

Texas Mariners Cruising Association

The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

May 2017



At the Helm

Charles Parette, Commodore

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

A big TMCA hello to everyone!

If you're looking for something to do, and want to be around the water, boats, and boating people, TMCA is the club for you.

A quick recap of my April TMCA fun. We had a great boater's flea market where lots of folks traded their boating treasures to others, and great deals were made. Some members gave more stuff away than they sold.

At the Southwest International Boat show, I went to as many seminars as I could, climbed on a lot of great boats, sipped a few cool beverages, and saw lots of new boating items.

We took the boat to Moody Gardens and had a great time there for Easter, the pool was heated, dyed Easter eggs, and had a great party on the dock.

We loved the chicken cookout at the tiki bar, and attended the general meeting.

For May we're going to the BVI's with some TMCA members, and are going to spend a week on a Catamaran. We're looking forward to clear water, fun sailing, good food, music and local beverages. We also have the General meeting, the Spring Fling skippers meeting, and then we leave for Memorial Day "Spring Fling" in Port Arthur. The committee has put together lots of great education sessions, music during the day, and bands every night, great planned meals, sailboat races, dock walk poker run, a Memorial Day tribute and many more activities. Spring Fling is a great opportunity to get out, and use your boat, go a little further than you may be used to. This is how we build our skills, communicate with the barge tow's to pass safely, and have a great Memorial Day weekend with fellow boaters.

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

If you're a new member, or an old member getting back into our clubs 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 out cruising, chat them up, and learn the ins and outs of "living the dream".

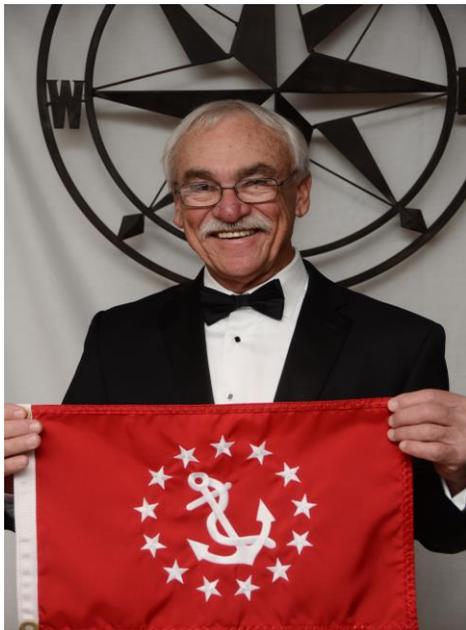
Go to the website, and update your profile for your boats, and to register for a boating event www.texasmariners.com

Our members can get information about what's going on with the club via www.facebook.com/groups/TMCAgroup

And <https://groups.yahoo.com/tmcamariners>

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

***Charles Parette,
Commodore***



The Corner of Vice

Larry Friemel, Vice Commodore

Email: ViceCommodore@TexasMariners

What an awesome time we had in April. With all the cruises, dock parties, In The Water Boat Show and visiting with all our members and guest, it was a blast! May looks to be another great month as well.

Lori and I are busy preparing for our annual trip to Spring Fling. We're making sure all boat systems and safety gear are working as they should and making those short cruises out to the bay just to make sure. Speaking of safety gear, consider contacting our local Power Squadron for that all-important vessel safety check and sticker. You can even schedule to have it done at Spring Fling. Also, we're checking our cruise

list (Thanks to my Co-Captain) of things we will need to take (or not take) with us. Since

this trip is a little longer and we need to take a few extra things, we want to keep Seascape as light as possible to help with the fuel mileage. One thing that helps a lot, is running with less than full water tanks. With water at 8.3 pounds per gallon, we can easily reduce load by 700 lbs. for the trip over to Port Author. Fuel is another heavy item (diesel - 6.9 lb. /US gallon) and we find we don't need to completely top off, so a few pounds are saved there as well.

Hopefully everyone has completed those annual boat maintenance items and all is ready for another busy TMCA cruising season. So check the TMCA calendar for a cruise that fits your schedule and come join the fun!

Looks like we will have another great turn out for Spring Fling again this year so plan to go to the Captains meeting May 20 for the latest cruise details and captains bags. Mark your calendars for the monthly meeting May 19, at the Elks Lodge, 623 Hanson Rd, Kemah TX. Socializing and dinner orders begin at 6:00 pm, business meeting at 7:00 pm followed by a TMCA fashion show with members modeling the latest in summer fashions. This is always a really fun event for everyone. Be sure to bring those name badges!

Hope to see you soon, have fun, and be safe

Larry Friemel,
Vice Commodore



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

The unpredictable and often stormy weather of April did not slow any of us down. Better yet, when we got to where we were going, the weather often turned for the better and we would be blessed with a beautiful day. And, on the days the weather was a bit of a handful, it became a great learning experience!

There was a lot of buying and selling at the **Flea Market**. Some great deals were made and some notable items are still being talked about. Thank you Charles Parette for leading the action.

