

# The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

May 2014



## At the Helm

**Martin Clark, Commodore**

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

You can never be too careful when it comes to boat maintenance. Here is a story that unsettles all cruisers . . . .

"U.S. National Park Service rangers are trying to figure out what happened to a 65-foot motor yacht owned by "Mr. Las Vegas" entertainer Wayne Newton. The boat, a 1996 Skipperliner christened *Rendezvous*, sank stern-first while docked in 45 feet of water at Temple Bar Marina on Lake Mead. Photos released by the U.S. National Park Service show *Rendezvous* almost completely submerged,

with just her bow sticking up out of the water. The marina is within Arizona state lines, about 80 miles from Las Vegas, Nevada. Nobody was onboard during the sinking, but the boat was filled with artwork and family photos, according to the Las Vegas Sun. Newton was reportedly on vacation in Bora Bora with his family at the time of the incident. For that, at least, he can say *danke schoën*. The cause was traced to "problems with two hoses used to drain water from aft storage compartments." His wife's meticulous interior decorating was a total loss. No one was injured."

Now it is a fact that Mr. Newton did not appoint himself as yacht maintenance superintendent of *Rendezvous* (likely the real super was out of a job!), but it was still his loss due to poor upkeep. We have all heard the old saw, "it takes 5 hours of maintenance for every hour of boat operation." We all, me included, make merry about our members' tendency to enjoy the sauce at our get-togethers. But the truth is, for every beer or mixed drink, there was an equal amount of water or Gatorade to hydrate from the hours needed to maintain that snazzy ride you own. My hat is off to you! Never drop the ball on maintenance!

Spring Fling is almost here! Looks like we will approach 200 participants and the Committee has lined up numerous vendors and seminars to entertain and educate all who rendezvous at Pleasure Island. I hope everyone who reads this editorial will join in. If boating over is too daunting, or you don't have almost a week for this adventure, just drive over from Houston for the day on Saturday and rub elbows with everyone else, Come On! You could spend the night and boggie with Kelly McGuire. So many TMCA-ers have pitched in to create a terrific weekend. It is a Happening!

Linda Schoene has provided me with advance looks at our new and soon to be released website. It is so cool!! Your 2013 board of governors gave Linda the green light to investigate alternatives to our existing website. The 2014 board authorized the money to begin construction. What began as an initiative to improve what we had did not anticipate that we would have to shut down the existing website due to all the hacking. We owe Linda, Steve Lee, and the 2013 board a big Thank You for the foresight to look ahead and get ready for the future.

Many thanks to Jim Lee for his leadership in the cruise dept. Summer has arrived and the boating adventures will pile up. Can't wait to get out on the water! Many thanks to all the other officers and committee chairs for their tireless hours of creative service to our club and to you! You are so much appreciated. Have a great start of summer.

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)

Happy May TMCA! We are now in the wonderful season of boating. May this be the best boating season yet for all of you! With this season, though, come reminders from me to be safe out there. We had a wonderful speaker in April from Kirby Inland Marine who reminded us of tips on navigating the waterways with barges. Remember to contact the barge captain via radio before you pass and ask him on which side he wants you to pass. If he does not respond, radio again asking the same question – you should receive a response. If you still do not receive a response then radio a third time telling him your intentions and go ahead. We were assured by the Kirby representative that you are being heard. It is necessary, whether you get a response or not, to let these captains of the pusher boats know what you plan to do. They cannot stop on a dime.

TMCA is an organization full of helpful, kind people. I wish to thank some of these people for the help they have given me so far this year. To Linda Schoene – you have been so great in helping me put events on the calendar since my computer will not let me do it, along with being my much needed reminder about deadlines. To Philip Kropf, who has given me so many good suggestions for monthly speakers. To Charles Parette and Christopher Bown who always are there at the meetings waiting to help me set up the audio/visual equipment – all of you rock!!!!

Remember: If you are planning to go to Spring Fling, be sure and attend the Skipper's Meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, which will be held at the Kemah Elk's Lodge. Doors will open at 8:00 to pick up your Skipper's Bag and purchase additional t-shirts and meal tickets. The meeting will begin at 9:00am.

Our monthly meeting in May will be held on May 9<sup>th</sup>. The date is early again this month due to our wonderful Spring Fling taking place the following weekend. Our May Speaker will be Walter Hansen who is restoring the Danish fishing boat used in World War II to rescue Jews fleeing from Nazi Germany. Mr. Hansen says that "the Danish fishing boat at the Holocaust Museum Houston represents the heroic efforts of the Danish people who acted spontaneously and individually to protect their Jewish neighbors from being deported to Nazi concentration camps during World War II by evacuating them to Sweden". I hope that many of you will be able to attend the meeting to hear this wonderfully interesting presentation.

