

The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

September 2015



At the Helm

Bob Nickelson, Commodore

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

Well, Danny has fizzled, but Erika is lurking in the Atlantic - we should not let up our guard. Hurricane season officially is from June 1st thru November. History shows that late August thru September is the most active time during the season. The main reason for this is due to first, the African easterly jet winds reach its peak efficiency generating easterly waves - a common "seeding" for Atlantic tropical waves. Secondly, is the atmosphere's increased ability to generate thunderstorms as the waters have spent the summer absorbing the sun's warmth. Finally, during this time there's a minimum of wind shear occurring that could otherwise disrupt thunderstorms. With all of this, 61 percent of all Atlantic named storms since 1950 have been in either August or September. Barbara & I have grown up in the Houston area

and have lived thru Carla, Allison and Ike amongst others - we'll still take the hurricanes over the dangers of tornadoes, earthquakes or forest fires. Do not take warnings lightly and stay well prepared.

We'll start September with the Labor Day cruise to Moody Gardens and hopefully our schedule will allow some of the other planned events - Allen's Landing is our traditional fall trip - a unique experience that all should experience.

We will have our annual maintenance done on Docktari in October - I will be stocking with spare parts in anticipation of our trip starting in January. I will also be researching the best way to document our trip to share with others - if any members out there have suggestions concerning blogging, etc, I would be interested in hearing from you.

In the mean time, be safe and keep'em between the red & greens.

***Bob Nickelson,
Commodore***



The Corner of Vice

Charles Parette, Vice Commodore

Email: ViceCommodore@TexasMariners

Ahoy TMCA, Happy Labor Day

September is here; we've had a busy year so far, and have so much to look forward to. I'd like to encourage all members to become active in our great organization. We have so many opportunities to meet new folks, use your boats, learn more about boating in our area and just have a great time.

Keep an eye on the TMCA calendar. Don't forget about our monthly dock parties (typically the first Friday of each month, and our Monthly meetings (typically the 3rd Friday of each month) with lots of great social

time. During our monthly meetings, we'll remind you about the upcoming events, and how to use the web site to sign up for them. Remember, you can view the web site www.texasmariners.com from your mobile device, and make sure you don't miss any of our fun TMCA events/cruises. Come and find me at one of our events, and I'll be happy to answer your questions, and introduce you to our great members.

The September meeting will be held at the Elks Club, 623 Hanson Road, Kemah. Socializing begins at 6:00 p.m., dinner orders 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 Brady Valentine, a former nuclear engineer on a US Navy Submarine. This will be a fun evening, so mark your calendars and attend! Come enjoy dinner, drinks at great prices, and meet some other members. Be sure to bring your name badge. See you there!

Head's Up! The October meeting will be on Thursday, October 15. The Elks Club had a conflict for our regular Friday date. The weekend before is the Allen's Landing Cruise which starts on Friday and most of the officers will be on that cruise. The weekend after is Harvest Moon, and many of us are in the race, or heading down to Port Arthur to cheer. Alternate locations were looked into, but they were more expensive. Mark your calendar, and hear some great campaign speeches from potential board members for 2016.

*Charles Parette,
Vice Commodore*



The Social Scuttlebutt

Charlene Lim, Rear Commodore

email: RearCommodore@TexasMariners.com

As I glimpse back at August I can remember being at Redfish Island howling at the moon and I'm still dreaming about the tropical garden dock party at the Luttgeharm's home. I also remember floating in the pool at Portofino as I listened to Phil Eckenroth and the Second Wind band during the fabulous Sunset Fiesta. How about that Poker run and the fish fry? Did you blink and miss August? I think I did. August is nothing more than happy memories of howling good parties, good friends, and delicious food.

Poof - September is here. September is the month of the Pirate. I hear there will be some swash buckling going on this month.

Let's look at what awesome events TMCA has in store for September.

Dock Party at the YP655 Sept. 4th, 6:30pm-9:00pm- hosted by Jim Hornung

This dock party will be very unique. The YP655 is a Yard Patrol vessel was used for training at the USNA in Annapolis. The Dock party will be both on the 79' vessel and along the extra wide dock. Jim will give tours for those who might be interested in her rich history. Remember to bring a dish to share, your favorite beverage and a chair. There will be a BBQ pit available for those who wish to grill. Please visit the TMCA website for directions.

Nauti White Party at Moody Gardens - Sept., 5th Docktails start at 6pm, Dinner at 7pm

The Nauti White Party will be Saturday, September 5, 2015 on the dock at the Moody Gardens Marina under the White Tent. Come dressed in your best "Nauti White Outfits". The end of summer, marked by Labor Day, used to limit the ability to wear white, so we are going out in style. Wear your best Nauti (Naughty/Nautical) White outfit. Prizes will be awarded!

