

The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

<http://www.tmca.nu>

July 2013



At the Helm

Steve Lee, Commodore

email: comm@tmca.nu

What happened to all that mild weather we had for the first part of the year? It seems like we just jumped right into the hottest part of the year! It's too hot to do much of anything outside during the afternoon. That's too bad for all of you retired folks who sleep until noon every day, by the time you get up it's too hot to cut the yard or paint the house!! I have found that going out on the boat is good relief from the heat, as it always seems to be much cooler on the water.

I am sure many of you have heard of the Sailing Angels organization. TMCA has supported them through donations from the Spring Fling proceeds for the last two years. But what they really need is our support in the form of our time and our boats, to be able to offer short cruises for disabled adults, children and veterans. This past weekend I had my first experience with Sailing Angels, taking a family of four out for half a day. I had been looking forward to this day ever since I signed up for it and it turned out to be everything I thought it would be. The day started with Amy and her three kids, Hannah, Ann-Marie and little brother Tim arriving at my boat at 9:30 Saturday morning. After the talk about what to do and not to do and what to expect, we cast off for their first ever ride on a sail boat, it was even their first time to Kemah. Hannah took the helm while we were still in the marina and after a few words about the "red right returning" rule she guided Waltzing Matilda out of the Waterford Harbor channel and through the S turns. After meeting up with the other boats that were a part of the flotilla, we set the Jib and took a heading for San Leon. The weather was great and the wind 15k out of the south west... perfect. For the next three hours we went from one side of the bay to the other just enjoying the relaxing breeze and each other's company.

It was great seeing how much fun the kids were having learning how to keep the boat at just the right angle to the wind while at the helm and even turning the boat while coming about. The siblings spent a lot of time relaxing on the bow keeping a sharp lookout for the elusive dolphins. This was a fun sail for Bronny & me and the best thing was seeing the looks on the faces of the children as they enjoyed the day. I hope they will have some good memories of our adventure and remember some of the things they learned about boating. I look forward to doing this again soon. I hope some of you will consider signing up for a Sailing Angel cruise and have the opportunity to share the hobby that we enjoy so much with those less fortunate.

We seem to have a number of new members attending the monthly meetings and this is a very good thing. Since the next member orientation meeting is six months away, we have decided to use the time before the monthly meeting begins, to visit with any new members. Board members will be available to visit with new members and answer any questions about the club's activities, from 7:00pm – 7:30pm in the lounge area of the Elk's Lodge.

*Steve Lee,
Commodore*



The Corner of Vice

Jerry Grooms, Vice Commodore

Email: vcomm@tmca.nu

Here comes July and we are in the Hurricane season and note several disturbances in the Gulf. Our "experts" say this will be an active year for tropical storms. So with this in mind, we will hear from Todd Phillips an insurance specialist in marine coverage and out of country activities.

After the June meeting with Captain Phil Geren and his poem and song plus the beautiful pictures (Matilde); we will move to a few more sober thoughts about our cruising (or is it carousing).

Last, but not least - Portofino Harbour Yacht Club is having a Cardboard Boat Race August 24th. It's a great opportunity for TMCA members to help young sailors build and race boats (almost any thing that floats). They tell me you can get anything to float if you use enough Duck Tape! Any of the Portofino group can help with details, but there are very few.

*Jerry Grooms,
Vice Commodore*



At The Port Report

Pam Gasper, Rear Commodore

email: rcomm@tmca.nu

Wow! We are already half way through 2013. Our social events for the first half of this year have been lots of fun and well attended. We have donned our Mardi Gras regalia, our boots and cowboy hats, and our Irish green. We have partied hard at bunko, Noah's Ark, Bubba's Shrimp Palace, and every dock party. The rest of the year will only get better.

Here's what's ahead:

Friday, July 12 – Dock party at Bob and Barbara Nickelson's at 895 Davis Road. If you went to the dock party at the Wharf last month, just look for the signs on the other side of the street. You may come by boat or motor vehicle. The grills will be hot by 6. Bring whatever you want to throw on the grill, a dish to share, chairs, and your beverage of choice. If you need more information, contact Bob or Barb.

