

The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

May 2015



At the Helm

Bob Nickelson, Commodore

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

As, in our life travels, we never know what tomorrow brings – look for someone to help today and keep your travels between the “Reds & Greens” – If you read my last month’s article, you would have read this is how I ended my article – HOW TRUE, HOW TRUE – “we never know what tomorrow brings”.

As many of you know, shortly after last month’s article went to press, I was at a dinner Birthday Party for Kathy Houser with about 10 other TMCA members on Friday night during the Boat Show when I suffered a stroke. I noticed my right arm was moving “funny” and told Barbara something was going on & to keep watch. About that time Bruce Dannecker who was sitting directly across from me noticed my distress

and jumped into action – the whole table got me to the car in about 30 seconds and Barbara (A.J. Foyt) had me in Clear Lake Regional Emergency Room in less than 10 minutes – after things settled down, they finally determined that I would be admitted for some tests and maybe I would be going home on Saturday and I planned on being back at the Boat Show for the Saturday night party – WRONG.

After many tests, a new neurologist and cardiologist – two surgeries, 8 days later I got to come home – Boat Show didn’t miss me a bit – 66 new members – way to go for all that worked.

After all the tests, they determined I had an ulcer in my carotid artery (#2 surgery) – this is what they determined this caused the last 2 strokes. I have been recovering but am getting stronger each day – got the green light to drive and pretty much do what I feel like last Thursday.

I cannot say enough about the great people at Clear Lake Regional Hospital, all my TMCA friends who kept tabs on me and helped Barbara and my family. Got the “RED SOLO CUP” working again and ready for Spring Fling.

On an education note, everyone should learn the signs of a stroke, minutes can make a difference – I am that perfect example of quick action.

Thanks again for all of your thoughts and prayers – ready for next party.

**Bob Nickelson,
Commodore**



The Corner of Vice

Charles Parette, Vice Commodore

Email: ViceCommodore@TexasMariners

Mark your calendars for our next Monthly Meeting, Friday, May 15th. The meeting will be held at the Elks Club, 623 Hanson Road, Kemah.

Socializing begins at 6:00 p.m., dinners orders begin at 6:30 p.m., and the meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. followed by our program.

Our speaker will be Captain Steve Nerheim who has been Director of the USCG Vessel Traffic Service Houston/Galveston (VTS) since 2005 and who also is the moderator of the Greater Galveston Bay Port Coordination Team (PCT). His previous experience was as a U.S. Navy Surface Warfare Officer, principally in destroyers. While on active duty he

commanded at sea and was additionally qualified and designated as an Underwater Warfare Specialist and a Joint Specialty Officer. Steve is a great public speaker and this should be an informative and enjoyable presentation.

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*



The Social Scuttlebutt

Charlene Lim, Rear Commodore

email: RearCommodore@TexasMariners.com

The Easter Bunny Dock Hop Party was AWESOME!! Lots of bunnies were hopping around showing off their sexy long tall bunny ears as Peter Cotton Tail rocked the docks with fabulous tunes late into Friday night. As you can imagine with all those bunny's hopping around and flopping those ears, the wind gods got all excited. Wham, at around 3am Saturday morning the winds whipped up to 30 knots, boats were heaving in the slips, water loudly slapping at the hauls. Man oh man, big eyed bunnies' appeared from nowhere onto the piers. They scurried around securing boats for the following 15 hours.

The winds finally laid down at 4pm Sunday afternoon and the Easter Chicky Sailing Chicks showed up in style with their rooster buddies at

Monarch's to enjoy a well needed relaxing dinner. There were several land yacht bunnies who escaped H-Town to join the fabulous event. Really exciting fun weekend.

The Déjà vu Dock Party April 10th was cancelled by the all mighty rain gods. It will be rescheduled when the rain gods are gone on vacation later in the year.

The rain gods tried hard to cancel the "Beers & Tears Dinner at Topwater Grill as the Tax Man Cometh" event, but the TMCA members are a tough crowd and didn't let the rain gods stop the fun. They defied the rain gods and had a good time at Topwater Grill, despite the weather.

