

# The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

February 2018



## At the Helm

**Larry Friemel, Commodore**

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

January was another active month, starting with a New Year's weekend cruise to Moody Gardens. The ice sculpture exhibits were beautiful and the temps inside the building conditioned us for all the cold weather that followed.

Our annual Planning Meeting was very successful with a room full of members contributing ideas for another busy year ahead and we still have space to add more! As in the past, it is not unusual for us to have a land-based event and cruise on the same weekend with full attendance at both. If you would like to host an event, volunteer or lead a cruise, just contact any Board member and we will help you get started. It's really easy, a lot of fun, and a great way to meet other boaters in our area. Please let us know how you would like to get involved, we would love to hear from you. We also had a good

turnout at the Member Orientation meeting with some great feedback on our event and cruise activities this year. The annual BUNCO Party was a huge success, with the Elks Lodge full of happy TMCA partiers!

February looks to be just as busy with our monthly dock party, a social event and a Mardi Gras cruise to Galveston, which includes the ever-popular TMCA Mardi Gras party at FishTails restaurant. Please consider attending one or all of these events. There should be something for everyone this month, so check the website often for additional events, details or for any changes. Even if you can only participate a few times a year, you will always be welcome and each time you will expand your boating knowledge while having a great time. Sometimes the weather doesn't cooperate, but TMCA always finds a way to adapt and keep the fun meter pegged!

Since weather hasn't been the best for venturing out too far lately, I'm taking advantage of the cooler air temps to complete my annual engine service items and inspections. I always label the install date on my filters, hoses, air cleaners etc. A quick look around the engine compartment reminds me it's that time again. I just can't believe how quickly time passes. It must be all that fun we're having! Another item I will be doing, is a complete inspection of the windless rode. I like to stretch it down the dock to give it a good cleaning, check for any worn areas and make sure the markers are still readable just to make things go a little easier the next time we anchor. Taylor outfall canal, Offatts Bayou, Redfish Island and Nassau Bay are areas we will be using it this year for sure. As we all know, it won't be long before our cruise season will be upon us and it's so much easier to do repairs at the dock than out somewhere. So, come join us and experience what TMCA is all about!

**Special Reminder**, if you haven't done so, please renew your membership and update your profiles in the directory. Up to date information is extremely helpful to your event coordinators and leaders to keep you updated with the latest event details.

Throw those lines off, get out on the water and create memories that will last a lifetime!

**Larry Friemel,  
Commodore**



### **The Corner of Vice**

**Jeff Kaspic, Vice Commodore**

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

New Year's weekend was COLD!! We had a wonderful cruise to Moody Gardens for the New Year's celebration. Thanks to Michael, Constantine and Ladye for setting this up. Jacque and I salute all of you who came by boat for enduring the long, rough, cold journey home. As mariners, we must constantly adapt and overcome. This cruise proved no different by celebrating New Years Eve on December 30 and having the Champagne drop at 10PM which is midnight in Castries, Saint Lucia- just saying, it proved that we will enjoy ourselves despite the challenges of the weather!!

The planning calendar is complete and the information is being placed on the official TMCA calendar which is your source of official club information, so please check it often.

A special thank you to Pieter and Barbara Wybro for their excellent presentation this month. I know I have the itch to drop lines and just go - - -Oh that right, I'm still working! I think we can all agree that the lessons learned were most informative.

Our speaker for our February monthly meeting at the Elks Lodge, is Sarah Gossett, Water Quality Manager for Galveston Bay Foundation. Sarah will discuss the impacts of Hurricane Harvey with respect to water quality and how we as mariners may positively impact our water environment. More details on the TMCA Calendar.

As the promoter of education, it's very important to hear from all you as to what topics may be of interest. I have already heard from some of you with specific ideas and I thank you. If you have a topic, speaker contact or general ideas pertaining to education, please let me know as I value your feedback.

