



April 2020



At the Helm

Bryan Austin, Commodore

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

This is your Commodore Speaking,

This is a very different world we are experiencing right now. If there was ever a time to follow the guidance of the medical and government officials, it is now. As a social boating organization, we are canceling planned social events while the social distancing guidance is in effect; which has been extended through April 30th. Thus our next Monthly Meeting and other scheduled social events in April will not occur.

We will continue to promote creative cruising events that do not include social gatherings. The recent Follow the Leader cruise around the bay is a great example of creative cruising. I encourage members to organize small group cruises to near by anchorages.

Cindy and I (along with our dog Zeus) have been exercising our “extreme” social distancing by taking Austintatious out of the marina and anchoring at Redfish Island for the past several days. Our fridge and freezer are loaded and the tanks are full. On Tuesday, we moved the boat and spent the night anchored near Bayshore Park. There is a boat ramp with a dinghy friendly access. By spending these extra days “on the hook”, we learned a little more about how to manage our boat, batteries and generator. We will continue our tour around the bay this week with a stop in Offats Bayou and maybe a night or two at Harborwalk. We may get down to Freeport. Who knows.

If you know of any members who have been affected by the coronavirus, please reach out to them to check on their status. First and foremost, Keep yourself and family safe.

See you on the water.

Bryan Austin
Commodore 2019-2020



[From the Commodore of Vice's Navigational Table](#)

Bryan Mason, Vice Commodore

Email: VC@TexasMariners

The last few weeks has been interesting on many levels and I hope everyone is taking the appropriate precautions. We missed last month's meeting and I am not sure how the April meeting looks just yet. In the event it does happen, we will be welcoming Captain Price from G&H towing. She is a tug captain on the Houston Ship Channel. She is aware of the situation but, promises she can give her presentation at a later date if needed. Our very own Phil Geren will also be delivering his boat handling presentation later this season as well. Hopefully we will see everyone on April 17th at the Elks Lodge, but please keep an eye on the Facebook page and e-mail for changes. In the meantime, get out on your boats and enjoy some of this spring weather, nothing like social distancing by boat.

Bryan Mason
Vice Commodore



The Social Scuttlebutt

Cindy Austin, Rear Commodore

email: RC@TexasMariners.com

As I sit on my boat anchored out near Bayshore park, practicing social distancing and checking out new potential anchorages with easy access for dog walking, I just wanted to wish everyone health and sanity! I hope each of you are staying healthy and safe and during this unprecedented time in our lives.

HUGE SHOUT OUT to: Cyndi McDermott and Philip Kropf for leading, teaching and sharing their knowledge via the cruise last week. What a great experience. We even got to put our sails up for awhile. We are looking forward to doing this again and hope others will participate.

Not sure what the future holds as far as dock parties, cruises and events but stay tuned. As soon as it's safe to congregate we will plan an event or pick by up where things left off.

Cheers to your health and hope to see ya on the water.

P.S. - let me know if you find marine or RV safe TP anywhere - lol.

Cheers!!

Cindy Austin

Rear Commodore



[On Plane with the Port](#)

Lori Grissom, Port Captain

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

Hello all! These are all trying times and I know this is new for us all. We are all used to being social and visiting each other having docktails, telling each other about our boating stories & experiences. I think we still need this for our own sanity but we need to do it differently until this has all calmed down. Please reach out to your family and friends. Try video, face timing or conference calling for a wine or cocktail social!!! You are not alone. I am a nurse and my husband Larry is a fireman.... when not in quarantine, we find comfort in knowing.... this too shall pass! Be positive stay at home..., more importantly, stay healthy..., we have boating to do! Until we can see each other on the dock again..... wash your hands, sanitize frequently and stay home... but please relax, think positive and know we are all in this together. We can do this!!

I'll see you on the docks!!!

Lori Grissom
Port Captain



[The Cruise Corner](#)

Jean Mason, Cruise Captain

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

Hello Cruisers,

Well, times they are a changin'. And may continue to do so for a while.

