



the clew
Southern Maryland Sailing Association, Inc.



November 2011
Volume 41 Number 11

Annual Membership Meeting

Vote for the people to run SMSA!
Saturday, November 5th, 10:00 AM
Clubhouse

The Membership Meeting is followed by:

The World's Greatest Potluck Brunch

You are invited to bring your best brunch dish to share.
Non-alcoholic beverages are on the club.

In case you missed it last month:

Membership Dues Waived For New Members

Have friends that may be interested in joining SMSA? Now is the time to do it! SMSA waives the membership dues for new members joining in October, November or December. When joining during this time period, the only cost is the \$150 initiation fee, no membership dues. Other fees like race fees for frostbiting still apply.

The fourth quarter of the year is truly the social season. Talk to your friends about joining. Give them the new club brochure.



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

Do you have an idea for the Clew or want to sell something? 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, Jolie Homsher and Roger Bayer.

Welcome New SMSA Members

By Ellen Aulson, Membership Chair

Rachel and Russell Clift live in Solomons Md. They have children Addison 6 and Marley Grace 1. Their boat *Key West* is kept at the Naval Rec Center. Look for them to be active in the Cruising, Social, Training, and Membership areas. They were sponsored by Kristy Yurko.

Ray and Mary Beth Peloquin live in Baltimore MD. They have an

Erickson, named *Rigel* that they keep at Calvert Marina. They will be active in the cruising scene, facilities, training, and members. They were sponsored by Peter Carlson.

Cynthia Lerner hails from Solomons, MD. She looks forward to getting back into the sailing scene after sailing an O'Day for many years. Look for Cynthia helping out Social, Training, and Membership. She was

sponsored by Jimmy Yurko.

Jennifer Kohl is from Washington DC. Her Buccaneer, *Dragonfly* is kept at SMSA. She plans to be active in the racing, facilities and membership areas. She was sponsored by Jimmy Yurko.

We look forward to meeting all of our new members.

Cruise to St Leonard Creek

by Rich Freeman

This cruise was added to the schedule after the Oxford cruise which no one attended except Patty and I. The weather then wasn't ideal but it turned out to be a wonderful week-end on the water. We thought it too long between the Oxford cruise and the Cambridge cruise; there was too much good weather remaining to not have SMSA folks get out on the water to enjoy their investment.

Anyway, the weather this week-end was beautiful but a tad windy, to say the least. We departed Spring Cove Marina about noon and headed into the Patuxent River. The wind in Back Creek was brisk and picked up considerably as we entered the river. Winds were generally out of the west blowing a steady eighteen to twenty-two knots with white caps as far as you can see. As we passed under the bridge and rounded Point Patience we experienced wind gusts past thirty knots. It was a relatively quick trip to St Leonard Creek. On our way, a couple of folks called and said they were experiencing difficulty getting out of their slips. We understood.

We headed into Rollins Cove and found a spot to drop the anchor. We set out our 35 pound CQR with about 100 feet of chain and settled in to watch. It didn't take long to notice we were dragging. Rollins Cove isn't known for its holding but this is the first we experienced a problem. The wind was steady about eighteen knots, or so. We weighed anchor and headed over to the lee side of the creek. We anchored in about ten feet of water just up the creek from Rollins Cove. We found a location



Guinness and Patty returning to Sandpiper II.

we could anchor and close to a spot we could dinghy our Chocolate Lab, Guinness, to take care of his



Serenity at anchor.

business... We finally settled in about 1500 hours.

Around 1630 hours Curt and Dottye Hamilton, aboard *Serenity*, came along side and anchored about a hundred feet from us. Patty took the dinghy over and brought them over for a very nice happy hour aboard *Sandpiper II*. We caught up on what had been happening over the summer and enjoyed some great snacks and adult beverages. After returning them to their boat, we had a nice dinner of filet mignon and peppers and onions. The night was clear, the moon was nearly full and there were millions of stars visible. And the wind settled down around 2000 hours. It was a great night on the water.

Sunday morning was clear and bright. The temperature overnight dropped to around the mid-fifties but the oil lamp we have aboard kept the cabin at a comfortable mid-sixties. And heating water for morning tea helps, too. After a quick breakfast, and a couple of trips to the shore for Guinness, we departed our anchorage. We hauled out our headsail as we departed the creek and were greeted with fourteen knots out of the west. The sun was out. The sky was clear. We were able to have a nice sail back to Solomons.

