

Texas Mariners Cruising Association

The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

December 2014



At the Helm

Martin Clark, Commodore

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

December is the caboose of our TMCA year. It has certainly gone smoothly, with lots of fun activities and little in the way of accidents. The boater below apparently had not taken the recommended boater safety courses, did not observe good boating behaviors such as looking ahead, and apparently had not taken enough alcohol training sessions at TMCA parties!



This is a time to give thanks for all the friendships we have made and continue to enjoy in our TMCA community. This is a friendly bunch, and full of good spirit and kindness. Members have enjoyed so many opportunities this year to fire up the engines or hoist the sails with compadres and travel for a few miles or to distant ports. We've enjoyed some terrific parties, haven't we?

Thanks to all who participate in our calendar of activities. More thanks to those who volunteer to lead activities. A great big thanks to our officers and committee chairs who really are the engines of the TMCA cruising association. It takes all of us to make this club as successful as it is.

We look forward to another great year with the leadership of the 2015 board of governors, committee chairs, and various cruise/party leaders. Be thinking now of what dock parties, cruises, and social events you would like to head up. Make plans to attend our planning meeting the second Saturday of January to 'stake your claim' to lead an event (or two).

I hope to see many of you at the Commodore's Ball. Thank you all for your participation and support to Marylou and me during the great year of 2014.

*Martin Clark,
Commodore*



The Corner of Vice

Mary Lou Clark, Vice Commodore

Email: vcomm@tmca.nu

Ahoy TMCA! I hope everyone had a lovely Thanksgiving and are now gearing up for a delightful Christmas. One way to do that is to be sure to send in your RSVP to Bron Lee for the ever popular and always fun Commodore's Ball to be held December 20, 2014 at the Lakewood Yacht Club. This is TMCA's chance to clean up, dress up and strut their stuff. It is a great way to brighten your Christmas season.

It has been my very great pleasure to serve as Vice Commodore this year. I've brought you programs that, hopefully, gave you some good boating tips and entertained you. I hope also that you remember some of the good advice for boating when out on the water and enjoy the memory of a fun chuckle or two you heard from our speakers at any time.

I'll close my last Newsletter to you all by repeating what I've so often said and that is to enjoy TMCA you must get involved in TMCA. Sign up for a cruise, attend a party and in time sign up to lead a cruise or host a party. You will meet so many terrific people and enjoy TMCA so much more if you do this. Make the most of this wonderful organization.

I wish you a Happy Holiday Season and good boating and happy partying all the time.

*Marylou Clark,
Vice Commodore*



The Social Scuttlebutt

Bronwyn Lee, Rear Commodore

email: rcomm@tmca.nu

Writing my final article for the Texas Mariner is rather bitter sweet! On one hand it is hard to believe that my year as Rear Commodore is almost over, it has been a fun filled and fulfilling year to have been involved in most all of the social activities in one way or another. On the other hand it will be nice to sit back and read my successor's articles, and to support rather than spearhead this vital department of our very active cruising club!! Thank you all for giving me the confidence that I could do this job, when I was more than a little hesitant!

There are so many volunteers, out front and behind the scenes. I would like to thank all those who have had a part in hosting dock parties locally, docktails at various destinations, and also those that took on responsibility for organizing the signature parties such as the Bunco Party, the Fishtails Dinner, the Fajita Fiesta, the Windemere Wine Tasting, the Harvest Moon party, and the upcoming Hot Dog Social, amongst others. Also, I am truly appreciative of the committee of supportive ladies who are helping me with the Commodore's Ball.

When we had to go to a Plan B for the Chilly Chili Cook-Off recently, I did not even have to search for an alternate location, some wonderful members came to me with an offer of their home. When Steve 'broke' our boat right before the French Picnic, we imposed upon some longtime members to transport all the tarps, tables, tubs of supplies and more! They even gave us their master stateroom for the night!

These are just a couple of examples of the camaraderie and support that Steve & I have enjoyed not only this year, but in all the preceding years we have been members of this club. We love spontaneous attitude of the members of this club.

