

Texas Mariners Cruising Association

The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

May 2016



At the Helm

Jerry Simoneaux, Commodore

email: Commodore@TexasMariners.com

We have been a very busy group since the arrival of spring and our calendar of events throughout the summer is bursting with activity, as you will read in this month's newsletter.

I am ever impressed with the imaginative cruises, dock parties, and variety of other activities our members are constantly coming up with. This club is all about having fun, and you get to decide what we do. If you have an idea that you think others would enjoy, I'd love to hear from you!

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

With trips to Galveston, and Oak Island out of the way, it was time for a quick haul before we go to Spring Fling in Port Arthur, TX.

We used our Spring Fling discount at Seabrook Ship Yard, and had our bottom paint, props, cutlass bearings checked, as well as the Zinc's. After replacing a few zincs, it looks like we're ready to go. As we get out on the water, don't forget the rules for navigating the waterways with barges. Before passing, remember to contact the barge captain, and ask them which side they would like you to pass them on. If they don't respond, try again, on the 3rd try, let them know your intentions and proceed.

At last month's meeting, Jon and Renee gave a great presentation about their recent trip to Cuba, they had great pictures, and great stories to tell. I'm looking forward to TMCA's trip to Cuba in June.

Our next 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 speakers this month will be from the US Coast Guard, Navin Griffin LCDR, and Adrian West CDR. Our friends from the Coast Guard have great information about boating safety, Aids to Navigation, and what we can do to help them. 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

Ladye Jane Stone, Rear Commodore

email: RearCommodore@TexasMariners.com



Let's hope that all these April showers will bring May flowers and not just the green that I found on *Pier Pressure* beside her canvas! I hope everyone stayed dry through the recent flooding in our area.

April also brought several fun events, with a large attendance at the Harbor Island dock party and a fun group at the Lutich's Tea Party! Despite the rain forecast, the Cookbook tasting party was a big success. We moved to Seabrook Marina to stay dry and it's a really nice venue. We sampled

yummy recipes and beverages, began our pre-sales and enjoyed a beautiful sunset. Thanks to all for participating. Please contact Lori, Bron or me to purchase yours at the discounted pre-sale price. Books should be available by Spring Fling.

May is going to be a busy month for TMCA with events planned every weekend. The Jenko's are hosting our first Friday Dock party on May 6, which is always a lovely evening not to be missed. You can come by car or dinghy. On Friday the 13th, TMCA is co-hosting a Wine Share at the Sea Scout Base in Galveston. We will promote TMCA and Spring Fling and the theme is 'May Flowers' to tie in with our Luau theme. The next morning, the 'Bayland' pool comes out of winter dry dock so we can sip Sangria while soaking our toes. Saturday 21st starts early with doughnuts at the Skipper's meeting and will most likely end late with the full moon 'Moonshine' dock party at Portofino. Ken & Carol have all sorts of entertainment planned, so don't miss it. The next weekend we'll be watching Hula dancers and doing some dancing of our own at Spring Fling, hope you'll register and join the fun! We could use some help in the Emporium, if any of you can volunteer for just a few hours, please contact Jackie Kaspic, or you can sign up here: [Volunteer Sign Up](#)

I want to thank all of you who have volunteered to help with the Marina Ambassador Program. We now have a contact at almost every marina and need just a few more (Lakewood, Legend Point & Marina del Sol). I'll be sending out member rosters to each of you soon so that we can start planning some marina 'meet & greets'. We had our first task recently helping notify each of the marinas for Spring Fling and it showed how much this program can benefit our group.

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.

Ladye Jane Stone
Rear Commodore
TMCA Knows Fun!!



The Cruise Corner

Christopher Bown, Cruise Captain

email: Captain@TexasMariners.com

April was busy with 4 cruising events. Beginning with the Sail Along With Elissa on April 16th. The day started out with some not so great weather predictions and they proved to be mostly correct for the rest of the day. The winds were blowing directly up the ship channel and the waves were 6 to 8 feet. But we had some intrepid sailors that still ventured out to watch the Elissa make its way through the channel to the open sea. Captain Jill Taylor & Dan Spradley took a large group out on Mr. Happy to sail along and watch the maneuvers of the grand sailing ship the Elissa.

Since we have so many members and such a diverse membership the next weekend was complete with two cruises. The first being billed as the Cruise To Nowhere. Captain's Vicki and Kevin Berkebile lead 8 adventurous boats through the Galveston jetties and offshore to Nowhere. It was a great plan and designed to get people out past

the jetties to see what it is like to be offshore. Upon their return to their slip they were asked where did they go and Kevin replied, "We went Nowhere".