Folks, it doesn't get much better than this.



Commodore's Signal

It's been a busy two months since my last chance to write a Clew article. Sorry that I didn't get an article in last month but I was experiencing communication difficulties traveling abroad to sail in France. Hopefully, with the knowledge gained while away for two weeks, the next travels will be easier and more connected. Only time will tell.

Over the past two months most programs have seen their activity levels slow or end for the season.

The Junior program completed a summer full of fun programs for the kids. The Social program has brought many of us together to share meals and stories, now to find most of the efforts turning towards the year end and the Annual Awards Banquet. The Halloween Cruise completed the season that found SMSA sailors together in many ports of interest. The Racing programs have been extremely busy completing the bulk of their schedules, now only to sail weekends in the Frostbite fleets. Yes there are many signs that another sailing season is coming to an end, but in reality, that's not the case for many of us.

It is now that each program has the time to look back to review the year and begin to make plans for the year to come. Scheduling, budgeting and program review are hot topics, now and for the next two months. All of the programs can use your help, even if it is just a critique of the past year or years. But better than that, why not take a chance to see if a few minutes a day of our schedule can be directed to SMSA. It will help any of the programs to have someone volunteer just a few minutes. Be a part of the plan, be connected, and be sailing.

I hope to see more people come out to the Commodore's Dinner this month. The theme is Greek food. If it compares to the French Dinner we consumed last month, it will be a treat. Thanks to all that prepared the fabulous food. For a moment I felt as if I was at the new Café de SMSA. We'll have to see if Max orders some Ouzo for the next dinner.

See you soon, I hope at the upcoming Annual Meeting.

Clarke

SMSA 2011 Ballot

by Roger Bayer

The 2012 Slate of Officers was mailed out to members on October 21, 2011 by former Commodore Smith (Smitty). He is to be congratulated for finding good people to fill a slate of officers and directors for SMSA.

Enclosed you should have found a ballot, an envelope with a signature label on the back flap, and a return envelope addressed to SMSA PO Box 262, Solomons, MD 20688. You should indicate your approval of the slate by checking the appropriate boxes on the ballot. If you would prefer another member for an office, write in their name.

In addition to electing officers and directors for 2012, the ballot asks you to nominate the Member of the Year for 2011. Please write in the name of your nomination. Sign the back of the "signature" envelope, enclose the ballot and put both into the return envelope and mail. There is one ballot/vote allowed per family.



The ballots will be counted at the Annual Meeting on November 5th at 1000; therefore, they need to arrive at SMSA PO Box prior to that time. You may also bring your completed ballot in the "signature"

envelope to the Annual Meeting and turn it in before 1000. Should you have any questions or need additional information please email membership@smsa.com or call 888.714.3777.

The Annual Meeting begins at 1000 at the SMSA Clubhouse. Committee Chairs will present short reports on 2011 activities and achievements and plans for 2012. A financial overview will be provided as well as goals for 2012. There will be opportunity for members to ask questions and contribute any additional information. A brunch will be served and members are encouraged to

bring something to share. We look forward to seeing all of you.



Bahamas ChartBooks Available

I have three Explorer Chartbooks covering the Bahamas from Gulf Stream crossings to Inagua for sale. They cost \$150. Sell for \$75. Shipping, if required, at cost. Jim Owens, oenghus@verizon.net.

Second Annual SMSA Ski Trip

10-12 February 2012

Plan on joining us for the second annual SMSA Ski Trip to Seven Springs Mountain Ski Resort in Champion, Pennsylvania. Seven Springs has been voted the *Best Family Ski Resort in Mid-Atlantic*. We will drive up Friday afternoon/evening on 10 February and return home Sunday, 12 February. Your weekend lift tickets, which are included in the package, provide skiing from Friday night through 7 PM Sunday. The package includes two nights stay at the lodge, 2 breakfasts, weekend lift tickets, Apres Dinner Buffet Saturday night, taxes and gratuities. Newly renovated lodge rooms include two Queen size beds. Costs are as follows:

- \$377.66 per person double occupancy
- \$300.27 per person triple occupancy
- \$261.57 per person quad occupancy
- \$609.83 per person single occupancy
- Children ages 6-11, \$112.81 per child
- Rentals for weekend: Skis/boots/poles - \$41; Snowboard/boots - \$61
- Lessons – Group \$30/Private \$75
- Non-skiers receive a \$50 card for credit at the resort

Lodge check-in time on Friday is 5 PM; check-out time on Sunday is 11 AM.