6:00 PM- White Docktails (Please bring any White Beverage of Choice. Please bring any White Appetizer to share)

7:00 PM- White Dinner (Please bring any White Salad, White Side Dish, White Main Dish or White Dessert to share)

There will also be some great music and other surprises! The Nauti Crew has a fun filled night planned for all! Please sign up on the Website at www.texasmariners.com or email karencchappell@yahoo.com or text at 281.222.1426.! It is open to all TMCA Members and guests.

Talk like a Pirate day: Pirate & Rum Factory Tour at Railean's Distillery in San Leon- Sept. 19th 12pm.

Around noon a pirate becomes a little parched. A good pirate sets sail to the closest distillery and partakes in a little sampling of the latest vintage Rum's.

Hang out with other TMCA pirates Saturday afternoon (1pm) and tour Railean's Distillery while you sample their delightful vintage Rum's. Don't be late or you'll miss the tour.

After a hard day sampling vintage Rum's pirates gather together over linner (for you landlubbers that be's a meal *tween* lunch and dinner). This happens around 3 bells. Be sure to register on the TMCA website so the Sea Wench Vicki can set a place at the table for you.

For you hardcore pirates head back to Railean's Distillery and listen to the Bilge Pumps play their swash buckling tunes as you indulge in some fine brewed Rum. Band starts at 6:30pm.

Top Hats & Tuxedo's (t-Shirt) Fun Fest. At Pelican Rest-Cruise, Sept 25th - 27th.

Show off your coolest Top Hat and Tuxedo T-shirt at Pelican Rest. Cruise captains Steve Lim and Chis Weierman will be leading a cruise Friday morning to Pelican Rest. If you can't make the Friday cruise don't worry, Saturday night is when the main event happens.

Friday evening there will be a poolside dock party at Pelican's Rest starting with Docktails at 5:30pm, followed by the usual dock party arrangements for dinner (bring a dish to share and a beverage of choice) at 6:30pm. Saturday morning there will be a community breakfast around 9am, so bring something sweet and sticky or anything with bacon. Saturday night is the main event. Dress up in your coolest best Top Hat and Tuxedo t-shirt for a fabulous fun filled evening. Cocktails start at 5:30pm on the patio lower level and a BBQ dinner will be served at 6:30pm on the balcony by the wonderful Number 13 restaurant (for those who have signed up). The dinner is \$27, you will need to register for the dinner in advance. After dinner, hang around and sip on cocktails while prizes are awarded to the best dressed and funniest Tuxedo t-shirts. Sign up quickly, the event will close before you know it.

Allen's Landing Event, Oct. 9th

October might seem far away but the Allen's Landing event that requires advance September registration.

The Allen's Landing Cruise is going to be a blast with lots of fun things to do once you arrive. Plan on coming whether you have a boat or not, just ask to hop on board one of the registered boats. See the TMCA calendar write-up for the listed registered boats.

If you don't have a boat and need a place to stay downtown Marriot's is giving TMCA a great rate of \$109 a night at their new SpringHill downtown facility. You do need to **register with the hotel no later than Sept, 18th.** Follow the link on the Allen's Landing calendar write-up, or use the link below or call Central booking at 888-236-2427 and book under TMCA.

[Book your group rate for TMCA Allen's Landing Event 2015](#)

Remember check out the TMCA website for details and for unofficial information logon to the TMCA group in Facebook or check out TMCA Yahoo Groups.

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



[The Cruise Corner](#)

Jerry Simoneaux, Cruise Captain

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

“Well we all shine on / Like the moon and the stars and the sun / Well we all shine on / Everyone, come on.” John Lennon.

The moon and the stars and the sun all played significant parts in TMCA cruises (and events) during August. Adrian and Paula Vuyk started the month off with a favorite TMCA tradition, the Red Fish Island Howl at the Moon cruise. Cruisers gathered at Red Fish Island around a bonfire under a full moon to letter their inner wolves out. The weather was perfect and all were treated to a spectacular sunrise the next morning.

The moon waned and disappeared right on cue in the middle of August to provide the perfect conditions to view the Perseid Meteor Shower. Christopher and I led a small group of intrepid wanderers offshore in the wee hours of the morning, well away from the city lights, to see this magnificent once-in-a-lifetime event. The winds and the seas were calm. I could barely hear the water lightly lapping against the hull as Christopher and I laid back on the foredeck and kept a watchful eye in the northeastern sky. We saw about seven meteors zip across the sky in brilliant, quick straight lines. It was a surreal experience.

