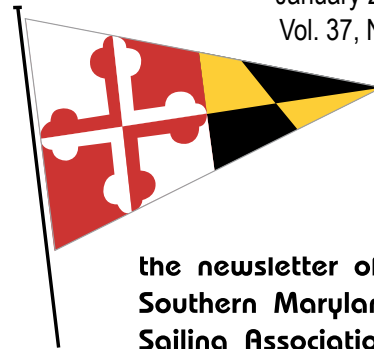


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January 2007,
Vol. 37, No. 1



the newsletter of
**Southern Maryland
Sailing Association, Inc.**
P.O. Box 262, Solomons, MD 20688
www.smsa.com

the clew

COMMODORE



Happy Holidays and hopes for a Happy New Year to each of you! The 2006 year brought many changes to SMSA. It has been a challenging, excit-

ing and rewarding experience for me to work with so many SMSA members who are energized to help transition the club. Hopefully, we can settle into 2007 and utilize the new facility to promote the activities that SMSA is all about.

Normally, I think of the cold winter months as a period of down time from our sailing and club activities, but this year it seems that many members are busier than ever.

The Friday-night member socials are well attended, so if you haven't made it to one yet, try the next one. Each has been an enjoyable evening with mem-

bers from the various factions of the club. They are held each Friday from 4:30pm to 7:30pm.

LG Raley, Clarke McKinney and I traveled down to Hampton Yacht Club to present them with the Battle of the Chesapeake Trophy at their annual awards program on December 5th. They earned the award for their incredible, triple-tie-breaker win over Annapolis Yacht Club at last year's Screwpile.

The Solomon's Christmas Walk weekend and our Boat Building night over December 8th and 9th were a huge success. Many people stopped by during the two nights to review the programs that SMSA has to offer.

The "Main Street" location and the enthusiasm radiating from the members inside the club were big draws. The Members Party on Saturday night was packed, and I talked with many people I had not met before. It was a great

Welcome New Members

Mike Lorenzini
Mike & Cindi Eaton
Jody Andrews
Glenn & Terry Walters
Brian King
Larry & Kimberle Egbert
Paula Walker
Robert Luckritz
Gary & Mary Lou Palonen

evening, and special thanks goes to B.J. Roberts and her social committee.

The annual Awards banquet is on January 6th. I hope to see you there.

On January 11th, we will hold the Inaugural Board of Directors meeting with your newly elected Officers, Directors and Program Chairs. A list of your 2007 Officers and Chairs are listed on page 2 of the Clew, and on our web site at www.smsa.com.

Continued at the top of page 3...

GENERAL NOTICES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Commodore Don Behrens commodore@smsa.com	Directors David Arbuthnot darbuthnot@comcast.net
Vice Commodore Robert "Smitty" Smith vicecommodore@smsa.com	Jim Keen williwaw66@hotmail.com
Rear Commodore Joel Bergsman rearcommodore@smsa.com	David Meiser meiser@comcast.net
Treasurer Joe Kubinec treasurer@smsa.com	Max Munger maxmunger@verizon.net
Secretary Shannon Walters secretary@smsa.com	LG Raley lgraley@wildewood.com
	Rod Schroeder

PROGRAM CHAIRS

Racing Jim Keen race@smsa.com	Membership Laura Comeau-Stanley membership@smsa.com
Cruising Wayne Wilson cruise@smsa.com	Publicity Tim Flaherty publicity@smsa.com
Women's Barbara Miller women@smsa.com	Facilities Cindi Eaton facility@smsa.com
Junior Tom Moulds junior@smsa.com	
Social Carol Smith social@smsa.com	

UPCOMING BOD MEETING AGENDA

SMSA BOD Meeting
1930, Thursday January 11, 2007
SMSA Clubhouse

Call to Order

New Year Business

- Installation of Elected Officers and Directors
- Installation of Committee Chairpersons
- Adoption of Policy Manual
- Finalize planned programs and operation schedule
- Budget Presentation and Approval

Other Business

- Facility / Clubhouse Utilization and Policy Committee Report

New Business

Closing Remarks

Adjourn

BOD MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of BOD meetings can be found in the member forum at www.smsa.com.

