

Texas Mariners Cruising Association

The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

<http://www.tmca.nu>

March 2014



At the Helm

Martin Clark, Commodore

email: comm@tmca.nu

To all Concerned Traffic:

We have experienced too much cold and windy weather in SE Texas! Boating time suffers! Despite the unsuitable weather, cruises are taking place and we have enjoyed many well-attended socials. The State of TMCA is excellent! Congratulations to new boat owners: Kevin and Vickie Berkebile, Steve and Pam Gasper, and Dan and Dawn Doak. If I left you out, I did not hear about your new vessel. It is so exciting to outfit a new ride and even more exciting (and challenging) to find the money to do it with!

Spring Fling plans are looking good. Christopher Bown and his team are really trying extra hard to create a super event. Please make every effort to boat (or land yacht) over to Port Arthur! The Bunko social and the Fish Tales Mardi Gras parties, to name a couple, were great successes and lots of fun. The Past Commodore cruise on Carnival Magic was full of surprises but everyone had a terrific time. Thanks to Bron Lee for outstanding planning and fun!

Warm weather is fast-approaching. If we can just get past one or two more Northers, we will be in the water! TMCA cruise leaders and party-givers offer so much enthusiasm and energy to help everyone experience boating fun. Gloria Rooney and Marion Herndon have 26 ladies at this date signed up for the Women On the Water classes. Where else can a co-captain learn the best strategies for calming down her captain and stopping all the yelling?? What about the practice run to Pleasure Island on March 13th? Might be just for you! Peter Bryant, president of the Southwest International Boat Show, attended the last general meeting and told us about a huge array of learning and entertainment opportunities for attendees at the March 27-30 event at South Shore Harbor.

There are a lot of boating clubs on the Louisiana-Texas coast, but none get more positive comments (and envy) than our own TMCA. Thanks to everyone who contributes, from heavy cruisers to once-in-a-while crew. It all adds up.

Even if you have moved on to RVs, campers, or just Lazy Boy recliners, support TMCA with your membership renewal!

See you next time,

***Martin Clark,
Commodore***



The Corner of Vice

Mary Lou Clark, Vice Commodore

Email: vcomm@tmca.nu

Happy almost Spring TMCA! As your education officer this year I can say that I have definitely learned a valuable lesson this February and that is that you cannot plan to schedule anything that happens on the water. Mother Nature is in charge of that and she rules! Those of us who were fortunate enough to be on the recent Past Commodore's Cruise learned that lesson first hand when we were delayed in leaving Galveston for our week long cruise by 18 hours due to fog. Our February speaker, Captain Neal Pleasant emphasized this in his wonderful talk at the monthly meeting. He said never plan a boating activity on any schedule, but rather wait and let the weather dictate what you do. As veteran TMCA member, Philip Kropf quotes, "we cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust our sails".....that may mean adjusting our plans to take off on whatever boating adventure we have planned. You can plan to go, but it may not happen. Be prepared!!!

We have lots of exciting events coming up for March: On March 1 is the Women on the Water Class taught by Gloria Rooney and Marion Herndon, two of TMCA's best women boaters. The class will be held at the Elks Lodge from 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. This is a wonderful opportunity for us ladies to learn helpful boating techniques in a friendly, non-stressful atmosphere. You can come on in to the Elks Lodge that morning if you have not yet signed up. Call Marylou Clark, 281-333-2550 for more information.

The March Monthly Meeting will be held on March 21, 2014 at the Kemah Elks Lodge. The bar opens at 6:00, dinner orders start to be taken at 6:30, the business meeting starts at 7:30 and the program will begin at approximately 8:15. Our meetings generally adjourn at 9:00 p.m. The program this month will feature a speaker from the Galveston Bay Foundation, Charlene Bohannon, who will talk to us about the importance of pumping not dumping; she will tell us more about the rust colored water we are experiencing and many other important issues regarding the bay area in which we enjoy boating.

March 27 through March 30 will be the South West International Boat Show at South Shore Harbor Marina. Not only will there be lots of wonderful boats to look at, but there will be educational opportunities as well with seminars going on during the duration of the Boat Show. TMCA members wearing their badges on Saturday afternoon will pay only \$7 admission and that will also entitle them to attend the party that evening. Kelly McGuire is the entertainment. More information about this great event will be available to you soon.

