

Texas Mariners Cruising Association

The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

August 2014



At the Helm

Martin Clark, Commodore

[email: commodore@texasmariners.com](mailto:commodore@texasmariners.com)

August, the so-called "dog days of summer." The Dog Days originally were the days when the bright star, Sirius, rose just before or at the same time as the sun and was visible during the day. The Romans sacrificed a red dog in April to appease the rage of Sirius, believing that the star was the cause of the hot, sultry weather. In TMCA, the recommended appeasement of the Gods involves drinking a lot of red beers and Bloody Marys.

I am happy to observe that things are going well in TMCA. We enjoyed a full plate of activities in the Spring, culminated with the outstanding May Spring Fling at Pleasure Island. Membership is high and we see lots of newer members participating in cruises, parties, and monthly meetings. Kudos to Marylou Clark and her stylish models for the July style show. Many thanks to the *Tropical Express* store in Kemah for furnishing clothes. There is a "plethora" of parties and cruises coming up to enjoy.

In fact, we are appreciative of all our officers and committees who guide and steer TMCA through the murky Galveston Bay waters. I appreciate the great dedication and follow-through of all our leadership team. Everyone does their jobs, is cheerful and positive, and fun to work with. Next time you see an officer or committee chair, buy 'em a beer!

Speaking of officers, I am in the process of forming up the Nominating Committee to select august and noble folks to serve as next year's leadership team. If you wish to give the club a year of service as an officer or committee chair, please contact me. The committee will target individuals but unless you let us know you are interested, we might miss you.

The club will be offering TMCA T-shirts, rain jackets and hats. Merchandise will be brought to the monthly meetings. Soon, an order blank and photos will appear on the website. I.D. shirts and other clothing says you are proud to belong to TMCA and serves as great advertising around the Bay area. Please log on to the website and update your statistics and add a photo.

See you soon,

***Martin Clark,
Commodore***



The Corner of Vice

Mary Lou Clark, Vice Commodore

Email: vcomm@tmca.nu

Ahoy TMCA! I hope you are enjoying this summer as much as I am. The good news is that we have a lot of warm weather, in which to enjoy boating, still to come. Summer is my favorite season of the year. With summer comes a little advice from the Vice Commodore: be sure to use lots of sunscreen, wear hats, sunglasses and protective clothing when you plan to spend lots of time in the sun on/near the water. Your skin and eyes will thank you!

This month our general meeting will be held on August 15th at the Elks Lodge at 623 Hanson Rd. in Kemah, Texas. The social hour begins at 6:00 p.m., dinner orders start to be taken at 6:30 p.m., business meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. and the program begins at 8:00 p.m. Our speaker this month is **USCG Captain Brian Penoyer, Commander Sector Houston-Galveston and Captain of the Port**. We are indeed privileged to have a Coast Guard officer of Captain Penoyer's stature agree to be our speaker and he will have a lot of interesting things to talk to us about regarding port security issues, navigation, harbor safety, environmental concerns and more! There is a link for a bio on Captain Penoyer on the August 15 calendar date on the website. It is very impressive! Mark your calendars for this meeting! **Remember that the Elks always have reasonably priced food and drink. Wear your name tags!!!!** If you do not yet have your name tag you can pick it up at the greeters table on the 15th.

Remember that there are many wonderful TMCA activities going on every weekend. Be sure and try to attend some of these because the best way to enjoy TMCA is to be active in TMCA.

See you on the water or at the docks!

*Marylou Clark,
Vice Commodore*



The Social Scuttlebutt

Bronwyn Lee, Rear Commodore

email: rcomm@tmca.nu

As this newsletter comes out we will have just had the August Dock Party, since the first Friday of the month actually falls on August 1st. We have had to swap the original venues for August and November. With just a few weeks' notice, Max & JoAnn Luttgeharm kindly offered to host in August, and Dan and Jennifer LaFon will now host in November. The Luttgeharm's home in Marina Village is a great venue, right on the water. It has a lovely terraced back yard with an outdoor kitchen, endless seating and shade, not to mention the waterfall, river and sunset pool, and a neighborhood pool just steps away!

August will be a busy month for cruising, which I'm sure Cruise Captain Jim Lee will re-cap in his article in this newsletter, so I will just briefly touch on the social side of each cruise!

