

Texas Mariners Cruising Association

The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

April 2016



At the Helm

Jerry Simoneaux, Commodore

email: Commodore@TexasMariners.com

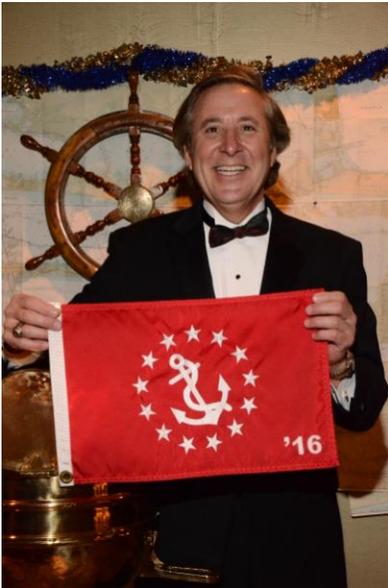
As our membership approaches 700 boating (and fun) enthusiasts, I am continually and happily surprised by the number and variety of events, cruises, and other opportunities to enjoy our boats and our friends, new and old. In March, our members even went a step further when more than 30 folks volunteered at the Southwest International Boat Show to staff the TMCA booth, offer classes and seminars, provide support for the boat show speakers, and assist with the after-hours party and raffle. Bravo Zulu!

In May, TMCA will throw one of the largest boating parties on the Gulf Coast--[Spring Fling](#). Four days on Pleasure Island from May 26 - 30, with four bands, catered dinners and food trucks, seminars, Opti races, a Hula Kick-Off party, a Pirate Picnic, and special Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony, and much, much more! This event is only possible with the help of the 50 or so volunteers who give their time to make sure that the more than 500 people who are expected to attend will have the best time ever!

Thank you to our members whose hard work and dedication make TMCA one of the best boating clubs around!

Until next time, throw off those bowlines...catch the trade winds.... Explore! Dream! Discover!

***Jerry Simoneaux,
Commodore***



The Corner of Vice

Charles Parette, Vice Commodore

Email: ViceCommodore@TexasMariners

April is upon us, and the great Spring Fling cruise is on its way. This is the best time of year to verify that your flares are in date, your lights are working, and all additional safety gear is on board and in the proper place. Don't forget to contact the Power Squadron for your vessel safety check, or you can schedule to have it done at Spring Fling in Port Arthur. The safety check is free, so get your inspections scheduled. Be sure to check your clean water decals as well.

If you missed our last meeting, Houston Ship Channel Pilot #205, Kristi Taylor gave a great talk, and she brought along the very first Houston female Pilot, who blazed the trail for women pilots 22 years ago. They both have their unlimited master licenses and inspired us all.

Our next meeting is tax day, Friday April 15th, at the Elks Lodge, 623 Hanson Road, Kemah. Socializing begins at 6:00 pm, and dinner orders start at 6:00 pm as well. Our business meeting starts around 7:30. Our speakers this month will be TMCA members, Jon and Renne Siewers, who just returned from Cuba, and can't wait to share the details with us before our TMCA trip to Cuba in June. Come out, and enjoy dinner and drinks at great prices. Be sure to bring your name badge. See you there

*Charles Parette,
Vice Commodore*



The Social Scuttlebutt

Lady Jane Stone, Rear Commodore

email: RearCommodore@TexasMariners.com

Spring has sprung and it's time to give Pier Pressure her spring cleaning and shake the dust out of her sails, which also means that I'll need to refresh my skills at the helm after a long winter! We have plenty of opportunities coming up for all of us to get out, refresh and enjoy, so let's do just that and have some fun!

Every weekend in March was filled and we had great attendance at all of the events. Jim and Doris Lee's Spring Swing dock party at Top Water Grill was a great idea! (even though it wasn't quite as warm as we would've liked) Doc and Monica Mulloy once again hosted a wonderful St Patrick's Day Fish Fry at Marker 17. TMCA had great representation and participation in the Southwest Boat Show and Cruisers Party. We ended the month with Easter at Moody Gardens which included dock party and dinner.

