

Texas Mariners Cruising Association

# The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

**November 2014**



## **At the Helm**

**Martin Clark, Commodore**

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

October was a great TMCA month. All our events "made," participation rates were high, and every event went smoothly. I hope you enjoyed several of our October activities.

November - more brisk evening temps, now and then low water, and more time in the marina. There is no let-up in TMCA activities. Jim Lee, your Cruise Captain, and Bron Lee, your partyin' Rear Commodore, are serving up lots of activities in November. Read their articles for the details.

The club has a terrific slate of officer nominees to lead our club in 2015. Ballots will be mailed this week. Each person gets a ballot. If for some reason you did not receive yours in the mail, please contact our secretary, Barb Nickelson, and one will be sent to you. Please put your completed votes in an envelope and mail P. O. Box 946, Kemah, TX, 77565. Ballots are authenticated with a club seal. Thanks! **Ballots must be received before the November 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting. You may also bring to the November meeting to cast your vote. In any event, please plan to attend the November Annual Meeting.**

Plans are firming up for my party! I hope you will plan to join Marylou and me at the 2014 Commodore's Ball, to be held Saturday night, Dec. 20th, at Lakewood Yacht Club. Invitations will be mailed soon. We give thanks to our board members and committee chairs, and we look forward to awarding several special "recognition awards," as is our custom. It means so much more when you are there to help say "thanks" to our hard-working members. Then it will be time to party and dance.

Our new print directory will be out this week. Every member receives a copy as part of your annual dues. Pick up your copy at a monthly general meeting. Additional books can be purchased for \$5. Thanks to Christopher Bown and Bron Lee for producing another "good book." When I read over the list of members, pages and pages, I wonder who some of you are. I hope everyone will plan to attend at least a few of our cruises and/or parties in the coming months. TMCA is not a cliquish organization.

I think ours is one of the most welcoming and accepting organization around. As someone explained to me years ago when I joined TMCA, we have members who are multi, multi millionaires, and we have members who are on modest fixed incomes. It doesn't matter. Enjoyment of boating is the common denominator. Anyone who offers to pull me off a sandbar is a friend of mine! Best wishes for a great month, a joyful Thanksgiving and lots of time on the water!

*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! I hope you have been enjoying this beautiful Fall weather as much as I have. What a wonderful season for boating!

We have one more monthly meeting for the 2014 year and that is on November 21. The meeting, as always, will take place at the Kemah Elks Lodge at 623 Hanson Rd., social hour begins at 6:00, dinner orders begin to be taken at 6:30, a short business meeting will be at 7:30 and our program begins at approximately 8:00 p.m. Our speaker this month will be TMCA member Rick

Stewart. Rick will tell us about some of his sailing adventures on the East Coast. Rick is the person who was largely responsible for having derelict structures removed from our Galveston Bay area. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending the last meeting of the year.

While you are marking your calendars, mark a time to shop at your nearest dollar store. It is the time of year that we fill up plastic shoe boxes with goodies for the foreign seafarers who will be in the Port of Houston over the Holidays. This has been a project with TMCA for many years and we hope to continue it for many years to come. TMCA, along with many area churches and schools, furnish boxes to the seafarers for the Holidays. Reverend Lacy Largent and Deacon Allan Fredricksen, of the Seaman's Ministries, say that these little boxes of goodies bring great joy to thousands of seafarers. Please consider filling a box and bringing it to either the November meeting or the Commodore's Ball. After the boxes are collected, I, along with a few other members, will deliver them to the Seaman's Mission before Christmas. See below for items to put in the boxes:

Warm gloves, stocking caps, tooth brushes, tooth paste, dental floss, hard candy, playing cards, calendars, phone cards, nail clippers, sox, instant hot chocolate envelopes, microwave popcorn envelopes, toiletries. These are only a few items. Bron Lee handed out a complete list at the October meeting and I will publish it on Yahoo groups and the web site, but now you have the idea so GO SHOPPING!!!!

Also mark your calendars for the Commodore's Ball. This is our special night to clean up, dress up and shine!!!!!! It is a wonderful evening with dinner, dancing, and visiting with TMCA friends. Look for your invitations in the mail soon!!

