the clew
Southern Maryland Sailing Association, Inc.

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The Commodore's Corner

By Jim Keen
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Annual Gala/Awards Banquet... what a great party! It was well attended, a wonderful venue, and a very nice buffet. The Social Committee outdid themselves with the attractive decorations and the extra goodies put out for dessert. Much thanks to **Jody** and her Social crew putting on a classy event. And, thanks to our Vice Commodore, **Jim Whited**, who did a masterful job of managing the procurement and engraving of awards, for producing the programs, and for a very fine job of coordinating the award presentations. It was one of the nicest Gala/Awards Banquets that I can recall in recent memory, and a wonderful way to close out and celebrate 2016.

Congratulations to all award recipients! Special shout out to **Jolie Homsher** (Thursday Night Laser High Point); **Jenn Miller** & **Eric Gyorgy** (Thursday Night High Point); **Patty Kimmel** & **Rich Freeman** (Cruiser of the Year); **Jim Whited** (SMSA/CBYRA High Point); **Norm Dawley** (Commodore's Trophy), and **Jody Keen** (Member of the Year).

We're only a little over a month away from the SMSA Opening Day Ceremonies, and April 8th will be upon us before we know it. But first we have to get Winter behind us. It appears that won't be too hard with the Jet Stream in position to get us into Spring and boating season well ahead of schedule this year. Hopefully, we'll still have a little bit of cool weather as the Spring Keelboat Frostbite series starts Sunday, March 12th. Dan Trammell will be doing his annual 2-part Rules of Racing seminar following the Frostbite Races on March 26th and April 2nd. Racers won't want to miss that as the new rules are now out for 2017-2020.

Our March Commodore's dinner happens to fall on St. Patrick's Day. Whether or not you're of Irish decent, it's always a good time for a party. We'll do Irish cuisine for dinner, but sorry... no green beer. Appropriately, or not, the next day we'll have a First Aid Class. Contact **Les Griffith** to sign up.

Our Social Committee has a fun night in store for us on Saturday night, the 25th of March (7-10 PM). Casino Night will feature a professional casino group that will set up gaming equipment for a fun event of gambling with "funny money". See Jody's *Social Scene* for details.

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming Club Project Day on the 1st of April. Our Facility Chair, **Jolie Homsher**, will have a comprehensive to-do list ready for a bunch of eager volunteers to clean, repair, upgrade and get the clubhouse ready for the upcoming sailing season.

Sadly, we learned of the passing of Lorraine Boyd, a long time member and charter founder of SMSA. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Boyd family.

Reminder… If you haven't taken the time to renew your membership please do so. You can do it online or the old fashion way. If on line, follow the directions in the renewal email… go to www.smsa.com and click the green button on the middle of the page. This will take you to the renewal site where you will use the renewal code which you received in the renewal e-mail. You may pay on-line, or just fill out the renewal form and mail a check. You can also pay race fees, slip fees, dry storage fees and register for Adult Learn to Sail Class while renewing. All fees remain the same as last year, by the way. If you did not receive your notice, please contact membership@SMSA.com.

See you on the water… soon.

THE SOCIAL SCENE
WITH JODY KEEN

Jody Keen
Social Chair
social@smsa.com

What happened to Winter? I hope everyone enjoyed the balmy February weather. I can tell you that I was an especially unhappy camper as skiing was put on hold! Who knows whether March will come in or march out like a lion. Hopefully the first for all of you frostbiters! (just a reminder that frostbites start on March 12th.) (see amendment to sailing instructions)

February, however was an exciting time around the club. We held our annual Awards Banquet and Gala at The Olde Breton Inn in Leonardtown. I must say, the folks at OBI were especially helpful and such a delight to work with! They were able to let us in early to set up awards and decorate. I have to thank a wonderful group of ladies who helped to decorate OBI and to decorate the countless cookies and cupcakes that were baked for the occasion. Special thanks go out to Susan St. George for her beautiful "Tuxedo Strawberries." I can say, "All hands were on deck" for this one. Thank you, Thank you all involved!The following Friday was the Commodore's dinner. Although lightly attended, (due to the flu) fun was had by all.

