

# The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

<http://www.tmca.nu>

**June 2013**



## **At the Helm**

**Steve Lee, Commodore**

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

The year is half over now but it seems like we've already done a year's worth of cruises and parties! It must be all the beautiful spring weather, which lasted longer than usual. As I write this article over Memorial Day weekend, it feels like summer has arrived! ...HOT HOT HOT. I hope everyone has their air-conditioning in good working order!

I would like especially to thank Tom & Debora Taylor and all of the volunteers who worked so hard to organize and put on the 2013 Baytown Spring Fling. For all of you who were there, thanks for coming and help make the event the wonderful success that it was. If you weren't able to come you really missed a great party and maybe you will make the next one. I know we made a great impression on all the boat owners who were not (yet) TMCA members, starting with the fantastic Docker Dudes who were always in position to catch your lines upon arrival. The Dudes were assisted by the miniature push boats (that looked a lot like dinghies), to help keep boats from getting sideways in the fairways.

On shore we had a great layout of tents with quite a few vendors and many seminars throughout the day. We had Guyve with Stonefish Marine to dive on any boat that took advantage of this complimentary inspection to let you know how everything below the waterline is doing. On Saturday night he had a drawing to give away a one year free bottom cleaning. On the docks it looked like everyone was having a great time and were getting to know new friends and catching up with old ones. Thanks to Jerry and Christopher for using their boat s/v Tradewind for the life sling demonstration with Clare Perkins hoisting Jerry from the murky waters of Bayland Marina. Following dinner on Friday night we had our own Phil Eckenroth's band "Hotline" playing and on Saturday night we had the Navigators playing. Thanks to the City of Bay Town for supporting us and making it possible to hold our event at Bayland Marina. There were so many folks who contributed to the success of Spring Fling, too many to remember (C.R.S. has set in!), please know that your efforts, time and energy were GREATLY appreciated. It was truly a team effort. All in all I think we had a great Spring Fling this year and Bayland Marina was a great place to hold it.

I am looking forward to the second half of the year and will be hoping to see many members, old and new, at the Monthly meetings, Dock parties and upcoming cruises. Be safe, and let's all have fun this summer.

***Steve Lee,  
Commodore***

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## **The Corner of Vice**

**Jerry Grooms, Vice Commodore**

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

We're almost half way through the 2013 TMCA year. We have had some really great activities and events. TMCA will always be an Association of people doing new and exciting activities. Me, when I lived in Kentucky and didn't know a bow from a stern (because they don't do much sailing in KY.) There wasn't much chance to get out on the water with others who felt as I did. I still get asked by some of those folks when I mention boating, "do you do much fishing?" Because that's about the only reason to go near water in those inland areas.

TMCA is the largest and greatest sailing association on the Gulf Coast, thanks to sailors like ours! We're going to make the second half of 2013 just a great as the first half and celebrate our Birthday along the way!!!

*Jerry Grooms,  
Vice Commodore*



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## **At The Port Report**

**Pam Gasper, Rear Commodore**

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

Warmer weather has arrived and although it's not official it looks like summer is here. Trade in your jackets and jeans for shorts and flip flops, and come to the Aloha Dock Party on Friday, June 7. Festivities begin at 6 pm at the Wharf (Davis Road). According to our hosts, the Clarks and the Volls, wear something Hawaiian; bring a dish to share, a dish to grill, your beverage of choice, and lawn chair. Six boat slips have been secured for anyone choosing to come by boat. The swimming pool will also be available. It sounds like a great evening you won't want to miss. Contact Mary Lou Clark (281-435-7428) or Diane Voll (713-539-2382) if you need more information.

Coming up in July:

Friday, July 12 – Dock party at Bob and Barbara Nickelson's

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. 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

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 28. TMCA will be celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we want you to be there. More details next month.

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 are now well into the 2013 cruising season, and TMCA has some great cruises on tap this month. Before I get into that, I'll point out that we are also coming into the "hurricane season" which officially starts June 1. What does that mean for us? It means that we need to have a plan in place to prepare our boat should the need arise. There is a lot of information on how to prepare, and BoatUs has a site that is very informative, click [HERE](#) . West Marine has used this information and compiled a very good video on Hurricane Preparation, click [HERE](#) . We need to have a plan in place now, because the last thing you want to do is scurry around and be unprepared when a storm is imminent. Remember, Murphy is always there when you don't expect him.

On the Lake Charles cruise last month, the group did some anchoring on the way over and back, and one evening we encountered some high winds which made it somewhat challenging. TMCA has cruises coming up that involve anchoring, and I know some of our members are not comfortable "on the hook". All of us should be knowledgeable about anchoring, because even if you don't like to anchor, you may be in a situation where there are no other options, so be prepared by clicking [HERE](#) . There are four parts to this, and all are very useful, so check this out and then put it to practice on your boat.

We had five cruises in May, and one cancelled due to weather:

The Lake Charles Cruise from April 26 to May 5 was led by Ron and Linda Gerdes and it was a great success. Ten boats participated and all had a great time on the water getting there and back and we experienced the restaurants, Contraband Days festival, exploring the town and bayous, some "payed" our respects to the local casinos, and we all spent some quality time together.

The Noah's Ark Anchor Out on April 27<sup>th</sup>, led by J.J. Wallace, was less of a cruise because of weather. Most importantly, the party was a great success and a large group had a good time without bringing the roof down.

The May 4-5 Cinco de Mayo Cruise to Beason Park was unfortunately cancelled due to weather. This had all the makings of a great cruise planned by Ken and Kelly Hutchinson, and hopefully will be one for next year.