SMSA LIBRARY

The author and title listings of the SMSA library are now available at the SMSA website at www.smsa.com.

SUBMISSIONS TO THE CLEW

The deadline for submitting articles for the next issue of The Clew is:

January 15, 2007.

Email to: clew@smsa.com

If you submit an article for the Clew, you will receive an email acknowledging receipt. Articles and digital pictures are always appreciated!

Feedback or suggestions for articles or content can also be sent to the email address above.

Commodore continued from page 1...

Finally, two teams from SMSA will be heading to the lower latitudes in January to join the large number of individual members already “cruising” the warm waters.

One group is headed down to help with the race management of Key West Race Week (KWRW). This group includes Joy Dorethy, Keith Jacobs, Joe and Tracy Kubinec, Rob Herbig, Tom Moulds, Herb Reese, and myself. The other team is “Team Rhumb Punch” lead by John and Linda Edwards. They are headed south to KWRW to continue their strong representation in the regatta. SMSA members joining them include Clarke and Mary Anne McKinney, Shawn and Laura Stanley,

Joe Szymanski, Sandy Leitner and Amy Ironmonger. Good Luck to Team Punch!

Wow! It sure looks as though 2007 is starting off busily! Many of our cruisers are out cruising in warm waters, and no doubt those remaining locally are thinking of doing so. Our racers are preparing for the upcoming season or taking their programs on the road. And our social program is enjoying its new facility with lots of activities where we all can gather and dream about doing exactly these things!

See you on the water or at the clubhouse!

Don Behrens, Commodore

TREASURER



The transition of responsibilities of the SMSA treasurer position is going really well. I can't thank Joel Bergsman enough for the time he has spent with me, and for his patience with answering the zillion questions I have asked to ensure continuity in the position. Joel, and the treasurers that came before him, have built a system

that is streamlined, efficient, and easy to audit. I will work hard to ensure that we can consolidate the progress that they have made.

The budget process for 2007 should be complete by the time you read this, and I am optimistic that we will have better than break-even performance for the year. Applications for new membership continue to arrive, which I believe is influenced by the attractive new clubhouse and the associated social events.

Tracy and I have been regular attendees at the Friday evening socials, and we have been chatting with a lot of really nice people that we have seen before, but never had the opportunity to meet. These socials are really casual and the volunteer bartenders have been taking really good care of us. We have been using the socials as a way to hook up with others before dinner or a movie.

There is a lot of work ahead for the directors, officers, and program chairs of SMSA to maximize your enjoyment of our club. Contact me at any time if you have a suggestion, question, or concern, and I will do my best to assist. You need to do your part too by promptly responding to your annual dues letter, and by encouraging others to join SMSA. The first step is to get yourself to a social in the new clubhouse – and be sure to bring friends!

Joe Kubinec, Treasurer

WOMEN'S PROGRAM



We have a variety of fascinating subjects scheduled for the Winter seminars. We'll have a surveyor, a diesel mechanic, a rigger and a weather guru. The seminars will be held at the West Marine store in Solomons, except for the wine tasting event that will be held at the clubhouse. They will start at 6:30pm and end at 8:30pm

sharp so that the Chair can be home for “Sci-Fi” Friday.

On Feb. 17, there will be a seminar on race management provided by Keith Jacobs. That will be at the clubhouse, starting at 1:00pm and running til 4:00pm or 5:00pm.

Barbara Miller, Women's Chair

Winter Seminar Schedule

Jan. 19 - Buying , selling and maintaining your boat.

Derek Rhymes, Surveyor.

Jan. 26 - Navigation

Mike Smith, Maritime Training Resources.

Feb. 2 - Inspecting your standing rigging, lines, blocks, etc.

Mike Meers, Chesapeake Rigging.

Feb. 9 - Diesel engines.

Kate, Drum Point Marine.

Feb. 16 - Wine Tasting (at the clubhouse).

Feb. 23 - Weather for sailors.

Pat Healy

MEMBERSHIP



Happy New Year fellow SMSA Members! In 2007, I will be taking on the position and responsibility of Membership Chair. At a time of much transition within our organization, I am both excited and enthusiastic about this position and the role I hope to play in the growth of our club.

