



P.O. Box 262, Solomons, MD 20688  
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# the clew



FEBRUARY 2006

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## COMMODORE

February brings a few changes to SMSA. First, this month's edition of *the clew* is the last printed copy you will receive by snail mail. In an effort to balance the budget, the BOG voted to cease printing *the clew* every month for the majority of the members. If you'd still like a printed *clew* it will be available for a fee of \$20 per year. A fair number of members already receive their *clew* each month by e-mail, or by downloading it from the SMSA forum, similar to the trends of many other clubs and organizations.

The SMSA BOG will hold a general meeting on February 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss some possible upcoming by-laws changes. The Governance Committee, along with the BOG, has been working hard to write a proposal to update the SMSA by-laws. Now the committee and the BOG are ready for your feedback. This is your chance to help SMSA move forward and provide input to shape SMSA's future. These proposed changes are available for review to every member on the SMSA forum. Frank Gerred has offered to make copies available to those who'd like one. Please contact him for additional details at 301-862-3774. Also, check out other articles in this *clew* for updates and information on upcoming seminars and meetings.

Another important item for this time of year....please remember to send in your 2006 dues!! Marc is anxiously awaiting them so he can finalize the 2006 roster. He reported this week that he was busy, so thanks to everyone that has turned theirs in so far.

Finally, Laura and I were lucky enough to travel to Key West, Florida with John & Linda Edwards, and other SMSA members, Joe Szymanski, Sandy Leitner, and Clarke & Mary Anne McKinney to participate in Key West Race Week aboard *Rhumb Punch*. While *Rhumb Punch* was the only SMSA boat to travel to the event this year, the Race Committee was staffed with SMSA members Herb Reese, Don Behrens and Keith Jacobs, who were instrumental in helping Premiere Racing put on this awesome event. Additionally, Don Behrens served as the Master of Ceremonies, on stage with Event Director Peter Craig, announcing trophy recipients all week. The hard work of these members and the resulting exposure SMSA receives in these top notch international events supports our goal to be a premier sailing organization. Thanks to everyone for your continued efforts.

Shawn Stanley  
Commodore  
[sastanley@verizon.net](mailto:sastanley@verizon.net)

## UPCOMING BOG AGENDA

*Please note location change for winter months!*

Southern Maryland Sailing Association  
2006 Board of Governors Meeting  
Thursday, February 2, 2006 – 1930 – Holly II  
Draft Agenda

Opening Remarks - Meeting expectations - setting of the agenda

Significant events report(s) from Governors

### Old Business

Governance Committee – meeting prep  
Site acquisition update – Carl/Don

Closing Remarks –

### Adjourn

## SECRETARY

Please see the SMSA forum for official minutes from the January BOG meeting.

<http://forum.smsa.com>

## SOCIAL

What a great way to bring in the New Year. "Thank you" to all who attended a very successful Awards Banquet with over 185 participants. A special thanks to Judy, Laura, Wendy, Nettie, Carolyn and Lois. These are the ladies who greeted you and made your check in hassle free. I'd also like to thank Don Behrens. In case you didn't notice we were on the dance floor by nine o'clock because of Don's expeditious presentation.

May the new year find everyone in good health and happiness. See you this spring.

Barbara Roberts, Social Governor  
bjandcharlie@chesapeake.net

## RACING

It was really nice to see such a great turnout at the recent Awards Banquet. BJ Roberts, our Social Governor, did an excellent job of planning and coordinating the party. Thanks BJ! And, thank you to Don and Shawn for the nice job in MC'ing and presenting awards. Congratulations to all who raced this season! It was a great year and a great party!

Stew Buckler has recently announced that he will be stepping down from his duties as our club's representative to PHRF of the Chesapeake and as our CBYRA delegate. He's also relinquishing his role as the SMSA official Race Scorer. We recognized Stew at the Awards Banquet for his wonderful work for many years in these activities. I would also like to add my thanks to Stew for the great support he has given to me, in the particularly time-consuming and exacting job as our Official Race Scorer. Thank you Stew! Three of our fellow club members have subsequently stepped up and volunteered to take on these three duties. Joy Dorothy will be our new Race Scorer; Dan Schneider our rep in PHRF; and Sam Septembre our CBYRA delegate. Thank you Joy, Dan, and Sam!

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the Annual Winter Racers' Planning Meeting on Wednesday, February 8th [1900-2100, 4<sup>th</sup> floor conference room, Holly II building, Wildewood (LG's office spaces)]. We will be making decisions that will affect this next season's race program. Among the agenda items that will be discussed: Spirit Award, Wednesday Night Racing format and splits, and start times for middle distance races. It will also be an excellent opportunity to sign up for Race Committee duty. Keep the agenda items coming via the SMSA on-line Forum.

