

Texas Mariners Cruising Association

# The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

November 2017



## At the Helm

**Charles Parette, Commodore**

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

2017 has been a great year for TMCA and there is every indication that 2018 will be even better. Our club has offered more cruises, parties, and educational events than ever before, and our membership is strong and growing each month. We are easily one of the largest and most active pleasure boating groups on the Gulf Coast.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your Commodore this year. 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!

On Friday, November 17, we will hold our Annual Meeting where you will choose who will take this club forward for us in 2018. The general membership has nominated the following people, and I could not be happier with the slate of candidates. The nominees are hard-working, dedicated, and fun. If you haven't mailed in your ballot, please be sure to bring to the November meeting.

The nominees are:

Commodore: Larry Friemel

Vice Commodore: Jeff Kaspic

Rear Commodore: Dee Latiolais

Cruise Captain: Bryan Austin

Secretary: Dawn Gibler

Treasurer: Cookie Johnson

Plans are firming up for our annual Commodore's Ball. I hope you will plan to join Linda and me at the 2017 Commodore's Ball, to be held Saturday night, Dec. 16th, at Lakewood Yacht Club. Invitations will be mailed soon. We give thanks to our board members and committee chairs, and we look forward to awarding several special "recognition awards," as is our custom. It means so much more when you are there to help say "thanks" to our hard-working members. 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.

I think TMCA is one of the most welcoming and accepting organization around. Enjoyment of boating is the only thing that matters here in TMCA, and anyone who offers to catch my lines, or pull me off a sandbar is a friend of mine.

Best wishes for a great month, a joyful Thanksgiving and lots of time on the water with family and friends!

**Charles Parette,  
Commodore**

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### **The Corner of Vice**

**Larry Friemel, Vice Commodore**

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

We sure had an interesting October. The weather was really nice for our land based activities, but didn't cooperate for a couple of our cruises.

With the marginal conditions at Allen's Landing and strong cold fronts reducing water levels at the entrance of Double Bayou, these cruises had to be canceled. But that's what makes TMCA so great. When the weather or water conditions aren't right we adjust by sending a few e-mails, or some phone calls and we're all back together having a great time at another location!

The month of November will be another full month of TMCA activities. Our monthly meeting will include voting results for our 2018 Officers, a great guest speaker from the San Jacinto Maritime collage, and the ever popular "Boat Geek" segment from our own Bryan Austin.

We have two cruises scheduled to Double Bayou and another to Laguna Harbor in Bolivar. I always look forward to this time of year and the cooler weather cruises. The DB pasture is one of our favorites. We've attended the French Picnic cruise for 18 years. And, no matter if we have a few boats or many, just sitting around the campfire under the stars and making great memories with new and old friends is really enjoyable to us. Since we usually stay the whole week, all the boat systems are used continuously for several days and this helps to keep things running well, so when we go to our other favorite anchorages we feel more confident those systems will run as designed. Also, tying up to the bank (bow in) is different from the norm and I love seeing all the creative ways crews come up with tying up and stepping ashore! From all types of anchors and stakes to all sorts of custom walk planks. Every year someone has improved on an idea to make it easier and I just love seeing what will be next! By the way, if you decide to join us this year and have not been to the pasture, feel free to contact me or the cruise leader for tips and equipment needed for an easy way to tie up to the banks of this really fun location.

Speaking of different mooring techniques, we may have a great opportunity to try a Med-mooring at Laguna Harbor on the Beaujolais cruise to Bolivar. Most of us don't have the opportunity to tie up this way here in our local waters, and it's a great place to practice for those not accustomed to this type of docking. If we are successful, this will allow for more boats to tie up at this great location.

Also, just a note, with the winds we have experienced lately, I'm still seeing some debris floating in and around the bay, so please keep a good look out for these types of things. Hopefully, you can find time to get out on the water and enjoy our beautiful bay and fall weather.

Hope to see you soon, be safe and have fun on the water!

***Larry Friemel,  
Vice Commodore***

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### [The Social Scuttlebutt](#)

**Lori Friemel, Rear Commodore**

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

Our fall and Thanksgiving decorations are going up and my cold weather recipes are coming out. Which means it is time for me to start pulling out some warmer clothes for cruising. It also means some of my favorite cruises and events are coming up. Year-round boating is one of the good things about this area. We have some entertaining cruises, fun events, great parties and some cooler weather to get out and enjoy it all. Come join in the fun.

There was a lot of fun socializing at the [Seafarer's Box](#) 📦 [Wrap-Up Party](#), while we filled boxes with donated items then wrapped them for the seafarers. TMCA

shoppers bought additional supplies to fill even more boxes. Roberta Netherly was able to deliver 57 boxes to the Seafarers Center! There were a few more boxes that were not quite full, but were completed later by volunteers. Thank you to all that donated and participated. This was so much fun we may make this an annual event. Thank you, Roberta for all your effort hosting and delivering boxes. The seafarers really appreciate this gift, especially when they are so far from home and family. Bring your wrapped boxes, no bows, to the November meeting. We are well on our way to our goal of 200 boxes. Great job everyone!