In the year ahead, I have a few membership drives/social events planned to recruit more members from within the community. As you see these events on the calendar, I hope you will attend and bring friends, acquaintances and sailing enthusiasts, so that they might consider the

benefits our club has to offer. Until then, I encourage every member to bring a friend or two to one of our happy hour socials or any one of the many events planned for 2007.

Dan Trammell recently approved for emeritus membership. Thank you Dan for the long service you have given to SMSA. If you see him at the Clubhouse be sure to tip your hat to him.

The continued growth of our club is key to the success of our programs, as well as establishing a permanent home for SMSA. I look forward to seeing you on and off the water throughout the year!

Laura Comeau-Stanley, Membership Chair

THE CHRISTMAS WALK



On December 8th and 9th, SMSA participated in the Solomons Christmas Walk by hosting an open house on both evenings and boat building for children on the Friday night. A visit by Santa was even arranged for the children on Friday night. The event was a huge success and the club was visited by many people who participated in the walk.

On each evening Jacki Meiser organized groups of greeters who met people at the door to welcome them to our new location on Main Street Solomons. The greeters also provided information about the club and our programs and kept the table stocked with cookies and cider. The greeters were Dave and Jacki Meiser, Clarke and Mary Anne McKinney, Don and Melissa Behrens, Shawn and Laura Stanley, Rod and Pat Schroeder, Smitty Smith and Max Munger.

The boat building on Friday night provided children (and prospective future sailors) with the opportunity to build and decorate small wooden boats, which were donated by Herb Reese. When ready to launch, they were able to sail them in a small pond that was setup in our multi-purpose room. The pond was complete with fair winds provided by the wind god Dick Rogers.

There were many people involved in making this a success – but I would like to extend a special thanks to the following people for making our first time participating in the Solomons Christmas Walk such a huge success:

Herb Reese, Jacki and Dave Meiser, B.J. Roberts, Merrie Ruth Raley, Annie and Dick Rogers, Mary Szczyglowski, Karen Raley-Moore, Jody Andrews, Veronica Spiczuzza and Tim Flaherty. Without their extraordinary efforts this event would not have been as successful.

Don Berhens, Commodore



Prospective new members welcome table providing information on club programs and benefits



Next generation sailors show off their newly-built small wooden boats prior prior to launch on the pond

RACING



As I sit here writing this on a rainy, cold New Year's Day, I am watching Tucker Thompson's video of this past summer's Race Week at Newport. Although it's kind of nice to have a break from our nine-month racing season, for me it doesn't take much more than reliving the week Foxtrot Corpen spent in Newport to get the competitive, racing juices

flowing again. For those who haven't yet had the opportunity to travel to out-of-town regattas, they can offer a wonderful experience for the crew as well as different, interesting, and competitive racing venues.

There will be plenty of competitive juices flowing later this month in Key West as 250+ boats from all over the world assemble to compete in what has become the "place-to-be" in mid-January. As in the past several years, John and Linda Edwards and their Rhumb Punch J/29 crew will be representing SMSA at Key West. Several other club members will be there helping out with race management duties. Best of luck to Rhumb Punch and our KWRW Race Management crew.

We will hold our Annual Winter Racers' Meeting at the clubhouse on Wednesday, 7 February at 1900. Please submit agenda items via the thread in the Forum or directly to me by e-mail. This will be our opportunity to fine tune our racing program for next year. I hope to see all racers there.

Congratulations to SMSA racers who we expect to receive trophies later this winter at the CBYRA awards ceremony.

CBYRA Award Winners

Stray Dog, Charles Engh...
1st place, A0 Class, 3AW Region
Foxtrot Corpen, Jim Keen...
1st place, A Class, 3SE Region
Little Latitudes, Jeff and Donna Moore...
3rd place, A Class, 3SE Region
Synergy, Pete LaRoche...
3rd place, C/D Class, 3SE Region
Krugerrand, Sarah Southworth...
1st place, Non-Spinn Class, 3SE Region
Iretsu, Terry Wanner...
3rd place, Non-Spinn Class, 3SE Region

We will close out the 2006 racing season with our annual Awards Banquet at St. Mary's College in January. We expect a large turnout to celebrate the 50+ boats that participated in this year's racing, with 29 boats and their respective crews receiving trophies.

