



January 2020



**At the Helm**

**Bryan Austin, Commodore**

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

This is your Commodore Speaking,

Happy New Year! It's the start of a new decade and should be another great year for TMCA. I'm excited and extremely grateful to represent TMCA once again as your Commodore in 2020. Your 2020 Officers include Vice Commodore Bryan Mason, Rear Commodore Cindy Austin, Treasurer Meade LeBlanc, Secretary Cyndi McDermott, Cruise Captain Jean Mason and Port Captain Lori Grissom. Larry Friemel will continue as Past Commodore for TMCA.

I'm also pleased to announce our Trustees for 2020 will include Gloria Rooney, Steve Lee, Capt. Doug Chappell, and Bob Nickelson. These four past Commodores will provide a good mix of club historic perspective. I look to them to help us maintain the

vision and spirit of the club.

We will continue to explore new ways to grow TMCA while continuing to make your experiences as enjoyable and educational as possible. We are developing a Member Handbook and an Event Organizer Handbook. These two documents will go a long way to establish and maintain consistency of operations with the Club. We are also developing a new website for TMCA which will be better geared toward membership management and event registration. That should be online in March or April.

We finished out the year with a fantastic Commodore's Ball at Lakewood Yacht Club. Great friends, food, music and dancing. The special recognition awards presented were well deserved by all. A special thanks goes out to all of those who volunteered their time and energy to help make this such a memorable event!

Cruising is a year round sport around here. In addition to boating in Galveston Bay and around the upper Texas coast, we also have monthly dock parties and several special events throughout the year. Our big "Spring Fling" cruise will be back in 2021. Hopefully you will consider joining us at an event or cruise and learn what makes TMCA such a great boating club.

Our club and these events are only as successful as the volunteers who step up to support them. Volunteering is an outstanding way to expand your boating community, increase your

boating experiences and just get your boat out of the slip and on the water. It all starts in January. We have four events this month at the Elks Lodge in Kemah. Please plan to attend our annual Planning meeting, Saturday morning January 11th. This meeting is a great opportunity for you to share your ideas and help fill the 2020 calendar with the great cruises and activities we will do this year. I challenge those of you who have not lead one of our events to step up in 2020.

The following Friday, January 21th, is our first TMCA Monthly Meeting. Socializing begins at 6:00pm and the program activities start at 7:00pm.

Finally, you are invited to attend the Member Orientation meeting on January 25th to meet the new Officers, learn what these volunteers do to keep TMCA running, hear a summary of our 2020 cruising and social events schedule as well as a presentation of all the cruising destinations around Galveston Bay and up and down the Texas coast. Come back later that evening for our big TMCA Bunco Party, a great social mixer for new and not-so-new members.

Please visit our website ([www.texasmarines.com](http://www.texasmarines.com)) and calendar for information on all the fun activities we will schedule for 2020. Your feedback and ideas are always welcome.

Special Reminder: It's time to renew those memberships and update all your boat and contact information.

***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)

First off I want to thank the nominating committee and the board members who thought of me during the selection process. I was and still am truly humbled. TMCA is a great group of boaters, power and sail and all different sizes. The vast amount of knowledge and more importantly the willingness to share it with others is what makes us great. This year I plan to keep it great with the help from the membership. I have several ideas for speakers this year, but would also like to put out a call for any ideas from the membership. There are a few that we may have heard from, but the information is always timely and a good refresher for those who have attended those seminars in the past, hopefully we will get a lot of new members listening in to those talks. There is always something I learn from these sessions with local speakers. In addition to some of the usual topics, one subject that I think would have a lot of interest for those with older

boats is galley remodeling and flooring. I know this is something on the radar for Marie Ellis. So, if anyone has any ideas of future education speakers, please shoot me an e-mail.

The TMCA planning meeting will be January 11<sup>th</sup> at the Elks Lodge starting at 9:00 AM. This meeting is what really shapes the upcoming TMCA season. From dock parties to cruises this is where we get events on the calendar and the volunteers to host or lead cruises. This meeting is always fun and informative, so please come join us and help make 2020 a great season of planning our local and distant waterways and great social events. Even if you are not ready to lead an event it is a great time to assist in an event. Volunteerism is what keeps this club great and you will meet some fine folks in the process.

Our first monthly meeting is on January 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at the Elks Lodge, 623 Hanson Road, in Kemah. Socializing and dinner orders will begin at 6:00 pm, business meeting begins at 7:00 pm and the presentation to follow. The guest speaker will be discussing the importance of surveys. It will be an interesting topic if you are looking to buy or sell a boat.

Lastly for the month of January, on the 25<sup>th</sup>, the member orientation meeting is in the morning and the Bunco party in the evening. If you wonder how things operate in TMCA, this is the meeting for you! How do you sign up for cruises? How do you lead a cruise or host a dock party? Or you just want to see what makes TMCA work, then please join us at 9:00 AM at the Elks Lodge. Then later that evening is an event not to be missed. The famous Bunco party at the Elks Club in the evening. This is a great way to meet a lot of TMCA members and have fun doing it. Bunco is a game anybody can learn in short time, so don't worry about the details of playing. We will show you how to play with a few sample games and you too will be an expert. If I can do it, anybody can do it. The Elks bar will be open and we will have some of the best looking waiters on hand to take and deliver your drink orders while you crush your table mates at Bunco. Valuable prizes are awarded for several categories, it could be you!

