

Members Mailing Address

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Southern Maryland Sailing Association
PO Box 262, Solomons, MD 20688

March 2009
Vol. 39 No. 3



March			
Sun	1	Frostbite Race #1	1:00pm
Sun	8	Frostbite Race #2	1:00pm
Mon	9	Board of Directors Meeting	6:30pm
Fri	13	Race Management Seminar	7:30pm
Sat	14	Clubhouse Clean Up Day	9:00am
		Catalina 34 Fleet 12 Rendezvous	2:00pm
Sun	15	Clew Inputs Due	
		Frostbite Race #3	1:00pm
Tues	17	St. Patrick's Day	
Sat	21	CPR Training	8:00am
Sun	22	Frostbite Race #4	1:00pm
Fri	27	Race Management Seminar	7:30pm
Sat	28	A Taste Of Solomons	11:00am
Sun	29	Frostbite Race #5	1:00pm

April			
Sat	4	Opening Day	9:00am
Mon	13	Program Chair Meeting	6:30pm
Wed	15	First Wednesday Night Race	6:30pm
Sat	18	Nautical Flea Market	TBD
Fri	24	Small Boat Program Kickoff Meeting	6:30pm
Sat	25	Race: Sharps Island	

*In this issue:
Mystery
Intrigue
Denial.....*

*And a dozen other
boat names you
don't want to be
behind!*

Officer On Deck

Winter always surprises me with how much is happening in an organization that is based on sailing- a warmer weather activity for most of us. If you have been to the clubhouse lately, you've seen the whiteboard covered with training seminars that are offering great opportunities for members to learn new or polish old skills. Our Cruising and Racing programs continue to offer great camaraderie and challenges along with relaxation and fun. And plans are made for clubhouse clean-up to get ready for our fast approaching Opening Day at SMSA 2009. I encourage everyone to find an opportunity to get involved: bartend at a Membership Social, join a cruise, find crew to enter a race you haven't done before, help organize a Social event, or whatever you enjoy!

I'll see everyone at the club or in the boatyard until I see you on the water!

Chris Miller
SMSA Rear Commodore

Race Committee Refresher- Starting Line Length

By Keith Jacobs

In the past year or so, I found myself engaged in conversation about one particular topic on three separate occasions – the length of the starting line.

More specifically, it was about how race committees tend to set starting lines that are not long enough. Certainly, everyone tries to set a good line, but why is it we tend to come up short? There is no single answer to this question. Factors include the difficulty of judging linear distance across the water and underestimating of the number of boats on the starting line. However, we have the means to set lines that are appropriate to the race event and to avoid potentially dangerous situations.

Let's look at three steps that will help you set an accurate starting line.

1. **Consider the Number of Boats & the Size of the Largest Class.**
Take a moment to evaluate the variables of the race. Is it a Wednesday night or a weekend race? Will the current weather conditions (wind, storms, chop, etc.) elicit a large turnout or drive participation down? Have you been able to identify a number of boats that are definitely "in" or "out" for this race? Based on these considerations, you can develop an educated "best guess" about the number of participants in

Opening Day/Birthday Party

To start the season each year SMSA members celebrate the anniversary of the club's founding and recognizes its founding, Charter and Emeritus Members along with past Commodores. Following a Flag Ceremony, a brunch is donated by the membership along with oysters and non-alcoholic beverages provided by the club. Bloody Mary's and Mimosas are offered during the event. This is a great time to meet and interact with other members, not to mention a great way to start the new season.

WELCOME ABOARD!

Please help me welcome our newest club member, **Ms. Jolie Homsher**. Jolie's application for membership was approved by the Board of Directors in January. She been involved in our big boat sailing program for two seasons as a crew member aboard *Rock Lobster*, owned by John Kriz.. This past season, she also participated in our Thursday night small boat program, crewing with Dan Liston aboard *Nor' Easter*. She is a familiar face to our post race gatherings and other club social events. Jolie is eager to become more involved in the club and has indicated an interest in our racing, cruising, social, membership and training programs. Kristi Yurko, our current training and education program chair, is Jolie's sponsor.

Laura Comeau-Stanley

2009 Membership Chair

Want to tell a sailing tale?
Send your stories to clew@smsa.com

SMSA YEAR OFFICIALLY ENDS WITH JANUARY BANQUET

By Tim Flaherty

Dark suits, long gowns, blue blazers and sharp cocktail dresses were the order for the 2008 SMSA Awards Banquet, January 31st at the J.T. Daugherty Conference Center in Lexington Park. About 125 members and guests drank, dined, danced, and watched the awards ceremony.

