



the clew
Southern Maryland Sailing Association, Inc.



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*Don Behrens
Commodore*

Officer of the Deck

As we enter May, the club's on the water activities are really starting to get into full swing. It seems to me as though Opening Day was just last week, but a month has quickly passed and during that time many of you have participated in both races and cruises. By the time you read this, the first Thursday night race should have occurred. The "sailing stuff" we operate our club for is now truly in full motion. Have you reviewed your yearbook? – another excellent job by Mark Brownhill. Start taking those pictures for the next edition of the yearbook.

I hope that each of you are receiving your weekly "This week at SMSA..." email, which highlights events going on at the clubhouse each week. Make sure you are receiving this email. If you're not, send Laura Stanley (membership@smsa.com) an email from your current email address. We have some fantastic volunteers dreaming up events to host at the clubhouse, which are intended to provide both enjoyment for the members and benefit to the club. We have also started hosting boating education courses in conjunction with the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Check out the new "Adult Training" page on the website for info on upcoming classes. SMSA members get a discount on the cost of these classes.

At the clubhouse, the new facility updates are going very well. We have just about completed the install of the small-boat lift and ALL the small-boat dry slips are rented. This provides both a great launching and sailing venue for our members and a nice stream of income for the club. Updates inside the clubhouse are moving along also. The bar upgrades (sink and water behind the bar) are being investigated and an air conditioning system has been donated to the club. We are now working with the necessary folks to get it properly installed and working. Stay tuned for a cooler front-room in the clubhouse. More info will be forthcoming on these upgrades with the appropriate thanks and acknowledgments to the many people who are making these improvements possible.

Your directors have been busy working on the "SMSA Strategic Plan". They continue to work hard developing a plan that identifies and documents our current place in the community and our way ahead. Meanwhile, the program chairs have been staying busy keeping up with the planning and execution of all the day-to-day activities of the club. The Officers have been working with the program chairs to support their goals and trying to make sure we stay on track with meeting our short-term goals and objectives for SMSA.

There is much going on, so please give an Officer or a Program Chair a call to help out at the club. I just got back from helping with some facility upgrades – and though it was technically 'work', I sure had a great time 'hanging out' at the club with some fellow members and doing something to better our club and our sport. Bring us your ideas for new activities at the clubhouse or on the water, or thoughts on activities already planned. Thanks also to each of you for supporting SMSA with your continued membership.

See you at the clubhouse or on the water!



Carol Smith
Social Chair

Social - May is party month

Welcome spring! Now that the nice weather is upon us, it's time to do what we all love to do; sailing, getting together with old friends and making new friends. We have gatherings planned out this season, pretty much for every month. So check the yearbook, mark your calendars to join us and I'll see you there.

Cinco De Mayo Party - Saturday, May 3, 2008. Come and join us for the evening, the party will start at 4:00 PM. There will be specialty drinks offered, along with the normal bar setup. The club will provide non-alcoholic beverages and the grill will be ready for those who would like to use it. Members are asked to bring a dish to share. I am in need of bartenders for this event, if you would like to help, please contact me.

Luau - Saturday, May 31 2008 The luau is a special rendezvous that is hosted at Zahniser's marina and starts at 4:00 PM. Barbeque is served up hot off the grill and members bring potluck salads, vegetables and desserts to complete the meal. Everyone has a great time under the tent listening to live music. So dig out your best Hawaiian duds and come on out and enjoy some tropical beverages.



Terry and Glen
Walters
Facilities Chairs

Facilities - thanks for helping the clubhouse!

Finally, summer is almost here and our time on the water and at the clubhouse is moving into full swing. It seems like the last few months have been full of learning and preparing; at last we can all enjoy the "fruits of labor" – everyone's!

A sincere "Thank You" to all who helped out on Clean Up Day to get us ready for Opening Day. As everyone knows, the club runs on volunteers. And, you can never remember to thank everyone every time. We want to say in advance of this busy season that we appreciate everyone's help, everyone's advice, and everyone's suggestions (even though we may not be able to follow through every time!).

Special thanks this month to Susan Holt for donating the new thermostat that is now operational. Also, thanks to LG Raley for donating the new lights that are now operating in the clubhouse and looking not quite so "industrial". And to Jean McDougall who has our flowerbed and barrels looking so beautiful!

And finally, although it may appear that the clubhouse is in constant use, there are still plenty of "un-used" days/nights. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about using the clubhouse for a private event or if you'd like to schedule one. You can reach us via email at facility@smsa.com, or call us at 301-373-3396.