Happy New Year and here's to another great SMSA racing season in 2007!

Jim Keen, Race Chair

CRUISING

PROGRAM CHAIR REPORT



The 2007 season Cruise Planning Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 27th from 1000 to 1200 at the SMSA clubhouse. I hope to see a good number of SMSA members at the meeting.

For those who may have never attended – the meeting builds the cruise calendar for the coming year. We will go through the calendar chronologically from April to November: those who wish to lead a cruise provide the dates and destination(s). We will de-conflict proposed cruises with other SMSA events or competing cruises as necessary. If your interest is more general and you are not inclined to lead a cruise, please attend anyway. Your suggestions for a successful 2007 cruise itinerary will be most welcome.

I hope some will come forward who have not led a cruise in the past and give it a try! This year, many of our most active

cruisers are "over the horizon", cruising the warm waters of Florida and the Bahamas, so we are going to have to "reach a little deeper" to build a full itinerary.

We have had some interest from racers to expand the cruise plan to include joint Race-Cruise events. With your indulgence, I want to schedule one or more cruises with a month and a "to be announced" date. While unorthodox, we may be able to build in the flexibility needed to get some of our racing friends to show up with us in an anchorage next season.

Also, there has been interest expressed in incorporating more weekend cruises in the itinerary to help out those who still have to accommodate their tedious "8-to-5, Monday through Friday" work habit.

Hope to see you at the clubhouse on the 27th.
Wayne Wilson, Interim Cruise Chair

CRUISING DESTINATION FOLLOW-UP - ST. JEROME CREEK

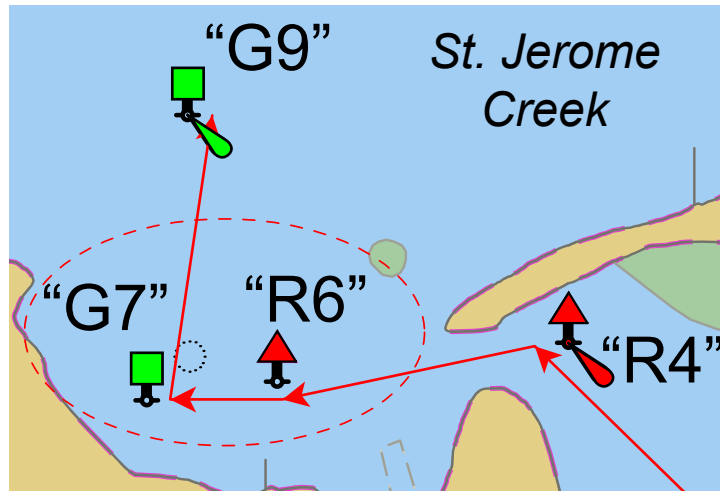


This is an important follow-up from Glen Coombs to last month's article, in which I reported that St. Jerome Creek had been dredged. Glen is a cruising sailor and prospective new member living on St. Jerome Creek, and I appreciate him providing his local knowledge.

"I own a 2003 Gemini 105Mc that I keep at my dock on the north prong. I read the article in the last issue of the Clew on navigating the inlet to the creek and thought I would pass on a few cautions to any sailor who attempts to follow the mostly-accurate guidance.

The long-awaited dredging that occurred last spring did dramatically improve the notoriously treacherous channel. It had had been difficult to navigate the channel, even with the 2 ft. draft of my catamaran. Unfortunately, the benefit was somewhat mitigated by Tropical Storm Ernesto and the strong Nor'easter a few weeks later, which has closed the width of the channel in the vicinity of G7.

The channel in that vicinity is now so narrow that you must stay VERY close to G7, and the bottom may be changing with each new storm. I recently hung up on the bottom about 30 feet from G7, and a marine construction contractor damaged the prop shaft on his work boat and almost sunk. I drove forward to the locally-known unmarked channel on the "wrong" side of R6.