For those non-skiers, there are plenty of other activities to take part in. These include Tubing, Shooting Sporting Clays, Indoor Pool, Bowling, Game Room, (bar, of course).

Make reservations with Jim or Jody Keen at (410) 326-9452 (hm), (240) 925-1173 (Jim's mobile), (301) 904-3178 (Jody's mobile), williwaw66@hotmail.com or jodyskis@hotmail.com

Initial deposit of \$200 per adult is due by 5 December. Balance due by 1 January 2012. Mail deposits/payments to Jim Keen, PO Box 1488, Solomons, MD 20688; checks payable to James Keen. [Please note: We may be able to work in a few stragglers. Please contact Jim or Jody and get deposits in ASAP.]

If we have as many as 20 reservations, we will hold a drawing for one free full weekend ski package to be discounted from your cost.

Last year Seven Springs had record snow fall. We hope to see that again this year. However much snow we have, it's a great resort with lots to do. Please help make it another great weekend.



www.7springs.com

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



Live @

Southern Maryland Sailing Assn.



Starring:
Kelly Terranova

("The world's only vegetarian Nascar fan")

Jared Stern

Julie Fox

(as seen at DC IMPROV)

Friday
Nov. 4th
Doors Open 5pm
Show time 8pm

COMEDY

Tickets:

\$ 18 Member/\$ 20 Public

- www.smsa.com
- At the Club every FRI after 5pm
- Or At the door (if available)

14490 Solomons Island Rd.,
Solomon's Island, MD 20688

**(On Solomons Island across
from the gazebo)**

888-714-3777

18 & Up, Must be 21 with ID to drink, **Cash bar**

Winter Storage Decisions

Edited by Roger Bayer

It's getting to be that time of the year when it is time to move the boat into winter storage. Most of us have been doing it long enough that we don't think about the process. We just do it the way we always have. However, maybe somebody else might have a better idea.

The Clew sent out a set of questions to the membership and received eight responses from keelboat owners and two responses from smallboat owners. Three of the keelboat responses were from racers, six from cruisers. One of the three racers said that he also cruised. Not enough response to say that the survey represents the SMSA universe, but enough to talk about.

In 1975 my wife and I moved to Oregon. In the Northwest, the winters are mild enough to boat all year round, so the boat only came out of the water for bottom paint. When we moved to Connecticut in 1980, we decided to dry store and paint every other year. In September, I met a friend from Connecticut who now lives in Florida and cruises a Grand Banks 49 half the year, keeping the boat in Florida when not cruising. He told me that his bottom paint was on its fifth year, but it was obvious that it was time to haul and paint. That was so different, it generated the idea of asking what other members do.

It turns out that generally if a respondent dry stored, he/she always dry stored. If he/she wet stored, he/she always wet stored. Two out of three racers dry stored. Four out of the eight cruisers wet stored. Of the eight cruisers, I am the only one alternating wet and dry storage yearly. One other cruiser dry stores one year then cruises to Florida the next year.

Is there any truth to the statement that it is good to let a fiberglass boat dry out every so often? Anybody have an idea on how long you can get out of bottom paint if you keep the boat in the water? Send thoughts to clew@smsa.com and if we get enough responses we will publish the results.

All but one of the keelboat respondents either cover part of or all of their boat. Actually it would have been two none coverers, except last year I covered my helm area for the first time. It was the first time in 38 years that I covered the boat. In all of that time, we have never had damage due to not covering. By the Spring, we would have a very dirty boat. Easy to clean with a power washer and a lot less work than rigging a cover.



A surprise was that everybody used either tarps or custom covers. Nobody had their boat shrink wrapped.

Turning to the smallboats for a

moment, one respondent stores at the club and one takes the boat home.

Back to keelboats, all three of the racers pretty much remove everything they can from the boat when it is put into winter storage. With the cruisers, with one exception, everything is left on the boat except liquids that can freeze and electronics that are easy to just pick up and carry away, like a television set.

