

Texas Mariners Cruising Association

The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

March 2016



At the Helm

Jerry Simoneaux, Commodore

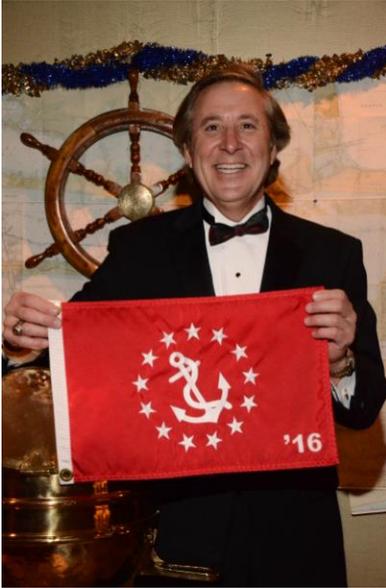
email: Commodore@TexasMariners.com

Spring arrives this month, and if February's weather is any indication, we are in for some fantastic boating conditions in March. Along with the good weather comes even more opportunities to join other members in all kinds of activities, as you will see in this newsletter. I invite you to participate in a dock party, cruise, or other interesting event. Just as important, if you have an idea to help break the fun meter, please let me know. We have a very large group and there is plenty of room for more activities of all sorts. After all, this is your club and we are here for the purpose socializing and having a great time!

New to this newsletter is a section at the bottom called "Local Notice to Mariners." Each week, the Coast Guard sends out notices of bridge closures, dredging activities, and other possible hazards. These notices are very detailed and cover a large area, so we are sifting through and picking out those most relevant to our general cruising areas and posting them here. You can find these notices at <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=InmMain>. Just click on the district you are interested in and you will see a list of very comprehensive notices. Our area is in District 8.

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

A big shout out to Dr Jill Taylor and her great husband Dan Spradley. They decided to head out to Redfish to celebrate National Margarita Day. Everyone who came out for the cruise were able to enjoy fajitas and margaritas on their boat. It was a blast.

What's important to me is we all need to get our boats out of the slips and practice. We wondered about the wind, but heard many TMCAers on the radio heading out. No more excuses. Linda and I grabbed Ladye Jane and off we went. With our waypoints set, and the plotter on 8 miles, we had an easy course to follow. We made it to Red Fish, and holy smokes, there were TMCA boats everywhere! You can never have enough times practicing your anchoring skills. Linda was at the helm; she maneuvered us into place well up from "Mr. Happy". I exercised the windlass, dropped the anchor, and Linda put the boat into neutral as we drifted back. I let out about 100 feet of rode, and Linda backed down. Then we waited on anchor watch. We looked back, and there was Dan on "Mr. Happy's" tender ready to zip us over to the festivities. I kept an eye out, but the boat was solid. The food and beverages were great, and the chance to meet some new and seasoned TMCAer's was great. As it neared sunset, Dan returned us to our boat. Since it had been a couple of months since we had used the boat, it was a great day to run the engines, generator, see if the refrigerators are working, check the water tanks, and verify the head system is operating.

So, get out of your boat slip comfort zone, check your boat's systems, go out and practice, share stories with your TMCA boating family.

TMCA meeting: NOTE: DATE CHANGE!

Our next meeting is Thursday March 24, Due to a scheduling issue, we're moving our Monthly meeting

The meeting will be held at the Elks Club, 623 Hanson Road, Kemah. Socializing begins at 6:00 p.m., dinner orders start to be taken at 6:00 p.m., business meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. and the program starts at 8:00 p.m. Our speaker this month will be Kristi Taylor, a Pilot that operate ships on the Houston Ship Channel, she'll talk about their qualifications, and what it's like to get a big ship in and out of the ports communicating with the all male crew, who don't speak English, it's going to be interesting. Come enjoy dinner and drinks at great prices. Be sure to bring your name badge. See you there!

Remember, Thursday, March 24th.

