

# The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

<http://www.tmca.nu>

**August 2013**



## **At the Helm**

**Steve Lee, Commodore**

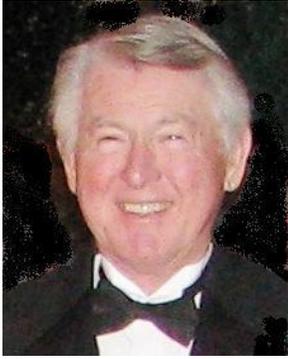
[email: comm@tmca.nu](mailto:comm@tmca.nu)

I hope everyone is doing fine and enjoying the summer. I believe we are having great summer so far, it's been hot, but not as hot as it could be! As we are in the middle of Hurricane season I hope you all are prepared in case Mother Nature sends one our way. An easy thing to overlook is the condition of your dock lines. They were in good shape this time last year but it has been another year of sitting out in the sun. Do you have another good set ready to add, to double up with, if needed? Are you prepared to remove all your canvas and sails on short notice? I hate to ask these all questions but it is a subject we should all be prepared for.

As we are talking safety I would like mention another topic that can be easily overlooked but has the potential to cause you more problems than you want to deal with. For the past few months I have been aware that my batteries would take a little longer than normal to charge after returning to the dock from a day out on the bay. These batteries were 4D gel cells and were only a little over three years old, so they were well within their expected life span. Over the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend we took Waltzing Matilda to Galveston and in true TMCA style we motored all the way there! I noticed that the house bank voltage was 14.2 VDC while under engine power. After we arrived and connected to shore power at Moody Gardens marina the charger stayed at 'charge' level for a long time then went to 'accept' and stayed there for about six hours before going to 'float' which is just a trickle charge. Also the batteries were very hot to the touch. After they went to 'float' they cooled off. Now we had to get home and as the wind gods would have it we had to motor all the way (again), with the alternator charging all the time. By the time we arrived in Kemah the batteries were extremely hot and I was lucky that one didn't explode! I shut off the charger and gave them a chance to cool down overnight. The next morning I was at West Marine and ended up replacing them with three brand new 4D AGM's. The moral to this story is keep an eye on your batteries and watch out for any change in the normal routine of charge times and don't let things get as dangerous as I did. I suspect that one of the batteries shorted out internally and drew down the voltage to a point where the charging system over-charged the other batteries causing them to fail.

*Steve Lee,  
Commodore*

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## **The Corner of Vice**

**Jerry Grooms, Vice Commodore**

Email: [vcomm@tmca.nu](mailto:vcomm@tmca.nu)

August and the Dog Days of Summer, my how quickly the year has gone by. It's been a lot of fun working with the program presenters and we have a few more before the run is through.

August will have a mystery guest to tell our future, crystal ball included!

September promises a look at the lower portion of the Great Loop and some Island hopping.

During our election count at our October meeting we will have a presentation by (I won't say "old timers") by sailors who have seen some *interesting* events while on the briny waves. The way elections usually go this should add some (old) spice to the outcome.

Like one of our members said recently, "we may or may not make it to the Islands or even more remote place, but it is our dream!"

*Jerry Grooms,  
Vice Commodore*



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## **At The Port Report**

**Pam Gasper, Rear Commodore**

email: [rcomm@tmca.nu](mailto:rcomm@tmca.nu)

Our dock party is on Friday, August 2, at the home of Dan and Jennifer LaFon. Their address is 2234 Brae Lane in League City. Bring your meat to grill, a dish to share, chairs, and your beverage of choice. Paper goods are provided and the grill will be hot at 6 pm. Please do not have glass in the pool area. This is their first dock party to host so let's all show our support and come on out for a great evening. If you have any questions, contact Dan at 832-221-0149.

The big party for August is the Toga Party at Harbor Walk on Saturday, August 10 in conjunction with the Past Past Commodore's Cruise. For more information, contact Karen Chappell at 281-222-1426.

Is Saturday, September 28 marked in big letters on your calendars? TMCA will be celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we want you to be there. We will be partying at the Nassau Bay Pavilion. Barbecue will be provided by TMCA and cooked to perfection by the Bottom Feeders. Bring a dish to share, lawn chairs, and your beverage of choice. All paper goods, tea, and ice will be provided as well. Ben Reyna (aka Senor Beans) will be our entertainer. The time? 2 pm – 10 pm

And speaking of the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, remember that our limited edition 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary burgees are available for sale at all TMCA events and parties. The cost is \$25 and the Commodore asks that you either pay with a check or exact change.

If you have any questions, ideas, or suggestions, please call me at 832-444-4751.  
Party on!