All of the racers had new bottom paint every year. All but one of the cruisers painted every two years. The three racers used three different paints, Vivid, VC Offshore and Baltoplate. Four of the five cruisers used one of the Micron paints. One cruiser used Pettit Trinidad SR. One racer and one cruiser did their own painting. The other six respondents had it done by the yard.

One racer and one cruiser deliver their sails to the sailmaker each year for inspection and cleaning. All of the rest of the respondents, including the two smallboat respondents either only bring the sails in when there is damage or stretch the time period between sailmaker trips out over a number of years.

There were a number of answers to "What do you do to make the job easier?" Here they are:

- Use a bag in the shop vac when power sanding. Thin the paint to 12oz/Gallon Xylol to make it smoother and easier to put on in the winter.
- Plan ahead. Have the yard do the winterization and whatever else they can do better than I or that I may not get to.
- Petit Barnicle Barrier is good for painting props.
- Have a crew cleaning party in fall and in spring to unload and load. Wrap the mast with saran wrap to minimize water intrusions where the halyards exit the mast. Use a heater to keep the boat warm and the engine from getting frozen, but also used antifreeze with a cool intake hose modification. Use a de-icer (submersible propeller and electric motor).
- Recruit crew to help with rig/derig and bottom maintenance.
- Get Shawn Stanley to help.
- Crew helps with most boat maintenance chores.

Finally, in answer to the question, "What should the survey have asked?" most wanted to talk about winter projects. A member was looking for a reliable diver. There was interest in discussing winterization of the various boat systems. The Clew will try again.



A Smashing Success

By Hannah Schneider

Port Events brought the age old German/Bavarian Oktoberfest to the Club with a brimming sell-out of tickets!!! Some sampled the specialty brews while other's annihilated German sausage.

Awarded with the 1st Annually decorated stein was *Cheetah's* own pit crew, Becky Ratcliff for Best Beer Belly - she has really been toning up for the event! The 1st place winner as pictured, on the other hand was not going for a lack of circumference!

Patuxent Adventure Center's booth boasted an Island cruiser bicycle with a 6-pack rack which club member's raced against time & spillage, *American Flyer's* fore deck, Chris Boyles took home a free kayak outing! If you missed it, you missed Dak Schneider in leather

Lederhosen!!!

On November 4th Come out for a night of comedy @ SMSA to see: Kelly Terranova, hilarious, interactive, cynic who pulls from today's headlines, also seen on: Mad Max, CMT, The Midlifer's stand up tour, Hard Hat Comedy, Speed Channel, Bob & Sheri, 98Rock & more; Jared Stern's sardonic observations, or Julie Fox's day to day relatable humour.

Embrace your creative fun side & help Port Event bring anything you can imagine to the club, all help is appreciated! Contact Hannah Schneider, hannah.bulynko@gmail.com.



Dak & Hannah Schneider, III (right) with their neighbor Pam (left) wearing Lederhosen & Drindi.



Hannah presenting the first place prize for the biggest beer belly.

Commodore's Dinner November 17, Greek Food!

"You cannot reason with a hungry belly; it has no ears."
(Greek Proverb)

The Greek economy makes our economy look great! Unfortunately it has been kicking the stuffing out of our stock market! For what they lack in fiscal discipline, they more than make up in great food. Greek salad, Spanakopita, Dolmathes, Pastitsio, Moussaka, Avgolemono Soup, Beef, Chicken or Lamb Kabobs, what is there not to like?

Get on the web, find a great recipe, make it and bring it to the clubhouse to share at 6:00PM on November 17. Maybe we can get Max Munger to order some retsina wine for the evening (I really like it, my wife doesn't!)

Commodore's Dinner December 15, Turkey Time!

We Are In The Turkey Months!

November and December are certainly the months of turkey. Thanksgiving is November 24th this year. A month away is Christmas and a week later New Years. All traditional turkey eating holidays. Roughly in the middle of these dates is the Commodore's Dinner. It is the perfect time to show off what can be done with our national dinner bird. You can impress the membership with how you do a whole bird. You can impress the membership with great recipes for left overs. You can even impress everybody with great side dishes and desserts. Your choice! This should be a great night!