Flexdel Makes Donation to SMSA

The Flexdel Corporation, based in New Jersey, has developed an innovative line of Environmentally Preferable Paints and Coatings for the marine industry. This year, the company has donated a water-based antifouling bottom paint to Zahniser's to use on the SMSA Race Committee Boat. The bottom paint is part of a Flexdel product line called Aquagard and has received rave reviews and high ratings. These EPA registered products are considered "Environmentally Preferable" because they contribute to keeping the air and water clean, especially in the sensitive areas of marinas and estuaries. SMSA would like to thank Flexdel for their kind donation. For more information, visit www.aquagard-boatpaint.com



Laura Stanley
Membership

Membership - Welcome new and returning members

I am pleased to announce that we have a few new club members and I would like your help in welcoming them to SMSA.

Will and Amanda Kellahe Walker were recently approved by the Board of Directors for a family membership. The Walkers were sponsored by Kris Dennie-Young and are interested in Racing, Social and the Women's program. Will and Amanda currently reside in St. Inigoes.

Guy Barbato was recently approved by the Board of Directors for an individual membership, sponsored by Stovy Brown. For the past year, Guy has been very involved in the High School Sailing program as the Leonardtown HS Liaison. Guy is a former collegiate sailor turned biology teacher at Leonardtown HS. He has been instrumental in the growth and success of the sailing program, both on and off the water. Guy has helped Stovy run practices and with coaching at local and away regattas. He has a great rapport with the kids and his volunteer commitment is already impressive. In addition to the Junior program, Guy is interested in Racing, Cruising, Social, Facilities and Membership. Guy currently resides in Mechanicsville.

In addition to those new members, we have some former members who have recently been approved for reinstatement by the Board of Directors.

James "Jim" Owens of Rockville was a member from 1994 to 2006. Jim is a retired USMC Lt. Colonel who took a short break from sailing. He recently purchased a boat and expects to sail her from Lake Champlain as early as mid-May.

David and Shirley Butler of Solomons, who have been club members for several years, have also returned to SMSA. David and Shirley spend time between their homes here in Solomons Island and in Florida, near their children and grandchildren. In years past, they have been active in several of our programs and have served as dedicated volunteers. Many in our racing program know David as the former owner of Jammin' and Shirley as our lovely Screwpile Trophy Gal.

We are glad to welcome these new and returning members and look forward to seeing them at upcoming activities.



Dan Schneider
Race Chair

Race - Lots of racing to start the 2008 season

Spring Frostbite racing is over; the Wednesday Night racing begins; summer is just around the corner. The race turnouts have been surprisingly good so far, but we seem to have some missing racers on the signup sheets.

Congratulations to team **Splash** for showing us all how to do it. Bullets certainly take the calculation out of calculations for first place. Joy might get a pay reduction if **Splash** keeps this up. Team **Foxtrot Corpen** challenged **Big Blue** during the last race to bring race results to a new high. Congratulations all who braved our frostbite weather!

The new marks are in the water, they are yellow with BIG LETTERS reflective tape and orange trim. GPS positions are accurate thanks to the help of Norm (**Big Blue**). Look for some different race courses this year!



Kristie Yurko
Women's Chair

Women's - Adult training now at the SMSA clubhouse

And the season begins! Look forward to a great year, ladies. Let me know if you have any ideas or are willing to help!

Upcoming events:

- Women's Day Cruise 25 May
- Women's Marcy Series (big boat) 31 May - 01 June

As part of the adult education effort at SMSA, the USCG Auxiliary will be offering the Boat Maryland course at the clubhouse in May. Class is Wednesday evening, May 7th and Saturday, May 10th. This course meets the state requirement for those born after July 1, 1972. Even if you were born before 1972, this class is great in that it covers federal regs, rules of the road, and other information that all of us will find useful.

Boat Maryland

Pre-registration is requested for this class - contact either Ronald Hillard at 301-737-4277 or Doug Yeckley at 410-326-4291 to register or for additional information.

LOCATION: SMSA Clubhouse

FEE: \$30.00 (includes the text book).

DATES: MAY 07th: 1800 - 2100 MAY 10th: 0900 - 1500 (must attend both sessions)

Other course dates and locations can be found at: <http://a0541507.uscgaux.info/calendar.htm>

If you attend, please send me a courtesy email (women@smsa.com) so I can keep track of the SMSA participation.



Mark Brownhill
Wavedancer

Second Saturday Cruiser's Raft takes to the water May 10

The next Second Saturday Cruiser's Raft will be on the water in Cuckold Creek on Saturday May 10, weather permitting. We'll start the raft in time for a 4:00pm happy hour. Boats that would like to stay in a raft for a potluck dinner, bring something to share. Boats will have a choice of rafting or anchoring for the night, or heading home before dark. If the weather forecast on Friday does not look good for being on the water, we'll move to the clubhouse and follow the 5:00pm format of prior months. I will email cruisers Friday night to confirm.

