

Texas Mariners Cruising Association

The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

August 2015



At the Helm

Bob Nickelson, Commodore

[email: Commodore@TexasMariners.com](mailto:Commodore@TexasMariners.com)

Our 2016 Adventure is getting closer - we just got a "Cruising Guide to Cuba" last week. The more I read, the closer the reality becomes. Cuba will truly be an adventure to experience. From the recommended night time crossing to the Ports of Entry and the vessel inspection upon arrival, we will realize quickly this will not be your normal run to Moody Gardens. We will experience a wide range of contrasts from the modern marina we will stay in to a three hour bus ride to Havana, from resort style hotels to farmer's markets to restock our provisions - it's recommended that you also carry your own toilet paper as you tour the island - provisioning the boat for this trip will require some different thinking.

As we get closer to 2016, TMCA is also making plans for the new year. The Nominating Committee has been put together and will have their first meeting in the next couple of weeks. If you have a desire to get more involved in the club, we would welcome any members wishing to serve either on the Board or to Chair a particular committee- please notify me directly at my email - ubobn@att.net

I reported in our July meeting that Spring Fling has been changed to a Standing Committee and our By-Laws are being amended to reflect this change. I have asked Christopher Bown to Chair this committee for 2016 and he has graciously accepted this position - Thanks Chris!!

Seems like we have missed a lot of TMCA events this year, but it's been a year of weddings, graduations and family events and visits - hopefully some things will calm down and we can see everyone on the water.

Be safe and keep'em between the reds & greens.

***Bob Nickelson,
Commodore***



The Corner of Vice

Charles Parette, Vice Commodore

Email: ViceCommodore@TexasMariners

The next club meeting will be held at the Elks Club, 623 Hanson Road, Kemah. Socializing begins at 6:00 p.m., due to larger attendance, dinner orders now begin at 6:00 p.m., business meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. and the program begins at 8:00 PM.

Our speaker will be Jim Elliott, Vice President of T&T Marine Salvage. He has a lot of experience in the field, and has great stories to share. This will be a fun evening so mark your calendars and attend! Come enjoy dinner and drinks at great prices. Be sure to bring your name badge. See you there!

Remember, this is the meeting where we'll be drawing for slips for the Moody Gardens Labor Day Cruise. Read more about it in Jerry Simoneaux's column or the web site.

*Charles Parette,
Vice Commodore*



The Social Scuttlebutt

Charlene Lim, Rear Commodore

email: RearCommodore@TexasMariners.com

This year is turning into blur as month after month fly by. Every month, one or more spectacular successful party events have happened. I can't believe there are only 5 months left in 2015. January we had the planning meeting, new member orientation, The Bunko party. February-Brady's Landing dock party, Yachty Gras at Fishtails, March- a Portofino dock party, Doc's famous Fish Fry party, The southwest boat show, the Nautical Flea market, April- Easter Bunny Dock Hop party at Moody Gardens, Beers and Tears at Topwater Grill, May- The Jenko's Dock Party, Spring Fling, June- The Hurricane Stay Away dock party, Mantus Anniversary Party, The Beast fireworks party, July- The Patriotic Blow Out Dock Party and that is just the tip of the iceberg.

The first couple of months being the Rear Commodore seemed a bit daunting at first. As the months have flown by, events seem to come together like magic. The wonderful TMCA members quickly learn how rewarding it is to host events and as fast as open dates appear, the great TMCA members volunteer to fill them.

TMCA is a remarkable club which has so many wonderful folks who volunteer their time and resources to host and support all that happens for the club. Without folks like you TMCA would not be the great club that it is today. Thanks to all of you for making my job so easy. I can't wait to see how the rest of the year comes together. Please keep up the good work; it is appreciated by all of us.

AUGUST 7TH
"Tropical Escape" Dock Party

Once again margaritas will be on tap at the waterfront home of Max (aka "Willie") and Jo Ann Luttgeharm. The ambiance of their lush tropical landscape will make you feel like you are "somewhere else" as you listen to the sound of waterfalls, enjoy the shade of palm trees, dip your toes in the little river, or cool down in the sunset pool. So bring a dish to share with your friends old and new, griddles will be hot at 6:00 pm. Don't forget to bring a beverage if you are not partial to margaritas. Plenty of seating will be available, but you are welcome to bring a chair if you like. There will be steel drums for guest performers to give a memorable show.

The address is 1401 Oceanside Lane, League City. From Marina Bay Drive (Hwy 2094, turn north onto Enterprise at the Burger King and continue thru the guardless gate to Marina Village on the left. Gate code is #4282. Turn right on Waterside, left on Oceanside. Their house will be on the right.