March brings a lot of events back to the club-house. First we have the Commodore's dinner on March 17th. The theme this month is "Irish Fare" as the dinner falls on St. Patrick's Day. Bring your favorite Irish dish. Corned beef and Cabbage will be provided.

$$$CASINO NIGHT$$$

Saturday, March 25th. Come out and enjoy a night of chance against the folks you know! How much fun is that? Roulette, Blackjack and Craps. Funny money will be provided. Don't know how to play? Fantasy World will provide dealers and tables for our enlightenment and enjoyment. Tickets are $35.00 per person. Please RSVP to our website at SMSA. If you would prefer to pay at the door please RSVP to social@smsa.com so we can put you on the list. Hope to see you there!

Thank you to everyone who helps to make the social committee such a success!

THE TRAINING CORNER

Les Griffith
SMSA Training Chair
training@smsa.com

SMSA Training season is in full swing. We recently held a Race Management Seminar on 25th February. Those in attendance learned the nuances of setting a proper race course and insight into how to handle the many variables encountered during the race. Jim Whited was the presenter this year and offered his unique perspective on conducting a race. Not only did we learn the basics of race management, but we also learned about the lesser used signals, course changes, and unique possibilities of course layout as well as what to do when things go wrong.

This month we will present the Race Rules seminars given in two sessions immediately following the Spring Frostbite race results on 26 March and 2 April. The first session will cover definitions, starting, and upwind rules of sailing. The second session will cover mark roundings and downwind racing rules of sailing. Whether skipper or crew, anyone who races will gain valuable knowledge that will help you win more races. You will learn when you have the right of way or when you are the stand down boat in any situation on the race course. Skippers will stay out of trouble and out of "the room" when they know with confidence who has the right of way. Crew will be able to inform the skipper of an impending problem before it surprises everyone so a proper course of action can be taken to keep ahead of the pack.

Having a thorough understanding of the rules makes you a better competitor, a safer competitor, and a welcome crew on any boat, so come on out and brush up on your rules knowledge and dispel any misconceptions you have. This year new rules go into effect, make sure you attend the seminars to get a first look at the latest in race rules.

We are also holding a CPR/First Aid Training on 18 March 2017. If you have never had a first aid certificate or if your current certificate is expired (valid for 2 years) this seminar is for you. You may not think you need to get CPR/First Aid certified until tragedy hits; you will be glad you attend the seminar and were able to save a loved one or crew mate. There is a minimum attendance requirement to ensure the instructor can cover the time and expenses required to conduct the course so spread the word and I will schedule a course when we have enough interest. The cost for the course is approximately $40.00 paid in advance or $50.00 at the door.

Contact me at Training@SMSA.com if you are interested in attending any of the training seminars or if you have any ideas for seminars you would like us to host.

CRUISERS CORNER

Jerry Taylor
SMSA Cruise Chair
cruise@smsa.com

The 2017 Cruise Schedule has been finalized and is available on the SMSA website under the Cruise tab. Many thanks to the cruise leaders for all the time and effort spent on preparation.

In addition to the schedule, there is a wealth of information in the Cruise section and we should take the time to review before we get busy…***sailing*** !! Cruise leader duties and proper rafting procedures can be found under the Cruise Leader link. There is also some great information for anyone contemplating the ICW.

Don't forget to spend some time checking your safety items. See ya on the water real soon!!

Tim Flaherty
SMSA Membership chair
membership@smsa.com

HELP BRING SMSA NEW MEMBERS!

Check out the ways you can help us and have fun!

I keep thinking back to last year when some of our most pro-active members kept sending me sailors who were very interested in joining SMSA, or sending me those who had already applied on-line for membership.

"I met **Jimmy Yurko** at the Pax Marina," said one. "He told me about it and the summer camp for my kids, and said I should call."

"**Jolie Homsher** told me about SMSA at work," said another. "I've been looking for a new hobby since I moved here."

"**The Conleys** are our neighbors. We are looking for other sailors to cruise with and to have a sailing social life with."

