

Texas Mariners Cruising Association

The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

<http://www.tmca.nu>

January 2014



At the Helm

Martin Clark, Commodore

email: comm@tmca.nu

The Joys of Boating

Listening to the sounds of the water flowing by as your boat cruises on the bay or ocean can be truly enjoying. It is just like the sounds of nature especially when you listen to the water splashing along the sides of your boat. These enjoyments represent freedom, meditations with the surroundings elements of nature, freeing their mind from their daily work pressures, the satisfaction of discovering the new nooks and crannies, new people and lots more.

For many people enjoying boating fun is just like going on a joyride. For them, the thrill of boating can be experienced by feeling the sun shining on our faces and the wind blowing in our hair, streaming messily, as the boat cruises and bounces through the waves.

However, boating fun is not only that. The best joy of boating is to be able to spend quality time with our beloved family and friends in activities such as enjoying nature, discovering new places or a joining a gathering of other boaters. These kinds of activities will forge many new memories to be treasured for a lifetime.

The time you spend boating with your friends and family is invaluable and priceless. Moreover, this is the most suitable time to focus on each other, rather than being stressed with the daily grind.

Make full use of these precious moments by spending time with your family members such as storytelling, jokes, recalling the past memories, playing family games and sharing memories and passions. Enjoy your best moments with them by enjoying the sunset view together. Adapted from: Deztrucktor

Membership in TMCA is a gift. Even if you only cruise or party a few times a year, TMCA provides you with an opportunity to be with others who share your enjoyment of boating. Additionally, TMCA provides opportunities to expand your boating knowledge. If you have not renewed your membership yet, now is the time.

The club has many exciting activities planned this Spring. View the website, www.TMCA.nu, and check out all the fun stuff our members are putting together.

See you next time,

***Martin Clark,
Commodore***



The Corner of Vice

Mary Lou Clark, Vice Commodore

Email: vcomm@tmca.nu

Ahoy TMCA members! We've kicked off 2014 with successful Planning and Orientation Meetings as well as a good January monthly meeting. We've already had a fun cruise and social with many, many more on the calendar for TMCA enjoyment throughout the coming year.

My job this year is to offer educational and informational opportunities to our members. Here is what I have on tap for February and early March. Captain Neil Pleasants, (a TMCA member for many years), will talk to us at the February monthly meeting, (February 21, 2014), about his adventures in delivering boats of all sizes to the Clear Lake area. Neil has been doing this for many years so he will have some good stories to tell us. Please join us at the Kemah Elks lodge that Friday evening for this enjoyable program.

Moving on to March – please mark your calendars, (LADIES), for the Women on the Water Class. This is the class that is taught by two of our most experienced lady sailors. You will learn about lines, tying special knots, docking procedures, talking on the radio and much more. You will receive a booklet and your very own line to practice tying knots. The date for this is March 1, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Kemah Elks Lodge. We will have donuts, kolaches, coffee, tea and juice for you. I will start a sign-up for this class closer to the actual date of the class.

Remember the best way to enjoy TMCA is to get involved. Come to the meetings, attend the socials and join the cruises. You won't regret your involvement.

***Marylou Clark,
Vice Commodore***



The Social Scuttlebutt

Bronwyn Lee, Rear Commodore

email: rcomm@tmca.nu

Since my January newsletter article a lot has been happening on the social calendar of TMCA.

We had a very successful Planning Meeting early in January which laid out cruises and socials for the entire year. However, there are still opportunities to lead a cruise or plan a social, so please don't hesitate to contact Jim Lee, our Cruise Captain; or myself.

Due to a scheduling conflict, we had to push the Annual Bunko Party back a week to this coming Saturday, February 1st. Vicki Berkebile graciously stepped up and organized a Dinner and Show evening out in Galveston, to fill the vacant date of Jan.25th. Following an intimate dinner for 24 at Grottos, the evening continued at B. Jiggers with none other than Elvis!

If you receive this newsletter in time to attend the **ANNUAL Bunko Party** on Feb.1st, PLEASE COME! Just bring a pot of soup, chili or gumbo. We'll provide the paper goods, iced tea and desserts. A cash bar is available at the Elks Lodge. Get ready for some competitive dice rolling, attentive & entertaining waiters, good fun and fellowship, and there will be prizes!

WHERE: Elks Lodge, 623 Hanson Rd, Kemah, TX. 77565.

WHEN: Eating at 6:00 pm, Bunko around 7:00 pm till whenever!

Our first Dock Party of the year will be hosted by Susan Norwood and Jerry Grooms at Portofino Marina. Paper goods will be provided and the grills will be ready around 6:00 pm. Bring a dish to share and something to grill, and also chairs. Be sure to wear something RED to mark National Wear Red Day, and National Heart Month.

The Portofino gate code for this event *only* is... 2714...

For more information contact Susan at (214)598-7316 or susan.norwood@gmail.com

A large group of folks are taking a cruise on the Carnival Magic, from Feb.9th – 16th, and celebrating Valentine's Day at the Prime Steakhouse restaurant onboard. Last minute reservations still available.