Congratulations to our winners of the Harvest Moon Regatta! Le Gros White and crew of s/v Vela did great getting first place among the TMCA competitors to win the TMCA trophy. The Luna Trophy winner, s/v Mischief, and her all-women crew was led by Nancy Welch with Marion Herndon, Carolyn Jenko and the crew. Fabulous job and great adventure ladies! Outstanding job by all that participated in the race.

The Spanish flavors and sounds of the [El Lago](#) 🍷 [Wine Tasting](#) transformed the El Lago Center. What a wonderful evening of amazing music by flamenco jazz guitarist John Acevedo. While John serenaded us, we sampled some great wines then had some fabulous Spanish themed food creations. What a great way to celebrate wine month. Kathy Houser and Ladye Jane Stone you both did an amazing job putting this together, everyone had a fabulous evening! Thank you for all your tireless efforts.

The [Harbour Island](#) 🚢 [Dock Party](#) was later in the month because most of the hosts participated in the Harvest Moon Regatta. It was a cool evening, but we had a lot of warm and tasty dishes. Spooky ghosts and baseball treats actually go well together. Lots of great laughs and light-hearted fun. This waterfront setting is a great place to

relax with friends and enjoy the view. Thank you to all the fine folks of Harbour Island for hosting this fun, fall party.

Coming up is **Doc's ⚡ Dock Party at Taylor Crest Park, El Lago, Friday, November 3, 6pm.** This beautiful location overlooks Taylor Lake. Small boats can tie up at the park docks. The grills will be hot at 6pm. Live entertainment by local artist Gene Rutt. This annual event is one you don't want to miss. Bring your dish to share, your beverage and your chair. Remember that the speed limit is 20mph in El Lago.

Bring your best chili recipe to the **Chilly Chili 🍷 Cruise, Job Beason, November 11-12** for the annual chili cook-off contest. Beans? Vegetarian? There will be plenty of good chili to try and enjoy. Don't forget to bring your quarters for a rousing game, or two, of 'Screw your Neighbor.' The card game that is so easy that everyone can play. This is always a weekend of fun.

Grab a bottle of 2017 Beaujolais Nouveau and head over to Laguna Harbor for the **Beaujolais Nouveau 🍷 Cruise, November 18-19.** Enjoy a relaxing weekend at this great destination. Wine tasting and a cruise! Or come by land yacht and share in the fun.

The traditional favorite of many, the **French 🍷 Picnic Saturday, November 25** at the pasture on the East fork of Double Bayou. Bring a French dish, or just give it a French name, and enter the annual contest. This is always a great competition and an even greater feast that follows! Bring a table and firewood, if you are able. Come early and celebrate Thanksgiving with other early arrivals. Check the website for more information and to see what extras to bring!

The **Commodore's Ball is December 16, 2017 at Lakewood Yacht Club.** This annual formal event is one not to miss. Invitations will be going out at the beginning of the month. If you do not receive an invitation by November 10<sup>th</sup> you can pick one up at the November meeting or send me an e-mail, [rearcommodore@texasmariners.com](mailto:rearcommodore@texasmariners.com) Please send in your R.S.V.P. card and full payment by December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The annual meeting is November 17<sup>th</sup>, this is when we will count the ballots and officially meet our new officers. This is also the time we take care of some official club business. Be sure not to miss this important meeting!

I frequently hear the saying 'See one, do one, teach one,' and often that is how things seem to get done. That works for most and that is great. For me in some things this is okay, too. For most things, I find more truth elsewhere. I prefer Ben Franklin's adage: 'If you tell me, I forget. If you teach me, I remember. If you involve me, I learn.'

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



### [The Cruise Corner](#)

**Ken Ekenseair, Cruise Captain**

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

Let me say the weather has been a trying year cruising for TMCA this year. Even with all that we still found a way to have fun. It was never my intention to leave as early as we did, but a job opportunity opened up and forced us to move on. Good thing we were at the end of the year so I was still able with some help to manage the rest of the year remotely. We will always, even if we are not in Texas will be members of TMCA. I can say TMCA has made such an impression on us, and the friends we have made will last a lifetime. It has been my honor to have been your cruise leader for the year.

Now the fun stuff! While cruising we have seen Jim and Cat Eisele who came and helped us explore the St. Petersburg area. We had such a great time going out bar hopping, eating diner, and going to the Tampa boat show with them. I cannot wait till they start cruising with their new boat when they find it. Then we met Bob and Ellen White who are also from Watergate and old friends with Ladye Jane Stone and enjoyed their hospitality in Gulf Shores Florida. All of a sudden we are in Ft. Myers and we see Bill Berg and Donna Martin and have drinks with them. See how great TMCA is no matter where you are at. We fly our TMCA burgee proudly and will always be an ambassador for this great club.

We still have the French Picnic weather permitting. Then there is a blow out at Moody Gardens for New Year.