The Raft on April 12th attracted the crew from eighteen boats including **Allora**, **Blue Heron** (David and Sally Arbuthnot), **Calypso** (Rita and Frank Gerred), **Cheers** (Palmer and Carol Esau), **Easy Time** (Ron and Suzie Williams), **Illumination** (Dave and Pat Marchant), **Koel** (Gresh and Rene Sackett), **Lynn-Dee** (Jerry and Marilyn Eastwood), **Rusty Nayle** (Rod and Pat Schroeder), **Safina** (Dennis Chandler), **Sanatee**, **Seawings**, **Serenity** (Curt and Dottie Hamilton), **Shermax** (Max and Sherma Mungler), **Sunray** (Peter and Susan Holt), **Swan** (Ken and Ellie Mowbray), **Walkabout** (Lois and David Zonderman), and **Wavedancer** (Carrie and Mark Brownhill).

A big thank you to Ron and Suzie Williams for handling the bartending.



*Robert Smitty
Smith Noon
Somewhere*

Southern Bay Cruise - May 17 - 26

Some boats begin the week long Southern Bay Cruise on Saturday, May 17th, while others will depart Sunday, May 18th (due in part to the race on Saturday, which many plan to participate in). On Saturday, the 17th, we will head south to Smith Creek, dropping the hook and enjoying a nice spot on the creek.

On Sunday, we will head out and meet up with the rest of the Racer-Cruisers in Reedville, VA. We will be dropping our hooks just north of the stacks of the Menhaden Processing Plant in Cockrell Creek. From Reedville we will yet again head south to Carter Creek off the Rappahannock River, anchoring in the eastern branch of the creek and not far from the Tides Inn. The following day, some of our group may opt to head over to Urbanna for a short sail and enjoy a good time in town, while others will pull into the Tides Inn and enjoy a lazy day by the pool. For those planning to make reservations, here is information for The Tides Inn:

www.tidesinn.com/marina.cfm, (800) 843-3746.

The next day we will head down the river and up the bay to Grogg Island located in Dymer Creek. We are not sure if the Island is still there, as it was nearly gone two years ago when we were last there, but we plan to check it out. We will anchor in Roness Bay behind the Island, unless the weather prohibits anchoring in the bay. If the weather is blowing from the south or we feel the need to anchor elsewhere, we will move farther up Dymer Creek. The following day we will setout across the bay, a nice 28-mile sail to the mouth of Onancock Creek. Depending upon the winds, you may want to motor up the creek, as it is a little narrow. We will be rafting up in Onancock Creek not far from the Warf. We will have a lay day Friday in Onancock and plan to enjoy this great little town, which is within walking distance from the dock. For those planning to get a slip at the dock for Friday, here is the information for the harbormaster: *www.onancock.com/harbor.htm*, (757) 787-7911.

From Onancock we head out of the creek and North to Crisfield. Once we arrive in Crisfield, we will be staying at Somers Cove Marina for the night. The marina telephone number is (410) 968-0925. If you let them know that you are with the SMSA group, they will try to keep us together. From there, you can elect to enjoy a lay day and see the town or take the ferry to Smith Island. Others may want to head back to Solomons to allow for a day of rest before the workweek begins or just to get the boat ready for the next adventure!

Should you have any questions, please contact me at *rearcommadore@smsa.com* or by phone at (301) 863-8285. We will be monitoring Ch. 9, 16, 72 for the duration of the trip and, as per the yearbook cruising instructions, we will be checking in at 1000 and 1400 daily on Ch. 9. Looking forward to seeing you on the water!

*Robert and Carol Smith, Noon Somewhere
Email: rearcommadore@smsa.com
Phone: 301-863-8285.*



*Rich Freeman
and Patty
Kimmel
Reflections*

Delmarva Cruise - May 24 - June 6

We are about one month away from the start of our Delmarva cruise. Rich and I have just made marina reservations for Cape May (Utsch's Marina) and Little Creek (Bay Point Marina). We indicated that the Southern Maryland Sailing Association will have a few boats interested in slips. Both marinas recommended that we advise you to call ASAP.

Please let us know if you are interested in all or part of this cruise. For example, *Swan* will be joining us up to Cape May, but then returning back through the C&D Canal. The first day, May 24, will be a long day. The next long leg will be to Cape May from Chesapeake City but is doable, by timing the currents properly. Our longest leg will be to Little Creek, on the outside.

