

Texas Mariners Cruising Association

# The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

April 2017



## At the Helm

**Charles Parette, Commodore**

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

We've had a lot of fun events & activities, so sign up, and get involved. Let's go boating. Check our website, [TexasMariners.com](http://TexasMariners.com), to see what fits into your schedule.

Spring Fling is going to be great, We 're going to Port Arthur again over Memorial Day Weekend. All of the information is on the website, or the TMCA Spring Fling Facebook page.

Spring is here! If your boat's not ready for Spring, Summer and Fall boating, now is the time to start. After fueling up and getting a pump out, we had trouble starting one of the engines, so it was time to check the batteries. We decided to upgrade our wet batteries to AGM's. Our

charger has an AGM setting, so this was an easy call, and now, we can change our maintenance check list from add water, to simply inspect the batteries.

We bought our zincs in advance, had the proper tools to install them, had the sand paper ready to rough up before install, and had a new trim tab actuator. Our scheduled quick haul was for 1 hour, so we hired a mechanic to handle the actuator, while we replaced the zinc's. The yard did a light pressure wash while we worked. We finished all of the work, and were able to do an inspection below the water line. One of the props needed to have the cotter pin replaced, so we knocked that out as well – all in an hour!

We had a great boating trip to Oak Island, staying at Beason. We had some new members, along with lots of regular's. We had a wonderful time, Ross the DJ played lots of great dance music after the fish fry.

The SouthWest International Boat Show is April 6-9, at South Shore Harbour - lots of boats to see, great speakers, and a fun party on Saturday night. We need volunteers to work the TMCA booth Thursday - Sunday. If you can donate two hours of your time to work the booth, we'll give you a **free entrance ticket to the boat show**. We also need volunteers to help with the Saturday night party (no free entrance ticket for volunteering, but free pizza and beer). Chris McMurray is coordinating all of the volunteers. Please contact her [cmc@pdq.net](mailto:cmc@pdq.net)

See you on the water.

**Charles Parette,  
Commodore**

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### [The Corner of Vice](#)

**Larry Friemel, Vice Commodore**

Email: [ViceCommodore@TexasMariners](mailto:ViceCommodore@TexasMariners)

I can't believe how fast March went by! What great time we had participating in the Buffalo Bayou Kayak trip, The Double Bayou Fish Fry. Our 2015 Commodore Bob Nickelson shared some of his and Barbara's awesome experiences they have encountered so far while cruising the great Loop. Bob and I always have some great conversations sharing information on boat system repair and maintenance. I learn a lot from members like Bob and Barbara who are out there cruising. It helps me better understand what works and what doesn't so that we can have safer and less stressful cruises of our own.

On that subject, I'm still working on my annual maintenance items on Seascape. The Double Bayou Fish Fry cruise was a great shake down to make sure all systems were in good working order. I had noticed in my pre-cruise inspection of the engine room a very small amount of water under the port engine. Nothing to be alarmed about but still something that required closer inspection when we returned home. It turned out to be the mechanical seal on the engine sea water pump so it was great to catch this early before we headed off to Spring Fling and repair would have been a little more difficult. So all turned out great and we're ready for April's adventures!

We have another very active month planned for April with the South Shore boat show and multiple cruises, so check the TMCA calendar and consider joining in on all the fun! Hope to see you soon, have fun and be safe out there!

**Larry Friemel,  
Vice Commodore**

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### [The Social Scuttlebutt](#)

**Lori Friemel, Rear Commodore**

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



It has been great to see so many new members attending functions, getting involved and volunteering! This is a fun way to meet friends and get the most out of your membership. I have enjoyed meeting many of you and look forward to meeting more. With the variety of events coming up, and the warmer weather, there is something for just about everyone.

Thank you Ladye Jane Stone for hosting the March “inside” dock party at **Brady's Landing**. Socializing on a beautiful evening with a view of the ship channel was so relaxing. The buffet was incredible with too many good choices. Great job putting this together, everyone really enjoyed this event.

Another excellent adventure was led by Linda Schoene. A bit of rain didn't slow anyone down on the **Kayak Buffalo Bayou**. With more water, a lot of new development and even a view of the rodeo parade, it was an eventful paddle. Support crew, Ladye Jane Stone and Bridget Upton, posted signs along the way, provided beer & kisses and cheered encouragement to keep everyone paddling. After drying off, everyone headed to El Tiempo for well-deserved margaritas, Mexican food and lively socializing.