This marks the second year in a row the banquet has been held at J.T. Daugherty, which has turned out to be a very good venue. The room has been the right size, the food has been good and the logistics have been very easy.

"It's a breeze," said Carol Smith who organized the event as her farewell to the Social Chair position. "They handle everything. We have to do a few things like pick out the linens and the menu, but they do everything else. I LOVE working with them."

Carol was being modest, as she and the social committee did a lot more than pick out linens. Attendees arrived to find they had table assignments, and tables were graced with centerpiece photos of club boats. Preparations for the banquet began the previous summer.

After cocktails and dinner, outgoing Commodore Don Behrens received an appreciation award, the 2008 and 2009 Boards of Directors were recognized, and the informal racing awards were announced. These included trophies and plaques for the Frostbite series, the Double-Handed race, the Mixed Couples race, Wednesday Night series, Patuxent River Regatta, and the small boat awards.

Next were the Cruising Awards. Wayne and Sally Dare (*Virginia Dare*) won the Happy Hour Cruising Trophy for having the most cruising points for 2008. The other big cruising award went to Sarah Southworth and Bill Bacon (*Moonlight Serenade*). They were presented the Joseph T. McGrath Distinguished Cruising Trophy for cruising the most far-flung, remote area of any SMSA boat.....(continued next page)



Jolie Homsher and Courtney Davis accept the trophy for winning the Patuxent River Regatta from 2008 Race Chairman Dan Schneider."



"Bill Bacon and Sarah Southworth won awards in both the Cruising and Racing programs."



The Crew of Little Lattitudes accepts the SMSA High Point Award from outgoing Race Chairman Dan Schneider.

For the Formal Racing Program, awards were given for no less than 17 events. Jeff and Donna More (*Little Latitudes*) picked up the Commodore's Trophy as the season SMSA High Point winner. The overall CBYRA club High Point Trophy went to the McKinney and Meiser families who campaigned on *The Riddler*.

In addition to our own members, six representatives from the Herrington Harbor Sailing Association came to our banquet. Led by *Jubilee* owner Keith Mayes, they were on hand to see Emily Manders accept the Marcy Memorial Trophy for skippering the Beneteau 36.7 to victory in the Marcy Series.

This marks the second time Emily has come to Solomons and won that regatta, as she led a Catalina 27 to the honor back in 2000.

The awards presentation was followed by about two hours of dancing.

"It was another great SMSA event!" exclaimed new commodore "Smitty" Smith as the crowd filtered out of the banquet at the end of the night.



Emily Manders (*center right*) and the crew of Jubilee

SMSA Banquet Draws Out of Town Guests

SMSA was honored to have some sailing friends from Herrington Harbour Sailing Association participate and win awards at our January Awards Banquet. The winner of the 2008 Marcy Series Trophy was Emily Manders. Emily was the skipper onboard "Jubilee" (owned by Keith Mayes) for the Marcy Series. Emily and Keith are no strangers to SMSA. They have raced onboard "Jubilee" for several of our races over the past few years and have shown expert sailing skills as they have placed well in the race results. Emily also was an SMSA award winner back in 2000 when she won 1st place in the non-spinnaker division for the Women's Fall Race Series onboard "MaryBeth". Also a winner at our recent January Awards Banquet was another HHS member Richard Griner from "Coyote" who won 2nd place in non-spinnaker for the Fall Invitational Race. Congratulations to all our HHS friends!

Donna Maneeley

NAUTICAL FLEA MARKET

Saturday, April 18

Got extra sailing, fishing, boating supplies? Anything nautical related? Clean out the house and make a buck or two! Tables available for purchase/reservation or donate your items to the club. All unsold items will be returned (Sorry.)

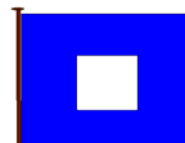
Spread the word!
More details to come!



Race Management Series

7:30pm to 8:30pm at SMSA

- Mar 13: Race Committee Options & Things That Can Not Be Changed
- Mar 27: Advanced Race Committee



Code Flag "P"

Preparatory

RACE Program

By Joy Dorethy

The Racing Season Has Begun!! The Spring Frostbites are in full swing and results are available on the web site. Don't forget to come by the clubhouse after racing for some warm and frosty beverages along with the preliminary results.

The Mark Team has installed the K and V marks out into the river. Each has been repainted and are bright yellow with orange flags flying atop them. T and L survived the winter along with E in the Bay. The location of the new race mark near the Solomons Gazebo has been determined and will be out before the first Wednesday night race. This mark will replace our current X for Wednesday nights and can be used as any normal River Race mark.

