

# The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

**June 2015**



## At the Helm

**Bob Nickelson, Commodore**

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

Thanks to all of my well-wishers, their thoughts and prayers on my health scare. I am now almost 100% with no "Red Solo" cup restrictions.

Spring Fling was an amazing success – thanks to Committee Chair Chris Bown, his committees and all of the many volunteers that made it all happen. The dust has not settled yet (waves are still high on Sabine Lake) on determining our profits and new members, but I'm sure this year's numbers will be great.

I know several of our members continued their travels continuing on to Lake Charles or heading back for next week's Harbor Walk trip. We left Port Arthur heading east. We refueled at the Bowtie Marina in Lake Charles, a great place – Doug Sherman, the owner, made us very welcome and had heard of our "little" party on Sabine. We then left at 6:30 Tuesday morning and headed for Shell Morgan – got here about 4:30 yesterday afternoon. We spent the night here at Shell Morgan and this morning we will head for Avery Island and the Tabasco Factory – will probably overnight in Delcambre and then start back west tomorrow. Next stop will be up the Mermemtau River to Lake Arthur for the night, and then we will start our way back to Lake Charles for a visit to L'auBerge. Since we will be broke then, we will head back to Watergate on Sunday – so far a fabulous trip – we have timed all of the storms and our thoughts and prayers are with the flood victims back home.

From the "ditch", we are East Bound and down, motored (liquored) up and boat'n.

***Bob Nickelson,  
Commodore***

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## **The Corner of Vice**

**Charles Parette, Vice Commodore**

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

The next meeting will be held Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, at the Elks Club, 623 Hanson Road, Kemah.

Socializing begins at 6:00 p.m. Due to increased attendance at the meetings, the Elks will begin taking dinners orders at 6:00. The business meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. Followed by our program.

Our speakers will be TMCA members Russ and Carol Burchfield, aboard MV Spirit, a beautiful Nordic Tug with lots of customization, who've spent years cruising around the islands. They'll share their adventures of great tips and stories. 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!

*Charles Parette,  
Vice Commodore*

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## **The Social Scuttlebutt**

**Charlene Lim, Rear Commodore**

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

I don't think anyone told Mother Nature that April was over, because April showers just keep on coming. What happened to May flowers? Guess we are going directly into June gloom, or maybe June doom.

The Jenko's hosted the May Dock Party at their lovely home and it was a marvelous evening. I would like to thank the Jenko's for opening up their lovely home to the TMCA gang. It was a beautiful evening to hang around with friends, enjoying good food and conversation. A handful of the gang arrived by water, which turned out to be a really funny as they all came at once, the tide was out, and they almost sunk the dinghy dock. So with the tide being out there was a 5 foot difference between the dinghy dock and the bulkhead. That was problem 1. Problem 2 was that there were 10 people on a 10x10 dinghy dock. The Dinghy dock was rocking all over the place and water was lapping at everyone's toes as they tried to go up a small 3 step stool ladder. It brought a little excitement to the party that's for sure.

Memorial weekend and Spring Fling, what a great combination. Steve and I really wanted to sail over but as life goes we found a house and had to spend most of the weekend packing. Seems the winds decided to blow directly on the nose Friday, so it would have been a motorboat ride anyways. We did manage to slip away and motor yacht down to Spring Fling on Saturday for a play day. I was impressed to see all the cool things that the committee put together in such a short time. The weather behaved for most of Saturday but it got really ugly Sunday. I heard they were rocking and rolling to the beat of the rain gods. The committee did a great job pulling this together. Congratulations to everyone for a successful event. Thanks to everyone involved, it was a fun weekend. I can't wait to see what they come up with for next year.

June 5th Friday night dock party -

Jim and Doris Lee invites you to their Sunny San Leon home on the water for this month's dock party. Their theme will be a Hurricane Stay Away Party. This will keep those nasty hurricanes away for another year. They will provide sacrificial flowers and host a heartfelt ceremony during first seating around 8pm (island time). I'm sure they will have a couple of liquid Hurricanes for everyone to sample. Address is 1115 Sunset Drive, San Leon, Texas 77539. The grills will be hot at 6pm, Bring a dish to share, chairs and you drink of choice.

