

The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

<http://www.tmca.nu>

December 2013



At the Helm

Steve Lee, Commodore

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

Winter has finally arrived! It's hard to remember just how hot the summer was when it's so cold and rainy as it is now. I wish we could bottle some of this weather and store it for some relief in the summer.

I would like to say how much I have enjoyed the past two years serving as your Commodore. This organization has so many great people and I have had the pleasure of working with just a few of them. I would like to thank you all for your support throughout each year; it has made my term very enjoyable.

Kudos to Phil Geren (2012) and Jerry Grooms (2013) for their knack of finding interesting and entertaining speakers for our meetings. I am indebted to

Marylou Clark (2012) and Pam Gasper (2013) for their dedication to their duties as Rear Commodore. In charge of the club's coffers have been the astute number crunchers, Martin Clark (2012) and Bob Nickelson (2013). And keeping the secretarial records in ship-shape order have been Neil Houser (2012) and Barbara Nickelson (2013). And how about the Cruise Captains, John Allison (2012) and Pete Wybro (2013), after all, they have guided one of the most important facets of our club – cruising! These are two very competent teams and they have all contributed to two very successful years, for which I am very proud. I was blessed with two fantastic boards of directors who jumped right in and did their jobs like the true professional they are.

There are also many key people that supported me with their efforts behind the scenes. Linda Schoene has worked very hard keeping the website up and running and is always available whenever there is a technical issue to be resolved. Susan Norwood made sure that the weekly newflash updates went out on time to keep us aware of what's happening for the upcoming week. As always, the Trustees were there with advice when needed. And then there is our one-and-only-PPC Doug Chappell who has always been there for me with good advice on any subject that arose, complicated or not. I value him not only for his counsel but as also as a loyal and supportive friend. In addition, there are so many volunteers who have stepped up and led cruises and hosted parties, manned booths, negotiated deals for our club, and so much more. Thank you everyone!

I am confident the operation of the club is going to be in very capable hands with Martin Clark and the incoming board for 2014.

***Steve Lee,
Commodore***



The Corner of Vice

Jerry Grooms, Vice Commodore

Email: vcomm@tmca.nu

Thanksgiving is over and Christmas and New Years are upon us! It has been a very good year and I appreciate both the programs we had and the response from our members. Most of the programs came from suggestions about topics you thought would be interesting to our Club.

The officers of TMCA 2013 have also been a big help in both proposing and implementing programs for the year. Some of our proposed programs may even flow over into next year. Mary Lou Clark is taking over the duties of Vice Commodore for 2014. She will do a terrific job and I'm sure all TMCA members and officers will help her just like the 2013 board helped me!

TMCA remains the most interesting and enthusiastic boating club on the Gulf Coast! One of our members said recently, "we may not make it to those far away exotic places we talk about, but still it's our dream and we are better off for dreaming big!" After all, this is Texas and it is the Land of Big Dreams!!

*Jerry Grooms,
Vice Commodore*



At The Port Report

Pam Gasper, Rear Commodore

email: rcomm@tmca.nu

December 2013. How did it get to be December 2013 so quickly? It doesn't seem so long ago that I was watching Barb Dupuy chase beads in February at the Fishtales Mardi Gras party on the seawall in Galveston. Huge thank you's to each of you who hosted a themed dock party, non-themed dock party, or a seasonal themed event party. I am grateful to those of you who opened your homes to host parties.

Our 35th anniversary party in Nassau Bay was wonderful and an opportunity to mingle with lots of old and new members. Linda Schoene's Top Ten list was a hoot. Thanks to the committee members who made that party look easy. Thanks to the Bottom Feeders, who always come through when asked. And our own Energizer Bunny, Charles Parette, who never waits to be asked.

The last Dock Party of the year will be this Friday, December 5. Members from all over will have the opportunity to come by land yacht to the beautiful village of El Lago where the annual Hot Dog Social will be hosted by [Linda Schoene](#) and Charles Parette. TMCA will be furnishing the hot dogs, so let Linda know if you'll be attending. The event will be in her back yard, the tiki bar will be open, and the fire pit burning. Wear your favorite tropical shirt and Christmas hat. As always, plates and utensils

will be furnished, bring a dish to share, beverage of choice, and your favorite bag chair. This is a great way to meet members, so we look forward to seeing you there!

So now it's December and time for **THE** party...the Commodore's Ball. You should have all received your invitations. If you did not receive yours: maybe your address is not correct in the directory; the neighbor's dog ate it; or the mailman forgot where you live –please call me. You won't want to miss this evening. Ladies and gents in their finery, fine dining, presentation of awards, and dancing the night away.....what a beautiful way to close out the TMCA year.

Date is Saturday, December 21 and the cocktail hour begins at 6 pm at Lakewood Yacht Club. Don't forget your seaman's boxes. The items requested to fill them is inserted in your Commodore's Ball invitation. Our goal is 100...to date I have delivered 42. What a wonderful thing we can do for those men who find themselves away from home and in Houston, Texas at Christmas.

Thank you for the opportunity I have had to serve. I knew that it would be a challenge, but so many of you helped me through the shallow waters. I only hope that I can mentor our next Rear Commodore, Bron Lee, as well as I was mentored by Mary Lou Clark.
Party on!

