

Texas Mariners Cruising Association

# The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

August 2017



## At the Helm

**Charles Parette, Commodore**

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

It's August, and summer temps mean cooling off in the water at your favorite boating anchorage.

We have lots of members out cruising, and I suggest you catch up with their blog entries. Learn tips from them before you go cruising again.

Boat chores: Our generator wasn't working; I had already replaced the electronic control board, and was afraid that I'd need to replace the rest of the boards in the box. I started taking pictures, and unplugging each connection so I could figure out how to replace the other boards. One

of the connections looked strange to me. It appeared that one of the plugs wasn't making a good connection. I pushed it back into place with a small pair of needle nose pliers, and decided to plug everything back in, and try to start it up. Wow, it started up right away, and is running fine. I was sure that it was going to cost me a bunch of boat bucks!

I just ordered new serpentine belts for each engine, and got them for only \$75 each; believe me, I think that's a bargain. Now I'll swap the new belts in, and keep the old belts for spares.

Linda didn't like the old microwave oven on the boat, and wanted a new model with more power, so I removed the original one, and took the necessary measurements so I could find a replacement that fit. Our boat galley is small, and it took a lot of looking to find a microwave with more power, that still fit into the cabinet. I finally found one, and installed it. We tested it with shore power, and gen power. Another boat chore done - and more on the list.

We went to South Shore for our regular fuel, and pump-out, so we're ready for our next outing.

We enjoyed the dock parties, and other July events, and are looking forward to TMCA's version of August summer fun. Be sure and keep track of the activities on our web site, and sign up.

You can keep track of TMCA events several ways, weekly updates, Monthly Newsletter, our TMCA website calendar, [www.texasmariners.com](http://www.texasmariners.com). If you would like to join the TMCA Yahoo Group, go to <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/tmcamariners/info>. Another way to share stories, pictures, and videos is on our Facebook group. Go to our Facebook Group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/TMCAgroup>, we broadcast our general meetings live in our Facebook group. Our next general meeting is Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 6pm at the Elks lodge in Kemah.

Remember, our goal is to provide a way for us to all go out and use our boats, learn from each other, and have a great time along the way. I'm amazed at the fun and intelligent folks that we get to hang out with. We have such a good time, and are learning new stuff every day.

Our organization and activities are all managed via volunteers. We always need help, and volunteering is a great way to get involved, and meet new people.

I'd also like to remind you that while we are a boating club, you don't have to own a boat to be a member, and you can drive to most of our events. If you want to be around a bunch of like-minded boaters, who use their boats, come to some our events and meetings, I'm sure you'll have a good time.

Let's go boating, and we'll 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)

What a great time we had in July with all our TMCA friends and it looks like August will be just as fun!

Our July guest speaker was our own Nancy Welch. Nancy gave a very entertaining and informative presentation on her experiences and lessons learned as a member of an all-female crew on a 37 ft. sail boat crossing the Atlantic. The pictures and experiences she shared were really enjoyed by all! I personally learned a lot from the presentation and that's what TMCA is all about. Having fun on the water and sharing what we learn to help us be better mariners when using our boats. Every time we leave

the dock there is an opportunity to learn something new that helps us be just a little better at operating our boats

Recently Lori and I had Seascape's engine aftercoolers inspected and serviced. Fortunately, after tear down and inspection, no major issues were found. So after everything was reinstalled, it came time for that all important sea trial out on the bay. Some TMCA friends volunteered to go with me to help run the boat while I took some temperature readings with my handy little laser thermometer and checked for leaks. Thankfully everything check out ok! We then had a great time cruising out on the bay telling sea stories and just having an enjoyable afternoon on the water. This is why I enjoy TMCA so much, there is always someone eager to lend a hand or share some information for whatever project we're working on.