Looking back on March, which seems like March has been about 347 days long this year, we started out with a cruise to Cedar Bayou. Carol and Russ Birchfield did a great job organizing and a cruise report follows.

The Freeport Cruise and the Buffalo Bayou Kayak Adventure were unfortunately cancelled. Looking ahead to April, the Easter cruises have both been cancelled. Keep it tuned to the TMCA web site and calendar page for future updates.

However on Sunday morning, March 28, Cyndi McDermott and Philip Kropf soldiered on with the Follow the Leader Around the Bay event. With GREAT success, I might add! There were approximately 20 boats participating in a very timely, social distancing exercise. Who knew this would have been such an appropriate time to do this cruise?!? A cruise report from them will be very interesting as we had newbies and old-timers joining the experience.

Stay healthy, my friends and take this time to do your boat maintenance and upgrades. We'll be cruising to our fun destinations soon, and having parties to remember!

Here's an excerpt from Carol's cruise report (thank you Carol, very interesting!). Her full report will be posted on the One Drive accessed thru the website.

Cedar Bayou Cruise Report

Cruise Leaders: Russ & Carol Burchfield, m/v Spirit

March 6-8, 2020

13-14 boats initially signed up or indicated they were planning to join the cruise. As the date approached the weather was cool, overcast with a north wind. The Coronavirus also had everyone at a heightened awareness about their health and not wanting to infect others. For various reasons some boats cancelled and we ended up with 7 boats on the cruise: Spirit, Seascape, Holly Ann, Awakening, Awesome One, Silhouette and Savannah. For a cruise limited to non-existent shore access, this ended up being a good size group to gather on 1 boat for cocktails and dinner Saturday evening. It was a full boat.

There are good navigation instructions in a PDF on our TMCA website under "cruising", then "destinations" that includes waypoints from Clear Creek's marker 2 all the way to the Finger Lakes in Double Bayou. Several years ago a barge company contracted for the space in Finger Lakes to use for barges so we no longer use that area as an anchorage for our club cruises to Double Bayou. We now anchor in the "Cooling Canal" that is a cut from the bayou back to the Bay. When anchored you can see all the way to the ship channel, along with tankers transiting the ship channel.

One of the boats was a fairly new boat owner, new to TMCA, never been to Cedar Bayou or crossed the ship channel and never anchored overnight. They indicated they'd like to follow someone over. Philip Kropf planned to leave Saturday morning and since he was about the same speed as the new TMCA member, he offered they could follow him. This is how cruises work, everyone pitching in to help each other and make the cruise successful.

Heading north from the Clear Creek channel, we stayed west of the ship channel to minimize interactions with commercial boat traffic and don't enter the ship channel until we are just south of Morgan's point, well north of the Bayport Channel.

One of the reasons Cedar Bayou is so easy to navigate is because it has active commercial traffic with barges utilizing it day and night.

Seascope made it to the anchorage late Friday evening, with just enough light left to anchor.

Larry & Lori joined us on our boat Saturday morning and we visited for a couple of hours before lunch. Shortly after lunch, the rest of the group started arriving. Everyone spaced themselves out in the channel as

they anchored, taking care to leave enough swing space as each boat swung to the wind and currents a little differently.

Cedar Bayou is a great place to explore by dinghy, surrounded by lots of nature along the shore. Saturday afternoon we enjoyed some dinghy exploration, but mainly we boat hopped and heard about everyone's adventures on the way over. A common theme was that this was one of the 1st trips of the season for most of us, so we were all rusty and trying to remember everything we forgot over the winter. I'm sure we'll all be more prepared on the next trip.

We had snacks, drinks and dinner on m/v Spirit, starting around 4:30. No dinghy, no problem. We shuttled people over who didn't have a dinghy with them. That's what's nice about TMCA, there's always others there to help. As usual at all TMCA gatherings, we had a wonderful feast with enough

food to feed about 4x the people. We took pictures of the wonderful sunset and when it was time to return to each of the boats it was pitch black. It was nice to see everyone had remembered to turn their anchor light on when they left their boat and it was light outside.

