



Vice Commodore's Signal

Happy Spring!

Happy Spring SMSA; I hope this note finds you with your Spring boat projects going well and close to getting out on the water if not already there! By the time you read this our spring frostbite keelboat racing will be concluded for the year. So far we have had one tough day and two beautiful ones. Looks like Mother

Nature is going to even that score up as the weather is looking like rain and temps in the low 40's Sunday. Let's hope she at least gives us some wind.

As we start into a new boating season I want to encourage all members to get out on the water and enjoy the beautiful Chesapeake Bay we have all been blessed with. Rich has a fantastic cruise schedule planned with 14 events ranging from overnight local anchorages to week plus long adventures. Marc has made some significant changes to the keelboat racing program (based on racer feedback) that, I believe, will offer improvements to an already great program so check your new Race Circular carefully when you get it. Jimmy is cranking along with our Junior program so if you have an interested youngster, see him. And finally, Robert has the tiller again for our highly successful Small Boat (dinghy) racing program with our usual Thursday evenings and two weekend regattas. Be sure to attend the kickoff meeting on Friday April 8th at 1900 and get involved either with racing or helping with race committee. I guarantee you will have a great time with the Small Boat racing program. Immediately following the Small Boat meeting, I will be conducting our Laser one design organization meeting so if you have a Laser or just want to see what all this Laser racing is about stick around.

If you are a Laser sailor and just do not want to wait till May to start racing then join us every Sunday in April for some OD racing. These are informal races and not just all W/L. One of our favorites is "around Molly's Leg NASCAR style and back to SMSA." See me for additional details or to get on the weekly Laser email distribution list.

See ya all at Opening Day and on the water!

Jeff

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

Opening Day

Saturday April 2, 2011

9:00 AM	Bloody Marys & Mimosas Flow
9:30 AM	Brunch provided by the board plus the delights you bring.
11:00 AM	Official Opening Ceremony

Welcome New Members

By Ellen Aulson

Please welcome these new members who joined us in February and March.

Ronald Glockner, Jr was approved for membership at the February 7, 2011 Board Meeting. Ronald joins us with his wife Nancy and their 14 year old daughter Lexi. Welcome and we look forward to seeing you at upcoming SMSA Events.

Jim and Kris Young are past members in good standing from 1986 to 2008 and are returning. They have two children Rylee 11 and Kaitlyn 19. They are looking to become very active in all areas of the club. They have a Thomas 35 named *Lakahi* that they moor at NAS Pax River.

David Siebs and wife Janette have two children August 14 and Erik 12. They live in Herndon Virginia. Their 35' sailboat named *Rasmine* is moored at Spring Cove. The Siebs are also interested in racing lasers.

Nautical Flea Market

Saturday, April 9, 2011 – 9 AM to 6 PM

14490 Solomons Island Road, Solomons, Maryland (SMSA Clubhouse)

- For all boaters, power or sail, big or small!
- Buy gear you really need at great prices!
- Sell gear you no longer need! Only a \$10 Table Rental Charge!
- Or donate good gear you no longer need to Southern Maryland Sailing Association for resale.

To rent a table, donate equipment for resale or to get more information, call Frank Gerred at (410) 326-2785 or send an email to gerred@verizon.net.

This event is sponsored by the Southern Maryland Sailing Association (SMSA). SMSA supports a wide range of sailing programs which include junior sailing camps, planned Chesapeake Bay cruising and both small and large boat racing. If you are interested in sailing, you might be interested in SMSA. Call (888) 714-3777 for information.



Sailing Is Fun

Education Makes It Even Better

Junior Programs

This month has been very productive for the Junior committee. We have made great progress remodeling the Junior room. It has been cleaned, painted, and new racks have been built to store the Optimist Prams for sailing camps.

Our website has been updated and registration is now open for Junior and Adult training classes. Registration is available on line (preferred) and by mail. Registrations have been pouring in, so register now.

Our next Junior Committee meeting is going to be at 7:00 on Thursday, April 14 in the clubhouse. If you are interested in participating in any of the upcoming Junior program activities, or would like to help with a class please email or call anytime. Jimmy Yurko, junior@smsa.com, 240-434-1312.