**WALKING THE DOCK: "But I have a new impeller ... Why does it keep shutting down!" *This is the saga of the little generator that couldn't.***

On our previous gas powered boat we had a generator manufactured by a company also known for terra firma based toilets. A short time after routine maintenance which included changing the impeller, the geny shut down with the alarm code LOC (loss of coolant). I figured the alarm trip would prevent a total meltdown, so I reset and restarted. I noticed that some water was exiting with the exhaust and checked it with my hand held temp gun (more on this device in a later installment) and determined it

was HOT! I had to verify with my hand - not advised! Once cooled, I restarted again and verified the block temp where the sensors were fitted and watched the temp climb quickly to shut down. Now concerned that I was going to warp the head, I stopped and started the root cause analysis (RCA) from the input of the raw water to the water pump. Having good flow through the hose indicated that suitable supply was upstream of the pump. This was done by closing the seacock and disconnecting the hose at the seawater pump inlet. I open the seacock and watched the flow go into a bucket. Next, I disassembled the pump and the impeller was fine. I now had to enter the deep dark recesses of the generator. With bolts flying, my camera snapping (so I could hopefully put this all back together), I removed the seawater pump mounting plate and I saw a hard rubber coupling that was split axially (length wise)! The drive stub shaft from the engine must connect to the water pump stub shaft in order for the water pump to rotate. Due to the high torisional forces encountered when rotating components are connected, all machinery manufactures use a coupling that absorbs these forces during startup. Consulting my parts manual, I discovered that the manufacturer called this coupling a "Spur Gear". Great, I know what I need - but wait - the local OEM supplier did not have any! In fact, they said they could not keep them in stock! When I heard this, I practiced my deep breathing techniques and politely informed the parts clerk that this design was terrible and the coupling should be made out of a more elastic material so it will last longer. Much to my surprise, he did not listen or even acknowledge the statement. I concluded with, "if you know this is a weak link in your product, than please stock more." I found the spur gear on line at a cost \$15.00 each - I bought 2! I installed and restarted the geny and beyond explanation it actually ran - for a while. Yes, you guessed right, the dreaded LOC error! After stepping way and consuming some adult beverages to ease the pain, I had a V8 moment! Luckily I did not have a wrench still in my hand! I forgot the age old best practice for all internal combustion engines - if you experience overheating problems, change the thermostat as a precaution. Back to the book and the parts diagram showed a location arrow to nowhere (Kevin's cruise has a special meaning to me). The OEM insisted that the thermostat was mounted on the outside of the engine, my visual inspection disagreed but YouTube proved them wrong (there is a whole section on this particular generator for troubleshooting). The thermostat is actually inside the heat exchanger, so more bolts removed, more pictures taken, all resulting in a new thermostat, gasket's and top off of the coolant. Before starting the geny, I opened the 1/4" coolant air bleed plug on top of the head and then bled the air out of the system by starting the geny - make sure to have rags around the plug hole. Several hours later it shut down again on LOC, I was going to purchase new sensors but decided to bleed the system again and it (I won't dignify the machine by referring to it as "she") ran!

**TIPS:** We all should have on our vessels, spare impellers for equipment that requires them - engines, generators and water pumps. Please check your own generator and determine the coupling type and add one to your onboard spares. When at the dock, look at the component and determine if you have the right tools onboard to perform these impeller/coupling change outs while at sea. You may need "13" swivel extensions taped together to reach the last bolt - yes I did as well as 3 Chiropractor visits! You may want to practice removing the component in a controlled environment so as to be better prepared at night in a rolling sea. When removing old bolts, I inspect / clean the threads (both male and female) or replace them with new. You may want to consider treating the threads with marine grade anti seize or if vibration is concern, thread locker. The benefit of using anti seize is to prevent galling, especially with softer metals such as stainless steel. Anti seize will also provide a thread barrier which will assist in preventing galvanic corrosion with dissimilar metals. Some anti seize products you purchase from the auto parts store contains copper. Cooper can cause galvanic corrosion when in the presence of sea water (liquid or vapor) and aluminum. It's easier for me to just use a marine grade product designed for marine environments and it's easy to find, just do an internet search. The thread locker I use is Loctite® Threadlocker Blue 242® which is designed for future hardware removal during maintenance. While you have the heat exchanger removed, it is a great time to soak it in a barnacle / deposits reducing solution (there are many brands available) and before reinstalling, check your pencil zinc condition and replace if necessary. Always generously apply a

water resistant, silicone lubricant suitable for rubber to your impellers before installing them. This will protect them during startup when the initial water supply is reduced.

This may seem like quite the investment but most of the supplies listed are multitaskers, except for the specific parts mentioned and for \$15.00 for a "Spur Gear", I will gladly pay that cost. Picture this, it's August and the sun set 4 hours ago, the temperature has plummeted to a chilly 92<sup>0</sup>F., you're swinging on the hook at Red Fish, you're settling down to enjoy a comfortable night's sleep in your cool boat when disaster strikes....your "Spur Gear" fails! Your significant other may not be too pleased!

