

# The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

**March 2015**



## At the Helm

**Bob Nicholson, Commodore**

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

Burrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr – we have boat fever. We stay quite cozy living on the boat, but I'm ready to get some outside projects started and get the engines running to go somewhere.

We started February as invited guests of the Galveston Bay Sail and Power Squadron for their "Change of Watch" ceremony. I was recognized as TMCA's Commodore and presented an Honorary Membership for 2015 – 2016 – a very nice event. (Sorry we had to miss the Brady's Landing Dock Party, the same night).

Great Mardi Gras party in Galveston, as usual Pam Gasper did a fabulous job in putting everything together – several of us even ended up on Channel 13 on their Mardi Gras show – Payton, Butch and Janet Davidson's grandson was the star of the show.

We had a great monthly meeting at the Elks last week – a big crowd, A LOT of guests and new members and a great presentation on The Great Loop by Pedro Filipowsky. From the number of outside organizations present at the meeting asking TMCA to recognize some of their events, it becomes more & more evident that TMCA is truly a greatly recognized organization in our area.

Again, this year TMCA has been given a booth at the [Southwest International Boat Show](#) at South Shore Harbor. 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 – Discount admissions will be given to all TMCA members displaying their badges and Exhibitor Badges will be available to members working our booth.

March always marks the start of our cruising calendar – we get back to Daylight Savings time and better weather – check your calendar for all of the events. As we get back on the water, remember "Never be in a hurry", "Don't spit into the wind" and "Don't sail where the trees grow".

***Bob Nicholson,  
Commodore***

---



## **The Corner of Vice**

**Charles Parette, Vice Commodore**

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

*Ladies, this educational session is for you!* Saturday, March 7th, from 9-11 am, our **Women on the Water Meeting** at the Elks Club, 623 Hanson, Kemah TX. This is a class for women only, and taught by our own Jean Baike. Jean is a boat captain with years of experience of boat maintenance, delivery, and teaching. 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. So we'll know how many handouts to print, please register online on the website. Arrive early for coffee and donuts.

Our Club General Meeting will be held Friday, March 20, at the Elks Club, 623 Hanson Road, Kemah. Socializing begins at 6:00 p.m., dinners orders begin at 6:30 p.m., business meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. and the program begins at 8:00 PM, and our speaker will be our very own Bryan Austin. He'll be talking about the new NASA Orion project, including the recent launch; we're hoping to see some great photos and video. 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. Visitors always welcome, See you there!

***Charles Parette,  
Vice Commodore***

---



## **The Social Scuttlebutt**

**Charlene Lim, Rear Commodore**

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

Hurray for Ladye Jane!! She took a chance on hosting the 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 dock party at Brandy's landing (a new venue) and the TMCAer's received it with open arms. She tested the water with a reservation for 20, but was pleasantly surprised when it filled quickly. She extended the arrangements for 40 and yet again was surprised when it too filled amazing fast. More folks wanted to join, but sadly the next level was beyond what time would allow. The food, the fun, the comradely were delightful. Looks like Brandy's landing is a keeper, good job Ladye Jane, can't wait till we do it again!!

The dry cool weather drew a huge crowd to the Yachty Gras Parade this year. Steve and I were cordially invited to ride with the King and Queen on the lead boat the Beachcomber. The Beachcomber is a super cool boat (even thou it's a power boat) and Ross and EJ Heard are fabulous hosts.

If you are wondering why the speckled trout are now wearing beads. Well, I was aiming for the folks on Kemah boardwalk, but the Speckled trout kept jumping up and grabbing the beads before they would make it to land. I must admit my bead throwing coordination was off that night due to a couple of drinks (Cokes or maybe some other consumables). If fishermen can have fish stories so can I. This is my fish story and I'm sticking to it and I really did see a redheaded mermen. Congratulations to our very own Cruise Caption Jerry and Christopher for taking a 1<sup>st</sup> place award at The Yachty Gras Parade. They did a splendid job bling blinging (lighting and decorating) their boat.

The one and only Fish Tails party lady Pam Gasper and her hubby Steve 'e wonder ordered great weather, good food, and strong drinks for the Galveston Mardi Gras Fish Tails event. A new King and queen were officially crowned by the 52 members of the "Court Of TMCAer's". Several members of the Court were spotted on live TV having a really good time later that evening. Sure hope the Gaspers do this again next year.

### **It's time to "March" on to upcoming events**

March 6<sup>th</sup> the Dock Party will be hosted by Nancy & Bill James and Pam & Steve Gasper at Portofino. This is a private marina and you must register on the TMCA website to receive the gate code. The gate code will be emailed to those who have registered. Bring a chair, drinks, and a covered dish to share. 6pm-9pm. Thursday is a full moon and Sunday DST starts, spring is around the corner, so come out and stretch your legs. Remember there is a strict no glass policy around the pool. Check the calendar for details and register today to get on the email list for the gate code.

Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup> TMCA is sponsoring the "Women on the Water" educational course. This is a very special event for women only. I can't stress how important it is for women to have enough boating knowledge to handle things on the water if the responsibilities were to change unexpectedly to them. This is a great course to give you the confidence you need for the 2015 boating season. I'll brew up a special batch of wicked bad coffee and provide sweet treats to snack on between 8am-9am. Register through the TMCA website. It's being held at the Elks Club and begins at 9am-11am.

March 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> - Are you feeling a little green? It's time to let your inner leprechaun out. The Marker 17 St. Paddy's Day Fish Fry is back on the calendar this year. Green beer? Maybe. Leprechauns? Maybe. Fried Fish? Oh yes!! Music? You bet. It's going to be an event to remember. Get there any way you can. Register to sail down or drive your land yacht. Register quickly so they can get a good count on the amount of fish they need to fry up. Nothing worse than a leprechaun crying because there was not enough green beer and fried fish at the fish fry. Sign in and register on the TMCA website soon.

March 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> is the South Shore In The Water Boat Show. Really cool boat show. TMCA will have a booth setup there, so come by and say hi. I'll be there Saturday afternoon. If you come by and visit I'll tell you a fish story you will never believe. Check out the details on the TMCA website.

March 28<sup>th</sup> 7am-11am - TMCA is hosting the Nautical Flea market on the Elks Club lawn. It is free for all to buy and sell. Space is limited so come early to get the best trading spot or hottest deals. Mike Rooney is heading this event up so call him at 713-805-1418 for details. It is also on the TMCA website calendar. Great day, go to the flea market in the morning and finish the afternoon at the boat show and visit me for a unbelievable fish story.

New Events are always coming up. Login to see all the events on the TMCA calendar. 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)

Spring is just around the corner, and our March cruise calendar is full of fun opportunities. The first among them is the Women on the Water meeting at the Elks Lodge March 7, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Ladies, this class is for you taught by Jean Baike, who is a boat captain with years of experience in boating and training. Sign up now online at [www.TexasMariners.com](http://www.TexasMariners.com). A follow-up Women at the Helm class is in the planning stages so you can further hone your skills on the water.

Our own Doc and Monica Mulloy are treating us once again to their annual St. Paddy's Day Fish Fry at Channel Marker 17, from March 13-15. Folks are going by boat and by land yacht to this yearly favorite event. Don't miss out! Register today online!

Linda Schoene is leading our first official spring cruise on March 21 with a truly fun, beautiful, and adventurous kayak trip down Buffalo Bayou. This is a unique opportunity to do something a little different—and it is not to be missed! Check out the details online.

March 21 is also World Down Syndrome Day, and Capt. Dave McCabe with Sailing Angels is planning a really big half-day cruise. Sail and power boats are all welcome. More information is listed on our calendar.

Registration for Spring Fling has begun! Go to [www.TMCASpringFling.com](http://www.TMCASpringFling.com) to register now. This year, Spring Fling will be a three-day event with three bands, lots of fun and games, educational seminars and more of what you love. The Galveston Bay Cruising Association joins us this year as the sponsor of our GBCA Spring Fling Offshore Race. This is our 5th Spring Fling Anniversary, which coincides with the 50th Anniversary of the Port Arthur Yacht Club, so you know this is going to be one heckuva great party! The registration fee is \$175 for all three days which includes your three nights slip rental, bands Friday and Saturday night, and a pirate picnic on Sunday. One MAJOR bargain! Two catered meals and lots of swag are also available for purchase online. Come early or stay late because extra nights are only \$25 per night. We're also looking for volunteers to help with the event, so let us know if you'd like to be a Docker Dude – or Dudess - or work the TMCA Emporium.

If you are unable to go to Spring Fling or just want to stay a little closer to home, we also have our annual Memorial Day Weekend Cruise to Moody Gardens. Slips will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, so register now at [www.TexasMariners.com](http://www.TexasMariners.com). Slip fees are \$130 for two nights.

Cruise Captain Tip: Sea Tow offers an automated VHF radio check on channel 27 from the Star Fleet Marina, next to Portofino Marina. When you ask for a radio check, the service records your call and plays it back. Check using 1 watt and 25 watts from different distances out in the bay to see how well your radio broadcasts and receives. The best part is you won't be clogging up the airwaves by making your call on VHF 16.

*Jerry Simoneaux*  
*Cruise Captain*

---



## **Secretary's Report**

**Kathy Houser, Secretary**

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

The final deadline is approaching for membership renewal. The year is now getting in full swing, and you don't want to miss out on all the action. Let us know what you need to get the most out of your TMCA membership. You can register online on the web site under Membership → My Account. You can pay with all credit cards via PayPal, or use this [membership renewal form](#).

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

- Jeff & Jill Eschman
- Keith & Shauna Brown
- Bridget Upton
- Jimmy & Patrice McMahon
- Jack Bell
- Debbie & Damon Galloway
- Peter Crew
- Linda Ruhl

Please welcome them when you meet them!

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



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

**Debbie Sturgeon, Treasurer**

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

So it's cold and it's tax season. Here's an idea – get your return in early, receive your refund and use it to sign up for Spring Fling! Or a Moody Gardens Cruise!

