



## Commodore's Signal

Everyone is busy sailing. SMSA members are in the middle of the sailing season and all of the programs are working over-time to provide a wide variety of activities for members and guests. July included great social, cruising, small and big boat racing, and instructional events for individuals of all ages. These programs couldn't function as efficiently without the support of the great facilities we share and the members who volunteer their time to make it happen. Hats-off to everyone who has been involved with each of these programs that work towards making SMSA a complete organization.

SMSA's unique position providing activities to those with boating interests in the Southern Maryland area is recognized as being strong and supportive. Could this position be stronger? Oh yes! The best way to improve our position is to increase our membership. With a stronger and larger membership, all of the programs will be able to flourish and the importance of our facility will increase. Through our travels it is clear that the membership makes the organization and it is also recognized that SMSA does provide a great or greater value for the set fees than the majority of boating interested organizations. Let's all step back for a moment and take a look at what SMSA offers. Compare that to other clubs. At that point it will be easier to encourage others to join SMSA.

The Screwpile Lighthouse Challenge has just been successfully completed. It wasn't the largest turnout ever, but it still was a great group returning to compete here compared to returns at other venues. A new class, J/80, competed for the first time and there was enough interest in PHRF to split a class. I want to thank LG, Herb, Don and all of the volunteers, numbering close to 100, who worked well together to provide one of the best events that sailors can go to in the USA. Many SMSA boats that competed had their chance to be recognized with an award and somewhere in the future we might have our day by winning the "Battle of the Chesapeake" trophy. There are many great sailors locally, but we are not represented in many of the classes, our weak point. Take a moment and go to the Screwpile website to see the results, [www.screwpile.net](http://www.screwpile.net).

August plans to be just as action packed as July. Let's take a moment to spread the word about SMSA to others while our activity level is high and it's easy to visualize. I will see many while we are all out enjoying the sailing life. Enjoy.

*Clarke*

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

## Race Committee Volunteers Wanted

The Race Committee needs volunteers. No experience necessary! Like watching racing boats close up? Want an evening or day on the water? Volunteer for Race Committee by sending an email to [webmaster@smsa.com](mailto:webmaster@smsa.com) or [vicecommodore@smsa.com](mailto:vicecommodore@smsa.com).

## RC Crew Available

Skippers, need to fill out your RC crew? There are already seven members waiting for your call! Go to the web site. Either click Keelboat Race, then the link under Race Management Training or click Smallboat Race, then click RC Info, finally click the link under "Need help ..."

## SIYC - SMSA Joint Affair

**SIYC has invited SMSA to a "meet the neighbors" event this August 20<sup>th</sup> at the SIYC club house. Cocktails start at 5:30pm, with dinner served at 6:30-7pm. Barbeque Sandwich, French Fries, Coleslaw - \$10.**

**Please RSVP by calling LG Raley at 301-862-3100.**

*SMSA is a member owned and operated club dedicated to being the best sailing venue on the Chesapeake. SMSA hosts the nationally renowned Screwpile regatta. We enjoy full programs of cruising, PHRF keelboat racing, dingy racing (both one design and Portsmouth), summer junior sailing programs and adult sailing education. In addition, we even find time for great social events! Our website is [www.smsa.com](http://www.smsa.com). For more information, call 888-714-3777*

# Membership Growth A Problem & An Opportunity

By Roger Bayer

## The Problem

SMSA does not keep detailed historical records. However, by reviewing the monthly board meeting notes, a rough estimate of membership levels year to year has been developed. The chart shows a clear decline in membership since 2006. The real decline may actually be steeper than shown. The 2006 and 2007 membership numbers did not include Juniors. Juniors are included in the other years.

What happened between 2006 & 2007? We moved into our current clubhouse and were forced to pay much higher rent. This necessitated a large increase in membership fees and dues. The fees & dues increase probably precipitated the drop in membership. Some current members still feel the dues are too high!

SMSA has two major membership problems. If the membership level keeps declining, eventually there will not be enough fees/dues revenue to keep the club doors open. It is critical that we stop the decline in membership and start membership growth.

To grow membership, the current members have to talk to friends and marina neighbors about SMSA. If the member thinks that the fees are outrageous, it is difficult to present SMSA positively. That's the second problem.



