

Texas Mariners Cruising Association

The Texas Mariner

We are All about having Fun on the Water

January 2018



At the Helm

Larry Friemel, Commodore

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

Happy New year!

I can't believe how fast 2017 went by. We finished out the year with another awesome Commodore's Ball at Lakewood Yacht Club. The banquet room was filled with happy TMCA members enjoying friends, great food, music and dancing. TMCA boats proudly flew their TMCA burgees both in the inner harbor and surrounding docks. The special recognition awards presented were well deserved by all. I would like to thank all of those who volunteered their time and energy to help make this such a memorable event!

So now we begin another busy year. I am honored to be your Commodore this year and your 2018 board is really excited and eager to help continue the fun. Our trustees this year will be Marion Herndon, Gloria Rooney, Wayne Christopher and Jerry Simoneaux. They are very knowledgeable and experienced in all things TMCA and will help guide us through another successful year. We will continue to look for ways to make your experience with TMCA as enjoyable as possible while carrying on the traditions that have kept us growing and successful all these years.

We begin the new year with a cruise to Moody Gardens to get things going, and yes, we do cruises in the winter! Hopefully you will consider joining us in an event or cruise this year and learn what makes TMCA such a great boating club. On that subject, please plan to attend our **Planning Meeting** at the Elks Lodge, Saturday morning January 13. This meeting is a great opportunity for you to share your ideas and plan the calendar for the many cruises and activities we will do this year. I'm always amazed at the new and creative ideas members come up with to keep the fun meter pegged! For those of you who are a little shy in getting started, just let someone know you want to get more involved. There will be many friendly folks to help you co-host an event or just be part of a group preparing for the next fun activity.

Also, you are invited to attend the **Member Orientation Meeting** Saturday Jan. 20 to meet the new Officers and learn what these volunteers do to keep TMCA successful and running smoothly as possible.

I would like to remind you to continue to visit our website www.texasmarines.com for information on all the fun activities we will schedule for 2018. Your feedback and ideas are always welcome and will

help us make TMCA better for all. Just email me or any Officer with your comments. As you probably noticed, I mentioned the word FUN a lot and that's what TMCA is all about!

Special reminder: It's time to renew those memberships and update all your boat and contact information.

Here's wishing everyone a safe and happy year ahead.
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: ViceCommodore@TexasMariners

The year 2017 will certainly be one to be remembered as it was challenging for all. While some were able overcome quickly there are many still struggling with their personal situations. With 2017 astern, I wish you all a safe, healthy and prosperous 2018!

Please plan on attending our yearly planning meeting, new member orientation and this month's meeting. Our featured speakers will be Pete and Barbara Wybro who are living the dream cruising aboard s/v Marco Polo. Details on all these events are on the web site.

As Vice Commodore my prime objective is to promote education to all the members of TMCA. The knowledge within the club ranges from new to boating to extremely experienced. My focus will be on our new members who may be new to boating or cruising our local waters. During my professional career, I have attended several trainings all of which reinforced topics which I already knew. The more experienced members may find the topics discussed as reinforcement of their existing knowledge. Every month I will have a feature called "Walking the Dock" This feature will highlight my observations and experiences of Best Practices as I walk the docks. The intent of this feature is to share ideas which may be useful to others. By no means will I preach, only suggest ideas.

WALKING THE DOCK: "*To seize, or not to seize, that is the question... if you are an anchor shackle*"

I have been told that Shakespeare originally intended for Hamlet to pose this question rather than his famous soliloquy. While walking the dock I noticed how people secured there anchor shackles to the anchors. I was amazed at how many boaters apparently do not secure their pins. While some pins may have been secured with thread locker, most unsecured pins appeared to have been corroded in place. There are various ways to secure (seize or mouse) your pins with the most common being using seizing wire in Stainless Steel or Monel. Some other techniques observed were cotter pins and E clips. All of these of these techniques will secure your pin but there may be corrosion concern by using stainless steel on galvanized shackles as well as a buildup of material on the surface of the stainless which in turn causes erosion/corrosion. While not observed, I have read that the use of

plastic wire ties is an inexpensive non eroding /corroding alternative. Since the radial, axial and torisional forces imposes on the pin shaft are rather minor, plastic zip ties make an interesting low cost option. What's the probability of an unsecured pin falling out of the shackle, if it happens to you - 100%! We all endure the high cost of vessel insurance as well as spending several hundred dollars on a hunk of galvanized/stainless steel and the thought of not securing your anchor pin should not be considered. Of all the techniques listed above, I feel we all would agree that relying on the inconsistent forces of corrosion to secure the pin or doing nothing at all is not recommended. **" To seize is the answer... if your an anchor shackle"**

Please take a few minutes to inspect your anchor tackle. Check for corrosion / erosion, line chafe, windless condition, the bow roller condition, cleats, anchor swivel, bridle, snubbers, anchor retrieval system, rode length indicators and how well the rode is coiled in your locker. I had a hockle in my line once and it jammed in the windlass - not fun!! We put so much trust in our anchors to keep us, our vessels and our neighbors vessels safe, try not to leave your anchor system condition up to chance. **TIPS:** If you're not familiar with the techniques involved in securing your pin, the goal is to make sure the pin does not rotate and fall out of the shackle. Simply secure the pin (the end opposite of the flare and with the small hole) to the shackle body thus preventing rotation. You may consider putting water proof grease on the threads of the pin to make removal easier when upgrading your anchor or tackle.

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

Happy New Year everyone! I am so excited to be your Rear Commodore for 2018. What an honor to be able to serve in the club I love so much. With YOUR help, we will have a fabulous year. Speaking of FABULOUS, the Commodore's Ball was spectacular! Lori Friemel did an amazing job with this event! A huge thanks to Lori and all of the volunteers that made this a memorable event.

