

Texas Mariners Cruising Association

The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

December 2017



At the Helm

Charles Parette, Commodore

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

2017 has been a great year for TMCA, and now we've elected new officers to take us forward into 2018. I'm looking forward to working with next year's officers and board to keep this club great.

The TMCA officers for 2018 are hard-working, dedicated, and fun.

Commodore: Larry Friemel

Vice Commodore: Jeff Kaspic

Rear Commodore: Dee Latiolais

Cruise Captain: Bryan Austin

Secretary: Dawn Gibler

Treasurer: Cookie Johnson

It has been a pleasure to serve as your Commodore this year. The club is financially sound, and the books are in order. Thanks to our many, many volunteers, who hosted a dock parties, led cruises, arranged special events, taught a class, volunteered (or were voluntold) for an event, or attended one of our many events with your smiles, stories, and laughter, you are the reason I and so many others love this club!

We replaced our zinc's, had the bottom cleaned, and had our props checked after touching bottom on the way in to Beason Marina. The generator stopped working, and after a quick check, the impeller needed replacing. I popped in another, and now everything is in working order (for now).

Plans are completed for our annual Commodore's Ball. I hope you will plan to join Linda and me at the 2017 Commodore's Ball on Saturday, Dec. 16th, at Lakewood Yacht Club. After awards and recognition there will be plenty of time to dine, party and dance.

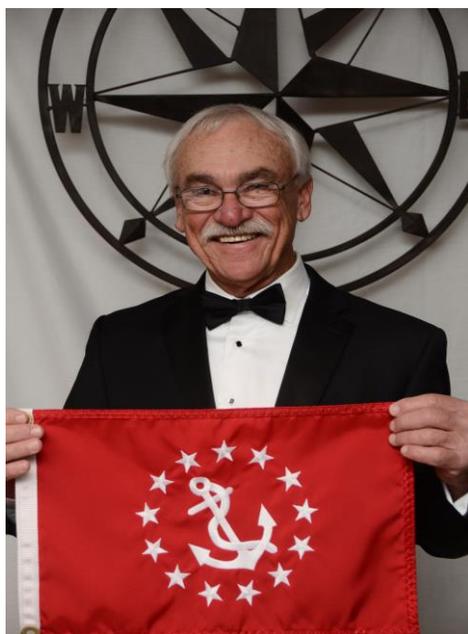
Keep an eye on the calendar, as there are still plenty of cruises, dock parties, and events coming up, as well as the TMCA planning meeting January 13.

December is a time to give thanks for all the TMCA friendships we have made and enjoy. We've had lots of opportunities this year to fire up the engines or hoist the sails with friends and family and travel somewhere for a welcome change of scenery. We've had some terrific parties, ate great food, and listened to wonderful music.

Thanks again, to all who participate in our calendar of activities. More thanks to those who volunteer to lead activities. And great big thanks to our officers and committee chairs who really are the engines of the Texas Mariners Cruising Association.

Linda and I wish you a happy holiday season, and hope you surround yourself with family and friends. We wish you peace, hope, and smooth waters.

**Charles Parette,
Commodore**



[The Corner of Vice](#)

Larry Friemel, Vice Commodore

Email: ViceCommodore@TexasMariners

What a great month we had in November. We enjoyed a fun wine tasting social that replaced the cruise to Laguna Harbor, two cruises to Double Bayou, a great dock party in El Lago and a very informative monthly meeting. Our guest speaker, from the San Jacinto Maritime Collage provided an excellent overview of the courses currently offered. TMCA was invited to schedule a site visit to see this great facility first hand and possibly experience some time on their marine vessel simulator. I think this would be a very informative, fun experience and will try to schedule a Saturday morning trip there if we have interest. Just let me know if this is something you would like to see happen.

December looks to be another busy month with a cruise to Double Bayou, the Christmas boat parade, our awesome Commodores Ball and a New Year's cruise to Moody Gardens.

Our list of topics and speakers for 2018 is in development to continue providing the type of meeting, programs and field trips requested by our membership. If you have an idea, want additional information on a past subject or would even like to do a presentation yourself, please contact me or any other officers.