AUGUST 8TH
The Sunset Fiesta Party

Live Band and beautiful view for a mere \$15.00

Is it the "Fajita Fiesta"? **NOPE.** Is it the "~~Viva La Vida Y Fiesta!!~~" (AKA: ~~Live your life and Party!!~~)? **NOPE.** It's the all new and exciting **Sunset Fiesta Party.** For a mere \$15 you get to listen to the LIVE band *Second Wind featuring Phil Eckenroth.* You also get to take a dip in the pool while you enjoy the spectacular Portofino Marina view as boats sail gracefully up and down the Kemah channel. As a very special bonus you'll get access to the air conditioned restroom facilities (you will thank me later for this one). This is not like the old Fajita Fiesta, it's got a new twist. **YOU HAVE TO PROVIDE FOOD TO SHARE, YOUR BEVERAGE OF CHOICE AND A CHAIR.** Kinda like a dock party.

If Your Last Name Starts With ___ bring the following:

A-C: Chopped Lettuce & Tomatoes

D-F: Queso (Please bring in Crock Pot)

G-J: Grated Cheese & Sour Cream

K-N: Taco Seasoned Beef or Chicken or Pork (Please bring in Crock Pot)

O-S: Salsa or Pico De Gallo or Guacamole

T-V: Any Variety of Beans (Please bring in Crock Pot)

W-Z: Dessert

Dinner is served between 6pm-7pm , band starts at 6:30pm

Register on the TMCA website quickly to reserve your spot or contact Roberta at 979-204-6811. Stay thirsty my friends, take a big gulp of your boilermaker, depth charger or margarita in celebration.

Saluda!!!

September's Dock party is going to be a special one for those who enjoy history, cool old military boats and a good time.

The Pelican Rest Cruise-Tuxedo (t-shirt) fun event will be opening THIS WEEK, so keep an eye out and sign up quickly.

Check out the TMCA calendar for details on upcoming events.

New Events are popping up all the time, check the TMCA website regularly. Login to see all the good stuff. Join Yahoo Groups and the TMCA Facebook groups for special updates.

Charlene Lim
Rear Commodore
TMCA Knows Fun!!



The Cruise Corner

Jerry Simoneaux, Cruise Captain

email: Captain@TexasMariners.com

You know how I enjoy running into TMCA members all over the world. Well, it's just as fun right here at home. A couple of weeks ago Christopher and I were out with several others aboard EJ and Ross Heard's wonderful 49' DeFevre, Beachcomber, to watch the Friday night fireworks. As we meandered around enjoying the sights and sunset, we checked the AIS to see who we knew. There were several of y'all out there that evening. Somehow, we ended up near Bryan and Cindy Austin's amazing 50 Beneteau, Austintacious, and spontaneously decided to raft up. I discovered that if one doubles the number of boats, the fun quadruples—kind of an inverse square law of fun for boats.

Speaking of fun, we had two Independence Day cruises last month, one lead by Dr. Ron and Shelia Swatzyna to Harborwalk and the other lead by Philip Kropf to Oak Island. Both were very well attended and lots of fun.

Major Kudos to Ladye Jane Stone and Philip Kropf on an amazingly successful Ice Cream Social cruise to Bayland Marina. Ladye Jane put a pool on the Bayland dock that served a dual purpose. We put our chairs around it, kicked our shoes off splashed our feet in the cool water. She also placed little rubber duckies with numbers in the pool. We picked out a duck and answered a corresponding question. What a great way to share stories! A bounty of ice cream followed dinner and as the sun set behind the Fred Hartman Bridge, Jon Siewers serenaded us with wonderful songs we all knew by heart. What an evening!

Jim and Doris Lee gave us another fun opportunity to cool things down with a dinghy cruise in Moses Lake and Dollar Bay complete with water guns. That evening, folks gathered at the Topwater Grill for the "Midsummer Night's Dream" and "Full Moon Party" with our own Andy and the Dreamsicles.

On August 1, Adrian and Paula Vuyk are leading us to Red Fish Island for their "Howl at the Moon" cruise. It all takes place under a true Blue Moon. Get ready for a progressive dinner or Beach BBQ and bonfire on the island and let your inner wolf out!

Christopher and I will lead a nighttime offshore excursion on August 14-16 to marvel at the Perseid Meteor Shower. Head out to Galveston and get a slip at your favorite location, then meet us at Bolivar Roads at 3:30 am on Saturday morning. We will head out past the jetties and heave to there to enjoy the best view of the Perseid Meteor Shower.

Then, on August 22, our illustrious Past Commodore and Past Vice Commodore Martin and Marylou Clark are organizing a dinghy Clear Lake Poker Run. Who needs the Golden Nugget Casino? Five stops, five watering holes, and possible prizes!

