

Texas Mariners Cruising Association

# The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

February 2019



## At the Helm

**Bryan Austin, Commodore**

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

Hello to our new TMCA members. We welcomed around 50 new members at our January Orientation meeting. If you see a boater in the area searching for boating experience, companionship and a fun-loving boating community, please invite them to our [TexasMariners.Com](http://TexasMariners.Com) website for more information. Take them under your wing to our next Monthly meeting at the Elks Lodge in Kemah, Texas, an upcoming social event or even a cruise. Our 2019 calendar should be updated following our Planning and Orientation meetings last month. I encourage you to check it regularly for details of upcoming events.

Volunteering is a critical facet to the growth and success of our club. We recently transitioned our weekly and monthly newsletter publication to volunteer member Larry Grissom. Thanks Larry. A special thanks also goes out to Joseph Vance, a new member, who stepped up to volunteer his Computer

Geek services to help reconcile some of our recent survey data for Spring Fling.

One very special volunteer opportunity awaits someone to help our Webmaster, Linda Schoene, with website content. This would include implementing a process to collect and publish club event photos while exploring professional website upgrades to improve our event registration, add eCommerce for our "Boatique" merchandise, add a Community Forum to share ideas and how-to's, and a more robust storage and retrieval of documents. If you have some experience with website design please contact me ([commodore@texasmariners.com](mailto:commodore@texasmariners.com)) or Linda Schoene ([webmaster@texasmariners.com](mailto:webmaster@texasmariners.com)).

A key focus of TMCA this year is community outreach and giving back. One of our friends in the community is Sailing Angels. The Sailing Angels Foundation is a charitable organization, comprised of experienced volunteer sailors who donate their time and resources to serve the interests of people with special needs and now also includes our Wounded Warriors and their families. Visit their website, <http://www.sailingangels.org> for more information. Contact Capt. Dave McCabe ([DaveMcCabe@SailingAngels.Org](mailto:DaveMcCabe@SailingAngels.Org)) if you would like to offer your boat and time to support this great cause.

Our friends at Lakewood Yacht Club are promoting the upcoming Keels and Wheels (<https://www.keels-wheels.com>) by raffling a 2019 Jeanneau Power Boat valued at over \$100,000. Don't be surprised if you see the boat on its trailer outside the Elks Lodge for our February Monthly meeting and your chance to buy tickets (while they last).

Finally, as we look forward to the 2019 boating year, this is also a time of reflection for my NASA family. On January 27, 1967 we lost the Apollo 1 crew during a launch pad countdown test. On January 28, 1986 we lost the Challenger crew just 73 seconds after launch. And more recently on February 1, 2003 the crew of Columbia perished during reentry. I was one of the Flight Directors on that mission (STS-107); having just left my Mission Control shift only to see the catastrophe unfold outside my upstairs window in the northern sky's over central Texas. Take a moment, look to the stars and pay respect to these very special heroes. Going to space and returning to Earth is hard.

Bryan Austin  
TMCA Commodore, 2019

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**[From the Commodore of Vice's Navigational Table](#)**  
**Ken Hutchinson, Vice Commodore**  
Email: [VC@TexasMariners](mailto:VC@TexasMariners)

The year has started out with camaraderie and FUN.

The member orientation and bunko meetings were well attended and it seemed everyone enjoyed the events. Our speakers for our January monthly meeting at the Elks Lodge, was Sarah Gossett, Water Quality Manager and Ted Driscoll of the Galveston Bay Foundation . They both presented very beneficial information to our group. They presented the results of a survey of boat owners opinions and habits concerning water quality taken at several marinas in Clear Lake. I have included a link to the pump out facilities in and around Clear Lake and encourage you to use them. They are typically easy to use, self-serve and at no charge. Please let's pump our holding tanks into the sewers and not into the waters many of us boat, swim and eat out of. As they say "Pump don't Dump". We mariners need to do our part in positively impacting our water environment.

Here is a link to pump out stations in our area:

<https://galvbay.org/how-we-protect-the-bay/in-our-communities/boater-waste-education/>

During our February 15th meeting representatives from the Sailing Angels will speak about the activities they provide to introduce the joy of boating to special children with cognitive, physical or emotional needs or chronic illnesses. They also serve our warriors and military veterans in need. Many of our TMCA boat owners provide the boats for these events and come away with better understanding of the challenges some people have and a heartwarming good feeling that they could help in some way.

I just went to the “Cool Links” section on the TMCA website (under the Cruising category). I have to admit this is my first time there and what a great place for all kinds of information about boating in our area.

The planning calendar is complete and the information is being placed on the official TMCA calendar which is your source of official club information, so please check it often

Please remember to wear your name badges at all TMA events. See you on the water!

