



September 2020



[At the Helm](#)

**Bryan Austin, Commodore**

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

This is your Commodore Speaking,

I'm excited to say I have made my first Gulf crossing; from Florida to Texas. Cindy and I joined Travis and Tara Townsley and four others on their newly purchased Royal Cape Majestic 53 catamaran. We departed Ft Lauderdale and made it to Key West the following day. We couldn't avoid catching some lobster traps on the props and rudders; however, we were greeted with five fresh lobsters. We stopped at The Dry Tortugas for a day. What a unique place. Our trip across the Gulf was generally peaceful with light winds and near-calm seas. We caught some fish including yellow-tail snapper, mahi-mahi, kingfish and barracuda. We probably sailed 10% of the time, motor-sailed 40% of the time and motored 50% of the time. With that much motoring, fuel management became an issue. With the approaching storms

(Laura and Marco), we didn't have time to just go slow. We stopped at Grand Isle for fuel at the Sand Dollar Marina. The owners stayed open and met us at 9:00pm to help get us refueled and back on our way. We made it to Kemah just in time to prep the boat (and then our own boat) for hurricane Laura.

Several observations from the trip. First, there are lobster traps everywhere from Miami to Key West in the Hawks Channel during lobster season (which opened one week before our departure). Running at night is not advised. However, if you do, you should employ my approach which was "if you don't look for them, they aren't there". Second, find a way to go to The Dry Tortugas. Fort Jefferson and the mote around it consumes the entire island. We were spoiled with near calm wind and seas. Spectacular place. Three, SiriusXM Weather is very beneficial when away from coastal connectivity. We were able to see nearby weather systems and their track as well as 36-48 hr grib weather forecasts. Four, if you want to use PredictWind for updated weather and current routing information away from shore, use the Iridium Go tracker which includes a seamless connection to PredictWind. Five, I believe there are about 50% fewer rigs off the Louisiana coast than what are displayed on the charts (Navionics).

As our 2020 cruising season continues, we are still challenged with opportunities to gather, hold dock parties and enjoy the social side of our cruises. We are looking ahead at some big events that may be impacted such as the Allen's Landing cruise and the Commodores Ball. With our revenue from

membership renewal down a bit, we will have to make some fiscally smart decisions how to manage our expenses.

This is also the time of year when we start looking ahead to the nominations for the 2021 TMCA Board Members. Volunteering to be part of the Club leadership is an opportunity to get involved and shape the future. If you are interested in putting your name in the hat to be nominated for one of the Board positions, please contact me or one of the current members of the Board. We will announce the Nomination Committee very soon.

Stay safe, boat smart...

***Bryan Austin***  
***TMCA Commodore, 2020***

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

**Bryan Mason, Vice Commodore**

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

Our next monthly meeting could possibly be on Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at the Elks Lodge, 623 Hanson Road, in Kemah, or at the El Lago Community Center. However, given the crazy times, who knows! Any changes will be communicated beforehand.

Socializing and dinner orders will begin at 6:00 pm, business meeting begins at 7:00 pm and the presentation to follow if we meet at the Elks Lodge, otherwise stay tuned for the alternative meeting site. Our guest speaker may be our own Phil Geren, or not. Phil could possibly perform a creative demonstration on boat docking. It may be a great time, or not happen at all! Who knows?

If there are people with concerns of gathering, please feel free to spread out and wear a mask, glove up, goggle up or whatever makes you feel safe and happy, as we all know there is plenty of

room at the Elks club to physical distancing.

I hope to see ya'll there.

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

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**[The Social Scuttlebutt](#)**

**Cindy Austin, Rear Commodore**

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

Hey TMCA!!

Happy September! We have some cruises scheduled again- YAY!!! Feels like we may be turning a corner.

Not sure what to do about the Commodore's Ball!!!! We could order designer masks that match our formal attire I guess. Not sure if we can even dance so not sure a band is required. I am forming a steering or ball committee. We can meet via Zoom meetings or if you are in the area, we can safely meet in person while observing safety. Send me a text by September 15th if available/interested to participate.

Until then, be safe and cheers to your health!