Let's not let-up on telling people how they can benefit and enjoy SMSA and the camaraderie we enjoy. Helping the club grow has definite benefits for our present membership. New members increase our pool of both crew and skippers for races, cruises, RC, and volunteer event staffing. The new dues money increased membership brings in helps keep our yearly dues and fees low . Perhaps most of all, more members mean more fun sailors to network with, to share ideas, build friendships, and to learn from and to teach.

We have a couple of events coming up I would like YOU to volunteer with the Membership Committee.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: CHECK SMSA.COM FOR THE MARCH AND APRIL 2017 CALENDAR!

On Saturday, April 8th is SMSA Opening Day. We will have our members Opening Day brunch and ceremony in the morning. You are welcome to bring a guest, and don't forget to tell the Commodore so your guest can be introduced to the assembly. After the flag raising, we will place a table and the "Open House" flag out by the sidewalk and invite passers-by to come in and take a tour.

I'd like to see us keep this table staffed by at least two members until about 4pm. Contact me now and tell me you will take an hour shift, greeting people, giving them a brochure, and a quick tour of SMSA.

On Sunday, April 23rd, SMSA will host the annual SpinSheet Solomons Crew Listing Party presented by Miller Lite! We will start at about 4:30pm, roughly coinciding with the Spring Invitational Rendezvous. If you have never been to a Crew Listing Party, check it out. These are great chances for racers and cruisers to meet new sailors, to find new crew or new skippers and to just come and talk sailing. We will have some free food, SpinSheet will host a program or panel, Miller Lite beer will be on sale for $2 per bottle, and a lot of new sailors will be coming through the SMSA door. We'd like to have plenty of current members on hand to greet new friends and potential SMSA members. I'd like to see us have a membership table where we can talk-up our club and put our materials in the hands of the visitors. Perhaps we can even sign-up some on the spot! Please let me know if you can spend an hour or even a half-hour at the Membership Table.

Some other things I'd like to see us do this spring are: A "Marina and Boatyard Canvas", where we walk around local boatyards during a nice spring Saturday or Sunday and chat-up prospective new members as they take a break from commissioning their boats; Finding a festival or two where SMSA can have a booth or table; create a new SMSA promotional video for or website and other platforms; get an SMSA Sailing Blog actually up and running. If you have any ideas for these or can help, send me an email or talk to me at the club.

Plunder in the Keys

Arrrrrrgh we there yet???

By Jennifer Marbourg-Miller

When I asked Erik Gyorgy if he would be interested in going to Key Largo in mid-January for the 10th annual Dead Dogs & Tin Whistles (DD&TW) Regatta at the Upper Keys Sailing Club, he asked me *"How long is the drive…?"* Under the promise of "good" wind, "great" sailing and an "awesome" clubhouse, I was able to convince Erik that it would be worthy of the "long" (~20 hour) drive.

And thankfully, this year's weather did not make a liar out of me! (In 2016, we had a big thunderstorm cancel sailing on Friday and gale force winds keep everyone on shore on Sunday. So there is no LACK of wind.)

The DD&TW regatta is composed of two events over three days. Friday afternoon is a distance race around Porjoe Key, which is approximately 3.5 miles from the clubhouse in Buttonwood Sound.

Saturday and Sunday are buoy racing in the sound. The Buccaneer Fleet had a total of eight boats traveling from as far away as New York and as close as Pensacola, FL.

Three boats were there representing SMSA: Erik and I in Christopher Dragon, Jimmy and Kristi Yurko in Wasabi, and Jim Whited and Nichole Doub in Ad Interim.

View from the Beautiful Upper Keys Sailing Club

Porjoe Key in relation to UKSC

Plunder in the Keys

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For Friday's race, six Buccaneers and three Mutineers splashed their boats. Despite an exciting start off the pier at the club, the race was fast, fun and *mostly* uneventful – in that we only filled the boat with water twice. The winds were blowing 10-15 knots out of the ENE with gusts 20+, so it was a screaming reach out to the key with lots of wake, whoo-hooing and a fair amount of planing.

One of the other boats was running a speed measurement application and recorded 11kts of boat speed during one of the puffs. My thought was: *"Was that all???"* We are allowed to round the key either direction, and five of the six boats, including us, decided to go counter-clockwise – getting an opportunity to fly a spinnaker briefly on the far side of the key.