Our final dock party of the year will be the Annual Hot Dog Social this Friday December 5th, at the Waterford Harbor pavilion right by the Sundance Grill and big parking lot. TMCA is furnishing the hot dogs and all the fixin's, so please bring an appetizer or dessert to share, and your drink of choice. To get into the holiday spirit, we will be providing wassail (and maybe the rum!) Also, be sure to wear your brightest & gaudiest Christmas sweater and/or socks for a chance to win a very 'valuable' prize! Don & Debra Fast are hosting, and if you were lucky enough to attend their Sunset and Sangria/Fajita party a while back, you know they throw a great party!

Our cruise captain, Jim Lee, is leading a "Frostbite" cruise to Galveston for Dickens on the Strand festivities, overnight on Saturday Dec.6th. Be sure to check his article in this newsletter, and Yahoo for Docktail Plans on/around his boat, which will be tied up at Harbor House.

The Clear Lake Christmas Boat Parade will be held on Saturday, December 13. Whilst there is no official TMCA watch party, I know that several marinas in our area are hosting Christmas parties during the afternoon, in time to give tenants an opportunity to get to a good vantage point. Be sure to look out for the official TMCA entry in the parade, s/v Cindy Lynn. Their theme is Joe Cool, so watch for a 6' Snoopy with sunglasses and a banner reading "Have a cool Yule Ya'll"!!

Our final social soiree of 2014 is the Annual Commodore's Ball, at Lakewood Yacht Club on Dec.20th. Invitations were mailed out several weeks ago and RSVPs have been streaming in. Currently we have 110 folks confirmed and room for 50 more. If you did not get your invitation, please contact me or our club Secretary, Barbara Nickelson, and we will get one to you right away. **The RSVP deadline has been extended until Dec.13**, to give you a little extra time! I am looking forward to a really great evening where we honor our 2014 Commodore, Martin Clark, and also have an opportunity to showcase our club's traditions with awards, fine dining and great music.

Thank you everyone, for all your support throughout the year! As the old saying goes, "Many hands make light work", and it is so true! Please continue to offer the same to our incoming Rear Commodore for 2015, Charlene Lim. I know she will do a wonderful job!

Bronwyn Lee
Rear Commodore
TMCA Knows Fun!!



The Cruise Corner

Jim Lee, Cruise Captain

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

Wow! What a year for TMCA and some great cruises with the greatest group of people – you! I want to give my thanks to all of the cruise leaders and all the cruisers that made this another fantastic year for TMCA on and off the water.

We had a busy November with these cruises:

Nov 1-2	Cruise to Beason Marina on Oak Island
Nov 8-9	Cedar Bayou Cruise
Nov 14-16	Chilly Chili Cruise (plan B at John and Wendy Eller's house)
Nov 27-30	French Picnic at the Double Bayou Pasture

And the December cruises we have planned are:

Dec 6-7	Galveston - Dickens on the Strand
Dec 13	Christmas Boat Parade - Kemah

Let me be the first to congratulate Jerry Simoneaux as the newly elected Cruise Captain for 2014. The 2014 cruising calendar of events is being prepared for the planning meeting next month. The January planning meeting is one of the most important of the year. It's when the cruises and socials are discussed and next year's calendar starts to firm up - and cruise leaders step up and volunteer. I encourage everybody to come to the meeting. Jerry will announce the specific date and venue on Yahoo Groups and the TMCA web site.

This is my last newsletter for the year. I wish you a wonderful and safe Christmas season for you and your family.

Thanks for letting me serve.

*Jim Lee,
Cruise Captain*

Secretary's Report

Barbara Nickelson, Secretary

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



I hope you all had a fabulous month of November and I hope you each had the opportunity to spend time with family, friends and loved ones. We spent the Thanksgiving weekend at Moody Gardens with part of our family. We had a great time eating, drinking, ice skating, watching movies and going through the Festival of Lights. If you have not had the opportunity to visit the *Ice Sculpture Exhibit*, you should definitely make plans to do so. *It is awesome!!!* The weather was perfect. Cool but not cold (except in the Ice Sculpture Exhibit where it was 9 degrees). There were hardly any barges or other traffic on the ship channel so even Bob was able to enjoy himself without any headaches.