Adult Programs

The March 12 intro to racing seminar was so well attended that we will likely run another session of the class. We are also planning to run a basic racing tactics seminar. So stay tuned. April 10th has the Racing Rules Seminar. April 16th has Introducing Cruising. Adult Learn to Sail starts April 25. Family Fun Fridays start May 27. Here's more info on learn to sail and family fun:

Adult Learn to Sail - 5:30pm – dark, Mondays, Age: 16 and up

Our Adult Sailing program is taught on Sunfish and small keelboats. This course focuses on the fundamentals of sailing. The course is open to any sailor interested in learning or improving their basic sailing skills. The first hour of each class is in the classroom. This is followed by on-the-water hands-on practice until dark. This is a fee class, with six sessions, each class limited to six students. The program will be taught three times over the summer. The first six sessions start April 25.

Family Fun Fridays - 5:30pm – dusk, Fridays, Age: all

SMSA offers a low key practice sailing program open to anyone involved in any of the other SMSA programs. Family Fun Fridays is designed to help improve students' sailing skills and introduce them to the fun and excitement of sailing with friends and family. Use one of our boats or bring your own. This is a no charge program and is scheduled to run every Friday from May 27 to September 2. If you need more information, contact Jimmy Yurko, junior@smsa.com, 240-434-1312.

Racing Rules of Sailing Seminar

April 10, 5:30-8:30 pm

Focused on The Racing Rules of Sailing for 2009-2012. Topics include: Mark Roundings, What to do when boats meet on the course, Starting Rules, Finishing Rules, and Protest Hearings.



Have a rules question? Don't understand a situation you've been in on the race course? Bring the scenario and we'll figure it out together. Come join us and meet some fellow sailors! Contact Kristi at training@smsa.com with questions.

Introducing Cruising Class

April 16th, 9-11am

Focused on beginning to cruise your sailboat. Topics include: how to know where to go, how far you can go in a relaxing way, what kids seem to like, things to do to keep it interesting, equipment suggestions, what to pack and what to leave at home.



Interested in learning to cruise but don't know where to start? Have questions on where to begin? Don't own a boat but want to go cruising? Come join us and meet some fellow sailors! Contact Kristi at training@smsa.com with questions.

Cruising the Virgin Islands

By Sarah Southworth

Editor's note: Last month the Clew received an email from Sarah in the Virgin Islands, describing barnacle removal using an ice scraper. When asked why she was scraping barnacles in the Virgin Island, Sarah responded "Because it's warmer than cleaning bottoms in Maryland! :-)" The bigger question was, what was she doing in the Virgins. Here is the answer:

It was with some trepidation that I initially flew to the US Virgin Islands to help skipper and crew a 40 foot Valiant. I had known the owner for two years and buddy boated with him and his brother on a Gulf Stream passage from Marsh Harbor, Abacos, Bahamas, to Beaufort, NC, and on up the ICW, into the Chesapeake Bay to Solomons. However, being a "girl," flying to the Caribbean to hop onboard a boat with folks I "thought" I knew, initially made me question my sanity. I have been very fortunate to find "conditions" better than my best perceived expectations; otherwise, my bailout plan included nearby airports and jumping ship.

Having purchased our boat, *Moonlight Serenade*, in Road Town, Tortola, Bill and I have spent much time chartering, cruising and captaining in the VI's. However, we always strove to hit the "hot spots;" the Willie T at Norman, Skinny Legs at Coral Bay, the Wreck of the Rhone off Salt, snorkeling at Cooper, Pussers at Marina Cay, The Bitter End and Saba Rock in Virgin Gorda, Foxy's on Jost van Dyke, and to return to the charter company not only on time, but on the right day. We never had time to explore the quiet, yet beautiful anchorages of the Virgin Islands. If you plan to charter, bareboat and/or cruise the VI's and would like a little local information about "non-hot spots," read on.

