

Texas Mariners Cruising Association

The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

<http://www.tmca.nu>

February 2013



At the Helm

Steve Lee, Commodore

email: comm@tmca.nu

It looks like TMCA is getting 2013 off to a great start with over 40 cruises planned for the upcoming year. We had a very successful planning meeting last weekend, with a great turnout of over 60 members. There are only a few open dates left on the calendar and I am sure we will round out all available dates before long.

I would like to touch on a subject this month that we all hope we never have to become an expert on. I have had my boat four years now, use it all the time and also crossed the Gulf in it. Until lately I have not really ever checked out my emergency tiller. Recent events on the Harvest Moon Regatta made me check out my own readiness for rigging my tiller, if the need ever arose. I found that I was not as prepared as I thought I was and am glad I found this out while safely tied up to the pier, with a Home Depot nearby. I knew I had all the pieces and where they were stored but had never actually assembled them. I found I was short two bolts, one $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 6" and a $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 5". These are not items that one might necessarily have on the boat as spares and without them I don't think I could have made it all work. If you ever find yourself in trouble and need to rig your emergency tiller, it will not be in calm, peaceful circumstances! A little preparation now will pay off later and keep you from floundering in despair. This would be a great chance to inspect your quadrant and steering cables, and ensure everything is in good working order.

See you on the water,

***Steve Lee,
Commodore***



The Corner of Vice

Jerry Grooms, Vice Commodore

Email: vcomm@tmca.nu

Saturday morning the 26th a good sized number of TMCA members and Brand New Members met for Orientation. The Officers and specialty presenters helped with understanding what our Club is all about.

With the information made available and the interest shown by our Club Members the Annual Orientation appears to be headed for an annual event status. The pastries and coffee didn't hurt!

We have a very enthusiastic sailing and dock party schedule, the Orientation meeting helped us to understand what is involved and how our members can participate in the events interesting to them.

TMCA is truly a sailing and gathering club with something for everyone! To all members, "Welcome to another Great year of fun on and off the water!"

One final note:

With all the activities planned for 2013, we need to always be aware of safety on the water.

Commodore Lee reminded the meeting of our emphasis on safe boating operation! So have fun and be safe!

***Jerry Grooms,
Vice Commodore***



At The Port Report

Pam Gasper, Rear Commodore

email: rcomm@tmca.nu

Looking Forward from the Rear

I cannot say thank you enough to Mary Lou Clark! While I was exploring Southeast Asia she was attending to the Rear Commodore duties....lining up a great year for social events.

February 2 is our Mardi Gras party at Fishtales and the parade on the seawall. If you did not get your reservation in by the deadline, it's not too late to come join in the fun. There are typically some last-minute cancellations, and if not, you could sit with the general seating at the restaurant. Gentle reminder about parking: if you park in the paid parking lot at Fishtales, they will validate your parking ticket for three hours. After that, it is \$2 per hour.

The first dock party of 2013 is on Friday, February 8, and the home of Jim and Doris Lee in San Leon. Their home on the water is tailor-made for parties. Bring something to throw on the grill and a dish to share. Directions to their home will be posted in the near future.

February 23 is our now-infamous Bunko Party, which will be at the Elks Lodge. This year, our hostess is Kelly Hutchinson. Start time is 6 pm. Bring a pot of soup, chili, beans, cornbread or other bread. Power strips will be available for crock pots. Desserts will be provided by the officers and trustees. There is a cash bar, but iced tea will also be available. Rumor has it that our cocktail waiters from past years will again be there to serve you.

You don't need to know how to play bunko. It is a fast-paced, highly interactive game, and not for the squeamish. Some of our more seasoned players will practically rip those dice right out of your hands! This has become one of TMCA's most fun parties and you won't want to miss it. Prizes will be awarded.

Looking even a little further ahead:

Go ahead and mark your calendars for March. The dock party is on March 1 at Portofino Marina. Saturday, March 16, is the Marker 17 Fish Fry, hosted by Doc Molloy. You'll be regretting your decision if you miss this one!

Have a question or want to share an idea? I can be reached through Yahoo Groups. Or directly at pgasper690@aol.com and my cell number is 832-444-4751.

Party on!

Pam Gasper
Rear Commodore



The Cruise Corner

Pieter Wybro, Cruise Captain

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

We had a productive Planning Meeting on January 12. Without a headcount I estimate between 70 to 80 members present and it seemed like most contributed in one way or another, which is not a surprise considering these are TMCAers. We ended the meeting earlier than planned and with the makings of a great cruising and social calendar. Laid Back Dingy Cruise (Clear Lake)

We now have 40 cruises planned for 2013. This is a very good mix of short, medium and long cruises that have destinations in or near to Galveston Bay, nearby rivers and lakes, cruises up and down the Texas-Louisiana coast going inshore and offshore. Some of last year's popular cruises are repeated, but we also have some new cruises and destinations and some cruise destinations done in years past. A lot of new faces have stepped up as cruise leaders this year and for all these reasons I believe that everyone who participates will find 2013 to be an enjoyable year on the water!

We started the cruising year off on a great note in January and had our first destination cruise to Bayland. The weather was perfect for the sail up and return and we were blessed with a spectacular ambiance of a sunset like no other, delicious food, libations of course, and a warm fire and camaraderie. The marina graciously treated us to donuts and coffee in the morning.