*Charles Parette,
Vice Commodore*



The Social Scuttlebutt

Ladye Jane Stone, Rear Commodore

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

Pier Pressure hasn't been able to get out of her slip since we moved, but all of you certainly have been getting out! We had great attendance at all of our February events. Pam Gasper did a great job hosting Mardi Gras at Fishtales in Galveston again and we crowned our new King and Queen - Kevin Berkibile and Diane Voll! The month ended with a Motown 60 Party at Portofino! 'Mercy Mercy Me!' that was a fun celebration! There was great music, some dancing and even karaoke. Who knew we had such talent.

March promises to be just as much fun starting off with the Spring Swing dock party at Top Water Grill! Jim Lee has reserved the four and six seater swings for TMCA starting at 6:00pm on Friday, March 4th. These swings will hold 50 people and we have to release any not filled by 6:30pm. We'll order from the regular menu with separate tabs and need to give Top Water a head count by March 2nd, so get your swing on and register early.

Doc Mulloy's St Patrick's Day Fish Fry at Marker 17 is Saturday, March 12th. There will be oysters (for suggested \$5 donation), and fresh fish with all the fixings for \$15 a person. DJ James will be working for tips playing our favorite tunes. This is a party you don't want to miss! You can come by boat, RV, truck or car – just get there!

I understand that there will be a Cruisers Party after the Southwest Boat Show on Saturday 19th which is always fun and they have asked TMCA to help with serving pizza. (I think free beer might be involved...?) Please let Steve Lim know if you plan to be there and can help.

Saturday evening March 26th will be the annual TMCA Moody Gardens Easter Dinner. Charlene Lim and EJ Heard, invite you to dress up in your best Easter sailor outfit and join us at the beautiful Monarch Dining Room at 7:00 pm. for Dinner Buffet for \$25.98 PP Inclusive. Please register on the TMCA Website so that they will have a head count for the restaurant. You will pay the restaurant directly on the night of the dinner.

Registration is open for all of these events, so please sign up on the web site. If you volunteered to host an event, please enter the information on the TMCA website calendar, 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 working on some events, so if you have any ideas, please contact me to talk about the possibilities.

As you know, we are working on a TMCA Cook Book and are asking for your favorite recipes and fun stories. The deadline for submittal is March 18, so don't miss this chance to become a part of TMCA history. Lori Freimel is the Committee Chair, and she and Bron Lee have been tirelessly entering all the yummy recipes. Our own Debi Hammond at Bravo Graphics will be publishing it. Bravo!

I want to thank those who have volunteered to help with the Marina Ambassador Program, but we still need more. Our goal is to welcome new members and reacquaint with existing who may not be actively participating. We hope this might help us update our membership roster, engage members by making them aware of activities, promote camaraderie and help in planning dock parties. 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.

Ladye Jane Stone
Rear Commodore
TMCA Knows Fun!!



The Cruise Corner

Christopher Bown, Cruise Captain
[email: Captain@TexasMariners.com](mailto:Captain@TexasMariners.com)

Well, Spring is busting out all over, and our March cruise calendar is busting out as well. March is beginning with a beautiful Kayak adventure down Buffalo Bayou on Saturday, March 5th led by Linda Schoene. However, the trip is fully booked and registration is closed. Don't worry there is sure to be another one next year.

But, you still have time to sign up for the annual St. Paddy's Day Fish Fry at Channel Marker 17, from March 11-13. Doc and Monica Mulloy are hosting this yearly event and will be there to welcome everyone to Marker 17. All the slips are reserved, but you can still come by land yacht and stay at the motel or you can come by boat and raft up at Marker 17. Please register on line at www.TexasMariner.com.

Registration for Spring Fling will open soon. This year, Spring Fling will be returning to Port Arthur and will be a three-day event. We will have three bands; Friday, Jerry Diaz & Hanna's Reef, Saturday with Still Cruizin and Sunday with The Bilge Pumps. We'll have lots of fun and games, educational seminars and more of what you love. 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. 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.