The **St. Patrick's Day Marker 17 Fish Fry** hosted by Monica & Doc Mulloy and their crew of leprechaun helpers, Jerry Simoneaux, Christopher Bown & so many others, was celebrated with plenty of festive green, some excellent fish and dancing. After a windy start, the weather could not have been better. I could not think of a better way to spend the day of green. Which, of course, was celebrated all weekend!

We have a busy month ahead and with the fickle weather we often see in April be sure to keep an eye on the calendar for any possible adjustments or changes.

Gather your stuff, and get a few dollars in your pocket at the **Saturday, April 1 Nautical Flea Market 7am, Elks Lodge Parking Area**. Not selling? Come by anyway, socialize and find a bargain or two. No fee or registration required.

For you ladies and/or mermaids that have heard the call- **Saturday, April 1 Mermaid Sail at HYC** You can still register your boat and all woman crew. There is a morning yoga, dinner and trophies. We have several TMCA members participating. Get more information and register on the TMCA website, then follow the links to HYC site.

**Friday, April 7 Jenko Dock Party at 5:30pm**, hosted by Carolyn and Bill in Clear Lake Shores along the canal under the queen palms. This is always a great dock party. Easy to get to by dinghy! Close parking is limited, so check the website for more information about parking and detailed directions.

## **April 6-9 Southwest International in the Water Boat Show at South Shore Harbour Marina**

TMCA will have a booth! Volunteer for a shift, get TMCA merchandise and see the show. There are some great educational classes, with several being taught by TMCA members. See some great exhibits and a lot of boats! Be sure to be in the gate by 7pm Saturday night for the Skipper's Party. There will be live music, free pizza and beer! Volunteer to help hand out the pizza, it is a lot of fun!

Easter weekend will be busy with events at **Double Bayou** and at **Moody Gardens**. Russ and Carol Burchfield will lead cruisers to the Double Bayou Pasture where they will have some great adventures- roasting hot dogs & peeps over the campfire, an Easter egg hunt (be careful what you pick up!) and campfire discussions/ stories.

Among the many activities at Moody Gardens, host Steve and Charlene Lim have planned the **Funny Bunny Sock Hop Saturday, April 15 at Moody Gardens Dock**. The evening will start with wine tasting and docktails, followed by a potluck. Then put on your best socks or slippers for the Sock Hop and dance to DJ Rick. Not coming by boat? You can still come to the party, just bring the land yacht! You must register for this event.

Check out a great new venue **Saturday, April 22 at the Tiki Hut Party after the Synchro Sail**. Easy to get to location; anchor out and dinghy in, bring your small boat and tie up at the pier or take a short drive down SH146. Relax under the Hut and enjoy the spectacular view of the bay.

Time spent on relaxation, recreation, and reflection is rejuvenation. Because life is not a contest or game or race in which we compete to get to a finish line. And, like I often say to Larry, it is not just the destination you should also enjoy the journey.

**Lori Friemel**  
**Rear Commodore**  
**TMCA Knows Fun!!**



### **The Cruise Corner**

**Ken Ekenseair, Cruise Captain**

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

Spring is officially here, and we already have a full list of fun cruises to attend.

Below you will find 10 basic boating safety tips to help you stay safe:

- Be weather wise
- Follow a Pre-Departure Checklist
- Use Common Sense
- Designate an Assistant Skipper
- Develop a Float Plan
- Make Proper Use of Lifejackets
- Learn to swim
- Take a Boating Class
- Consider a Free Vessel Safety Check

In March we had the Buffalo Bayou Kayak Cruise that 26

people participated in this year. Ladye Jane Stone and Bridget Upton posted signs along the way for the participants. I even heard them say they could see part of the Houston Rodeo parade from the Bayou. There is a great video on the TMCA Facebook page of this event also. Then a great meal at El Tiempo to finish off a great cruise. A full cruise report is on the website.

The annual Marker 17 St. Patrick's Day cruise was again a great success. The marina was full with events at the Frascone Winery, then the catfish dinner at Marker 17. Then everyone got the belly full one more time to a breakfast cooked at Marker 17. Everyone had the opportunity to burn the calories with Ross Heard's playlist and sound system. Even with some minor groundings that took a small fleet of dinghy's everyone made it in ok. Some of the pictures posted, and Larry I still have to hear about the dollar bills getting stuffed in your jeans! The cruise report will be online shortly.

The Cedar Bayou Cooling Channel cruise was a small cruise to a new place. The pictures were great and Russ & Carol always do a great job taking people to fun places. We will post the cruise report shortly on this cruise.

Coming up we have the Mermaid Regatta on April 1<sup>st</sup> (Aprils Fools Day) where some very capable women are sailing in a Regatta at Houston Yacht Club. I expect the fleet trophy ladies!

