

Texas Mariners Cruising Association

# The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

June 2019



## At the Helm

**Bryan Austin, Commodore**

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

This is your Commodore Speaking, Cindy and I just returned from a week of bareboat cruising with five other friends through the British Virgin Islands (BVI's) on a Lagoon 52 Catamaran. That's one big boat! Two years after the devastation from hurricanes Irma and Maria, the BVI's are about 80% back. There are still some dead boats here and some areas (Sopers Hole, Saba Rock, Bitter End, Peter Island Yacht Club) are still under construction. If you make it to the BVI's, be sure to include Anegada on your itinerary. Great beaches, good snorkeling and outstanding lobster, and more lobster.

June is the beginning of "hurricane season" and the predictions for this year are for an average to below-average named storm season (13 named storms, 5 reaching hurricane force, 2 becoming Cat 3 or above major storms). Take this time to review your hurricane preparation plans with fellow boaters.

With all the boating experience in our club, we can all learn something new. If you like to follow the tropics closer during this time of year, several social media sites I use include Mark Suddeth's "HurricaneTrack" YouTube channel, and Tropical Tidbits website (<https://tropicaltidbits.com>) for very detailed discussion and weather model data.

And finally, Texas House Bill 4032 (HB4032), which amends current law relating to the permitting and sales taxation has passed both state houses. A healthy marine industry supports and generates economic activity for a multitude of other non-marine businesses located in our marine recreational communities. This bill establishes a boat sales tax cap of \$18750 (similar to that of other states), reduces restrictions, and provides incentives for vessels with out of state registration to utilize Texas waters. This is good for all of us.

*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)

Our June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting will have a very knowledgeable A/C man, Gregg Heck, speak with us about Yacht air conditioning and heating and how we can keep it efficient and running. He has a great presentation for us and it will be very informative.

I don't know how many of us keep up with what is being suggested for hurricane damage prevention in Galveston Bay. I have attached a link to a good article by the Bay Area Houston Organization, describing one solution that is being promoted. If it works, this project would save Millions, if not Billions of dollars in damage to our homes, businesses and industries not to mention environment.

<https://www.bayareahouston.com/content/stormsurge/stormsurge>

I hope to see you Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> at TMCA

***Ken Hutchinson,  
Vice Commodore***

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### [The Social Scuttlebutt](#)

**Kelly Hutchinson, Rear Commodore**

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

Bringing up the Rear...

**TMCA STUFF TO DO IN JUNE:** Who doesn't love to dingy around the Lake? Get your dinghies or other smaller boats ready for Saturday, June 15. Here is an opportunity to spend the day having fun with your TMCA friends in the Dingy Poker Run. Register on the website so we know how many poker packets to make.

If you don't have a dingy and want to participate then post on the TMCA Facebook page and say you want a ride with someone and see what happens. Those with room on your boats make new friends! All kinds of boats are welcome and it's not a race..

It's a pirate opportunity so bring water weapons; devilish deeds are allowed. There will be cocktails at each poker stop and the event

costs \$5 per person - you pay at the start in person (and not on the website). See the website for details. Don't miss this one!

**A STORY:** This is a true story; it was even written in the Tell Tales magazine years ago and Ken and I met and knew the people and the dog when we lived in Roatan. And they were nuts in love with their dog, it was a rat terrier and barked loudly the entire time they were ever away from their boat which was always pleasant. Anyway, the dog did wear a life jacket. So, one day when they were making the crossing between Belize and Roatan they noticed—WHERE IS THE DOG?! The dog was not on the boat and he was nowhere in sight-- they had been out to sea since the day before. So, they turned around to go back and look for him. After long, long while of looking for him with the binoculars they noticed commotion in the water way up ahead and it was some dolphins. They were rolling and jumping and splashing and it turns out they were there with the dog as he paddled around in his life jacket. And that is how they found their dog out in the middle of the western Caribbean. Happy ending.

**OTHER THAN THIS...**I don't have a lot to say this month. Spring Fling has passed, it was a lot of fun, thank you for your hard work Jean and committee and we have TMCA's big 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party and the Commodore's Ball ahead of us and more about those will come later.

School is out! Happy Summer! It's time for sunscreen and boating! Be safe.

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

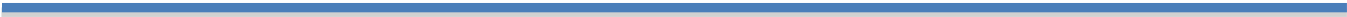
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**On Plane with the Port**  
**MaryAnn Tillson, Port Captain**  
**email: [PC@TexasMariners.com](mailto:PC@TexasMariners.com)**

No input received

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





## [The Cruise Corner](#)

**Lamy Chopin, Cruise Captain**

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

Spring Fling is behind us and was by-and-large a great success. We had nearly 80 boats rendezvous in Port Arthur. Aside from the mosquitoes, the laid-back atmosphere of the event has gotten great reviews. Please pay attention for some upcoming surveys so that we can work to plan an even better event going forward.