This anchorage is very protective and everyone's anchor held fine overnight. We all leisurely pulled anchor and headed back to our respective marinas. Spirit left early, as we normally do, as we think the wind and bay conditions will be milder early in the day. It was a spirited ride back to Clear Lake with a

southeast wind and waves on the beam. A couple of times we also encountered large swells from passing tankers and this was when we were at a large distance away from the ship channel.

It was so nice to be back on the water again and Cedar Bayou was a great destination for us to test our boat systems and stay at anchor. It's really not until you stay at anchor or away from the dock that you get a good chance to test how your battery power and all the complicated boat systems work away from your shore power.

We all had a wonderful time and enjoyed each other's company and learning from the different experiences each captain and crew have. We hope more people join on a cruise away from shore power to enjoy the peace and tranquility of anchoring and enjoying TMCA friendships away from the hustle and bustle of a marina.

Jean Mason
Cruise Captain



Secretary's Report

Cyndi McDermott, Secretary

email: Secretary@TexasMariners.com

My how things change in a month. Hope you are all taking care of yourselves in light of the current health pandemic and heeding the authorities requests with regards to social distancing and staying home when possible. TMCA held the perfect "social distancing" cruise this last weekend and it was both educational and enjoyable. We cruised some of the features of the bay in a follow the leader style such as West Pass, South and North boaters cuts and a bit of Trinity Bay. I learned quite alot! Getting out on your boat with only the immediate members of your household is a great way to relieve some of the stress of the current situation. I'm looking forward to returning to all of our TMCA fun events as soon as this threat passes.

Thanks for the great response to our request to get those membership renewals in. As of the end of March we have 350 members, up 130 members from this time last month!

Please welcome our three new members since the March newsletter. If you see them around say hello!

Donald Ramsey
Kenneth & Kylie Swymer

If you still need to renew the easiest way is via the website. Log in, go to the membership tab, My Account- Renew here!, and click on the membership tab below your profile photo (it's not highlighted in blue so might be a bit deceiving!) Make sure all of your personal information is up to date as well. You can also send a check to TMCA PO Box 946 Kemah, TX 77565 or pay by credit card, check or cash at the monthly meeting. If you have any issues please feel free to contact me at cyndismcde@yahoo.com.

See you on the water!
Cyndi McDermott
Secretary



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

Meade LeBlanc, Treasurer

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

Hope everyone is taking care and still finding time to enjoy the great outdoors right now. On the financial side, the annual audit was completed and no major issues or concerns were noted. Thanks very much to the auditors who volunteered their time to review all the transactions for 2019, including bank statements, check copies, expense forms, and the like.

The 2019 IRS tax filing was also completed this month. Besides the usual financial information, a non-profit tax filing also includes some interesting information, such as an explanation of our major programs and how they serve our non-profit purpose as a boating organization: Mardi Gras party, training sessions, and cruises. We also have to report how many hours each board member spends on the club each month. No taxes are due, though.

Next month I will report on the budget.

Take care

Meade LeBlanc
Treasurer

[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

2020 TMCA Officers

Commodore	Bryan Austin, s/v Austintatious	832-221-5416
Past Commodore	Larry Friemel, m/v Seascope	281-832-0361
Vice Commodore	Bryan Mason, m/v Marie Ellis	832-573-0262
Rear Commodore	Cindy Austin, s/v Austintatious	713-320-6748
Port Captain	Lori Grissom, m/v Lyfe's Good	281-382-5927
Cruise Captain	JeanMason, m/v Marie Ellis	713-670-6016
Secretary	Cindy McDermott, m/v Naughti Paws	281-610-3351
Treasurer	Meade LeBlanc, s/v Reflection	281-796-2528

2020 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 2015	Bob Nickelson, m/v Docketari	713-826-7551
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

Texas Mariners Cruising Association, PO Box 946, Kemah, TX 77565-0946
<http://www.TexasMariners.com> | [Anti-spam policy](#) | [Privacy policy](#)