## The Opportunity

A change from a declining membership to a growing membership means that the club continues to provide the activities that we enjoy. We will continue to have Keelboat and SmallBoat racing, an excellent Junior & Adult education program, many cruises each season and a super social program. Of equal importance, more members should mean that we can control the growth of fees.

An ongoing issue is the cost of the clubhouse and the lack of a long term lease. By increasing membership we will have more negotiating power for a long term lease and/or to purchase a clubhouse. A growing membership builds confidence when talking to a financial institution. A declining membership does the reverse.

A larger membership could mean more services. For example, we might be able to afford to hire a bartender and be able to keep the clubhouse open during the week. A full time employee could answer a telephone and perform other duties!

With more members, possibly we could afford to have a snack bar open during the summer for use by Juniors and other members. We could have enough members to support some catered dinner socials in addition to our pot luck dinners.

*Continued on Page 5*

*Continued on Page 5*

## Building An Action Plan

An ad hoc membership committee has been working to revise the club brochure to better explain SMSA. A copy is included as part of this issue of the Clew. The brochure is designed as a trifold, printed on both sides in color. The first page is the outside of the folded brochure. When you open the folds, you see the second page which provides more detail on our programs.

The brochure is meant to be given to folks that you think would make good members. We all know people at our marinas or in our neighborhoods that we feel would make ideal club members. Talk to them about SMSA. Invite them to a social event. If you race, invite them to race either with you or on

their own boat. Invite them to join a cruise.

You will be notified through SMSA This Week when the brochure is available in the clubhouse. We will try to keep the rack that is to the left of the left front door full of brochures, so you can pick them up any time.

What other actions could SMSA take to build membership? Please send ideas to [clew@smsa.com](mailto:clew@smsa.com). Your ideas will be assembled and presented to the board. The Clew will publish all of the ideas submitted in the September issue.

We have a great club. It does not have to be sold; it just has to be shown!

## About SMSA

Founded in 1972, SMSA offers comprehensive racing, cruising, junior, frothing and on-shore activities that lets members enjoy the sport of sailing throughout the year. A full family package! A summary of each of program is inside.



Socializing at SMSA's waterfront facilities

For more information about SMSA visit [www.smsa.com](http://www.smsa.com) or call (888) 714-3777.

## Sailing fun for every member of the family



SMSA members enjoy themselves at the annual Oyster Roast & Chili Cook-off

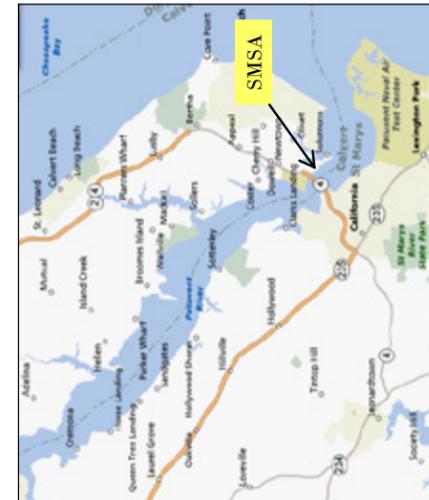
## Sailing Is More Fun with SMSA



## Southern Maryland Sailing Association



**SMSA provides more cruising, racing, junior sailing, adult education and social events for any and all interested in sailing. Boat ownership is optional. For 40 years we have been delivering fun for the entire family. SMSA is a member-owned, non-profit organization.**



Located on Solomons Island Road South  
in Solomons, MD.  
Across from the gazebo.

## Southern Maryland Sailing Association

(888) 714-3777  
14490 Solomons Island Road  
Solomons, MD 20688

[www.smsa.com](http://www.smsa.com)



## RACING

SMSA has both dinghy and large boat racing programs for almost the entire year. The racing programs provide competition for all skill levels. Members race on their own boat(s) and/or crew on other member boats.

For large boats racing under the PHRF system, there are numerous formal and informal weekend races held in the waters around Solomons. The Wednesday Night Race Series is a great way to be introduced to the SMSA racing scene.

SMSA proudly hosts the nationally renowned Screwpile Lighthouse Challenge, a 3-day race event held in mid July. Screwpile has attracted over 150 boats from all around the East Coast.