***Ken Hutchinson,  
Vice Commodore***

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**The Social Scuttlebutt**

**Kelly Hutchinson, Rear Commodore**

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

Title: Bringing up the Rear

Hi Y'all. 2019 is already in full swing. Don't you feel it? With the planning meeting behind us and the events planned for the year, all will soon be posted on the TMCA website calendar. We are still tweaking here and there. Im all excited and I know you are going to have some fun with TMCA this year, boating, playing and attending parties and TMCA's major events...

Speaking of Major Events!—YOU JUST CANT MISS TMCA's annual Mardi Gras party on March 2 at the Fish Tales Restaurant on the Galveston Seawall. Space is limited and you can reserve your seats on the website now.

- This year at Fish Tales restaurant we have the whole downstairs privately reserved for TMCA from 5-midnight.
- They will serve a delicious seafood buffet with a cash bar-- Complimentary parking (get your ticket stamped) --You get a bag of beads.
- The parade comes right to the restaurant and then makes the turn at the corner to head to the Strand, so there is a lot of bead throwing going on.
- There will be a band for dancing to get your mojo going.
- If you like to be silly (and I certainly do), Mardi Gras costumes--start working on your costume now and join those of us who dress up for it. Ken and I are signed up... See you there!

**FUN FACTS:** TMCA is going to be 40 years old this year. There will be a celebration later this year. Boy has this club grown and changed.

Lastly, new and old members please make a point to seek each other out and make new friends. Old members reach out to new members and include new people with your group when you sit down for dinner at monthly meetings and things like this. And new members we need you to attend a lot of our stuff so we can meet and get to know you! Ok so both sides have this job.

**FEBRUARY 2019 TMCA STUFF TO DO:**

- Feb 2 -Saturday night Ground Hog Day Dock Party



- Feb 9 -Saturday morning and afternoon 2 jewelry making classes
- Feb 9 -Saturday night Elks Lodge Yachty Gras Kick Off Party
- Feb 15-Friday Monthly Meeting
- Feb 16 - Party at Noah's Art restaurant in Bacliff, upstairs in the Parrot's Nest
- Feb 23- Saturday night Kemah Yachty Gras Boat Parade TMCA Cruise

See you out there!

**Kelly Hutchinson**  
**Rear Commodore**  
**TMCA Knows Fun!!**



**On Plane with the Port**

**MaryAnn Tillson, Port Captain**

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

See ya later, January – looks like February is showing some love with warmer temps and a southerly breeze. At the Planning meeting last month, we managed to get hosts for most of the dock parties for 2019 but May (during Spring Fling), November and December are still looking for some benevolent folks to act as hosts. It was great seeing LOTS of new faces at the Orientation Meeting as well – hope to see you all at some upcoming events! Speaking of fun events, here's what's on the horizon. Our first dock party of the year is the Groundhog Day Dock Party and Movie Night at Watergate on Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> (which just happens to actually be Ground Day Day!) Cheers to Cookie, Vicki and Ladye for hosting! If you were at last year's Groundhog Dock Party, you know what to expect; food, fun and, of course, a drinking game! By the end of the night, you're either gonna love or hate the word "Punxsutawney". So be there or be square! Next up - our annual Mardi Gras Cruise to the Galveston Yacht Basin. Of course, that means there's a dock party on Friday

night, March 1<sup>st</sup>, but with a twist – it's dinner at the GYB Marina Bar & Grill with a live band so you sure don't want to miss it. Thanks to Heather Williams for putting this fab event together! If you weren't planning to sail/motor on down to Galveston on Friday, you can still come party and check out where your slip will be if you're cruising down on Saturday. So, drive or boat over to Friday's dock party and start the Mardi Gras festivities early; and yes, Mardi Gras attire is encouraged! In April, we've got the Harbour Island Dock Party on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, hosted by a plethora of particularly prodigious party people! We'll be chillin' and grillin' and on the Promenade so bring a dish, chair and drink du jour but save a few brain cells for the following day's Nautical Flea Market over at the Elk's Lodge. Don't want to come home with a spinnaker for your flybridge! Check out the club calendar for all details and remember... "Laissez le bon temps naviguer" – Let the Good Times Sail!

Ciao for now,

**MaryAnn Tillson**  
**Port Captain**



### [The Cruise Corner](#)

**Lamy Chopin, Cruise Captain**

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

January was a very busy month behind the scenes for the TMCA board. We held a board meeting, lead the annual planning meeting, took a scouting trip to Port Arthur to meet with PAYC about Spring Fling, welcomed our new members in the annual orientation meeting, and had a good time with the annual bunco party.

Now it's time to get out and go cruising! Coming up on Saturday Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> is the Kemah Yachty Gras cruise. The fee is \$95, and helps to raise funds for the Seabrook Animal Shelter and the Sea Scouts program. I've already sponsored two boats in addition to my own, but if you are interested in signing up either to be in the parade or to join one of the TMCA Krewes to decorate boats, look for details and registration on the TMCA web site. Decorating parties will start at

noon on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and the parade begins at 19:00 so plan to come out and cheer on our fleet.

