

Texas Mariners Cruising Association

The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

October 2014



At the Helm

Martin Clark, Commodore

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

October is one of the busiest months of the TMCA year! The Wine Tasting Party, last night was really fun! Windemere is a special venue, once the home of the Fletcher family. Mr. Fletcher was the chief engineer and a vice president of Hughes Tool Company. After Howard Hughes demanded that his engineer live closer to his office in Houston (was there a control problem??), Fletcher's parents took up residence in the home, where the senior Mr. Fletcher made fiddles.

A large group is participating in the Allen's Landing weekend cruise to downtown Houston. I am pleased that many members who have not made this trip before have signed up. You will see the Port of Houston and downtown Houston in ways you never considered before. The dinghy trip up Buffalo Bayou is an eye-opener nature trip and again, affords views of Houston not possible on land. Thanks to Philip Kropf for organizing the trip and the visit to the Coast Guard's new building at Ellington Field.

There is the Mulloy dock party this Friday, the Lee's Pelican's Rest weekend, the grand Harvest Moon Regatta, and the Oktoberfest party at the Danneckers. If you have household chores to do, hide the hammer and duct tape and come Party! Chores will always be there.

Marylou and I had the occasion to renew a friendship with TMCA-ers who moved to the Port Charlotte area of SW Florida. (Had something to do with cleaner water.) Marylou and I had played cards and socialized with the Collins back in Clear Lake, some years ago. I could not help waxing philosophical and appreciating yet again, what a blessing our affiliation and participation with you all in TMCA has meant to us. The people who participate in TMCA are some of the finest to be found on the planet! Your nominating committee is presenting a top-notch slate of officers for 2015. See the Commodore's Message on the home page of the website for the list. (Okay, I am manipulating you to visit the website.)

At a recent Commodore's Ball, a show of hands indicated that almost half the people in the room had either served as officers or on committees in the TMCA. A new member was heard Sat. night, marveling at how organized and efficient the TMCA runs. There is no secret to this. . . people step up when called and take on positions of responsibility in TMCA. As I have observed, there are no real crew members in TMCA; everybody is a captain (or admiral). Just ask for an opinion on something! That means we have a huge reservoir of decision-makers!! That's why TMCA runs so well. We have a huge talent pool of folks who know it is right to "give back" to keep the organization running well. For that, I am grateful.

Best wishes for a safe and happy October!!

*Martin Clark,
Commodore*



The Corner of Vice

Mary Lou Clark, Vice Commodore

Email: vcomm@tmca.nu

Ahoy TMCA and Happy Fall to you all! The weather is now a little cooler but still plenty pleasant enough to be getting out on the water to have fun. Speaking of having fun on the water I want to remind everyone of what our very wonderful September speaker, Captain Bob Webbon, said about boating in the ship channel. Please remember that these large ships and barge tows cannot stop on a dime, so be careful when cutting in front of them or going too close to them! You could be causing huge problems for yourself and the large

boat's captains as well. Also, please remember to radio the captain of the larger vessel of your intentions when approaching. Let them know what you intend to do, or better yet, ask the captain what he'd prefer that you do. If you don't receive an answer right away, please check with him again. This is good boating etiquette and can prevent problems from happening.

Please remember that our October monthly meeting will not be until October 24, 2014. We always have a different Friday in October for our monthly meeting due to the Elks having a yearly meeting on the 3rd Friday of that month. Our meeting in October is the meeting when the proposed slate of next year's TMCA officers talks to the members. This is always a good time to hear what the incoming officers have in mind for the club for the following year. Also in October, a representative from the Seaman's Mission comes to talk to us about the Seaman's Christmas Box Project, which is a project in which TMCA takes part every year. I will be sending out more information about the Seaman's Boxes on the Website and on Yahoo in the next week.

Also, please remember that TMCA has wonderful activities almost every weekend! Do yourselves a favor and take part in some or all of these activities. You won't regret it!

Have a delightful October! I will see you on the water or at the docks!

*Marylou Clark,
Vice Commodore*



The Social Scuttlebutt

Bronwyn Lee, Rear Commodore

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

This week I made the transition to working from home, after 31+ years of commuting to downtown Houston. I know I like it already! I have carved out a lovely work space in the corner of one of the bedrooms at our home, so hopefully our son will not 'boomerang' home, especially that he is recently married and blissfully happy!

We are coming into my favorite time of the year, now that the weather temperatures are becoming more comfortable. It is perfect weather for boating and spending the night out at anchor, or at a nearby marina sharing docktails with friends. I hope you will be able to take advantage of the many upcoming TMCA socials and cruises.

To kick off October, the Dock Party this Friday evening (Oct. 3) will be hosted by Doc & Monica Mulloy and friends, and the Taylorcrest Park in El Lago. Grills will be hot around 6:00pm, so bring something to grill, a dish to share, along with some drinks and your chairs. A favorite of TMCA, Ben Reyna, will be there to entertain us with old favorites and some new songs as well. Please check the website for directions and if you get lost, you can call Doc's cell 713-906-3952.