As I said, my previous trips to the VI's revolved around the famous night life. However, the people on this boat read books! For me, this was a new concept and initially a difficult change in modality. "Anchor down" always meant make sure the anchor is set, hop into the dinghy and go ashore to meet new cruising friends and find dollar beers! Ready to bolt for shore, I was told, "We just got here... maybe tomorrow." "HUH?" They picked up their

books for a peaceful afternoon of reading. Initially, I thought they were teasing me! "Is it too far for me to swim to shore?" I wondered. But as with many things in life, change can be good. My second trip down, I brought along a guitar to learn to play and sing. Now they can't get off the boat fast enough.... Following is what I learned in the interim:

When flying into St. Thomas, there is an anchorage at Druif Bay off the west side of Water Island, also called Honeymoon Bay. It is a peaceful anchorage frequented by locals. Sometimes a bit of swell finds its way in, but usually it is quite comfortable. The water is clean, clear and inviting. The WIFI antenna picked up (free) internet. It is a wonderful anchoring spot, especially when waiting for passengers to arrive or depart by air. Ashore is a tiny wooden stand/bar, Joe's, where locals sell ice cold beer in the afternoon and on Sundays, there is live music.

A closer anchorage to town with good holding is at Ruyter Bay, across from Crown Bay Marina and Tickle's Bar and Restaurant. There is also a nice chandlery and laundry.

The Small Craft Anchorage off Charlotte Amalie is very convenient, with good holding, but lots of street noise and dirt.

East of Charlotte Amalie and St. Thomas is Great St. James Island, where free mooring balls have recently been installed. There is wonderful snorkeling near shore & the southern tip of the island. This is a very nice anchorage; quiet at night, but a bit rolly during the day, as the ferry boats run from Charlotte Amalie to St. John and points beyond. The water is clean, clear and inviting for swimming and/or bathing. It is now my third favorite VI anchorage.

It is common knowledge that St. John offers beautiful anchorages off mostly preserved park lands. I had not spent time along the north shore anchorages due to the lack of "hot spots" (bars). However, on this trip, we spent a few days on \$15 mooring balls in Francis and Maho Bay. The water was clean, clear and inviting, with good snorkeling along the bay's north shore and at the harbor's tip near Whistling Cay, however make note that there is a strong current there.

One night we anchored in The Bight of Norman Island, on the ledge in the northwest corner, just before the north-western-most cove. The entire anchorage is now mooring balls or 65 ft. deep; not inviting for a manually operated windlass (one of my jobs). The water was clean, clear and inviting. Rinsing off after the night of dancing at the Willie T, I discovered phosphorescence in the water. With every sweep of the feet or hands, the water would explode with tiny greenish-white lights. Of course, the cognizant part of my brain told me I was just attracting large fish, so I clung to the ladder as I enjoyed this experience. This has become my favorite VI anchorage, due to the very clean, warm water, the phosphorescence and the ability to pick up AT&T telephone and internet from St. John with my iPhone. Our several day stay here enabled me to clean the boat bottom and snorkel the nearby Indians. It also meant that as cruising friends came and went, they lulled us into staying "another night." We spent three nights in a row at The Willie T; apparently a record rewarded by multiple free shots of Tequila. Now needing to give ourselves a rest, we ventured over to Peter Island, which in the past I had avoided due to rumors of great expense.

Rounding the western end of Peter Island, we found more cruising friends Med-moored in Little Harbor. This type of anchoring would be a first for all of us. Initially we did a "fly-by" and scouted out the depths and the few submerged rocks. The depths were sufficient up to a boat length from shore, so on the second pass, I headed toward shore, did a u-



Little Harbor, Peter Island, from a hilltop. turn

sharply away from shore in a light cross wind and dropped anchor at a depth of 35 feet, while backing toward shore. Next, the owner hopped into the dinghy, towed a line ashore and secured it around a rock, while I continued to tap reverse to keep us perpendicular to shore. It was a much easier process than I would have thought. Had the wind been stronger, launching the dinghy first to tie a line to the shore, then standby and wait for the boat's stern would have been preferred. While this would take a minimum of three crew members, several single handed sailors were moored here.

This small anchorage is quite beautiful, well protected, with clean, clear water. It is directly across from Road Town, Tortola, BVI. Local charter boats anchor here to rest and regroup between charters, due to the quiet solitude, calm, clean, protected

Continued on page 10



Anegada anchorage.