June 6th Saturday Night (5pm-til...)- This weekend keeps getting better. TMCA is invited to the Mantus Anchors 3rd year anniversary Party. Food, Drinks, Music, Fun, what more can one ask for? 2710 Todville Rd., Seabrook. I attended this last year and it was lots of fun. These guys throw a heck of a good party.

June 27th IT'S FAJITA FIESTA TIME!! Fun times start at 5:00 and end at 10:00pm – There will be a new food vendor this year and I hear they are really good. Dinner will be served between 6pm and ends when the food runs out so don't be late. ;-) Don't worry as long as you are in line at 6pm you will get food. This is being held at Portofino Harbour Marina Pool, One Portofino Plaza, Clear Lake Shores, TX 77586 and is hosted by Dawn, Pam and Rhonda.

Funny thing – the band refused to work for free and the restaurant won't donate the food, so this event requires an **entrance registration** fee of \$26.00 per person. The fee grants you entrance to enjoy tasty Fajita's, listen to the wonderful Hotline band and join or watch the entertaining contests setup by Dawn, Pam and Rhonda (Dawn, Pam and Rhonda work for free, so you did get something for free after all). Payment must be done in advance, **no later than June 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Please go to the TMCA website to register or contact Dawn McGee to make other arrangements. Sign up soon, June is almost here.

The bad news is there won't be a dock party on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, but the good news is there are two awesome sailing adventures lined up that weekend.

New Events are popping up all the time, check the TMCA website regularly. Log in 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](mailto:Captain@TexasMariners.com)

We had a fabulous month of May and cruises! The first weekend started out with a great cruise to Double Bayou with Russ and Carol Burchfield as Cruise Leaders. The weekend weather was perfect, and great stories came out (and probably some stayed at the bayou..). It was a great suggestion for a cruise in May, and Double Bayou is also the home for the annual French Picnic this November, so make plans to return.

Jim Lee organized a cruise to Laguna Harbor. The Annual Crab Festival was going on, as well as a homeowner's party at Laguna Harbor which TMCA was also invited. The winds were pretty strong that weekend, only a few boats made it down, but there were also plenty of land yachts that navigated over the ferry. Laguna Harbor

threw a fabulous party with boiled shrimp, beer, wine, and live music!

And then...there was Memorial Weekend! Spring Fling topped the charts with 130 boats registered. People started arriving as early as Thursday for the long holiday. There were interesting sessions and great vendors. The flare-off was another successful event, and this year we included an opti sailboat race – which was more of a paddling race with the light wind. The bands Hotline and Still Cruizin got everyone up dancing, and the excellent caterers made sure we had *plenty* of food. Special thanks to the hard working volunteers that made Spring Fling an epic event.

An additional cruise Memorial Weekend filled the slips at Moody Gardens. Roberta Netherly and Bill Berg led this fun filled cruise which included a pajama party and shrimp boil. Good work, guys!

The month ends with Ross and EJ heard leading a laid back cruise to Harborwalk which includes a dinner at Floyds. And unfortunately, the kayak trip down Buffalo Bayou was once again cancelled due to the abundant rainfall.

June cruises include:

**June 6, Sync (not sink) Sail Mantus Party** - This is a planned as a laid back day on the Bay. Hopefully the wind will co-operate for a few zigzags across the bay. The plan will be pretty much the same as in past years. Let's say sail boaters will meet at Marker 2 around 11:30am-ish, we'll do some synchronized sailing in the bay. We invite the power boaters to come out to the bay at their leisure and hail Waltzing Matilda or any TMCA boats on the radio. Cruise Leader is Steve Lee.

However, there has been a slight change in dinner plans! Our great friends at Mantus Anchors will be celebrating their third anniversary with a big BBQ bash in the evening and TMCA is invited. For those of you who came last year, you will remember this great location on the water, on Todville Road. There will be BBQ, beer and a band!

**June 6-13 Cruise in the British Virgin Islands** – Several TMCAers have chartered boats in the BVIs and will be exploring the beautiful islands and enjoying the blue waters.