I am looking for a few volunteers to be on the Cruise Committee. The goals of the committee will be to review and improve on our cruising destination documents on the web site, and to keep track of the cruising points earned on our cruises this year. If you are interested in helping out let me know. I anticipate a time commitment of 3-4 hours for the year.

Hopefully by now you've had a chance to change your oil and impeller(s). Having a reliable propulsion system is a key to safety on the water. Equally important is an adequate anchor system. The days in February that are so-so for going out are usually perfect for inspecting your anchor and rode. Is your anchor appropriately sized for your boat? Is your rode capable of handling the loads your boat will see? It's a good idea to deploy the entire rode on the dock, inspect it for wear, and renew your 20-foot markings so you know how much scope you are riding on. Check your shackles for corrosion and make sure the pins are wired in. Also make sure that the end of the rode is secured to the boat (but ready to be released with a quick knife cut in an emergency). Then make sure your retrieval gear is up to getting it all back in the boat!

Lamy Chopin  
Cruise Captain  
***TMCA – Cruising The World***

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## **Secretary's Report**

**Dawn Gibler, Secretary**

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

The holiday season is over and it's time to get down to TMCA business! Starting the new year with TMCA is always lots of fun and I truly look forward to the cruises, dock parties and camaraderie with our awesome club members. Don't miss the fantastic Groundhog Day Celebration and Mardi Gras party at FishTales!

As of 1/26 we've got 267 paid members. Please renew your membership if you haven't already. We depend on membership dues to fund our activities throughout the year. If you have any trouble with the website feel free to email me at [secretary@texasmariners.com](mailto:secretary@texasmariners.com) or call or text me at 832-423-0617 keeping in mind that my day job may prevent me from responding immediately.

Please help me welcome the following new members:

Jon Cheverere  
Stan Conley  
Pualani Corr  
Bret & Kelly Davis  
Chris & Elaine Dobbins  
Chris Block & Mike Fisher  
Susan Levy  
Tim & Angela Meredith  
George & Chris Minshew  
Shirley Nicola  
David & Linda Olson  
Jimmy Peck

***Dawn Gibler***  
***Secretary***

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

**Cookie Johnson, Treasurer**

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

From the Treasurer!!

Happy February TMCA crew! Our February dock party is shaping up to be some kind of awesome!! Groundhog Day...who's side are you on? Spring or Winter? I am 100% for Spring!! Cold cold go away! Don't miss the dock party this Saturday! And guess what? It's going to be at my office in Watergate Marina! Park in and around pier 4 and come to the Bailey Center! If the weather isn't perfect, that's ok, we can be inside too!!

My very favorite event is coming up in March and that's Mardi Gras!!! You do not want to miss this fun fun event! If I can dress funny, eat, drink and dance, well then I am one happy treasurer!!

The February budget tip: Organize your budget! I use a great app called Good Budget that allows up to two people to access on mobile devices! Set your categories and record your purchases! For example

we have a dining out budget each month. When the envelope in Good Budget is empty....no more dining out! I do not use it to track the balance in my checkbook, but it can be used for that too. The best way to save so you can go cruising, is to not overspend! A good budget app can help with that....don't forget to budget for monthly cruises with TMCA!

Happy Valentines Day and Mardi Gras! See you at the dock party and in Galveston I hope!

***Cookie Johnson,  
Treasurer***

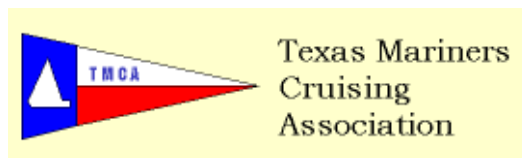
[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

### **2019 TMCA Officers**

Commodore	Bryan Austin, s/v Austintatious	832-221-5416
Past Commodore	Larry Friemel, m/v Seascape	281-832-0361
Vice Commodore	Ken Hutchinson	713-539-5217
Rear Commodore	Kelly Hutchinson	281-830-9747
Port Captain	Maryann Tillson, m/v Luv-N-Life	409-761-0411
Cruise Captain	Lamy Chopin, s/v Nocturne in Sea	832-579-4070
Secretary	Dawn Gibler, m/v Amanhecer	832-423-0617
Treasurer	Cookie Johnson, s/v Cool Change	970-486-0192

### 2019 TMCA Trustees

Commodore 2002	Gloria Rooney, s/v St. Somewhere	713-805-0843
Commodore 2011	Doug Chappell, m/v Koastal Kabana	281-330-1163
Commodore 2016	Jerry Simoneaux s/v Rainbow	713-577-9587
Commodore 2012-2013	Steve Lee, s/v Waltzing Matilda	832-267-4500



***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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