

# The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

<http://www.tmca.nu>

**November 2013**



## **At the Helm**

**Steve Lee, Commodore**

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

As this year winds down I look back and am pleased with how well TMCA has done in 2013. We have celebrated our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, gained many new members, and had many cruises and parties. We are looking forward to a busy fall season, packed with more cruises; two more dock parties and culminating with the Commodore's Ball. With our great membership we can only have good times whenever we get together.

On a safety note, I would like to touch on the topic of sharing Galveston Bay and ICWW with ships and tow boats. As we share these waterways with commercial boats, we need to be very careful each time we venture out amongst them. Most of our boating is done in the relative safety of Galveston Bay, and we only have to deal with other pleasure boats, which also can be somewhat of a challenge at times. We do make trips from time to time that require us to travel down the Houston Ship Channel and the ICWW, and we need to take special care when encountering commercial traffic. I bring up this subject because there have been a few incidents recently that I have heard of. One in the Port Arthur area was a fatal accident where a commercial crab fisherman was hit by a passing tow while checking his pots. The second incident involved some of our own club members returning from Port Aransas who did everything right, making radio contact as they approached the oncoming tow, and agreeing on the side to pass. As they got closer, the barge kept encroaching on their side of the channel and finally the sailboat ran aground and the tow kept coming. The result was a side swipe down the length of two barges that by the grace of God only resulted in minor damage to the sailboat, no noticeable damage to the barge. I guess what they say is true, "Steel vs. Fiberglass, Steel wins every time!" This could have had a very different ending and Lady Luck was on their side this day.

There are certain rules of the road that you must know if you are going to venture out in the ICWW and most of us are pretty experienced in these rules. If you don't have much experience on the "Ditch", I recommend reading up on the rules of the road, listen to the radio chatter from the tow boats (this might require a translator sometimes), talk to others who have more experience and if it is your first time, find a group of other TMCA boats and get in the middle of the pack. Learn how to communicate with the tow boat captains, and they will respect you for talking to them.

If you have AIS, you are really ahead of the game because you can call these boats by name. Plan your time from port to port so you will arrive before dark because it is a very bad idea to travel on the ICWW at night. Lastly, remember towboats almost always have the right of way and we need to always give them what they ask as far as cooperation. Don't be afraid of the Ditch, just be careful.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting and the upcoming parties & cruises.

*Steve Lee,  
Commodore*

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## **The Corner of Vice**

**Jerry Grooms, Vice Commodore**

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

November already! Can't be. Set the clocks back and vote for your nominees to run TMCA in 2014. We will count votes at the general meeting. During this time, we will also have Jay Bailey and he will gather some of his cronies to regale us with exploits of seamanship both far and near - (excuse please - sea personship)!!! Perhaps over ripe fruits and vegetables may be in order.

Our November meetings are always a treat for the members. Remember, this is the last meeting of the year before our fabulous Commodores Ball. My how time flies!!!

*Jerry Grooms,  
Vice Commodore*

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## **At The Port Report**

**Pam Gasper, Rear Commodore**

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

The weather may be cooling off, but the TMCA party schedule just keeps getting hotter. November starts off with our monthly dock party on Friday, November 1. This month our hosts are Steve and Bron Lee and Pete and Barbara Wybro and the location is Waterford Harbor. According to Bron: "For our Dock Party on Nov.1st, we're honoring the humble pumpkin! Grills will be ready at 6:30pm so bring something to cook, a dish to share and your beverage of choice. We'll provide the paper goods and plastic ware AND a scrumptious Pumpkin dessert! We have reserved Pavilion "A", by the tennis courts and Piers 17-18. After you turn on Mariners Drive, continue past the big parking lot on the left and Watergate on the right, through the traffic circle to additional parking, right by this pavilion. Watch for the 'TMCA' signs." (Note: this is not the pavilion by the office.)