Please contact me at (713)222-1960 bronlee@travelleaders.com

Wherever you are and however you celebrate, have a wonderful Valentine's Day!

You won't want to miss the Mardi Gras dinner at Fishtales Restaurant in Galveston on Feb.22nd! This is a hoot, come dressed in your finest Mardi Gras regalia as we crown the King and Queen of the Crewe de TMCA, and you will hold that honor for an entire year! Dinner starts around 3:00 pm, then stay to watch the Krewe de Gambrinus Parade roll down the Seawall Blvd., right in front of the restaurant. Be sure to RSVP to Pam Gasper by Tuesday Feb.18th at the very latest.

You can call Pam at (832)444 4751 or email at pgasper690@aol.com

Yachty Gras 2014 will be hosting their Kick-off Party at the Clear Lake Shores Civic Club at 7:00pm on Friday Feb.28th. For more details, they have a nice website www.yachtygras.com or call Maurine Howard at (713)882-4040. The annual Grand Night Boat Parade will be held the following evening.

Looking in to March – be sure to mark your calendars for the Dock Party on Friday March 7th. This will be hosted by CJ and Bill Jenko at their lovely home on the canal in Lazy Bend. Grills will be available, so bring a dish to share and something to grill, as well as lawn chairs.

WHERE: Their address is 41 Lazy Lane, Kemah, TX. 77565.

More details & directions are available on the website or call the Jenkos at (832)226-1586

Save the Date – Saturday March 15th! TMCA is co-hosting an event with GBCA. GBCA is doing what they do best, the St. Patrick's Day Regatta on the bay. And we are doing what we do best, the Sailor Party after the race! If enough TMCA boats enter the regatta, we will have our own division. Please contact Jim Lee regarding the actual race. Our own Lorna Glascock is heading up the Dinner with the Leprechauns, following the race. This will be held around the pool/patio area at Watergate Marina.

To volunteer your time and talents for the social, please contact Lorna at (281)334-0542 or lornaglascock@yahoo.com

TMCA Knows Fun!!

*Bronwyn Lee
Rear Commodore
TMCA Knows Fun!!*



The Cruise Corner

Jim Lee, Cruise Captain

email: captain@tmca.nu

TMCA Members: We had a productive Planning Meeting on January 11. Without a headcount, I estimate between 70 to 80 members were present and it seemed like most contributed in one way or another, which is not a surprise considering these are TMCA'ers. We ended the meeting on time with the makings of a great cruising and social calendar for the year.

We now have 43 cruises planned for 2014. This is a very good mix of short, medium and long cruises that have destinations in or near to Galveston Bay, nearby rivers and lakes, cruises up and down the Texas-Louisiana coast going inshore and offshore. Some of last year's popular cruises are repeated, but we also have some new cruises and destinations and some cruise destinations done in years past. A lot of new faces have stepped up as cruise leaders this year, and for all these reasons I believe that everyone who participates will find 2014 to be an enjoyable year on the water!

We started the cruising year off on a great note in January and had our first destination cruise to Galveston Yacht Basin. The weather was perfect for the typical 'Frostbite Cruise', and six cruisers along with about the same amount of land yachters enjoyed Yaga's Chili Quest and Beer Fest along with the January Art Walk in the evening.

A couple of on-water events are planned for February and early March:

1 February - Fifth and final GBCA Icicle Race

Those of you that want to compete in a friendly rum race, the Fifth and final GBCA Icicle race is on February 1st. This race is about 8 nautical miles and has a staggered start between Markers 1 and 2 beginning around 1130 am. Contact Ron Eddleman (936-328-7361) ron_1056@yahoo.com if you want to participate.

15 February [Bolivar Exploratory Overnight Cruise](#)

This will be an exploratory cruise to Bolivar Peninsula to visit Laguna Harbor, Steve's Landing and Stingerees Restaurant's and Marinas. All have said to be free dockage as none have electricity as of this posting. The plans are to document the depths into and out of each area as possible overnight locations for cruisers going to Port Arthur for Spring Fling. I (Jim Lee) am looking for a co-lead for this cruise so let me know if you are interested.

Any 5' or 6' draft boats are welcome as we will go to Stingeree's first as visiting / talking with them in December their outer pier showed 5'5' during low tides so we can raft you up there. We can explore on my (Jim Lee) Rinker from there to see any other options

1 March (6PM) [Yachty Gras Boat Parade](#)

*Jim Lee,
Cruise Captain*

Secretary's Report

Barbara Nickelson, Secretary

email: secretary@tmca.nu



We are off to a great start in this New Year! The planning meeting went very well. I think we had at least a hundred people attend. We have many, many cruises and I don't know how many parties to look forward to. The Orientation meeting was also very well attended. We met a lot of our new members for the first time.

