



May 2019



At the Helm

Bryan Austin, Commodore

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

“May the 4th Be With You”. I am writing this the day before we take Austintatious offshore to head up to Sabine Pass, Port Arthur, through the 1000’ Cut and on to Pleasure Island Marina for Spring Fling 2019, “Escape to Pleasure Island”. I want to thank Jean and Bryan Mason and the rest of the committee volunteers for the time and energy they put in to build this event. Also, a special thanks to Port Arthur Yacht Club (PAYC) and their Commodore, Lynette Gillenwater for their contributions.

As we have discussed recently at our meetings and online, did you file a Float Plan with a friend or relative prior to heading out? Did you review the TMCA Boating Best Practices and find the occasion to exercise some of them? Did you take advantage of the extended ICW boating time to communicate with commercial traffic as you negotiate passing or overtaking?

Did you create waypoints and build a route on your chart plotter or iPad to sail offshore or navigate into Sabine Lake.

One word of caution (too late for some) as you transit Kemah to Redfish Island. Several boats have struck submerged debris along the way and in the vicinity of the old platform field about two thirds the way toward Redfish. There is a red floating buoy someone has placed near some new submerged pipes that have broken loose from the bottom of the bay. We have previously published a list of the latitude and longitude coordinates of known hazards reported by our boaters. This list will be updated and made available on our website. If you marked a recent debris contact please send me the lat/lon and we’ll add it to the list. The more we share, the safer we are.

***Bryan Austin
Commodore***



From the Commodore of Vice's Navigational Table

Ken Hutchinson, Vice Commodore

Email: VC@TexasMariners

By the time you read this, the Spring Fling event will have been enjoyed by several hundred boaters. Hopefully, you had a chance to join in the fun. If not we have a whole summer packed full of boating FUN that you can enjoy with TMCA.

The next TMCA meeting is May 17th and Mark and Maridee Sandridge have an entertaining presentation about their 7 year trip around the Great Loop. They have a lot of pictures and information. If you have dreams and questions about the Great Loop this is a meeting you should attend.

***Ken Hutchinson,
Vice Commodore***



The Social Scuttlebutt

Kelly Hutchinson, Rear Commodore

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BRINGING UP THE REAR

Spring Fling is upon us. It is THE annual TMCA cruise in which everybody gets a boat slip, where all of the other yacht and boating clubs are invited too, where you can travel to a not too far away a destination marina, for a not too long weekend (should you have a job), where you will be entertained, educated and fed.

The tradition began in 2011. The City of Freeport then had recently completed their new city marina and it was empty. The perfect setting. They eventually became too leased-up to have room for us. Then Spring Fling was held at the then newly remodeled Bayland Marina in Baytown. Not much of a cruise, but we needed an empty marina. Not enough room for us there by the next Spring Fling. Thereafter Hurricane Rita annihilated the Port Arthur area and the Please Island Marina was totally rebuilt with new floating docks. It's where Spring Fling has been for the last four years. The destination provides a beautiful option for cruising offshore or in the intracoastal canal. It's a great setting for a party. When you get there, the whole weekend is planned and the venue set for meeting and hanging out with friends, learning from fantastic seminars, meals together, music/dancing and fun. It's good and that's why the tradition continues.

REFLECTIONS: Hurricane season is soon upon us. Be prepared and take precautions. If a storm heads our way find out ahead of time how to prepare your boat for it. If a storm comes our way, take your bimini canvas and tie your boat down to the cleats with two lines and put out lots of fenders. You will have bad karma if you don't do these things and instead say "oh, insurance will take care of it". The other boaters, whose boats your boat will damage will hate you for it and you will lose face.

Taking canvas down includes taking down the foresail canvas. If you leave that up in a hurricane it is guaranteed the sail will unfurl, regardless of how much think you tied it up. When the sail unfurls it will break free of its lines, become a stronger force than cleats and it will tear up other boats.

I think back on what I witnessed while helping to prepare our boat one day. I guess a fellow was too lazy to take down his fore sail. The others on the dock working on their boats pleaded with him to take it down and he didn't then left. Well. The people on the dock took it down for him and just left it laying on his boat and it later blew in to the water. Even though the hurricane didn't hit after all, this guy lost the respect of this dock mates. He moved. They didn't like him anymore.

Dock lines get a whole lot of chaffing in high wind. Put down two lines on each cleat and use the proper type of line. Also, get an old fire hose and cut it into pieces to put on your lines where they rub your rail. Tie the hose in place so it stays where the rub occurs. Cleats break on boats and on the dock in high winds. Check the cleats. Be a boy and girl scout and be prepared. You can't afford not to be with any kind of boat ownership or boating. It is an extreme sport. Even when it is tied to the dock.

BIG DEAL: The TMCA Commodore's Ball will be on Saturday, December 7 this year. Mark your calendar and plan your other Christmas parties on a different date, you don't want to miss this one. This year, December has fewer Saturdays than usual. The Commodore's Ball is a very popular dress-up party and it is held in the Lakewood Yacht Club ballroom. Dinner and dancing and gawking at each other while saying wow, I don't recognize you all dressed up like that with make-up on and everything.

Kelly Hutchinson
Rear Commodore
TMCA Knows Fun!!



[On Plane with the Port](#)

MaryAnn Tillson, Port Captain

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Wow - we're a third of the way through 2019 already! Have you made it to one of the fabulous dock parties yet? They're always a fun time and you just might find someone new to meet or take an amazing recipe home with you (yes, that sopapilla pie was to die for at the last dock party!)