***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 its September already!!! This year has surprisingly flown by. It has been a year to remember, but I would just as soon forget. No upcoming dock parties to speak of. Just a reminder that the September dock party that we all looked forward to at Cyndi's house has been canceled due to.... wait for it.... yes once again, Covid-19. I wanted to personally thank those that went out to Nassau Bay two weekends ago, as it was a hot but beautiful time to be out on the water. My husband and I went out Friday night and unfortunately our generator decided to act up so we left Saturday morning. Living aboard, I didn't want to risk losing my freezer. If it wasn't for the Eisele's letting us crash their v-berth, I'm sure we would have left Friday night. So thank you Jim & Catherine on "End of the Rode" for lending out your air conditioned, comfy room. It was much appreciated! I am so thankful most of us were out of harm's way of the past two hurricanes but my prayers are with those in East Texas and Louisiana. To our TMCA members that live in those areas, remember we are all a big family and we are here willing and able to help. Please let us know how.

Until we can meet and greet, please everyone stay safe.

***Lori Grissom***  
***Port Captain 2020***

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## [The Cruise Corner](#)

**Jean Mason, Cruise Captain**

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

As I write this, we are just a few days past what could have been a devastating landfall of Hurricane Laura here on Galveston Bay. As it stands, we dodged a bullet, and most are wondering how we can help our neighbors to the east recover from this weather event. We all got in some practice and a dress rehearsal for our potential turn at weathering a big storm. Let's all remember what we did so that in the event we must prepare again, we have all the necessary supplies and knowledge to protect our property. And remember, we still have 2 more months to go until Hurricane Season is officially over.

However, with that being said, we are coming up to some great cruising weather, and we have some great cruises planned.

Labor Day Cruise to Moody is our next planned event and it should be a great time, as always. Sept. 5-7 will find us "Laid Back and Lazy"! Sounds wonderful...who's in! Please sign up on the web site and get on the waiting list if full. Or, plan to anchor out in any of the good spots in and around Offats Bayou.

Sept. 11-13 we be off to **Magical Mystery Cruise** to GYB & FAB 5 (Beatles Tribute Band) concert at Saengerfest Park. Sign up is open on the TMCA web site.

More details will be coming, but cut check out the calendar for other events, like the GBCA/TMCA/Sailing Angels Regatta on Sept. 26. And the Redfish Kite Festival Sept 26-27.

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

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## Secretary's Report

**Cyndi McDermott, Secretary**

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

Hello everyone! Hope everyone is looking forward to the long Labor Day weekend and possibly some cooler weather coming in next week.

We are up to 419 members! Several people have joined over the last couple months despite our ability to have our regular social calendar. Please welcome them to TMCA!

Matthew and Ashley Beer  
Timothy and Patricia Boudreaux  
Daniel and Beth Carroll  
Mike and JeanAnn Dobbs  
Bernard and Ebony Goudeau  
Shane and Tanya Hoevelman  
Willian Howze

Micheal and Kelly Johnston  
Gailard and Annette Kunkle  
Kevin Laukaitis  
Sherry Marshall  
Gary Moates  
Jeffrey Richard  
James and Cathy Rylands  
Lee Taylor

If you have friends or boat neighbors that aren't members please tell them about us and encourage them to join. Always nice to have some new faces at our activities! The easiest way to join (or renew) is via the website, [texasmariners.com](http://texasmariners.com) . 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)**

Hey TMCA members!

Looks like Hurricane Season is here, so it's a good time to use up all the bottled water, canned goods, sanitizing products, and toilet paper that we stocked up for the virus. I went to HEB last week and was shocked to find the paper goods aisles were fully stocked for the first time! But elastic is still in short supply for homemade masks, you can't buy a bicycle at Academy, and you are really out of luck if you are in need of a puppy to help you deal with all the stress. The waiting lists for dogs are out to 2021. I am fortunate to have my 17 year old doxie, and she doesn't mind the extra petting right now.

The funds for the club are in excellent shape. Membership dues, the main source of income, are still strong, which shows the appeal of a club like ours that can get out on the water and enjoy the day. Take care everyone, and see you soon.

***Meade LeBlanc***  
***Treasurer***

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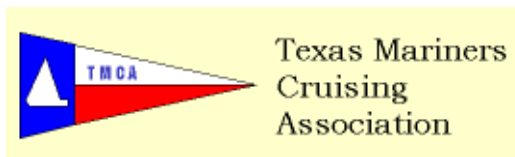
[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

**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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