April 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> is the Double Bayou Easter cruise where some peeps will be roasted over an open fire.

April 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> is the Rock the Dock at Moody Gardens. This even is filled with activities. Check the TMCA webpage for more info.

April 22<sup>nd</sup> is a Sync Sail on the Bay.

April 22<sup>nd</sup> Red Fish Raft up for some overnight fun on the bay.

April 29<sup>th</sup> Galveston Bike and Ride which is a new event. Motorcycles will be transported to Galveston, Cruise to Galveston and do a fun ride in Galveston.

April 29<sup>th</sup> is the infamous CRUISE TO NOWHERE! Come be a party of nothing, or is it something?

By this long list there is no reason you should be bored in April, and this does not even cover the Dock Parties.

Ken Ekenseair  
Cruise Captain

***TMCA – Cruising The World***

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### Secretary's Report

**Kathy Houser, Secretary**

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

Hello Cruisers!

I don't know about you but I still haven't recuperated from the St. Patrick's party weekend. I cannot believe how much fun can be incorporated into three days. Dinner at the winery on Friday, catfish at Marker 17 on Saturday and breakfast at Marker 17 on Sunday. Singing, dancing, eating and lots of fun for all. Thank you, Doc, and Jerry.

Well my friends, Spring has sprung and April is upon us. Neil and I have a month of travel ahead of us. We will be in Colorado Springs for a week and Rockport for Easter. We will also be celebrating our 56<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. I cannot believe that it has been 56 years since I married this man. It was

his beautiful smile that really drew me to him.



Now for TMCA business. Dues are past due but please go on line and renew your membership. You will have to add a reinstatement fee of \$20 but remember how much you receive out of being a member and we certainly do not want to lose you. You can pay by PayPal, credit card or send a check to TMCA, P.O. Box 946, Kemah, TX 77565-0946. Don't miss out on all that TMCA offers. I just love this part of my letter to you all. We have several new members in March, so please help me welcome them:

- Bill and Pam Alexander
- Robert and Cyndi Williams
- David and Lori Dunagan
- Donald Wood
- AJ Rilat

Looking forward to seeing you all soon,

***Kathy Houser***  
***Secretary***



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

**Cookie Johnson, Treasurer**

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

Hello fellow TMCAer's!! I feel like a turtle lately and my office is my shell. I can't wait to come out soon. The IRS filing deadline for personal tax returns is April 18<sup>th</sup>!

Speaking of the IRS, they will NEVER EVER call you. Please don't fall for scam callers who say they are from the IRS. Also please beware of robo-callers! There seems to be a new scam out there where they call and ask if you can hear them. DO NOT SAY YES!! They are trying to get a voice recording of you saying yes and then they later use that voice recording to authorize fraudulent charges. Sometimes it's a young girl giggling and then saying, "Oh, I didn't expect you to pick up, can you

hear me?" Or they may say they are calling from a known source such as your mortgage lender. Best practice is to let it go to voicemail and do not call back the number they give, but call the number advertised for whoever they say they are calling from. For example the phone number for the IRS is 800-829-1040. There are some robo blocking apps out there such as nomorobo, and I just downloaded it so I cannot critique it as of yet.

Here are some tips from the FCC:

1. Don't answer calls from unknown numbers. Let them go to voicemail.
2. If you answer and the caller (often a recording) asks you to hit a button to stop receiving calls, just hang up. Scammers often use these tricks to identify, and then target, live respondents.
3. If you receive a scam call, write down the number and file a complaint with [the FCC](#) so we can help identify and take appropriate action to help consumers targeted by illegal callers.
4. Ask your phone service provider if it offers a robocall blocking service. If not, encourage your provider to offer one. You can also visit the FCC's website for information and resources on available robocall blocking tools to help reduce unwanted calls. Consider registering all of your telephone numbers in the [National Do Not Call Registry](#).

That's it for now! Just trying to help you keep more of your money so you can spend it on the boat!! :-D Happy Tax day 2017

***Cookie Johnson,  
Treasurer***

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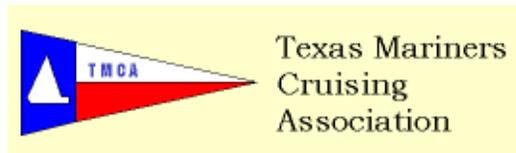
[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

**2017 TMCA Officers**

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<b>Past Commodore:</b>	<b>Jerry Simoneaux, s/v Rainbow</b>	<b>713-577-9587</b>
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***Please send any articles you would like included in the TMCA Mariner to TMCA Mariner Editor at [Newsletter@TexasMariners.com](mailto:Newsletter@TexasMariners.com)***

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