

Texas Mariners Cruising Association

# The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

<http://www.tmca.nu>

**March 2013**



## **At the Helm**

**Steve Lee, Commodore**

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

We are off to a great start this year with a couple of really fun parties and cruises under our belt. The plans for the Spring Fling are coming along fine under the leadership of Tom Taylor and a group of great committee people. I would like to give everyone some insight into the decision behind the change in location. We have settled on Bayland Marina in Baytown for the location this year. The cruise will be shorter than going to Freeport but having it here will showcase the newly re-built Bayland Marina and help them spread the word that they are back in business and ready to fill up their slips with new tenants. Walk in attendance should be greater and the logistics of putting on the event will be easier. Also we will be helping our local economy.

The Southwest International Boat Show later this month at South Shore Harbor Marina, will be another great event. TMCA will have a booth at the boat show this year and we will need volunteers to man it. The show will run from Thursday March 21<sup>st</sup> through Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup>. If you would be interested in manning the booth, please contact Gloria Rooney. This will be a great opportunity for us to spread the word about TMCA, and hopefully recruit new members. Also we will be able to advertise the upcoming Spring Fling and promote it among the local boating community. See you on the water,

*Steve Lee,  
Commodore*

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## **The Corner of Vice**

**Jerry Grooms, Vice Commodore**

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

Friday night's General Meeting will be highlighted by a presentation from West Marine with lots of valuable information about getting your boats ready for the cruising season.

In addition to eliminating problems and making the equipment run like a kitten's purr, another spring activity is the "Vessel Safety Inspection." The Power Squadron was out this last weekend and will continue inspections for several weeks. Commodore Lee can put you in touch with the inspectors and the whole process takes about 15 minutes. It's free and the sticker has caused many of us to be passed up by the Coasties, etc. as they make their rounds.

Let me know if you have a program of interest to TMCA. See you Friday night!

*Jerry Grooms,  
Vice Commodore*



## **At The Port Report**

**Pam Gasper, Rear Commodore**

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

Looking Forward from the Rear

March's weather is often referred to as "in like a lion, out like a lamb". TMCA is following suit by starting off the month with a rip-roaring Boot Scootin' dock party at Portofino on Friday, March 1. A little cool weather doesn't stop sailors and boaters from celebrating the Houston rodeo season. Call or email me if you have not already signed up and would like to attend.

Calling all ladies: Saturday, March 9 is the WOW –Women on the Water -- Classroom Edition (not to be confused with the WOW –women-in-boats-if-the-men-want-to-participate-they-have-to-wear-a-bra-edition). Marion Herndon and Carolyn Jenko will be leading this informative, hands-on workshop. The workbooks have great information whether you are a novice on your boat or the admiral. The session begins at 9 am at the Elks Lodge and ends when everyone can tie their assigned knot. Continental breakfast will be served.

March 17 is our St. Pat's Fish Fry at Marker 17, also known as Oak Island. Doc and Monica Mulloy are your hosts. TMCAer's will be arriving by boat, motor home, and car. The festivities will begin when people wake up/arrive, and the fish plates will begin serving at 5 pm. Cost is \$15 per head, payable in advance (check made out to Marker 17 and mailed to Doc Mulloy, 311 Lakeview Circle, El Lago, Texas 77586) or at the event, if you have RSVP'd. Doc can be reached via email: [wmulloy@aol.com](mailto:wmulloy@aol.com) or phone: 713-906-3952. Don your green!

Looking further ahead:

April's dock party will be at the Jenko's on Friday, April 5. Bring something to throw on the grill, a dish to share, your preferred beverage, and chairs. Directions to their home will be posted in the near future.

April 27 is promising to be a great afternoon at Noah's Ark. There will be a raft-up on the water, and then dining on Noah's new covered upstairs deck. JJ Wallace and Dave Robinson are leading this adventure, and, judging by the number of boats already signed up, this will be a lot of fun. Don't want to come via water? Land yachts are welcome to join on the deck.

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

*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 moving into spring, and this is a good time to get some of those repairs and maintenance items taken care of. Don't forget...in fact, put on top of your to-do list... a safety tune-up since all of us want to be prepared for the unexpected when it comes to safety. Although there are volumes written on the subject, several years ago Barry Dupuy put together a very good punch list, which I will paraphrase and add to here:

- **PFDs.** Check the condition of your life jackets and accessibility. If you use an inflatable PFD, check the pressure cylinder's expiration date, and check the reading of the pressure indicator, if it has one.
- **MOB.** Check the condition of your man overboard (MOB) devices such as Lifesling, throwable floatation, strobe light, MOB pole and flag. Take your retrieval line out of the bag and assess its condition. That bag deteriorates rapidly in Houston's sun and humidity, and that can affect what it's supposed to protect inside.
- **Life Raft.** If you have a life raft, it should be operated and repacked according to manufacturer's schedule. Check when you need to do this, and if it is due, use a qualified technician.
- **Fire and Gas Safety.** When was the last time you checked all your fire extinguishers, smoke alarm and gas sensors? Check to be sure extinguishers are in the green zone, and replace batteries and test the smoke and gas sensors.
- **Signal Devices.** What about the date on your flares and smoke signals? Best to take care of this early in the season as it's easily forgotten in the heat of the summer.
- **Horn.** If you use an air horn as your sounding device, it's good to keep a spare canister handy. We have lots of traffic and distracted boaters around us.
- **Running and Anchor Lights.** Not a bad idea to check your running and anchor lights as well. Unless you do a lot of night running and anchoring, you never know when you'll really need them.
- **Bilge Pumps.** . This should be checked a couple times a year. How well does your bilge pump work? Run water in the bilge with a hose to be sure the automatic switch works and the pump evacuates the water. Also, make sure strainers are clean and the bilges are free of debris. Check the operation of the emergency manual bilge pump mounted in the cockpit, and visually inspect the diaphragm for deterioration.

