



the clew
Southern Maryland Sailing Association, Inc.



June 2011
Volume 41 Number 6



Commodore's Signal

The Summer season is here! One cruise was completed in May and the Southern Cruise is underway. Two more cruises are planned for June (see Rich Freeman's article).

Both the Keelboat race and Smallboat race programs are in full swing. The chairs of both programs have reported growth in the number of yachts participating.

June starts the Junior program. The Junior committee has put together a strong catalog of courses, which is outlined in this issue of the Clew. There is more detail on the website. The classes are filling up, so if you are interested, do not delay signing up. In addition to the Junior program, two adult programs are being offered, Adult Learn to Sail and Family Fun Night.

Get your grass skirts and Hawaiian shirts out for the annual Luau party held at Zahniser's near the pool. Z's is providing the music, meat entrees, charcoal and grilling. SMSA is providing the beverages. If you would like to bring a side dish or dessert, it would be nice.

It is looking like it is going to be a great summer, however, not all is perfect. We need to build the membership. Please talk to friends at your marina who would make good members. SMSA offers a rich set of social, junior, cruising and race programs. All of the programs are open to allowing a non-member to try, without joining. Just talk about what we do.

See you on the water!

Clarke

Lightning Fleet Expands!

Welcome to the Almans

Welcome Jim Alman, wife Karrin, plus crew David (16) and Mark (8) as new members. The Alman's race a Lightning, expanding our Lightning fleet by 33.3%. David Meiser, a committed Lightning racer, sponsored the Alman's membership. The Almans live in Huntingtown. Their membership application stated that they are interested in the racing, membership, junior and social

YEARBOOKS

Most of the SMSA Yearbooks have been distributed to the membership. The process will be complete by June 15.

If you do not receive yours or if you wish to purchase an extra copy, please contact:

Megan Hildenberger
mhildenberger@gmail.com

SMSA is a member owned and operated club dedicated to being the best sailing venue on the Chesapeake. SMSA hosts the nationally renowned Screwpile regatta. We enjoy full programs of cruising, PHRF keelboat racing, dingy racing (both one design and Portsmouth), summer junior sailing programs and adult sailing education. In addition, we even find time for great social events! Our website is www.smsa.com. For more information, call 888-714-3777

Want to sell something or do you have an idea for the Clew? Please send words and pictures to clew@smsa.com. Questions? Call Roger Bayer 301-934-3925. The Clew is published the first of each month. Submission deadline is the 15th of the month. The Clew is edited by Ellen Aulson and Roger Bayer.

The Historic Triangle

by Roger Bayer

Do you like to get off the boat and do something? Do you like history? If so, one of the best cruising destinations on the Bay is the Historic Triangle: Yorktown, Jamestown and Williamsburg. This discussion is not a description of the sights, please use a cruising guide or the library to research the area. This is more a discussion of information that is not clear in the cruising guides:



The commons in Jamestown National Park. Crosses mark the site of buried settlers.

Marinas

When you look at the chart, Riverwalk Landing, in Yorktown, seems to be the ideal place to tie up. All floating docks, right in the heart of town. Our experience makes us say: **STAY AWAY!** The marina is not protected from river traffic wake. There are no speed limitations on the river in front of the marina. There is a terribly strong current running through the marina. In our case, this made getting on and off the boat very difficult. Also, several people have been killed by falling in the water and being pinned under the dock.

Stay at York River Yacht Haven on Sarah Creek, just across from Yorktown. This is a very protected marina with the best floating docks I have ever seen. It has all the amenities including a restaurant complex offering a crab deck and a very good fine-dining venue.

No Rental Car Needed

York River Yacht Haven has a loaner car for grocery shopping. They also run a shuttle into Yorktown three times a day.

Yorktown has free tour trollies that run every 20 minutes or so. The trollies provide a complete tour of Yorktown, plus they stop at the Yorktown Victory Center and the Yorktown Battlefield National Park.

What about Jamestown and Williamsburg? The Yorktown trolley takes you to free shuttle (full size buses) runs several times a day between the three locations. There is a tour trolley in Williamsburg,

that charges a small fee. Jamestown consists of the Jamestown National Park, which is the actual site of Jamestown and Jamestown Settlement. The settlement is a re-creation of Jamestown, staffed with actors. The shuttle bus is all that is needed.

Consider a Rental Car

While you don't need one, it can be handy. Check this, but I am pretty sure there is no taxi service where York River Yacht Haven is located, so you are stuck there at night. Yorktown Battlefield National Park has a seven mile drive around the battlefield. Stops have signs which explain what happened. The real surprise is how beautiful the drive is. Without a car, you can't do the drive and the drive is the heart of the national park. Jamestown has a 5 mile drive which requires a car. However the heart of Jamestown National Park is the archeological site which you walk.