One more item: Look for more information coming soon about the Past Commodores upcoming Baltic Cruise in May. This is a once-in-a-lifetime trip! Consider doing it!!!

See you on the water or at the docks!

*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 club calendar showed, TMCA had an event or a get-together every single Friday and Saturday in the month of October! And on three of those weekends, the cruises rolled over to the Sunday too! But there is no time to rest because November is shaping up to be just the same.

Ken & Kelly Hutchinson are leading the Laid Back Cruise **which has been changed to Galveston Yacht Basin due to weather. Call Jessica at GYB to reserve a slip and let Kelly know you're coming ([281-830-9747](tel:281-830-9747)/[kchtexas@gmail.com](mailto:kchtexas@gmail.com)).** **Docktails on Nautilus Saturday 5:30, dinner on the Strand Saturday evening.**

Next up is a three-for-fun weekend beginning with the November dock party on Friday Nov.07, hosted by Dan & Jennifer LaFon at their home at 2234 Brae Lane in League City. There are detailed directions on the website to their lovely home on the bayou, check with Dan for directions by water too. The grill will be ready around 6pm, so bring something to grill, a dish to share and chairs. Please, no glass around the pool!

The following evening on Nov.08, Barbara and Bob Nickelson are hosting a group dinner at Floyds at Harborwalk. There will be a set menu, around \$25 per head. Floyds has a wonderful panoramic view out over the marina and surrounding wetlands and bays, so look for a beautiful sunset around dinner time at 6:30 pm. Please sign up on the web site, or RSVP to Barbara at [Bnickelson@nhplc.com](mailto:Bnickelson@nhplc.com) as soon as possible!

The third event this weekend is an overnight cruise to Cedar Bayou; please check the Cruise Captain's report in this newsletter for more details on this one!

Steve and I are leading the Chilly Chili Cruise to Beason marina on Nov. 14 – 16. This is about our fourth time to lead this one and it is always a popular cruise with lots of food, fun and games. Currently, the marina is full, however, we are taking a waitlist, and offering the option to dock at Marker 17 as well. The Chili Cook-Off will be held on Saturday Nov. 15 at 5:00pm, so bring your favorite chili and fixins up to the pavilion then. We will have docktails at 5:00pm for an hour or so, while our local Oak Island judges are sampling all the chili. The winners will be announced by the judges and then we will all tuck into a delicious array of chili. For the evening entertainment, we would like EVERYONE to join in on the famous poker game called Screw Your Neighbor! Bring three (3) quarters to play, and you might walk away with the whole pot of money!

One of the club's signature cruises every year is the trip to the pasture at Double Bayou over Thanksgiving where the annual French Picnic will be held under the oak trees at high noon on Saturday November 29th. You are invited to prepare your favorite French dish, or your favorite anything dish and give it a French name! There will be several categories and prizes awarded for first and second in each category. On the cruise side of things, watch for more details from the cruise leaders as we get closer to the date.

An absolute *must* to put on your calendar is the TMCA Commodore's Ball to be held at Lakewood Yacht Club on Saturday December 20. This is a wonderful evening where we gather in all our finery, we dine and dance to great music, while honoring our esteemed Commodore for 2014, Mr. Martin Clark. Invitations will go out in the next week or so, so think about making up a table by inviting your friends and family to this festive evening. I look forward to my mailbox overflowing with RSVP's! One of the inserts with your invitation contains information about the Seafarer's project that our club supports. Every year TMCA asks its members to fill a plastic shoe box (or boxes) with items the seaman from foreign ports can use. Most of these items can be purchased from a local dollar store. Fill up the box, wrap it in Christmas paper (no ribbons or bows, please) and bring it to the November monthly meeting.....or you can bring it to the Commodore's Ball. Some of us then take all the boxes to the Seaman's Ministries Headquarters and then the boxes are distributed to Seamen or women who are in port here in Houston at Christmas. This has long been a charitable endeavor of TMCA. Last year we delivered over 100 boxes to the mission, let's see if we can beat that amount this year.

I hope to see you at one of the many functions and cruises that round out the last two months of this year!