If you are interested in dingy sailboat racing, SMSA hosts races every Thursday night, in addition to several weekend regattas. There are Laser, Buccaneer, Vanguard 15 and Lightning one-design fleets, as well as a combination of other center-board dinghys that race under the Portsmouth handicap system.



O'Yeller and The Riddler going upwind at the Nationally-Renowned Screwpile Regatta

## CRUISING

The SMSA cruise program coordinates many cruises throughout the sailing season, ranging from local one-night destinations, to week-long and even longer cruises reaching points all over the Chesapeake Bay.

SMSA cruising is a great way to enjoy time on the water with other SMSA members. Cruising with other club boats means having friends in each port!



Cruisers rafted at a quiet destination

## SOCIAL

SMSA's wide range of social events throughout the year include's cookouts, post-race gatherings, mid-week pot-luck dinners, July 4<sup>th</sup> and Christmas events, as well as our annual Awards Dinner.

Most social events are held at our well-equipped and spacious clubhouse in the heart of Solomons, MD. It provides an ideal way for members to get together off the water.

The clubhouse is open every Friday from 5 to 8 PM for our Family Socials. Feel free to join us!

## SAILING EDUCATION

**Junior:** SMSA provides a wide range of summer sailing programs. Summer camp sessions start in June and run into August.

Courses are offered for juniors from age 5 to 15+. The courses are taught by US Sailing Certified Instructors. The junior program fleet includes 12 single-handed Optimist Prams as well as other small boats.



Junior campers sailing Optimist Prams

**Adult:** A continuing and changing mix of classroom instruction is offered covering racing, cruising and boat maintenance. During the summer, on-the-water hands-on classes are offered. Plus, SMSA offers a low-key practice sailing program to help improve sailing skills and introduce the fun and excitement of sailing with friends and family on small club boats..



# VC Cup / HH Race

## View from *Rakali*

by Megan Hildenberger

The start signal for this year's VC Cup/ Herrington Harbor Race sounded at 10:10, under the watchful eyes of Vice Commodore Jeff Moore. The order of the day appeared to be a beat under sunny blue skies into 10-12



Mark and Charles leaving Herrington Harbor

Kts from the N/NE and a 2 foot chop. All three competing vessels, *Age of Reason*, *Lickety Split* and *Rakali*, emerged from the start on a long port tack towards the Eastern Shore, presumably to go up current in the shallower water. A few hours later *Rakali* lost sight of *Lickety Split* and, sometime later, *Age of Reason*, as they made the trek back across the bay to the Western Shore to follow their chosen strategies. *Rakali* continued to beat back and forth in moderate waves and breeze along the shallower Eastern side of the Chesapeake up to Sharps Island, where the decision was made to head west to the finish.

Around 1530, the wind began to drop and shift East, causing *Rakali* to be over-stood and underpowered so the Genoa was bent on for the ensuing reach. Before too long, the wind died almost completely.

Near-dead air combined with the residual current had *Rakali's* knot meter showing 0.0, though VMG was still slightly positive.

## Membership Growth - Problems - Continued

Changing attitudes is difficult. All that can be offered are some facts. Let's look at how our costs compare to other local boating organizations. SMSA initiation fee is \$150 and annual dues are \$475. Corinthian Yacht Club in Ridge, MD has an initiation fee of \$1,000 and annual dues of \$1,000. Solomons Island Yacht Club has a \$1,500 initiation fee and annual dues of \$750. It does not appear that SMSA's fees/dues are out of line.

SMSA offers a lot more bang for the buck. We have more programs than any other club in Southern Maryland. SMSA offers both a Keelboat and a Smallboat racing program. No other club in Southern Maryland offers a racing program. SMSA is the only club to offer Junior and Adult sailing education programs. Our cruising program is much more extensive than other clubs' programs. Finally, we provide Sunfish and other small boats for our members use. Some of the other clubs do have equally good social programs as SMSA. Check page 7 of the May, 2011 Clew for more details. The issue is available on the website.

## Membership Growth - Opportunities - Continued

Even more important, more members also means more new ideas. New blood in an organization is always exciting. It can be good or bad but always different. And, of course, more members mean more volunteers to make things happen!