Cruising the Virgin Islands, continued

waters and enjoyable swimming. Ashore, there is an abandoned dock, a grill, machetes for chopping wood, a beach, some "paths" to ruins and nothing else. We spent several days here doing some rough hiking, swimming, reading and outdoor grilling ashore. At night, the stars were spectacular. This is my second favorite anchorage in the VI's.

Anegada had always intrigued me, but due to rumors about the difficulty of the large reef, numerous ship wrecks and some charter companies not allowing their charter boats to sail there without extra insurance, we had chosen not to sail there. Deciding it would be a good shakedown sail to prepare for the passage to St. Martin, we sailed the rhumb line to the outer anchorage waypoint and once there, found the route a bit confusing. The entrance buoy locations appeared different than the ones on the chart and the chart plotter. Also, surveying the route through the binoculars, in some places the reds and greens appeared to switch sides. Having spent several seasons in the shallow reefs of the Bahamas, we decided a slow passage in while frequently reading the depth sounder and my sitting on the bow to "read" the water, would safely get us to the anchorage; which it did. The "switched" buoys near the end of the channel merely led through a "U-turn" into the anchorage. We followed this twist and never saw less than 8 feet. The following day, I watched as several sailboats cut this bend and did not run aground. The anchorage is shallow; about 8 feet, but star gazing here was the best yet. Lobster is harvested from the Anegada Reef, so I had hoped to enjoy inexpensive lobster dinners, however the local price in the anchorage was \$50 each.

Anegada was quite interesting. It is basically an offshore sandbar on coral, in comparison to the rugged hills of the VI's. I would not hesitate to go there again and I share this with you in the event you, too, have been hesitant to make the trip.

Much of this cruising was done while patiently awaiting a sailing passage weather window to St. Martin, which finally arrived to coincide with a broken lower shroud. This resulted in more VI time for the owner and remaining crew, while I flew home to freeze and face tax returns like everyone else. The next time you travel to the VI's and desire a quiet anchorage where you can sit back and read a book, I hope you find this information useful.

Notes on the NPSC Challenge

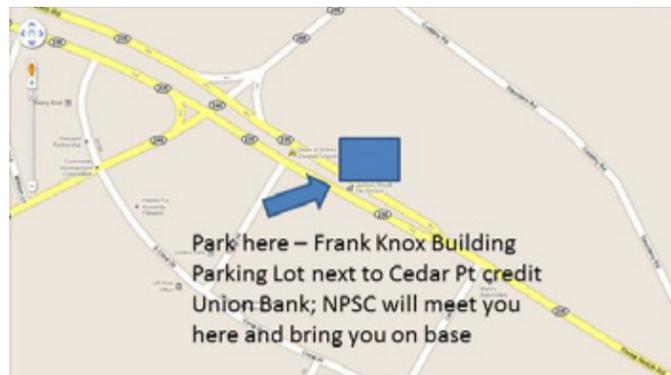
(See Next Page)

This looks like its going to be a fun event for a good cause. The West Basin, where the races will be held, is small - perhaps 300 yards by 600 yards, providing great views from the end of the piers. When you review the draft of the rules on the next page, you can tell that this is not going to be your grandfather's Geezer Squeezer!

RSVP & Directions

If you are planning on attending, please send an email to junior@smsa.com with an estimate of how many people and how many cars. Here's why: NPSC is providing hot dogs/hamburgers and beverage at no charge. They need to know how many folks will most likely be there.

If you have a sticker on your car that allows you access to the base and you know the location of the West Basin, just go there. The fun starts around noon on May 7. *If you do not have a base sticker or you do not know how to get to West Basin*, you have to arrive in the Frank Knox building parking lot 9 off 301, near gate 2 before 12 PM. NPSC will organize a caravan to move all the cars through base security and on to West Basin. When you RSVP to junior@smsa.com, please indicate that your car will be part of the caravan.