The Race section of the www.smsa.com website should be up and running. The current race schedule and link to results are being updated as they occur. All of the links should be working. If you take any photos this year, let me know the web site or if you give me a CD, I will post them to share. If You would like to make the website better looking, please email me or our Commodore. I would love to hand this area off to someone with some artistic ability!

A preliminary version of the Race Circular is available on the web. Take some time and review it and let me know of any errors or items that are unclear. The help from Clarke, Max, and JR was priceless during the revamping process. All of the inputs from everyone and offers for reviewing were Greatly appreciated! And the cover photo of Little Latitudes is terrific. As always, the Race Circular will be available during Opening Day. They will be handed out to registered skippers when they sign up for Race Committee; extra copies are \$10 each.

And speaking of Race Committee, the Spring Frostbites are full, but the April races still need help. Here are the current Race Committee assignments and races that need You:

Month	Day	Week Day	Event	Race Committee
March	1	Sunday	Spring Frostbite #1	Spinnster
March	8	Sunday	Spring Frostbite #2	Jolly Roger
March	15	Sunday	Spring Frostbite #3	Little Latitudes
March	22	Sunday	Spring Frostbite #4	Toby/Shermax
March	29	Sunday	Spring Frostbite #5	Toby/Shermax
April	15	Wednesday	Wednesday #1	Little Latitudes
April	22	Wednesday	Wednesday #2	RC NEEDED
April	25	Saturday	Sharp's Island	RC NEEDED
April	29	Wednesday	Wednesday #3	RC NEEDED
May	2	Saturday	Spring Invitational	RC NEEDED

Don't forget to sign up for at least TWO Race Committee assignments this year. None of us can race unless we all pitch in! Check the web page and email me at race@smsa.com with your selections.

each class. The challenge is that you must process all of these factors before the majority of competitors arrive in the racing area. *(continued on page 6)*

2. **Use the US Sailing-Recommended Rule-of-Thumb.** Once you have an estimate about the size & composition of the largest class, use the following table to help you determine the target length for your starting line.

1.0x Aggregate	1.5x Aggregate
Light Air Flat Seas	Heavy Air Rough Seas

For example, if you expect 10 boats with an average length of 30 feet, you should target a line that is somewhere between 300-450 feet, depending upon the weather conditions.

3. **Use a GPS to Position the Race Committee Boat.** Believe it or not, technology is our friend. Access to & familiarity with how to use a GPS unit will give you the opportunity to set a good line. (Prior to leaving the dock, follow the user manual instructions to set the display to show “Distance to Destination.”) Begin by taking a “ping” of your starting line pin mark. Next, find the new waypoint and set it as the “Go To” point. Now, as you maneuver the RC boat, the GPS will show how far away you are from the pin. If you don’t own a handheld GPS, look to borrow one; then take a little time to learn how to accomplish these steps.

Setting an appropriate starting line is one of the first actions race committee must undertake, and more often than not, decisions about line length must be made without complete knowledge of the size of the classes involved. However, you have the ability to analyze the conditions, make smart

FIRST AID / CPR CLASS

Date: March 21

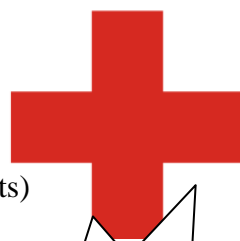
Time 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Cost: \$60/person. (Includes texts)

Earn certification cards for both CPR and First Aid

Email training@smsa.com to sign up!

Bring Lunch!



**Sign Up Now
Filling Up Fast**

Social

Well I hope everyone that was able to attend the banquet had a great time, I know I enjoyed it. This will be my last note as social and I would like to say thank you to Helen Cummings and Donna Taylor for stepping up and taking the social program over. Please welcome them and give them the same great support that I enjoyed for the last two years. It has been my pleasure to serve the club over the last two years. I have enjoyed meeting and getting to know you all, we have a lot of great people in this club. Have a great season, I will see you around the club and on the water.

Thank you
Carol

Just can't wait for your next Clew? Are you feeling sailing withdrawal? Or do you just like to be first for things? If any of these match you, send an email to clew@smsa.com type “early edition” in the subject line. You will be placed on the Clew “early edition” mailing list. You'll get the draft-document version emailed to you before it goes to the printer.