Please note, the new year will begin with a couple of important meetings so mark your calendars to attend the following:

- **Planning Meeting – Sat. morning Elks Lodge, January 13, 2018 - 9am to 12 noon.**

This meeting will be an opportunity for you to present your ideas on club events, volunteer for an event or be informed on all the great events and activities TMCA will be doing in 2018. This is always a popular and fun meeting so come early and enjoy Coffee, Juice and Donuts that will be provided!

- **Member Orientation Meeting – Sat. morning Elks Lodge, January 20, 2018 – 9am to 12 noon**

This meeting is open to **all members** and will be an opportunity for you to meet your 2018 officers and Trustee's, learn about their responsibilities and some club history. In addition, members can learn about club committees, their responsibilities and how you could be part of these important and fun club positions. As usual, coffee, juice and donuts will be provided!

Also, I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to be your Vice Commodore in 2017. It's been such a great experience. I not only learned things to improve my boating skills but made so many new friends and lasting memories.

Here's wishing you and your loved ones a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

**Larry Friemel,
Vice Commodore**



The Social Scuttlebutt

Lori Friemel, Rear Commodore

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

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! As I write this on Seascape, it is one of those few perfect weather days at the pasture on the East Fork of Double Bayou. It is nice to be here with so many of our boating friends, and to enjoy the beautiful scenery. While it is nice to have new destinations and ideas for cruises and events, it can also be a wonderful thing to celebrate our traditions and pass on some of the club history to our newer members. We were able to do some of that this weekend.

It has been a wonderful year serving as your Rear Commodore. Thank you all, for your patience while I learned to navigate this position. Especially, I would like to thank all of you that have volunteered this year. Whether you hosted a dock party, help to set up an event or helped in another way, your participation helped to make this a better year. And, for the few of you that went so very far above and beyond, my heartfelt gratitude.

What a beautiful evening we had for [Doc's 🍷 Dock Party at Taylor Crest Park](#). The sunset over Taylor Lake was one to capture. Great music by local artist Gene Rutt and a chance for the crowd to join in a song was fun for all. An evening of music, socializing and relaxing with friends. Many super tasty dishes were brought and enjoyed. A big thank you to all that helped with set up and clean up and to Doc and Monica Mulloy for hosting this annual event that we all enjoy so much.

Most of us touched ground, some a bit more than others, going to the [Chilly Chili 🌶️ Cruise](#) for the annual chili cook-off contest. There was quite a variety of great chili to try and enjoy. From the traditional to the unique, the local Oak Island Judges took the job seriously and really had a hard time deciding the winner. With the final decision as Champion Chili makers, it was announced as Charles Parette and Linda Schoene! And, yes, it was very good chili! This was followed by the usual couple of games of 'Screw Your Neighbor.' It was a great weekend, but everyone was on alert for the trip out. We headed out early and everyone made it out without grounding. So, a good weekend after all. Thank you, Michael Harrison and Constantine Volo, for hosting this fun weekend.

Because of the unpredictable November weather, the [Beaujolais Nouveau 🍷 Cruise Tasting](#) was moved to the Watergate Marina, On the Mark Financial patio. There were several selections of the 2017 vintage to taste and compare. Once again, our creative members brought some amazing culinary treats that we enjoyed. Yum! Special thanks to our sommelier Jerry Simoneaux and to Cookie Johnson for the short notice use of the patio. An extra special thank you to all the helpers for setting up and cleaning up.

The traditional favorite [French 🍷 Picnic](#) at the pasture on the East fork of Double Bayou had picture perfect weather and a bounty of 'French' food. The return of the Champagne fountain was magnifique! The competition was judge by the esteemed panel, Phil Geren, Kay Bramlett and Adrian Vuyk. The winner for Overall Best Dish 🏆 with an amazing Coq au Van was Joe Vance; for Best Main Dish 🥇 was an incredible Shrimp Dish by Ivan Ewers and for Best Dessert 🥈 was Carol Burchfield with an amazingly tasty Pumpkin Caramel Delight. The judges were so impressed by one dish they came up with their own Special Mention Award for Presentation 🏆 that went to Jeanne Keith for an impressive Charcutier Platter. The great feast that followed was well worth the wait! So full from lunch, we all skipped dinner! Around the campfire when we started to get a bit hungry again, we decided roasted hot dogs kindly left by Bridget. The clear nights around the campfire led to some great stories, celestial musings, lessons in navigation and s'mores. Fabulous job hosting this event Russ and Carol Burchfield, and for her amazing help and contributions Jeanne Keith.