If you are going to rent a car, Enterprise will pick you up. Be aware that when Enterprise picks you up, they take you back to their office to complete paperwork. The Enterprise office is roughly ten miles north of York River Yacht Haven. If you need to get away early to cruise to your next destination, for an extra fee, Enterprise will let you leave the keys at the marina office. Finally, reserve the car as early as you can. In 2009, the area had been hit by heavy rainfall and flooding had occurred. We could not rent a car because none were available without a reservation.

There are other marinas in the area, but we have no experience with them.

Do you have a favorite stop when cruising? Please write it up for the Clew and share it with your fellow members! Send it to clew@msa.com

Cruising Is Busting Out In June!

By Rich Freeman, cruise@smsa.com

There are three (3) cruise events in June. Actually, the first event, the **Southern Cruise**, begins in May...

Speaking of the Southern Cruise, Patty & I will be the cruise leaders for the entire cruise as Lois & Dave have to leave for North Carolina earlier than planned. There are a couple of minor changes to the cruise as presented in the Yearbook. First, we will be departing on **Saturday, 28 May**, going to Mill Creek, **not on Friday**. Second, we won't have a lay day at Carter Creek. Third, we don't plan on going into a slip at the Tides Inn Marina; we plan on anchoring in the cove behind the Tides Inn. So we will end up having an eight day cruise, Saturday through Saturday...

The **2nd Saturday Cruise** to Mill Creek on 11 & 12 June is a local cruise up the river. It gives participants the opportunity to join in the cruise and not anchor out on Saturday night. We will be anchoring and hosting happy hour at 1700 hours aboard our Catalina 387 *Sandpiper II*.

The last planned cruising event for June is the annual **Summer Sailstice** cruise to Hudson Creek on 17, 18 & 19 June. And you don't have to leave on Friday; you can certainly join us on Saturday and spend the night. If you have never been there, the anchorage is big and there are numerous creeks and bays to explore in your dinghy.

So, Cruisers, here are three (3) opportunities to get out on the water to enjoy your boat and get together in a social setting with other SMSA cruisers. If you are planning to attend any or all of the cruises email either myself or Patty and let us know. Hope to see you out on the water...



The Proud Mothers, L to R: Dottie Hamilton, Ellie Mowbray and Pat Schroder.



The audience, L to R: Rod Schroder, Ken Mowbray and Curt Hamilton.

Mother's Day Weekend Cruise

by Ken Mowbray

The first SMSA cruise of the 2011 season went off as planned. The weather cooperated marvelously, but the wind was too light for much sailing. Even so *Swan* anchored just outside of Rollins Cove in Saint Leonards Creek and was joined by *Rusty Nail* and *Serenity*. The cove was already occupied when we arrived.

The mothers entertained us with pictures and tales of their children and grandchildren as expected, and there was much oohing and aahing. There was no

contest, but if there had been the clear winner was the picture of 3 year old Rod Schroder dressed in a sailor suit, surrounded by pictures of his 3 - 3 year old sons and their 3 grandsons all dressed in the very same sailor suit. A unique family tradition that will likely be continued when the grandchildren have their children. Needless to say all the mothers had humorous stories to tell, and many laughs to share. The hors d'oeuvres were great, and the conversation lively.

Sailing Is Fun

Education Makes It Even Better

SMSA Junior Program Updates...

by Jimmy Yurko (junior@smsa.com)

May was a very busy month for the Junior Committee. We had several members participating in the Navy Patuxent Sailing Club's Geezer Squeezer challenge regatta. We had members working the open house at Spring Cove Marina, passing out flyers and answering questions for would be sailors. We also have been working on maintaining SMSA's junior program fleet operational.

Check out the course listing on the next page and

the SMSA.com Junior page. If you know anyone interested in signing up for sailing classes we have lots to offer. Registration is still open, don't wait... classes are filling up fast, and we have sessions starting the first week of June. We're excited with schools letting out in just a few weeks and we're ready! The excitement of summer is building fast. With over forty sailors signed up for classes already we are well on our way to surpassing last year's participation levels. We have classes for sailors of just about any age, so go see it now.

Family Fun Fridays

By Rob Miller

Do you want to hone your sailing abilities or just looking for an excuse to go sailing? New to sailing or looking for time on the tiller? SMSA has a program for you: Family Fun Fridays, an informal sailing program starting at 5:30 Friday nights and running from May 27 to September 2.