Early Saturday morning (Oct.04) Waltzing Matilda is heading down to Pelican Rest marina for our Fall Ball, a.k.a Tuxedo T-shirts and Deck Shoes Gala. This evening promises to be "seriously casual", so wear your most formal, dressy t-shirt and your deck shoes. Prizes will be awarded for the best dressed lady, and best dressed gentleman. Number 13 restaurant is catering a great buffet dinner for our group, outdoors on the Terrace. We are planning a shared breakfast on Sunday before a leisurely trip home.

The Harvest Moon Regatta will start off the Pleasure Pier in Galveston on Thursday Oct. 9. Be sure to follow the progress of our TMCA entrants, and then head down to Port Aransas for the big party on Saturday evening, if you can! Marylou Clark and her helpers will be setting up several tables for TMCA-ers and friends, so be on the lookout for them.

The following weekend, a large contingent of power boats are heading to Allen's Landing in downtown Houston. I know that there are a lot of activities planned including a tunnel safari Friday afternoon, and a dock party right there by the boats on Friday evening at 6:30 pm. On Saturday there will be dinghy exploration, a pub crawl/poker walk and then in the evening, an optional buffet dinner at Birraporetti's. If you are interested in driving downtown to participate in any events, please contact Marylou Clark.

To round out the month, Herr and Frau Dannecker (Bruce & Jayne) will be hosting the big Oktoberfest party at their home in Lakes of South Shore on Saturday October 25, at 7:00 pm. This party was a huge hit last year and since then the word has spread, so you won't want to miss it this year! The hosts will provide Bratwurst and German beer, but please bring a German dish to share and any other drinks you would like. I have it on good authority that VENUM will be making a guest appearance again this year!! For catering purposes, please RSVP to Jayne before Oct.17 jedannecker@yahoo.com 281-549-4550.

Just as a reminder the November dock party (Nov. 07) will be hosted by Dan and Jennifer Lafon. Their address is: 2234 Brae Lane, League City. More details will be posted closer to the event, but mark your calendars, as they have a lovely backyard with a pool, and it backs up to a small bayou, off Clear Lake.

Save the Date: 2014 Commodores Ball at Lakewood Yacht Club, Saturday, December 20th

*Bronwyn Lee
Rear Commodore
TMCA Knows Fun!!*



The Cruise Corner

Jim Lee, Cruise Captain

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

October is here and some of the greatest cruising months for Galveston Bay boaters are finally here! Not too hot, not too humid and the winds are favorable. Get out and enjoy some TMCA cruises before this fantastic cruising season is over.

The website is coming along, 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>

We had these two cruises and one plan 'B' dock party in September:

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|------------|--|
| Sep 6 | Sail with the Sailing Angels |
| Sept 13-14 | Sangria and Sunset Cruise (plan B dock party at Waterford) |
| Sept 20 | Voyage of Exploration on Trinity River |

We have these cruises in October, November and December:

Oct 4-5	Tuxedo (t-shirts) and Deck Shoes Gala to Pelican Rest, Galveston
Oct 9-12	Harvest Moon Regatta, Port Aransas
Oct 17-19	Cruise to Allen's Landing on Buffalo Bayou, Downtown Houston
Oct 31 – Nov 2	Double Bayou Halloween Cruise & Pasture Clean
Nov 14-16	Chilly Chili Cruise - Beason Marina Oak Island
Nov 27-30	French Picnic at the Double Bayou Pasture
Dec 6	Galveston - Dickens on the Strand - Galveston
Dec 13	Christmas Boat Parade - Kemah

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>

That's it for now. Be safe, stay cool, hydrate and see you on the water.

*Jim Lee,
Cruise Captain*



Secretary's Report

Barbara Nickelson, Secretary

email: secretary@tmca.nu

The minutes are ticking away for home ownership for the Nickelson's. Within days our plan from 30 years ago will be realized as we move to our boat and get ready for our journey. At the end of 2015, we will leave on our cruise to take off for parts unknown. We are getting more and more excited. Actually, we are just ready to get settled again. This part of moving (trying to decide what to keep, what to give to the kids and what to sell and what to throw away) is very tiring!!! The painting, de-cluttering and staging is about complete. The house should go on the market by the first of next week. Now if the real estate market is kind to us we will be very happy.

We are also preparing to go on the downtown trip and I am very excited about that also. That is such a cool trip and anyone who has never taken it should consider hopping on someone's boat and join us. I understand that we are completely booked with at least 3 on the waiting list. It is going to be a fun week-end.

Now down to secretarial business.....

Please update YOUR membership information!

Our membership is growing and to keep us all up to date, I urge each of you to make sure you are registered on the website and your profile information is up to date. We are asking that you check your address and phone number and update your boat information. This is the most current information we have for our membership and is our master "database" which we use to generate communications to all of our events. I have been going into the website and adding spouses as I find them. Please register both parties if you are a dual member.