Finishing off the month of August, Christopher and I are once again leading the 3rd Annual Catfish Cruise to Bayland Marina. We fry up the fish, fries, and hushpuppies—you bring your favorite beverages and a side dish or dessert. That evening after the sun sets and the full moon rises, we will have a Movie on the Mainsail (or jib—but that doesn't sound as lyrical) with freshly popped popcorn. This year's movie, by popular vote, is "Yellowbeard," a Monty Python meets Cheech and Chong pirate movie.

Last, but not least, we have our annual Labor Day Cruise to Moody Gardens September 5 through 7 hosted by our Commodore Bob and Barbara Nickelson. This is a very popular cruise to of our favorite destinations. TMCA has reserved the entire marina, albeit a small one, so a drawing will be held at our monthly meeting on August 21 for one of those slips. In order to get your name into the drawing, you must register before August 21 and pay the slip fee of \$130 online at www.TexasMariners.com. Alternatively, you may download the [registration form](#) and mail it with your check for \$130 to Barbara Nickelson P.O. Box 696, Kemah, TX 77565. **Please note that the registration form and payment must be received before the August 21 meeting to be in the drawing.** Remember, if you are not assigned a slip in the drawing, we'll create a wait list, as cancellations do occur. Also, Offatts Bayou is a great place to anchor out or you can make reservations on your own at Pelican Rest just across the bayou from Moody Gardens. There is a dinghy dock at the marina. So go anyway!

An additional cruise over the Labor Day weekend will be with Bill and CJ Jenko leading the way to Freeport for their Bikes and Blues Festival. Everyone had a great time at last year's festival; they knew it had to be a repeat! 20 bands, four stages...how could you go wrong? Reserve your slip directly with the Freeport Marina, but sign up on the web site so the Jenko's will know you're coming.

All of these cruises and more fun events can be found on our website at www.TexasMariners.com. Check out the calendar for more details and sign up for your cruise using the "Registration" button.

Jerry Simoneaux
Cruise Captain



Secretary's Report

Kathy Houser, Secretary

email: Secretary@TexasMariners.com

Many exciting events have taken place this month but one means a great deal to me and I want to share with you. My company Wyle received the call from NASA on July 27th that the Wyle Team was selected as the WINNER of the 10 year, Human Health and Performance Contract (HHPC). This is a critical win for Houston Wyle, and it represents NASA's continuing confidence in us. I'm incredibly proud of this organization and the fortitude and perseverance shown by all to win this contract!

Now, on to TMCA business. We have almost 600 paid members and still growing. I would again like to request that everyone check the website and make sure their information is correct. Also, if you would like a TMCA badge, new or old members, please let me know and I will make one for you. But you will have to come to our monthly TMCA meeting at the Elks to retrieve it for it is too costly for us to mail the lanyards and badges.

We do have a several new members so please join me in welcoming them:

Debbie & Matt Hammond
Donald Wood
Chris Hoy
Emily Seaman
Locke & Camille Bryan
Rene & John Siewers
Mark & Roxane Laursen
Robin Goller
Ray Blanchard
Steve & Valerie McNeil
Gaillard & Annette Kunkle
Wayne & Dottie Broussard

I hope you are having a fun-filled summer and doing things that keep you out of the heat and I look forward to seeing you at all our TMCA events.

Kathy Houser
Secretary



Dollars And "Sense" from the Treasurer

Debbie Sturgeon, Treasurer

[Email: Treasurer@TexasMariners.com](mailto:Treasurer@TexasMariners.com)

I'm still waiting on a couple of matters to be wrapped up, so I hope to be able to report on the final numbers for Spring Fling next month. I can say that it was a great financial success, so look out for details next month!

Sol Purpose is finally back out on the water, so we had a great time on the Bayland Cruise/Ice Cream Social. The dinghy cruise on Sunday morning was a lot of fun! We're looking forward to more fun on the water with TMCA!!

Debbie Sturgeon,
Treasurer



Community Liaison Committee Chair

Philip Kropf
PKropf@flash.net

Wow..., it's already August! But before we know it we will be engaged in fall TMCA cruising in pleasantly cooler temperatures. Can't wait!!! In the meantime however, as usual, my column contains updates on a couple of important items previously discussed, and then also some new items. I hope that this information is both interesting and useful to readers of this column!

1. Well finally, with the successful completion of the recent "**Bayland Ice Cream Cruise and Dinghy Excursion**", I have now been able to see for myself how things are going in the Bayport channel area with the **Bayport Channel Deepening and Widening Project**. I do look forward to when I can stop writing about this project, but that is still several months away! I am happy to report however that all 20 boats that participated in this cruise crossed the dredge pipeline safely in the designated crossing area, and that is a good thing!!