Another item I wanted to discuss this month is the inspection of all those stainless hose clamps we have on our boats. It's one of those many maintenance items that sometimes is overlooked but very important, especially the ones that may be on a thru hull fitting or a shaft seal bellows. A tiny line of corrosion could lead to a very BIG water leak very quickly. I once found a small leak on a thru hull hose and when I began to tighten the clamp, it just snapped in half! That's why it's so important to have all sea water hoses double clamped and to use the best marine stainless clamps available. As we all know, saltwater is some pretty corrosive stuff and can even destroy stainless steel in the right conditions!

I hope everyone is having a great summer and we will see you at one of the many fun TMCA activities planned for the rest of the year. Also, volunteers are always welcome! Maybe you would like to lead a cruise or just help with an event. Just ask any TMCA officer or other volunteer and they will help you get started. It really is a neat way to make new friends and enjoy the boating lifestyle.

Remember to wear your name badges at our meetings and display those TMCA burgee's on your boats.

Hope to see you soon and be safe.

**Larry Friemel,  
Vice Commodore**



**The Social Scuttlebutt**  
**Lori Friemel, Rear Commodore**  
**[email: RearCommodore@TexasMariners.com](mailto:RearCommodore@TexasMariners.com)**

We have had some great cruises and events this summer! Afternoon showers are not even slowing too many of our adventures. With more than one thing booked on most weekends, it is hard to decide which to choose. There are a lot more fun events coming up, so check the calendar and join in the fun.

Everyone has done a great job posting information about their events and parties. As a reminder, for anyone hosting an event or party, please post your event information on the website, or send it to me (in advance of the event) and I will post the information for you. This will assure that everyone has the same

information. Information such as; when and where to meet, if they need to bring a dish to share or if there is something special or fun they may want to wear! TMCA Yahoo Groups and Facebook are also great supplemental resources for information.

Please take a moment to check your profile on the website and update your information. If you have a dual membership, please update all information on both profiles. Your contact numbers, marina and boat information are important for contacting you about a variety of issues. This information is essential to get the job done. We may have information for you or we may need to request information from you. Don't miss out on an opportunity because of out of date or missing information. That great picture of your boat may not get sent to you because your profile is missing information. Thank you for taking the time to keep in touch.

From the pictures and stories, everyone had a great time celebrating at the **4<sup>th</sup> of July**  **Cruise to Harborwalk**. There was fancy hat decorating fun, grog making for the thirsty and playtime in the pool. Such a great place to play in the summer. Co-hosted by Dr.

Ron & Sheila Swatzyna and Al & Kay Waghorne, this extended cruise was enjoyed by many members. Great job, leading and hosting this fun event!

The celebration continued across the bay at the [Oak Island Double Bayou 🌴Bash](#). This small-group adventure had gators, a shrimp boat tour, a festival and a boat parade of two, yes two, boats (the judges were very serious about each entry!) and fantastic fireworks. Thank you, Ivan for teaching several of us how to make Turks Head bracelets. I have been practicing. The hot dog dish to share during the fireworks show was a perfect summer tradition. This was summer fun at its best! Thank you, Philip Kropf for leading this adventure.

The [🌴 Fireworks Dock Party](#), hosted by Dana & Gayle Dale, was the place to be for a fun and festive view of the fireworks. It was a beautiful evening, with a gathering of members and some new friends getting to mingle. Swimming, socializing and tasty treats were all a part of this fun event. You both did a great job, thank you for hosting this festive celebration of the 4th!

We released lighted paper lanterns, boats and a lotus flower at the [Howl at the Moon 🌕 Hungry Ghost Festival](#). It was a bit too windy for the lanterns to gain height, but the boats and lotus flower drifted far enough to satisfy any hungry ghosts. Great music, H' dog roasting and 'mallow toasting made for a tasty evening. The fellowship of good friends around the campfire was accompanied by a spectacular sunset over the boats and amazing moonrise over the cross on the island. It does not get much better than this! Thank you, Charlene & Steve Lim for a great job leading this event and for sharing a cultural tradition.

