

# The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

**February 2015**



## **At the Helm**

**Bob Nicholson, Commodore**

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

As we start the year, January has been very busy for TMCA. Typically, January sets the stage for the rest of our year with our Planning Meeting, Member Orientation and the wild Bunko Party. We got thru all of those and thanks to all the work of our Board Members; they were a great success – a lot of parties and cruises planned and a lot of new faces for the new member meeting – thanks to all.

February will time for all to get out your beads and masks – Yachty Gras and Mardi Gras celebrations we be fun for all. Super Bowl Sunday will put all of the football fans into withdrawals for 6 months, good thing we have all our boating activities to keep us all busy – don't think we will be bored !!

As many of you know, Spring Fling planning is moving ahead quickly with a lot of excitement building. We are planning more boats, more bands and more poker runs than last year. Port Arthur is on alert and is also excited that we are returning to Pleasure Island – a big event for their area.

Again, this year TMCA has been given a booth at the South Shore Boat Show. Barbara Nickelson will be in charge of coordinating the event and will be looking for volunteers to help man the booth. Last year, we all had a great time and we added many new members from our booth exposure. I cannot emphasize it enough, what you put in to TMCA, will be rewarded many times over – there are many ways to get involved and can work into everyone's schedule – Get Involved and your circle of friends will grow greatly.

Happy Mardi Gras and Happy Valentine's Day to All.

***Bob Nicholson,  
Commodore***

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## [The Corner of Vice](#)

**Charles Parette, Vice Commodore**

Email: [ViceCommodore@TexasMariners](mailto:ViceCommodore@TexasMariners)

Our next monthly meeting will be February 20<sup>th</sup> at the Elks Lodge, 632 Hanson, in Kemah. The February speaker will be our very own Pedro Filipowski aboard Five O'clock, who's completed the great loop. He's going to be talking about his preparation and adventure, and will be ready to answer your questions. This will be a fun evening, so mark your calendars and attend - all members and visitors are welcome. We start at 6:00 pm for drinks and visiting. Dinner is available for purchase at 6:30. At 7:30 our general meeting starts and our program will follow. Come enjoy dinner and drinks at great prices. Be sure to bring your name badge.

Ladies, this education session is for you! Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, from 9-11 am, our **Women on the Water Meeting** at the Elks Club. This is a class for women only, and taught by our own Jean Baike. You'll be able to ask those questions that you've always wanted to ask. It will be a great morning of boating education, going over some important items. The class will be applicable to both power and sail. We'll cover how to use the radio, tying knots, and boat safety - what every boater should know. It's also a great way to start meeting other women of the club. Arrive early for coffee and donuts.

*Charles Parette,  
Vice Commodore*

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## [The Social Scuttlebutt](#)

**Charlene Lim, Rear Commodore**

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

WOW zz Wow!! January has slipped away. It has been one busy month. The annual Planning meeting kicked off the month with a bang. It was impressive to see so many folks bubbling with energy and excitement arriving early that morning. I reckon the excitement might have come from eating a few of those Jalapeño Kolaches, but I choose to believe otherwise. It was exhilarating to see the calendar filling up month after month with traditional and new events from our fellow members. What a prodigious group of folks to be surrounded by.

January 16<sup>th</sup> was our 1<sup>st</sup> official monthly meeting for 2015. The meeting turned out to be entertaining. As you know, Yachty Gras is around the corner. The Hooter's girls needed a host boat for the parade. When the request to host the girls was presented to the audience, the guys got excited. The eyes of every guy in the room lit up like Christmas trees as they all swiftly raised their hands in harmony, but ever so

quickly their eyes changed to “OH SHIP” as each of them glanced at their partners, dropping their hands and smiles as they did.

The Orientation meeting agenda was delightful, informative and successful, although not nearly as entertaining as the monthly meeting. I tried to ignite the new members with the Jalapeño Kolaches, but they didn't fall for my trick. Watch out new members! I'm out there planning my next move to light you up and get you involved.