Registration for both of the above is now open, so go online, sign up and start looking forward to getting out on the water when it warms up! .

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

---



## **Community Liaison Committee Chair**

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

As I write this column on February 26<sup>th</sup> spring is only 3 weeks away! Soon more and more of us are going to be out there on the water, and with that in mind here are updates on information previously noted in this column, and also some new items.

**1. The Bayport Channel Deepening and Widening Project** is ongoing! This year-long project got started in November with the arrival onsite of the dredge Linda LaQuay, and she continues to dredge in the open bay portion of the channel. She 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.

The **POH Deepening & Widening** website (click [here](#)) provides project information, including a link to a pdf file (click [here](#)) created by the POHA and Orion Marine Group to provide detailed project information for us all. 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.

The most important update to note is the recent installation of a booster pump in the pipeline route near the confluence of the Bayport Ship Channel and the Houston Ship Channel. For more information on this, click [here](#). Please be careful out there if you are traversing this portion of Galveston Bay!

**2. The Galveston Bay Foundation** has recently rolled out a *great* new feature on their website! It is a pollution reporting app that allows citizens to report all kinds of pollution events (both on and also off the water) and it then automatically sends those reports to the appropriate authorities based on location and pollution type! Check it out at: <http://galvbay.org/gban> . As networking expands and new authorities are added to their database the app will continue to get more robust over time. A bit more explanation from the GBF website says...

### **Be the Eyes on Your Bay**

Have you ever spotted pollution in Galveston Bay but weren't sure how to take action? Now you easily can with our newly launched pollution reporting app, which is also accessible on mobile devices! Simply report it on [www.galvbay.org/gban](http://www.galvbay.org/gban), and the proper authorities will be notified.

The Galveston Bay Foundation's Galveston Bay Action Network (GBAN) is an interactive tool for submitting and viewing water-related pollution reports across the four counties that touch Galveston Bay (Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, and Harris). It is designed to act as a bridge between citizens who care for the safety and health of the Bay and the authorities who can help enforce those qualities. GBAN pollution reports are sent directly to the appropriate authorities – no researching to find out where to send your concerns!

Activities such as chemical spills and dumping of wastes can pollute our environment and threaten the health of local people, environment, and economy. Reporting water pollution, whether deliberate or accidental, to the proper authority can help protect Galveston Bay.

**3. The U.S. Coast Guard's Office of the Auxiliary and Boating Safety** has officially launched its redesigned Boating Safety website to provide easier navigation for recreational boaters to locate the information that they need. A press release states in part: "The newly redesigned website has a fresh look that is aligned with our strategic partners' visions for what is important to the recreational boating

public," said Capt. F. Thomas Boross, chief of the Office of the Auxiliary and Boating Safety at U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters. "This new design is our first enhancement in over five years."

The reminder of the press release can be accessed by clicking [here](#), and the new CG-AUX website by clicking [here](#). And if you have never checked out the websites of the local Coast Guard Auxiliary flotillas, they are listed here:

**Flotilla 6-8, Clear Lake**

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=081-06-08>

**Flotilla 6-3, Seabrook, TX**

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=081-06-03>

**Flotilla 6-2, Houston**

<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=081-06-02>

4. I mention regularly in this column the **Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee**, and especially important items of interest to recreational boaters to be found under the "**Resources**" tab of the website. (Go to: <http://www.lonestarhsc.org/resources.php> and then scroll down the page.) The section of the website "**For the Recreational Boater**" I help to maintain, and for this month I have updated the article on the **Pelican Island Bridge** which has now reopened after many months of total closure for major maintenance. And again, if you have not done so previously, check out the other documents of interest to recreational boaters in this section.

5. 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](#). The next lecture, on March 10<sup>th</sup>, is entitled: "**Purging the Seas: Government Reaction to Piracy, 1600-2015**". It would be nice to see a few more TMCA'ers at some of these lectures!

6. If you would like a first-hand view of some of what it takes to keep our regional ports and commercial waterways operating smoothly and safely, come join me at the March 10<sup>th</sup> combined meeting of the **NavOps, Waterways Utilization, and Dredging** subcommittees of the **Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee**. For detailed info on this meeting please contact me.

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!

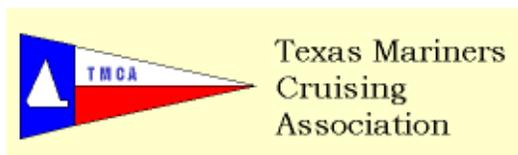
## [Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

### **2015 TMCA Officers**

|                        |  |                     |
|------------------------|--|---------------------|
| <b>Commodore:</b>      | <b>Bob Nickelson, m/v Docktari</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 |
| 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 |



***Please send any articles you would like included in the TMCA Mariner to TMCA Mariner Editor at [Newsletter@TexasMariners.com](mailto:Newsletter@TexasMariners.com)***

Texas Mariners Cruising Association, PO Box 946, Kemah, TX 77565-0946  
<http://www.TexasMariners.com> | [Anti-spam policy](#) | [Privacy policy](#)