It is **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL** time. Please get your payments in to me before December 31st. The cost of membership will stay the same as last year, \$50 for a dual membership or \$35 for a single membership. You can go online to pay by PayPal with any credit card or you can pay with a check made out to TMCA and mailed to
TMCA
P. O. Box 946,
Kemah, TX 77565

This was a banner month for **New Memberships**. We have had 19 new members sign up. Our membership now stands at 588. Please help me to seek out our newest members and make them feel welcome to our club.

**David and Cheryl Widner
Stan Vaughan
Kevin Churchill
Robert Neill
Mark Berlinger
Jay Zittler
Mark Elinski
Lynn and Beverly Conine
Rick Newcomb
Robert and Tonya Rolf
Rod and Lythia Powell
Steve Reeves and Ingrid Gonzalez
Rick and Becky Johnson**

I hope you all are planning on attending the Commodore's Ball at Lakewood Yacht Club. Bron has worked tirelessly to plan a beautiful evening for all of us. Please make plans to come as it should be a fun evening and a great way to cap off a great year.

Well this is my last newsletter article to write. I would like to thank you all for entrusting me as your secretary for the last two years. It has been an honor to serve this organization that has given Bob and me so much in the way of friendships, fun and education. In less than two weeks I will hand over the reins to Kathy Houser who will do a fabulous job.

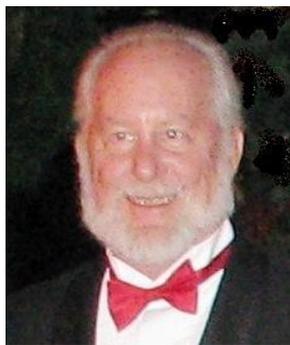
With Regards,

***Barbara Nickelson,
Secretary***

Dollars And "Sense" from the Treasurer

Bob Nickelson, Treasurer

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



It's certainly been a fast year, both in our boating world and our personal life. As the 2014 Treasurer, I have had a great time with all of the new boat friends I have got to get to know. Although we enjoy and look forward to all of the boat trips and parties, the greatest thing we treasure are the relationships we have built in the past year that will stay with us for years to come. We are now legitimate live-a-boards – we have moved aboard and have moved the boat to Watergate & are now going thru the adjustments of organizing our new home.

I am looking forward to serving as the 2015 Commodore & am looking forward toward the Commodore's Ball festivities. We will soon be transitioning into our new Board and working on 2015 plans. I will be putting out a summarized Year End Treasurer's Report in January and then hand over the dollars to our new Treasurer. My 2015 Budget will soon be presented to the Board and we will be off for a busy 2015.

Wishing all a very Merry Christmas and a safe New Year.

***Bob Nickelson,
Treasurer***



[Community Liaison Committee Chair](#)

Philip Kropf
PKropf@flash.net

The year has flown by and TMCA will very soon have new officers running the club for 2015! In early January we will of course have our annual Planning Meeting where all of the club's cruises, parties, and other events will be scheduled, and even though winter is still three weeks away, before we know it spring will arrive again bringing a new year of TMCA cruising and other activities. Anyhow, for December, here are some updates on information previously discussed in this column.

1. I have been writing about the **Bayport Channel Deepening and Widening Project** for several months now and it is finally here! The year-long project got underway a couple of weeks ago with the arrival of the dredge Linda LaQuay and she is currently working in the open bay portion of the channel. This is probably a good time for this project to have started since the most active part of the boating season is behind us, but if you are out anywhere near the Bayport channel you need to remain alert!

The **POH Deepening & Widening** website (click [here](#)) provides a good deal of project information including a link to the excellent PowerPoint presentation that the POHA and Orion Marine Group created for the public informational meeting last month. That pdf file can be accessed by clicking [here](#), and take note especially of slides 15 & 20 which provide information on the pipeline route, what to look for if you wish to cross it, and where to safely do so.