*Pam Gasper*  
*Rear Commodore*

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## **The Cruise Corner**

**Pieter Wybro, Cruise Captain**

email: [captain@tmca.nu](mailto:captain@tmca.nu)

We had three cruises planned for July, but one was cancelled due to potential weather concerns.

The Cajun Cruise de July 4<sup>th</sup> to Port Arthur, July 4-7 was cancelled because of a tropical storm brewing in the Gulf. This was to be a “test” cruise by our Commodore Steve for a potential Spring Fling 2014 at the Port Arthur Marina. It may be rescheduled, depending on the Spring Fling venue selected.

The Harborwalk Independence Weekend Cruise on July 5-7 was led by Ron Swatznya (his first as cruise leader), and nine boats participated. The report was that all had a great time.

The ‘Wonderful One Day’ Moses Lake Exploration took place on July 20. Jim and Doris Lee led a gang of small boats on Moses Lake, which is just south of Dickinson Bay, for a day of exploration and water battles. This cruise was great fun, and gave us the opportunity to use our smaller boats, test our naval waterfare strategies, and have some time to visit together.

I think August will be an exciting month for us, and there will be lots of on-the-water activities that will suit everybody’s tastes.

**‘Wonderful One Day’ San Bernard River Cruise Saturday August 3.** This TMCA classic is a fun-filled day for small boats cruising down the San Bernard River. We will trailer our boats to the river, cruise along the river and enjoy scenery and friends, and possibly fire some water weapons as we go. Lunch will be at the 2J restaurant on the river, and then we will go to the island to enjoy the river mouth beach on the Gulf. This is an absolutely a great trip you don’t want to miss. Call cruise leaders Ned and Jo Fitzgerald (281-732-8344 or [jbf3222@aol.com](mailto:jbf3222@aol.com) ).

**Past, Past Commodore Cruise/Roman Holiday to Harborwalk on Friday Aug 9-11, 2013.** This is a great cruise and a great party, led by esteemed past commodore Doug and Karen Chappell so you don’t want to miss this! We will celebrate Doug's second year as the past commodore. Harborwalk is a great cruise venue and one of TMCA favorites (TMCA has a special rate), and if you have not been there before, this is the time to sign up. The restaurant is open and the pool is refreshing. There are a lot of social activities planned such as a Toga Party on Saturday Aug 10<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Karen at 281 222.1426 ([karencchappell@yahoo.com](mailto:karencchappell@yahoo.com) ) or Doug at 281330.1163 ([doctruma1@hotmail.com](mailto:doctruma1@hotmail.com) ).

**Catfish Cruise to Bayland Marina Saturday August 17-18.** August is National Catfish Month and to celebrate it cruise leaders Christopher Bown and Jerry Simoneaux are planning an old fashioned catfish fry at Bayland Marina, which is about 9 miles north of Kemah. Enjoy a stroll through Bayland Park, fish off their lighted fishing pier, dingy up Goose Creek, or relax under the trees. Catch the sun setting just behind the Fred Hartman bridge chased by the rising 3/4 moon in the east. Enter the contest for Best Fishing Hat and win a prize or two. Be creative! This is a neat cruising destination and a great marina and will be relaxing and fun, so contact Jerry or Chris ([simonbown@gmail.com](mailto:simonbown@gmail.com) ).

**Gulp of the Gulf Cruise Friday August 23-25.** Most of our water time is on inland waters, but on this cruise we'll go offshore! This is a great opportunity for those with little or no offshore experience to go with a group of boats, and for anybody who likes to sail in open waters (powerboats included). We will rendezvous at Galveston Yacht Basin (or optionally anchor at the adjacent Teacup) on Friday afternoon. Saturday morning we will go out the jetties and day sail in the Gulf and experience relaxed open water cruising as time and conditions permit. We will return to GYB (or anchor at Teacup) and relax in the pool and other amenities. Saturday night we will join up for dinner at a local restaurant in Galveston, and Sunday we will return home. This will be good fun and good experience so contact Cruise Leader Rick and Valerie Stewart ([RStewart@argonenergy.com](mailto:RStewart@argonenergy.com) ).

**Labor Day Cruise to Moody Gardens Saturday August 31-September 2.** This is one of TMCA's favorite cruises. We have reserved all the slips for Moody Gardens this weekend, and a drawing for slips took place at the July General Meeting. Currently the slips are full, but there is a waiting list and of course the surrounding anchorage is always an option. There will be lots of activities that are still in the planning stage. Contact cruise leaders Al and Kay Waghorne (281-550-1723 or [kwaghorne@msn.com](mailto:kwaghorne@msn.com) ). Social Organizers Curtis and Diane Eddington are planning some great activities.