**June 13-14, Bayland Cruise and Goose Creek Dinghy Excursion** - Join us for a short cruise over to Baytown's Bayland Marina by the Fred Hartman Bridge. After securing our boats at the dock, we'll launch dinghies and explore Goose Creek. We'll travel about 2 miles - or more - exploring the creek, tying up for a while under a shade tree for beverages, and then head back. Since June is National Caribbean American Heritage Month, we'll start celebrating once we return to the docks. Wear your favorite, bright Caribbean shirt. Meat will be catered by Jamaican Me Hungry at \$7/pp, bring a dish to share. After dinner, watch Pirates of the Caribbean on a main sail, and enjoy a cool mudslide. For those excited about the weekend, come on over Friday night for a dock party and toast the sunset. More information about the cruise is available on the calendar, and sign up on the web site under Registration.

**June 20-21 Cruise to Harborwalk** - The Texas Outlaw Challenge will be this weekend; one of their stops will be Harborwalk. We plan to get there before their arrival, and watch the action, and then sit back and enjoy the rest of the weekend. Cruise Leader: Ken Hutchinson

**June 20, Sailing Angels** - The Sailing Angels Foundation is a charitable organization, comprised of experienced volunteer sailors, based in the Greater Houston area. These volunteers donate their time and resources to serve the interests of people with special needs. We introduce sailing/boating, in the form of recreational therapy and education, to children with physical and developmental disabilities. Teaching sailing/boating to our special needs children has proven to be an exhilarating experience, yet calming, tranquil and highly rewarding...for the children, their parent(s)/caregiver(s) as well as those of us who serve them.

As in previous years TMCA members have used their boats, both sail and power, for several outings on the bay.

*To sign up for this special event, please contact Dave McCabe with Sailing Angels, directly [DaveMcCabe@sailingangels.org](mailto:DaveMcCabe@sailingangels.org). He will co-ordinate with you about how many folks your vessel can comfortably accommodate, the clients names, time and place of departure.*

*See you on the water!*

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

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## **Secretary's Report**

**Kathy Houser, Secretary**

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

Well here we are six months into 2015. I know Spring Fling had to be a great success and I am anxious to hear all of the great stories and to see how many new members we have. I am sure those of you that traveled to Moody Gardens had a great time too. Right now I am cruising the Baltic Seas with my hubby Neil and good friends Martin and Marylou Clark. So as you can tell I do not have a whole lot to share with my TMCA friends this month except I wish you were all with us.

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

Locke and Camille Bryan  
Ken and Carol Ekenseair  
Tim Tamerler  
Trip Wilcox  
Tommy Tamburello  
Trent McBride  
David and Stephanie Sassi  
Dennis and Lynette Gillenwater  
Gary and Toni Hanson  
Ben and Trisha Garber  
Keith and Amy Gray

I know I have said this before but please check your information on the website and make sure that it is accurate.

Looking forward to seeing you all in June,

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

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## Dollars And "Sense" from the Treasurer

Debbie Sturgeon, Treasurer

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

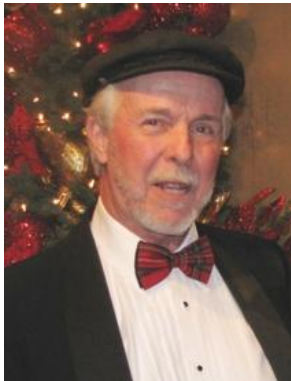
Another Spring Fling is over and a good time was had by all. I am still paying the final bills and tabulating all the numbers, so I do not have the "bottom line" at this time, but all the preliminary numbers look good.

A huge "Thank you" to Chris Bown and all the committee volunteers for their efforts.

TMCA's financial condition is still very strong and incomes are above predicted levels due to increased membership sales – all expense items are within our 2015 budget.

Have a great month of June!

*Debbie Sturgeon,  
Treasurer*



## Community Liaison Committee Chair

Philip Kropf

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

The tremendously successful **Spring Fling 2015** is now history, but as I write this on Wednesday afternoon (5/27), both s/v Silhouette and two more boats (7 other boats departed this morning) are still here due the bad weather! With plenty of time to write however, my column as usual contains updates on various important items previously discussed, and also some new items. I certainly hope that this information is interesting and informative.