Saturday, July 13 – Fajita Fiesta party at Portofino. Hosted by Phil and Rhonda Eckenroth (with help from Mick and Roberta Netherly and Pam Gasper). This party promises to be an awesome event! Imagine yourself poolside, eating delicious Mexican fare, sipping your beverage of choice, and being serenaded with live music. The fun starts at 5 pm, with dinner being served at 6. This is a catered event, so reservations and payment in advance is required. Deadline for registration is July 6!! The cost is \$15 per person. Please make your checks made out to TMCA and mail them to:

Rhonda Eckenroth
5803 Lira
Manvel, Texas 77578

If you need more information, contact Rhonda at 281-222-6354.

Remember: NO GLASS containers at the pool!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 28. TMCA will be celebrating its 35th 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

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

Pam Gasper
Rear Commodore

The Cruise Corner

Pieter Wybro, Cruise Captain

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



We are in the summer “doldrums”, with lots of heat and not much wind. Statistically, July average wind speed is about 6.5 knots and comes from the South to the Southeast almost half the time. If you are out on the water, be safe from accidents but also be safe from the elements and be sure to keep well hydrated, out of the sun as much as you can, and protect yourself with adequate sunblock and head and eye protection. Remember, we get a lot more sun radiation because of the sun rays reflected on the water.

One of the greatest inventions in marine navigation safety is the AIS (Automatic Identification System). Almost all commercial vessels are required to have it, and more and more people are putting it on their pleasure boats. AIS allows one marine vessel to “see” all other vessels equipped with AIS within VHF range (about 20 miles) of their location and to transmit their vessel information to others with AIS. With AIS you can see the location of the other vessels and get a lot of information about them such as their name, speed, course, the type of vessel, where they are going, their MMSI number, and if a collision situation exists.

Before I had AIS, communication with tows and ships was a hit or miss. In or crossing the ship channel or ICW with a lot of traffic and not knowing specifically who was near me I could not communicate well with them to know what was around the bend, did they see me, how should I meet or pass them, can I get around them safely, etc. With my AIS I can hail the ship or tug by its name, know what speed they are going, or they can hail me by name, and we can communicate very nicely. So, my level of safety on the water has dramatically improved.

Barge and ship captains are very appreciative of pleasure boats with AIS transponders (to send information on your boat and to receive information on other boats). Many captains thank us for having it. IT IS A GREAT THING! If you don't have an AIS transponder, you should. It is not expensive (in the overall scheme of things on a boat), it is very easy to use, and is a tool no cruising boat should be without because it will make you and those around you much safer.

Last month there were six planned cruises:

The City Lights Cruise to Anahuac on June 1-2 was cancelled due to low turnout.

The Nassau Bay Raft-up, Sizzling Summer Start Part III on Saturday, June 8 was led by Karen and Doug Chappell. This great annual event had lots of boats, food and fun on the water.

Down Coast Cruise to Rockport and Beyond on June 10-27. Norm and Jan Odam led this magnificent cruise going from Clear Lake to Corpus Christi and back and visiting plenty of interesting places along the way. There were ten boats that participated.

The Allen's Landing Cruise scheduled for June 14-16 was unfortunately cancelled due to low turnout.

Howl at the Moon Cruise to Redfish on June 22-23 was led by Bob and Clare Perkins was a lot of fun for the nine boats participating in this anchor-out event.

Summer Sailstice Sailing Angels Cruise on June 29, 2013 was led by Pete and Barbara Wybro. This event was a perfect day cruise on Galveston Bay with Eight TMCA boats sailing for the Sailing Angels Foundation, an organization that introduces the joy of sailing to children and young adults with special cognitive and physical needs.

There are three cruises planned for July:

Cajun Cruise de July 4th to Port Arthur, July 4-7. Commodore Steve Lee is leading a cruise to the beautiful newly rebuilt marina at Port Arthur, which has over 300 floating docks, great air-conditioned facilities and also the nice Port Arthur Yacht Club. The tentative plan is to depart Clear Lake around midday on July 4th, anchor in Teacup Bay just outside GYB and watch the fireworks over Galveston that evening. An early departure on July 5th will hopefully head offshore, to Port Arthur. We will most likely head home on Saturday July 6th, route to be determined. To sign up or for more details, contact Steve Lee at (281) 802-9838 or email steve.lee371@gmail.com

Harborwalk Cruise July 5-7. This cruise will be to one of TMCA's favorite destinations with a nice marina, a great pool, live band and a great newly opened restaurant. Dr. Ron Swatznya will be leading this cruise. Anyone interested should call Harbor Walk (409-935-3737) as soon as possible to get one of the close slips, and let Ron know.

