



February 2020



### At the Helm

**Bryan Austin, Commodore**

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

This is your Commodore Speaking,

Fifty three years ago, on January 27th, we lost 3 astronauts in the Apollo 1 fire on the pad. It's been 34 years since, on January 28th, the Shuttle Challenger exploded during ascent and took 7 astronauts lives. And 17 years ago, on February 1st, I concluded my last Flight Director shift for the Shuttle mission STS-107 and handed over helm to the Entry team and Flight Director Leroy Cain. I went home, got a little sleep, then woke up expecting to see the contrail of Columbia flying overhead at Mach 22 on the way to a landing at KSC. Instead, sadly, I saw a number of bright objects flying across the sky as Columbia had broken up and disintegrated over Texas due to a thermal tile failure on the port wing caused by a piece of foam that fell from the external tank during ascent. Seven more astronauts lost their lives that day. I

will never forget that image in the sky. Equally tough, was the fact that just 10 hours earlier, I greeted family members from each of the Columbia astronauts as they came in the Control Center to have their private family call before heading to KSC to watch the landing.

When we were flying the Space Shuttle, we would spend two years preparing for each mission. The more straightforward element was choreographing how things should be scheduled; even for a complex Hubble telescope repair mission. The greatest amount of time was spent identifying the what-if failure scenarios that could occur and then developing and rehearsing our response procedures in order to keep the crew and Shuttle safe and continue the mission.

My philosophy for staying safe and prepared on our boat is similar to our approach with Shuttle Missions. I spend time thinking and preparing for those what-if's and how we would respond. Have you prepared for your boating what-if's.

Let's take a specific system failure on your boat; like the engine fails (bigger deal on a single engine boat). Murphy's Law says this will happen at the worse time. So what if that failure occurs in a confined marina fairway just as you are about to turn into your slip. What would you do? This is one of a number of time-critical or space-limited situations you could find yourself in.

So think through how you approach your slip, what the prevailing winds are and how they affect you approach and docking. What dock lines you retrieve first. During your approach, do you have space

to maneuver around to burn off some speed? Consider staging a spare dock line on the boat and have it ready to throw and loop around a piling or cleat on the dock. It may even be the best solution to run your boat aground to stop it if you have that option. You may want to practice it (with a running engine in neutral of course). Spend some time thinking about your what-if scenarios and how you would respond. Be prepared so you can avoid the “hopeless position”.

See you on the water...

***See you soon...***  
***Bryan Austin***  
***Commodore 2019-2020***

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## **From the Commodore of Vice's Navigational Table**

**Bryan Mason, Vice Commodore**

Email: [VC@TexasMariners](mailto:VC@TexasMariners)

I hope everyone survived the holidays mostly intact. It is always a busy time of year, work related end of the year projects, holiday functions and just the general holiday duties. January is just about in the books as I write this message and this is always a busy month for TMCA. We have had a monthly meeting, our planning meeting, orientation meeting and lastly the Bunco night.

February is off to a good start. The popular Ground Hog dock party at Noah's Ark and the Mardi Gras cruise to Moody Gardens will get the month started right! The February monthly meeting is on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Our speaker will be a follow up presentation by Roy Newberry and his partner Nick Mauldin. The discussion will be about making insurance claims for your vessel. Roy and Nick will present an overall process on how insurance companies

determine damage and cost. I am sure it will be an enlightening discussion.

I am still recruiting guest speakers, so if you have any thoughts on somebody or would like to yourself, please drop me a line. I would also like to put out a call for any short videos that you may come across that has a good how-to or educational content for our short video series at the monthly meetings.

I will close here and leave you with an interesting link, 5 confusing terms of ship navigation and its clarification. See you on the water.

<https://www.myseatime.com/blog/detail/5-confusing-terms-of-ship-navigation-and-its-clarification>

***Bryan Mason***  
***Vice Commodore***

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**The Social Scuttlebutt**

**Cindy Austin, Rear Commodore**

**email: RC@TexasMariners.com**

January has come and gone! Many thanks too all who helped with the Planning meeting, Orientation Meeting and Bunco Meet and Greet. So now, onto February!!!!

February 1st was the amazing Ground Hog day event hosted by Vicki Berkebile and Ladye Jane Stone at Noah's ARK!!! Happy to say that Phil saw his shadow and is predicting an early spring which means more boating opportunities.

**UP NEXT!!!**

**MARDI GRAS - Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler!**

This is the first year we are on the STRAND next to all the action!! Beads & Bands!! This is a fun event for all and great value for the money! The fee includes, wrist bands for the strand

all day, muffulettas and king cake, beer and wine, snacks, beads and PRIVATE BALCONY! This isn't limited to TMCA members. Please invite friends, family etc!!!

We have extended the registration date to February 12th and need at least 75 people. We are at 58 and a head count to order food! Please sign up if you haven't already! Start warming up your bead throwing arms!!!

Also, don't forget about the bus! If not coming by boat to Moody, drive down and park your car at Moody for free and for \$15pp ride the bus to and from the Strand. The bus will start at 5:30pm and last bus will leave at 11:30pm.