Akoni's Account of the Hooper to Point-No-Point Race

by John Kritz

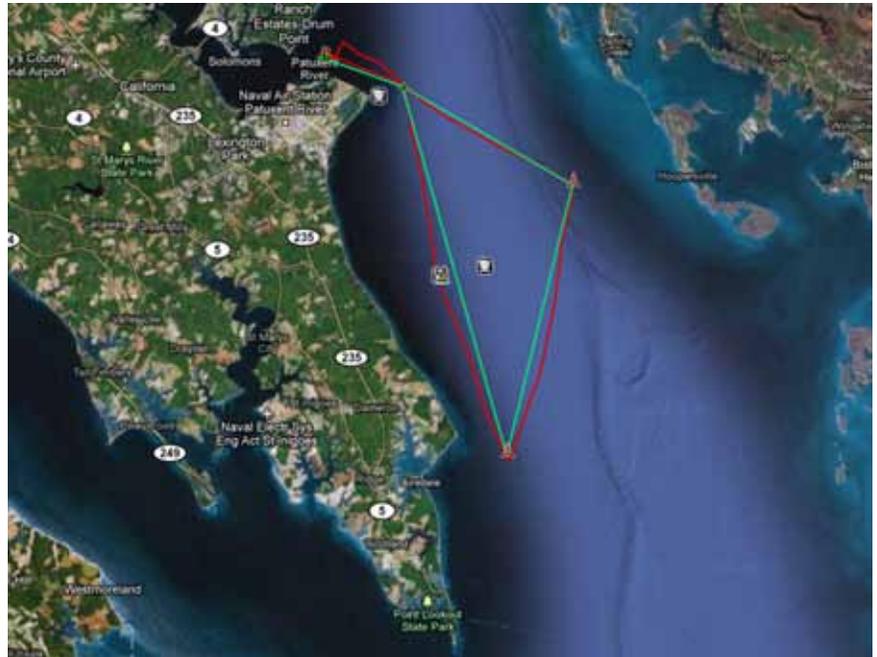
Wow, that was some wind ... and pretty painful at times! Downwind to Hooper was a hoot and I think we held our own ... showed 10.4kts on the speedo a few times but most of the time we were averaging above 8. Looked like a few of the bigger boats had issues and turned back after rounding Hooper ... *American Flyer*, *Cheetah*, and *Rakali*.

Upwind to No-Point was a little much for *Akoni* ... pretty much crawled there in survival mode, but at least the waves were big enough for us to sail around and we did pass *Elan*. *Age of Reason*, *Audrey*, and I think *Toby* were not far ahead, with *Pursuit* and *Valiant* pretty far ahead.

The reach back home was not so good to us. Thought it would be a screamer, but the wind ended up being too far forward for us to get into hyper-speed and we could not reel in anyone ahead (which I think was everyone but *Elan*). The beat into the river was amazing ... I don't think I've ever been in that much breeze going upwind. *Audrey* was in their element and appeared to give the 'blast reacher' a workout between No-Point and Cedar Point finishing quite a ways in front of us. I haven't a clue where *Lickety Split* was in all this.

Thanks to Brian and Bob for coming out to learn *Akoni* in the nasty stuff. :)

Audrey finished ahead of us, it was hard to tell when they crossed (~14:37:30). There were a couple of boats not far ahead of them. *Akoni* finished at 14:50:50. *Elan* finished at 14:56:58



The race course is in green (straight lines). Akoni's actual course is in red (wiggly line).

The speed over ground on the GPS many times went above 10kts approaching Hooper, sometimes for as long as 300ft! What great sailing!

Do You Do Your Own Winterization?

by Roger Bayer

This gadget showed up in my email. Check out the videos. The product looks like it might be a winner. The product allows filling the raw water side of systems with antifreeze without removing hoses. You fill through the sea strainer. It will also allow you to back flush water intakes eliminating the need for a diver. Check out the videos at www.seaflush.com

SeaFlush

- Winterize
- Unclog thru-hull fittings
- Flush out saltwater



Facilities Update-

As reported to the BOD by Barbara Whited & Jolie Homsher

Due to the growth of our Thursday night Small Boat Racing Program, there are now 38 boats stored behind the clubhouse. Dry Slip Storage Income for 2011 was \$12,500.00 and an income of over \$14,000 is expected in 2012. Additional income came in from Transient Slip rental due to the participation of several visiting keel boats in our Scott Kirby Concert, Women's Series and Fall Invitational events held over the last few months.