Frank Knox Building Parking Lot

SMSA Challenged By NPSC

The following challenge has been received from the Navy Patuxent Sail Club (NPSC). After serious discussion during the March 14th BOD meeting, concerning whether or not our Navy could stand the embarrassment of being taught how to sail by SMSA, it was decided to accept the challenge. The text of the challenge follows:

From: Todd Porter, NPSC Commodore



To: SMSA

SUBJECT: Geezer Squeezer SMSA vs NPSC Sail Challenge May 7th, 2011 (and Open Fund Raiser to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project)

Navy Patuxent Sail Club (NPSC) formally challenges Southern Maryland Sailing Association membership and the local Buchaneer Club to the First Annual NPSC / SMSA Geezer Squeezer Sail-off, May 7th 2011 starting at 12 noon, located at NAS Patuxent River West Basin. NPSC club members will assist SMSA members in gaining access to the base including in boats/equipment needed to participate. NPSC members will provide hot dogs/hamburgers and beverage to all participants. There is no charge for this event . . . but donations are accepted for the local Wounded Warrior project <http://www.wounded-warriorproject.org/>. Boat sponsorship, individual or by group, is welcomed. Donations will be collected at the event (a box will be left for those wishing to donate). Recommend donation . . . \$5.00 per individual, \$20.00 per boat. Donations will be provided to VFW Post 2632, California Maryland. Bring your own Opti or we have a few to lend. NPSC will promote the event in the NAS Patuxent River Tester newspaper and in coordination with SMSA, local community newspapers / Baynet etc. as desired.

Now for some trash talk to spark things up:

"NPSC recognizes the skilled abilities of SMSA sailors, but believes that once these sailors are removed from their high tech sailing vessels, or in the case of Buccaneer sailing club participants, their floating bathtubs . . . they will quickly fall victim to NPSC superior sailing skills as demonstrated in a Optimist sail-off race at NAS Patuxent Sail Club West Basin Marina May 7th."

Draft rules are provided below . . .

- No one under age of 16. Unfortunately NPSC doesn't have the liability insurance for youth to sail in the competition; but all are definitely welcome to join in

the fun and festivities

- All will need to sign liability disclaimer (MWR insurance requirement) . . . MWR West Basin is in protected water . . . and NPSC will provide a chase power boat with applicable Type IV PFD's etc.
- Only Optimists dinghy's as sanctioned by the International Optimist Association (IODA) are allowed
- Modifications to Optimist dinghy's are authorized, as long as no permanent change to the hull structure is made
- To finish, some portion of the boat, including mast, must be visible crossing the finish line
- Three races will be run, with each race a simple Figure Eight pattern run between two markers spaced roughly 200 - 300 yards apart with finish line being marked by additional markers. Finish and Start line will be the same
- The club winner will be determined simply by which club rep finishes first. Ties will be 'broken' by the number of finishers . . . the club with the most finishers in the total of the three races breaks the tie and wins..
- Each club will run the same number of boats . . . three at a minimum per club, but more is better!
- Spectators are allowed, and encouraged, to provide friendly banter and support.
- No Rain date unfortunately/ but both club reps will consult on whether to run the race in the event of heavy seas, rain etc. Either way - food and beverages will be available.
- Have Fun!



Wounded Warrior Project

(From their website <http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org>)

PURPOSE

- To raise awareness and enlist the public's aid for the needs of injured service members.
- To help injured service members aid and assist each other.
- To provide unique, direct programs and services to meet the needs of injured service members.



Regatta Circuit

by Jimmy Yurko

For the last few years I've been writing articles about regattas that Kristi and I have been traveling to. I've sent out hundreds of emails to the folks in my address book, and told everyone I know everything they are willing to hear about each of those trips.

In December, I wrote an article about a trip we had taken in the fall. At our New Year's party I had a brief conversation with Roger Bayer (our diligent Clew editor) about editing the stories. Roger read the story and felt it was a bit long for the Clew. As a former editor I can truly appreciate the need for short articles.....and I know I'm a bit long winded at times.

Roger said to me, "I just left out the part about the dinners, but left in all the racing stuff." Now I've been to probably fifty regattas, and what I remember most right now is not the races, but the time we spent with the other sailors. I got excited and replied "That was the important part! You can take out the boring race stuff!"

The reason we travel to the regattas is for fun. We can race here at SMSA. There are enough races here to get people on the water racing around 80 days a year! There is no need to leave to race.....so why travel?