*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)

This year is just flying by and has been packed with great TMCA cruising. Speaking of cruising, in early October we had the Past Commodore's cruise to Pelican Rest with 18 boats that signed up and 12 land yachters for a total of 48 for dinner. Harvest Moon Regatta in Port A was a great time had by all. Congratulations to the winners! Then, to end out the month, our esteemed Historian lead 23 boats up the Houston Ship Channel to Allen's Landing in downtown Houston behind the Spaghetti Warehouse. A great cruising month for TMCA.

Sign-ups are in full swing for the November cruises. You can sign-up at [www.texasmariners.com](http://www.texasmariners.com) for the Laid Back cruise November 1-2 **was moved to Galveston Yacht Basin due to weather. If you'd still like to attend, call Jessica at GYB 409-765-3001 to reserve a slip.** An ad-hoc cruise has been put on the calendar for a fall full moon anchor out at Cedar Bayou the second week-end in November 8 and 9. Bron and Steve Lee are heading up the Chilly Chili Cruise to Beason Marina November 14-16. Finally, in grand TMCA tradition, we will have the annual French Picnic at the Double Bayou Pasture. Some boats venture over on Thanksgiving Day, more on Friday and even some on Saturday for the big feast.

The website is looking better and better thanks to Linda and the Internet Committee. You need to check out the Cruising tab, and then click on Cruising Destinations and also 2014 Cruises. Let me know what you think and, as we continually improve the website, we are always looking for member suggestions <http://texasmariners.com>

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

*Jim Lee,  
Cruise Captain*



## **Secretary's Report**

**Barbara Nickelson, Secretary**

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

It is about to get crazy in the Nickelson household. We just put our house on the market and we are very excited and ready to start our new life on the boat.

It is renewal time for your Texas Mariners Cruising Association membership! You can go to the website ([www.texasmariners.com](http://www.texasmariners.com)) and pay with all credit cards via PayPal. Or you can pay by check at the meeting or through the mail. I will have renewal forms at the meetings but I would still prefer that you go to the website and update all of your information even if you do not want to pay by PayPal. The renewal amount is still \$50 for a dual membership and \$35 for a single membership. This is still one of the greatest boating bargains on the Gulf Coast.

Membership directories have been completed and are at the printers. They will be available for you to pick up at the November meeting. Please stop by the table and pick up your copy.

Ballots for your 2015 TMCA Board of Governors will be mailed out shortly after the October meeting. If you do not receive one, please contact me as I must have your address wrong in my database. Please vote and send your ballot back either by mail or you can bring it to the November meeting where they will be counted. Results will be announced at the November meeting.

We have a few new members to add to the roster this month. Rick and Ruth Nizol, Kevin Churchill, Peter Van Benthuyzen, Kathleen Smith, David and Cheryl Widner, and Burney and Kathy Lee are our newest members. Please seek them out and make them feel welcome.

Here we are almost at the end of the year. I cannot believe how fast this year has gone by. The holidays are just around the corner and a new year will be starting. But let's not get ahead of ourselves. There is still plenty of good boating time left and there are a lot of cruises and parties still waiting for us. Hope to see you at a few of them at least!

With regards,

***Barbara Nickelson,  
Secretary***



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

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

Barbara & I have used up most of our boating days away from work, but hope for a few more outings before the end of the year. We have just become "live aboards" and are still trying to get things organized – our townhome is on the market and we have moved the boat to Watergate –all is good.

TMCA's financial is still strong and positioned for the expenses for the Commodore's Ball – we have had another good year with increased membership and "funds for fun".

Ballots have been mailed out for the election of the 2015 Board – I'm proud to have been nominated for Commodore and will take this opportunity to ask for your vote and support.

A good Thanksgiving to all.....

***Bob Nickelson,  
Treasurer***

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## [Community Liaison Committee Chair](#)

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

It is November, and cooler weather has *finally* arrived! And so also has the end of daylight savings time! And now only one more month remains in the 2014 hurricane season!!! We have been very lucky again this year on this! It has been so long since I have had to prepare s/v Silhouette for a named storm that I am not sure I remember how to do it! May our good luck hold out indefinitely!!!

And so for November, here is both some continuing, and also some *new* information for you faithful readers of this column.