Speaking of the last dock party, let's have a huge round of applause for all the folks who made it happen - Gloria & Mike Rooney, John Allison, Rita & Mike Ash, David Glascock, Tonie & Gary Hanson, Janell & Doug Hubener, Debbie & Terry McElroy, Doreen & Ryk Williams, Roz & Fern Quinonez and Angela & Mark Mouton. It was fabulous - the weather held out and I'm sure everyone had plenty to eat and drink. Thank you all again for combining forces and making such a wonderful party for all to enjoy; you ROCKED

This past weekend was the shrimp boil at Moody Gardens in conjunction with the Easter Cruise. A big THANK YOU to Roberta Netherly for putting that fun party together and to all who helped out. I hear it was a fantastic time and a great way to spend the Easter weekend!

Coming up - please join Sailing Angels for a "Post" Cinco de Mayo Dock Party on Saturday, May 11th, at 6:00pm at the Watergate Marina picnic area by the back pool next to Pier 25. We will be celebrating Cinco de Mayo so bring your favorite dip (tortilla chips provided), appetizer, casserole, or dessert, and don't forget your chair! Chips, salsa, plates, forks, water, ice, etc. will be provided by Sailing Angels and there will be hot grills available. And please remember to bring your beverage of choice! Need more info? Feel free to contact Elaine Snowden at 713-397-6131 or Marion Herndon at 281-703-9322. Should be a MUY FABULOSO event!

Hope everyone had a delightful Easter and cheers to another month chock full of fun times.

Ciao for now!

MaryAnn Tillson
Port Captain



The Cruise Corner

Lamy Chopin, Cruise Captain

email: Cruise@TexasMariners.com

As I write this, many of you are in final preparations for Spring Fling. We have about 70 boats going over to Port Arthur this year, and so far conditions look favorable. We are expecting scattered showers and moderate winds—hopefully just enough to keep the mosquitoes at bay. If you couldn't sign up, keep an eye out for some great pictures on our Facebook page.

May is a busy month for cruising. In addition to the big Spring Fling event, we have a destination cruise to Bayland Marina and O'Neal's Pub on May 18-19, and our fabulous Memorial Weekend cruise to Moody on May 24-27. The slips at Moody are full but there is still time to get on the waitlist, and you can always anchor out in the bayou. Phil Geren has highlighted the very sheltered anchorage behind the Colonel dock. You have to be careful getting back there

but there is plenty of water in the anchorage.

A good practice while skippering (or crewing) out there is to always have in the back of your head the question: "What would I do if my engine failed right now?" In some cases, as approaching a dock, there may not be a lot you can do. But there is certainly a lot you could do wrong in that moment. Is it better to hit the dock head-on? If you turn away, would you risk damaging other boats? Is there time to arrest forward motion with a line looped to a pole? Whether you are approaching a dock, traveling in a channel, or cruising off shore, thinking about the first steps after a loss of power can keep you safer out there.

Lamy Chopin
Cruise Captain
TMCA – Cruising The World



Secretary's Report

Dawn Gibler, Secretary

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

Hello fellow mariners! The last month has been an absolute whirlwind for Ed and me. We are in the midst of downsizing and our house in Katy will finally be on the market this weekend. Yeah! This has been 6 1/2 years work-in-progress and we are very excited to finally be Seabrook residents. The next project will be to find places for the boxes and contents and to organize the storage unit which is a disaster at the moment.

We were fortunate to have been able to attend the Easter cruise to Moody Gardens last weekend. It was a blast as usual and it was fun to make new friends and to reconnect with old ones. Thanks so much to Roberta and Lamy for organizing and to all the folks that helped with docking in the incredible winds. A special thanks to Charles Parette and Linda Schoene for reeling us in on Thursday afternoon and to Charles for helping to diagnose the reason for water in the engine

compartment. Unfortunately, we had some additional engine trouble on the way home and we will have to go to Spring Fling via land. Bummer but then again, "it's a boat"....

Please help me welcome the following members that have joined since the last meeting:

Dan DeHart
David Prudhomme & Sherry Raziano
Curt & Karen Foltz
Mike MacDonald
Mark & Jean Pricer
John Dickinson
Randy Stephens
Thomas & Charlotte Mrazik
Robert Plock

Dawn Gibler
Secretary



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

Cookie Johnson, Treasurer

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

April is always a crazy month for me with tax season and quarterly deadlines and catchup from taking time to do taxes! If I have missed getting a refund to you or depositing your check, I apologize!

We have had this very odd thing happen this year with an email mishap. When people went to pay from our website to PayPal instead of using admin@texasmariners.com it was using admin@tmca.com which is an email that does not exist. The result was that the money sat for a while in PayPal without be able to be sent and then PayPal refunded it. This has caused a lot of headaches (especially for me) and a lot of work to collect the unpaid money. If you renewed or signed up for anything in the past 3 months, please check that it was charged to your card and not refunded. I have invoiced some of those that were effected and many contacted us to take care of it. Thank you so much for working with us and understanding that this was beyond our control. We still do

not know how it even happened!

I am so happy to see the sun!! Excited to be out there on the water with all of you! See you out there!!

***Cookie Johnson,
Treasurer***

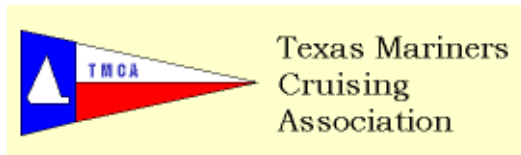
[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

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