I want to close with a big THANK YOU to some of the wonderful members who have helped me with the Vice Commodore's duties this year. To Philip Kropf for his wonderful list of resources for speakers and to Charles Parette, Christopher Bown, Jerry Grooms, Philip Kropf, and Martin Clark for being there to help me set up and take down the A/V equipment. All of you guys ROCK! TMCA is full of wonderful people who are always ready and willing to help others!

See you on the water or at the docks!

*Marylou Clark,
Vice Commodore*



The Social Scuttlebutt

Bronwyn Lee, Rear Commodore

email: rcomm@tmca.nu

Spring is almost here! January and February just flew by!

Many thanks to Susan Norwood and Jerry Grooms who hosted our first Dock party of the year in early February, and despite the Arctic chill there was a great turn out at the Portofino clubhouse.

This social was just two days before our big group of 52 TMCA-ers and friends sailed aboard the Carnival Magic for the Past Commodore's Cruise. Despite the fog closing the Port of Galveston, Carnival did a masterful job of disembarking the inbound passengers, embarking us outbound passengers, feeding us at midnight, then conducting the mandatory safety drill at 1am! All the while the ship is going nowhere till the port re-opened on the Monday morning. Luckily for us, Carnival re-arranged the ports of call and we did not miss any of them. The weather in Freeport and Nassau and Key West was spectacular and the Gulf crossing was amazingly calm for February. I will write a cruise report soon and post it on the website, with more details. I would like to say a huge "Thank You" to everyone who made this Past Commodore's a very memorable occasion for Steve and me.

As this newsletter is coming out, we will be having the annual Women on the Water class on March 1st. This is a wonderful morning dedicated to familiarizing us First Mates with boating basics such as knots, VHF radio etiquette, boating terms & much more.

Place: Elks Lodge – Saturday March 1st, 9:00am till Noon - Please come!

The next Dock Party on Friday March 07, 2014, will be held at the home of Bill & CJ Jenko. Their beautifully landscaped yard backs on to one of the canals in Lazy Bend, and is a perfect spot for a dock party! Grills will be available so bring something to cook, a dish to share and lawn chairs.

For more directions please check the website calendar or call Bill or CJ at (832) 226-1586.

Address: 41 Lazy Lane, Kemah 77565

The very next weekend TMCA and GBCA are teaming up to co-host the St. Paddy's Day Regatta on the bay on Saturday March 15th. For more information on the actual race, please check www.gbca.org or contact Ron Eddleman at ron_1056@yahoo.com . But for **THE** very best St Paddy's Day party, TMCA will be hosting the post-race party at the Watergate pool/deck area! Join us for Dinner with the Leprechauns around 5:00pm. Please bring your favorite Irish stew, casserole, or something Irish-themed. Also bring your beverage of choice and chairs. Paper goods will be provided. Please contact Lorna Glascock if you would like to assist with the set-up and decorating. lornaglascock@yahoo.com or (281)334-0542

Right after this party, I will be winging my way Down Under to the land of koalas, kangaroos and crocodiles, to visit my family and friends. But I'll be back in time for the April 4th Dock party at Harbor Island, hosted by the TMCA folks over there! ... Glascocks, Bertrams, Rooneys, et all. More details to come.

I hope to see you soon!

TMCA Knows Fun!!

Bronwyn Lee
Rear Commodore
TMCA Knows Fun!!



The Cruise Corner

Jim Lee, Cruise Captain

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

We are now moving into spring, and this is a good time to get some of those repairs and maintenance items taken care of. Although there are volumes written on the subject, here is a quick list I copied from SeaTow's website:

- **Life Jackets** – All recreational vessels must carry one wearable life jacket for each person on board. Any boat 16 feet and longer (except canoes and kayaks) must also carry one throwable (Type IV) device. Life jackets should be worn at all times when the vessel is underway.
- **Visual Distress Signals** – Vessels operating on U.S. coastal waters, the Great Lakes, and territorial seas, as well as those waters connected directly, up to a point where the waterway is less than two nautical miles wide, must be equipped with U.S. Coast Guard approved visual distress signals (VDS). Vessels owned in the United States and operating on the high seas must also be equipped with U.S. Coast Guard-approved visual distress signals.
- **Fire Extinguishers** - U.S. Coast Guard-approved, marine-type fire extinguishers are required on boats where a fire hazard could be expected from the engines or fuel system. Extinguishers are classified by a letter and number symbol. The letter indicates the type of fire the unit is designed to extinguish. Type B, for example, is designed to extinguish flaming liquids, such as gasoline, oil, and grease. The number indicates the amount of extinguishing agent contained in the extinguisher; the higher the number, the greater the amount of agent in the extinguisher.