As she headed more West towards the finish, the meager wind continued to go East and the kite was raised on the port jibe, more from wishful thinking at first but eventually some fractions of a knot emerged on the boat speed display.

A few hours before the time limit expiration (1900), *Age of Reason* and *Lickety Split* reappeared from the haze along the Western Shore; moving slowly but also sporting limp, under-inflated chutes which showed a weak southerly breeze taking over the course. A peremptory jibe to starboard aboard *Rakali* soon yielded results as a tiny southerly breeze filled in at our position and pushed us toward the finish. This breeze was, however, indicative of the oft heard tale of 'too little too late' and none of the racers were able to finish in time. Shortly after *Jubilee* (our finish boat) hailed over the radio that the time limit expired, *Age of Reason* and *Lickety Split* communicated that they were heading back. *Rakali*, having traveled 37+ NM, and with a slip reservation waiting, continued on to cross the finish line 20 minutes after TLE, and briefly rafted with *Jubilee* before heading for shore comforts. Many thanks to Keith and Emily aboard *Jubilee*, who spent five hours on station waiting for us and were then gracious enough to offer shade under their sun cover, some cold drinks, and an escort to the HHS entrance.

## Who Are You Going To Call?



### Officers

#### Commodore

Clarke McKinney:  
W 410-326-2600 C 301-481-0672.

#### Vice Commodore

Jeff Moore: 301-481-1354

#### Rear Commodore

Tim Flaherty: 301-481-7474

#### Secretary

Betsy Dodge: 410-326-9686

#### Treasurer:

Joe Kubinec 301-373-3477

### Directors

Don Behrens: 301-862-2281

Jim Keen: 410-326-4295

David Meiser: 410-326-1114

Max Munger: H 410-326-9024

C 410-353-1150

LG Raley: 301-862-3100

Rod Schroeder: 410-326-0167

### Program Chairs

**Bar:** Max Munger H 410-326-9024 C 410-353-1150

**Communications:** Roger

Bayer H 301-934-3925 C 203-561-9241

**Cruise:** Rich Freeman 703-569-1413

**Facilities:** Barbara Whited 410-586-0601 & Jolie Homsher 301-481-8609

**Junior:** Jimmy Yurko 240-434-1312

**Membership:** Ellen Aulson 410-326-2383

**Race:** Marc Briere H 410-495-7672 C 443-624-7840

**Social:** John Dixon 301-862-9031

**Training:** Kristi Yurko 240-725-0475

August 13 & 14

## A SMSA Super Weekend!

**Geezer Squeezer!  
Crab Feast!  
Scott Kirby!**

**10:00 AM Saturday, August 13th**

The fun starts at 10 AM with the **Annual Geezer Squeezer Races**. This is the event where grown adults (geezers) who should know better get in Opti's, *i.e.*, squeezing into 8' sailboats (squeezers), considered small for an 8 year old, and race. Any club member is invited to demonstrate his/her sailing skills. If you want to race, contact Elliott Peterson ([tepeterson@dcscorp.com](mailto:tepeterson@dcscorp.com)) who is the Principal Race Officer for the event and/or Vice Commodore Jeff Moore ([vicecommodore@smsa.com](mailto:vicecommodore@smsa.com)).

Last Spring, the Navy Patuxent Sail Club (NPSC) challenged SMSA to a Geezer Squeezer. The races were held on May 7<sup>th</sup> and SMSA stomped them. When the original challenge was issued by the NPSC, they expressed an interest in participating in our event on August 13<sup>th</sup>. The Clew contacted the NPSC Commodore Todd Porter to confirm that they were going to compete in our event. Here is Commodore Porter's response:

"We have our normally scheduled club meeting that Saturday, plus wine and cheese, plus training scheduled that day - so haven't determined how to coordinate yet. Also - I'm out of town that day - think will put out e-mail shortly as an FYI."

In the spirit of fellowship and to encourage participation, the Clew responded to Commodore Porter:

"I understand. I guess you were embarrassed by the first meeting. :) Did the Navy actually once protect our country in sailing ships?"

Based on further email exchange, a few NPSC members may join us.