I always like to welcome our new members that have joined this past month. Please help me welcome them to our club:

- 1) Captain and Judy Kenyon
- 2) Douglas Ottens
- 3) Randy and Kim Eskelson
- 4) Ed and Cindy Lowrie
- 5) Jeff and Debbie Chinn
- 6) Wm. "Denny" Graham II
- 7) Shaun Moore and Bryan Kirkpatrick

I would also like to welcome back Phillip Buchanan. We are so glad to see our members coming back to join in the fun and fellowship of TMCA.

Happy Boating to all!! Hope to see to see you down at Allen's Landing!
Be safe.

*Barbara Nickelson,
Secretary*



Dollars And "Sense" from the Treasurer

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

Summer's about gone along with Hurricane Season – always a relief. Now we're ready for some fall trips, especially the upcoming Allen's Landing trip and some boat maintenance. We just finished our annual preventative maintenance with oil changes, filters and hose checks. We normally try to replace any old hoses once a year, just to be proactive. We are also building up our spare parts inventory with anticipation of our 2016 Great Loop trip.

Bean counting will pick up for me towards the end of the year with membership renewals for 2015 and budget planning for next year, also the Commodore's Ball – keep those dollars coming – Bank Balance and 2014 Budget - all good !!

Have a great October – Watch out for Goblins & Octoberfest celebrations.

*Bob Nickelson,
Treasurer*

Community Liaison Committee Chair



Philip Kropf
PKropf@flash.net

It's October, and fall has arrived!
And only two more months remain in the 2014 hurricane season!!!
So for this first month of fall, here is both some continuing, and also some new information for you readers...

1. As previously reported, the **Bayport Channel** deepening and widening project will soon be getting underway, maybe as soon as the end of this month, and at least before the end of the year. 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 as noted in previous articles, even with my various contacts I am having some difficulty in getting *specific* information from the Port of Houston Authority on certain project details that will affect us all.

There is now however a **POH Deepening & Widening** website (click [here](#)) that does provide *some* information, and on that site under the "Resources" tab they have this week (9/25) added a "Proposed Orion Pipeline Route" plan (click [here](#)). The route that it shows for the pipeline over to the spoils placement area is I think acceptable, but there is not *nearly* enough detailed information on where it will be safe to cross over this submerged pipeline! And so I continue to work on this issue and, as noted last month, if some more detailed information becomes available between now and the November newsletter, I will of course get it out there to the membership immediately.

2. I have recently found out that effective November 10, 2014 the cost to renew USCG **Certificates of Documentation** will be \$26.00 rather than the previous free annual renewal. The final rule that established this new fee was published in the Federal Register (79 FR 47015) on August 12, 2014. And so if you have a documented vessel renewal coming up soon, make sure that you get it done prior to the noted date. More information can be found on the website of the **National Vessel Documentation Center** at: <http://www.uscg.mil/nvdc/> , and then also on a document linked from that site. (re: <http://www.uscg.mil/nvdc/news/renewal.pdf>)

3. As has been noted previously, there is a place on the **Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee** website (www.lonestarhsc.org) where I have placed certain important documents of interest to recreational boaters. Some of this information has previously been available on the old TMCA website, but is *not* currently on the new website, and one of my "jobs" as the Recreational Boater Representative to this committee is to maintain this section of the LSHSC website. To access the list of 9 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> . (You still do have to scroll down.) Please read and become familiar with these very important boater documents!!!

4. It had been quite a few years since we had a Houston Pilot come talk to us, and so for the September 19th meeting I had arranged for **Captain Bob Webbon** of the **Houston Pilots** (<http://houston-pilots.com/>) to be our speaker. In addition to being a harbor pilot, Bob is also a sailor and, as expected, he did have some very interesting insights on the interactions between recreational

vessels and commercial vessels on the Houston Ship Channel. In case you had not seen it, a *very* informative video about the **Houston Pilots**, can still be found on the website by clicking [here](#), and a second equally-interesting video about **Texas Harbor Pilots** in general is accessible by clicking [here](#).

5. The next monthly *history* lecture at the **Houston Maritime Museum** (<http://www.houstonmaritimemuseum.org/>) will be on October 14th and is entitled “**Monterrey Shipwrecks**” and is presented by Amy Borgens & Fritz Hanselmann. For more information on this program click [here](#).

6. One week prior to that however, also at the **Houston Maritime Museum**, *another* lecture series will be starting, this one having to do with **Maritime Industry** topics. And the first lecturer in *that* series will be **Capt. Brian K. Penoyer**, Captain of the Port and Commander, US Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston. We of course just 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 October 7th!

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

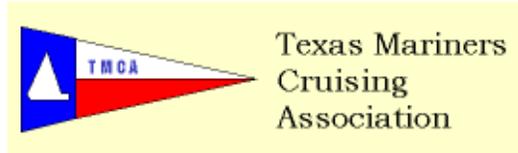
[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

2014 TMCA Officers

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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



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

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