'Wonderful One Day' Moses Lake Exploration July 20. A wonderful fun-filled day of adventure exploring Moses Lake on dinghies and small boats. The day will begin at 'The Fish Spot' Restaurant (directions on the TMCA calendar) where we can put in by trailer. We will plan to leave 'The Fish Spot' around 10:00 am. There will be lots of water fights to stay cool as we meander up a couple of hours and then return for lunch at the Fish Spot. Bring lots of sunscreen, cold hydrating beverages, and did we say water guns, water cannons, buckets or whatever can to help others stay cool. Call Jim or Doris Lee at 281-559-1426 or sign-up on an upcoming Yahoo Group Post.

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

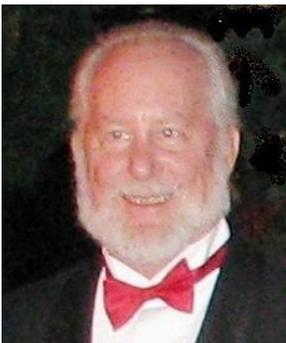
The year is half over and I can't believe it. It seems like the older I get the faster the time flies. Especially when I am having fun which happens a lot with this group. Bob and I were on vacation and missed the dock party hosted by the Volls and the Clarks. Everyone that I talked to that attended said it was a great party. Sorry we missed it.

We just returned from our trip on the Erie Canal. We had so much fun and I highly recommend it to anyone who wants to see another part of the country by water. We rented a canal boat out of Rochester, New York and cruised west all the way to Niagara Falls (and no we did not take the boat to the falls). We stopped at all the small towns along the canal. At some we stopped for lunch or breakfast, at some we had dinner and spent the night. You have to stop by 6:00 because the locks and bridges are not open after that. The facilities are wonderful on the canal. You can just pull in and park usually right in the middle of town. Sometimes there was a charge (the most was \$25 a night) but a lot of times it would be free. All but one place that we stayed had electricity and their small fees included the electricity. Most places had very clean bathrooms with showers. The very best part of the trip though, was the people. We met some of the nicest people. And we found some great restaurants along the way. The whole trip was just a fabulous experience. So much history and the most beautiful cathedrals and churches and unusual flowers and foliage and never a piece of litter anywhere. It was just amazing. Everyone should take the time to make this trip to see where and how our country was formed. The story of the Erie Canal is very interesting.

But for now, I must get back to business. Please welcome new member Ed Curtis, s/v Mallard. And Mark Harrison and Mary Andersen, m/v Making Memories, renewed their membership. Let's welcome them back. Our total membership now stands at 487.

We are looking forward to doing some cruising in the warmer waters. It was 50 degrees when we were up in New York so we are now adjusting back to Texas weather. Hope to see you on the water or at some of the parties coming up next month. Bob and I will be hosting the dock party on July 12th and hope that you all will come. Bring something to grill, a dish to share, your adult beverage and a chair. Have a great month.

*Barbara Nickelson,
Secretary*



Dollars And "Sense" from the Treasurer

Bob Nickelson, Treasurer

email: treasurer@tmca.nu

Not a lot to report in area of "bean counting" this time of year – we did close out the Spring Fling accounting and we had \$ 5,000 left for donations to The "100" Club and Sailing Angels – most of the activity in the TMCA operations are member funded cruises during the summer- membership revenue is also slow right now – bank balances are good and all revenues/expenses are within our planned 2013 budget.

"The older I get, the more wisdom I find in the ancient rule of taking first things first. A process which reduces the most complex human problem to a manageable proportion." Dwight Eisenhower – or in boat language – get thru the channel to the marina first and then worry about getting in the slip – one I often reverse – Happy Boating

*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

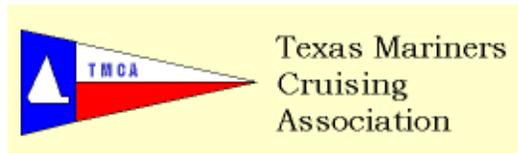
2013 TMCA Trustees

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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