Facilities reported they are looking into designs for a new "Southern Maryland Sailing Association" sign for the front of the building. They reported that the leaks in the roof discovered during the hurricane have been repaired. In addition, a large thank you is owed to Mardy Millen for donating his time and materials to replace dock boards and for repairing a faulty dock lamp

post. THANK YOU!

Also, the clubhouse yard and building are now being prepared for the cold weather. The burner in the oil furnace has been cleaned and repaired which should result in less fuel being burned, thus reducing operating costs. The programmable thermostat has been programmed for optimal performance and Facilities is asking members to please not change it!

Lastly, during the week of November 6, the outside water will be turned off and the hoses stored. An actual date should appear on the SMSA website's scrolling marquee. If your boat needs washing plan to do it soon!



September/October Junior Report (2011 YEAR-END)

by Jimmy Yurko, Junior Chair

This year's Junior program has wrapped up its programs for the season. We have enrolled nearly 100 students in the programs throughout the season, an increase of approximately 20 students, and operated with a budget surplus above our anticipated surplus. The 2011 Junior program yielded a healthy budget surplus this season while still providing quality instruction and opportunities to many new and beginning sailors. This is no doubt due to the hard work employed by the member volunteers, and junior staff who worked the programs throughout the season.

Many improvements have been made to the program this season. To start, we remodeled the back garage of the clubhouse to serve as an optimist storage room. The remodeling job was planned by Jimmy Yurko, but the job foreman (and primary workhorse) was Jim Whited, who employed a large volunteer staff. They cleaned the room, re-designed the shelving, painted the walls, and updated wiring. This all provided a much improved look to the facility,

as well as improving the storage and safety of the equipment. The remodel area also reduced need for weather related maintenance to SMSA equipment. Best of all the room and storage shelving designs provide room for expansion capability that we didn't have before, both indoors and out. Moving the year round storage of the Optimist prams increased available yard storage

Sailing Is Fun

space for dry storage slip holders. Three large dinghies now occupy the space the Optimists once utilized.

We had great help from our Junior Camp instructors this season, the team of Rebeckah Stanley, Colleen McDougal, Larane Garner and Michael Danko made the Optimist programs a huge hit with students and families, which rewarded everyone in attendance with huge smiles throughout each week of the summer. We definitely owe a huge

thank you to all of these people for their time and dedication to the program. They made the program the success it has been. We will be starting our search for instructors for 2012 as many of our team plan to move on to bigger and better things next season.

In addition to the junior camps we held two sessions of Adult Learn to Sail, which was taught by a core of SMSA volunteers, Roger Bayer, Eric Smith, Rob Miller, Jimmy & Kristi Yurko...just to name a few. The adult program was held on Monday nights, and was offered as a fee course to the public, and free to SMSA members. The course brought new sailors, members and crew to the club, and was fun for all involved.

Overall we have had an extremely successful season, and thank everyone who contributed time and effort to the program to make it successful. All contributions, large and small were critical to making the program the success that it has been and will continue to be. We are already planning for a new and exciting program for next year.

FALL INVITATIONAL – TWO DAYS OF GREAT SAILING

The SMSA Fall Invitational is the climax of the SmallBoat sailing season. It is open to all SmallBoat sailors, not just SMSA members, so the competition is stiff. This year the event was doubly blessed by challenging winds and two one design fleets, Lasers and Buccaneers plus the Portsmouth fleet.

The Clew reached out to one of our best sailors in each fleet for comments about the Invitational as seen from the deck of their boats. These are presented alphabetically, Buccaneer, Laser and Portsmouth. Thanks to Jim Whited for the great photos.

SMSA Small Boat Invitational...Buccaneer Style...

By Jimmy Yurko

For the past seven years each September, we had a substantial fleet of Buccaneers for the Small Boat Invitational. The Buccaneer class is a very close knit group. When traveling to regattas you are spending time with friends, new and old. Hosting the Small Boat Invitational is a great opportunity to host your friends. As usual SMSA put on a great show for our guests. This year's fleet included several teams from SMSA, including SMSA members and newcomers to the Small Boat program, Marty and Kate Linclau-Miller who sailed on a borrowed Buccaneer. In addition, the fleet included two teams from Potomac River Sailing Association (PRSA), some local guest sailors, and one team from North Carolina. I should also mention that we had a special appearance by Frank Hunter, of Long Island, NY who crewed for Kyra Tallon of PRSA.