Chesapeake Inn Marina, Chesapeake City, Maryland, 410-885-2040
 Utsch's Marina, Cape May, New Jersey, 609-884-2051
 Bay Point Marina, Little Creek, Virginia, 757-362-8432
 Summit North Marina, Bear, Delaware, 302-836-1800
 Fishing Bay Harbor Marina, Deltaville, Virginia, 804-776-6800

There is adequate time in our schedule to ensure good weather. Safety is key. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Rich Freeman and Patty Kimmel, Reflections
 Email: PKimmel@belvoirfcu.org
 Phone: 703-569-1413.



*Wayne Wilson
Virginia Dare*

Philadelphia Cruise - July 6 - 18

Wayne and Sally Wilson would like to give SMSA sailors advanced notice of the Philadelphia Cruise, scheduled to depart Solomons on July 6th. It may appear a bit premature to be talking about a July cruise in May, but a few of the marinas have limited slips and you need to make your reservations soon if you plan to join us.

This will be a two-week cruise logging 354-nm, with three nights in Philadelphia. The distance and duration will probably limit participation to a (very) small fleet for this cruise. We have planned some stops in marinas along the way and at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia. If you plan to join in, then have a look at the cruise plan on the SMSA Cruising web. Each of the marinas listed include a hyperlink to the marina web page. Make your reservations as soon as you can – particularly at Penn's Landing. The number of transient slips available in Philadelphia is few given the city's size!

The cruise legs are short, making for a leisurely pace with lots of sundowns along the way. In Philadelphia, we plan to take in some U.S. history – find a restaurant (or two) and see the Phillies play the Diamondbacks in the new Citizens Bank Park.

To coordinate with us prior - our phone number is below and in the SMSA Yearbook: underway we monitor VHF 9, 13 and 16 and respond to a DSC call on MMSI# 338010792.

Wayne and Sally Wilson, Virginia Dare
 Email: vadare@gmail.com
 Phone: see yearbook.

Calendar

May

1 (Thu) Small Boat Racing
 2 (Fri) Membership Social
3 (Sat) Double-Handed Race
3 (Sat) Cinco De Mayo Party
 4 (Sun) Varsity Fleet Regatta
 6 (Tue) Program Meeting
 7 (Wed) Wednesday Night Race #4
7 (Wed) Boat Maryland Course at the clubhouse
 8 (Thu) Small Boat Racing
 9 (Fri) Membership Social
10-11 (Sat-Sun) Second Saturday Cruiser's Raft - on the water, Cuckold Creek
 10 (Sat) League Local Fleet Regatta
 10 (Sat) Boat Maryland Course at the clubhouse
 14 (Wed) Wednesday Night Race #5
 15 (Thu) Small Boat Racing
 15 (Thu) Awards Pot Luck Supper
 16 (Fri) Membership Social
17 (Sat) Frost-Goode Series
17-25 (Sat-Sun) Southern Bay Cruise
 18 (Wed) League JV Team Racing Clinic
 21 (Wed) Wednesday Night Race #6
 22 (Thu) Small Boat Racing
 23 (Fri) Membership Social
25 (Sun) Women's Day Cruise
24-(6) (Sat- Fri) Delmarva Circumnavigation Cruise
 28 (Wed) Wednesday Night Race #7
 29 (Thu) Small Boat Racing
 30 (Fri) Membership Social
31-(1) (Sat-Sun) Marcy Series
31-(1) (Sat-Sun) US Sailing Instructor Course
31 (Sat) Luau

June

4 (Wed) Wednesday Night Race #8
 5 (Thu) Small Boat Racing
 6 (Fri) Membership Social
7-8 (Sat-Sun) US Sailing Instructor Course
7 (Sat) Little Choptank
7-15 (Sat-Sun) Smith Island Crab Feast Cruise
 11 (Wed) Wednesday Night Race #9
 12 (Thu) Small Boat Racing
 13 (Fri) Membership Social
13 (Fri) Vice Commodore's Race
14 (Sat) Vice Commodore's Rendezvous
14-15 (Sat-Sun) Second Saturday Cruiser's Raft - on the water, St. Leonard's Creek
 16-20 (Mon-Fri) Junior Camp #1
 18 (Wed) Wednesday Night Race #10
 19 (Thu) Small Boat Racing
 20 (Fri) Membership Social
21 (Sat) Small Boat 1-Day Regatta
21-22 (Sat-Sun) Choptank Cruise
22 (Sat) Summer Invitational
 23-27 (Mon-Fri) Junior Camp #2
 25 (Wed) Wednesday Night Race #11
 26 (Thu) Small Boat Racing
 27 (Fri) Membership Social
 30-(4) (Mon-Fri) Junior Camp #3