In past years we have offered "skill sessions" for our members on the nights of the monthly meetings. These sessions took place before the monthly meetings began. If there are specific skills such as knot tying or anchoring about which you'd like to know more, please let me know and I will arrange a skill session on that subject. Call me at 281-333-2550 if you have a request.

Have a wonderful May, TMCA! I'll see you on the water or at the Docks.

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*Marylou Clark,  
Vice Commodore*

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## **The Social Scuttlebutt**

**Bronwyn Lee, Rear Commodore**

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

As the saying goes, time flies when you're having fun! It's just the beginning of May but it seems like TMCA in general, and I personally seem to have packed a lot of things in to four months!

We've had four dock parties already and the always festive Cinco de Mayo Dock Party will be hosted by Barbara and Bob Nickelson this week on Friday May 02. Grills will be hot around 6:30 pm, so bring something to grill, a dish to share and your chairs. Their beautiful townhome faces the canal in Nantucket Landing so you can come by dinghy as well as land yacht. Address: 895 Davis Rd, League City 77573.

Further directions: Call Barbara at (713) 899-1098 or Bob at (713) 826-7551.

The long awaited Spring Fling Rendezvous will take place at Pleasure Island in the Port Arthur area on May 16 – May 18. Many months of planning and preparation have been going on behind the scenes, and I know this will be one of the best ever! Steve and I will take our boat over a few days early to help with the set-up. Be sure to stop by the TMCA Booth at the entrance and say hello. We

will be there in full force promoting our wonderful club, and hope to sign up many new members. There are a lot of educational seminars lined up, vendors displaying their products, and some great bands on tap for Friday and Saturday night, as well as the catered meals (which must be pre-reserved and paid for in advance).

Plans for our annual cruise to **Moody Gardens for Memorial Day weekend** are in full swing. The cruise will be led by Moray Sandison and Debbie Sturgeon this year. On your way home from Spring Fling, this would be a perfect stopover for the long weekend. They have reserved a private room at Fisherman's Wharf on Harborside Drive, right next to the Elissa, in Galveston, for Saturday night, May 24 at 7:00 pm. Debbie will be advertising the set menu choices shortly. Watch the Weekly Updates and Yahoo Groups for more details pertaining to meal orders and pre-payment, as final numbers and orders will need to be given to the restaurant approximately five days prior to the dinner. This group dinner is open to ALL, so spread the word and plan to land yacht down to Galveston even if you are not bringing your vessel!!!!

### **Save the Date! Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup>, around 6:00 pm**

Mantus Anchors 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Celebration will be held at:  
2710 Todville Rd, Seabrook, 77586

There will be food, drinks and lots of give-aways!

Be sure to come out and support our fellow TMCA members, and to celebrate the success of their young company. Also, please visit the Mantus booth and attend the Anchoring Techniques seminar at Spring Fling.

I hope to see many of you at the Spring Fling at Pleasure Island, or at one of our local parties!

*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)

May has everyone planning and talking about Spring Fling and the annual TMCA spring event to get the boating season started. The big groups of TMCA volunteers are putting together a great event so make sure you sign up and join us for a fantastic time. Find all the details at <http://www.tmcaspringfling.com>.

With spring here and more of us getting out on the water I wanted to share some boater education websites that I have used over the years (and still do). Most of what we learn happens out there however this training is good to know before it happens:

US Coast Guard Auxiliary: <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=081-06-08>

Texas Parks & Wildlife: [http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/boater\\_education/internet\\_courses.phtml](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/boater_education/internet_courses.phtml)

US Power Squadrons: <http://www.gbps.org>

Last month we finally got some warmer weather, less north winds finally and five cruises, some of which had to be altered to accommodate the longer than normal winter weather. Those coming back from Galveston Art Walk and The Marker 17 Fish Fry fund raiser were treated to a VERY bumpy ride back from both locations. Here is a quick update on each:

Apr 5-6 Bubba's Anchor Out Cruise. Changed to dinner at Bubba's and Midget Wrestling.  
Apr 12-13 Cedar Bayou Anchor Out & Explore. Six boats enjoyed this fantastic anchoring venue.  
Apr 18-20 Moody Gardens Easter Cruise. Sixteen boats made this trip and had a fantastic time.  
Apr 26 Fish Fry - Marker 17. Twenty boats and seven RV's made this annual fund raiser.  
Apr 26-27 Galveston Art Walk Cruise to Harbor House. Six boats enjoyed the art walk weekend.

Read all about these past and also upcoming events on the TMCA Yahoo Groups at <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/tmcamariners/info>

Now for future months, May has our big trip of the year to Port Arthur Yacht Club Pleasure Island but we also have three other trips planned so do what you can to get out there on the water and enjoy this spring weather.