Speaking of RC duty, Stovy Brown and Keith Jacobs have set the dates for the promised Race Management Seminars. All racers should plan to attend at least one of these three March seminars. Topics will include the job(s) of race committee personnel, selecting a course (including

considerations for finishing at Z's on Wednesday nights), start sequences, finish line configuration, scoring, and many other subjects. Each seminar will cover the same material; with three different dates being offered, it is hoped that your schedule will permit you to attend one of them.

The dates and times are:

Saturday, March 4 from 2 to 5 pm

Saturday, March 25 from 2 to 5 pm

Friday, March 31 from 7 to 10 pm

Each seminar will be held in the Holly II building, located in the Wildewood Office Park, 4<sup>th</sup> floor conference room.

As I write this, it's the first day of Key West Race Week. John and Linda Edwards and their *Rhumb Punch* crew are at it again, along with many other SMSA members. [Breaking news! *Rhumb Punch* is in first place after their first day of racing... with a 2<sup>nd</sup> and a 1<sup>st</sup>! Nice job!] Good luck *Rhumb Punch* crew!

Jim Keen, SMSA Race Governor

## There They Stand

by Joanne Forbes

*Ulysses*

*Stage Setting:* Mid-winter. Washburn's Boat Yard. Standing room only.

*Cast of Characters:* *Ulysses* bow faces towards Dowell Road. Just to her starboard side are *Synergy* and *Moondance*. Port side and further down the way we find *American Flyer* and *Spinnster*.

*Narration:* And there they stand. Boats have been pulled from their summer homes on the water and placed on the hard in a seemingly random fashion. Racers and cruisers, large and small, rest companionably among power boats and trawlers. Precariously suspended on metal sticks pressed at odd angles, their keels and bottoms are exposed high above the ground for everyone to see. There they balance, as if sailing on air, innocently

unaware they are immobile and firmly anchored. There they hibernate with no charted destination, no unfurled sails, no race schedules, and no physical movement to suggest that life ever existed aboard. There they wait. And there, stillness reigns.

*Reflection:* In the dead of winter, the boat yard beckoned to me once again. It was a Sunday afternoon when the sun was weakly trying to live up to the forecaster's fairweather promise, but failing by a very noticeable seven degrees thanks to a slight wind coming from the north. Although I had to bundle up from head to toe in winter gear which feels quite out of place at a marina, I answered the call once again. Once again I was overcome by a longing to escape into another world, even though that world of movement is now enveloped by an unnatural stillness. Once again, in the middle of these hibernating hulls, my imagination came to life.

I must admit, I have made several trips to marinas – Calvert, Piney Point, Tall Timbers, and West Basin – nearly every weekend this winter, and, call me crazy, but as I wander rather aimlessly among these sleeping beauties, I wonder if our sailboats are experiencing something other than a season of hibernation. Seeing *Ulysses*, *Synergy*, and *Moondance* from this unnatural perspective as they tower above me, makes me wonder. Are these Comrades-in-Arms exchanging dialogue about sail trim techniques or are they sizing up one another's exposed paint condition? Do they reminisce about the glory days when big winds howled, waves crashed, and their sails filled to capacity, pushing them across the Patuxent River at full tilt? Do they feel an ache for being tested, prodded, pushed and pulled through every demand presented by their captain and crew? Do they sail in their wintery dreams? Which ones will be wakened? Which ones will sleep forever? I wonder.

Quiet stillness falls around me like a warm winter blanket and an awesome aura of peace fills the air. No movement exists, other than a halyard softly brushing a mast, and yet, there is the potential of movement within my reach – potential power, grace, and beauty – movement that is hibernating,

holding its breath, waiting to be brought to life by spring's awakening kiss.

The cold north wind suddenly picks up, bringing me out of my reverie. Where did the time go? The sun is starting to dip towards the horizon, time to go home and mentally prepare for the upcoming week of work. I linger another moment, reluctant to leave, and then slowly, I find myself walking towards *Ulysses'* beamy hull. I stand under her and close my eyes, picturing myself and the crew joining together to bring her to life in just a few more weeks. The air is full of electricity and suddenly, I feel a breath, a warm current – is she calling me? I look around to make sure no one is watching. *You are one of the lucky ones*, I tell her. *You will be freshened up to sail once again*. And then, I lean up against her side and plant a warm kiss on her cold belly. I leave her standing there, but I'm sure that in her sleep, she sails, and now, she smiles.