The program is free and open to anyone involved in other SMSA programs. Bring your own boat or borrow one of our Sunfish, Optis or the San Juan 21.

In addition to participants, we are also looking for volunteers to help! If you are interested in helping out on one or more Fridays, contact Rob Miller at (301) 481-9539 or by e-mail at rjmiller@smcm.edu.



Family sailing on a Wednesday night.



Have old tennis balls lying around and don't have a use for them??

Please drop them off at the club, so we can put them to good use! Thank you!

A thank you also goes out to the donors of the jugs for use as Opti bailers! Thank you!

Summer Education Courses

See website for details

Course	Description
Kids Intro to Sailing	<p>5:00 to 8:00pm, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Starts June 7, Age: 5-8 years</p> <p>A four evening course designed to give the youngest sailors in our program an introduction to the Chesapeake Bay and sailing.</p> <p>Emphasis will be placed on fun, teamwork, and enjoying the water.</p>
Beginner Dinghy Sailing	<p>9:00am to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday, Starts June 20, Age: 8-12 years</p> <p>Our Beginner Dingy classes offer instruction for beginners by introducing basic seamanship including rigging, steering, and beginner sailing. Emphasis is placed on safety, learning, and fun.</p> <p>Students are introduced to water safety through classroom and on the water activities. Students will learn boat controls, basic sailing maneuvers, basic seamanship, and wind direction.</p>
Intermediate Dinghy Sailing	<p>9:00am to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday, Starts June 20, Age: 8-12 years</p> <p>This class is for the intermediate sailor who wants to improve their sailing skills. Students who have previously been enrolled in a sailing class with SMSA or have other sailing experience are invited to join.</p> <p>The class emphasizes improving the students' basic skills of seamanship, and of course FUN!</p>
Teen Beginner Sailing	<p>9:00am to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday, Starts July 4, Age: 10-15 years</p> <p>Young teens and tweens interested in learning to sail will be introduced to the fun of sailing in a social environment. With 2 students working together to sail the boat they get all the fun & learning they crave.</p>
Advanced Teen Racing	<p>9:00am - 4:00pm, Monday thru Friday, Starts June 27, Age: 12-18 years</p> <p>This class is for the intermediate and advanced teen sailor who wants to improve their sailing skills. Students who have previously been enrolled in a sailing class with SMSA or have some other sailing experience are invited to join. The class emphasizes improving the students' basic skills of seamanship, racing skills and teamwork. This course is FUN. <i>The class will be held at the Sailing Center Chesapeake on Price Cove and is a collaborative class between SMSA and the Sailing Center Chesapeake.</i> The course will utilize Club FJs.</p>
Adult Learn to Sail	<p>5:30pm – dark, Mondays, Starts June 6/Free for Members, Age: 16 and up</p> <p>Our Adult Sailing program is taught on Sunfish and small keelboats. This course focuses on the fundamentals of small boat sailing. The course is open to any sailor interested in learning or improving their small boat sailing skills.</p>

Come Party With Circumnavigators On Friday, June 24th!!

By Tim Flaherty, rearcommodore@smsa.com

Here's your chance to mingle, drink and talk with circumnavigators at SMSA, as scores of them will descend on SMSA for Happy Hour on Friday, June 24th

OK, we aren't talking about the Volvo or going global, but we are talking about circumnavigators in the annual Sailstice Delmarva Rally, which is stopping for a party in our fair boatyard!. At least 20 boats and up to 200 Sailors are taking part. After the fleet gets into Solomons on Friday, everyone is heading over to SMSA for Happy Hour from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Event organizers are renting our yard, and SMSA volunteers will be manning an outdoor bar to serve the throng and to serve YOU!! Come joining the festive atmosphere and talk sailing with our visitors. There might even be a few

NPSC Geezer Squeezer Challenge Results

SMSA Stomps The Navy

by Jenn Miller

On Saturday, May 7th, 4 members of the Southern Maryland Sailing Association demonstrated their sailing prowess and represented SMSA in a formal challenge issued by the Navy Patuxent Sail Club (NPSC) in the First Annual NPSC/SMSA Geezer Squeezer Sail-off. Jimmy Yurko, Jolie Homsher, Megan Hildenberger, and John Durniak were the sailors for SMSA and faced off in the West Basin Marina against 5 sailors from NPSC. The NPSC Commodore, Todd Porter, who issued the challenge, welcomed all of the SMSA participants and spectators to the club, and promised a day of good sailing, good food and good fun all to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project. As the racers prepared for the race, Jimmy Yurko began to rig and test his spinnaker – yup, that's right – Jimmy modified his Opti and added a spinnaker!