May 3-4 Laguna Harbor Open House to Bolivar  
May 4<sup>th</sup> 2pm Blessing of the Fleet Boat Parade at the Kemah Boardwalk  
May 16-18 Spring Fling - Pleasure Island, Port Arthur, TX  
May 24-26 Memorial Day Cruise to Moody Gardens  
May 31 – Jun 1 Bayland / Riverside Marina- Jim Lee & TBD

**Memorial Day Cruise to Moody Gardens – Don't come off of that Spring Fling high!** Slips are still available.

For those who have already signed up for the trip (or land yachters who would like to join us), we've secured a private room at Fisherman's Wharf overlooking Elissa for Saturday evening. To try to keep things as simple, we have [a three course, fixed price menu, at \\$43.59 \(including tax and service charge\)](#). Tea and coffee are included in the price. Any soft drinks or adult beverages will be billed individually. [To reserve your meal, please use this form](#)

Due to Fisherman's Wharf booking policy we have to give them 5 days' notice regarding meal requests and so we need the menu choices made and checks in by May 17th at the latest so we can get all the information together. If you look at the menu you will see it is very reasonably priced and I can assure you the private room we have booked is beautiful with a fantastic balcony overlooking the Elissa. Maybe we can even convince a certain TMCA member to give a brief talk about the boat please remember to also sign up for the dinner on Saturday.

All forms are attached. Please, please, please consider the dinner on Saturday. I am sure it will be a great evening. Great dock parties, relaxing at Moody Gardens and camaraderie will also be on the agenda for the entire weekend.

Here are some upcoming cruises in June and July:

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
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)

Thanks call or email me with any questions on upcoming cruising events.

*Jim Lee,  
Cruise Captain*



## **Secretary's Report**

**Barbara Nickelson, Secretary**

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

The boating season is finally here. We have just returned from a fabulous weekend over at Moody Gardens. It was so much fun to get back out on the water. We had the marina packed and even had a few members drove down just to party with us. Stuart and Gaye Lynn Zarrow invited us all back to their home for an afternoon wine and cheese happy hour. It was so much more than that. They put on a spread that was absolutely delicious and was as beautiful to look at as it was to eat. They also had an Easter Egg Hunt for all of the children which made the day for them. My three grandchildren had so much fun they are still talking about it. We left their house and went back to the marina where we had a community dinner and then partied on the dock till late. Thanks to Janet and Butch Davidson for heading up all of the social activities for the trip. They did a wonderful job.

Spring Fling is right around the corner and we are looking so forward to it. It is going to be fun to try out a new area. Chris Bown and all of his helpers (too many to name them all) have worked tirelessly to put this event on. Please attend if at all possible so that you don't miss out on all of the fun. There are still slips available or if you can't come by boat, just come for the day or get a room for the weekend. They have scheduled quite a few vendors and there will be educational programs. There will be lots of fun things going on. Please join us.

We have quite a few new members that have joined since I last wrote. Please help me to welcome them all.

- 1) Michael and Ann Richardson
- 2) Steve Black and Sharlene Bozeman
- 3) Bill Loden and Kathy Ward
- 4) Michael and Katharina Upchurch
- 5) Darrin and Susan Taylor
- 6) Douglas Haberman and Kathryn Ley
- 7) Scott and Mona Breeding
- 8) Dennis and Ann King
- 9) Glenn and Ina Hanson
- 10) Daniel Ploof and Manuela Tepper
- 11) Tom Freeman
- 12) John Baker
- 13) Todd Rogers and Nina Simmers
- 14) James and Rhonda Steede
- 15) Louis and Debra Buzby
- 16) Kevin and Edie Joy Williams
- 17) John and Melinda Davis
- 18) Brian and Sherry Boles
- 19) Douglas and Patricia Shockley
- 20) Umberto Luongo
- 21) Brett and Athena Barrett
- 22) J.D. and Peti Thompson
- 23) Mark Metz and Sarah Lee
- 24) Richard Lombardi
- 25) David Greene and Marlena Howerton
- 26) Brian Clapp
- 27) Andy Hollingsworth and Jayne Schultz
- 28) Heywood and Phyllis Mitchell
- 29) Andy and Cindy Welch
- 30) Victor Scammel and Holly Cooper

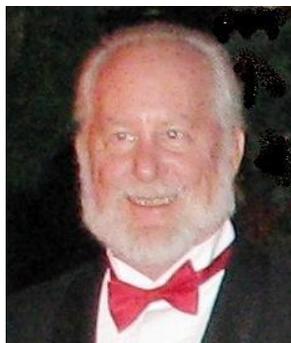
We have a lot of things happening on the calendar. With the website under construction, it may be necessary for you to go to Yahoo Groups to get your information. I know Linda Schoene is working feverishly to get the website updated and ready for us. Please bear with us while she performs this very necessary task. It will be worth it by the time she is finished. I have seen snippets and believe me it is going to be nice.