May - Spring is here at last.

May 1st Friday night dock party - Jenko's Dock Party at 41 Lazy Lane, Kemah, TX 77565. Put on your best May flower bonnet, bring a chair, luscious Friday night drink delight and a dish to share. Hang out with the hosts, Bill and Carolyn Jenko. They are really a fun couple and know how to throw a party.

May 22nd-25th SPRING FLING, the biggest party everrrrr!!! Sail, swim, drive, fly, walk, run, just come on down and join the fun!! Boaters are busy preparing their boats for TMCA's largest boating event of the year "Spring Fling", be a part of the adventure.

June 27th IT'S FAJITA FIESTA TIME!! Fun times start at 5:00 and end at 10:00pm - 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 23rd. Please go to the TMCA website to register or contact Dawn McGee to make other arrangements. Additional details coming soon.

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 may have seen how planning cruises can be a bit complicated when we were assigning and reassigning slips for the Past Commodore's Cruise. The slips at Job Beason Park are not uniform. It is not a place a group can simply go to and take any open slip. We have to take into account the beam as well as the length of the boats in order to assign slips that will accommodate everyone without crowding someone out. What made my job easy was the fact that the dimensions of our boats are stored on the TMCA website. If you have completed your profile, I have your beam, length, power requirement, and much more already available. If you have not yet completed your online profile, please do so. It takes a lot of the work out of planning a cruise!

April showers bring May flowers (and, as Christopher says, Mayflowers bring Pilgrims). Ok, not the best boating reference, but à propos nonetheless. We had a full month of cruising opportunities in April, some of which were washed out by those showers. Now, May is here and blooming with cruises with Spring Fling as its finale.

We filled the marina at Moody Gardens for our Easter cruise during the first weekend in April. At 3:00 am, the winds shifted from south to north and blew over 35 knots. However, the next morning was cool and clear and we had a great time. Charlene Lim hosted a fun dock party Friday and Saturday we gathered at the Monarch restaurant for a delicious meal.

Our Sailing Angels half-day cruise was canceled the next weekend due to the weather. Fortunately, Captain Dave has another wonderful event scheduled for June 20 called the Summer Sailstice. I encourage you to contact Captain Dave and volunteer to be a Sailing Angel Captain or Crewmember. You'll be glad you did. Dave McCabe (281) 507-1867
DaveMcCabe@sailingangels.org

Although our Past Commodore's Cruise to Double Bayou was also canceled due to weather, Martin and Marylou Clark were undaunted. They held a party at their home instead with Cajun food that was si bon and music by Ben "Boudreaux" Reyna. That's the way we roll...er...float. You get the drift.

The weather improved for Philip Kropf's salute to Word Penguin Day with a cruise to Cedar Bayou. If you have not cruised to Cedar Bayou before, you should really put that on your list of places to go this year. It's not too far, but it is worlds apart from other destinations around the bay.

May is full of cruising opportunities, near and far. Our first cruise to the Double Bayou pasture is being led by Russ and Carol Burchfield on May 2. Be sure to sign up now online! The weather is going to be perfect! Contact Russ Burchfield 713-894-2584 burchfieldr@yahoo.com for more information.

On May 9, head out to Laguna Harbor for the 30th Annual Crystal Beach / Bolivar Crab Festival. Our past Cruise Captain, Jim Lee, has planned a truly wonderful weekend for us. Don't miss out on this one. Register now! For more information, check out our website or contact Jim Lee 713-828-5133 email jimlee61@yahoo.com.

Memorial Day Weekend offers two cruising destinations. You can enjoy a peaceful, relaxing cruise to Moody Gardens or head to Pleasure Island for Spring Fling and a raucous good time. Roberta Netherly and Bill Berg are leading the cruise to Moody Gardens May 23-25. Just a short cruise to Galveston and you'll be unwinding by the pool with your favorite beverage. No plans other than putting up your feet and having fun with friends. For more information Contact Roberta Netherly rsnetherly@yahoo.com, Bill Berg margaritabil@comcast.net. Slip fees are \$65 per night.