Please be sure to RSVP to Jerry Simoneaux if you plan to attend the Catfish Fish Fry at Bayland marina on Saturday evening August 9th. This popular event has tripled in numbers since last year, so we need a head-count to know how many folks to cater for. Please bring a dish to share and \$5 per person donation (cash) to help defray costs, it is much appreciated. The boat re-naming ceremony for m/v Cambria will follow dinner. Afterwards, there will be a special screening of the movie "Summer Rental" on a nearby sail!

The following weekend, during the Wig Out Cruise to Harborwalk, there will be a group dinner at Floyds, on Saturday evening Aug.16th. Even if you are not taking your boat, it is an easy drive down to this beautiful marina in Hitchcock. Be sure to let John Allison know you are coming so he can make reservations for the group.

And then the third weekend in August (8/23) you can join the cruisers at Harborhouse, on the Galveston waterfront, for libations, dinner and the Art Walk in the Strand district. Watch the website and Yahoo for more details on where and when to meet.

Social events for the Freeport Blues Festival Cruise are under the direction of Bill and CJ Jenko. I'm sure they will co-ordinate a dock party or two, and dinner, with the cruise participants.

Steve and I are leading the Labor Day Luau Cruise to Moody Gardens. The marina is full now, with several boats on the waitlist. Several more boats are planning to anchor out. All the events are open to land-yachters, I know of one RV coming down and several folks who are driving down for one or both nights. We are planning a group dinner at Café in the Park at Moody Hotel at 7:00pm on Saturday Aug.30th. And the big Luau on the Moody marina dock will be Sunday evening, Aug.31st at 7:00pm. We will provide the Hawaiian pulled pork and pineapple relish. You're invited to bring your favorite tropical side dish or salad. The Tiki bar will be open all weekend, so bring the ingredients for your favorite tropical beverage and we'll provide the shade, ice and paper goods! Please let me know if you are coming by land-yacht and I will add you to the email updates.

Wow – five weekends in August and a wonderful array of TMCA socials and cruises!
I hope to see many of you at these upcoming events.

Bronwyn Lee
Rear Commodore
TMCA Knows Fun!!



The Cruise Corner

Jim Lee, Cruise Captain

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

This is a great cruising season for TMCA; we are getting boats out of our slips, on the water and enjoying fellowship with club TMCA. Fourth of July had over 20% of our member boats enjoying time on their boats and / or at a TMCA event. Life is good!

Some good rivalry with a photo contest between the Beason Bayou Bash and Harbor Walk Cruisers can be seen on our website at <http://texasmariners.com>. Check out the Cruising tab and then click on 2014 Cruises. Before it's too late and you can say remember when, instead of saying I wish I had gone, check out the calendar at <http://texasmariners.com> and enjoy one of the upcoming

cruises.

We had these three cruises in July:

July 4-6	Beason Park Fourth of July Cruise / Dock Party
July 25	Kemah Fireworks Raft-up
July 26	San Bernard One Day (Dingy and Small Boat)

We have these cruises in August.

Aug 2	Open Cruise Week-end after the Friday night dock party
Aug 9-10	Bayland Cruise - Catfish Fry
Aug 16-18	Harborwalk Cruise – Wig Out Cruise
Aug 23-24	Galveston Art Walk Cruise to Harbor House
Aug 29-31	Labor Day Cruise to Moody Gardens
Aug 29-31	Freeport Blues Festival Cruise

To see full cruise details and sign up go to <http://texasmariners.com> and make sure you are watching Yahoo Groups at <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/tmcamariners/info>

And plan for these in cruises September and October.

Sep 6	Open Cruise Week-end after the Friday night dock party
Sept 13-14	Sangria and Sunset cruise to Bayland Marina
Sept 20	Voyage of Exploration on Trinity River
Oct 4-5	Pelican Rest Cruise to Galveston
Oct 9-12	Harvest Moon Regatta
Oct 17-19	Cruise to Turkey Bend / Allen's Landing on Buffalo Bayou
Oct 31 – Nov 2	Double Bayou Halloween Cruise & Pasture Clean

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

***Jim Lee,
Cruise Captain***



Secretary's Report

Barbara Nickelson, Secretary

email: secretary@tmca.nu

July has been an extremely hot month. Great for getting out on the water and boating. I hope our members have been doing a lot of that. That is what our organization is all about. The opportunities have been endless for us.