Those of you who missed the Bunko Party missed having a good time. There were approx. 60 members in attendance at this fun event. It was nonstop fabulous food, abundant camaraderie, fun and laughter till your sides split. The evening began with a banquet full of unique specialty dishes to sample. Too many delightful dishes to describe. Commodore Bob officially opened the evening of Bunko gaming at 7pm, followed by the introduction of the very sexy French Tarts, and the awesome support crew (very sexy too). The Awesome Top Dog (MC) Julie Graham took the reins and the games began. It took a round or two before “The Count” (Dan Doke) came to life, but when he did WOW zz Wow can he count, 1 hahaha, 2 hahaha, 3 hahaha.... Keep in mind he wasn't winning, just counting. The 6<sup>th</sup> round (half time) came fast. All games stopped; the attention turned to Commodore Bob as he cut the 5 layered dice cake ceremoniously for all to feast. As the second half commenced “The Count” became even more intense, all the while not winning. Debbie Chrissinger was Bunko'ing like crazy right next to him, and Steve Bertram sucked all the wins away from Karen Chappell. It was unbelievable, the founder of TMCA Bunko, couldn't cut a break.

BimBang and within minutes the game was over resulting in a 3 way tie for most wins. The unusual back alley dice roll-off was held to determine the winner. Steve Bertram must have a little back alley dice rolling experience. He knew how to chuck them bad boys against the wall and make the big numbers appear.

Prizes were awarded to Debbie Chrissinger for most Bunko's, Steve Bertram for the most wins, and poor Karen Chappell got the most losses. “The Count” Dan Doke took the coveted “TMCA Bunko Martini” trophy. This year the coveted “TMCA Bunko Martini trophy” was awarded to the most enthusiastic player. As the holder of this prize he is obligated to return next year and surrender the trophy to the 2016 RC who will in turn award it to whomever is deemed worthy in 2016. Super fabulous night of fun, for all who came.

February boosts off with the Dock Party Alternative- Brady's Landing on the 6th. This venue is receiving so much action that the host Ladye Jane Stone has decided to extend the registration to 40 seats. Please register quickly so she can firm up the reservations with the restaurant.

Feb 7<sup>th</sup> – TMCA has several members who have registered to compete in the Yachty Gras boat parade. Hang out along the Yachty Gras boat parade route and cheer for our fellow TMCA boats. Support our fellow members in bringing home the big awards.

Last year Pam Gasper hosted the Fish Tails Mardi Gras Galveston event and it was extremely successful. She's a magnificent host and has agreed to host this spectacular event again this year. Hanging out at the Mardi Gras parades is a blast; you'll want to return again and again. It's easy to see how it has become a tradition. Make this a special Valentines retreat. Sign up soon as time is running out.

Rumor has it there's going to be a really good speaker at the Feb. monthly meeting. Don't miss it. We still have the weekend of the Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> open (It's National Margarita Day!) for an event and the weekend of the Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> is the Art Walk in Galveston. Looking for volunteers to host.

Check out the TMCA calendar for details on all events. Be sure to register for the events you desire to participate.

***Charlene Lim***  
***Rear Commodore***  
***TMCA Knows Fun!!***

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## **The Cruise Corner**

**Jerry Simoneaux, Cruise Captain**

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

January's planning meeting exceeded my expectations! More people showed up than we had planned for, which was a very good sign for an exciting year ahead. We scheduled 31 cruises throughout the year. Some familiar favorites are back such as our Easter and Labor Day cruises to Moody Gardens, Doc's St. Patrick's Day Cruise to Channel Marker 17, and the French Picnic at Double Bayou, just to name a few. We've also added some new cruises like the Wacky Tacky Cruise to Galveston Yacht Basin, and we are working on a Cruise/Tour of the new Sea Scout Base Galveston.

The TMCA Board has approved the budget and dates for Spring Fling 2015. This year, Spring Fling will take place over the Memorial Day weekend, May 22-24, on Pleasure Island, Port Arthur, Texas. They will have dance bands on Friday and Saturday nights with catered dinners, and then Sunday will be a Pirate Picnic and BBQ with a pirate band for entertainment. This year will be the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Spring Fling and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Port Arthur Yacht Club, so expect a truly magnificent party not to be missed! Lots more information about Spring Fling will be announced soon.