That same weekend was the **Mermaid Sail** hosted by HYC. Several TMCA ladies participated on various boats. Great job mermaids! HYC

even honored each participant with a mermaid charm. This was a great learning experience for me- contributing weather and a sailboat (those big flappy things are more than just pretty, who knew)! Thank you, Vicki Berkebile, for leading us and the generous use of your boat. And, thank you Kevin Berkebile, our “just there flare.”

Members arrived by car, golf cart and dinghy to dine and socialize at the **Jenko Dock Party**. It was a beautiful evening under the queen palms. We always have a great time at this waterfront garden. Thank you, Carolyn and Bill, for hosting, you did a great job!

The **Southwest International Boat Show** was a big event. Several members taught classes and led seminars. Thank you, Bridget Upton and Chris McMurray, for coordinating the volunteers and running the booth. We signed up several new members and we sold a good bit of merchandise. We had a very popular booth! Thank you, Charles, for the giveaways! Thank you to all the volunteers that helped at the booth, gave out pizza, sold raffle tickets, setup and did so many other things it takes to do these events. Those efforts do not go unnoticed and are very much appreciated. The Boat Show management was also very appreciative of TMCA for our attendance and participation.

There were a lot of bunnies and peeps around last month. I saw toasted peeps at the campfire during the **Find a Bunny**, the pictures looked like everyone had a great time at the pasture. Great job Russ and Carol Burchfield. While Russ and Carol were finding bunnies in the pasture, other bunnies were hopping at the **Funny Bunny Sock Hop**. Everyone wore some very creative footwear to dance on the dock. The college kids are even taking this idea back to school! The event began with a lovely wine tasting followed by the usual docktails and potluck. Most of the drinks and dishes seemed to have a peep involved! Great idea and hosting by Charlene Lim.

The **Tiki Hut** is a great place to relax and enjoy a spectacular view of the bay. Thank you, Nick and Lauren Maudlin, and the entire Maudlin Family for allowing us to use this wonderful location. Great job, Ladye Jane Stone for hosting and chicken marinating and Ken and Larry for grilling that yummy chicken. The tropical breeze and island music added to the relaxed feel. Good food, good friends... good time!

With the weather getting warmer it is time to get out on the water, catch up with friends and enjoy some upcoming events. **May 5, Cinco de Mayo, at Watergate Marina Pier 4, 6-8pm** hosted by On the Mark Financial and West Yachts & Brokerage. Put on a sombrero, grab some maracas and bring a Mexican themed dish to share! Margaritas, beer, chips y salsa, queso y guacamole until it runs out! Don't forget your chairs.

Don't toss that sombrero, decorate it and take it to Bayland! Bring your decorated sombrero and Mexican themed dish to the **May 6, Seis de Mayo, “Most Festive Sombrero Contest” Bayland Marina** and compete for “valueless” prizes! Docktails begin at 5:30pm, with Sangria provided, followed by a Mexican themed potluck at 6pm.

Galveston Bay Foundation is celebrating **Bay Day, May 13, Festival at Kemah Boardwalk, 11am-4pm, free** www.galvbay.org. This sounds like a fun way to celebrate and support GBF.

Feelin' Groovy! **May 20, Spring Fling Captain's Meeting 8am, Elks Lodge** pick up your "Captain & Crew Bag" check out some "cool" merchandise. Get all the information you need before heading over to the big event.

☺**Peace ♥Love & Boating May 26 – May 29, Spring Fling, Pleasure Island Marina, Port Arthur TX** There is so much fun packed into this weekend – bands, classes, museum tours, parties, poker run, food trucks, vendors and so much more! Gather a team together and sign up for the lip synch contest. Wow, check out the website so you don't miss anything.

Not going to Spring Fling? Head over to the **Jazzy/Rat Pack Memorial Day Cruise to Moody Gardens**. The Rat Pack is gathering! The jazz lounge will have a full cast of stars all weekend, with themed events and activities. This low-key cruise is a great way to relax. Enjoy some good music, great food, fun and friends. Get registered now!

When was the last time you did something for the first time? **May 31 – Jun 3, Windward Bound Sailing Camp** (women only) hosted by HYC is a residential, experiential, concentrated and objective-oriented sailing camp with small group instruction.

We have a busy month ahead. With such a variety of activities and cruises there should be something to interest just about everyone. I hope to see you on the water or at an event soon!

Everyone who is here, belongs. Just because he or she is here and for no other reason. This is our rule. It depends on nothing else. Nothing changes it.

Lori Friemel
Rear Commodore
TMCA Knows Fun!!



[The Cruise Corner](#)

Ken Ekenseair, Cruise Captain

email: Captain@TexasMariners.com

Cruising season is here! We have several cruises already on the calendar and more to come. May is a busy month with the May 6th Sangria & Sunset Cruise at Bayland, a relaxing Nassau Bay Raft Up on May 13th, May 27 the Jazzy Rat Pack Cruise at Moody. Last but not least Spring Fling May 26th to May 29th.

The Spring Fling Captains meeting is May 20th at 8 AM. You will get your Captains bag and slip assignments that day. Information on the route and docking will also be covered at the meeting. You may also check out the TMCA website for the waypoints and route information.

The Cruise to Nowhere was reschedule for June 17th, check the calendar for more information, and we will post a new sign up for nowhere.

