

Texas Mariners Cruising Association

# The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

**June 2014**



## **At the Helm**

**Martin Clark, Commodore**

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

We are happy to announce two programs for our June general meeting. Because of the scheduling issues, we are very fortunate to host Dr. Bill Merrill, a George P. Mitchell professor of marine sciences at TAMU-Galveston. Dr. Merrill is also Director for the Center for Texas Beaches and Shores, and Chairman of the Institute for Oceans and Coasts. Dr. Merrill envisioned a 60 mile, 17 foot high levee, extending from High Island to south of San Luis Pass, and a flood gate system to close off the Bolivar Roads.

There is a lot at stake. The Port of Houston is the second busiest port in the U. S. Estimates that 40% of America's jet fuel production and untold amounts of gasoline, diesel and petroleum-based plastics and other products are produced around Galveston Bay. The destruction of our Houston-area petrochemical industry poses a national security threat. Hurricane Ike was a wake-up call, resulting in an estimated \$30 billion in economic losses, with an estimated loss of life of almost 200 people.

Endorsed by Gov. Perry, the Bay Area Economic Partnership and the city councils of most Galveston Bay area municipalities, the Ike Dike is a vital project for our security. All is not well, though. Reported Glenn Royal, Mayor of Seabrook, "big corporate interests, big oil, big business, and the lobbyists, are getting behind the alternative Rice Dike Centennial Gate, proposed to be erected under the Fred Hartmann Bridge." Not only would a barrier constructed there not help the coastal and bay cities, it would serve to wipe them out, as the water is held back. (Nov. 2013) "It is too costly to protect the coastal communities," reported Prof. Thomas Colbert in Oct. 2013. Mayor Royal called the coastal and bay cities, "collateral damage," as seen by big oil and industry. Kemah mayor Bob Cummins has invited Dr. Merrill to speak on several occasions, to help raise awareness and political will.

Expensive to build? Sure. \$5 - 6 billion is the current estimate. Do we have a choice? Come hear the arguments pro and con at our June General meeting. Maybe the prestige and political clout of the TMCA will carry the issue in Congress. (Ok, I am a bit carried away)

We also welcome the Galveston Bay Power Squadron for a short presentation about their fine work to enhance boating safety. What a fine and dedicated group of boaters - GB Power Squadron!

Thanks not only to the dedicated and hard-working volunteers who created Spring Fling 2014, but also a big thanks and high five to all the captains and co-captains who made the long journey to Pleasure Island. The weekend went off with miniscule problems. A fouled prop and big wake here and there. We can handle that! The Pleasure Island Commission and the Port Arthur Yacht Club made sure we felt welcomed, had plenty of fuel and ice, and generally made our weekend problem-free so we could focus on partying!

Looks like the club is gaining a lot of new members. Great! We hope you find a boating and social home at TMCA. We offer boating tips, assistance with route-planning, machinery repair, and a designated driver when the night was too long! There are lots of up-coming cruises and socials, so check the calendar often. And check out our new website!

See you soon,

**Martin Clark,  
Commodore**

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## **The Corner of Vice**

**Mary Lou Clark, Vice Commodore**

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

Ahoy TMCA! What a wonderful spring season we've been having! So many great cruises and parties going on – TMCA is a terrific organization offering something fun almost every weekend of the year.

Spring Fling was a marvelous success and thanks go to so many people who made it possible, but special big thanks go to our two Spring Fling organizers, Christopher Bown and Jerry Simoneaux. They worked tirelessly to make sure this was an event to be proud of and it was!!!!!!!

Our June program is one not to be missed. We have two excellent programs for you! First the Power Squadron will give a short presentation on their organization and all they do around the Bay Area. Next we are fortunate to have Dr. Bill Merrill from Texas A&M to talk to us about the proposed Ike Dike and what is going on with that proposal. See Dr. Merrill's bio below:

*William J. Merrell holds a B.S. in physics and a M.A. in mathematics from Sam Houston State University and a Ph.D. in oceanography from Texas A&M University. He is the George P. Mitchell chair of marine sciences at Texas A&M University at Galveston and served as president of the university. He has been chair of the H. John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics and the Environment, vice chancellor for Strategic Programs of The Texas A&M University System, vice president for Research Policy of Texas A&M University, chair of the Ocean Studies Board, served on the Space Studies Board and the Board on Sustainability of the National Research Council and has held presidential appointments with the National Science Foundation. Among his awards are the Distinguished Achievement Medal from the Geosciences and Earth Resources Council and he is the only person to receive the Distinguished Service Award of the National Science Foundation twice. Following the devastation of Hurricane Ike, Dr. Merrell began the Ike Dike project to provide hurricane surge protection for the Upper Texas Coast including all of Houston and Galveston.*

Mark your calendars for June 20 to hear both these worthwhile presentations. Doors of the Elks Lodge open at 6:00 p.m., dinner orders start to be taken at 6:30 p.m., business meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. and then our presentations. As always, though, we will be finished by 9:00 p.m. I look forward to seeing many of you there!