Gold coins, water weapons and a treasure map! What more do you need to have fun? There were some great stops and super soaking adventures along the route of the [Super Soaker Dinghy 💎♥Poker♠ Run](#). Thank you, Cookie for leading this super fun soaked event! The rain did not slow us down, because we were already soaked! Thankfully, the rain did not get heavy until near the end of the poker run and by then it was nice to get a fresh water rinse. At the final stop, everyone gathered to enjoy a yummy rum punch and fabulous tacos from Fuzzy's Taco Bar, the winner of the poker run was announced and a cash prize awarded. With a portion of the prize, the winner provided cookies and brownie bites at the July Meeting. I hope you were there to enjoy those tasty treats!

The [Hotter than July Cruise to Sea Star Base 🌊- Galveston](#) was our first cruise to this eco-friendly, state-of-the-art facility. The pool is always the best place to beat the summer heat and this was a great pool. The GSSB facility is a "high-adventure" maritime destination. We learned a lot about this facility and look forward to more events at this "education station." Thank you, Jerry and Christopher for an eco-excellent adventure!

Come to the [Life Aquatic 🏠 Dock Party Friday, August, 4, 7pm](#) at Waterford Harbor Marina. Wear your uniform (or blue speedo, if you dare) and red watch cap (caps for

the first ten attendees) and celebrate the Life Aquatic! Some light snacks and drinks will be available. Bring a dish to share, the grill will be ready for your entrée, vegetable, dessert or whatever you want to grill.

Escape to a lush tropical paradise at the **Summer Party 1 Saturday, August 19, 6pm.** Hosted at the waterfront home of Max & JoAnn Luttgeharm. Waterfalls, a little river and palms over the sunset pool will have you believing you are on an island adventure. The community pool next door will be open if you wish to swim. The nearby marina has several open slips if you want to come by boat. Bring a dish to share, your chair and come visit with friends, both old and new. Be sure to check the website for directions and the gate codes.

We will be collecting donations for the **Seafarer's Box 2 Wrap-Up party Saturday, October, 7.** Donations will be collected at the **August and September meetings and at the Wrap-Up Party.** Donations may be supplies or monetary. Any money received will be used by TMCA shoppers to buy supplies for the boxes. If you are unable to attend the meetings, you may give any donations to me at any other event. I will take the supplies to the collection location and secure the money for the shoppers. For ideas on items to donate, check the website for a list.

The **4 Fajita Party Saturday, September 16** will be a registered only event. The details will be on the calendar as they become available.

"In the beginner's mind there are many possibilities, in the expert's mind there are few."  
S. Suzuki-Roshi

This truth is often revealed, because I am a beginner in many things. Where I am a beginner, I am eager to learn and explore, open to possibility and ready for discovery. I am proficient in some things. Where I have some ability, I am still eager to learn, but find my over-thinking narrows potential options and my choices are often filtered by past experiences. Though I often achieve planned goals, do I find the best option, route or solution? With this in mind, I try to approach opportunities as a beginner. I do not want to be an 'expert' in anything, because I enjoy the journey of the potential in what may be possible.

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

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### The Cruise Corner

**Ken Ekenseair, Cruise Captain**

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

August brings new adventures for the Captain and First Mate of Imagine. We are working feverishly to finish projects before we cut the lines. Being a part of TMCA has been such a joy for both Carol and I. We have made so many friends which we will miss tremendously. We will continue to be members and ambassadors of TMCA while we travel. If any of you travel to our location we would love for you to look us up. We will continue to fly our TMCA burgee with honor.

I have spoken with a couple of fellow TMCA friends and they will help me with any duties that must be fulfilled. August 18th will be our last meeting we will be able to attend. The new nominations are just around the corner so this

year is almost over.

Coming up we have a great raft up and games at Nassau Bay on August 19th. Check the calendar for more information. I plan on attending a blow out of a party!