**4:00 PM Saturday, August 13th**

The Geezer Squeezer flows into the **Annual Crab Feast**. Based on member RSVP's, Social Chair John Dixon buys enough crabs to satisfy everybody's crab hunger. Then he prepares them in the traditional manner. The cost of the crabs is divided amongst the crab eaters. An estimate is \$20 per adult crab eater and something less for junior crab eaters. Please RSVP to [social@smsa.com](mailto:social@smsa.com).

**4:00 PM Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup> (Doors open at 3:00 PM)**

**Scott Kirby** is back for his fourth visit! Scott always does a great show. Contact Lisa Flaherty at [scottatsmsa@gmail.com](mailto:scottatsmsa@gmail.com) or 301-367 7247 for info and tickets. Get to Lisa as soon as possible. This event always sells out! Check out [www.scottkirby.com](http://www.scottkirby.com).



## Annual Crab Feast

Saturday, August 13 - 4:00 pm  
(After Geezer/Squeezer)

- **Estimated cost \$20 per person, less for juniors. Based on the cost of the crabs divided by number of participants.**
- **Please contribute an appetizer, side dish or dessert.**
- **RSVP: [Social@SMSA.com](mailto:Social@SMSA.com). It is very important to RSVP so we have enough crabs.**

## Scott Kirby is Coming to SMSA

August 14 – 4:00pm  
(Doors Open at 3:00pm)

Singer/songwriter/storyteller  
**Scott Kirby** makes his fourth  
annual appearance at SMSA!

Contact Lisa Flaherty at [scottatsmsa@gmail.com](mailto:scottatsmsa@gmail.com) or 301-367 7247 for info and tickets.

The show is open to the public. Members Tickets are \$12.00 and non-members \$20.00.



**Get your tickets today before they sell out!**

# August & September Cruising

## August 13 & 14, 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Cruise

**Cancelled:** It was crabs or cruising and the crabs won! The Crab Feast starts at 4:00 PM which conflicts with a 5:00 PM raft up in Mill Creek.

## August 20 & 21, Mixed Couples Race/Cruise to Battle Creek

Last year 20 boats made it to Battle Creek and rafted up for a great party. This year should be even bigger! Frank & Rita Gerred are hosting the raft up. If you plan to join the party, call them at 410-326-2785 or send an email to [Gerred@verizon.net](mailto:Gerred@verizon.net).

Never raced? This is the event to try it! No PHRF certificate needed. You can have as many guests as you want, but only 1 guy and 1 gal can drive and trim. Do you think you can make it to Battle Creek, 14 nm, without turning on your engine? Send an email to [keelboatrace@smsa.com](mailto:keelboatrace@smsa.com) if you want to try.

## August 26 – 28, Annapolis Summer Theater Cruise, “Hairspray”

Don't forget to make plans for the Annapolis cruise. See the July Clew article for a more detailed cruise description. We recommend making advance ticket reservations

by calling the Annapolis Summer Garden Theater (410-268-9212) if you are joining us for “Hairspray”. Also, please let us know by email or phone if you plan to join us on the cruise, dinner, and/or theater. We need to have a good estimate for dinner reservations at the Federal House Bar & Grille by about August 19. Contact Pat & Rod Schroeder at [rodschroeder@comcast.net](mailto:rodschroeder@comcast.net), 410-326-0167 (Home), or 301-752-5515 (Cell)

## September 2 – 10, Chester River Cruise:

Chestertown on the Chester River probably is a new port for most of us. St. Michaels, the other major port on this cruise is an old favorite. If you plan to do this cruise, send Rich Freeman a note, [cruise@smsa.com](mailto:cruise@smsa.com) and you should make a reservation at the Chestertown Marina for 9/4 & 5, 410-778-3616 and the St. Michaels Marina for 9/8, 410-745-2400 now, if you have not done so already.

## September 23 – 25, Cruise to Oxford:

We anchor out and take our dinghies in. The restaurant, Latitude 38, picks us up at the dinghy dock and feeds us right! For more information, contact Rich Freeman, [cruise@smsa.com](mailto:cruise@smsa.com).