To register, go to [www.texasmariners.com](http://www.texasmariners.com)

***Cheers!!***

***Cindy Austin***

***Rear Commodore***

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### [On Plane with the Port](#)

**Lori Grissom, Port Captain**

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

Wow what a great start to the year! Last night was the first of many dock parties in the year 2020. A big thank you to Vicki & Kevin Berkebile and Ladye Jane Stone for all your hard work & such success! Obviously a big thank you for our TMCA Phil and if he is right...we only have a few more weeks until Spring.

Now that the February dock party has come & gone, what do we have to look forward to in the weeks to come.... well Friday, the 14th is our cruise to Moody with sterngating starting at 4:00pm (replacing pot luck on the main dock). Feel free to anchor out and dinghy in if you choose. Then we have breakfast to share Saturday morning at 9:30. Keep checking the TMCA Facebook page for other events for Friday night regarding parade options on the strands for those that would like to attend. Don't forget our fabulous balcony party on

Saturday, I hear tickets selling out ..... get your tickets now!

March is going to be a fun Dock party with Tara & Travis Townsley at Watergate Marina Please see TMCA calendar for details.

We have only 2 openings for official dock party host... Host needed for November & December. Please contact me if you are interested!!

Until then.... see you on the Docks!

***Lori Grissom***  
***Port Captain***

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## **The Cruise Corner**

**Jean Mason, Cruise Captain**

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

What appears to be everyone's least favorite boating month is now behind us! On to a more active cruising schedule as the days get longer and (eventually) warmer.

The planning meeting was a success as we filled in a lot of calendar days with cruising opportunities. Thank you to all who attended and volunteered to lead cruises and the social events associated with them. Some new cruising places will be explored this year, along with our old favorites....Redfish, Double Bayou, Bayland, Moody Gardens and Harbor Walk to name a few. These events don't just happen, they take volunteers to lead and plan all those wonderful activities we enjoy. Please consider stepping up, and stepping outside the box, and plan to lead a cruise to the destination of your choice. Never done this before? No worries! I'm here, along with a

host of very experienced folks who are more than willing to mentor you in the ways of "the Cruise Leader"!

Check out the TMCA calendar. You will notice our first long weekend cruise coming up is February 14-16 to Moody for Mardi Gras! Arthur Tallier is Cruise Leader...his first one! Yeah Arthur! As of this writing, there was still at least one slip available at Moody. But you can also anchor out, go to Galveston Yacht Basin or Pelican Rest. Or, come by land yacht and join the festivities.

There is also a cruise on the last weekend of the month, actually leap day, to Bayland. Lamy Chopin will be hosting that one with details forthcoming.

Get those boats ready for a fun-filled year.

***Jean Mason***  
***Cruise Captain***

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## Secretary's Report

**Cyndi McDermott, Secretary**

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

Happy Mardi Gras my fellow cruisers! I hope to see you all at the TMCA party on the Strand February 15th or at one of the other fun activities planned for the month.

### *REMINDER: IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR*

*MEMBERSHIP!!* The end of February is the end of the grace period for renewing your 2020 membership. After that point those that have not renewed will have limited access to TMCA activities until their membership is brought up to date. And we know none of us want to miss out on any of the fun! It is an easy process from the website. Just log on and go to the Membership tab. Make sure all of your personal information is up to date as well. If you have any issues please feel free to contact me at [cyndismcde@yahoo.com](mailto:cyndismcde@yahoo.com). If that doesn't work for you we will also have the ability to renew at the February meeting.

We've had 230 members renew so far for 2020 including 33 new members! There are still about 200 members who need to renew so lets get those renewals in!

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

Mike & Tammy Cowen

Ron & Montie Miller

Sean & Barbara O'Brien

Robert & Karen Richardson

Kent & Pamela Puckett

Allen & Becky Haggard

Neal Albes

Margaret McPhail

Marc & Kristi Fazioli

Stephen Seger

Robert Biffle

***See you on the water!***

***Cyndi McDermott***

***Secretary***

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

**Meade LeBlanc, Treasurer**

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

Greetings TMCA members.

The Treasurer has been busy lining up auditors to review the 2019 financial results. In case you didn't know this, TMCA has a requirement in the by-laws that requires 3 independent members to review the financial records for the year, to make sure that policies were followed and that all the spending was appropriate. The auditors look at bank statements, checks that were written, receipts that accompany the checks, and things like that. One policy is that each check that is over \$500 needs the signature of both the Treasurer and the Commodore. That way, large payments are scrutinized by more than one person. In addition, the auditors can make suggestions based on what they review. I hope that the audit will be completed by the end of February.

***Meade LeBlanc  
Treasurer***

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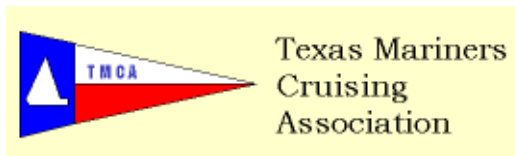
[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

**2020 TMCA Officers**

Commodore	Bryan Austin, s/v Austintatious	832-221-5416
Past Commodore	Larry Friemel, m/v Seascape	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 Docktari	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](mailto:Newsletter@TexasMariners.com)***

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