Jimmy's Opti Spinnaker.

The wind and weather conditions were perfect, and race committee was able to run four races with 8 to 9 boats participating in each race. Unfortunately before the first race started, Jimmy experienced a halyard malfunction and was not able to use his spinnaker during any of the races. Nevertheless, the SMSA members represented the club

well, with Jolie winning 3 out of the 4 races, and all of the SMSA members racing very respectable races...

whom we can talk into becoming SMSA members!

For more information on the Sailstice Delmarva Rally, check <http://www.spinsheet.com/delmarva> or <http://www.delmarvarally.com>.

We still are in need of a couple more volunteers to man the bar and run the event. If you can spend a couple of hours to help your club, host visiting sailors, and have a good time, contact Rear Commodore Tim Flaherty at rearcommodore@smsa.com. Let's make this a great showing for SMSA!!!



Jolie leads the fleet.

until the NPSC brought out the paddles and the racing dissolved into a series of water fights.

After the racing was done, NPSC continued showing their excellent hospitality by providing everyone, participants and spectators alike, with hamburgers and hot dogs, while the NPSC Commodore crunched the numbers to determine the winner of the event. In the end, SMSA won the challenge, but NPSC received the greatest number of "Did Not Finish"s for successfully dousing SMSA members with water guns, bailers and the like . . . with honorable mention to Jimmy Yurko from SMSA for bringing the largest bailer ... or bucket ... to the water dousing competition. However, the real winner of the day was the Wounded Warrior Project for which the event raised \$500. Thank you to NPSC for inviting SMSA to your club – we look forward to doing this again next year (and will come better prepared with bigger bailers)!

Party On With Port Events

by Hannah Schneider



In the words of Tom Cruise, "Help me, help you!!!
Wenches show a leg, coerce, barter your sailor's
down the gangway for Port Events! Walk the plank
or cooperate with the Port Events Committee,
where it's fun to
make fun.

SMSA has started
a "Port Events
Committee" whose
vision is to host
a few first-class
land events each
year; which one
is unable to find
with such pizzazz
elsewhere locally.
In choosing
events we aim
to regard club
demographics,
publicity,
exclusivity, and
social unity. And
to drink & have
fun of course!

We plan to split
the events, those
exclusive to club
members where
we break-even
for cost & those
that will make
us known to the
public and bring in funds (public events at a lower
club price for members).

The Social Committee manages the great parties
we do year after year, such as the upcoming Luau.

The Port Events Committee is tasked
with creating a calendar of events
that will not necessarily repeat
year after year but will be replaced with new and
different parties.
Both committees
are missioned to
make SMSA a
really fun club.

HELP: The
committee
muster's in port
at the club house
to discuss events,
drink beer & get
to know each
other better. The
Committee makes
the decisions.
Want to help
but don't want
to commit to the
committee, great
email Hannah.
Want to make
decisions, great
email Hannah

HELP: Sailors:
Compete in the
beer competition
for Oktoberfest

HELP: Have
children? Help those on the committee cater events
for your minions!

Please contact chair member, Hannah Schneider -
hannah.bulyenko@gmail.com or 410-610-6288.

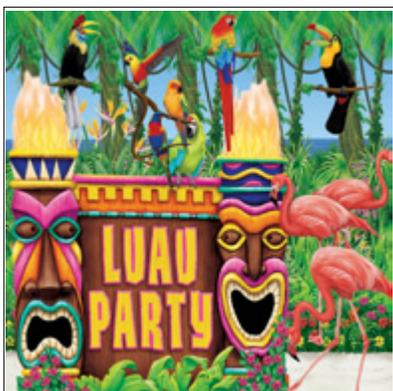
Preliminary Party Schedule

2011

- Sept 10th Harvest Moon Party (kids, those still growing up & grown-ups featuring pumpkin carving contest for young & old, a bonfire outback, floating party hay barge and fire engine rides, more to come)
- Oct. 8th Oktoberfest (Public featuring beer tastings, beer making competition, and of course, the best of the wurst. Come as a Saint Paula girl, bring your stein, more to come)
- Nov. 4th Comedy Show (Public)
- Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Party

2012

- Feb 11th Saint Valentines Day feast
- Mar 10th Spring Wine Festival



June 4th - 4:00 PM until ?
Where: Zahniser's - The Hillside by the pool.
Music, Meat entrees, charcoal, and grilling provided
by Zahniser's
Beverages provided by SMSA
Members are asked to bring side dishes and desserts
Dress code: Grass skirts (that's all, just grass skirts) or
Hawaiian Shirts