August 11-13 we have the Perseus Meteor Shower cruise with Past Commodore Jerry Simoneaux leading the cruise. Check the calendar for more information.

Then on August 25-27 we have the Freeport Triangle cruise. This is a cruise to build experience and confidence of your abilities and your vessels abilities.

So do not let that boat be a dock queen! Get her out on the water and enjoy the events that are coming up.

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!

Well if you didn't join in the fun of the "Super Soaker Dingy Poker Run" you missed one of the best events of the year! Did we get wet....no, we got soaked and loved every minute of it. Thank you, Cookie Johnson, for putting this event together. I'm hoping we can do this again!

If you know someone that would like to join please tell them to go to the TMCA website and sign up by using PayPal, credit card or send a check to TMCA, P.O. Box 946, Kemah, TX 77565-0946. We love

new members.

If you need a badge please email me at [kphouser@comcast.net](mailto:kphouser@comcast.net) with your name, boat name, and whether your boat is sail or motor. I will have them ready for you at the next TMCA General meeting.

Please help me welcome our new members:

Christopher & Jill Curran  
Terry Lamar  
Pat & Dick Maddox  
Richard and Peggy French  
Keith and Antonette Harvey

Looking forward to seeing you all soon,

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

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

**Cookie Johnson, Treasurer**

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

I am writing from the cockpit of our boat docked at Galveston Sea Star Base! What a great place! It is always fun to get our boat out and hang with TMCA members. Jerry put together a great trip!

Our puppy, Captain Jack, had a minor surgery and has had to endure wearing both a life jacket and an inflatable cone at the same time. I will try to post some pictures on the TMCA Facebook page.

Captain Jack is just a puppy, but he struggles with change. Whenever we get somewhere he is nervous and scared to leave the boat and when we try to walk him he won't do his business. It doesn't take too long for

him to adjust and then he begins to enjoy himself, especially when TMCA members give him attention.

Aren't we all slightly resistant to change? But change is the heartbeat of life! Every awesome, and every terrible thing begins with change. We need change to grow, and cruising is all about change. Many of us hope to cruise far and wide, going from anchorage to anchorage. It's exciting and scary at the same time. The excitement of what will happen "out there" (because, "if it's gonna happen, it's gonna happen out there" Captain Ron) and the fear of what will happen "out there" merge in our consciousness and can propel us forward or keep us at the dock.

I am sure that Captain Jack will become a great sailing dog and live up to his name as a swashbuckling daring pirate, but I understand his desire to stay at the dock. However, mine is becoming more about the financial changes that happen when we go anywhere because something always breaks. Our current list of boat projects may keep us dock-bound for a while.

A final thought. If your finances need change, that will effect many other areas. It is always a good idea to get a second set of eyes 👁️👁️ to look at your finances and help discover ways to change for the better. If you want to cruise far and wide, you will need your finances to be healthy and paying enough income to do that. Make August a month of positive change in whichever area you need change.

Guess that's all for now! See you on the water.....

***Cookie Johnson,  
Treasurer***

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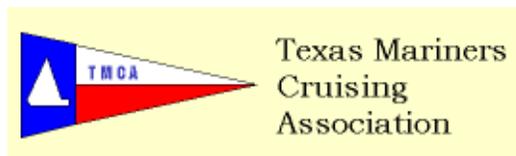
[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

**2017 TMCA Officers**

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<b>Past Commodore:</b>	<b>Jerry Simoneaux, s/v Rainbow</b>	<b>713-577-9587</b>
<b>Vice Commodore:</b>	<b>Larry Friemel, m/v Seascope</b>	<b>281 832 0361</b>
<b>Rear Commodore:</b>	<b>Lori Friemel, m/v Seascope</b>	<b>713 826 7998</b>
<b>Cruise Captain:</b>	<b>Ken Ekenseair, s/v Imagine</b>	<b>832-563-7116</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Kathy Houser, m/v Attitude Adjustment</b>	<b>281-804-4122</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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