On the other hand, if you are in the mood for dancing, live bands, pirate parties, and much, much more, head to Spring Fling! The fun starts Friday, May 22 and continues through Sunday afternoon. There is so much planned, I have no room to list it all here. Go www.TMCASpringFling.com for information and to sign up. Or contact Christopher Bown at simonbown@gmail.com or call 713-577-9583. Price is \$175 for three nights slip rental, exhibits, educational sessions, and bands. Catered meals are extra. Additional nights are only \$25. Skippers should attend the Skippers' Meeting on May 16, 8:00 am to 12:00 noon at the Elks Lodge, 623 Hanson Rd, Kemah, TX 77565.

May folds her petals with a cruise to Harbor Walk and a Kayak trip down Buffalo Bayou on May 30. Wanting to Kick back and unwind from the parties at Spring Fling, or extend your cruising time? Perhaps you were unable to make that trip. Just wanting a weekend cruise? Come on down to Harbor Walk with EJ and Ross Heard and kick back, have few drinks at the poolside bar, or relax in the pool. Enjoy dinner at Floyd's Restaurant. A no fuss, no frills weekend. Contact EJ Heard at ejheard@swbell.net for more information.

Want a more cosmopolitan setting? Check out the Kayak trip down Buffalo Bayou and see Houston from a whole different perspective. Check out the details online at www.TexasMariners.com.

With so much to do in May, there is something for everyone

Jerry Simoneaux
Cruise Captain



Secretary's Report

Kathy Houser, Secretary

email: Secretary@TexasMariners.com

May has arrived and there is so much to celebrate during this wonderful month: May Day, Cinco de Mayo, National Teachers Day, Mother's Day, Victoria Day and Memorial Day. But there are great events for TMCA to celebrate too: Spring Fling, Moody Gardens, Commodores Baltic Cruise, Double Bayou Pasture Cruise, Cruise to Bolivar and the Kayak Buffalo Bayou. So there is much for all of us to do and enjoy.

The most memorable event is celebrating all of our new "89" TMCA Members. Please join me in welcoming our new cruising friends:

Ken Tobey & Sheryl Bishop	Gene & Jan Kribbs	Mike & Dee Latiolais
Chuck Robinson & Tina Camacho	Jerry & Cindy McElwee	Rich & Pam Lewis
Jim & Jan Lemcke	Suzanne Roat	Ross Ferguson
Tom Collier	Bob & Denise Maher	Ted & Claire Estep
Gene & Jan Kribbs	James Weaver	Kent & Alyce Lindsey
Daniel Rowe	Rusty & Lelani Hightower	Warren Treptou & Angelica Heller
Marshall & Beth Leicht	Dan Spradley & Jill Taylor	Anthony & Janet Loya
Garrett & Jessica Word	Ken Forgrave & Vicky Leasure	Richard & Karen Sutton
Susan Laneri	Mark & Angela Mouton	Jeremy & Aubry Harbin
Sterling & Nicol Huff	Alan & Cheri Hanes	Mike Phemister & Claudia Everett
Rex & Kim Bettis	Jerry & Melanie Dugat	Jay & Shelia Ward
David & Christina Teverbaugh	Charles & Stefanie Reece	Janina Joiner
Kelly Nelson	Don Braga	Garrett & Jessica Word
Candy Capuano-Day	Janet Medellin	Sheldon McClafin
Hugh Smith	Tom & Lisa Slagle	Cindy Clark
Bobby & Lily Soileau	Keith & Chris Cohrs	Douglas & Chris McMurray
Russell & Janice Hagar	Cindy Resta & Margaret Boiano	Edwin & Annes Silver
Barry Evans		

The deadline for renewing your membership has passed and now and a \$20 reactivation fee will apply. You can renew online and pay by any credit card via PayPal. Log in, click Membership -> My Account. Click Edit to update your information, click the Membership tab to renew your membership. If you had logged into the previous web site, your user id is the same. If not, try your first initial/last name (all lower case). Temporary passwords for all: tmca2015. If you'd like to renew via mail, click this link for the [membership renewal form](#).