The dredge Linda LaQuay continues work in the western portion of the channel, but I think will soon be moving slowly eastward on the green side of the channel and so the safe crossing area may change as time passes. On the weekend of August 29-30 we will have even more TMCA boats traversing the area as part of the "**3rd Annual Catfish Cruise**" to Bayland (click [here](#) for info) and I will keep you updated on changing conditions as we get closer to that date. But whether you are part of that cruise or not, **if you are at any time sailing up near Bayport it is critical that you look at the latest information on the **POH Deepening & Widening** website for a map of where this equipment is located and then where the safe "recreational boater crossing area" is located. (You can access that map by clicking [here](#).)** The POH website provides more detailed project information, including a link to a very informative pdf file (click [here](#)) created by the POHA and Orion Marine Group. The Linda LaQuay is required to have AIS working at all times and can be seen on www.vesselfinder.com and on your vessel's AIS. She is also required to answer all VHF calls on channel 13.

2. And speaking of dredging projects..., there is now *another* one that has just begun! Continuing until approximately December 15, 2015, the Hopper Dredges **TERRAPIN ISLAND** and **STUYVESANT** are conducting dredging operations in the Galveston Ship Channel, Entrance, Outer and Inner Bar Channels and the Houston Ship Channel, Bolivar Roads to Redfish Reef. Work will be conducted 24-hours a day, 7-days a week. Dredged material will be placed at the Ocean Dredge Material Disposal Site 1. Beneficial Use of Dredge Material will be placed on Galveston Beach re-nourishment portion from 61st Pier South to Cove View Blvd. The Dredges will monitor VHF FM Channels 13 or 16. Mariners are urged to transit the area at their slowest safe speed to minimize their wake and proceed with caution after passing arrangements have been made.
Charts: 11323, 11324, 11326 LNM: 29-15

The good news here is that these dredges are "hopper dredges" which are actually big ships and which do their work by sailing up and down the HSC and scooping up material as they go. There are

no dredge pipelines for us to contend with, but it is definitely possible that if you are running down the HSC below Redfish and encounter one of these dredges coming inbound, that it could rather abruptly stop and make a 180° turn as it heads back down the channel and out into the gulf to dump its dredged material onto the designated disposal site. So be aware and be careful if you encounter one of these dredges!

3. And speaking of “running down the HSC”..., in a meeting that I attended yesterday (7/27) with personnel from the USCG Vessel Traffic Service (VTS), I was told about an incident that had occurred just that same morning where an inbound (motoring) sailboat (hopefully *not* one of ours!) in the HSC broke down and was drifting in the channel with an inbound “deep and wide” ship only about 15 minutes away! They were actually able in time to get some assistance from a passing tow and a potential disaster was averted, but this is just a very real example of the dangers of being in this shipping channel! Safe alternate routes *are* available and they are now included on the TMCA website under the **Destinations** tab. After logging onto the website you can access these two pdf files by clicking [here](#) and [here](#).

4. I regularly mention in this column the fact that there are several important documents for recreational boaters to become aware of which can be found under the “**Resources**” tab of the **LSHSC** website (<http://www.lonestarhsc.org/resources.php>). I maintain the “**For the Recreational Boater**” section located there, and if you have not done so previously, please become familiar with all these documents. Some deal with port security issues and others deal with navigation and safety issues, and if you can help me to get the word out that these documents are there I would certainly appreciate it!

5. Monthly maritime history lectures continue at the **Houston Maritime Museum**, usually on the second Tuesday of each month. The next lecture, on August 11th, by Richard Hall, Ph.D. is entitled: “**Texas Lighthouses: Gulf Coast Lighthouse Styles**”. Information on all upcoming HMM lectures can be found by clicking [here](#). They have now listed all of the upcoming lectures through October and they all look to be great topics! The museum provides sandwiches and beverages at these lectures so come on out, see the amazing ship models and other objects in the museum, and learn about a bit of interesting maritime history.

And 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! Feedback is always *greatly* appreciated!!

Philip Kropf
Community Liaison Committee Chair

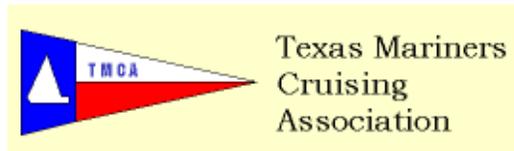
[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

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Please send any articles you would like included in the TMCA Mariner to TMCA Mariner Editor at Newsletter@TexasMariners.com

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