That's it for now. Be safe and see you on the water,

*Pieter Wybro,  
Cruise Captain*



## **Secretary's Report**

**Barbara Nickelson, Secretary**

email: [secretary@tmca.nu](mailto:secretary@tmca.nu)

Another month has literally flown by. It is July already, and we are over half way through 2013. I just can't believe it. This has been an exceptionally busy month for us. We had the dock party at our house earlier this month and then followed it the next night with the Fajita Fiesta Party. Rhonda Eckenroth, Pam Gasper and Roberta Netherly did a fabulous job on the party. It was so much fun. If you missed it, you missed a great night.

We just spent the last weekend at Moody Gardens. What a great venue!!! There is so much to do there. It is a great place to take your family and for such a bargain. They are having a two for one deal for the summer. You pay for one night at the marina and your second night is free. If you have at least five boats with you, you get to take advantage of the TMCA prices. We stayed for two nights for \$65 and had access to all of Palm Beach and the Pool. You just can't beat that anywhere. It is

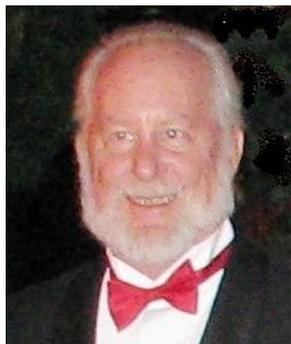
hard to find a venue that offers as much as Moody Gardens offers but then to get it all at that price is unbelievable. If you have never visited there, you must put that on your bucket list of things to do. Not only do you have pool and beach access, there are restaurants, movies, the Rainforest Pyramid and the Aquarium Pyramid and now they have the dinosaur exhibit (which our kids loved). There is so much to see and do; it really takes more than one weekend. We have been over there twice this summer and have one more trip planned. I just love it.

I hope you are all making plans to attend the Past-Past Commodores Cruise on August 9th to Harborwalk. That will also be a really fun trip. With all the crazy people that I have seen that are signed up for this cruise, it has to be a fun weekend. They are planning a Progressive Dinner on Friday night and then Saturday is the World Famous Toga Party!!!!!! Get your toga on and come join us. I promise you there will be lots of laughs that night.

Hope to see you on the water!!!!

*Barbara Nickelson,  
Secretary*

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## **Dollars And "Sense" from the Treasurer**

**Bob Nickelson, Treasurer**

[email: treasurer@tmca.nu](mailto:treasurer@tmca.nu)

The value of membership in TMCA continues to amaze me – the number one value and most appreciated are the friendships we develop and treasure within our organizations and those gained along the way. Another one we just experienced was our trip to Moody Gardens last week – we left on Friday with four other members and returned Sunday after a lot of fun in the sun, Palm

Beach & The Lazy River, bands in the sand, dancing (wobbling) on the dock, fireworks and a few beverages along the way – our TMCA cost for two nights was a total of \$65.00 –\$32.50 a night!!! What a deal.

Take advantage of your membership and join us for more fun & memorable adventures.

*Bob Nickelson,  
Treasurer*

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**[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)**

## 2013 TMCA Officers

Commodore:	Steve Lee, Waltzing Matilda	281-802-9838
Past Commodore:	Doug Chappell, Dock Trauma	281-330-1163
Vice Commodore:	Jerry Grooms, m/v La Vie Dansante	832-221-1962
Rear Commodore:	Pam Gasper, s/v Kefee	832-444-4751
Cruise Captain:	Pieter Wybro, s/v Marco Polo	281-635-0249
Secretary:	Barbara Nickelson , m/v Docktari	713-899-1098
Treasurer:	Bob Nickelson, m/v Docktari	713-826-7551

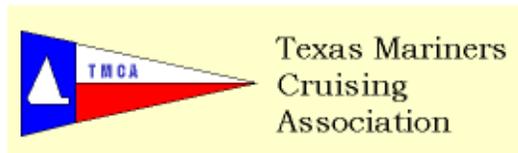
## 2013 TMCA Trustees

Trustee 2002 Commodore ~ Gloria Rooney, s/v *St. Somewhere*, 281-499-4413

Trustee 1984-85 Commodore ~ Wayne Christopher, s/v *Dolphin Dancer*, 281-761-4233

Trustee 1999 Commodore ~ J.J. Wallace, s/v *Gypsy Lady*, 832-347-6841

Trustee 2010 Commodore ~ Ron Eddleman, s/v *Stellar of Course*, 936-328-7361



***Please send any articles you would like included in the TMCA Mariner to TMCA Mariner Editor at [newsletter@tmca.nu](mailto:newsletter@tmca.nu)***

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