FJ's Get a New Home

Many of us are used to seeing the fleet FJs, the small boats in the back of the clubhouse used for the junior camps. This spring's High School Sailing program will be the last run at SMSA with the current fleet of FJs. The boats, owned by the Southern Maryland Sailing Foundation, will be moved to their new home at Millburn Creek Marina on St. Inigoes Creek. There, the High School Sailing Program will continue and grow as SMSF, a 501(c)3 charitable organization dedicated to promoting youth, high school and intercollegiate sailing, continues the process of forming a US Sailing National Sailing Center. The sailing center will begin operations this summer with sailing classes for youth/beginner sailors and High School/advanced students. Over the course of the next few years, the center will ramp up its programs to include local High School Regattas and Regional and National one-design events and programs. The center and its programs are a cooperative effort headed by Stovy Brown with assistance from members of SMSA, SMSF and Saint Mary's River Yacht Club.

Don't be mislead, SMSA isn't getting out of junior sailing, we will continue to run our other programs. Our Opti camps will run throughout the summer, you will be getting more information about those soon.

My crew doesn't have a Clew!

Did you enjoy your clew? Does your crew or your neighbor have a Clew? Pass your Clew along. Instead of dropping it into the recycling can, pass it on to someone who really needs to get a Clew!

Got a story to tell? Are you interested in placing an event or article in the Clew? After all this is your newsletter....email any inputs to clew@smsa.com and your article or ideas could be included in the next issue! Articles submitted by the 15th of the month have priority for the following month.

Square Pants Optional

Grab your gloves and brooms we have a clubhouse cleanup scheduled for Saturday March 14th at 9:00am. This will be a great opportunity to shake out the dust from all the nooks and crannies around the clubhouse and have it ready for a new season. Glen and Terry will have a to-do list ready for us. See you there!



9:00 am

Saturday March 14th

New Racing Rules for 2009-

Saturday afternoon the clubhouse filled up with an eager anticipation as thirty or so members and guests came out to participate in the racing rules presentation by Stovy Brown and Dan Trammel.

The presentation was watched closely and much conversation occurred as the audience participated in the discussion enthusiastically

If you missed the presentation be sure to review your new copy of the rules available from US Sailing.

US Sailing has also produced a "Handy Guide to the Racing Rules", available at the online US Sailing Store.

Taste Of Solomons

Local vineyards will be shaking their glasses for a wine tasting at the clubhouse from 11:00 to 3:00 on Saturday March 28.

Come on down, bring your friends and family check it out.

11:00-3:00
Saturday March 28
SMSA Clubhouse





2009 Membership Application

Southern Maryland Sailing Association, Inc.

Name 1:	Work Phone 1:	Mobile Phone 1:	
	Date of Birth:	Email 1:	
Name 2:	Work Phone 2:	Mobile Phone 2:	
	Date of Birth:	Email 2:	
Mailing Address:			Home Phone:
City:	State:	Zip Code:	
Participating Children (with Ages):			
Sailing Interests & Programs (check all that apply): <input type="checkbox"/> Racing <input type="checkbox"/> Cruising <input type="checkbox"/> Social <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Junior <input type="checkbox"/> Training & Education <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity			Former SMSA Member? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> From (year): _____ To (year): _____ Original Sponsor: _____
Other Applicant Information:			
Boat Name:	Boat Type:	LOA:	Draft:
Hull Color:	Spinnaker Colors:		Sail #:
Where Slipped:			PHRF Rating:
Type of Membership Applied For (please check appropriate boxes):			
Initiation Fee	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$150	(One-time fee applicable to ALL new memberships – excluding Junior)
<i>Regular</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$440	<i>(Individuals over 30 years of age, sharing a common household, with or without participating children - 1 vote per household)</i>
<i>Young Adult</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$220	<i>(Individuals between the ages of 18 and 30, sharing a common household, with or without participating children - 1 vote per household)</i>
<i>Junior</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$60	<i>(Individuals under 18 years of age / non-voting member)</i>
<i>Big Boat Race Fee</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$225	<i>(If Applicable)</i>
<i>Small Boat Race Fee</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$65	<i>(If Applicable)</i>
Applicant Signature(s):			Date:
			Date:
Sponsors Endorsement for New Members: I hereby recommend the above applicant(s) for membership in the Southern Maryland Sailing Association and agree to take responsibility for introducing the applicant(s) to the SMSA's members and activities.			
Additional sponsor's comments:			
Sponsor Signature:		Printed Name:	
Send Applications to: SMSA Membership Chairperson P.O. Box 262 Solomons, MD 20688		Website: www.smsa.com Email: Membership@smsa.com	