Held in conjunction with the Women's Spring Series
Races

Sponsored by Zahniser's and SMSA



**Scott Kirby Returns!
Sunday - August 14th
More To Come!**

Nautical Flea Market A Success

By Frank Gerred

The SMSA Nautical Flea Market held on April 10 was a winner! The SMSA table which took contributions from the membership and also a few outsiders took in over \$400. Those who rented the twelve tables all reported a profit of some sort and were relieved to be liberated of some no longer wanted or needed items. Three of the tables were rented by non-members, the remaining were SMSA. One enterprising young member, Rylee, sold lots of homemade brownies and cookies and was very pleased with her earnings. The Communications Committee did a great job of spreading the word. We had customers from as far away as Annapolis and Richmond.

Our published time of 9 to 5 turned into 9 to 1. We had heavy traffic early in the morning but it dwindled as the day wore on. The serious buyers arrived early to get the best selection and the best deals. In the future, suggest 8 am to 1 pm would be appropriate. Some suggestions for the future would be additional banners (similar to Dominoes near Food Lion), small roadside signs announcing the flea market, date time, etc., with an arrow pointing to SMSA. Announcements in the local newspapers weekend calendar. We might also rent tables to local commercial businesses such as West Marine, Garhauer, etc.

Many thanks to all who helped: Tim and Lisa Flaherty, Roger Bayer, Max Munger, Barbara Whited, Linda Edwards, Herb Reese, Ellen Aulson, and Megan Hildenberger. Also thank you to those who contributed items to the SMSA table. As an aside, unsold items from the SMSA table have been taken to a consignment shop and we will hopefully have additional earnings still to come.

Editor's notes: Over \$100 has been received from the consignment shop, making the total revenue received by the club over \$500. Frank submitted this article for the May Clew, but it inadvertently got lost. The Clew apologizes for the delay in printing and congratulates Frank on a job well done!



News from the Yard

By Jolie Homsher

I have recently joined forces with Barbara Whited and am now the co-chair of Facilities and have been named Dock Master. My duties include maintaining all things related to the exterior of the building as well as boat storage and assisting Barbara with the interior as needed. If you feel there is something that needs attention outdoors or in, please feel free to let us know. Comments and suggestions are welcome!

With the help of a few volunteers and many hours of work over the last 30 days, many repairs and improvements were made to the docks for your benefit and safety. We repaired the dock by the hoist, installed 2 safety ladders and new fire hose to the pylons beneath the hoist and to the T-head and removed worn out hose. We also removed protruding nails, tightened cleats and secured loose boards on the docks.

We owe a big thank you to Mardy Millen for his hard work and to Spring Cove Marina for their contribution of materials & supplies that made many of the above dock repairs possible!

Future projects include: trimming overhanging branches from our side alley including those touching the roof, disassembling the unused floating dock and removing hardware from a demolished wooden structure for reuse in the future and remarking boat storage areas.

If you'd like to help with any of these items please email me at facility@smsa.com

Lastly, a Ping Pong table has been obtained for the membership to enjoy and is located in the multipurpose room! See you in the yard and on the court! ☺



Facilities



Artful Dodger for Sale: Soverel 30, 1980 with Renault 16 hp diesel. A sweet boat to helm! Competitive Racer with cruising comforts that can sleep 5 and has lots of storage. Draft 5' 3", Beam 11' 0", Headroom 6', Double spreader with rod rigging. VHF, speed/knotmeter, 2 deck mounted compasses, Kledgecell closed cell foam cored, 9 sails including 2 spinnakers. Refurbished and major items replaced in 2009. New Awlgrip hull and deck in 2010. Surveyor's Fair Market Value - 22k. 2010 Survey available. Jerry Taylor 410.474.6834

Crab Boat Racing!

On Saturday May 14 Solomon's and the Chester River were invaded by what sounded like motorcycles, but were in fact skiffs... Smith Island Crab Skiffs to be exact. In conjunction with the Calvert Museum's Antique Boat and Marine Engine show a race was run off of the Pavilion in front of SMSA headquarters. This is the first time in the three years that the Association has been attending the Museum's event that the boats were able to race.