April promises to be just as busy and fun starting off with the April 1st dock party hosted by 15 of our members at Harbor Town Townhomes. (no foolin'!) You can come by car or boat. Bring something to share, something to grill, your drink and your chairs and join us overlooking beautiful South Shore Harbour. Saturday 2nd is the Nautical Flea Market in the Elks Lodge parking area from 7:00 – 11:00am - come early and bring all that boating stuff you no longer use, to sell off your tailgate, table or tarp. Buyers bring your cash and haggling skills. It's free! Saturday 16th the Lutich's are hosting an after Tax day Tea Party at their home on Lake Houston 4:00 - 9:00 pm. There will be a margarita machine, badminton, karaoke and door prizes. Carpool with friends and bring a side dish or appetizer to share because this promises to be a great time.

Our TMCA Cookbook is reaching its completion. Thank you for submitting your favorite recipes and fun stories. The deadline for submittal was extended to April 1st, so don't miss this chance to become a part of TMCA history. There will be a Recipes Tasting Party on April 30th at Waterford Marina Pavilion from 5:00 – 7:00pm. Stop by to sample some of the tasty recipes that fellow TMCA members have submitted and pre-purchase your copy.

I want to thank all of you who have volunteered to help with the Marina Ambassador Program. We need just a few more (Blue Dolphin, Lakewood, HYC, and Legend Point). Our goal is to welcome new members and reacquaint with existing who may not be actively participating. What better way to get to know your marina neighbors? This is a casual, no pressure role. If you have interest in helping with this, please contact me. We couldn't do all we do without everyone contributing.

Registration is open for many upcoming events, so please log in to the web site, check the calendar and sign up to ensure you don't miss any fun. If you volunteered to host an event, please enter the information on the TMCA website calendar or email me your info, even if it is several months out. This helps the publicity committee, as they have to submit to publications in advance. There are still some open dates on the calendar and I'm always thinking of new ideas for events, so if you have any suggestions, please contact me.

Ladye Jane Stone
Rear Commodore
TMCA Knows Fun!!



The Cruise Corner

Christopher Bown, Cruise Captain

email: Captain@TexasMariners.com

When spring rolls around and we get fidgety, nothing could be better than getting out on the water. And some of us came closer to the water than others. March began with a relaxing kayak trip down Buffalo Bayou led by Linda Schoene and Charles Parette. You never realize what Houston really looks like until you get down in the Bayou and take 2 hours to float from 610 to downtown Houston. This is just something that you cannot fully appreciate from pictures or driving on our roadways. Some of us walked away with sore muscles, while knowing that we got to see Houston in a way that made us treasure it even more.

The next weekend was followed by Monica and Doc's annual St. Patrick's Day Cruise to Oak Island. We filled up Beason Park and had to dock some of our boats down at Marker 17. Of course the boats at Marker 17 thought that they had the better deal. They could step off their boat and into Ernestine's kitchen. She made everyone happy with delicious oysters and fried catfish.

On Friday evening twenty TMCA members found their way to The Frascone Winery where they were treated to a wonderful meal and lots and lots and lots and lots of great wines made on the island. Oak Island is on the TMCA calendar 4 times this year and I know that some of us will be trekking over on our own.

Everyone was dressed in green and the wonderful sunset, which was personally ordered by Doc, made everyone's trip a trip to remember and to share with friends. The evening was complete with the musical sounds of the Motown Mommas followed by boat hopping and game playing. The boats are getting bigger and the crowds on the boats are getting crazier (if that is possible).

Our last cruise of the March was the wonderful 3 day trip to Moody Gardens for the Easter Cruise. Steve & Charlene Lim pulled out all the stops to make this a fun and memorable event. Dinner on Saturday evening was held at the Monarch Restaurant and everyone was dressed in their best Easter clothes for an excellent meal with their friends. You just never realize what TMCA members will do just to show up in a Bunny outfit.

Coming up in April is a Cruise To Nowhere. (April 23 & 24th) Kevin & Vicki Berkebile are promising an interesting cruise to where? Nowhere. This is going to be exciting just because you don't know where Nowhere is? Do you?