Please be sure and mark your calendars, too, for the July meeting! We are going to have a very different and fun program that month. More about that later, but it is one you do not want to miss! Save the date – July 18<sup>th</sup>!

In the meantime, have fun on and around the Bay!

*Marylou Clark,  
Vice Commodore*

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## **The Social Scuttlebutt**

**Bronwyn Lee, Rear Commodore**

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

We had a great kick-off to summer parties and cruising with the Memorial Day cruise to Moody Gardens. Debbie Sturgeon did a fantastic job arranging a dinner at Fisherman's Wharf in a private room overlooking the Elissa. The Moody shuttles transported around 40 people to the restaurant; the wait staff served us our pre-ordered selections practically as soon as we arrived! Post dinner we were treated to a very interesting talk about the history and current activities of the Elissa by Jerry Simoneaux. And kudos too to Moray Sandison for his expert handling of slip assignments and docking duties.

Our June dock party (Friday 06/06/14) will be hosted by Linda and Mark Weidmann at their home in Glen Cove. The theme is "Caribbean Nights" and I have it on good authority that Painkillers will be the cocktail of the evening. Bring something to grill, a dish to share and your chairs. Check the website and weekly updates for directions by land yacht and by dinghy.

The annual Nassau Bay raft up will be the following afternoon, 06/07/14. Our hosts will be Commodore Martin Clark and Vice Commodore Marylou Clark. We will raft up in groups of four or five boats so bring snacks to share, your summer beverage of choice, water toys and plenty of sunscreen.

And if you still are looking for a party this weekend, our friends at Mantus Anchors have invited all TMCA-ers to their Second Anniversary Party Celebration on Saturday evening, June 7, from 6:00 pm till whenever. There will be free BBQ, drinks, live music, and give-aways!

The address is: 2710 Todville Rd, Seabrook, TX.

The following weekend, on Saturday June 14, is the Howl at the Moon anchor out at Redfish Island. Steve and I will head out to Redfish early afternoon to get anchored in preparation for the progressive dinner. M/V Beachcomber has graciously offered to host docktails around 6pm. Then we will move

to s/v Waltzing Matilda for the main course. If you can, bring an appetizer for round one and a dish to share for round two! After dinner we will dinghy ashore to enjoy the 'Sacrificial Expired Koozy Ceremony' around the bonfire. Bring your expired koozies and recite a little story about them as they are commended to the Full Moon. Round three will be sweets, rum and cigars for dessert around the bonfire.

The July (4<sup>th</sup>) dock party will be held at the Beason Pavilion in conjunction with the July 4<sup>th</sup> cruise to Oak Island. Jim and Doris Lee will host the dock party, watch for more details closer to the date.

Save the Date: PAST COMMODORE'S (local) CRUISE TO PELICAN REST Marina July 11 – 13  
Steve and I will be hosting a local cruise and invite land yachters as well as boaters to join us for "The Beach Ball" at Pelican Rest. I am working on menu options with Number 13 restaurant for a casual meal outdoors, upstairs in the open air lounge, for Saturday evening July 12<sup>th</sup>. This will be kind of like a summertime "Tux and Tennies" party, maybe tuxedo t-shirts and shorts for the guys, and sparkly top or sundress for the ladies! Watch the Website calendar, as well as Yahoo, and the weekly updates for more details, in upcoming weeks.

*Bronwyn Lee  
Rear Commodore  
TMCA Knows Fun!!*

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## **The Cruise Corner**

**Jim Lee, Cruise Captain**

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

We are now well into the 2014 cruising season, and TMCA has some great cruises on tap this month. Before I get into that, I'll point out that we are also coming into the "hurricane season" which officially starts June 1. What does that mean for us? It means that we need to have a plan in place to prepare our boat should the need arise. There is a lot of information on how to prepare, and BoatUs has a site that is very informative, click [HERE](#). West Marine has used this information and compiled a very good video on Hurricane Preparation, click [HERE](#). We need to have a plan in place now, because the last thing you want to do is scurry around and be unprepared when a storm is imminent. Remember, Murphy is always there when you don't expect him.