Now let us talk cruising! Have you heard the term "it is broke - you just do not know it?" How true this is. Nothing major but, let me say I have replaced every pump, impeller, and belt on this boat since we have left. On top of that, we may have slime growing on our boat in Galveston Bay, but there are critters that attach to your boat here really fast. So when we arrive in Marathon, Florida by this weekend, we will have to get in the water and do some cleaning. The best advice to anyone of you considering ongoing cruising is to keep your slip, move out on the hook in Clear Lake for a month. Use your dinghy, use your generator, and do trips every other day around the lake to Redfish etc. Live on the hook like you are going to cruise. That way you have a slip you can come back to and fix all the stuff that will break the first month. So far: 1

impeller for the dinghy motor (plus 3 more for future), 1 belt for the generator (3 more for the future), 1 fuel pump for the generator, 1 alternator for the engine (with the old one getting rebuilt for a spare), 1 new bolt for the one that broke on the gear shift while I was trying to go under a draw bridge, and 1 new raw water pump for the generator. Do you see a pattern here? 2 new T's for the chart plotter backbone. 1 lost bridle that I need to replace due to dropping in the water while anchoring in Johns Pass, Florida. Installed a water maker, chased down air leaks, but finally got it to making 30 gallons per hour. So cruising is not always sunsets, pretty cocktails, and fun. So use your boat, test the systems HARD! Do the Double Bayou trips, go to Red Fish often. None of this has been trip ending, but it sure does get to be a pain at times.

If any of you are in the USVI, look us up, we will have a cold drink and enjoy a sunset. Fair winds and following seas!

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!

Is fall really here? Somedays I'm not really sure for the weather continues to be hot and humid, but every once in a while, we get a nice cool day and then I remember fall is here. It is time for Fall Festivals, Harvest Moon, changing of the leaves, pumpkins and Halloween. I just love it.

In October I hosted the TMCA Spanish Wine Tasting event with Ladye Jane Stone. Windermere was flooded during Harvey so we had to find a new place to have. Linda Schoene came to the rescue and found what we now call the new "Windermere,"

the El Lago center. It was perfect for they had everything we needed, tables, chairs, kitchen and even ice. Then I was very lucky to have a great group that volunteered to assist with setup, teardown and be wine servers: Lori and Larry Friemel, Charles

Parette, Linda Schoene, Ed and Dawn Gibler, Neil Houser, Butch and Janet Davidson, and Jean and Bryan Mason, our wine connoisseurs who chose the wonderful wines. We had a great turnout and the food, as usual, was outstanding. Ladye Jane found a talented Flamenco guitarist who entertained us the whole evening. It was my pleasure to work with all these folks for I could not have done it without them. TMCA Members ROCK!

Well we are coming to TMCA's 2017-year end but 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:

- Nadine and Russell Graham
- Jeff McHone & Mary McFarlin
- Jake & Cynthia Koshy

May God hold you in the palm of His hand until we meet again,

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

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### **From Your Bean Counter's Calculator**

**Cookie Johnson, Treasurer**

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

Does anyone know what happened to 2017? I cannot believe we only have two more months to go. The weather has turned cooler and reminders that the holidays are around the corner are just about everywhere! The holidays mean different things to different people but I think in general, most of us probably overspend and overeat during the holidays! I don't have any helpful hints to help with the overeating, but I have a few ideas about the overspending.

It's a good idea to have a budget for your holiday spending. And don't forget to include those holiday parties and last minute gifts of wine in your budget. You can budget with one flat amount (for example \$1,000) or



per person (IE: \$100 per person and \$100 for parties). It is best if your budget is cash and not credit. If it is cash, then use cash and not your credit or debit card. If you are using cash, then when the money is gone, you're done. It's an easier way to keep track of your budget. Better than looking at the account and realizing you overspent. Because really, isn't it the thought that counts? The most memorable gifts we gave our kids were gifts that supported our children in their dreams. (guitar for our son, camera equipment for our daughter). Gifts of time are more important than ever these days. Were we always so busy? When did the holidays become more about gifts and less about time together? Commit to time together, rather it's family or friends. That is the greatest gift you can give to anyone!

Try not to overeat and drink lots of water! That's the only overeating advice I have! Have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas (or Happy Hanukkah)!!

**Cookie Johnson,  
Treasurer**

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[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)

**2017 TMCA Officers**

<b>Commodore:</b>	<b>Charles Parette, m/v Andiamo</b>	<b>713-817-8263</b>
<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>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Cookie Johnson, s/v Cool Change</b>	<b>970-486-0192</b>

**2017 TMCA Trustees**

<b>Trustee 2011</b>	<b>Commodore</b>	<b>Doug Chappell</b>	<b>m/v Koastal Kabana</b>	<b>281-330-1163</b>
<b>Trustee 2008</b>	<b>Commodore</b>	<b>Marion Herndon</b>		<b>281-743-4230</b>
<b>Trustee 2012-13</b>	<b>Commodore</b>	<b>Steve Lee</b>	<b>s/v Waltzing Matilda</b>	<b>281-802-9838</b>
<b>Trustee 1984-85</b>	<b>Commodore</b>	<b>Wayne Christopher</b>		<b>281-761-4233</b>



***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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