The second cruise for the weekend was a Shake Down Cruise to Double Bayou. Russ Burchfield led this cruise in hopes of helping people work out the little problems that might plague them on their trip to Port Arthur for Spring Fling. The cruise was capped off with a campfire and stories galore.

The last weekend was an impromptu cruise to Harbowalk led by Dr. Ron Swatzyna. This could be called the shakedown cruise for the yearly cruise to Harborwalk for the Fourth of July. Registration for the July Fourth Cruise began on May 1st.

May will be one of our busiest months beginning with a wonderful Sangria and Sunsets Cruise To Bayland. Don Fast is leading this cruise billed as a lazy 2 hour motor/sail trip up the bay to Bayland. Docktails will begin at 5:30 and Don and Deb Fast are providing the Sangrias. This is one of the most relaxing trips that TMCA offers and is a great way to blow out the cobwebs on those sleeping motors.

One of TMCA's yearly blow out events will be Memorial Day weekend. Spring Fling 2016 will be the 6th Spring Fling and the third year for us to return to Port Arthur. Last year we had over 140 boats that sailed/motored from the surrounding area to Port Arthur. This year has been expanded to include seminars on Friday and Saturday. Boaters are invited to arrive as early as May 26 to participate in the festivities including the Welcoming Party. Events include a Luau on Friday evening with Hawaiian Fire and Hula Dancers. Jerry Diaz and Hanna's Reef will top off the evening. On Saturday we will have seminars on all kinds of boating activities; a Coast Guard approved flare shoot off, catered Catfish and Gumbo dinner and an evening of dancing to Still Cruisn. Sunday will round out the weekend with a salute to our fallen soldiers, a pirate picnic with the band The Bilge Pumps and an Opti Race.



Open to Everyone! This year Spring Fling is raffling off a \$3,800.00 Achilles dinghy for \$20.00/ticket. Tickets may be purchased at most TMCA events. You don't have to be present to win.

Slips for Spring Fling are going fast but there are still some left. Go to www.tmcaspringfling.com and register, now.

If Spring Fling is not in your plans then you might want to sign up for the weekend cruise to Moody Gardens. Bill Berg is letting everyone know that this will be your kick off to the summer boating season. You have a chance to relax by the pool and enjoy your favorite summertime beverage. Registration opened April 14th. Roberta Netherly is the Social Director for this trip so expect an exciting weekend. – **NOTE: The marina at Moody Gardens has been closed because of weather damage. Please check back for updates about opening in time for Memorial Day weekend.**

TMCA offers so many activities that it is sometimes hard to participate in all of them. But we have such a wonderful group of members that there is always something for everyone to do. Get out there and enjoy the fun, the boating, the social activities and the knowledge that you can do it, too.

Christopher Bown
Cruise Captain

Secretary's Report

Kathy Houser, Secretary

email: Secretary@TexasMariners.com



Well, where did April go! I have been traveling three weeks during this month and it feels so good to be home and sleeping in my own bed. Neil and I have been to Colorado Springs, CO and Neil had so much fun "Zip Lining" down Pike's Peak. Atlantic City was enjoyable and for me very exciting for it is my birth state and I was also able to visit with my one of my favorite relatives.

So now we are onto May and another fun filled month for TMCA. Have you signed up for Spring Fling? If not you really need to do so. Our TMCA Spring Fling committee has prepared for you an outstanding Memorial Day adventure. So don't miss it and sign up now.

Also June brings a great adventure to Cuba so do not delay and sign up for the Cuba trip too.

Please help me in welcoming our new members to TMCA during the month of April:

Andre & Ruthie Vysotskiy

Shaun & Michelle Manos

John & Diana Wilson

I hope to see you soon at one of these events. Until then, cruise wisely and safely,

Kathy Houser
Secretary



[From Your Bean Counter's Calculator](#)

Neil Houser, Treasurer

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

All is going well on the treasury side. People are registering for Spring Fling so it looks like our budget will be met. I'm looking forward to attending!

Feel free to email me if you have any questions regarding the TMCA budget.

Your humble bean counter,

Neil

*Neil Houser,
Treasurer*

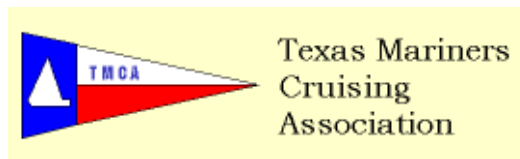
[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

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

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