We travel to regattas because it is fun! Sure, we eat dinner here too, but what started off as me traveling to nearby Buccaneer regattas to learn about my boat turned into a regular road trip (sometimes weekly) to near and far destinations to spend time with great friends.

So I'm going to stand on my soap box for a moment.

Going to regattas isn't about taking home trophies, or "being competitive", it is about having a fun time and making new stories to share. Travel to a regatta, go alone, or go with friends. You won't regret it. You might even like it. Be careful though, it can be quite addictive.

In the last six years of traveling to other clubs and racing in regattas the mountain of lessons I've learned has been immeasurable, and invaluable. Some of it has even been about sailing.



Jimmy and Kristi Yurko with John Dixon (center) at the

Editor's Note: The Clew is limited to 12 pages (6 sheets of paper) because 12 pages weigh an ounce or less, if printed on 20 lb. paper. Going over an ounce increases the postage. This creates the need to shorten some articles. It takes time to shorten because the article has to be read carefully and understood to prevent changing the message by shortening. Obviously, I missed the ball with the

Glimmerglass article. I thought it was about racing! Jimmy, I apologize!

That said, I have to keep editing. If, when you submit an article, there is a part that you do not want touched, let me know. If the entire article can't be touched, the decision becomes whether or not the article is included in the next Clew. Usually there is not enough time available to return the article for rewrite.

with your details and dates to facility@smsa.com and we will let you know if your date is available. The fee for use of the club by members is \$100 with a \$100 refundable security deposit. Use by a member sponsored group, friend or organization is \$200 with a \$100 refundable security deposit. Complete information and rental application for using the Club can be found at the SMSA web site, under Club Info – Facilities.

Members and their friends can rent the SMSA Clubhouse for meetings/parties and we've seen quite a few over the last year: Baby showers, birthdays, anniversaries, holiday parties, volunteer group/club meetings, etc. We're a good space for a group and there's plenty of parking right across the street!

So, if you or a friend whose event you will attend would like to rent the facility, send a note and your application

Audibles from the Keelboat Race Chair

By Marc Briere

Spring is in the air. Captains and crew are coming out of hibernation. The start line is filling up. We had 8 boats in the first (very wet and cold) frostbite and had 14 boats on the second race of the series. There are pics and results on the website. It's great to see the keelboat fleet coming (back) out for the season. I love this time of year when we're dusting off the cobwebs, reminding ourselves why we love the sport and why we enjoy SMSA sailing programs camaraderie. The competition is already tight for the spring frostbite series with a three-way tie for 3rd place after three races. I can't wait to see the rest of you out on the water. I just hope I can find the rest of our spinnaker gear before Wed Night racing starts. ☺

Captains, please be sure to send copies of your 2011 PHRF certificate to score@smsa.com before the first races in April. We need them on file if your participation is to be scored. I would greatly appreciate it if you would all review the race schedule and finish filling in the unassigned RC assignments by emailing me at keelboatracing@smsa.com or Jim at score@smsa.com. Thanks!

We are in the final reviews and edits of this season's race circular for both the Keelboat and Small Boat Racing Programs. I have added color pictures of race management signal flags, class pennants as well as pictures of all of you "in action" to dress up a "booklet" format of this well used racing and race management reference. It will also be available online as an Adobe Acrobat document. In addition, the General SIs and each race's Special SIs will be separated and linked on the website to each race event on the schedule. This makes it easier for new and visitor captains to get just the information they need for their race. It is also for any of our season-long captains who don't want to keep the publication on board where it can get wet, crumpled, ripped, stained or lost. Not that it's EVER happened to me.

As a follow-up to Jim's scoring article last month, I am working with Jeff and Clarke in a first phase of separately awarding A, B/C and Non-Spinnaker class winners for weekend races if we have enough participation. The sticking point is that we have only one perpetual trophy for Spinnaker and one for Non-Spinnaker so for this year, we can provide separate "take home" awards but we'll have to continue combining the spinnaker times for the perpetual trophy until we figure out how to have one non-spinnaker and two spinnaker trophies for each race or series that currently awards one to NS and one to spin.

See you on the race course!!



Who Are You Going To Call?