Our first event for 2018 is the **Annual Planning Meeting on Saturday, January 13th at 9:00 a.m.** at the Elks Lodge. Come early and have coffee and donuts with us. We will be planning our parties, cruises and events for 2018 – you don't want to miss it! This is the perfect opportunity to ask questions, share ideas and get in on all the fun by hosting or co-hosting a party or social event. We want YOU to volunteer! See you there!

The TMCA monthly meeting is Friday, January 19th at the Elks Lodge. Dinner orders, cash bar and socializing begin at 7:30. The program begins at 8:00. TMCA members Pete and Barbara Wybro will be our speakers. Since leaving Kemah in 2014, they have cruised over 5000 nautical miles, crossing the Gulf of Mexico to destinations in southern Florida, the Keys, Bahamas as well as the US East

Coast. They will share how they prepared for their journey, destinations and lessons learned. Come and join us – be sure to wear your name badges.

Member Orientation is Saturday, January 20th at 9:00 a.m. at the Elks Lodge. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet your 2018 officers and learn about their duties. We will also be sharing information about cruising destinations, social events and parties, educational events, how to use the TMCA website, and more. It's the first start to getting the most out of your membership. Come have coffee and donuts and learn more about YOUR club.

The 9th annual Newcomers/Existing Members Mixer and Bunko party will be on Saturday, January 20, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks lodge. All members are invited to attend. Please bring a crockpot of soup, chili, a large bowl of salad or dip and chips to share. The Officers and Trustees will provide paper goods, bread and dessert. After dinner, let the games begin! Bunko is super easy and fun, with no previous experience required. It's a great way to start meeting other TMCA members. Plus there will be PRIZES awarded! Please register online at the TMCA website, after Jan 3rd.

As always, complete details for all of our events are available via the calendar on the [TMCA website](#).

Dee Latiolais
Rear Commodore
TMCA Knows Fun!!



The Cruise Corner

Brian Austin, Cruise Captain

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

I'm excited to help chart our cruising for 2018. It's not just the destination that makes these cruises fun; it's also the journey. Last year was greatly impacted by hurricane Harvey which resulted in a number of cruises that had to be cancelled. Hopefully this year will see a record number of cruises and participants.

My vision as your 2018 Cruise Captain is to develop cruises that exercise the skills every boater needs to be a better cruiser. I will assist each Cruise Leader as they develop and plan their cruise. Make 2018 the year you lead a cruise. It could be as simple as a raft-up at Redfish Island or as elaborate as a 10-day cruise down the coast. As I said during my Cruise Captain nomination speech, "we will make cruising great again".

The January 13th Planning meeting will be your chance to help shape the cruises and other activities for 2018. I urge you to make a commitment to be at the meeting and engage in the development of the 2018 cruising schedule. We will have cruises of all shapes and sizes. In addition to the typical themed cruises around the area, we will have day cruises, raft-ups, overnight anchorages, extended cruises up & down the Texas coast and hopefully some of our senior cruisers will develop and lead some mid-week cruises. And don't forget about organizing a charter boat trip in the BVI's or get a group together to take some canal boats down the rivers of France or the UK.

The Member Orientation meeting is a great opportunity to learn a little more about all the destinations we cruise to. This should get you fired up to lead a cruise or be ready to sign up for one when it gets scheduled.

Bryan Austin
Cruise Captain
TMCA – Cruising The World



[Secretary's Report](#)

Dawn Gibler, Secretary

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

Ahoy cruisers!

December was a whirlwind for me and probably all of you. It began with work Christmas parties and then the Commodore's Ball which was an absolute blast as usual. My feet are still sore from dancing! Thanks so much to Lori for the fabulous evening. Her impeccable attention to detail was amazing. Then came the holidays. Ed and I were fortunate to be able to celebrate them with both of our kids and families including our 2 year-old granddaughter who is quite a clown!

Now it's time for me to jump into my new job as Secretary so please bear with me as I learn the ropes as my predecessor, Kathy Houser is going to be a tough act to follow.

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

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

Aries Bajoyo
Ron and Karen Haehn
Janis Keasler
Capt. William and Christina Kern
Bob and Penny Leder

Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Dawn Gibler
Secretary



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

Cookie Johnson, Treasurer

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

2018 is going to be so exciting!!! I got to know many of the members better in 2017 and cannot wait to get better acquainted and spend time with more members!! I just cannot imagine a better club than TMCA.

The cold weather has already created some issues including many cancellations for our New Years Eve Moody Garden cruise!! I don't really like the cold and I cannot wait for the sun to come back and warm us up here in the Clear Lake area and all along the Gulf Coast!!

I like to give a Treasurer's tip in each newsletter, yet I must be careful that I am compliant with all the rules I need to follow as a licensed financial planner and as an Enrolled Agent with the IRS. For that reason, I try to give simple money saving tips or budgeting tips!

I think the most important tip I can give anyone is to keep track of your income and your expenses and to get some financial education!! It's just not taught in schools and most people never take any kind of formal training, so they just float along hoping they are doing things right! Knowing the difference between an asset (a true asset produces income) and a possession is very important. Most of us think we have assets, but we actually have possessions that are worth much less than we think, and which cost us money in maintenance and upkeep (sorry our boats and our homes are possessions). Banks will call our possessions assets. But a true asset puts our money to work making money!

Did I lose you? I hope not. But feel free to walk up and ask me about it if I did!! See you at all the fun stuff this year! Don't miss the planning meeting and be sure to get involved somewhere!!

***Cookie Johnson,
Treasurer***

[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

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