A request to re-dredge the channel is in the works, in the meantime, the best advice I could give to a transient considering navigating the inlet is to try to raise a waterman or Drury's Marina on VHF Ch 16 to get the latest information."

Glen Coombs, Prospective Member

We did visit the creek after Ernesto, and in fact did feel the bottom between R6 and R7 when arriving. I had put this down to sloppy piloting. Leaving the next morning, we steered exactly at each marker and did not see any depth less than 6 ft.
Mark Brownhill, Wavedancer

SPECIAL ICW REPORT PART 2 (OCTOBER 20-29)



When last I wrote, we were in Beaufort. That night there was a noise all along our hull that sounded like someone crinkling plastic or maybe someone popping bubble wrap. It turned out to be krill munching on our hull!

We left Beaufort before first light and went through the big ship turning basin, which was very rocky due to all of the fishing boats racing for the ocean. Then we were in Bogue Sound. As we got near the Morehead City Bridge, there were more fishing boats than I have ever seen in any one place. They sat in the middle of the channel, so we had to dodge both fishing and anchor lines. My advice to anyone that does this trip - never leave Beaufort on a weekend.

We passed Camp LeJune and luckily the range was closed, as they frequently close the ICW for live firing. We stopped at Beach House Marina in Surf City. After we tied up, we walked over to the Atlantic. It is amazing how close we were to the ocean.

The next day we were trying to leave early. The women from the boat next to us, *Faith*, was returning from a walk with their dog when it fell in the water between their boat and the dock. We were already half way out of the slip, and stopped to try to help, but we couldn't get off the boat. Antha yelled for the husband and he tossed the dog into the cockpit, and then helped us get out of the slip. We motored past Top Sail and Wrightsville Beach to the Figure Eight Island Bridge, and *Faith* caught up with us. Over the radio we learn that the dog was fine after coughing up a little salt water.

On October 22 we left late (7:20) and did our first and only pontoon bridge. This is the only bridge we went through that cannot be opened during very low tides. It was a long day of motoring and we stopped at Cricket Cove Marina in North Myrtle Beach. This was the first marina where our guide book (Skipper Bob) was incorrect. It was supposed to have a loaner car, but we had to take a taxi to the grocery store and the laundry. Ron & Suzie were in the same marina and they invited us over for dinner, where we feasted on Borsini Cheese stuffed chicken breasts wrapped in prosciutto.

The next day we passed through our first swing bridge, and into The Rock Pile. This is a stretch of the ICW that is very narrow, with rock ledges coming out from the sides. Before you enter, you call ahead for any commercial traffic that is heading your way. You cannot pass a barge going north. We made it through just fine and entered the Wacama River.

The Wacama is a Cyprus swamp. The Cyprus trees are packed so close together, with Spanish moss dripping off of the branches, that not even light gets through. As the river winds around, you feel very alone. In the morning, with a gorgeous sunrise and with steam boiling off of the water, it wouldn't have seemed out of place if a stegosaurus had poked its head up and nipped off the top of a tree.

We stopped in Bucksport at a little marina and had lunch and ate some of the best bar-b-que that I have ever tasted. The marina is also famous for its sausage, as the family has been making it for three generations. We bought two packs to confirm the local opinion. They are right, it is delicious!

After a leisurely breakfast of sausage, biscuits and gravy, we continued down the Wacama River. I can't get over how beautiful and mysterious it is. We were on alligator watch but we didn't see any, just lots of herons, egrets, kingfishers, and many different kinds of ducks.

The swamp slowly gave way to rivers of saw grass, with Cyprus trees standing sentinel at the edges. This is the start of the old rice plantations, and we saw little canals that are

fenced off by the state so that they will slowly fill in and return the land to its natural state.

We stopped in Georgetown at the Boat Shed Marina and had lunch in the charming old Southern town. The houses are old, but very well maintained. The people are very friendly and treat you more like friends than tourists. After lunch, we visited the Rice Museum for a interesting history of rice. It made Georgetown the largest shipper of rice in the world, all based on a slave economy where the average life span was only 28 years.