# Halfway Through A Great Season!

by Jimmy Yurko

The season for on-the-water training here is a short one. This year's season is just over 8 weeks, and we're halfway through the season. We've worked with approximately forty students so far. We expect to train over ninety (90!) students this season! With vacancies in upcoming classes we stand the chance of training over 100 students this season. We are excited about this

Garner, Colleen McDougal, and Michael Danko. They work to instruct our youngest students, some as young as five years old. The junior sailing camps have been a success with smiles on all the student's faces.



We need more dock space!



Learning teamwork.

We've also been running adult-learn to-sail classes on Monday nights. These classes are taught by volunteer instructors who come out to meet, and welcome the new sailors to SMSA. We just finished our first session on July 18<sup>th</sup> and are beginning our final session on July 25<sup>th</sup>. The first session had four new students and our second session

progress and owe thanks to all the volunteers who have worked to make it possible. We have four junior sailing instructors, Rebeckah Stanley, Larane

has seven enrolled. The class format is simple and rather informal. Each session begins with approximately an hour of classroom instruction followed up with on the water practice with our member volunteers. This class is an excellent opportunity for members to get out and do some fun sailing and meet new people. So far this year we can thank Roger Bayer, Rob Miller, Eric Smith, John Durniak and Jimmy, Kristi and Annabelle Yurko for helping the new students learn their way around on and off the water. We would also like to extend a special thanks to LG and all the folks at Screwpile for throwing the first session's students the best end-of-

course celebration in Southern Maryland...

Shore side we held a combined first aid and CPR class at the end of June. Nine students (SMSA members) were in attendance and were certified in CPR and First Aid by Joe Zienda of the American Health and Safety Institute. Numerous other SMSA members voiced an interest but were unable to attend. If you are interested please contact us; we would like to hold another course in the fall.

If you are interested in participating in any way in the Junior and Training programs please contact Jimmy or Kristi by email: [junior@smsa.com](mailto:junior@smsa.com) or [training@smsa.com](mailto:training@smsa.com).



Classroom instruction.



Waiting on the dock.

# Summer Sailtice Cruise June 17, 18, 19

By Rich Freeman

The SMSA Summer Sailstice Cruise took place to the Little Choptank's Hudson Creek this year. *Sandpiper II* and *Carpincio* arrived on Friday afternoon and anchored in the little cove. We rafted for a bit but anchored separately to secure for a gathering storm. To our benefit, the storm divided and passed north and south of the anchorage, offering a pretty good light show. Once the storms passed it was a warm and calm evening. A large red moon rose about 2200 hours in a star filled sky.

On Saturday, after breakfast, we all went swimming. Peter and Patty borrowed our kayaks and kayaked around, exploring Hudson Creek. Happy hour was about 1700 hours on *Sandpiper II*. *Rusty Nayle*, *Sequoia* and *Bay Tripper* (from our Catalina 34 Fleet 12 group) joined us during the day. We had lots of good food and swapped stories about crab pots and the C&D Canal. It was another warm evening but without bugs. Rod and Chris won special prizes when we drew names from a hat.



Captains & crews of the SMSA & Catalina 34 clubs enjoying Happy Hour during the Summer Sailstice in Hudson Creek.

Sunday dawned clear and hot and presented another motor-sailing adventure with little or no winds back to Solomons.

# SMSA 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks Cruise

by Peter Carlson

On the best attended cruise of the season, cruisers had a whirlwind tour of the Central Chesapeake fireworks displays for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Timing and weather worked out great, except we sure could have used a lot more wind!

Peter and Pat Carlson aboard *Carpincho* were joined by Rich



All lined up in Crisfield!

Freeman and Patti Kimmel aboard their new-to-them Catalina 38 *Sandpiper II*, Rod and Pat Schroeder (yes, there were too many Pats!) aboard *Ruste Nayle*, Curt and Judy Larsen aboard *Decoy*, and for a brief time on the first day, Curt and Dottie Hamilton aboard *Serenity*.

Our cruise started on Friday, July 1 with a sail down the Chesapeake. Most of the fleet stayed close to the Western Shore and had light winds, *Carpincho* headed across the bay to make two long broad reaches to Pt.



Taking a bearing on Solomons Lump Light, Kedges Straits.

Lookout. Out by Hooper Island light, there was a good 12 to 15 knots on the quarters with some waves building to make for a perfect sailing day, until we got to Pt. Lookout where the wind died and we reverted to fossil fuel-based propulsion.



