

Texas Mariners Cruising Association

The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

June 2017



At the Helm

Charles Parette, Commodore

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

A big TMCA hello to everyone!

School is out, or almost out! It's time to be out on the water and around boating people. TMCA is the club to hang out with.

A quick recap of my May TMCA fun.

We went to the BVI's with some TMCA members, and spent a week on a catamaran. Each couple had a queen size bed and their own bathroom. The boat was stocked with so much food; we ate like kings, and still gave lots of food away to a cruiser. The water was crystal clear. We had fun sailing, listening to island music, attended a full moon party, and sampled the local beverages. We're planning a charter to Croatia for next year – let us know if you're interested – and I can't wait to spend time in their beautiful country and clear waters.

May brought us dock parties and the general meeting (fashion show). We had a great time; my outfit from West Marine was great, and I even bought a Tilly hat after the meeting.

The Spring Fling Skipper's Meeting went well, and Memorial Day Spring Fling in Port Arthur was awesome. The committee did a great job, lots of great educational sessions, music during the day and bands every night, great planned meals, sailboat races, dock walk poker crawl, a Memorial Day tribute, Hippie Picnic with a lip sync contest, and lots more. I loved seeing tie dye shirts all day, every day/night.

Spring Fling was a great opportunity to get out and use our boat, go a little further than you may be used to. This is how we build our skills, communicate with the barge tows operators to pass safely, and have a great Memorial Day weekend with fellow boaters.

We did hear several compliments from the tow boat pilots on our use of radios and communicating with them.

On the way back a belt broke on the port engine between Bolivar Roads and Redfish, so we limped back on one engine at 7 knots. The following seas pushed the boat around quite a bit, so we practiced keeping the boat on course, and made it back safe.

As usual, June will be full of activities, from dock parties, boating, and don't forget to attend our general meeting on Friday, June 16th. The 4th of July is right around the corner, so get the boat and your skills in shape.

Be sure to check our website, TexasMariners.com for activities, the TMCA calendar, and get dates blocked on your calendar. If you're interested in helping at any of our events, or have some time to volunteer, please contact any officer.

If you're a new member – or an old member getting back into our club's activities, wear your name tag to our events. Walk up to someone you don't know and say hi, find out what kind of boat they have, or want, and you'll have a new friend. Some folks want to sit quietly by themselves, but I've found that the bulk of our members love running in a pack. We have lots of members who've been cut cruising. Chat them up, and learn the ins and outs of "living the dream".

Let's go boating. See you on the water.

***Charles Parette,
Commodore***



[The Corner of Vice](#)

Larry Friemel, Vice Commodore

Email: ViceCommodore@TexasMariners

May was a very busy month for TMCA with all the social activities (Even a TMCA Fashion show), cruises and the annual Spring Fling cruise to Port Author. What a great time we all had at every event.

June looks to be just as busy with lots of destinations to cruise to this month. That means spending more time out on the water with other vessels of all types.

One thing I noticed on our return trip from Spring Fling was how complimentary the Tow Captains were of our Fleet on how well our members communicated (AIS,VHF, 1's &2's) with them when meeting and passing. Several areas along the ICW (Horse Shoe bend, West Port Author Bridge, Bolivar Barge terminal) clear communication is important to the safety of all concerned. As we all know, the Tow Captains work load really increases when the winds are high and maneuvering area is limited.

So the fleet is safely back home, all that hard work we did to prepare our boats paid off, and here we go again! Our waters will now start warming up a bit and those engines will be running a little warmer than usual so I plan to keep making those engine room inspections, battery systems checks and keeping a close eye on those gauges so we can have another fun month out on the water!

On another subject, I continue to get great ideas for monthly meeting presentations from our membership and we will do our best to arrange for as many of those subjects as possible. The good thing is we have a great list to work from for many meetings in the future!

Remember to check the web site often and watch for the weekly updates to get the latest details on any of the activities and cruises you might be interested in. Be safe, have fun and hope to see you soon!

**Larry Friemel,
Vice Commodore**



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

May was a month of margaritas, music and memories. Many of us enjoyed the beautiful weather at the parties and fun cruises, just those few spring storms kept us on our toes. If you were waiting for good weather, it is here! I will be looking for you out on the water and at an event soon.

Margaritas, sombreros and piñatas, olé! Great music, food and weather made the **Cinco de Mayo Dock Party at Watergate Marina**, hosted by On the Mark Financial and West Yachts & Brokerage, a wonderful evening to enjoy with friends. What a great turnout! Great to see

so many new members joining in the fun. Thank you for sponsoring!