We left Georgetown (Oct. 25) and headed to Charleston. It was a very long day as we raced to the Ben Sawyer Bridge. If you don't make it by 1600, you have to wait another two hours before they open it again. Luckily, we made it and entered Charleston Harbor. We first went to City Marina, but they don't welcome small sailboats (they want mega-yachts that will take 4,000 gallons of fuel), so we went to Ashley Marina. Very nice and much more relaxed. From our slip, we could see the anchorage where there are several sailboats. Because of the strong current in the harbor, it is very normal to see them stern into the wind.

We will spend several days here (so many restaurants, so little time). So far we have eaten at Poogans Porch, Cru (for lunch) SNOB, and today we are going to brunch at Blossom's. Tomorrow we leave all of the good restaurants.

Dale and Antha, Mongoose Magic



CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 5 (Fri) Membership Social** at the SMSA clubhouse - 4:30pm-7:30pm.
- 11 (Thu) Inaugural SMSA BOD Meeting** at the SMSA clubhouse - 7:30pm. See general notices for agenda items.
- 12 (Fri) Membership Social** at the SMSA clubhouse - 4:30pm-7:30pm.
- 19 (Fri) Membership Social** at the SMSA clubhouse - 4:30pm-7:30pm.
- 19 (Fri) Winter Seminar Series** - Buying, Selling and Maintaining your Boat, Derek Rhymes, surveyor. At the West Marine store in Solomons - 6:30pm-8:30pm.
- 26 (Fri) Membership Social** at the SMSA clubhouse - 4:30pm-7:30pm.
- 26 (Fri) Winter Seminar Series** - Navigation, Mike Smith, Maritime Training Resources. At the West Marine store in Solomons - 6:30pm-8:30pm.
- 27 (Sat) Cruise Planning Meeting** at the SMSA clubhouse, coffee and donuts provided - 10:00-12:00am.

FEBRUARY

- 2 (Fri) Membership Social** at the SMSA clubhouse - 4:30pm-7:30pm.
- 2 (Fri) Winter Seminar Series** - Inspecting your Standing Rigging, Lines, Ropes, and Blocks, Mike Meers, Chesapeake Rigging. At the West Marine store in Solomons - 6:30pm-8:30pm.
- 7 (Wed) Annual Winter Racers' Meeting** at the SMSA clubhouse - 1900.
- 9 (Fri) Membership Social** at the SMSA clubhouse - 4:30pm-7:30pm.
- 9 (Fri) Winter Seminar Series** - Diesel Engines, Kate, Drum Point Marine. At the West Marine store in Solomons - 6:30pm-8:30pm.
- 16 (Fri) Membership Social** at the SMSA clubhouse - 4:30pm-7:30pm.
- 16(Fri) Winter Seminar Series** - Winetasting. At the SMSA clubhouse - 6:30pm-8:30pm.
- 17 (Sat) Race Management** - Keith Jacobs. At the SMSA clubhouse - 1:00pm-5:00pm.
- 23 (Fri) Winter Seminar Series** - Weather for Sailors, Pat Healy. At the West Marine store in Solomons - 6:30pm-8:30pm.

Membership Socials

**Friday Nights in January
4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
at the clubhouse!**

Introduce a prospective member!

CLASSIFIED

1983 OLSON 30. Quantum sails: Main ('02), Light #1 ('03), Heavy #3 ('04), Spinnaker ('05). Also original main, plus Haarstick heavy #1, AP #1, and light #1. Garmin 182C Color Chart Plotting GPS, with large Chesapeake area Blue Chip. VHF with mast head antenna, control head in cockpit, and emergency location from GPS. Depth sounder new mid season '05. KVH instrumentation system as is, digital compass and count down timer work fine. Two new bulk head compasses. 4hp Evinrude O/B. \$10,000 or best offer by December 31st. 301-862-1083 (awh but before 9pm, please).

DISCOUNT RUNNING RIGGING. Halyards, Sheets, other control lines, all with quality splicing - significant discount from retail stores. Cruisers: looking to replace some of that old ratty line? Low cost, high quality lines available. Racers: looking for spectra, vectran, dyneema? Stripped halyards or tapered light air sheets? Custom rigging available. Contact Chris at cmmiller0411@comcast.net or 410-495-8420.



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