- **Ventilation** – Boats that use gasoline for electrical generation, mechanical power, or propulsion are required to be equipped with a ventilation system.
- **Backfire Flame Control** – Gasoline engines installed in a motorboat or motor vessel after April 25, 1940, except outboard motors, must be equipped with an acceptable means of backfire flame control. The backfire flame arrestor (BFA) must be suitably secured to the air intake with a flame-tight connection, and is required to be either U.S. Coast Guard-approved or comply with SAE J-1928 or UL 1111 standards and marked accordingly.
- **Sound Producing Devices** – Navigation Rules require sound signals to be made under certain circumstances. Meeting, crossing, and overtaking situations are examples of circumstances in which sound signals are required. Recreational vessels are also required to use sound signals during periods of reduced visibility and while at anchor.
- **Navigation Lights** – Recreational vessels are required to display navigation lights between sunset and sunrise and during periods of restricted visibility (fog, rain, haze, etc.) The U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Rules, International-Inland, specifies lighting requirements for every description of watercraft.
- **Marine Sanitation Devices** - All recreational boats with installed toilet facilities must have an operable marine sanitation device (MSD) on board.
 - For the full guide of Federal Requirements for Recreational Boaters, [click here](#). You can visit the [Sea Tow Foundation](#)'s website for a list of additional recommended equipment [here](#).

February included two cruises:

From Feb.09 – Feb.16 Steve and Bron Lee along with their crew enjoyed their first **Past Commodore's Cruise** of the year on the **Carnival Magic** sailing from Galveston. They broke the fun on the fun meter from what I hear and see from the great group photos. This looks like the making of an annual TMCA trip.

On Saturday February 15th, Jim and Doris Lee along with land yachters Christopher and Jerry did a **Bolivar Exploratory Cruise** to check out possible staging areas along the Bolivar peninsular, for boats heading over to Spring Fling in May. Bad news is Laguna Harbor, Steve's Landing and Stingaree's were only 4 feet. The great news is that we got the contact for Laguna Harbor and they have agreed to dredge out to seven feet. In addition Jerry and Christopher have arranged the club house for the March exploratory cruise, see below and also the May Spring Fling nights. More to come so watch the website and your yahoo groups' email.

March has all the makings to be a great month for cruises as there are five on-water events:

Saturday March 1st at 7:00pm: YACHTY GRAS Grand Night Boat Parade

Come out and support our official TMCA entry, the mighty s/v Tradewind, which will be hosting the Hooters Girls. The Yachty Gras Boat Parade is also open to any well-found vessel that is insured and has appropriately silenced exhaust system. The boats will parade down Clear Creek Channel by the Kemah boardwalk.

March 13 – March 16: CRUISE DE LUNE to PLEASURE ISLAND

Join Jerry and Christopher on a boating trip to Pleasure Island, Port Arthur, Texas. Pleasure Island is the site of Spring Fling 2014. Come get a preview of the beautiful new marina and the outstanding hospitality of the folks at Port Arthur Yacht Club. Enjoy docktails and dinner under a full moon. For more information and to sign up please contact Jerry Simoneaux at jerry@simoneaux.com (713)577-9587

March 15: GBCA/TMCA St Patrick's Day Regatta on the Bay.

This year GBCA is teaming up with TMCA for a one day regatta with LONG races, followed by a St. Paddy's party not to be missed! For more information on how to sign up for the race, please visit the GBCA website at www.gbca.org. TMCA contact is Ron Eddleman at ron_1056@yahoo.com or (936)328-7361. GBCA contact is Walter Caldwell at waltercaldwell@earthlink.net

Dinner with the leprechauns at the end of the rainbow ~~ i.e. Watergate Pool area. After the joint TMCA/GBCA Galveston Bay race come over to the Watergate pool area. Bring your Irish dish and your green beer for a good ol Irish shin dig.....This is for racers and spectators so don those Irish shamrocks and join us for a good time. Location: Watergate Pool area. Contact: Lorna Glascock 281 334 0542 or email LornaGlascock@yahoo.com.