The Yurkos decided to try something different and rounded clockwise – which turned out neutral to the overall standings. Hunter Riddle (Schurr Sails) and Terry Warren in Brick House took a solid 1st place.

Erik and I finished 2nd, with Jimmy and Kristi HOT on our heels in 3rd (*Are they catching up to us? Sail faster!!!*).

Friday's excitement just after the start (It helps if I actually break the sheet….)

During the next two days, race committee ran a total of 8 races – a combination of windward-leewards and triangle courses, giving us a chance to practice both downwind and reaching with the spinnaker.

On Saturday conditions were similar to Friday with 10-15 knots and puffy breeze, which resulted in several very "sporty" legs to the wing mark including one rounding where the spinnaker got away from us and I swore (as a new boat owner) that I could hear the sound of money being shredded. Thankfully, we kept the boat upright, got the spinnaker down, and I was able to un-cluster it for the next downwind leg.

The last race of the day, we decided to try a more aggressive start, since we were pleased with our overall standing, and successfully executed a pin on port start. Immediately after the start, there followed a tense quiet while Erik waited for me to shout a panicked *"TACK NOW!"* but he was actually rewarded with a boisterous cackle and *"HOW did we do that?!?!"* after we port tacked the entire fleet.

Plunder in the Keys

Arrrrrrgh we there yet???

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At the end of Day 1 (and 4 races), Dragon was tied with Brick House losing the tie breaker based on the 4th race. So we knew what we needed to do that night – have LOTS of pig and homemade Key Lime Pie at the club's Pig Roast in order to keep the boat nice and flat on Sunday!

Sunday the winds "died down" and we had 8-10 knots of steady breeze. At the end of race 7, Dragon and Brick House were again tied for first, with Brick House winning the tie-breaker, and both boats knew it. So in the eighth race, we stuck together like barnacles on a keel each hoping the other would make some small error to be able to secure a lead. And in the last upwind, just that happened. After a short tacking duel, we successfully executed a textbook lee-bow, putting Brick House in our bad air and forcing them to tack away.

In the search for clear air, Brick House over stood the windward mark *just* enough for us to round in front of them. Then we just had 1.5 legs left to not mess it up. (No pressure, right?) Fortunately Erik and I were able to maintain focus and not give into the exhaustion of hiking for 3 days straight. With Brick House within 3 boat lengths of us**, Dragon crossed the finish line first, breaking the tie and securing a first place for the regatta.**

Between races on Sunday - the giant inflatable duck came out with RC

So there are several morals to this story. First and foremost, **YES – DD&TW is worth the drive!!!!** Whether it's for the sailing, the brief reprieve from the cold weather in Maryland, or the wonderful hospitality of the Upper Keys Sailing club – I love this event and the opportunity to see my "Bucc Family". **Second, you don't realize how much you miss flip-flops until you are wearing them in January in Florida and are forced to return to "real shoes" on the drive home.** And finally, if you are ever in the area**, I HIGHLY recommend visiting the Upper Keys Sailing Club in Key Largo**. It's only a few blocks off Route 1 on the sound side, and they have a beautiful location and great people there**. Tell them you are from SMSA and you'd like to start a tab in Jim Whited's name**. We'll be back next January and I'm sure he'll take care of you. ☺

Arch-nemesis on the water, all smiles and hugs on shore :-) (L to R: Hunter, Jenn, Erik and Terry)

Happy Buccaneer and Mutineer Sailors. See you next year!

For Sale:
1971 Skeene Albacore

Sail # 7103

PLUS

Shoreland'r Trailer

15 foot Dinghy suitable for 1 - 2 sailors.

features a mainsail, jib, and a "wisker pole" for downwind sailing with jib extended.

Boat Package comes with two sets of Quantum sails - newer set used only five times. New lines and standing rigging. Buoyancy tanks completely restored with Viking waterproof storage bags added for wallet & cell phone storage.

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Entire boat & trailer package $1,800.

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Please contact
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RENEW MEMBERSHIP

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