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

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**The Social Scuttlebutt**  
**Cindy Austin, Rear Commodore**  
**[email: RC@TexasMariners.com](mailto:RC@TexasMariners.com)**

Special Events and more!

IN THE WORDS OF PINK!!! "LET'S GET THIS PARTY STARTED!!!"

January is usually the time of year things slow down. Well, not in the TMCA world! This is the time of year where we welcome new members and create plans so our dreams become reality. Like more time on the water!!! I'm looking forward to 2020 and creating fantastic new memories with this amazing and CRAZY TMCA family. Listed below is what's on the calendar for January and a glimpse of February.

January 2020:

1. Planning Meeting on January 11th @ 9 am at the Elk's Lodge. Come and share your thoughts and ideas for cruise destinations and events. The Club that PLANS together GROWS together!!
2. Orientation Meeting on January 25th @ 9am at the Elks's Lodge. Great way for new members to meet the 2020 Board and learn more about our amazing club.
3. Bunco Social & Potluck on January 25th - annual event at the Elk's Lodge to meet New Members and reconnect.

February 2020:

Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler! What's February famous for??? MARDI GRAS February 15th, 2020!!!! We have a new location/venue on the .... STRAND with a PRIVATE BALCONY!! Start warming up your bead throwing arms!!! More details to come soon on the TMCA calendar and FB page.

I'm really looking forward to serving the TMCA club in 2020 and always open to new ideas and help. Please don't hesitate to share thoughts and ideas!

***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)

Happy New Year and welcome to our 2020 cruising year. Now that the turkey has settled, it's time to set our focus on what a wonderful year we are about to embark on.

A big thank you to Dan Spradley and Jill Taylor with Mr. Happy for ending out our year and hosting our wonderful December dock party. Dan & Jill went above & beyond with a fire pit, and the most awesome hot dogs. What can be better than getting toasted and roasted among friends!

As your new Port Captain I am excited and looking forward to assisting you with making your Dock party a success. We are a cruising organization that enjoys our parties, this goes without saying, but cruises and dock parties are where lifelong friendships are formed.

We have many cruises and activities planned this year, I am excited to see all the new ideas and where our endeavors take us.

Thank you for allowing me to be your Port Captain for 2020.

***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)

Happy New/Cruise Year! I'm honored to be at the helm for this cruising year. Thank you for your votes of confidence by allowing me to help set a course for 2020. I will need your help as cruise leaders and mentors. Whether you're a new-ish mariner or are one of our wonderful "seasoned" captains and crew, your dedication and volunteerism is what keeps this club afloat. Thank you for your time and talent.

I sometimes think that there are not enough weekends in the year in which to schedule all the cruises we want to do. From the traditional destinations to the re-discovered places, and throw in a few new locations, this fresh new year is looking like a great time to cast off those dock lines and get underway. Day trips, weekends and even extended cruises will be added to our [club calendar](#) (which, by the way, is where you can keep up with all the exciting

events that will be planned). Please have a look at the web site as it is THE source for all things TMCA.

I welcome your input and would greatly appreciate an e-mail with your ideas. We will be re-visiting Harbor Walk this year in addition to Moody Gardens, Double Bayou, Redfish Island, Bayland, Nassau Bay, dingy rides up Clear Creek and more. Each of these destinations have wonderful opportunities for brushing up on your boating skills, or learning new ones. One of my goals as Cruise Captain is to have cruises that pair experienced boaters with ones who may not be as familiar with either their boat or the local waters. The members of this club are an amazingly helpful group. Even we old-timers can learn something new, as I'm sure you will all agree!

Please put on your thinking caps and share them at the January 11 planning meeting. I look forward to helping this club keep cruising great in 2020!

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

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## Secretary's Report

**Cyndi McDermott, Secretary**

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

Happy New Year my fellow cruisers! Hard to believe it is 2020. I'm looking forward to the new year serving as your Secretary and meeting all of you at TMCA's great events and cruising destinations.

Hope you all had a great Christmas! We took advantage of the beautiful weather at Christmas and cruised to Moody Gardens Marina. We went to their Christmas Show, Cirque Joyeau, and the Festival of Lights Christmas Eve then Christmas brunch the next morning. A fun alternative to Christmas at home!

Just a reminder it is membership renewal time. It is an easy process from the TMCA 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 feel free to contact me at

[cyndismcde@yahoo.com](mailto:cyndismcde@yahoo.com). We have had 79 members renew so far for 2020 including 14 new members!

Please welcome our new members since the December newsletter.

Gregory & Audra Holsten

Carlos Roca

Jody & Mary LaPoint

***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, from your new Treasurer!

I have been busy learning the ropes from Cookie Johnson, who did a fabulous job keeping up with all the club funds over the last several years.

I plan to be up to speed and ready to take the helm in January. Cookie assures me she is just a phone call away if I find I have trouble keeping my head above water. Don't worry though, because I am a retired accountant and CPA.

I am looking forward to serving the club and making sure the financials are kept ship-shape.

(Have I used enough figures of speech yet?)

See you soon!

***Meade LeBlanc  
Treasurer***

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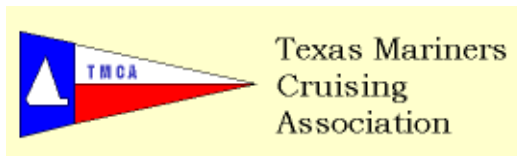
[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

**2020 TMCA Officers**

Commodore	Bryan Austin, s/v Austintatious	832-221-5416
Past Commodore	Larry Friemel, m/v 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 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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