The Smith Island Crab Skiff was originally built in the late 1920's on Smith Island as a variation of a French Sailing Bateau. They were one of the first boats on the bay to be powered by an inboard engine, a 2-6 Palmer style engine that could be ordered out of the Sears and Roebuck catalog. Their purpose was to get in and out of the marshes as quick as possible for soft crab harvesting. Unlike all other bay skiffs they were also planked fore to aft to generate more speed than traditional cross-planked boats, causing them to jump out of the water like a speedboat. These speedy skiffs were raced up and down the eastern shore in the 1920's & 1930's, and even rumored to make bootlegging runs during Prohibition. Howard Chapelle



Smith Island Crab Skiffs Racing

documented three different boats as "Smith Island Crab Skiffs" in the 1950's. Out of the original skiffs, only two have been found at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels and the other is on loan

from the Calvert Museum and now is on display at the Visitors Center on Smith Island. The Association was created in response to a racing challenge in 1998 between Oxford and Crisfield to build a skiff true to the original design. Instead of the 2-6 horsepower engines these boats are powered with 20 horsepower lawnmower engines, one even uses a motorcycle engine. At least 12 boats have been built of wood or fiberglass. They race and display these boats at least five times a year to keep a part of history alive and to encourage others to join in on the fun.

On the day of the race the weather was choppy. Four boats arrived ready to race. *Old Bay*, a yellow skiff driven by Trey Shinault was able to make a practice run, but ended up having some electrical and mechanical problems and was unable to race. A second boat declined to race because of the weather. So come race-time only two boats remained: *Kissed By A Minnow*, an orange boat Captained by James Parker and *Slippery Eel*, a white boat Captained by Chuck Warner. It was a close race but *Slippery Eel* came in first. You can find videos of the race on U-Tube under the title of "Smith Island Crab Skiff". The Association would like to thank the Museum and the SMSA for hosting the event and supplying the markers/committee boat. For more information on where they will be racing next, you can find them on Facebook, or call (804) 366-5351.

Editor's Note: SMSA provided the race committee. At first the racers were confused by all the flags, but they got used to them! ☺

Who Are You Going To Call?



Officers

Commodore

Clarke McKinney:

W 410-326-2600 C 301-481-0672.

Vice Commodore

Jeff Moore: 301-481-1354

Rear Commodore

Tim Flaherty: 301-481-7474

Secretary

Betsy Dodge: 410-326-9686

Treasurer:

Joe Kubinec 301-373-3477

Directors

Don Behrens: 301-862-2281

Jim Keen: 410-326-4295

David Meiser: 410-326-1114

Max Munger: H 410-326-9024

C 410-353-1150

LG Raley: 301-862-3100

Rod Schroeder: 410-326-0167

Program Chairs

Bar: Max Munger H 410-326-

9024 C 410-353-1150

Communications: Roger

Bayer H 301-934-3925 C 203-

561-9241

Cruise: Rich Freeman 703-

569-1413

Facilities: Barbara Whited

410-586-0601 & Jolie Homsher

301-481-8609

Junior: Jimmy Yurko 240-

434-1312

Membership: Ellen Aulson

410-326-2383

Race: Marc Briere H 410-495-

7672 C 443-624-7840

Social: John Dixon 301-862-

9031

Training: Kristi Yurko 240-

725-0475

Small Boat Racing - The Portsmouth Handicapping System

by Keith Jacobs

OK, quick question: how many people know about time-on-time handicapping? If you don't race in the club's Small Boat Program, such a concept may be a new one. Big boat racers are well aware of the PHRF time-on-distance system in which ratings are provided in a "seconds per mile" format. If you know your rating, your competitor's rating, and the distance of the race, you can quickly determine your "handicapped" positions relative to each other. This approach requires you to know the precise location of the start & finish lines, and all marks.

Enter the Small Boat Program, with a different approach. In the world of Thursday night racing, a time-on-time handicapping systems provides the ability to run as many quality races as possible before the sun sets. Why? Because distance is irrelevant. Handicapping is based on a comparison of the time it takes boats of all classes to sail the same racecourse. And because there is no distance component, race committee does not need to worry about recording the GPS locations of each mark. They can set the marks & run a race. If the wind shifts, they can reposition the marks & start the next race right away. Typically, anywhere from two, three, or four races will be run each night. I recall a few instances where energetic race committees were even able to get in a 5th race.

The Small Boat Program adopted U.S. Sailing's Portsmouth Handicap from the beginning. There are a few very nice features about this system. First, a boat's rating for each race is adjusted based on how much or how little wind there is; this is known as wind indexing. As we all know, all boats don't perform the same across all conditions. Wind indexing accounts for this. Note that like PHRF, the lower the Portsmouth rating, the faster the boat.

Let's look at an example.