Rich Freeman and Patti Kimmel, Rod and Pat Schroeder, Curt and Judy Larsen, and Peter and Pat Carlson on the ferry ride to Tangier Island.

Crews gathered under the trees to listen to the Friday Night Concert Series performance which included a fly-over by two F-18s during the National Anthem. Terrific! At intermission, we headed to the dinghies to congregate aboard *Carpincho* for a good seat for fireworks and some pork barbecue and assorted side dishes courtesy of *Carpincho's* First Mate, jib trimmer, and chief cook and bottle washer.

On Saturday, *Serenity* headed directly for Tangier Island, and the rest of the fleet motored to Crisfield. The seas were so flat that we could see the perfect reflection of the old target ship on the water as we passed. The passage through Kedges Strait was uneventful, but we did need to keep an eye on the tidal current. Everyone made it to Crisfield early in the day so we had time for a swim in the pool and walk around town.

On Sunday, our lay day, we hopped on the tour ferry to Tangier Island. Never having been there but having heard many stories about it, it was fun to tour around the island on a golf cart, and chat it

up some with the locals. There are only 5 or 6 cars on the island with golf carts being the primary mode of transportation, and all the roads are golf-cart sized. Cute! There are plenty of gift shops and restaurants to keep you busy for the time you are there.

Returning to Crisfield, we all gathered for a happy hour aboard *Sandpiper II* and held a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate to West Marine, and two other nice gifts. Rich won the \$25 gift certificate, Pat



Golf cart sized Main Street, Tangier Island, VA.

Schroeder won a nifty picture frame, and Patti Kimmel won a salad cookbook. I don't know how you cook salad, but I'm sure that book will tell you.

The Crisfield fireworks were exemplary, and were enjoyed by all from our front-row seats on our boats. These fireworks were better than the ones in St. Mary's. Prior to the fireworks, there was music provided by two different US Army ensembles, along with a dance

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# 4<sup>th</sup> Of July: Great Party, Too Bad Most Couldn't Come!

by Roger Bayer

It was one of the best parties that barely happened! What makes it unique? The unbelievable great view of the fireworks from the clubhouse. If it was any better, you would get burned! It was a very up-close and personal exhibit! The rest is standard SMSA party- good. The bar was open. The roughly 20 folks that were able to get to the club enjoyed talking with each other. John Dixon grilled dinner for everyone and proved himself a Renaissance Man by doing pretty much everything else including entertaining 8 month old Chloe Briere, so her parents could chow down. So why didn't more members attend? There seem to be three issues: Conflicting private parties, parking and the après fireworks traffic jam.

There will always be conflicting private parties, but the other two issues could be managed with a little planning.

**Après Traffic:** Leaving shortly after the end of the fireworks, it took almost an hour to clear the island. St. Mary County bound members had a further problem because the left turn near the information building was blocked. You had to drive at least as far north as the light at the McDonalds, then make a left to go south on Route 4. A difficult left because traffic was backed up well north of that turn.

The solution, keep the party going! If the party continued for another hour or so, leaving would be much easier. The downside to this: you'd be at the club until at least 11 o'clock. Maybe a little late if July 5 falls on a workday.

**Parking:** This is a real issue. Based on discussions with this year's attendees, the public parking across

from the club was full before 5 PM. It is possible to get a small number of cars behind the club, but you could not park enough cars to solve the problem. Plus there is the potential danger of damage to the boats stored in the yard.

This problem can be solved by running a shuttle service from the club. We could pick a designated parking area. This year in front of the closed Woodburns would have worked. Then we could run a shuttle between the club and the designated area. The shuttle service could be provided by volunteers who would be allowed to park behind the clubhouse or the club could make arrangements with a commercial service.

## So What To Do?

There are basically three options: Make the changes suggested above (or other ideas) and party on, just keep the bar open for members, but have no real party planning or close the clubhouse.

The consensus of those who attended was that the view of the fireworks was so great, it would be a shame to lose the opportunity, but it is unfair to ask the Social committee to do the work, if no one wants to party. Please, take a minute and send an email to [clew@smsa.com](mailto:clew@smsa.com) and give your thoughts. Basically, what we would like to know is, if we could manage the issues of parking and traffic, would you come? Both yes and no answers are appreciated. If you have additional ideas, please include them. The results will be presented to the BOD, Social committee and in a future issue of the Clew (no names identified).