Our Cruise Committee has taken up the task to update and enhance the cruising destinations section of our website, which should be complete by year's end. We envision standardizing information about marinas and anchorages to make planning cruises and events easier, along with helpful navigation maps and tips for getting there. I invite you to join the Cruise Committee to help with this project. Our next meeting will take place just before our monthly general meeting on February 20, at 6:00 pm at the Elks Lodge.

***Jerry Simoneaux***  
***Cruise Captain***



## **Secretary's Report**

**Kathy Houser, Secretary**

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

The Holidays are over! The weather has been cold and bleak and un-decorating has been a chore. For most of us our taste buds are numb from eggnog, eyes bleary from festive lights and we feel merciful that the holidays have ended. But many of us are experiencing a certain let down. Not to worry, you can get back in the swing of things again and join all the TMCA fun events. Get the most out of your membership by adding your skills, experience, and enthusiasm to club projects and activities. Don't miss Mardi Gras at Fishtails in Galveston on February 14<sup>th</sup>. "Gimme some beads Mister!" This event is always one of the best.

Welcome to TMCA! We are proud to welcome the following new members:

- Tom & Tess Collins
- William and Myra Phelps
- Dick and Cindy Grimes
- Steve Zirilli
- Gary and Cynthia Tucker
- Mike Hogan
- Christopher and Wendi Garlow
- Luke and Juliene Durdin
- Michael Soares and Karen Porter
- Marc Reed
- Martin and Angela Henry
- Dave and Samantha Martin
- Jeffrey Stuart:Katz

January is National "Thank you" Month. Danke, grazie, merci, gracias, spasibo, thank you! No matter how you say thank you, say it this month. Did you know that being thankful can actually make you feel better? I would like to feel good by saying "Thank You" to all of you who have sent in your 2015 Membership Renewal dues and for those who have not yet fulfilled their New Year's Resolution, please do it now. Just go to the web site, log in, and click Membership, My Account. Or click this link and get started, [membership renewal form](#).

I want to feel good some more so I would like to take this opportunity to say “Thank You” to Barbara Nickelson, 2014 Secretary for doing an exceptional job last year and for taking the time to share her knowledge with me. I can only hope to do as good as job as Barbara did. Also a big “Thank You” to Linda Schoene for guiding me through the website and making my transition easier. Thank you, thank you.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon,

***Kathy Houser***  
***Secretary***

“You've gotta dance like there's nobody watching, Love like you'll never be hurt, Sing like there's nobody listening, And live like it's heaven on earth.”

[William W. Purkey](#)

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## **Dollars And “Sense” from the Treasurer**

**Debbie Sturgeon, Treasurer**

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

The books for 2014 have now been wrapped up, so here are a few details.

Our main source of income is membership dues, which were projected to be \$13,000 but were actually \$14,411. Merchandise sales were projected to be \$2,000 but were actually \$1,349 – come on everyone – it MUST be time for a new burgee or shirt!

The bottom line is that we projected a loss for 2014 of \$1,224 and actually made a profit of \$2,658, which is good news.

Don't miss the deadline for renewing your membership. Where else will you get access to so many parties, cruises and new friends for such a reasonable price?!

***Debbie Sturgeon,***  
***Treasurer***

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## Community Liaison Committee Chair

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

I got away with not having to write a column in January due to a bit of confusion in the change-over between TMCA administrations, so now in February I will try to fill the information gap caused by that missed column! So here are some updates on information previously discussed in this column, and also some new items.

**1.** The long-awaited **Bayport Channel Deepening and Widening Project** is now well underway! This year-long project got started in mid-November with the arrival onsite of the dredge Linda LaQuay, and she is right now dredging in the open bay portion of the channel. The dredge is required to have AIS working at all times and she can be seen on [www.vesselfinder.com](http://www.vesselfinder.com) and on your vessel's AIS if you have one. She is also required to answer all VHF calls on channel 13.