Over the fourth of July we had two trips planned, one to Beason Park (led by Phillip Kropf) and the other to Harbor Walk (led by John Allison). Both trips had great participation. Bob and I went on the Harbor Walk trip and had a wonderful time. We spent two days in the pool and got way too much sun, had way too much to drink and had way too much to eat. A perfect weekend, right???? Gayelynn and Stuart Zarrow provided us all with water pistols, water bazookas, beach balls, etc. We had a blast trying to outdo each other with our water artillery. Steve Lee always seemed to manage to end up with the big gun so, needless to say, I guess you could say he was probably the winner. But in actuality, we all were winners because it was just so much fun. Bryan Austin brought out his new drone. That was so cool. He flew it all around the pool taking pictures of us and the marina and surrounding boats. I was truly amazed at the quality of the photographs. We all had dinner at Floyd's on Saturday night which was also very enjoyable.

We all need to thank Rhonda Eckenroth and Dawn Magee for hosting the Fajita Party. They did a fabulous job and I know everyone had a wonderful time. Phil's Band played and the music was awesome as usual. We had a great turnout.

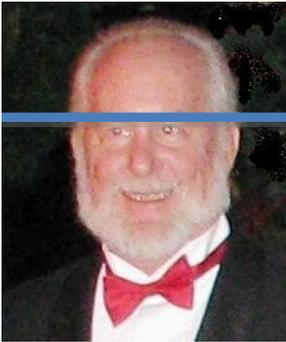
I also want to thank Mary Lou Clark for her efforts this year in providing our group with programs and entertainment for our monthly meetings. This month she had a fashion show which was not only a lot of fun for everyone involved from the models to the audience, it gave us a little different type of meeting. Thanks, Marylou, for thinking outside of the box. It was also a good way to showcase the new clothing that the club will be offering to our members.

Our membership has now grown to over 520 members. I would like to personally welcome our new members this month.

- 1) Jim and Kelly Tates
- 2) Lou and Linda Lutich
- 3) Colin and Julie Gibb
- 4) Marcia and John Lutostanski
- 5) Tom and Mary Rogan
- 6) Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sharp
- 7) Gary and Sandy Martin

August will be bringing lots more cruises and lots more parties and chances to get together. Don't miss any of the opportunities if at all possible. You will be missing out on a ton of fun!!!
With Regards from your Secretary,

Barbara Nickelson,
Secretary



Dollars And "Sense" from the Treasurer

Bob Nickelson, Treasurer

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

Just wrapped up 99% of the numbers for Spring Fling and happy to report a great financial success – the budgeted profit was about \$1,700 and actual profit was over \$6,000 WOW!! The Spring Fling committee proposed that \$5,000 of the profit would be held as “seed” money for next year’s event, \$1,000 would go for donations and the original “seed” money provided from the TMCA operating account would be returned to the operating account – the proposal was approved by the Board at the last Board Meeting.

Just experienced another trip to Moody Gardens last week – we left on Friday with four other members and returned Sunday after a lot of fun in the sun, Palm Beach & The Lazy River, bands in the sand, fireworks and a few beverages along the way – our special TMCA rates and a new member recruited – a great trip all around.

Take advantage of your membership and join us for more fun & memorable adventures.

*Bob Nickelson,
Treasurer*

Community Liaison Committee Chair



Philip Kropf

PKropf@flash.net

More miscellaneous notes and musings for this month’s article...

1. As reported last month, another dredging project in our area is about to begin and that is the deepening and widening of the **Bayport** and **Barbours Cut** channels. (Click [here](#) for more information.) The Barbours Cut part of the project will begin very soon, but there should be no impact to boaters since that waterway is off-limits to us anyway, and there will be no dredge pipelines crossing any of our cruising routes. But the Bayport part, which will start probably near the end of the summer, is a different case, and as yet I do not have specific information on pipeline routes, etc. Stay tuned for more information!