Saturday March 22nd - Annual Kayak Paddle on Buffalo Bayou,

The cruise led by Linda Schoene & Charles Parette will include kayak rental, paddles, PFD, instructions, guide, and transportation where we put in, and then back to our cars. We'll start at Memorial and 610, and finish at Sabine Street. Registration is [open](#), details are on the website calendar posting for this event.

March 28th – 30th - Synchronized Sail with the Elissa

The Official Texas Tall Ship Elissa is sailing again and TMCA members are invited to a synchronized sail with her. Elissa will depart Pier 21 at 10:00 and motor out past the jetties. There, she will set sail perform several tacking and wearing (gybing) maneuvers. Cruise Leader: Jerry Simoneaux, jerry@simoneaux.com or call 713-577-9587

Thanks now go get your boats ready for all these fun great TMCA cruises and events.

***Jim Lee,
Cruise Captain***



Secretary's Report

Barbara Nickelson, Secretary

email: secretary@tmca.nu

Boating season is fast approaching and we are, as I am sure most of you are also, getting our boat cleaned up, fixed up and ready to start taking some excursions. I am tired of the cold and I am tired of being indoors. With all the many opportunities that we have coming up, I am sure we will all be out there on the water very soon.

Our membership drive is coming along. Our paid membership stands at 400 which is well above where we were this time last year so I am pleased with that. However, we still have quite a few members who have not renewed for various reasons. Neil and Kathy Houser and I will be personally contacting each one to see if they plan to renew.

We have had quite a few new members to enroll this past month. I want to welcome each one of them and I would like for you to as well. They are as follows:

- 1) John Macdonald
- 2) Robert and Rebecca Schilling
- 3) James and Cecelia Dismukes
- 4) Fred Pounds
- 5) Lee and Donna White
- 6) Mike Arnett and wife
- 7) Joanne Moschella
- 8) Pedro and Vicky Filipowsky

Let's all make them feel welcome.

We just returned from the Past Commodore's Cruise to the Bahamas with Steve and Bron Lee. Bron did a fabulous job of putting together this cruise and we had so much fun. I think we ended up with about 30 couples from TMCA. The weather was great (once we got out of Galveston that is), the drinks were flowing and the food was wonderful. We spent a day in Freeport and Nassau and then came back to Key West where we got to spend about half a day. We have to go back to Key West. We loved every minute of it. It was really nice to be out on the water and have someone else bringing the drinks and preparing the food. Now I know how Bob feels when we go cruising on our boat!!!! Just kidding!

Get your boats ready and let's go on some trips. See you on the water!

***Barbara Nickelson,
Secretary***



Dollars And "Sense" from the Treasurer

Bob Nickelson, Treasurer
[email: treasurer@tmca.nu](mailto:treasurer@tmca.nu)

Budgets Done, Parties and Events are on the Books and Cruises to be made – A GREAT Year Ahead.

Coming back from the Bahamas, time to sleep and "Dry Out", but what a great trip – Thanks to Bron for all her efforts.

Speaking "Budgetcally", not a bad time for all to take a look at where your bucks go – in the accounting "nerdy" business, I look at our expenses each year to see just what happened to the dollars - I can even tell how much we spent at Spec's & Carnival got a nice chunk, but still a deal – keep track and you will be surprised – each year we say "we couldn't have eaten out that much" or "Docktari (our boat) cost *that* much !! " try throwing in that Bow Thruster & Bottom Job – some totals are more than surprising – we enjoy both and those are items we choose to spend money on – other expenses that show up, we at least see where the dollars are going and try to control for the future.

"THE WAY TO BECOME RICH IS TO PUT ALL OF YOUR EGGS IN ONE BASKET AND THEN WATCH THAT BASKET" -Andrew Carnegie

*Bob Nickelson,
Treasurer*



Community Liaison Committee Chair

Philip Kropf
PKropf@flash.net

The previously mentioned Feb. 8th Captains' Roundtable at Lakewood Yacht Club on the Mid-Bay Dredging activity was well-attended by TMCAers! Project Engineer Al Meyer with the USACE gave an *excellent* presentation on the hazards that one can encounter when navigating around dredges. This dredging work is going on right now out in our mid-bay area, and it is work that will be continuing throughout 2014.