Class	PORTSMOUTH RATINGS			
	Wind Range (knots)			
	0-3	4-10	11-16	17 & Up
Albacore	94.5	92.5	88.7	85.5
Laser	93.7	92.3	91.0	88.2

What this tables shows is that in light to moderate breeze, the Laser rates faster than the Albacore. However, when the breeze picks up, the Albacore pulls away.

So, just how does the Portsmouth handicap work? Well, a second benefit of the Portsmouth system is



SMSA uses Portsmouth Handicapping if one design racing is not possible.

that ratings are based on actual results. Along with clubs from all over the country, SMSA submits race results (classes, start times, finish times, and the average wind for each race) to the U.S. Sailing Portsmouth Committee at the end of each year. The merged data is then compared to a single class against which all performance is measured. That class is the Thistle, and it has a rating of 83.0 across all wind ranges. (Unfortunately, I have no idea how 83.0 became the central number.)

The corrected time calculation is straightforward, though not as easily performed as time-on-distance while out racing on the water. However, that does lead to a sense of anticipation back at the Clubhouse each Thursday night as everyone awaits the final, formal results.

$$\text{Corrected Time} = \frac{(\text{Elapsed Time}) \times 100}{\text{Portsmouth Rating}}$$

Fortunately, we have a computer program that allows us to enter the start and finish times, and the average wind speed. It then applies the appropriate handicap and calculates the results.

Overall, the Portsmouth Handicap has worked very well for the Small Boat Program. Corrected results are often close, with ties within races not an uncommon event, though it seems that Robert Herbig has been involved in more than his fair share....

SMSA Sailors Plunder Belhaven

by Jimmy Yurko

Over the weekend of May 20-22 SMSA sailors trekked to Belhaven, North Carolina for the Pirates on the Pungo regatta. This regatta is a benefit for the Pungo District Hospital and helps keep the people of the Inner Banks of North Carolina living well. The sailors attending this event were Jenn & Rob Miller, Jim & Barb Whited, Jolie Homsher, Annabelle, Kristi & Jimmy Yurko. Belhaven is a wonderful place to sail. It is nestled along the Inner Banks of North Carolina along the Pungo River, which feeds into the Pamlico Sound. This venue has both wide and sheltered bays as well as tidal rivers to sail. There is beautiful scenery in every direction. The regatta hosted PHRF, Cruising, Portsmouth and One-Design races. SMSA sailors competed in the Buccaneer 18 class, making up 2 ½ of the 14 teams competing, and represented SMSA well.

We were welcomed to Belhaven with a party that started at five o'clock Friday evening, and continued well into the night. Most of the small boat sailors stayed in one of the dozens of tents that were spread across the grass in the very home-grown campground at the Aurer residence. The remainder found comfort in the local bed & breakfasts.

Saturday's racing brought four races in light and shifty conditions as the sea breeze fought a light westerly breeze which made for a test of patience, fleet

management...and of course a little luck.

Saturday night we were treated to a delicious southern style seafood dinner and live music and dancing.

Sunday's racing was in steady conditions with 75 degree air temps and a great 8 knot breeze. Consistent solid sailing put Alexandria, Virginia's Jeff Neurauter atop the 14 boat Buccaneer 18 fleet after a total of 7 races. Team "Dodgem!!" Jimmy Yurko & Rob Miller won 2 races at the event finishing second overall. "Christopher Dragon" sailed by Jim Whited & Jenn Miller held strong with much front of the fleet action. The "Dragon" team sailed well and in a close fleet where five and six boat overlaps at the finish line were common, they were able to secure a mid-fleet place for the green team dragon. Newcomer to the Bucc18, North Carolina's Jason Tan picked up some SMSA talent by way of Jolie Homsher. She was out to show just how powerful a team member she is bringing up the performance of their team "Zephyr" into a trophy contention by the end of day one, but in a regatta with "no drop scoring" an *on course side* call put the team back several places, just out of the trophy round.

Overall the weekend was a huge amount of fun, and we look forward to going back.

Audibles from the Keelboat Race Chair

by Marc Briere

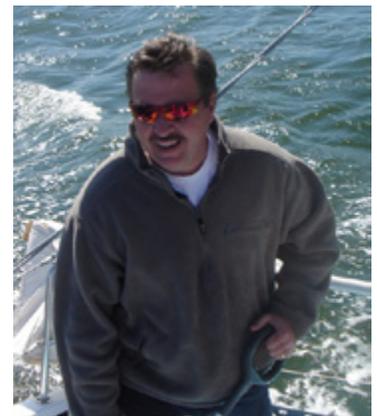
I want to start out by saying THANKS...to all who have helped get this year's race program geared up just in time for the sailing season. Thanks to all for taking the time to participate in the email exchanges and survey because your input matters! Thanks for getting your race fees, paperwork and PHRF certificates submitted. Thanks to all who have signed up to be RC. Thanks to Bill and Marty for helping freshen up and extend the life of our race marks and thanks to Dan, John, Bill and Ron for helping launch and accurately position the marks. Thanks to John, Clarke and Dan for the coordination, dropoff and return of the big RC boat from the boatyard on the eastern shore. The maintenance and repairs look great. Big thanks for the continuing efforts by Jim to keep the schedule, RC signup, PHRF certs and scores managed and updated on the website. It takes participation from a host of folks to make this program work.