## SMSA LIBRARY

The author and title listings of the SMSA library are now available at the SMSA website at [www.smsa.com](http://www.smsa.com).

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**DON'T FORGET:** You are entitled to three months of **free advertising!**

**FOR SALE:** HERRESHOFF CAT KETCH 38: Yacht of distinct design and performance offers exceptional qualities for safe, secure, speed, simplicity of operation, maintenance and accommodations usually found in larger vessels. A tri-cabin layout, two heads with showers, a huge salon with u-shaped dinette table seating six comfortably, two overstuffed swivel chairs. 6'4" headroom, abundant lockers, stowage space and book racks. Parquet sole. Caribbean Pine

woodwork throughout. Extra deep galley sink, three burner gimbaled propane stove with oven-broiler, separate refrigerator and freezer compartments--Sea Frost 12 volt unit. Full cover cockpit Bimini, cushions, custom designed pedestal mounted foldout table. Sheets lead to cockpit. All standard electronics. Engine and other machinery in excellent condition The Tilotson- Pearson carbon fiber hollow keel mounted masts and absence of numerous stays, shrouds etc permit the decks to be completely clear for safe movement in all conditions. New main and mizzen sails and covers, Cruisair reversible A.C.-heater unit and electrically operated commode in forward head added in 2004. Well suited to live-aboards or long or short voyages, Bill Hooper 410/ 749-1307. (12/05)

**FOR SALE:** Bottom Siders custom-made cockpit cushions for Catalina 34 (1986) Color: Royal blue with white accent stripe. \$50 for complete set Contact: Dave Zonderman (973) 584-3981 [sail274@optonline.net](mailto:sail274@optonline.net) (1/06)

## EDITOR'S NOTE

The deadline for submitting articles for the March 2006 issue of *the clew* will be:

**February 15, 2006**

E-mail: [pedersenjudy@hotmail.com](mailto:pedersenjudy@hotmail.com)  
Snail Mail: Judy Pedersen  
PO Box 363  
Solomons, Maryland 20688

If you submit an article for *the clew*, you will receive an email acknowledging receipt as the document is created.

# FEBRUARY 2006 SMSA CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30 Sunset: 5:22 PM	31	1 <sub>±</sub>	2 <sub>±</sub> Groundhog Day  • <u>BOG meeting</u>	3 <sub>±</sub>  • <u>SMSA/West Marine Training</u>	4 <sub>±</sub>  • <u>Cruise Mtg</u>
5 <sub>±</sub>	6 <sub>±</sub> Sunset: 5:30 PM	7 <sub>±</sub>	8 <sub>±</sub>  • <u>Race Meeting</u>	9 <sub>±</sub>  • <u>SMSA/West Marine Training</u>	10 <sub>±</sub>	11 <sub>±</sub>
12 <sub>±</sub> Lincoln's Birthday	13 <sub>±</sub> Sunset: 5:38 PM	14 <sub>±</sub> Valentine's Day	15 <sub>±</sub>	16 <sub>±</sub>	17 <sub>±</sub>  • <u>SMSA/West Marine Training</u>	18 <sub>±</sub>  • <u>Yearbook inputs due</u>  • <u>Gen Mtg</u>
19 <sub>±</sub>	20 <sub>±</sub> President's Day Sunset: 5:45 PM	21 <sub>±</sub>	22 <sub>±</sub> Washington's Birthday	23 <sub>±</sub>	24 <sub>±</sub>	25 <sub>±</sub>  • <u>SMSA/West Marine Training</u>
26 <sub>±</sub>	27 <sub>±</sub> Sunset: 5:53 PM	28 <sub>±</sub>	1	2  • <u>BOG meeting</u>	3	4



Rhumb Punch crew - Key West 2006

# MARCH 2006 SMSA CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27 Sunset: 5:53 PM	28	1±	2± • BOG meeting	3±	4± SMSA Race Management Seminar
5±	6± Sunset: 6:00 PM	7±	8±	9±	10±	11±
12±	13± Sunset: 6:07 PM	14±	15±	16± • Social Dinner	17± St. Patrick's Day	18±
19± • Frostbite Race #1	20± Sunset: 6:13 PM	21±	22±	23±	24±	25± SMSA Race Management Seminar
26± • Frostbite Race #2	27± Sunset: 6:20 PM	28±	29±	30±	31± SMSA Race Management Seminar	1 April Fool's Day • Opening Day



Rhumb Punch 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Key West 2006