Also, on the same weekend (April 23rd & 24th) you can blow off the cobwebs and light those fires for a Double Bayou Pasture Shakedown Cruise. This will be a great chance to test out your boat's systems before heading off to Spring Fling.

Speaking of Spring Fling, don't forget that registration is open for Spring Fling 2016. Everyone enjoyed it so much that we are going back to Port Arthur, Texas and we are extending the festivities to 4 days. We will have seminars on Friday and Saturday followed by a Pirate picnic on Sunday and a nice relaxing cruise back on Monday. The theme this year is Going Hawaiian and on Friday evening we will have a Hawaiian dance group perform during dinner complete with fire jugglers and lovely Hawaiian hula dancers. Maybe we should have a contest to see who can make the best Blue Hawaiian. Jerry Diaz and Hanna's Reef will be playing Friday night and Still Cruizin is retuning on Saturday night. Ending out the weekend is the wonderfully entertaining Bilge Pumps on Sunday afternoon.

Register for Spring Fling before April 16th and your name will appear on this year's T-Shirt. Register for Spring Fling at: www.TMCASpringFling.com

One last thing to contemplate. TMCA is going to Cuba in June. If you haven't signed up and are still interested, please contact Christopher Bown at simonbown@gmail.com

Remember no matter what you like to do, it is always better out there on the water with friends and family.

Christopher Bown
Cruise Captain



Secretary's Report

Kathy Houser, Secretary

email: Secretary@TexasMariners.com

There was so much to do in March that I am truly exhausted! Top Water Grill Dock Party was wonderful and the food was so tasty. I have never been Kayaking in my life, but Neil and I braved the elements and joined the group along Buffalo Bayou. What fun and I was so proud of ourselves that we made it to the end and really enjoyed it. Our Granddaughter and Great Granddaughter were visiting so we were not able to attend the Fish Fry but heard that it was a super event. I think the "Mo Town Mama's" were in attendance. What a success the South West Water Boat Show was. Our TMCA Booth Babes signed up 58 new members – Go Team! Last of all, everyone agreed that the Easter Cruise to Moody Gardens was well attended and lots of fun.

Since last month we have been receiving many renewals and new memberships. We still need to hear from many of you. If you have paid, thank you and if you have not, I encourage you to go online, update your information, renew your 2016 dues by PayPal, or send me a check to Texas Mariners Cruising Association, P.O Box 946, Kemah, TX 77565. Dual Membership is \$50 and a Single Membership is \$35.

We have several new members this month so please join me in welcoming them:

Jeffrey & Emily Schroeter	George & Victoria Policello
John & Jan Krasnick	Vassilios Magazia & Margret Kollen
Jim & Catherine Eisele	Jeff & Katherine Knight
Mike Pauling	George & Pam Green
Will Rupley	Matt & Maryann Tillson
Jeannette & Len Baker	Jim & Rosa Edwards
Dan & Mary Jane Dorman	Marcelo Remotti & Mabel Casagrand
Allen Philoon	Raul Smith
Lucy Newman	Jill & Howard Hughes
Erin Brown & Kara Muessig	Michael Tarcha
James DeCarmo	Loren Cadenhead
Kevin Thames & Robin Hollis	Forrest Barber & Ailene Purvis
Jerry & Jerrie Kammerman	Mike & Jeannie Janota
Harold & Celeste Williams	Pete & Teresa Hugdahl
Russel & Wanda Gall	Mark Pillow
Danny & Darlene Bannister	Ted Skeffington & Cindy Roesel
Tim Clipson	Tom & Vicky Dickens
Patrick Spoor	Gordon & Ruth Keenan
Christopher & Elissa Werner	John & Sarah Winston

Jon Golden & Susan Goldstein	Stuart & Sheri Glauberman
Rick & Carolyn Pharr	Patrick & Michelle McAndrew
Genie Bopp & Rory Mayra	Ivan Ewers & Louise Scanlon
Kent & Lisa Baltzell	Greg Lynd & Ruth Hoyle
Dan Lair & Kathy Jones	Conrad & Pamela Cooper
Arthur Tailleur	Larry & Linda Wiper
Lonnie & Madeline Williams	Gilbert Garcia & Laurie Sapp

If you would like a TMCA badge, new or old please let me know and I will make one for you. They will be ready for you at our next monthly meeting. If you need a Burgee, I have those too!