2. Last month I wrote about my ongoing participation in the activities of the **Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee** (www.lshsc.org), and all of its working group/subcommittees. I also am a member of the local USCG **Area Maritime Security Committee** (AMSC) (Click [here](#) and [here](#) for background info.) All AMSC and LSHSC meetings are open to the public and the next meetings of the full committees are July 31st and August 8th respectfully. Contact me if you would like more information on these organizations and would like to get involved.

3. As part of my own involvement in the committees mentioned above, and other committees also, I meet all kinds of interesting and very knowledgeable people who are actively working on a daily basis in making our ports and waterways safer, more secure, more environmentally healthy, and who are just involved in various maritime activities and projects. Quite frequently I inquire as to whether someone might be willing to come be a speaker at a TMCA meeting, and when the answer is a positive one I coordinate with our Vice Commodore to make it happen! (No, I do *not* wish to be Vice Commodore myself, thank you!)

So far in 2014 I have arranged to have the **Coast Guard's** LCDR Xochi Castaneda as our January speaker, **Galveston Bay Foundation's** Water Quality Program Manager Charlene Bohanon as our March speaker, and Walter Hansen, head of the restoration effort of the Danish rescue boat, **Hanne Frank**, at the **Holocaust Museum Houston as our May speaker**. And now coming up at our August meeting will be **Captain Brian Penoyer, USCG Commander of Sector Houston-Galveston and Captain of the Port**. We are indeed privileged to have a Coast Guard officer of Captain Penoyer's stature agree to be our speaker and he will have a lot of interesting things to talk to us about regarding port security issues, navigation, harbor safety, environmental concerns and more! And then for the September meeting we will have **Captain Bob Webbon** of the **Houston Pilots**. In addition to being a ship pilot, Bob is also a sailor, and I think that he should have some interesting insights on the interactions between recreational vessels and commercial vessels on the Houston Ship Channel.

4. Other ongoing and upcoming events...

- Monthly history lectures at the **Houston Maritime Museum** (<http://www.houstonmaritimemuseum.org/>), usually on the second Tuesday of each month.

- A meeting of the **Galveston Bay/Clear Lake Boater Waste Collaboration**, a committee chaired by Charlene Bohanon, already mentioned above. The meeting will be on either 7/22 or 7/23 (TBD), and if you are interested in this subject (and we all should be!) and want more information, please contact me.

- The 4th annual **Maritime Youth Expo** is coming up on 9/6. (Re: the 2013 event at <http://www.txgulf.org/maritimeyouthexpo.php>) And this will be the same day and location as a major public event at the Bayport Cruise Terminal commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the opening of the Houston Ship Channel. More information to follow as it becomes available.

Hey, I may be the official "Community Liaison" guy, but you *too* can get out there and get involved in maritime community activities! There are plenty of things always going on, and most groups/committees/etc. would very much welcome your participation!

Philip Kropf
Community Liaison Committee Chair

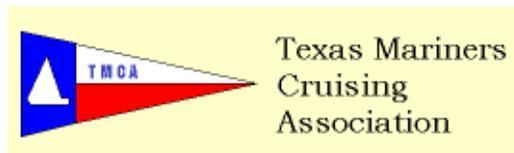
[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

2014 TMCA Officers

Commodore:	Martin Clark, m/v Impulsive	281-435-1253
Past Commodore:	Steve Lee, s/v Waltzing Matilda	281-802-9838
Vice Commodore:	Marylou Clark, m/v Impulsive	281-435-7428
Rear Commodore:	Bron Lee, s/v Waltzing Matilda	281-844-0667
Cruise Captain:	Jim Lee, m/v Almost Paradise	713-828-5133
Secretary:	Barbara Nickelson , m/v Docketari	713-899-1098
Treasurer:	Bob Nickelson, m/v Docketari	713-826-7551

2014 TMCA Trustees

Trustee 2011 Commodore	Doug Chappell	Dock Trauma	281-330-1163
Trustee 2008 Commodore	Marion Herndon		281-703-9322
Trustee 2010 Commodore	Ron Eddleman	s/v Stellar of Course	936-328-7361
Trustee 2002 Commodore	Gloria Rooney	s/v St. Somewhere	281-499-4413



Please send any articles you would like included in the TMCA Mariner to TMCA Mariner Editor at newsletter@tmca.nu

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