We had five cruises in May:

May 3-4	Laguna Harbor Open House, Bolivar Peninsula
May 16-18	Spring Fling - Pleasure Island, Port Arthur, TX
May 24-26	Memorial Day Cruise to Moody Gardens
May 31 – Jun 1	Hurricane Stay Away Themed Cruise to Bayland Marina

We have these cruises in June.

Jun 7	Nassau Bay Raft-up
Jun 14-15	Howl at the Moon/Redfish
Jun 21	Summer Solstice Sailing Angels Cruise
Jun 28-29	Shell Beach Picnic w/optional anchor out

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

And plan for these in July and August:

July 4-6	Beason Park Fourth of July Cruise / Dock Party
July 11-13	PCC - The Beach Ball at Pelican Rest
July 25	Kemah Fireworks Raft-up
July 26	San Bernard One Day (Dingy and Small Boat)
Aug 2	Clear Lake Dingy Poker Run
Aug 9-10	Bayland Cruise - Catfish Fry
Aug 16-18	Harborwalk 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

That's it for now. Be safe and see you on the water,  
Jim Lee  
2014 TMCA Cruise Captain

*Jim Lee,  
Cruise Captain*

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## **Secretary's Report**

**Barbara Nickelson, Secretary**

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

It has been an extremely busy and fun month for TMCA. Spring Fling has come and gone. All the hours of hard work and preparation presented our club with a great opportunity to learn about a new destination and to meet lots of new boating buddies. We had so much fun. The music was awesome thanks to Phil Eckenroth and his band Hotline who played on Friday night and also to Kelly McGuire, who played on Saturday night. There was lots of shopping opportunities with many different types of vendors. Last but not least the food was very, very good. As a club we owe a debt of gratitude to Chris Bown for his vision in taking us to Port Arthur. The marina itself is brand new and beautiful. The people were so warm and inviting and seemed truly excited that we were all there. I for one would like to go back. We were unable to take our boat on this trip but we will definitely take it the next time. If you didn't go, you missed a great trip. I can't name everyone who worked on the committees but thanks to all of you for your dedication and hard work. It paid off!!!!

We no sooner left Port Arthur and it was time to go back to ....you guessed it...back to Moody. Did I ever tell you that is one of my favorite destinations in this area? Moray Sandison and Debbie Sturgeon did a fabulous job of leading the cruise and social activities. Again, a fun, fun weekend!

We have quite a few new members again this month. Our club is growing and I think it is wonderful. Help me to welcome these new members:

- 1) Mr. and Mrs. Allan Hanus
- 2) Bryan and Cindy Austin
- 3) Tom Dickens and Vicky Steinhoff
- 4) Rob and Janet Sherrill
- 5) Mr. and Mrs. Cole Knutsen
- 6) Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Anderson
- 7) Todd Johnson
- 8) Austin and Penny Davis
- 9) Jesse and Christine Cancelmo
- 10) Davis and Joni Jarvis
- 11) Mr. and Mrs. Michael Iversen

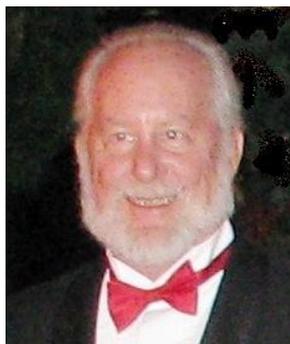
I encourage each of you as well as all of our new members to go to our new website. Linda Schoene has done a wonderful job of updating our site. It looks beautiful and it is fun to look through all of the changes. Take a moment to go into your profile and make sure that all information is correct. Make whatever changes are necessary, upload current photos of yourself and your boat if you have one. This will be a great tool for our club to be able to contact each other. Contact me or Linda if you have problems or questions.

Bob and I are headed back to Key West next week on our vacation. We are excited about checking it out as we continue to get ready for our retirement cruise. We visited at length with John and Wendy Ellor at Moody this past weekend. They are living our dream right now and they gave us lots of good information for traveling up the east coast. We enjoyed our visit with them.

Be safe and I hope to see you on the water or at one of our many social events.

Your Secretary,

See you soon,  
***Barbara Nickelson,***  
***Secretary***



## **Dollars And "Sense" from the Treasurer**

Bob Nickelson, Treasurer

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

Spring has Sprung, Fling has Flung, and another Spring Fling in the books and a good time was had by all. Still tabulating all the numbers, so I do not have the "bottom line" at this time – all preliminary numbers look good. Revenue projections were exceeded and budgeted expenses were in line – we took in over \$4,300 in cash during the event – "Great job" to Chris Bown and all the committee volunteers for their efforts.