Look forward to seeing you sometime this month,

Kathy Houser
Secretary



From Your Bean Counter's Calculator

Neil Houser, Treasurer

Email: Treasurer@TexasMariners.com

FROM THE TREASURERS BEAN BAG – It looks like a successful membership drive at the boat show. So the money continues to roll in.

My time is being spent doing make ready for the IRS. I will be taking a shot at our taxes this week to be followed by having a professional pick up if I fail. Our income is growing and our expenses are slowing. In short, all is good with the money bags and we are looking forward to Spring Fling.

Your humble bean counter,

Neil

PS – Don't be afraid to call if I can help.

Neil Houser,
Treasurer

Local Area News:

TX - SABINE PASS - Pier Construction

Continuing until approximately April 30, 2016, Manson Construction will be constructing a new pier at the Sabine Pass Port Authority in approximate position 29-44-13.4N 093-52-58.1W. The construction barge will be faced up to the property and held in place by two anchors extending approximately 200 feet from the barge and marked by 6-foot cylindrical anchor buoys. Work will be performed Monday through Friday, during daylight hours. Mariners are urged to exercise caution in the area. For up-to-date information about the event, mariners may contact Paul Horvath at (904) 821-0211.

TX - GIWW - SABINE NECHES WATERWAY - PORT ARTHUR - Bank Stabilization/Dredge Operation

Continuing until approximately April 26, 2016, Southern Contracting L.L.C. will be removing rip-rap and install sheet pilings at the USACE Port Arthur mooring on Pleasure Island. A barge will be working along the banks of the Sabine Neches Canal in the area. Mariners are urged to exercise caution in the area.

TX - LA - SABINE PASS AND LAKE CANAL - Bridge Maintenance

The dolphin repair project has begun on State Highway 87 at the Rainbow Bridge (mile 1.5) and the Veteran Bridge (mile 1.4) crossing the Sabine Neches Canal, Jefferson County, Texas. The project calls for 210-working days between the hours of 7:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. The work began on the downstream green side and working upstream before moving to the other side. No equipment will be positioned in the channel. Equipment used for the project will be placed outside of the channel and properly lighted at night. The contractor is McCarthy Building Companies, Inc. and can be contacted at (832) 593-5257. Mariners should exercise caution in this area.

TX - GIWW - ELLENDER TO GALVESTON BAY - Reduction in Clearance for Maintenance and Painting

The Highway 87 Bridge (West Port Arthur Bridge) across the GIWW, Mile 288.8, WHL, at Port Arthur, Texas will have a 3-foot reduction in clearance for maintenance and painting operations. The bridge provides a horizontal clearance of 125 feet for the full navigation channel width, 210 feet between fenders. The vertical clearance will be 69 feet instead of the published 72 feet. The reduction will run through the end of April 2016. All changes to this schedule and the reduction will be done by LNM and/or BNM. Mariners are urged to proceed with caution and use slowest safe speed when transiting the work area.

TX - GALVESTON BAY - Dredge Operation – UPDATE

Continuing until further notice, the Dredge TEXAS CUTTER will be conducting dredge operations in the vicinity of Pier 33 and working east to the cruise terminals in the Port of Galveston in approximate position 29-18-42.0N 094-48-25.0W. The Dredge TEXAS CUTTER will be set up parallel to the channel and will be transporting dredge material to Pelican Island via dredge pipeline. The Dredge TEXAS CUTTER will monitor VHF-FM Channels 13, 23 or 72. For up-to-date information, mariners can contact Callan Marine Pipeline at (409) 489-4216. Mariners are urged to exercise caution in the area.