1. I have now posted previously several items about the **Bayport Channel Deepening and Widening Project** and the difficulty that I have been having in getting detailed information on the project from the Port of Houston Authority (POHA). As I write this however (on 10/30), tonight I attended an informational meeting organized by the POHA and Orion Marine Group (the contractor) and things are looking better! The year-long project will be getting underway within the next two weeks, and I now have enough information to suggest that we should generally not have any problems when crossing over the dredge pipeline route, unless perhaps water levels are *greatly* lowered due to blue northers and/or you have a 7ft draft!

I will very soon be posting more information, but right now the **POH Deepening & Widening** website (click [here](#)) does provide information including the "Proposed Orion Pipeline Route" plan (click [here](#)). The power point presentation that they showed tonight will soon be added to the website, and that document will answer many more of your questions. As noted previously, due to the location of the Bayport Channel relative to our sailing areas and cruising routes, this project will have *significant* impacts on us well into 2015, and so it is going to be very important that everyone pays close attention to dredging activity in this busy part of Galveston Bay.

2. At the quarterly meeting that I attended last week of the local **Area Maritime Security Committee** (AMSC), where I attempt to represent the interests of recreational boaters (click [here](#) for more general information on AMSCs.), a very important document was released, that being the latest version of the **Area Maritime Security Plan** (AMSP). This SSI ("sensitive security information") document is revised every 5 years and is a plan for how "regulated facilities" are to deal with potential security threats within our port complex, and then what they are then *required* to do if a potential threat becomes a real event! Individual physical components within Sector Houston-Galveston (e.g., vessels, vehicles, facilities, infrastructure items, and cargo) are required to have measures in place to prevent exploitation and to protect against attack.

MARSEC Levels (MARSEC 1, 2 or 3) are set to reflect the prevailing threat environment to the marine elements of the national transportation system, including ports, vessels, facilities, and critical assets and infrastructure located on or adjacent to waters subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. MARSEC Levels apply to vessels, *Coast Guard-regulated facilities inside the U.S.*, and to the Coast Guard.

If you have never seen the document on what recreational vessels are required to do during a MARSEC 3 event, please access it here: <http://www.lonestarhsc.org/docs/resources/USCG-Marsec-Levels.pdf> , and then become familiar with it. The flyer is now undergoing some revisions, but none of

these will be major. The gist of the MARSEC 3 requirements for recreational vessels are that, if for example TMCA is down at Harborwalk when MARSEC 3 is called, we probably will *not* be leaving that location for our home marinas anytime soon!!!

One of the major revisions in the new AMSP is a new very large emphasis on what non-regulated facilities should be doing during a MARSEC 3 event. Captain Penoyer has some great concerns about how places like marinas, boat ramps, fuel docks, waterside entertainment entities such as Moody Gardens and the Kemah Boardwalk, and even smaller places such as Topwater Grill can be expected to perform during such an event, and so there is going to be a big push this coming year on getting information out to these entities.

There is a lot of scary stuff in the news these days about ISIS, lone-wolf terrorist plots, etc., etc., and obviously there are many elements within our area-wide port complex that could conceivably be tempting targets. 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. The next quarterly meeting of the **Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee** ([www.lonestarhsc.org](http://www.lonestarhsc.org)) is coming up on November 7<sup>th</sup> at the new USCG Sector Houston-Galveston building (10am to noon) and, as always, the meeting is open to the public. For an "education" on some of the waterway issues that this committee deals with on an ongoing basis, you perhaps might be interested in attending this meeting!

And again, as the Recreational Boater Representative to this committee, I have placed several important documents of interest to recreational boaters on the LSHSC website. To access these articles and weblinks 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. The monthly *history* lecture at the **Houston Maritime Museum** for November has had to be rescheduled. Information on all of the upcoming HMM lectures can be found here: <http://www.houstonmaritimemuseum.org/lecture-series/> . And take note of a special lecture coming up on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, that being presented 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 2<sup>nd</sup>!

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***

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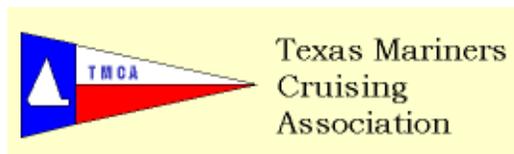
## [Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

### 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



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