This is **last call** for **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**. Membership will be terminated if dues are not received by March 1st. Renewals received after March 1st will be treated as a new membership and will be charged the \$20 initiation fees. It is \$50 for a dual membership or \$35 for a single membership. You can go online to pay by PayPal with your credit card or you can pay with a check made out to TMCA and mailed to

TMCA

P. O. Box 946,
Kemah, TX 77565

We have had several new and /or returning members that we would like to welcome. Please look up these people at the meetings and make them feel welcome to our club.

Mike and Dawn Jeglic
Steven and Jeannie Keith
Nicholas Moore
Brad and Connie Wentling
Tony and Connie Lazaro
Edward and MeiLing Turner
Orlando and Vivian Cardoso
Eugene Harris
David Mallett
Mike and Candice Thibodeaux
Mike and Kip Veraa
Jim and Janet Stoeckel
Edward Curtis
Russ and Carol Burchfield
Bob Lippner

Membership is coming along nicely. So far, we have 335 paid memberships. There are still roughly 200 unpaid members that we will be contacting. Kathy and Neil Houser have graciously accepted the task of helping out with membership. They have been a tremendous help. Thanks so much!!!

I wanted also to thank Vicki Berkebile for putting together the dinner at Grotto's this past weekend. It was so much fun. I think we ended up with about 13 couples. The food and service at Grotto's was excellent and the Elvis show that was at the Holiday Inn was a real kick. We all had so much fun!!!!

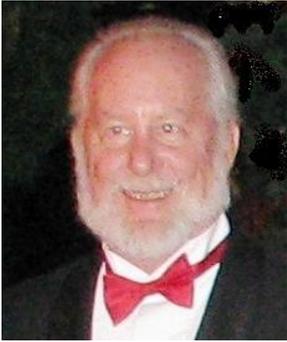
February is looking like a very busy and fun month as well. We have an event almost every single weekend. There is the Bunko Party, Yachty Gras, and Mardi Gras Party at Fish Tales all of which should not be missed. About twenty five couples are also taking the Carnival Cruise with Steve and Bron Lee. I don't know if I am going to have time to work with all of the parties and cruises. Oh well, I hope my boss will understand my exhaustion!!!

I also would like to give a shout of thanks to Chris Bown. Chris has offered to help us with the membership spreadsheet so that we can put out the new directory. I know that he already had his hands full with Spring Fling so I really appreciate his help with this monumental task.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the various events. Come join us and let's have some fun!!!

Happy Boating
Your secretary,

Barbara Nickelson,
Secretary



Dollars And "Sense" from the Treasurer

Bob Nickelson, Treasurer

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

Hope everyone had a safe and a happy arrival of 2014 – I'm just now being able to figure out what day of the week it is – those split up weeks got confusing.

Would like to do some "bean counting" updates to close 2013 and let everyone know some relevant numbers. First, we began the 2013 year with a bank balance of \$21,909.71 and ended with \$23,195.40 – an increase of \$1,285.69.

Our 2013 Budget was projected to show a loss of \$ 1,698.00 and we ended up at a loss of \$1,162.78 - \$535.22 better than projected.

Membership dues, which are our main source of revenue, were projected at \$13,000 and we were at \$12,772 for the year – we had additional Burgee sales of \$ 1625.

With all of the cruises, parties and other social gatherings, TMCA provided a lot of bang for your membership buck – I don't know where anyone can get more for the cost of our memberships.

As soon as 2014 Budgets are approved by the Board, I will send out a summarized recap.

Ready for some warmer weather and deeper water – be safe.

***Bob Nickelson,
Treasurer***

Community Liaison Committee Chair



Philip Kropf

PKropf@flash.net

Captain's Roundtable, Lakewood Yacht Club: Mid-Bay Dredging. This is an educational event that will be taking place at LakewoodYacht Club on February 8, 2014, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. You don't have to be a LYC member to attend this event, and it would be really great to have a lot of TMCAers show up!

A document describing LYC's "press release" on this event is posted in the **Tool Box/File Downloads** section under **Safety and Security** and can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

At least the dredging portion of the program, presented by an engineer with the USACE, should be of interest to *everyone* since this is work that is going on right now out in our mid-bay area, and it is work that will be continuing throughout 2014.

I have also posted in the same section of the website the 12/6/13 USACE press release on this project. This document describes the project in some detail, and also warns us recreational boaters

what to watch out for as we cruise the mid-bay portion of Galveston Bay during 2014. You can access this document by clicking [here](#).

In the second half of the program I will be making a presentation on safely Navigating to Galveston while, for the most part, staying out of the very busy and hazardous Houston Ship Channel.

Philip Kropf
Community Liaison Committee Chair

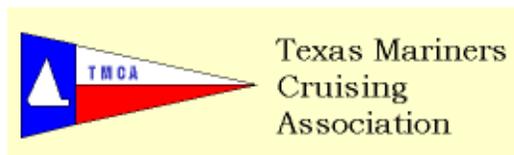
[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

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	Doc 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