If you would like more details on this problem/solution please contact me and I will gladly share my hard earned knowledge with you.

Please remember that rotating equipment (anything on a shaft that turns) is meant to rotate. Run your generators - often. While at the dock, transfer the load and run the generator loaded. When under way, turn the generator on and let it run under load. The small amount of fuel burned is certainly worth the increased reliability. Running your generator is probably the best maintenance tip any one could give/receive.

Please remember to wear your name badges at all TMA events. See you on the water!

**Jeff Kaspic,**  
**Vice Commodore**



**The Social Scuttlebutt**  
**Dee Latiolais, Rear Commodore**  
**[email: RC@TexasMariners.com](mailto:RC@TexasMariners.com)**

What a WONDERFUL January ! The New Year's Eve event was fabulous at Moody's, and only OUR group could move back time! Despite daunting (ie: FREEZING) odds, our determined group of boaters moved New Year's Eve back one night and rocked the new year in early! Great fun was had by all and everyone returned home safely the next day.

January is always busy with the Planning Meeting, New Member Orientation and of course BUNCO!! Our Planning meeting was particularly busy this year and we have a TON of exciting events planned for you guys! We had good donuts, coffee, kolaches and attendance! Our team is so excited to see so many new events roll out! The New Member meeting was GREAT – we had some members that had only just joined one week ago! Our goal this year

is to continue to grow TMCA and spread the good word about boating! The new members had a lot of questions and showed great enthusiasm in reviewing all of the activities we have planned. Please be sure and "adopt" a new member this year – it is so much easier to navigate the unknown waters with a new friend by your side.

To top off this already perfect day, we had our famous annual Bunco party! Karen Chappell and her Tiara Girls did an amazing job with this event. The food was over the top! The night just flew by with

food, fun and after bunco dancing! Thank you to all who volunteered including our audio/dj, photographer and the ever popular cabana boys! We appreciate you all BIGLY!

There are some fun events coming up quickly so mark your calendars and read your weekly email! February 2<sup>nd</sup> Our first **Dock Party** of the year is slated to be the most fun celebration ever held for Punxsutawney Phil – an interactive Groundhog Day movie and celebration will ensue – you don't want to miss this one!!!

Saturday, Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm the **18th Annual Yachty Gras Boat Parade**- the nautical version of Mardi Gras and "America's largest Mardi Gras Boat Parade." Decorate your boat and join the parade or enjoy the decorations and catch some beads!

Saturday, Feb 25th at 4:30pm is our **Mardi Gras Party** at Fish Tales, Galveston. Super special TMCA price for the VIP party upstairs with live music & FABULOUS buffet! Toss beads and view the Grand Momus parade from the balcony. This is such a fun event every year and even better to be upstairs! TMCA was able to negotiate a deeply discounted rate for our Mardi Gras party this year. Regular price tickets were going to sell for \$125 per person plus tax and gratuity, for a total of \$160. This year, we negotiated a price, which *includes* tax and food gratuity, of \$99 per person! That is a \$61 savings! And, we will have the entire second floor and balcony to ourselves as a private party!



**Bella says to invite some friends and get your tickets NOW!**

To close out our fun filled month, on Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, we will have our fun afternoon/evening event at **Parrot's Nest** @ Noah's Ark . We'll start mid-afternoon to enjoy the Great View of the Bay for a while before dark. Come by boat, anchor out and dinghy in, if you want. Come early or come late , just come! See you there!

***Dee Latiolais***  
***Rear Commodore***  
***TMCA Knows Fun!!***

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## [The Cruise Corner](#)

**Brian Austin, Cruise Captain**

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

It's about time for us to say farewell to winter. It's been with us just a little too long this year. Ice on the docks, busted water lines? What's up with that.

On Wednesday, January 31, the moon will be performing a trifecta for all to see. It will be a Super Moon (closest to earth), Blue Moon (second full moon of the month) and a Lunar Eclipse (partial). The full moon will pass through the shadow of the Earth. For 77 minutes, the usually silvery moon will be covered with a blood-red/ochre shadow. OK, now that I've peaked your interest, the Lunar Eclipse will not begin until the moon begins to set from the previous night, around 6:51 am on January 31. All you mid-week cruising Geezers may want to head out to Redfish on January 30th and anchor overnight and enjoy the view. Forecast

looks really good right now.