TMCA's financial condition is still very strong and incomes are above predicted levels due to increased membership sales – all expense items are within our 2014 budget.

Just got back from the Memorial Day week-end at Moody Gardens and once again we filled the marina.

Good summer to all and be safe out there.

***Bob Nickelson,***  
***Treasurer***

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## Community Liaison Committee Chair



Philip Kropf  
[PKropf@flash.net](mailto:PKropf@flash.net)

Just some miscellaneous notes and musings this month...

1. As reported last month, the *good news* to report is that the mid-bay dredging project (between lights 52 and 78) by the USACE is going to finish *months* ahead of its originally scheduled completion of late 2014, and in fact by the time that you read this column it may already have wrapped up. There may be some dredge pipelines still in place out there for a couple of weeks until they can get things cleaned up, so please continue to exercise caution when navigating in the area!

The *not so good news* however is that yet *another* dredging project in our area is about to begin (probably in July), and that is the deepening and widening of the Bayport and Barbours Cut channels. (Click [here](#) for more information.) This is a Port of Houston Authority project rather than a USACE project, and so information is going to come from different sources, but I will continue to provide safety information as to pipeline locations, etc. as I receive it.

2. I continue to attend meetings of all four subcommittees (plus also the Full Committee) of the **Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee**. ([www.lshsc.org](http://www.lshsc.org)) These committees are Waterways Utilization, Navigation Operations, Dredging & Marine Construction, and Maritime Education, Training & Outreach. The meetings are always open to the public, and even though most of the discussion topics deal with commercial/industrial maritime interests, I attend the meetings to acquire information on things that potentially affect recreational boaters, and also to bring recreational boater issues to the attention of the all the other attendees who represent a variety of constituencies, all of whom are regularly bringing ideas and issues to the table to try to make our regional ports work better and more safely.

There will come a time when, if recreational boaters are going to be represented at all in this and other port committees, that someone else is going to have to step up to the plate and perform this work! Most of the attendees, other than myself, are at these meetings on paid work time, and I recognize that if you have a day job it is kind of hard to take time off to attend such meetings. But I am convinced that it is important work! No one amongst the other constituencies is going to look out for the interests of recreational boaters on our waterways unless we do it ourselves, and as the most active cruising organization on Galveston Bay, TMCA should *always* be involved!

Even before my own such involvement, TMCA does have some history of being proactive. In the early years of the past decade, when plans were being formulated, and then implemented, for the deepening and widening of the Houston Ship Channel, Ed Herndon and some others were deeply committed to looking out for recreational boater interests. We would never have gotten the dredged and marked North and South Boater Cuts, nor also the rebuilt Redfish Island, were it not for the efforts of Ed and others! My own accomplishments of getting the white lines painted on the Galveston Cause RR Bridge, and also in keeping the USCG from removing *all* of the ATONs in the Double Bayou Channel, probably pale compared to Ed's accomplishments, but again the point is, if someone is not out there looking out for recreational boater interests, we are then very likely to get walked over by all of the more powerful and moneyed entities who are there all looking out for themselves!!

3. Some time ago I put out an appeal on TMCA yahoogroups for photographs of your boat's Y-valve configuration. This may sound like a strange request, but Charlene Bohannon, the Water Quality Program Manager with the Galveston Bay Foundation, and the speaker at our March meeting, is looking for such photos. In early April she e-mailed me:

Do you happen to have any photos of a y/discharge valves that are properly secured with a padlock or wire tie? I would like to have examples of several different setups since people ask me about it during presentations sometimes. I am going to ask around to others as well, but if not do you know people that I could ask to take photos of their valves?

So please send me some Y-valve photos at [pkropf@flash.net](mailto:pkropf@flash.net) and I will forward them to Charlene.

*Philip Kropf*  
*Community Liaison Committee Chair*

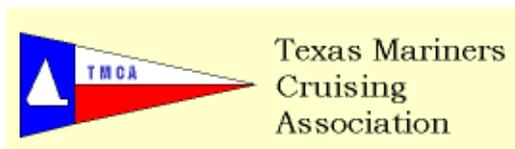
**[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)**

**2014 TMCA Officers**

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

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<b>Trustee 2010 Commodore</b>	<b>Ron Eddleman</b>	<b>s/v Stellar of Course</b>	<b>936-328-7361</b>
<b>Trustee 2002 Commodore</b>	<b>Gloria Rooney</b>	<b>s/v St. Somewhere</b>	<b>281-499-4413</b>



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newsletter@tmca.nu***

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