Next I want to congratulate the crew of *Rhumb Punch* for their successful efforts in Charleston (all bullets)! Congratulations also goes out to the crews of *Splash*, *Pursuit* and *Ol' Yeller* for finishing at the top in our Spring Frostbites.

It looks like most of us have survived the winter months and the spring boat preparation routines as our Wednesday Night race fleet is already up to 26 boats and from what I hear, more are more on the way! I'd like to welcome back last year's fleet and welcome a new boat to the A fleet, *Crocodile*, another scratch boat who is already stretching its legs on the course. I've got an order in for new embossed, "pint" glass informal race awards that should be here soon. I will play catch up and hand out the glasses for the first few races ASAP.

Don't forget to sign up for RC! Keep your input coming! Be ready for mid-year discussions for next year's program!

PLEASE talk up weekend racing amongst the fleet and let's bring up participation numbers in our formal race events!!



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June			June			July			July		
1 Wed	Wed Night Racing	6:30	15 Wed	Clew Input Due		1 Fri	4th of July Cruise	10:00	15 Fri	Social at SMSA	5:00
2 Thurs	Small Boat Racing	6:30	16 Thurs	Small Boat Racing	6:30	1 Fri	Social at SMSA	5:00	15 Fri	Family Fun Fri	5:30
3 Fri	Social at SMSA	5:00	17 Fri	Summer Sailstice Cruise	10:00	1 Fri	Family Fun Fri	5:30	15 Fri	Eastport Race to Solomons	6:00
3 Fri	Family Fun Fri	5:30	17 Fri	Social at SMSA	5:00	2 Sat	Stars & Stripes Race	12:15	16 Sat	Screwpile Open House	5:30
4 Sat	Women's Series Race	10:00	17 Fri	Family Fun Fri	5:30	4 Mon	4th of July Party	6:00	17 Sun	Screwpile Regatta	10:00
4 Sat	SMSA Luau	4:00	18 Sat	Little Choptank Race	10:00	6 Wed	Wed Night Racing	6:30	18 Mon	Screwpile Regatta	10:00
5 Sun	Women's Series Race	10:00	19 Sun	Summer Invitational Race	12:15	7 Thurs	Small Boat Racing	6:30	19 Tues	Screwpile Regatta	10:00
8 Wed	Wed Night Racing	6:30	20 Mon	Junior Summer Camp Start	9:00	8 Fri	Social at SMSA	5:00	20 Wed	Wed Night Racing	6:30
9 Thurs	Small Boat Racing	6:30	22 Wed	Wed Night Racing	6:30	8 Fri	Family Fun Fri	5:30	21 Thurs	Small Boat Racing	6:30
10 Fri	Social at SMSA	5:00	23 Thurs	Small Boat Racing	6:30	9 Sat	Race/Cruise Herrington Harbor	10:00	22 Fri	Social at SMSA	5:00
10 Fri	Family Fun Fri	5:30	24 Fri	Social at SMSA	5:00	9 Sat	Herrington Harbor Social	5:00	22 Fri	Family Fun Fri	5:30
11 Sat	Small Boat Regatta	10:00	24 Fri	Family Fun Fri	5:30	11 Mon	BOD & Prog Chair Meeting	7:00	27 Wed	Wed Night Racing	6:30
11 Sat	2nd Sat Cruise	10:00	24 Fri	Sailstice DelMarVa Rally	5:30	13 Wed	Wed Night Racing	6:30	28 Thurs	Small Boat Racing	6:30
13 Mon	BOD & Prog Chair Meeting	7:00	29 Wed	Wed Night Racing	6:30	14 Thurs	Small Boat Racing	6:30	29 Fri	Social at SMSA	5:00
15 Wed	Wed Night Racing	6:30	30 Thurs	Small Boat Racing	6:30	15 Fri	Clew Input Due		29 Fri	Family Fun Fri	5:30

For more details: Go to www.smsa.com, then click on Calendar, then click the item that interests you.