TX - GALVESTON JETTY - Wreck (Adrift)

A 45-foot S/V has been reported partially sunk on the Galveston Jetties in approximate position 29-19-48.0N 094-42-48.0W, on March 15, 2016. The wreck was reported on the jetties. It is not known if the wreck is still in this position or has drifted off. The wreck was reportedly not marked. Mariners are urged to use extreme caution in the area and report any sightings/findings to their nearest U.S. Coast Guard unit.

TX - HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL/BARBOURS CUT - Marsh Creation and Dredge Operation - UPDATE

Commencing approximately April 5, 2016 and continuing until approximately July 15, 2016, the Dredge E.W. ELLEFSEN and attendant plant will be conducting dredging operations in the vicinity of Barboours Cut Terminal, Dock 8, in LaPorte, TX. to the Houston Ship Channel in the vicinity of Houston Ship Channel Light 93 (LLNR-24755). The Dredge E.W. ELLEFSEN and attendant plant will remove material from the turning basin. Spider Barges will load dredged material to hopper barges.

This work will be bound by the following coordinates:

29-41-34.33N 094-59-07.30W

29-41-01.72N 094-58-40.00W

29-40-45.20N 095-00-32.53W and

29-41-10.04N 095-00-38.28W

The hopper barges will transport the material north in the Houston Ship Channel to the vicinity of Houston Ship Channel Light 121 (LLNR-25445), where the 320 Unloader will remove material from the hopper barges. The material will be placed in the marsh creation area on the west bank of the Houston Ship Channel. Submerged pipeline will be placed from the Houston ship Channel, in the vicinity of Houston Ship Channel Light 121 (LLNR-25445), northward to the Upland Staging Area on the west bank of the Houston Ship Channel. This work will be bound by the following coordinates:

29-44-22.86N 095-03-21.62W

29-44-23.21N 095-03-56.12W

29-45-08.02N 095-04-08.20W and

29-45-08.38N 095-03-47.37W

Dredging will be performed 24-hours a day, 7-days a week. Weeks Marine will be monitoring VHF-FM Channels 13 or 16. Mariners are urged to transit at their slowest safe speed to minimize wake and proceed with caution after passing arrangements have been made.

TX - HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL - SIMS BAYOU - Dredge Operation - UPDATE

Continuing until approximately April 22, 2016, the Pipeline Dredge CAROLINE FRANCES will be conducting dredging operations in the vicinity of the Buffalo Bayou (Light Draft Channel) upstream of the Main Turning Basin in the Houston Ship Channel. Floating, submerged, and land-laid pipelines extend to the West Clinton Placement Area. The Contractor is CJW Construction, Inc. Dredging will be performed 24-hours a day, 7-days a week. The pipeline Dredge CAROLINE FRANCES will be monitoring 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.

More information is available at <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/pdf/lnms/lnm0813q2016.pdf>

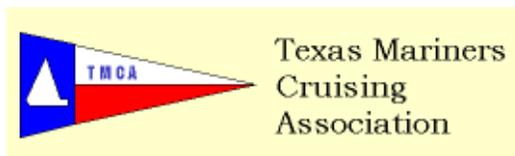
[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

2016 TMCA Officers

Commodore:	Jerry Simoneaux, s/v Tradewind	713-577-9587
Past Commodore:	Bob Nickelson, m/v Docketari	713-899-1098
Vice Commodore:	Charles Parette, m/v Andiamo	713-817-8263
Rear Commodore:	Ladye Jane Stone, s/v Pier Pressure	713-724-3535
Cruise Captain:	Christopher Bown, s/v Tradewind	713-577-9583
Secretary:	Kathy Houser, m/v Attitude Adjustment	281-804-4122
Treasurer:	Neil Houser, m/v Attitude Adjustment	281-772-4838

2016 TMCA Trustees

Trustee 2011	Commodore Doug Chappell	Koastal Kabana	281-330-1163
Trustee 2008	Commodore Marion Herndon		281-743-4230
Trustee 2012-13	Commodore Steve Lee	s/v Waltzing Matilda	281-802-9838
Trustee 1984-85	Commodore Wayne Christopher		281-761-4233



Please send any articles you would like included in the TMCA Mariner to TMCA Mariner Editor at Newsletter@TexasMariners.com

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