Two important documents are posted in the **Tool Box/File Downloads** section of the website under **Safety and Security**. Mr. Meyer's PowerPoint, unfortunately *without* his detailed live explanations of each slide, can be accessed by clicking [here](#). Probably the most dangerous of the dredging hazards to be encountered are dredge pipelines that are resting on the bay bottom! Please study especially slides 32-39 in his presentation to learn about the three different configurations of dredge pipeline that are out there.

Additionally, the 12/6/13 USACE Press Release announcing these dredging projects can be accessed by clicking [here](#). This document goes into some detail on what to do if you encounter the dredge that is doing this work, how to determine the "safe" passing side, how to identify the various configurations of dredge pipeline, how to contact the dredge, and other important items.

The very latest information on where the dredging is occurring right now is found on the USACE website (click [here](#)). Specifically it says:

BAYPORT FLARE AND HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL, REDFISH TO BEACON 78 HSC

The Weeks Marine dredge “Captain Frank” is dredging the west side (green side) of the Houston Ship Channel, from approximately 1,000 feet north of Beacon 67, to 2,000 feet north of Beacon 59, from February 19 to about March 12, 2014. A submerged dredging line is crossing the HSC approximately 500 ft south of HSC Beacon 69, at: Lat 29d 34.575’N and Long 94d 55.842’ W. All dredged material is being placed in Mid-Bay Placement Area.

As part of the dredging contracts the USACE has *required* that the contractor maintain a special radio watch on VHF 13, and so if you need to contact the dredge they *should* answer your call. Additionally, the dredge, and also each of the associated work vessels, is required to have working AIS, and so for those of you with AIS receivers on your boats, these work vessels should be easy to see. (You can also find them by going to: <http://www.vesselfinder.com/>)

Please be exceedingly careful out there as this work continues and our boating season gets seriously underway as the warmer weather arrives!

Philip Kropf
Community Liaison Committee Chair

Southwest International In the Water Boat Show

MARCH 27 – 30, 2014, South Shore Harbour Marina
Show includes Free Seminars and the Sailing Village

Presented by GEICO, the Southwest’s largest In-Water Boat Show returns to the South Shore Harbour Marina, Bay Area Houston, for the sixth year in March 2014 with over 400 boats in-water and onshore making it the Premier Power and Sail Show for Texas!

The Show will again feature a huge selection of boats, ranging in size from 10ft-80ft plus, including Sport fishing Boats, Motor Yachts, Power Boats, Pontoon Boats, Cruisers, Ski Boats, Bay Boats and Sail Boats with many available for demo at the docks!

This is the largest selection of new and pre-owned boats, freshwater and saltwater, available anywhere in the Southwest - with pre-season specials and Dealer incentive programs available on many models.

Over 200 vendors will offer a variety of services and products for the boating and outdoor lifestyle, including fishing gear, engines, apparel and outdoor equipment, in addition to a full range of marine electronics, products and accessories.

Once again a comprehensive seminar program, featuring over 40 seminars, FREE to attendees, will be offered across the four days of the Boat Show. These entertaining and educational seminars, hosted by industry experts, will take place on site at the South Shore Harbour Resort Hotel and will cover a wide variety of topics, from weather and fishing to information on how to turn boating dreams into on the water reality!

Additionally, show-goers can sign up for one of the Discover Boating hands on skills training workshops, designed to add more fun to the boat show experience... and take boating skills up a notch. There’s something for everyone - from absolute beginners to seasoned skippers! Power boaters may choose from four One-Hour Skills building sessions and Sailors may choose from Two-

Hour and Three-Hour sailing workshops. All sessions are taught by USCG licensed Captains who are professional, certified instructors, registration on the show website.

Get up close to the Live Shark Encounter, take a diving lesson at the Be a Diver Pool, enjoy live music, craft beer tastings and exciting giveaways each day - all of which will ensure that this is a fun event for the entire family and a great weekend getaway.

Contact info@southwestintlboatshow.com or visit www.southwestinternationalboatshow.com

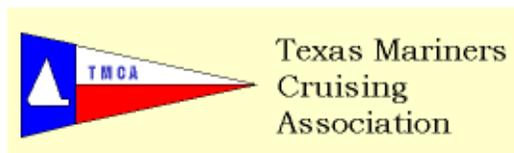
[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

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