Change	970-486-0192
Webmaster	Linda Schoene, m/v Andiamo	281-433-0996

2017 TMCA Trustees			
Commodore 2002	Gloria Rooney	s/v St. Somewhere	713-805-0843
Commodore 2008	Marion Herndon		281-743-4230
Commodore 2016	Jerry Simoneaux	s/v Rainbow	713-577-9587
Commodore 1984-85	Wayne Christopher		281-761-4233

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Please send any articles you would like included in the TMCA Mariner to TMCA Mariner Editor at Newsletter@TexasMariners.com