The fiesta fun continued at Bayland on the [Sangria & Sunset Cruise](#). Muchos gracias, Señor Don Juan y Señora Debrita Fast for hosting! I heard there were many fun events and “valueless” prizes were awarded! This is always a fun cruise, sorry I missed it.

The May monthly meeting was dressed up for the fashion show and vow renewal. Great job Marylou Clark for putting this together! Models, great job on the runway! Thank you, Tropical Express and West Marine for providing the clothing and accessories for our models. Check out both stores for these fun items and more!

Where did you go Memorial Weekend? Wherever you decided to go, I hope you had fun and took a moment to remember those who served. With family and friends serving and having served, it is a special time to reflect and remember. To all of you that have served, thank you!

[Spring Fling at Pleasure Island Marina](#) was totally hip and groovy! Tie dye, themed activities and décor made a festive venue. Great knot and cooking classes, vendors, yummy food, new events, new members and new friends. One of the most fun events was the lip synch contest, won by Carol Ekenseair, with her charming rendition of “*Raindrops*.” Great job Christopher Bown and the Spring Fling Committee for all the hard work putting on this event. Thank you, Port Arthur Yacht Club and Spring Fling Sponsors!

The stars were out at Moody Gardens for the [Jazzy/ Rat Pack Memorial Day Cruise](#). The Jazz lounge was the place to be if you wanted to dance and hang out with stars like Marilyn, Dean, Frank and Sammy. Themed events throughout the weekend and music to soothe the soul made this the best place to relax. Creative costumes, prizes and a catered meal made it even better. Great job Capt. Doug and Karen Chappell and “cigarette girl” Maryann Tillson for putting together another great event with rave reviews!

The activities in June are heating up along with the weather. But you can still enjoy a cool evening on the swings at TopWater Grill at the [June 2nd Dock Party- Swing into Summer at TopWater Grill](#). Swinging starts at 6:30pm. Get there early to get your swing! Come by land yacht or boat. Reserve a slip and stay overnight.

Time for more women on the water action. HYC is hosting their annual [Women’s Sailing Weekend on June 10 and June 11, 2017](#). The Catherine Spiller Regatta on Saturday, June 10 requires a woman at the helm but allows a mixed gender crew. The Fairfax Moody Regatta on Sunday, June 11 requires an all-woman crew. There will be a dinner and awards ceremonies. Check the website for information and registration.

On [June 10th Movie Night at Kemah Boardwalk Marina, 7pm](#). Not your typical dock party! Docktails, a pool and a movie! Come watch the movie “*Deepwater Horizon*”

under the tent. KBM will provide appetizers and popcorn. Enjoy dinner and a movie with your friends on a Saturday night.

Aloha, TMCA has been invited to a **Luau Party on July 1, 12pm** at the Elks Lodge. There will be traditional luau fare, including roasted piglet. Pool and cash bar will be open. Raffle, DJ music and fireworks. \$10 per person. Wear your grass skirt.

Thank you everyone that has hosted and/or helped at an event or cruise. By participating you help make this group what it can be, and what should be. A fun part of any gathering is the laughter we share while working side by side and the smiling faces of friends when we relax and share together.

Your heart is where your mind goes when it wanders. Surround yourself with people, scenery and joyful moments that nourish you. Be mindful and take time to enjoy those moments, because wonderful often comes wrapped in ordinary.

Lori Friemel
Rear Commodore
TMCA Knows Fun!!



The Cruise Corner
Ken Ekenseair, Cruise Captain
[email: Captain@TexasMariners.com](mailto:Captain@TexasMariners.com)

Summer is here, and the cruising season has started off with a Bang! In the past month we have had Sangria Sunset cruise that Debra and Donald Fast put on. This was another great job by the Fast's. The trip up to Bayland was fairly uneventful and the dredging really posed no threat to us. The channel going into Bayland seems to be getting silted in more, but some of the issue was the water was down from northern winds. A dinghy run up Goose Creek showed that effect even more with us. We did not get as far as we did last time when we did this.

The Nassau Bay raft up again with the northern winds prevented several boats from going in. So we ended up with some boats in Nassau Bay and some anchored out in the Bay for a day of fun.

Spring Fling - what a groovy time! All the boats made it over with little issue. More than half of the boats got to the event on Thursday which made it much easier for volunteers. The weather could have not been any better for the entire weekend. Several boats went offshore for some really great sailing, and made for some really good times for the race. The bands, food, and activities were all shagalicious. I would like to thank all the committee members for all the hard work they have put in for months, the volunteers that helped in several areas of the event, and most of all the TMCA members who made it a great event!