Come join the fun at the [Mistletoe 🍷 Hot Dog Social & Nautical 🚢 Gift Exchange, Friday December 1, Waterford Harbor Pavilion B, 6pm](#). To participate in the gift exchange, bring a nautical, tropical or boating themed gift (wrapped, no tags), valued at \$20 or less. Then be prepared to exchange for a comical, practical, serious, useful or frivolous gift in return. No matter what, it will be a lot of fun!

Hot dogs, buns and condiments will be provided. Please RSVP so we have enough for everyone! Grills will be hot at 6pm. Please bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert to share, your beverage and chair. Thank you, Jacqueline Kaspic for ho, ho, hosting this annual tradition.

[Christmas on the Bayou Cruise to Oak Island Saturday, December 2](#). The small town that celebrates big. With a live Nativity story and boat parade, the whole community gets involved. TMCA has been a past participant in the boat parade. The live entertainment, 'train' ride, vendors, petting zoo and activities will give you a lot of choices for fun. And, expect a visit from Santa! Thank you Philip Kropf for leading a cruise to this special event.

The **Commodore's Ball is December 16, 2017 at Lakewood Yacht Club**. The TMCA traditional formal event is one not to miss. If you have not received an invitation please send an e-mail with your correct address to rearcommodore@texasmariners.com Please send in your R.S.V.P. card and full payment by December 2nd. There is a maximum number of guests that can be seated at the ball, so get your reservation and payment in now. Registration is filling and seating preferences will become limited. The Modulation Band will provide the music for entertainment and dancing and fine dining by Lakewood will make this evening special. Don't forget to make your reservations for the Lakewood Sunday Brunch after the Commodore's Ball. This is a fun tradition that many enjoy after the ball.

The last event of the year, **New Year's 🎉 Cruise Moody Gardens, Friday, December 29**. This cruise filled up fast, but you can still come by land yacht, anchor out or stay at Pelican Rest and dinghy over. We will have plenty of dock party fun and entertaining events through the weekend. We will visit Ice Land Rainforest Holiday Exhibit, where 25 master ice carvers from China transformed two million pounds of ice into a sculptured Rainforest and super fun ice slide. Visit the many attractions and Festival of Lights, but don't miss the New Year Party on the Pier with 'bottle drop' at midnight! Thank you, Michael Harrison, Constantine Volo and Ladye Jane Stone for leading and hosting this new traditional event.

And finally, thank you, for your indulgent tolerance for these monthly musings. I have found so many truly wonderful friends through TMCA. Though most of us are not from the same place, nor do we do the same type of work; because we are here, we have a common interest. I often feel that 'I've found a whole bunch of friends who have the same dream, it kind of makes us like a family'. Kermit had it right. Have a great New Year!

Lori Friemel
Rear Commodore
TMCA Knows Fun!!



The Cruise Corner

Ken Ekenseair, Cruise Captain

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

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! This year has its ups and downs for sure. It has been my honor to have been the TMCA Cruise Captain.

I have been most impressed with how our members have helped others during this very trying year. It makes you appreciate the friendships we develop in this wonderful club.

I am also very excited about the upcoming officers and to see there spin on TMCA. The best part as you volunteer as a officer you get to put a bit of how you do things into the club. Then the next year you graciously get to set back and enjoy a new trend. The evolving of the club is never ending, which is such a great thing to see.

Memories that we have other so many people will be cherished forever. Thank you to all of the cruise leaders that volunteered to host a cruise. Thank you to all the club members that attended the cruises.