We are kicking off February cruising with the Mardi Gras Cruise to Galveston. We still have room for powerboats to register and join us. The uncovered (sailboat) slips have filled up. I am also the Cruise Leader for this cruise (3 points). I plan to head to lead the cruise to Galveston via the ship channel (staying just outside the Green channel markers) and lead the return to Kemah via the West Pass (2 points).

Our cruising schedule kicks into high gear in March with the Buffalo Bayou Kayak adventure as well as three (3) boat cruises to Pelican Rest, Cedar Bayou and Moody Gardens. Check the website regularly for registration information. We are hopeful Walter (our web server) will be well rested and ready to meet your registration demands.

As I've mentioned at our recent meetings, the 2018 Outstanding Cruiser award will be a skill based award. There are 14 skills available depending on the type of cruise the Cruise Leader has designed. From Docking in New Marina (1 point), Med-Mooring (2 points) or Overnight Anchorage (3 points). Buy me a beer (if I'm on the cruise) can get you 1 point! You can double your cruise score if you complete the cruise single-handed in a boat 35' or larger. I'll post the running point totals throughout the year. I look forward to the healthy competition and added benefit of getting more people and boats on the water.

See you on the water.

Bryan Austin

Cruise Captain

***TMCA – Cruising The World***

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## Secretary's Report

**Dawn Gibler, Secretary**

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

I don't know about all of you, but I am quite ready to leave winter behind and get into boating season. Hopefully the weather gods will cooperate and give us some water and good weather for our Mardi Gras cruise in a couple of weeks.

As of January 25<sup>th</sup>, we have 252 members in the club thanks to all of the new members that have joined and the former members that have renewed their memberships. For those of you that have not renewed, please do so as soon as possible.

We have several new members this month, so please help me welcome them:

Patrick & Tammy Cascio

Ron & Karen Haehn

Thomas Kantzos

Capt. William and Christina Kern

Greg Masichuk

Tom & Louanna Peters

Cliff & Kim Presswood

Mark Tarver

### **It's membership renewal time! Your time for renewing your membership is drawing to a close!**

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 or send a check to TMCA, P.O. Box 946, Kemah, TX 77565-0946.

***Dawn Gibler***  
***Secretary***

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

**Cookie Johnson, Treasurer**

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

Happy February TMCA crew! Our February dock party is shaping up to be some kind of awesome!! Who's side are you on? Spring or Winter? I am 100% for Spring!! Cold cold go away!

There have been just a handful of issues with Paypal and I would encourage you to check your registrations and renewals to be sure it went through. I had at least one member who thought she was renewed and then the Paypal charge did not show up on her credit card, so she called and dropped off a check. You can call or come by my office if you have any issues or need help resolving them. My office is located in Watergate Marina in the Bailey center with entrances across from Pier 4 and across from pier 10. If you come to the entrance across from pier 10, please ignore the sign that says you

need a key...you don't!!

The February budget tip: Organize your budget! I use a great app called Good Budget that allows up to two people to access on mobile devices! Set your categories and record your purchases! For example we have a dining out budget each month. When the envelope in Good Budget is empty....no more dining out! I do not use it to track the balance in my checkbook, but it can be used for that. The best way to save so you can go cruising, is to not overspend! A good budget app can help with that....don't forget to budget for monthly cruises with TMCA!

Happy Valentine's Day and Mardi Gras! See you in Galveston I hope!

***Cookie Johnson,  
Treasurer***

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**[Click here for TMCA Calendar](#)**

**2018 TMCA Officers**

Commodore	Larry Friemel, m/v Seascape	281-832-0361
Past Commodore	Charles Parette, m/v Andiamo	281-793-7268
Vice Commodore	Jeff Kaspic, m/v Bare Footin'	832-707-0265
Rear Commodore	Dee Latiolais, m/v Uncorked	281-948-2265
Cruise Captain	Bryan Austin, s/v Austintacious	832-221-5416
Secretary	Dawn Gibler, m/v Amanahecer	832-423-0617
Treasurer	Cookie Johnson, s/v Cool Change	970-486-0192
Webmaster	Linda Schoene, m/v Andiamo	281-433-0996

### 2017 TMCA Trustees

Commodore 2002	Gloria Rooney	s/v St. Somewhere	713-805-0843
Commodore 2008	Marion Herndon		281-743-4230
Commodore 2016	Jerry Simoneaux	s/v Rainbow	713-577-9587
Commodore 1984-85	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](mailto:Newsletter@TexasMariners.com)***

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