I would like to talk about your plans for Spring Fling for a bit. Spring Fling really starts on Friday with seminars, bands and other entertainment. What makes Spring fling work? Volunteers make it happen and work very hard to ensure everyone has a good time. We will provide docking assistance Thursday 0800-2000 and Friday 0800-1800. I have really been pushing on boaters to come a day early if at all possible on Thursday. This will allow for Friday to be a bit more relaxing for the volunteers so they can go enjoy the events they paid for too. If you come in after the times posted, we will not have people standing by, but you can hail on the radio and some people will be monitoring the radio, and may be available to offer assistance. Of course this all changes if we have bad weather volunteers will be there to help everyone dock safely.

Let us talk about route planning. Do you plan your routes? Do you have waypoints in your GPS? If you have never been to that are do you get local knowledge? Do you get your on weather report? Do you make the decision if it is safe for your vessel?

Each trip should be planned as if you have never been there. Tides, current, shoaling, dredging, etc are always changing in our area. Check your route, weather and let someone know your plans so if you come up missing! A big part about being the Master of your vessel is to get it there safely with the crew and passengers safely so we all can have a great time.

This past cruise to Moody Gardens we had good winds from the south so I knew sailing down the ICW and up the West Bay would be the plan. Just as we got under the

Galveston Causeway Bridge we got the sails up, and the motor goes..klunk, ugg, poof! Attempted to restart and it would not. It acted like no fuel. So no worries, we knew we had power with the wind, and could sail all the way back to Kemah then get Towboat US to take us to our slip, plus I could look at the problem once we get in the West Bay. Come to find out the fuel filter was dirty, a quick replacement, and the problem was resolved. What made this a win for us was knowing the weather , the route, and having spare parts on hand allowed us to continue safely. Changing the fuel filters was on my list to service, but with all the dock parties, and cruises I had let it slip by. So the old saying if it is going to happen it will happen out there is very true.

See you at Spring Fling! Peace Love and Boats

Ken Ekenseair
Cruise Captain
TMCA – Cruising The World



Secretary's Report

Kathy Houser, Secretary

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

Hello Cruisers!

In April we had a great time in Colorado Springs. We stayed at the Broadmoor Hotel which is one of my most favorite spots in the world. The Broadmoor is the ultimate combination of luxury and adventure. This hotel is situated at the base of Pikes Peak and opened its doors in 1918. It has several beautiful restaurants and many things to do. You can take the Cog Railway to the summit of the mountain or visit the Garden of the Gods. Last year Neil zip lined down Pikes Peak to the base of Seven Falls. This year he walked across the suspension bridge but did not do the 65 foot repel. Hmm, he must be

getting old.

Easter was spent with friends camping in Rockport. The weather was beautiful and food fantastic. We did do something on the water; yes, we took the ferry over to Port A and watched the dolphins playing and following the boat. It was very enjoyable. 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 this month and now we have increased our membership to 550. Please help me welcome them:

1. Arnold, Judson
2. Aslin, Blake & Diana
3. Bobyk, Don & Pat
4. Bodoczky, Kim & Steve Skipworth
5. Brandt, Roger
6. Cannon, Jesse & Tenea
7. Copeland, Holly
8. Curtiss, Carol
9. Ferguson, Jim & Connie
10. Fruge, Archie & Nikki
11. Gallia, Ken
12. Gardener, Troy
13. Gautier, Charles & Lorraine
14. Gray, Keith & Amy
15. Isbell, Clinton
16. Jones, Julie & Ron
17. Laney, Aaron & Glenda
18. Lawrence, Remington & Roxanne Cramer
19. Lewis, Charles
20. Loewenthal, Ronald & Wendy
21. Martin, Mark & Mary Ellen
22. Pelletier, Dennis & Lynn
23. Pierce, John
24. Rider, Bill & Anita
25. Rupley, Will
26. Smythe, Tony & Lynda

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)

Thoughts from the Treasurer!

We've just made it through our annual exercise of frustration known as "tax filing season". Although you may think it's the IRS who's to blame, it is actually the Congress that wrote the four million-odd words that make up the tax code! So it's refreshing to see someone in Congress take a critical look at what Congress has wrought.

Jeff Flake is a freshman Senator from Arizona who recently issued a report call "[Tax Rackets](#)" that takes aim at so called "outlandish loopholes" that taxpayers like alpaca farmers, magazine publishers, and

golf course operators use to legally lower their bills. In his report he covers several loopholes that will assist you in running the gamut of emotions. While some may make you giggle (the chicken poop tax credit), the facts will also make you cringe! Some will make you angry and others will reinforce your desire to run off on a boat!!

That's my solution! Pack up the boat and let's go!! So glad the cruising season has begun and turned my tears into a smile!!! I am so looking forward to hanging out with all of you at various events!! I am much more available now than I have been for the past couple of months, so feel free to call or email if you need anything! Bring on the May flowers!!! See you on the water!!

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

Texas Mariners Cruising Association, PO Box 946, Kemah, TX 77565-0946
<http://www.TexasMariners.com> | [Anti-spam policy](#) | [Privacy policy](#)