2018 will be a new fresh year, with new ideas, new faces and more memories to make. Remember the planning meeting is Saturday morning, January 13. This is where the calendar is built for the year. If you have an idea for a cruise or a social function, would like to assist with a cruise, or want to see how it's done, be there! Be a part of it, volunteer to be a cruise leader or dock party host. There are plenty of resources to help you have a successful event.

Ken Ekenseair
Cruise Captain
TMCA – Cruising The World



[Secretary's Report](#)

Kathy Houser, Secretary

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

Hello Cruisers!

Each month Linda sends out a notice to the Board that our Monthly Reports are due and when I read the notice I would respond "Oh no not again." This time is different and maybe somewhat nostalgic for it is not only my final report for the year but my final report ever.

It has been a pleasure being involved for the last five years. One as Membership Chair, one as Assistant to the Secretary and three years as Secretary. The Board members I have worked with have been awesome and they have worked very hard to bring only the best of cruising and social events to TMCA. Being a Board member has allowed me to really get to know many of

the members that I would not have had the opportunity to know. I have truly enjoyed being secretary and encourage everyone to volunteer and get involved.

Please welcome our new members:
JD & Peti Thompson
Matias Markez

It's membership renewal time! It's easy! Log into the TMCA website. Click **Membership** → **My Account**. Review your information on the **Contact Info** tab to make sure it's up to date (Edit button is just above your profile photo). Click the **Membership** Tab to renew. You can pay by any credit card via the PayPal payment system.

Please give your full support to our new 2018 Secretary Dawn Gibler. Dawn will do an excellent job and I know I am leaving this position in very good hands.

Until then, may God hold you in the palm of His hand until we meet again,

Kathy Houser
Secretary



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

Cookie Johnson, Treasurer

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

Wow! It's been a fantastic year with TMCA. I have so enjoyed getting to know some of our members better and look forward to getting to know more of you! We've had a great year and I am so looking forward to 2018! I hope it doesn't go by as fast as 2017 has.

In my first newsletter of 2017 I gave you one of my favorite tips to control impulse spending and it is still one of my favorite tips so I want to repeat it in my final newsletter of 2017!

TREASURER'S TIP: Do you want to control impulse spending? Leave your debit and credit cards at home and only take them when you know you need fuel or you are going grocery shopping or shopping for a specific item. Give yourself a mild cash budget for the month (\$100 or \$200 dollars). When you want to get that Latte from Starbucks, you will have to spend your cash. It's actually harder to break that \$20 bill than to use your debit card!

Now, on to something way more fun!!! I need some help this next year putting together a treasure/scavenger hunt type event fashioned after The Amazing Race!! I need ideas and locations and volunteers!! My brain is bursting with ideas about this but there is no way to do it without several helpers! We will binge watch some episodes to get even more ideas!! So contact me at my office 281-535-1040 or email me at cookie@onthemarkfinancial.com if you want to help in any way...even if you want to offer a location! I am hoping to do this via both water and land! Or maybe both! Don't forget to renew because you won't want to miss this amazing event! It's going to be fun!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Cookie Johnson,
Treasurer

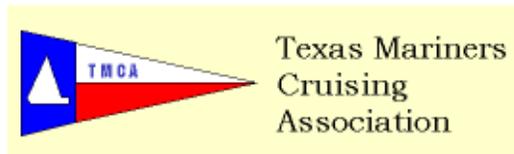
[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

2017 TMCA Officers

Commodore:	Charles Parette, m/v Andiamo	713-817-8263
Past Commodore:	Jerry Simoneaux, s/v Rainbow	713-577-9587
Vice Commodore:	Larry Friemel, m/v Seascope	281 832 0361
Rear Commodore:	Lori Friemel, m/v Seascope	713 826 7998
Cruise Captain:	Ken Ekenseair, s/v Imagine	832-563-7116
Secretary:	Kathy Houser, m/v Attitude Adjustment	281-804-4122
Treasurer:	Cookie Johnson, s/v Cool Change	970-486-0192

2017 TMCA Trustees

Trustee 2011	Commodore	Doug Chappell	m/v 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