The skies became a little cloudy and rain threatened to cancel Martin and Marylou Clark’s Clear Lake Poker Run, but the persistent sun managed to poke through the clouds just in time. I missed the poker run, but arrived just in time to join in the party at Seagate as the boats were coming back in. It was a huge success!

On the 29th, the moon was full again for the Catfish Cruise to Bayland. We had 19 power boats, 14 sailboats and 13 land yachts registered to bring in 100 folks to enjoy fried catfish with all the trimming and a movie on the mainsail that evening. Such a big event would have been impossible to manage without the help of so many of you who volunteered. I am so grateful to each of you. A special thanks to Ron Gerdes for leading the Docker Dudes, Ken Ekenseair for leading the kitchen, and Charles Parette organizing the chaos that ensued. A BIG thank you to our Docker Dudes: Ed Gibler, Philip Kropf, Dave Glascock, Pete Wybro, Barry Dupuy, Russ Burchfield, Al Waghorne and Brad Ballard; and to our Kitchen & Set-up Staff: Ed Gibler, Doc Mulloy, Rhonda Eckenroth, Vivian Cardoso, Ladye Jane Stone, Lori Friemel, Linda Schoene, Roberta Netherly, Dawn Gibler, Donna Lippner, and Ross & EJ Heard. Thanks also to Bryan and Cindy Austin for letting us project the movie on their mainsail. Of course, thank you to Christopher Bown for your indefatigable efforts that ensured the success of this cruise. And, I know I am leaving somebody out, but the music is playing and I have to get off stage.



This month is also full of exciting opportunities to cruise with your friends. We have three cruises over the Labor Day Weekend for you to choose from, or mix and match like Christopher and me. Bill and CJ Jenko are leading a cruise down the coast to Freeport for the Bikes and Blues Festival. They will depart aboard Sea Gypsy on Thursday, September 3, and stay overnight at Harborwalk, then on to the Freeport Municipal Marina on Friday. Over 20 live bands on 4 stages for the ridiculously low entry fee of \$5 per day. Please check our website (www.TexasMariners.com) for more information and to register.

If you'd like to stay in the Galveston area over the Labor Day Weekend, then check out our annual Labor Day Cruise to Moody Gardens lead by our Commodore, Bob and Barbara Nickelson. This year's social director, Karen Chappell, is organizing a Nauti White Party that is not to be missed! Come dressed in your best "Nauti White Outfits". Prizes will be awarded! We will also have some great music provided by DJ "Nauti Phil" Eckenroth and other surprises! Karen and her Nauti Crew have a fun filled night planned for all! For Land yachters attending, you may park by front of hotel and golf cart service will transport you to the Docks! Lots more activities are planned. If you don't have a slip at Moody Gardens, land yacht in or consider staying across the bayou at Pelican Rest or anchor out and dinghy in.

For those who want something a little closer to port, then join Ladye Jane Stone for the 11th Annual Red Fish Raft Up and concert with local favorite Kelly McGuire. Information for all our cruises and events can be found online.

Ending the month, Chris Weierman and Steve Lim are planning the ritzy Top Hats and Tuxedos (t-shirts) Fun Fest cruise to Pelican Rest on September 25. The fun starts Friday Sept. 25th with a leisure cruise over to Pelican Rest. There will be a dock party and pot-luck dinner on Friday evening. On Saturday, the main event takes place starting with cocktails on the lower level of the restaurants deck at 5:30pm and on the balcony at 6:30pm the fabulous restaurant Number 13 will be serving 14 hour Slow Smoked Brisket with Tangy BBQ Sauce and New Braunfels Smokehouse Sausage along with all the fixins. Prizes will be awarded to the best dressed and funniest T-Shirt Tuxedo's.

Information and registration for all these wonderful cruises and more can be found on our website www.TexasMariners.com.

Jerry Simoneaux
Cruise Captain



Secretary's Report

Kathy Houser, Secretary

email: Secretary@TexasMariners.com

Here we are in September and I'm still trying to get over all the fun events TMCA offered in August. The Fajita Party and the Small Boat Poker run were absolutely wonderful. Portofino is the only place that Neil and I have ever done a two-step in a pool! And, if you didn't get wet on the Small Boat Poker run than you weren't playing the game right! Thank you to all that worked so hard to make these parties a great success.

More fun is coming in September and October and I want to invite you to come to the "URBAN COWBOY TEXAS WINE TASTING!" It is going to be at Historical Windemere on October 3rd, from 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm. There is no charge for this party! Your admission fee is one bottle of wine per person and a dish to share per couple. The region we have chosen is

Texas Wines as well as the food you bring. When you sign up we will assign you the name of the wine we want you to bring. We will make sure that all the local SPEC's carry the wines that we assign. You will be free to drink the different types of wines that evening plus enjoy the wonderful food brought by TMCA members.