A couple of on-water events are planned for February:

Those of you that want to compete in a friendly rum race, the **Fifth and final GBCA Icicle race is on February 2nd**. This race is about 8 nautical miles and has a staggered start between Markers 1 and 2 beginning around 1130 am. Contact Fern Quinones (713-398-4817) or Ron Eddleman (936-328-7361) ron_1056@yahoo.com if you want to participate.

Signup for the **Sweetheart Cruise to Houston Yacht Club on February 16-17**. Please note the venue has been changed because Harborwalk Restaurant has some issues. Bring your sweetie to this Sweetheart Cruise as there are plenty of slips still available. We will have docktails, a splash in the hot tub, and on Saturday evening the guys will get spiffed up for their lovely sweethearts and have a sumptuous buffet dinner at the HYC Clubhouse. If you cannot make it by water, come by land. Cruise leader: Pete Wybro (281-635-0249), pieter.wybro@gmail.com.

The **Easter cruise to Moody Gardens is March 29-31**, but the sign-up will be in February. To sign up, print out and fill in the Slip Reservation Request found on www.tmca.nu under this calendar event and write a check for \$130.00 (2 night minimum) and then mail both items to T.M.C.A. You may mail in anytime, but it must be received before the February General meeting on February 15. Mail to this address:

T.M.C.A. - Easter Cruise to Moody, P.O. Box 946, Kemah, TX. 77565

The Requests and checks can also be turned in at the February 15 General Meeting. A drawing will be held at this meeting for slip priorities and it is not necessary to attend to participate in the drawing. Those that are planning on anchoring out do not need to participate in the drawing nor send in money, but they need to advise the cruise leader that they will be "on the hook". On Good Friday, March 29th, we will leave Marker 2 around 8:00am for a motor/sail down to [Moody Gardens](#). Dinner is at the Strand area. Saturday morning is free for dinghy exploration in Offatts Bayou, maybe a lunch at Boudreaux, catch a movie at the IMAX or enjoy other entertainment at the Moody Gardens complex. Docktails at 5pm on the Dock, followed by a pot-luck shared dinner also on the Dock. Easter Sunday we will have Breakfast on the Dock. This has all the makings of a great extended weekend.

Cruise Leaders: Steve Lee ([\(281\) 802-9838](tel:2818029838)) and Pete Wybro

Social Leaders: Bron Lee ([\(281\) 844-0667](tel:2818440667)) and Barbara Montagnino

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)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

We are off to a great start in this New Year! The planning meeting went very well. I think we had at least a hundred people attend. We have 30 something cruises and I don't know how many parties to look forward to.

Membership is also coming along nicely. So far, we have 330 paid memberships. There are still roughly 200 unpaid members that I will be contacting. If anyone is interested in helping out with this task, I could sure use a hand. You can either email me at bnickelson@nhplc.com or call me at 713-899-1098.

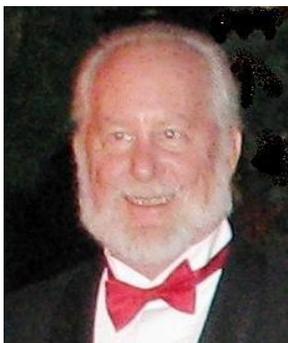
I would like to take this opportunity to extend a very heartfelt thanks to Neil and Kathy Houser for all of their help. They have walked me through every detail of my new duties as your secretary. They have been a tremendous help. I could not have made it without them. Thanks so much!!!

Those of you who were at the January meeting know that we have resurrected the door prize raffle. We will raffle off a door prize at each of our monthly meetings. We will use the money that we take in to purchase the prize for the next month. This should add a little more excitement to our meetings. February is looking like a very busy and fun month. We have an event every single weekend. There is the Yachty Gras Party down in Galveston, a dock party the next week-end, Harbor Walk cruise the next weekend and then the Bunko Party the last weekend.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the various events. Come join us and let's have some fun!!!

Happy Boating!

*Barbara Nickelson,
Secretary*



Dollars and "Sense" from the Treasurer

Bob Nickelson, Treasurer

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

January was a quick month with the transition from 2012 Board to this year's – I'm looking forward to a great 2013 for TMCA. From the Planning Meeting in January and working on the 2013 budget, my thought was "look at what you get for your membership dollar" – after planning numerous parties, events and cruises for 2013, someone at the meeting commented "we get ALL that for \$50, that's less than five dollars a month" – I agreed, we offer quite a value for our members, while also being associated with a number of great people.

We have a very good financial start in 2013 and with the budget plans, we should continue to cruise and party or party and cruise...you get the idea – I plan on doing both.

A Financial Note: “Don’t Gamble; Take all your savings and buy some stock and hold it till it goes up, then sell it. If it don’t go up, don’t buy it.” Will Rogers

*Bob Nickelson,
Treasurer*

[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 Docketari	713-899-1098
Treasurer:	Bob Nickelson, m/v Docketari	713-826-7551

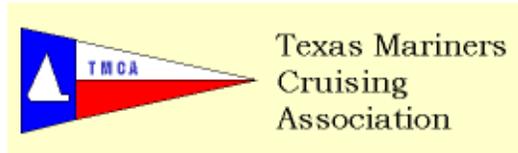
2013 TMCA Trustees

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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