Easter is early this year and we are returning to Moody Gardens on Friday, March 25th through Sunday March 27th. All the slips have been spoken for, but you can always anchor out and dingy in for all the excitement. Other options include staying at Pelican Rest or driving down. This is a wonderful three day event and everyone always has a great time.

Cruise Captain Tip for Radio Check: 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.

Christopher Bown
Cruise Captain



Secretary's Report

Kathy Houser, Secretary

email: Secretary@TexasMariners.com

February....what a fun month that was! Mardi Gras in Galveston, the Motown Party and cruising. If you missed those events make sure you attend all the fun ones in March: Top Water Grill Dock Party, Kayak trip, St. Paddy Marker 17 Fish Fry, South West Water Boat Show and the Easter Cruise to Moody Gardens. Fun, fun and more fun.

Since last month we have been receiving many renewals for membership but 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:

- John Macdonald
- Oliver Priest and Marianne
- Clay Williams
- Ben and Shelia Turner
- Glen and Lee Sale
- John and Char Curtiss
- Paul and Pamela Jones
- Nick and Lauren Maudlin
- Jeff Harding and Ann Boger
- Gene and Fran Mackin
- Dave and Anne Downing

- David and Christi Bowden
- David Jupp
- Patrick and Michelle McAndrew

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](mailto:Treasurer@TexasMariners.com)

Since January 1st we have balanced the TMCA Operating & Spring Fling Accounts. Our total assets (money in the bank as of the 29th of February) is \$41,202.92. We have so far shown a great turnout for the scheduled events of the year to date. The outlook is promising that we will continue this trend.

This month I'm looking forward to getting a jump on our tax filing for 2015 and our audit for the year. If anyone has questions about our income, dues or other related matters please feel free to contact me through the website.

Until next month, respectfully yours,

Neil Houser,
Treasurer

Local Area News:

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

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.

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.

GIWW - HIGH ISLAND - ROLLOVER PASS - Bridge Maintenance

All mariners are advised to take precaution while transiting under the **High Island Bridge** located in the GIWW at approximate Mile 319.0. Bridge repairs are scheduled to be conducted between January 19, 2016 and March 19, 2016, **reducing vertical clearance from 73 feet to 69 feet.** All mariners are urged to exercise caution while transiting through the area during that time. For more information, contact U.S. Coast Guard Sector Houston Galveston Command Center at (281) 464-4840.

GIWW - GALVESTON BAY - Bridge Maintenance Closure

The Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District has issued a temporary deviation from the regulations in 33 CFR 117 for the **Galveston Causeway Railroad** bascule span bridge across the GIWW, Mile 357.2, WHL, in Galveston, Galveston County, Texas. The bascule span will be **closed to navigation from 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. and then again from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m., daily, beginning March 7 through March 11, 2016.** All vessels in the queue will be passed at the scheduled opening times. The temporary deviation will allow for cable lubing and other scheduled maintenance. Vessels that do not regularly require an opening may pass at any time at minimum safe speed. In the event of an emergency, the bridge can be returned to service.

GALVESTON BAY - Dredge Operation

Commencing March 1, 2016 and continuing until approximately April 1, 2016, the Bucket Dredge WEEKS 6401 and attendant plant will be conducting dredging operations in the vicinity of Barbour's Cut Terminal, Dock 8, in LaPorte, TX. Dredging will be performed 24-hours a day, 7- days a week. The dredge and attendant plant will be lighted at night according to U.S. Coast Guard regulations. The Bucket Dredge WEEKS 6401 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.

HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL - REDFISH ISLAND - Numerous Charted/Uncharted Pipes

Numerous charted and uncharted pipes and obstructions have been reported in the vicinity of Redfish Island in approximate position 29-31-08N 094-54-47W. The obstructions are reportedly not marked. Mariners are urged to avoid this area.

[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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