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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

GET MORE FUN OUT OF YOUR SAILING THIS YEAR

By Rear Commodore Tim Flaherty

Want to raise the bar on your sailing fun level this year? Want to pin the fun meter? Then help your club be more fun for you!!!

SMSA is in need of more members and more member involvement. Look around Solomons, look around Southern Maryland. Most of the boats you see just sit there, going out maybe a couple of time per-year. Are their owners your friends or neighbors? Maybe you see them just on occasion when they come down to see if their boat is still really there? Then help them get more out of their boat and help yourself, too! Get them involved and get them to join SMSA!!

SMSA helps us all get more out of our boats and our boating lives by giving us an active sailing community to be part of. Those people whose boats just sit there can benefit from SMSA because our community of cruisers and racers will get them out on the water, give them an excuse (like they should really need one) to come on out and move that thing through the water! And they will benefit from all the social interaction that goes with our group.

Bringing in new members helps YOU and helps SMSA by bringing in more potential volunteers, more people to participate in special event, rendezvous, regattas and cruises. More people means more opportunities for quality events. Plus, SMSA needs their membership revenue to support our clubhouse and activities. More members mean the opportunity to lower future membership dues for everyone.

We've included an SMSA tri-fold brochure in all of the yearbooks handed out opening day. There are also some available in the clubhouse on the right side of the bar. The next time you see one of your marina or creek-side neighbors, pull them aside and give them the brochure. Then invite them to come to a rendezvous or a happy hour, or even on an SMSA cruise. Let's build membership and more of a volunteer base. You, me, them, SMSA; we will all benefit, and have more fun, too!



First Aid/CPR Training coming in MAY!

Social Needs A Few Good People

The past year, John Dixon has done a great job as the Social Chair and SMSA is delighted that John is continuing as Social Chair in 2011. In 2010, John managed pretty much all of the aspects of each of the club's social events. In 2011, John is required to do significantly more business travel. A few good people are needed to support the social program by joining the Social Committee.



Members of the Social Committee's first job will be to help John plan superior events. If you enjoy putting on a great party, this is the job for you. As needed, committee members will coordinate decorating, catering and the other tasks needed to give a super party. The tasks for each event are documented and available for both party planning and execution.

If you are interested in joining the Social Committee, contact John for the details. John's email address is jdixon29@verizon.net. His cell phone is 240-434-3067. Leave a message because he

Maryland State Licensed Beverage Association (MSLBA) Techniques of Alcohol Management (TAM) training

Looking for a few SMSA volunteers to attend TAM training (4 hours class). One TAM-trained person is required to be on premises any time the SMSA bar is open. If you like to spend time at the bar, this is a great way to volunteer for the club.

Please contact Kristi at training@smsa.com if you are interested in the course. Date and time TBD.

Reflections for Sale: Catalina 34 MkII Tall Rig 1996, Main, 150 furling headsail, Garmin 3210 GPS chartplotter, st4000 autopilot with upgrade x2, max-well 500 windlass, washdown, micro fico solar vent, new marine vhf radio 2008, handheld radio microphone in cockpit, wireless tacttic wind system and many other extras. Painted, polished, sails washed and ready for the season. Rich Freeman and Patty Kimmel (Reflections) 703 569-1413 or c 703 618-0886.

Making Boating Easier

By T. Elliot Peterson

Editor's Note: A couple of weeks ago, via SMSA This Week, a request to the membership asking for ideas to make Spring commissioning easier. Happily, Elliot responded with the suggestions listed below. There has to be many more ideas. Let's expand the request from making Spring commissioning easier to making boating tasks of all types easier. Please send your ideas to clew@smsa.com.

Three suggestions for making Spring commissioning easier:

1. To make Spring easier we remove anything removable from the boat in the Fall and clean/ wash/ paint / repair or replace all that stuff over the winter weekends as needed. So we just load it on the boat in spring. The hard part is remembering where it all got stored in the winter!
2. To clean the boat in Feb/March we have a crew work day/ party where everyone on the crew pitches in to wash/ clean the inside of the boat.
3. We schedule a "load the boat day" that often includes a sail!