Pam Gasper
Rear Commodore



The Cruise Corner

Pieter Wybro, Cruise Captain

email: captain@tmca.nu

December is a busy time of the year. With the colder weather setting in and the Christmas holidays upon us with traveling and shopping, most of us will have limited time on the water. We are going to be gone most of the month to Austria and Hungary with a family get together mixed with skiing, winter activities and sightseeing.

Congratulations to Jim Lee, the newly elected Cruise Captain for 2014. The 2014 cruising calendar of events is being prepared for the planning meeting next month. The January planning meeting is one of the most important of the year. It's when the cruises and socials are discussed and next year's calendar starts to firm up and cruise leaders step up and volunteer. I encourage everybody to come to the meeting. Jim will announce the specific date and venue on Yahoo Groups and the TMCA web site.

It was a great pleasure for me to serve the club this year, and I thank the leadership of Commodore Steve and all the cruise leaders, co-leaders and all cruisers that made this another adventure filled year. Many of you stepped up to the plate and made my job a lot easier and made this another great cruising year for TMCA. We had 33 cruises this year out of a total of 43 we had planned, for a total

“time on the water” of 124 days. We went to some great destinations...some near and some not-so-near...some new, some old favorites, and some we have not visited in some time. I think everyone who participated had a great time being on the water and getting together with friends.

I know Jim Lee will make 2014 an exceptional year and will get great support. Barbara and I will be cruising to distant shores starting next year, so we will not participate in many TMCA cruising events next year, but I know it will be a great year for TMCA.

We had a good time on the water in November, and the weather was very cooperative.

- The “Halloween Cruise” to Double Bayou November 2-3. The Eddlemans and Jenkos led a small group of boats up the bayou to clean up and clear out the pasture for the French picnic later in the month.
- The “Chilly Chili” cruise to Oak Island on November 8-10 was led by commodore Steve and rear commodore-elect Bron. A big turnout and all the slips at Beason were filled with TMCA boats, the chili cooks competed for bragging rights and everybody had a great time together.
- The cruise to Cedar Bayou led by Philip Kropf on November 16-17. It has been six years since TMCA has done this cruise and a group of 5 boats ventured up the bayou to an anchorage where they rafted up for docktails and dinner together, and then split apart for the night. A good time was had by all who participated.
- The “French Picnic” cruise up the east fork of Double Bayou led by the Eddlemans and the Jenkos. At the time of writing, this looks to be a great cruise with fifteen boats participating and the weather forecast looks good.

This is my last newsletter for the year. I wish you a wonderful and safe Christmas season for you and your family.

*Pieter Wybro,
Cruise Captain*



Secretary's Report

Barbara Nickelson, Secretary

email: secretary@tmca.nu

It is **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL** time. We have received payments from several of you but we still have many that have not paid. Please get your payments in to me before December 31st. It is \$50 for a dual membership or \$35 for a single membership. You can go online to pay by PayPal with your credit card or you can pay with a check made out to TMCA and mailed to:

TMCA
P. O. Box 946,
Kemah, TX 77565

I would like to welcome our new members from the last month. We have had several new members sign up. I would like to offer a welcome to the following:

Susan Alexander

Daniel and Elizabeth Monticello

Frank Wilshusen and Julie Foley

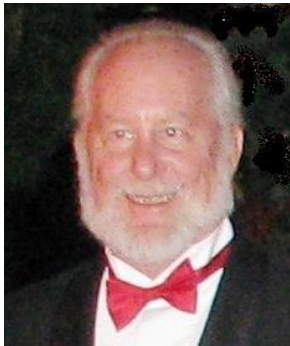
I hope you all are planning on attending the Commodore's Ball. I know Pam Gasper has worked very hard to plan an exciting and elegant evening. Please make plans to come as it should be a fun evening and a great way to cap off a great year for all of us.

Speaking of that I would like to personally thank all of you for making this a great year for Bob and I. We have made so many new friends and had so much fun. We did not get to make as many cruises as we would have liked but who did???? I would also like to thank you for your trust in me. I am honored to be your secretary for another year. I am looking forward to another year of fun cruises, dinners, and parties. I hope to see you all at some or all of them.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Your secretary,

Barbara Nickelson,
Secretary



Dollars And "Sense" from the Treasurer

Bob Nickelson, Treasurer

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

It's certainly been a fast year, both in our boating world and personal life. As the 2013 Treasurer, I have had a great time with our new boat friends I have come to know. Although we enjoy and look forward to all of the boat trips and parties, the greatest thing we treasure are the relationships we have built in the past year that will stay with us for years to come.

I look forward to serving as the 2014 Treasurer (think I've got it down now) and growing our circle of friends more. We will soon be transitioning into our new board and working on 2014 plans. I will be putting out a summarized Year End Treasurers Report in January (with actual numbers) and putting out the 2014 budget as soon as it is approved.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and as safe New Year!

Bob Nickelson,
Treasurer

[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

2013 TMCA Officers

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

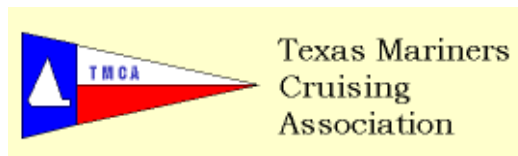
2013 TMCA Trustees

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

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