The signature TMCA Spring Fling event on May 17-19 was led by Tom and Debra Taylor and was a great success at Bayland Marina. This was the third year of this classic TMCA event, and the first one at Bayland with over 85 boats participating. Net proceeds of this event benefitted local charities.

As of this writing, the Memorial Day Weekend at Moody Gardens on May 25-27 should be perfect weather, with all slips filled and some on a waiting list. This has always been one of the most popular cruises of the year, led by Josh and Barb Wallach.

The Cajun Cruise de Lune on May 24-27 is a new exploratory cruise led by Chris Bown and Jerry Simoneaux ([jerry@simoneaux.com](mailto:jerry@simoneaux.com)), and as of this writing the weather should have been perfect. The cruise destination in the heart of Texan Cajun country is the newly refurbished Port Arthur Yacht Club and Marina. We look forward to their report.

For June we have a lot of great cruises that should suit all tastes.

**Nassau Bay Raft-up, Sizzling Summer Start Part III** on Saturday, June 8 will be led by Karen and Doug Chappell. They will leave Portofino at 11:00am for Nassau Bay. This is a fun day on the water, and you can come by dinghy, canoe, kayak, jet ski, power boat, sailboat, or whatever suits your fancy. We will raft in groups of 5 and bring lunch items to share, your beverages of choice, and your floats or rafts. A conga line is planned where everyone gets on a float, we connect them together in tandem and have a dinghy lead us around the cove. Karen [281.222.1426](tel:281.222.1426), [karencchappell@yahoo.com](mailto:karencchappell@yahoo.com).

**Down Coast Cruise to Corpus** on June 10-27. Norm and Jan Odam are leading this magnificent cruise going from Clear Lake to Corpus Christi and back and with lots of stops along the way. An outline of this cruise is posted on the TMCA calendar on the website. You are most welcome to join us for all, or any part of the cruise, depending upon what suits you. Whatever you decide, this is always a fun trip! Norm and Jan Odam, [jnodam@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jnodam@sbcglobal.net)

**Howl at the Moon Cruise to Redfish** Saturday, June 22, 2013.

Come out for a day of fun and sailing, ending at Redfish Island. We'll anchor out, dinghy in, and have a bonfire with expired koozie sacrifice and a howl at the full moon.

Contact : Bob and Clare Perkins [txperkins@att.net](mailto:txperkins@att.net)

**Summer Sailstice Sailing Angels Cruise** June 29, 2013 from 10:30am to 1:00pm. This event will be part of the worldwide Summer Sailstice. Although the summer solstice is June 21, this will be a special cruise on Galveston Bay that will be enjoyed by some very special people as guests on the TMCA boats (sail and power) that participate. We will be doing this cruise with the Sailing Angels Foundation, an organization that introduces the joy of sailing to children and young adults with special cognitive and physical needs, and to our Wounded Warriors and their families who have gallantly served and sacrificed so much in our behalf. Please consider being a part of this, and give the joy of

being on the water to those who really need and deserve it. Please contact Pete Wybro [pieter.wybro@gmail.com](mailto:pieter.wybro@gmail.com)

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

*Pieter Wybro,  
Cruise Captain*

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## **Secretary's Report**

**Barbara Nickelson, Secretary**

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

For those of you who missed out on Spring Fling, you missed a fabulous weekend. We owe a debt of gratitude to Tom and Deborah Taylor and all of the other volunteers for all the hard work that they put into making it such a success. Other than a little wind the first day, it was really picture perfect. The bands both nights were great. Thanks to Luna's and to Allan's Swamp Shack for their contribution of the food. I think everyone had a wonderful time. I

haven't heard if it is going to happen again next year but I guarantee you that I will be there if it does. Bayland Marina was a great venue. This was the first time Bob and I had been to Bayland. We were very impressed with the facilities. It would be nice if they could get a restaurant back where Ninfa's used to be.

Our membership is steadily growing as we are now at 484 paid members. Please welcome the new members that have joined since last month. They are as follows:

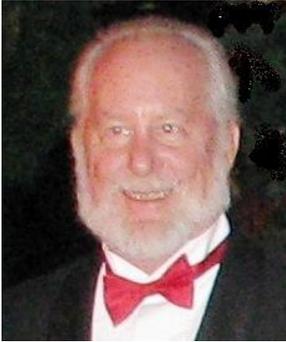
- 1) Bill and Pam Merrill (Home)
- 2) Eldon and Carol Robison (Waterford Harbor)
- 3) Jon and Angela Leichliter (Watergate)
- 4) Tom Sarpolus and Barbara Kelly (Nassau Bay Canal)
- 5) Ed and Dawn Gibler (Sea Gate)
- 6) Paul Kreter and Wanda Meeks (Marina Bay Harbor)

Bob and I are very busy getting ready for our Erie Canal trip. Hopefully we will have many adventures to share when we return. We are so excited. We have never had the opportunity to travel in that area so it will be all new for us. Let's just hope the adventures do not include running aground, running out of gas or driving the boat through a forest.

Safe Boating to all of you and we will see you when we return.

*Barbara Nickelson,  
Secretary*

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

**Bob Nickelson, Treasurer**

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

Spring has sprung, Fling has Flung, another Spring Fling in the books and a good time was had by all – even a visit by "Willie". Still tabulating all the numbers, so I do not have the "bottom line" at this time – all preliminary numbers looks like close to \$ 5,000 TMCA will contribute to charities – "Great job" to Tom & Debora Taylor and all the volunteers for their efforts.

TMCA's financial condition is still very strong and incomes are above predicted levels due to increased membership sales – all expense items are within our 2013 budget.

Time for the wind to slow down (spoken as a power boater) and trips to be made.

Good summer to all and be safe out there.

***Bob Nickelson,  
Treasurer***

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

### **2013 TMCA Officers**

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

## 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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