Last I reported to you I said we had 600 paid members and still growing, well we are now well over the 600 mark and still growing. We have several new members this month so please join me in welcoming them:

Rich & Terri Brennan
Jim Hornung
Walter & Marilyn Horton
Elaine Scott
Joel & Jennifer Bricker
Doug & Janell Lacoste Hubener
Michael & Tammy Cowen
David Bladt
Dewayne & Peggy Gentzel
Tony & Sue Austin
Lon & Jill Strong
Ed & Carol DeVinney
Bill Strong
Tom & Carolyn Hodges
Eric Late

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 please let me know and I will make one for you.

Look forward to seeing you all very soon,

Kathy Houser
Secretary



Dollars And "Sense" from the Treasurer

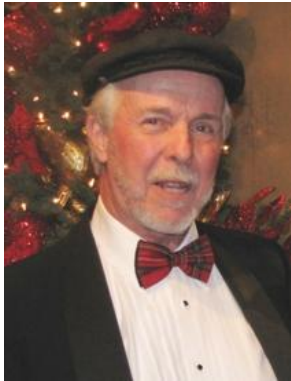
Debbie Sturgeon, Treasurer

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

Not much to report on the financial side of things, which is a good thing.

On a personal note, Moray and I haven't been able to participate in many TMCA events this year, what with Moray's job change, boat repairs and my crazy work schedule. Things are calming down now, so we are looking forward to getting out on the water more often and hope to meet up with some of you out there!

Debbie Sturgeon,
Treasurer



Community Liaison Committee Chair

Philip Kropf
PKropf@flash.net

Getting right to it..., as usual, this month's 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. The Bayport Channel Deepening and Widening Project continues, and it will do so throughout 2015! Last month I wrote that 20 TMCA boats had safely crossed the dredge pipelines in the designated crossing area on a cruise to Bayland in July, and this last weekend 33 more boats did it again on their way to Bayland as part of the "3rd Annual Catfish Cruise". I am certainly hoping that there were no issues for anyone!

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 where the safe "recreational boater crossing area" is located. (You can access that map by clicking here.) And I have also uploaded to the TMCA website a similar map, but with some additional notes that better define where this 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 John C. 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 here is the other dredging project that you need to be aware of...

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. The Galveston Bay Foundation and the Houston Advanced Research Center have announced the launch of the first-ever “Report Card” on the health of Galveston Bay. Go to www.GalvBayGrade.org to find out how the bay was graded on topics that include the issues of water quality, pollution, wildlife, habitat, human health and coastal change. As we TMCA boaters sail around the bay we may sometimes forget how important the health of the bay and its watershed really are! The GBF does amazing work to make us aware of the asset that we all have, but also to make us aware of the many ways that it is threatened. Back in 2007 when I was TMCA Commodore we made an annual contribution to the GBF to support their efforts. I am not sure if TMCA still does that, although we definitely should!!! But TMCA members can certainly support the GBF on their own by going to <http://www.galvbay.org/> and clicking on the “Ways to Give” tab and doing something to support this worth foundation.

4. Another bit of good news from the Galveston Bay Foundation is that after 5 years of hard work the Galveston Bay Bacteria Reduction Plan (Oyster Waters I-Plan) was recently approved by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Interested readers can find out more about this by clicking “Bacteria Reduction Plan” .

5. Monthly maritime history lectures continue at the Houston Maritime Museum, usually on the second Tuesday of each month. The next lecture, on September 8th, by Burt Reckles is entitled: “La Salle’s La Belle: The Pretty Little Ship that Re-wrote Texas History”. Information on all upcoming HMM lectures can be found by clicking [here](#). 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.

TMCA actually has a bit of past history having to do with the discovery of this ship. If you first go to [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/La_Belle_\(ship\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/La_Belle_(ship)) and read down to the section on “Modern Discovery” you will see how La Salle's flagship vessel was found in Matagorda Bay in 1995. Then in the spring of 1997 about 45 TMCA members traveled to Port O'Connor and were taken out to the wreck site getting to see the remains of this historic vessel down inside of the surrounding coffer dam. I have uploaded photos from this excursion to the website and they can be found in a zip file by clicking “TMCA visits La Belle” .

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!! (If anyone is actually reading this column please email me that you are. I am really beginning to wonder whether it is all worth the effort expended!)

Philip Kropf
Community Liaison Committee Chair

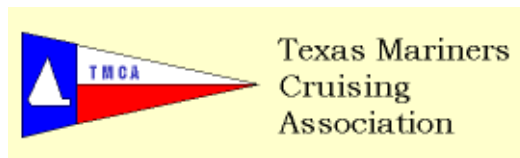
[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

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