We had the Sweetheart Cruise to Houston Yacht Club (HYC) on February 16-17, which turned into a great event and fun for all, thanks to the 76 TMCAers participating and HYC graciously providing us a great venue, delicious food and libations, and free slips.

The TMCA boat *Corrival* with Jerry Simoneaux and ably assisted by the Hooter girls took second place trophy in the Yachty Gras Parade on February 9!!

I am still looking for a cruise leader to lead the Halloween cruise to the pasture on the East Fork of Double Bayou. Please contact me [Pieter.wybro@gmail.com](mailto:Pieter.wybro@gmail.com) to volunteer...you will be richly rewarded!!

March has all the makings to be a great month for cruises, and there are four on-water events: The **Buffalo Bayou Kayak Trip is March 2**. See Houston like you've never seen it before. Join other TMCAers as we have a fun, beautiful, adventurous excursion down Buffalo Bayou. Such diversity! Thru Memorial Park (are we really in Houston???), past River Oaks (yep, this is Houston!), and into downtown Houston (skyline looks incredible from this angle). March is the perfect time of year to do this cruise with the weather and all the new spring greenery. Those of you that want to participate contact Linda Schoene, [admin@tmca.nu](mailto:admin@tmca.nu).

The **Fish Fry Oak Island Cruise is March 16-17**. This is a legacy annual TMCA event and is one not to miss. Doc Mulloy is organizing the annual Fish Fry at Marker 17. We have 27 boats participating so far, and we have the entire marina at Beason Park and will also accommodate boats at Marker 17. Watch the website and Yahoo for details regarding the boat sign-ups. All are welcome - come by boat, drive over (local motel nearby) or come by land yacht, and join the TMCA in celebrating St. Patrick's Day at Oak Island. Social leader: Doc Mulloy. Cruise leaders for the boats: Steve & Bron Lee 281-802-9838.

The **March Madness Cruise to Bayland Marina is March 23-24**. Bayland Marina is a great venue and is close to Clear Lake. If you have not been there before, this would be a great time to go and see where we are going to have Spring Fling 2013! Cruise leaders David and Lorna Glascock also have a March Madness surprise in store for us! Contact Dave and Lorna ([lornaglascock@yahoo.com](mailto:lornaglascock@yahoo.com)) for sign-up and more details.

The **Easter cruise to Moody Gardens is March 29-31**. Mark your calendars and join us for the Easter Cruise to Moody Gardens Marina. We have secured the entire marina (less one slip privately booked before we called!). The slips are now full at Moody Marina, however there is a waitlist and in the event of cancellations we may fit you in. Anchoring out is always an option, and so is land yacht. Those that are planning on anchoring out 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 an Easter-themed pot-luck shared dinner. Easter Sunday we will have breakfast on the dock including Hot Cross Buns. 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)

February has been an extremely busy and FUN month!! The Mardi Gras Party, Yachty Gras and the Bunko Party were all so much fun. Rear Commodore Pam Gasper is a natural at her job. I missed the Sweetheart Cruise and dinner at Houston Yacht Club but I heard it was very well organized, fun and was enjoyed by many of our members.

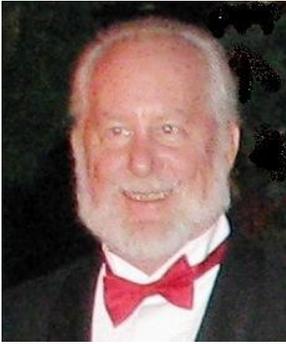
We now have 368 paid members and we have a lot of new members in that count. I did not mention our new members in my last newsletter but I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of the members who have joined this year. Please help me make them feel welcome by inviting them to join your table at the monthly meeting or introduce them to other members who are from their same marina. Here is a list of everyone who has joined since I took office in January.

- 1) Steve Morehouse and Jane Mielenz – Hunter 36'
- 2) Ron and Shelia Swatzyna – Sea Ray 39'
- 3) Charles Gaines
- 4) Ed and Judy Young – Land Yacht
- 5) Kevin and Marianne Bjork - Hunter 24'
- 6) Nancy Edmonson and Charles Griffey – Fairline 40'
- 7) Todd and Jeanie Woodruff – Bayfield 32'
- 8) John and Kristy Owens – Johnson 56'
- 9) Randy Robertson
- 10) Michael Golebiowski – 33' Ranger
- 11) "Race To The Border" Xavier Varela

I am looking forward to our upcoming events in March. Starting with the dock party at Portofino's on the first hosted by Pam and several others, then the Kayak trip the next morning, The Women on the Water class on the ninth, the Fish Fry at Oak Island on the sixteenth and I am sure there will be many other events that will crop up. Please get active and join us at all or some of these events. See you around or 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)

Budgets Done, Parties and Events on the Books and Cruises to be made – A GREAT Year Ahead.

Speaking "Budgetcally", not a bad time for all to take a look at where your bucks go – in the accounting "nerdy" business, I have looked at our expenses each year to see just what happened to the dollars – keep track and you will be surprised – each year we say "we couldn't have eaten out that much" or

"Docketari (our boat) cost *that* much!!" – we enjoy both and those are items we choose to spend money on – other expenses that show up, we at least see where the dollars are going and try to control for the future.

**"THE WAY TO BECOME RICH IS TO PUT ALL OF YOUR EGGS IN ONE BASKET AND THEN WATCH THAT BASKET"** -- Andrew Carnegie

*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 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](mailto:newsletter@tmca.nu)*

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