The nine boat fleet launched on Saturday in the liveliest conditions we've seen this year on the Patuxent. The winds were strong, blowing well into the teens straight up the mouth of the river. Thanks to the wind direction we were blessed with rather large swells. Personally, I really like the big wind, and love big waves. We were able to pound



Kristi & Jimmy screaming around the mark to take first overall in the Buccaneer fleet.

through the chop with ease. Due to the wind strength the downwind reward was great. We rounded the top mark each race and set the chute...planeing along, cresting wavetop to wavetop. There isn't much more fun to be had in this world than that feeling you get when you're sailing along, as fast as you can go...pushing the edge of speed with the thought of getting there fast, foremost in your mind...but the thought of a wipeout is just behind. Mistakes are never a good thing, and with Mark and Eric Gyorgy, who would eventually finish third overall, surfing down just behind us we knew we didn't have room for any on this day. The fleet worked hard to finish, but the challenging conditions only allowed for six of the nine racers to finish each race.

New SMSA member Jen Kohl sailed her new emerald green Buccaneer "Dragonfly" with John Herbig as crew for the first time on Saturday. The cool conditions called for a quick sail back to the club for a gear swap, but they were back in the mix in no time. Jen, a new skipper, looked quite natural. She handled the strong conditions with ease with the help of her experienced crew.

Justin Meddock of Raleigh, North Carolina was flying an extremely oversized spinnaker, due to an incident in a prior regatta, and had difficulty keeping the boat under the chute in the strong conditions Saturday. He sailed many of the races without it. Justin led the fleet to the first mark in a few races, I'm sure he was wishing he had his regular spin.



Trevor Richards shows how to take care of the competition!

Sunday's conditions were a little bit more forgiving. The race committee moved the racecourse further upriver to avoid the pound of the waves, and the breeze was still quite strong in the morning. We were able to check in by sailing past the committee boat on a plane powered only by the mainsail. The shifts were a much bigger factor in Sunday's races, probably largely due to being much further inland.



Tom Moulds, 3rd overall Lasers leads Trevor Prior 2nd overall Portsmouth and Julio Vargas around the mark.

There were many shifts across the course, and unlike Saturday's races, current played a major factor. The current was strong enough to push the RC boat stern to wind, in a solid 10-12 knot breeze. Not only was the current strong, but it too shifted as you crossed the river. Due to the smoother sea state all of the boats in the fleet were able to complete the first race of Sunday, but the strong conditions would tire out some of the crews fast and send some of the boats in early. Marty and Kate, sailing in their first Buccaneer regatta, started off the day with an impressive third place finish



First overall Lasers, Steve Barrett.

followed up by a fourth, but retired before the final race of the series.

It was an exciting regatta for us. It was a rewarding one too. It is always a great time to see so many friends, spend the weekend sailing, and even better when you can win some races. We were able to do all those things. We concentrated on enjoying the big breeze. With a simple strategy to sail fast, keep the boat on her feet and have fun we were able to win five out of six races, with a second in race six. Jeff Neurauder was first across the line in the final race. He did very well in the lightening conditions and capitalized on the big shifts to gain an early advantage. This was the eighth time Kristi and I have competed in this event, and the first time we have been fortunate enough to win.

A View from the Laser Fleet

By Vice Commodore Jeff Moore

The 12 boat Laser fleet at SMSA's 15th Annual Invitational Regatta in Solomons, MD was greeted with spectacular sailing conditions on the Patuxent River just off the Chesapeake Bay. Saturday racing saw 10-15kts with gusts to 20 and the easterly breeze offered a long 10 mile fetch for the waves to build in the mouth of the Patuxent. The wave period was quite long for the Chesapeake and created some great wave riding/surfing that everyone agreed was a blast! It also provided many opportunities to stuff the bow into the back of a wave resulting in a near pitch pole and a cockpit completely full of water; both of which I discovered are slow. LOL J At the end of 3 long races the tired Laser sailors returned to SMSA for storytelling and to put their boats away for the day.