On Saturday, November 9, there will be a Chilly Chili Cook off, in conjunction with the weekend Chilly Chili Cruise to Beason Marina. Leaders for this cruise and event are Steve and Bron Lee. Oak Island is an easy drive from Clear Lake, so participation isn't limited only those arrive by boat. There is quite a controversy taking place on Yahoo Groups with this event. To Bean or not To Bean: that is the question. Make your favorite chili recipe and come join the fun! If you need more information about the dock party or chili cruise/cook off, contact Bron Lee at 281-844-0667 or [bronlee@travelleaders.com](mailto:bronlee@travelleaders.com)

Capping off the month is the annual Thanksgiving weekend in Double Bayou and the (in)famous French Picnic on Saturday, November 30. Hosts for the weekend are Ron and Lynn Eddleman and Bill and CJ Jenko.

Invitations to the gala Commodore's Ball will be hitting your mailbox in the next couple of weeks. If your address is not correct in the directory or you don't receive your invite by mid-November, give me a call. You won't want to miss this year's soiree! Mark your calendars now....date for the Ball is Saturday, December 21.

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

Party on!

***Pam Gasper***  
***Rear Commodore***



## **The Cruise Corner**

**Pieter Wybro, Cruise Captain**

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

This year is passing by way too quickly. Barbara and I are preparing ourselves, our sailboat, and our affairs for extended cruising next year, but time is getting short and our punch list is growing because we have spent more time on the water than in port working on the boat. Last month we were on the water almost all month. We were at the Annapolis Boat Show after our sailing cruise in the Chesapeake and I walked away with my wallet smoking, after purchasing a bunch of cruising equipment for the boat like water maker, SSB, and another wind generator. The challenge now is to get all this and more installed and working.

We had four cruises in October.

Cruise the Chesapeake on October 3-11 led by Pete and Barbara Wybro. As it turned out only one boat was chartered, but there was plenty of good times in this spectacular cruising ground, visiting

neat destinations like Oxford, Cambridge, Solomon Island, and St. Michaels, navigating rivers and bays with incredible vistas, and meeting some of the friendliest folks outside of Texas.

Cruise to Bayland with some Exploration on October 5-6 led by Philip Kropf. Six boats participated in this venture to this popular TMCA venue. The exploration was by land yachts to the Riverside Restaurant on the San Jacinto River.

Smith Point Anchor Out Cruise planned for October 12-13 was cancelled due to weather. Cruise Leader Jim and Doris Lee and three other shallow draft boats planned to visit Spoonbill Park, a one-time popular cruising spot pre-Ike.

Harvest Moon Regatta organized by Lakewood Yacht Club, October 17-19. Fifteen TMCA sailboats (this was about 10% of the total participating boats) participated in this 150 mile offshore race from Galveston to Port Aransas. Ron Eddleman (s/v Stellar of Course) took away the honor and TMCA trophy with the best corrected time of all TMCA boats. Ron remarked that in all his 11 Harvest Moon races, this was the first time he came in during daylight (he came in around noon).

Harvest Moon Down coast Cruise October 14-27 led by Josh and Barb Wallach. This cruise was timed around the Harvest Moon Regatta for boats that are not in the regatta and want a leisure cruise south to Port Aransas and the regatta festivities, and also for boats in the regatta that want a fun return home. Eight boats participated in this great cruise, with a lot of dingy exploration along the way.

Five cruises are teed up for November:

**Double Bayou Cruise November 2 led by Ron Eddleman.** This is a Pre-French Picnic Cruise to prepare the pasture and the location of the TMCA French Picnic. Bring your weed eaters, chain saws, rakes and any other lawn tool you feel you can use to help clean up the grounds a bit. We will do a bit of scavenging for fire wood to store up as well as fuel the bonfire for this weekend. Contact Ron Eddleman [ron\\_1056@yahoo.com](mailto:ron_1056@yahoo.com).