In the meantime, I hope to see you on the water or perhaps at a dock party. Bob and I will be hosting the dock party this month. We will be celebrating Cinco de Mayo. It will be on Friday, May 2. We will have it at our home at 895 Davis Road, League City, TX 77573 which is in Nantucket Landing Townhomes. There is visitor parking within the complex but there is also ample parking on the street if needed. You can also come by dinghy or small boat. Call us if you plan to do this and we will be on

the lookout to help you out. Bob's number is 713-826-7551 and mine is 713-899-1098. We will have the grill hot and ready. Bring something to grill, a dish to share and your beverage of choice. We will have some chairs. Hope to see you there!

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

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

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

Although we are only four months into 2014, TMCA has seen a lot of financial activity – all for the good. We are ahead on revenues, both for TMCA general operations and our Spring Fling event. Membership revenue is ahead of projections and expenses are in line with our budgeted costs. We have had great boat registration for Spring Fling and are ahead of projections there also. Thanks to all who have worked hard to achieve these numbers.

Finally with some warm (hot) weather on the horizon, we are getting ready for cruises and parties. We just had our first of three Moody Garden events and with 15 boats and several new members making their first trip, a good time was had by all – a special thanks to the Zarrow's for their wonderful "Wine & Cheese" party and the surprise Easter Egg hunt for the kids.

Safe boating to all.

*Bob Nickelson,*  
*Treasurer*

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## **Community Liaison Committee Chair**



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

Due to the importance of continuing to get safety information disseminated in regards to the ongoing Mid-Bay dredging activity, for this month's column I have decided to dredge up (pun intended!) some of the information from my March posting and then also provide some updates. And since we do not have a website at the moment, I have linked two USACE documents that had previously been posted on our website to a new location on TMCA yahoogroups.

As reported previously, the Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> Captains' Roundtable at Lakewood Yacht Club on the Mid-Bay dredging activity was well-attended by TMCA'ers, but sadly there was not a TMCA'er in sight at a similar program on April 25<sup>th</sup> at Houston Yacht Club! At both of these programs USACE Project Engineer Al Meyer gave *excellent* presentations on the very dangerous hazards that one can encounter when navigating around dredges. This dredging work is going on right now out in our mid-bay area, and extreme caution should be exercised when navigating around the dredge itself (the "Capt. Frank") and all of her support vessels.

The *good news* to report is that this particular project (between lights 52 and 78) is going to finish *months* ahead of its originally scheduled completion of late 2014, like probably by the end of June! But the *bad news* is that yet another project in our area is about to begin, and that is the deepening and widening of the Bayport Channel. This latter project 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 timely information on that project as I receive it.

Two important documents were previously posted on the TMCA website, but I have now uploaded them to TMCA yahoogroups. The first is Mr. Meyer's PowerPoint, unfortunately *without* his detailed live explanations of each slide. (You should have come to the presentations!!!) 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 right now.

Additionally, there is the 12/6/13 USACE Press Release announcing the dredging projects. 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. Both documents can be accessed by clicking [here](#), but you must be logged onto the yahoogroups website to access these files.

The latest information on where dredging is occurring *sometimes* is found on the USACE website (click [here](#)). Unfortunately, as I write this on 4/28, it has not been updated, but there should be an update coming soon.

In early March I posted on yahoogroups a notice that a dredge pipeline had been installed *under* the South Boater Cut on the red side of the HSC. That pipeline is still in place, although work has been completed in that area. Probably by the time that you read this however, a similar pipeline is going to be installed *under* the North Boater Cut in order to get dredge spoils over to the Mid-Bay Placement Area. In both cases however the top of pipe is below Elev. -8 MLT (Mean Low Tide), which is a Corps datum. In this area, MLT is about a foot lower than MLLW, which is the datum used on the charts. So there should be at least 9 feet of water over the pipe, plus any tide.

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* always answer your call. Additionally, the dredge, and also each of the associated work vessels, are 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 now that the warmer weather has arrived!

***Philip Kropf***  
***Community Liaison Committee Chair***

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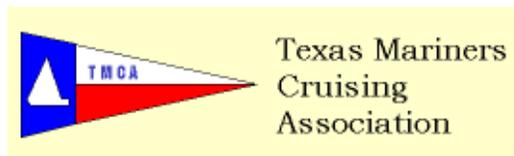
[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

## 2014 TMCA Officers

Commodore:	Martin Clark, m/v Impulsive	281-435-1253
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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
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Trustee 2010 Commodore	Ron Eddleman	s/v Stellar of Course	936-328-7361
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