The Linda LaQuay is required to have AIS working at all times and she can be found on www.vesselfinder.com and on your vessel's AIS if you have one. She is also required to answer all VHF calls and that would be on channel 13. For more information on how to recognize what you might be seeing out there on the water, including day and night-time dredge signals, pipeline markings, etc., go to the presentation created by USACE Project Engineer Al Meyer for the mid-bay dredging project completed earlier this year. That presentation can be found by clicking [here](#).

2. Last month I wrote about important news from the USCG **Area Maritime Security Committee** (AMSC), a committee where I represent the interests of recreational boaters vis-à-vis port security. A 5-year update of the Area **Maritime Security Plan** (AMSP) has been issued and I will be writing more about the implications of this plan for us all in the near future.

Just to re-emphasize one paragraph from last month however..., there are many elements within our area-wide port complex that could conceivably be tempting targets to "bad guys". Disruptions to any of these could be critical to our national security, and so it is incumbent on all of us to assist the USCG in keeping watch so that we never do have to experience a MARSEC 3 event. One of the main things that we can all do is become familiar with **America's Waterway Watch**, and you can find full information on the website: <http://americaswaterwaywatch.uscg.mil/home.html> . There is also a printable flyer available at: <http://www.lonestarhsc.org/docs/resources/Americas-Waterway-Watch.pdf>

3. If you have not done so previously, check out the other documents of interest to recreational boaters on the Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee website (<http://www.lonestarhsc.org>). To access these articles and web links go the "**Resources**" tab of the website and then scroll down to the section entitled: "**For the Recreational Boater**", or you can just click this link directly: <http://www.lonestarhsc.org/resources.php> . Please read and become familiar with these very important boater documents!!!

4. I wrote last week on TMCA yahoo groups about news of some changes in Oak Island regarding the ownership of the store, the motel, and the old Hurricane restaurant. And also that the store is no longer going to be managing the marina (taking reservations, collecting slips fees, etc.) The marina is owned by Chambers County and I hope to have more information from them very soon on just who will be taking care of this management function.

So here are some of the specific changes that have recently taken place in Oak Island:

1. Artie Presley, who previously owned the **Oak Island Market**, and the **Oak Island Motel**, and **The Hurricane** restaurant, and the **Oak Island Lodge** (where the boat shed is) has now sold everything *except* the lodge!
2. The new owners of the three entities that Artie has sold are the people that currently own Tita's Mexican Restaurant, and they will be managing all three facilities.
3. They will close the original Tita's location and reopen in the Hurricane location as "Hurricane Tita's", and I am told that they are going to have a very good menu selection for both lunch and dinner. (The menu is not available as yet, but I will share it when I can get a copy.) The exact opening date is not yet determined but it should be soon.
4. The "Oak Island Market" will now be called "Oak Island One-Stop Shop".
5. The "Oak Island Motel" will now be called "Oak Island Resort".
6. All phone numbers remain the same.
7. The Frascone Winery (which had been destroyed by IKE) has reopened, but I do not have any details on this at this time.

5. A special industry lecture is coming up on December 2nd at the **Houston Maritime Museum**. It is by **Capt. Brian K. Penoyer**, Captain of the Port and Commander, US Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston. We of course had Captain Penoyer as the speaker at our August TMCA meeting, but if you missed hearing him then, or wish to hear him again, come to the Maritime Museum on December 2nd! Information on all upcoming HMM lectures can be found by clicking [here](#).

As usual, if any readers have comments, questions, ideas, or information on events that I may not know about, then I would definitely like to hear from you!

Philip Kropf
Community Liaison Committee Chair

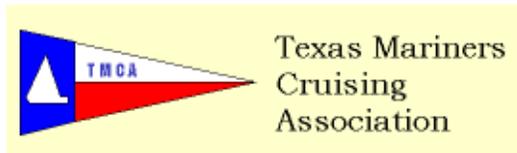
[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

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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