I would like to request that all members to check their information on the website to make sure that it is accurate.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon,

Kathy Houser
Secretary



Dollars And "Sense" from the Treasurer

Debbie Sturgeon, Treasurer

Email: Treasurer@TexasMariners.com

TMCA's finances are in good shape. Thanks to the amazing efforts at the Boat Show, we signed up a lot of new members, so we are ahead on revenues. We are also well ahead of projected registrations for Spring Fling, and expenses are in line with our budgeted costs.

Don't forget you can still order Spring Fling merchandise and have it in time for the event!

*Debbie Sturgeon,
Treasurer*



Community Liaison Committee Chair

Philip Kropf

PKropf@flash.net

As usual, my column contains updates on various important items previously discussed, and also some new items of interest. I hope that it is informative and I would appreciate any feedback that you might have.

1. The **Bayport Channel Deepening and Widening Project** has been my lead paragraph for several months now, and due to its serious impact on our cruising waters I will continue to do so until the project is completed later this year. Nearing the half-way point of the project, the dredge Linda LaQuay continues work in the open bay portion of the channel, although ever closer to the land-cut and not so much anymore an obstacle herself. All of the dredge pipelines are still in place however, and if you are sailing up near Bayport and have not yet looked at the **POH Deepening & Widening** website (click [here](#)) you should definitely do so before setting out! (I had planned to check things out for myself last weekend on my way up to Cedar Bayou, but due to weather issues we ended up at Redfish Island instead.)

The POH website provides project information, including a link to a pdf file (click [here](#)) created by the POHA and Orion Marine Group providing detailed project information. 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 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. 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. In the April edition of the BoatUS **Seaworthy** magazine I just read an interesting (and important!) article entitled “**COLREGS: Rules to Live By**” by Daniel Rutherford. This is a very well-written article, and I won’t take up space here by providing a synopsis, but if you have no idea what the COLREGS are you *definitely* need to read this article! And even if you *do* know what they are, a review such as what this article presents is well worthwhile!! The article is at:

<http://www.boatus.com/seaworthy/magazine/2015/april/colregs.asp>

A very serious boating accident on Galveston Bay figures prominently in the article.

3. Last month I wrote about important changes that were coming on April 2nd to the **USCG Vessel Traffic Service (VTS)**(<http://www.uscg.mil/vtshouston/>). If you missed that discussion please go back to the April newsletter (click [here](#)) and become familiar with the 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!

And again, even though we do not have a tour of the VTS facility scheduled for 2015, I have arranged for the VTS Director, Captain Stephen Nerheim, to be the speaker at our May General Meeting. (click [here](#)) Steve is an awesome speaker and I think that it will be a very informative and fun meeting!

4. I mention regularly in this column the **Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee** and *especially* several important items for recreational boaters to be aware of which can be found under the “**Resources**” tab of their website. (<http://www.lonestarhsc.org/resources.php> and then scroll down the page.) The section seen there “**For the Recreational Boater**” I help to maintain and if you have not done so previously, please become familiar with all the documents at that location of definite interest to recreational boaters.

5. The next quarterly meeting of the **Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee** (www.lonestarhsc.org) is coming up on May 8th at the new USCG Sector Houston-Galveston building (9 to 11am) and, as always, the meeting is open to the public. For an “education” on some of the waterway issues that this committee deals with on an ongoing basis, you perhaps might be interested in attending this meeting. Please contact me if you would like to know more.

6. 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 May 19th, by Dr. Jeremaih Dancy is entitled: “**The Myth of the Press Gang: Volunteers, Impressment, and the Naval Manpower Problem in the Late Eighteenth Century**”. The museum even feeds you at these lectures so come on out and see the museum and learn some interesting history about our region.

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

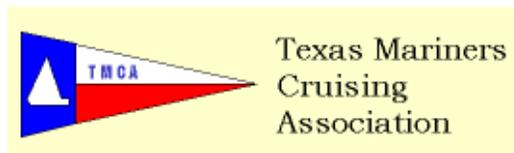
[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

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