**Voyage to Port Arthur November 2-6 led by Jerry Simoneau and Chris Bown.** This is a practice cruise to Port Arthur in anticipation of our Spring Fling 2014. We will go to Galveston on Saturday, Sunday we will go up the ICW to Port Arthur, Monday we will sail offshore back to Galveston and Tuesday back to Clear Lake. If you want practice going to Port Arthur or sailing offshore then sign up for this Voyage of Discovery. Contact Christopher Bown. [simonbown@gmail.com](mailto:simonbown@gmail.com) or 713 577-9583.

**Chilly Chili Cruise to Beason Park November 8-10 led by Steve and Bron Lee.** Mark your calendars for this fun weekend. We will cruise over to Beason Marina on Friday or Saturday for the annual Chili weekend. We have the marina reserved for both nights and will do the Chili contest on Saturday evening, at the pavilion. Presently, the marina is filled and we have started a wait list. For more information contact Steve or Bron Lee (281) 802-9838 and (281) 844-0667 or email [bronlee@travellleaders.com](mailto:bronlee@travellleaders.com).

**Cruise to Cedar Bayou Finger Lakes Anchorage November 16-17 led by Philip Kropf.** It has been 6 years since TMCA have cruised to this venue that is accessed by a channel that is east of Atkinson Island. There is a reported 50 ft bridge height clearance along the way, so this is a destination for power boats and smaller sailboats. Contact Philip Kropf [pkropf@flash.net](mailto:pkropf@flash.net).

**French Picnic Cruise to Double Bayou November 25-December 1 led by the Eddlemens and Jenkos.** This is a TMCA classic cruise! Join us under the Oak trees along the east fork of Double Bayou. You can travel over early to enjoy Thanksgiving or leave on Friday with a large fleet of TMCA boats and arrive in time for a bonfire Friday night and the Great French Picnic on Saturday. We will

set up tables under the trees and everyone brings one of their best French Dishes to share (It really does not have to be French, just give it a French name). Commodore Steve Lee has agreed to fry turkeys again this year. So begin preparing for a weekend of being moored to the bank, sitting around the fire each night and lots of fine food and drink. Contact Ron Eddleman [ron\\_1056@yahoo.com](mailto:ron_1056@yahoo.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)

**Membership Renewal Time!** It is renewal time. Please send in your renewal form with your check or you can bring it to the meeting on November 15. You can also go to the website and pay on PayPal. The renewal amount is still \$50 for a dual membership and \$35 for a single which I think is one of the greatest bargains to be found.

**Ballots** for your 2014 TMCA Board of Governors have been mailed. You should have received yours by now. If you have not received one, please contact me as I must have your address wrong in my database. Please vote and send your ballot back either by mail or you can bring it to the November 15 meeting where they will be counted. Results will be announced at the November meeting.

We have a few new members to add to the roster. Let's welcome Art and Veronica Howard, Nicholas Moore, and Bruce and Norma Kennedy. Let us also welcome back Robert and Brenda Brush. We are so glad to have these new and returning members.

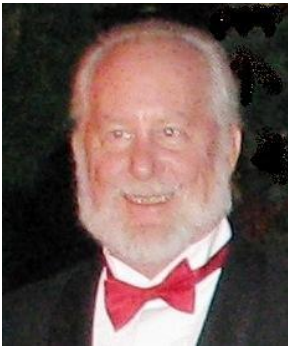
Here we are almost at the end of the year. We are going into the busiest time of the year for most of us. Let's all take time to count our blessings. We are so fortunate to have been born and raised in the greatest country in the world. Please pray for our country during these trying times. I firmly believe we have a country worth saving and right now it needs our help!!!

See you 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)

Time for some cool weather boating, great until that North wind blows all the water from beneath our boat. We live at the far end of the lake with a normal "bump" at the end of our canal going into the lake – if I'm running heavy or that North wind has come in, I have to watch the water levels closely – sometimes it's okay getting out, but coming back after three or four days takes some consideration and planning – of course, as most of you know me, I have the reputation of being "The Grounded Treasurer" -- oh well, we all must be known for something.

Barbara & I have used up most of our boating days away from work, but hope for a few more outings before the end of the year. Happy Thanksgiving to all and get ready for another great Commodore's Ball in December.

*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**

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**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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