The **POH Deepening & Widening** website (click [here](#)) provides a good deal of project information, including a link to the presentation that the POHA and Orion Marine Group created for a public informational meeting in October. That pdf file can be accessed by clicking [here](#), and take note especially of slides 15 & 20 which provide information on the pipeline route, what to look for if you wish to cross it, and where to safely do so. Winter was probably a good time for this project to have gotten underway since most boaters are not all that active right now, but as the start of the 2015 boating season gets closer, if you are out anywhere near the Bayport channel you need to remain alert and be prepared to perhaps take a detour around the dredge (the safe passing side is the side with the black diamonds, not the black balls!) and more importantly, all floating and/or submerged dredge pipelines!

**2.** A new USACE maintenance dredging project that may have some impact on us will be getting underway, probably sometime in the late spring. This will be taking place in the HSC in the reach between Bolivar and Redfish. More on this as we get closer to that project getting started.

**3.** In December I wrote about a bunch of ownership changes over in Oak Island (Double Bayou). The Hurricane restaurant has now reopened as "Hurricane Titas" and I personally look forward to checking it out! And since the Oak Island Market is no longer managing Beason Marina, and Chambers County has yet to figure out who will be doing so, right now a slip at the marina is free! I have however reserved all of our 2015 Beason cruising dates with the county and maybe they will get everything figured out by the time of the "Marker 17 St. Paddy's Cruise and Fish Fry" in March.

**4.** Monthly maritime history lectures continue at the **Houston Maritime Museum**, usually on the second Tuesday of each month. Information on all upcoming HMM lectures can be found by clicking [here](#).

**5.** **Houston Yacht Club** will be hosting an education seminar on the morning of February 21<sup>st</sup> entitled "Whoever Heard of the Texas Navy". More details are on the HYC calendar found by clicking [here](#). It sounds very interesting, and TMCA'ers are welcome to attend!

6. I frequently write about important news from the USCG **Area Maritime Security Committee** (AMSC), a committee on which I serve representing the interests of recreational boaters. A 5-year update of the **Area Maritime Security Plan** (AMSP) has recently been issued, and I will write more about this in the future. The next (open to the public) quarterly meeting of this committee is on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>, and if you would like more information please contact me.

7. I also frequently write about news from the **Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee** (<http://www.lonestarhsc.org>) where I also represent boater interests. My two-year term on that committee expires this month, but I have re-upped for another two years! I have been trying for some time now to find someone else who might be interested in this very important committee and its work, as an “Alternate” representative, and then perhaps to take over what I do in another two years. This committee is where I get all kinds of early information on things that potentially affect boaters, and then where I also bring items to the table where we have issues with things taking place on the waterways that we all share with the commercial interests. This “recreational boater representative” position does not have to be a TMCA member, but it would be great I think to have such representation remain in-house, rather than having it be someone from some other boating organization! Please contact me for more information, and/or all are invited to attend the upcoming quarterly meeting of the full committee on Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>.

If you have not done so previously, check out the other 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>.

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!

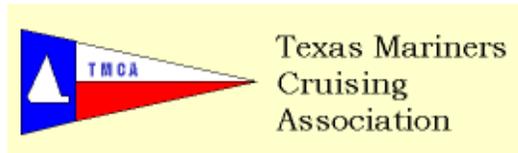
## [Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

### **2015 TMCA Officers**

<b>Commodore:</b>	<b>Bob Nickelson, m/v Docketari</b>	<b>713-826-7551</b>
<b>Past Commodore:</b>	<b>Martin Clark, m/v Impulsive</b>	<b>281-435-1253</b>
<b>Vice Commodore:</b>	<b>Charles Parette, m/v Andiamo</b>	<b>713-817-8263</b>
<b>Rear Commodore:</b>	<b>Charlene Lim, s/v Sea Illusion</b>	<b>832-483-8086</b>
<b>Cruise Captain:</b>	<b>Jerry Simoneaux, s/v Tradewind</b>	<b>713-577-9587</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Kathy Houser, m/v Attitude Adjustment</b>	<b>281-804-4122</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Debbie Sturgeon, s/v Sol Purpose</b>	<b>832-474-5627</b>

## 2015 TMCA Trustees

Trustee 2011	Commodore	Doug Chappell	Dock Trauma	281-330-1163
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Trustee 2012-13	Commodore	Steve Lee	s/v Waltzing Matilda	281-802-9838
Trustee 2002	Commodore	Gloria Rooney	s/v St. Somewhere	281-499-4413



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