



May 2020



### At the Helm

**Bryan Austin, Commodore**

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

So what did you do on your Coronavirus isolation vacation? Cindy and I took Austintatious out on a three week extreme social distance cruise to Galveston and Offatts Bayou. Even after five years of ownership, we learned so much more about how our boat operates and how the two of us operate together “on the hook”. From battery management to food planning, boat maintenance, pet control and, what became most critical, anchor management, we learned a lot.

After spending a night at Redfish Island, we took a short trip to the Bayshore side of the bay and anchored just off of Bayshore Park. I think we found a new cruise destination. They have a nice dock with easy dinghy access into the park. We then spent the bulk of our time in Offatts Bayou ping-ponging anchorages between Moody Gardens and Pelican Rest as each weather system came

through. One such weather system demonstrated our anchor was a little undersized as we swung around and quickly drug into the Moody Gardens marina before we could react. We are now the proud owners of a new Mantus anchor.

I continue to encourage our Club members to get out on the water. Either plan some local cruises to anchor out or head down the coast; just check the status of the local marinas to see if they are receiving boats.

I will be working with our Club leadership to determine how best to re-engage the members and when and how to pick back up with our Monthly Meetings and Dock Parties. June seems like the new target to get things cranked up again... Stay tuned.

Stay Safe & See You on the Water

***Bryan Austin***

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

**Bryan Mason, Vice Commodore**

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

Well here we are, almost summer and beginning of hurricane season. The way things are going it kind of makes me wonder what is in store for the summer. I hope everybody has used some of this fine spring weather to get out and enjoy your boats and practice social distancing. I am really getting to dislike that term social distancing. Physical distancing seems more fitting, but I digress.

Jean and I had an educational couple of days on Marie Ellis this weekend at Redfish Island. First, floating line floats... until it doesn't. Think twin diesel engines with large props. What could possibly go wrong?!? Secondly, weather forecasts can be wrong, really wrong. Nothing like talking newer boaters out to anchor for the first time because the weather is going to be "great". Third, you know that engine problem that seemed to fix itself? It didn't

fix itself after all. A little delicate-like work with a hammer got the engine started. We had the replacement part onboard in a box. Turns out it would have worked better installed. Lastly, sometimes picking up anchor can reveal why you never moved during a high wind event even with two other boats tied up to you. No, not our skill at anchoring, but rather a 1 inch line buried at the bottom of the anchorage at Redfish Island. Apparently still attached to a large anchor and possibly a boat! We learned a lot from this weekend and I am happy to share it with you all.

It is not clear to me when our monthly meetings will be back, but when they do I look forward to seeing everyone there.

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

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### **The Social Scuttlebutt**

**Cindy Austin, Rear Commodore**

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

After almost a month of EXTREME social distancing or living on the hook at Redfish, Bayshore Park and Offatts Bayou - aka "Coronaville", I'm adjusting to seeing people and land! WOW- what a great learning and fun experience. I thoroughly enjoyed it except when our anchor drug due to high and shifting winds and the T-head at Moody was closer than it needed to be to our stern! That being said, we are now the proud owner's of a new #85 Mantus anchor! Thank you Thomas Kantzos Mantus for the great customer service and peace of mind! I am looking forward to getting back out there so we can try this new baby out.

Since we aren't able to have events, dock parties etc. I want to give a HUGE SHOUT OUT to: Gay Lynn & Stuart Zarrow for hosting Easter Church on the water in their backyard in

Galveston. The music and fellowship was amazing and just what my soul needed. Also want to thank Dr. Ron for organizing the great dingy excursion, just sorry the weather didn't cooperate.

HUGE SALUTE and much RESPECT to Tara and Travis Townsley for taking advantage of this "work from home" or "on-hold" limbo time. They installed new solar, prepped their boat and sailed to South Padre Island! Way to get out there and use your boat! Can't wait to hear the "Sail Tales". Hopefully we can all get together soon at a docktail party and catch up!

Until then, be safe and cheers to your health!

***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 May! Oh my goodness... where to start!!! Not much socializing going on now, but I have a job for y'all to do! During this social isolation time, put on your thinking caps and let's come up with the dock party of all dock party's. It makes me sad that we missed April's Dock party & now not having May's either! I'm not sure when things will return to normal, (or our new normal), but I can assure you when that time comes, we will ALL be ready! If anyone has ideas for a dock party or games to just release a little stress.... please feel free to share! Hopefully we will see each other on the docks in June! Until then, stay safe & stay healthy!

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

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## **The Cruise Corner**

**Jean Mason, Cruise Captain**

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

Happy May, Captains and Crews! Social distancing by boat is an easy and beautiful thing. Hope you've been able to participate.

While most cruises have been cancelled or postponed, a few have taken place...without the normal socializing, of course. A few big boats went to Cedar Bayou and a dingy cruise around Clear Lake waited for good weather and finally materialized. On these lovely weather weekends, the lake and bay are as crowded as a big holiday weekend in the summer! Love seeing people use their boats.

Several of our members have been taking their boats on extended, local cruises, and I have heard reports that they have been very valuable learning experiences. One learns a LOT about their boat when anchored for a week or weeks at a time. It also gives you a

flavor of extended cruising when having to think about re-provisioning, laundry, taking the dog to shore to do his business, getting along with the crew, etc. I actually highly recommend this, whether you plan to do long range cruising or not. "If it's gonna' happen, it's gonna' happen out there!". This area is a wonderful place to have these practice runs as we are so close to services...hardware stores, marine supply stores (West Marine, Blackburn, etc) groceries and available UBER rides. In fact, in my cruising experience, this close proximity to services is quite unique for the Gulf Coast and even Florida and the East Coast.

Hopefully, HOPEFULLY, we will have some more of our now famous "Social Distancing Cruises" to lead us into a more "normal" cruising schedule. Check the TMCA calendar for updates. If you would like to lead a dingy run, or an anchor out somewhere, please let me know and we'll get it on the calendar. In the meantime, stay safe, tend to your boat maintenance and wash your hands!

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

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## **Secretary's Report**

**Cyndi McDermott, Secretary**

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

I'm missing everyone! Here's to the hope that May brings more boating and some opening of restrictions that will allow us to meet. I have been doing some sailing and really enjoying it but my trawler hasn't been away from the dock in a while. Sailing Angels activities are still on hold as well. The May meeting is still on the calendar, we will see if we are able to have it, I'm sure some format adjustments will be needed. Hopefully we will be announcing that soon.

Please welcome our newest members, Robert and Camille Morrison. If you see them around say hello!

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](mailto:cyndismcde@yahoo.com).

***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)

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***

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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 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](mailto:Newsletter@TexasMariners.com)***

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