1. The **Bayport Channel Deepening and Widening Project** continues, and after a brief departure for some maintenance and to have some sound-reducing measures installed, the dredge Linda LaQuay continues work in the open bay portion of the channel, but now very close to the land-cut and thus quite out of the way. All of the dredge pipelines are still in place however, as well as are three locations where booster pumps have been installed. **If you are sailing up near Bayport it is critical that you look at the very 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.** (You can access that map by clicking [here](#).) On June 13-14 there is of course a TMCA cruise up to Bayland Marina (click [here](#) for cruise details) and so we will definitely be traversing this area. Please be prepared for navigating this area with some advance knowledge of what is going on out there!

The POH website provides more detailed project information, including a link to a 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](http://www.vesselfinder.com) and on your vessel's AIS. She is also required to answer all VHF calls on channel 13. (A second dredge, the Waymon Boyd, continues to work inside the land-cut dredging the dock areas and so does not pose any hindrance to us recreational boaters.)

2. I hope that everyone enjoyed, and also learned something from, the speaker at our May meeting, Captain Stephen Nerheim, Director of the **USCG Vessel Traffic Service** (<http://www.uscg.mil/vtshouston/>). And even though we did not previously schedule a tour of the VTS facility for 2015, if we can find a suitable date I will see if we can make such a tour happen.

As Captain Nerheim mentioned, and as I wrote about in my previous two columns, important changes regarding VHF channels within the system occurred on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. So if you missed that discussion please go back to the April newsletter (click [here](#)) and become familiar with these changes just in case you ever have to call the VTS while you are out on the water. Such situations might include difficult weather conditions (like dense fog!) or an emergency situation, and you should know where you are on the water and then which VHF channel to call!

3. I write frequently about the **Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee**, but another committee that some of you might be interested in knowing about is the **Central Texas Coastal Area Committee** (CTCAC) ([www.ctcac.us](http://www.ctcac.us)), and its next quarterly meeting (open to the public) is coming up on June 4<sup>th</sup>. (Click [here](#) for meeting details and agenda.)

CTCAC serves as the spill preparedness planning body responsible for developing the Area Contingency Plan (ACP) required under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. The ACP provides strategies for a coordinated multi-agency response to an oil spill, chemical release, or marine fire occurring in navigable waters within or along the Central Texas coasts of Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, or Harris counties. For an "education" on some of the environmental issues that this committee deals with on an ongoing basis you perhaps might be interested in attending this meeting.

4. The 2015 hurricane season of course starts on June 1<sup>st</sup> and all of us are certainly hoping for another quiet one! Today I posted on TMCA Yahoo Groups a file that I had received from out of a **Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee** meeting that I was not able to attend last week since I was underway to Spring Fling. The first half of the file reports on fog season events in the HSC from earlier this year, but the second more interesting half provides some very good information on hurricane prospects for 2015. It is perhaps a bit technical, but these predictions do take more than just a roll of the dice! To access the file, just click [here](#).

5. I mention regularly in this column the several important documents for recreational boaters to be aware of which are found under the "Resources" tab of the **LSHSC** website (<http://www.lonestarhsc.org/resources.php>). The "**For the Recreational Boater**" section there I help to maintain, and if you have not done so previously, please become familiar with all the documents at that location which are of definite interest to recreational boaters.

6. Monthly maritime history lectures continue at the **Houston Maritime Museum**, usually on the second Tuesday of each month. At the time of this writing however information on the lecture for June is not yet available, so check the HMM website (<http://www.houstonmaritimemuseum.org/>) for updates. The museum provides sandwiches and beverages at these lectures so come on out and see the museum and learn some 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! I do hope that some of you are actually reading this column, and some feedback would be appreciated!!

*Philip Kropf*  
*Community Liaison Committee Chair*

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

### 2015 TMCA Officers

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

### 2015 TMCA Trustees

Trustee 2011	Commodore Doug Chappell	Dock Trauma	281-330-1163
Trustee 2008	Commodore Marion Herndon		281-703-9322
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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