Dinner at SMSA was prepared and organized by SMSA member Carol Smith. We were treated to a wonderful home cooked Lasagna dinner that was perfect after a windy and unseasonably cool, for September, day on the water. There were many other volunteers that assisted Carol in all the preparations and cleanup. I am not

even going to attempt to list everyone for fear of leaving somebody out but a big thank you goes out to all!

Sunday's race course was moved up the river near the bridge and parallel to Solomons Island's Boardwalk. We had good conditions with 5-15kts out of the North and much flatter water. The up and down nature of the breeze offered areas of pressure where big gains could be made versus falling into the 5 knot holes where several places could be lost. RC did an excellent job once again and we got in 3 more races. When the results were totaled, including a throw out, Steve Barrett (SMSA) narrowly beat out Trevor Richards (SMSA) for 1st by one point. Tom Moulds (SMSA) finished in 3rd and Adam Glass (SSA) rounded out the top 4. Special thanks goes out to our Laser friends from PRSA, FBYC and SSA for making the trip and sailing with us!

The Invitational As Seen By The Big SmallBoats, The Portsmouth Fleet

By David Meiser

The Portsmouth Fleet at the SMSA Small Boat Invitational this year consisted of four Lightnings, one Front Runner, an Albacore, an Interlake, a Flying Scott and a couple of Vanguard 15s. With the exception of one Lightning, which was from Susquehanna Yacht Club in Pennsylvania, all of the Portsmouth boats were local club boats.

Saturday, the name of the game was keeping your boat right side up, steering

through the waves and concentrating on boat handling. The wind direction and course location provided for a perfect fetch from the eastern shore and gave us waves bigger than we typically see in the river.

Sunday everyone bundled up expecting even a bigger blow than the day before, but the wind stayed below about 10 kts and we had another beautiful day of sailing. In the final race of the regatta, Ken Kramer in his Flying Scott broke into the top of the 10 boat fleet with a third. What a great showing on the final race.... it's kinda like getting a birdie on the last hole of the golf course.

With the exception of first place, the scores were tight with only one point separating Smitty Smith, and his crew Shawn Stanley, in



Overall Portsmouth winners Alman & Surgent amongst the Lasers.

second place, from the fourth place boat. Ultimately, Club member Jim Alman schooled the Portsmouth Fleet in his Lightning, and although challenged several times for the lead, he was able to post a perfect score of six bullets.

It was great to see the good turnout for the regatta and although everyone was tired and wet when it was over, I think that no one could complain about a great weekend of racing. I look forward to seeing more of you on the water.



Portsmouth overall third place Smitty Smith and crew lead around the mark.



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

PLACE
 STAMP
 HERE



November 2011 Volume 41 Number 11

November			December		
4 Fri	Social at SMSA	5:00	2 Fri	Social at SMSA	5:00
4 Fri	Comedy Show	7:00	2 Fri	Christmas Walk Open House	5:00
5 Sat	Annual Meeting/Brunch	10:00	3 Sat	SMSA Christmas Party	6:00
5 Sat	Laser Frostbite Racing Series	1:00	4 Sun	Laser Frostbite Racing Series	1:00
6 Sun	Keelboat Frostbite Racing Series	1:00	9 Fri	Club Closed for Private Party	4:30
11 Fri	Social at SMSA	5:00	11 Sun	Laser Frostbite Racing Series	1:00
12 Sat	Planning Meeting	9:00	12 Mon	BOD & Program Chair Meeting	7:00
12 Sat	Laser Frostbite Racing Series	1:00	15 Thu	Clew Input Due	
13 Sun	Keelboat Frostbite Racing Series	1:00	15 Thu	Commodore's Dinner	6:00
14 Mon	BOD & Program Chair Meeting	7:00	16 Fri	Social at SMSA	5:00
15 Sat	Clew Input Due		18 Sun	Laser Frostbite Racing Series	1:00
17 Thu	Commodore's Dinner	6:00	23 Fri	Social at SMSA	5:00
18 Fri	Social at SMSA	5:00	25 Sun	Laser Frostbite Racing Series	1:00
19 Sat	Laser Frostbite Racing Series	1:00	30 Fri	Social at SMSA	5:00
20 Sun	Keelboat Frostbite Racing Series	1:00			
25 Fri	Social at SMSA	5:00			
26 Sat	Laser Frostbite Racing Series	1:00			
27 Sun	Keelboat Frostbite Racing Series	1:00			

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