Also in May we had a very successful Memorial Day weekend at Moody hosted by Roberta Netherly, and a fun Captain's Cruise to Redfish Island.

Coming up this month we have the Art Walk cruise to Moody Gardens hosted by the Grissoms. While Moody is full, there are still opportunities to participate if you want. Contact Galveston Yacht Basin and plan to meet up with the TMCA group at The Strand on

Saturday between 6 and 9 PM.

On June 22 we have the Summer Sailstice Cruise, supporting Sailing Angels. Check the web site for registration and details.

The Anchoring Clinic scheduled for June has been moved to July 6, and registration for that will open in the first week of June. It's a great opportunity to improve your confidence on the water.

June. June. June is the start of our storm season here on the Gulf Coast. Every vessel that stays in the water during the months of June through November should have a storm plan ready. This is the month you should be focused on planning and dock line quality checks. Your plan should have a timeline ahead of any storm activity where you can attend to such things as removing all coverings, sails, and loose deck equipment from the vessel, adding extra dock lines, and lighting tons of votive candles to your favorite wind god. Make sure that all of your deck drains are clear (run a hose at high pressure down them and make sure that all the water goes overboard). Make sure that your existing dock lines are free of chafe and still able to perform. What works here in January Northers will fail in September Tropicals. Most importantly, if a decent storm approaches, plan a route to safety and get away from the coast.

Lamy Chopin

Cruise Captain

***TMCA – Cruising The World***

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Gary & Lori Hedrick  
Sherill Authement

### Secretary's Report

**Dawn Gibler, Secretary**

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

Ahoy from the Florida panhandle! Things are finally slowing down for Ed and me and we are enjoying some quality time with our 3 1/2 year-old granddaughter, Evie. Needless to say, we're worn out and glad that she takes an afternoon nap so that we can too! We're having a blast and wouldn't trade these times for the world.

As for TMCA, the pace of membership renewals has slowed down. Currently we've got 481 members including 97 new members. Please help me welcome the following newbies:

Scott Waters  
Paul Wyett & Adrienne Leigh  
Karol Moulder  
Philip & Sharon Austin

Sjoerd Hoekstra & Marilena Medina Bernal

**Dawn Gibler**  
**Secretary**



### From Your Bean Counter's Calculator

**Cookie Johnson, Treasurer**

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

From the desk of the Treasurer

Of all the newsletters I have written, I think this one is the most important for my TMCA family to read. Please know, that I write this because I want you all to have wonderful experiences on your boats and to help you hold onto as much of your money as possible.

*[Note: towing service names have been withheld]*

We rode down to Spring Fling with friends and we had to leave on Sunday due to everyone's work schedule. Unfortunately, on the way home we went aground in the ICW

near Bolivar. We were hard aground, but we were fine. It was a beautiful day and so we grabbed some lunch while waiting for a tow. I had read a lot about the difference between a tow and salvage, so I pulled up an article and read it. The towing service arrived and tried unsuccessfully to pull us off. At that point, the towing company boat captain told the boat owner they needed another boat, and this was turning into a salvage situation. The boat owner reluctantly signed the salvage agreement and his credit card was charge \$1000. After further discussion with the towing company management and his insurance company, he refused further services and contacted another towing company. They were able to free the boat within a short period of time. There is more to the story, but I wanted to give you what happened, because I was there.

This is can be a very confusing situation for boaters. The owner did not believe he was in a salvage situation. What should have been a no-cost un-grounding was turning into over \$10,000.00 (or much more) when this crew said "salvage". After you call your towing company, your next call should be to your marine insurance agent to explain the situation and get their advice. Also remember that TMCA is full of experienced boaters who are willing to help walk you through a new situation. Do not be afraid to call one of us and ask for assistance!!

On a happy note, we are taking our boat for 2 weeks to Port A (Corpus Christi area) and I hope to have lots of stories to tell from the boat!! See you on the water!!

***Cookie Johnson, Treasurer***

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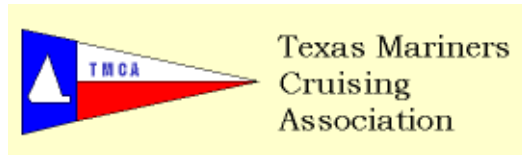
[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

**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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