We also had a Jazzy Rate Pack cruise at Moody that Capt. Doug and Karen Chappell did, along with Maryann Tillson. The report along with several pictures showed it was a great cruise. Thank you Karen, Maryann and Doug for putting this cruise on.

Coming up in June we have Hooked on Redfish, I would suggest some of us go Friday, with this being a full moon, there may be others coming also. The Nocturne n Sea Captain and Crew have some fun ideas to enjoy at this special anchorage.

The Cruise to Nowhere scheduled for June 17th is keeping up with the cruise title, and will once again be rescheduled for the fall. Stay tuned for more details.

The weekend of June 23-25 is the Texas Outlaw Challenge and we have no cruises planned for that weekend. If someone has an idea step up and let's make it happen.

Finally The Harborwalk 4th of July Cruise is coming up. It has several options available based off when you can go. ALWAYS get on the waitlist.

Spare parts, do you carry them on your boat? The reason I bring this up is on our departure from Spring Fling I had started the motor let it warm up a bit, also doing maintenance the day before left with no problems. Or so I thought. About the time we get to the yellow rig in Sabine lake we here a sound and neither of us could determine where it came from. I looked at my gauges and guess what - the temp was climbing and fast. I have Carol take over the helm, shut the motor off, set the anchor. What we find is the belt had actually come off the pulleys. Easy fix, get it back on test it, still running hot. Checked the impeller, and I find 2 ½ lugs broken off. I replaced the impeller and chased down the broken pieces in the heat exchanger. Topped of the coolant, cranked up and we were off again, motoring all the way back without a problem. I had replaced that part at the beginning of the year, and I keep a few extras on board along with several other spares. Without having those parts on board in an area that did not offer towing services, along with no easily accessible parts store, this could have been a long and costly fix. Like the old saying says "If it is going to happen, it is going to happen out there!"

Ken Ekenseair
Cruise Captain

TMCA – Cruising The World



Secretary's Report

Kathy Houser, Secretary

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

Well, how much fun was TMCA in May? Neil and I are taking a few days to rest up after having a wonderful time at Spring Fling. Christopher and all his committee workers did an outstanding job. The food was awesome and the bands outstanding. There were fun games, dingy races, lip sync and costume contests. I kept saying "Where can you go and have this much fun!" I am always amazed at the creativity, talent and ideas our TMCA members come up with.

Instead of a speaker at our monthly meeting there was a fashion show that Neil and I participated in.

After the show, we renewed our wedding vows of 56 years. Captain Doug Chappell performed the ceremony and we were so pleased that we had so many TMCA members in attendance. It was another memory for us and I cannot thank Doug enough for doing this for us.

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.

We have many new members to introduce; please help me welcome them:

Gordon Hyde

Todd Hunter

Michael and Cinnamon Scully

Keith and Kathy Grady

John and Brenda Gross

Joe and Lisa Scalco

Deneen Taylor

Jill Franklin

Jay and Sandra Cormier

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)

It is finally June! I am so excited for warm weather and warm water!! I must confess that I am a biiiig wimp when it comes to being cold. Hard to believe that I survived 30 years in the frigid temperatures of Colorado!! Looking forward to getting the kayaks and paddleboard out! We got our kayaks out at Spring Fling and took our 6 month old Havanese puppy out on his first kayak ride where he proceeded to walk right off the kayak and into the water! Well at least now he knows!!

Summer can be one of the hardest times to find discounts and bargains. This is the time of year for many businesses to make money and they seldom discount. That doesn't mean there aren't discounts out there, it just may take some extra digging!! If you find yourself overspending this summer, leave the debit card and credit card at home. That will reduce impulse spending. Only take the cards when you know you will need them, like when grocery shopping or getting fuel!! And even if you don't live aboard your boat, look at each purchase as if you do live aboard. Is this a purchase you are willing to allocate some of your limited space to? Will it fit on the boat? Will you need it on the boat? Will you wear it often enough to justify space on the boat? You will be surprised how many items you choose not to buy!!

Happy summer all!!! See you at the dock parties and on the cruises!!!!

***Cookie Johnson,
Treasurer***

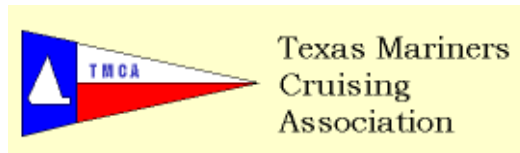
[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

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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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