Editor's Note 2: The suggestions above make a lot of sense for managing a racing boat. A cruiser works in a different paradigm. There is not much crew to call on and what there is (wife and kids) can be grumpy. The racer needs to keep the boat light, so removing everything makes sense because you have to decide if you really want to bring it back. The cruiser only wants to have on board every thing that might be needed, ever. Here are the cruiser's version of the above three suggestions:

Three suggestions for making Spring commissioning easier:

1. To make Fall and Spring easier only remove what has to be removed. At a minimum, this consists of refrigerated food, bottled water, soda and wine as they can freeze. Beer does not freeze and can be left on board. It's nice to have a cold beer when you visit the boat over the winter. Sails should come off to go to the sailmaker or to be stored because they can get very dirty over the winter. That's it!
2. To make cleaning the outside of the boat easier, consider renting or buying a power washer. It makes deck washing much easier. Try not to buy a boat with a lot of exterior teak. For the inside, if you don't keep a vacuum cleaner on board, bring one from home.
3. In the spring, bend the sails on and go sailing. If you want something other than beer, bring it.

Members: You can do better than the above! Please email suggestions to clew@smsa.com.

COMMODORE'S DINNER FINALE

Thursday night, April 21st is your last chance this season to impress the Commodore with your culinary skills. In honor of the start of the boating season, the theme is boating food. It should be a good challenge because what boating food is varies by the type of boating you do.

Boating food for an around-the-buoys racer



Sandwiches



Casseroles



Appetizers

generally consists of great sandwiches and a variety of chips. The menu of the distance racer greatly expands to include chilies, casseroles and dessert. For the cruiser, especially the SMSA cruiser, the menu includes all of the above plus appetizers and charcoal broiled hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken, steak and more. So there is a broad palette from which to pick. It should be a fun evening!



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April 2011 Volume 41 Number 4

April			May		
1	Friday	Social at SMSA 5:00	1	Sunday	Spring Invitational Race
2	Saturday	SMSA Opening Day 9:00	1	Sunday	Laser Frostbites 1:00
3	Sunday	Laser Frostbites 1:00	2	Monday	Adult Learn to Sail 5:30
8	Friday	Social at SMSA 5:00	4	Wednesday	Wednesday Night Racing 6:30
8	Friday	Small Boat Kickoff 7:00	5	Thursday	Small Boat Racing 6:30
9	Saturday	SMSA Nautical Flea Market 10:00	6	Friday	Social at SMSA 5:00
10	Sunday	Laser Frostbites 1:00	7	Saturday	NPSC Geezer Squeezer Chal. 12:00
10	Saturday	Racing Rules Seminar 5:30	9	Monday	Adult Learn to Sail 5:30
11	Monday	BOD & Program Chair Meeting 7:00	9	Monday	BOD & Program Chair Meeting 7:00
13	Wednesday	Wednesday Night Racing 6:30	11	Wednesday	Wednesday Night Racing 6:30
15	Friday	Clew Input Due	12	Thursday	Small Boat Racing 6:30
15	Friday	Social at SMSA 5:00	13	Friday	Social at SMSA 5:00
16	Saturday	Introduction to Cruising 9:00	14	Saturday	Frost-Goode Race
16	Saturday	Return your Adopted Opti 11:00	15	Sunday	Clew Input Due
17	Sunday	Laser Frostbites 1:00	15	Sunday	Double-Handed Race
20	Wednesday	Wednesday Night Racing 6:30	16	Monday	Adult Learn to Sail 5:30
21	Thursday	Commodore's Dinner 6:00	18	Wednesday	Wednesday Night Racing 6:30
22	Friday	Social at SMSA 5:00	19	Thursday	Small Boat Racing 6:30
25	Monday	Adult Learn to Sail 5:30	20	Friday	Social at SMSA 5:00
27	Wednesday	Wednesday Night Racing 6:30	23	Monday	Adult Learn to Sail 5:30
29	Friday	Social at SMSA 5:00	25	Wednesday	Wednesday Night Racing 6:30
30	Saturday	Sharps Island Race	26	Thursday	Small Boat Racing 6:30
			27	Friday	Social at SMSA 5:00
			27	Friday	Family Fun Friday 5:00
			30	Monday	Adult Learn to Sail 5:30

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