## July 4<sup>th</sup> Cruise Continued

performance by the local first-graders, all under a huge American flag. A perfect small-town America 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration!

By the time *Carpincho's* crew awoke on Sunday morning, *Decoy*, *Sandpiper II* and *Ruste Nayle* had departed into the windless Tangier Sound for the return trip to Solomons. A long trip home, again with due homage paid to the dinosaurs, was capped off by the fireworks in Solomons. The Central Chesapeake Fireworks Tour was complete!

## ARTFUL DODGER for Sale:

Soverel 30, 1980. 16 hp diesel with low hours. Proven Competitive Racer/Cruiser that can sleep 5 with lots of storage. Draft 5' 3", Beam 11', Headroom 6', Double spreader rig with rod rigging. Closed cell foam cored, so never any soft deck issues. Refurbished and major items replaced in 2009. New Awlgrip hull/deck in 2010. Looks like NEW! Surveryor's Fair Market Value - 22k, Asking 20k. 2010 Survey available upon request. A sweet boat to helm with the comfort of nice wide decks! In the water at Solomons and ready to go. Call Jerry Taylor 410.474.6834 for photos. [Jerry@JerryTaylorHomes.com](mailto:Jerry@JerryTaylorHomes.com)





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

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| August        |                            |       |
|---------------|----------------------------|-------|
| 3 Wed         | Wed Night Racing           | 6:30  |
| 4 Thurs       | Small Boat Racing          | 6:30  |
| 5 Fri         | Social at SMSA             | 5:00  |
| 5 Fri         | Family Fun Friday          | 5:30  |
| 8 Mon         | BOD & Program Chair Meetir | 7:00  |
| 10 Wed        | Wed Night Racing           | 6:30  |
| 11 Thurs      | Small Boat Racing          | 6:30  |
| 12 Fri        | Social at SMSA             | 5:00  |
| 12 Fri        | Family Fun Friday          | 5:30  |
| 13 Sat        | Geezer Squeezer            | 10:00 |
| 13 Sat        | Crab Feast                 | 4:00  |
| 14 Sun        | Patuxent River Regatta     | 12:15 |
| 14 Sun        | Scott Kirby                | 4:00  |
| <b>15 Mon</b> | <b>Clew Input Due</b>      |       |
| 17 Wed        | Wed Night Racing           | 6:30  |

| August   |                             |       |
|----------|-----------------------------|-------|
| 18 Thurs | Small Boat Racing           | 6:30  |
| 19 Fri   | Social at SMSA              | 5:00  |
| 19 Fri   | Family Fun Friday           | 5:30  |
| 20 Sat   | Mixed Couples Race/BC Cruis | 10:00 |
| 20 Sat   | SIYC-SMSA Social            | 5:30  |
| 24 Wed   | Wed Night Racing            | 6:30  |
| 25 Thurs | Small Boat Racing           | 6:30  |
| 26 Fri   | Annapolis Theatre Cruise    | 10:00 |
| 26 Fri   | Social at SMSA              | 5:00  |
| 26 Fri   | Family Fun Friday           | 5:30  |
| 31 Wed   | Wed Night Racing            | 6:30  |

| September       |                             |       |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| 1 Thurs         | Small Boat Racing           | 6:30  |
| 2 Fri           | Chester River Cruise Starts | 10:00 |
| 2 Fri           | Social at SMSA              | 5:00  |
| 2 Fri           | Family Fun Friday           | 5:30  |
| 7 Wed           | Wednesday Night Racing      | 6:30  |
| 8 Thurs         | Small Boat Racing           | 6:30  |
| 9 Fri           | Social at SMSA              | 5:00  |
| 10 Fri          | Smith Point Race            | 10:00 |
| 12 Mon          | BOD & Program Chair Meetin  | 7:00  |
| <b>15 Thurs</b> | <b>Clew Input Due</b>       |       |
| 16 Fri          | Social at SMSA              | 5:00  |
| 17 Sat          | Small Boat 2-Day Regatta    | 10:00 |
| 18 Sun          | Small Boat 2-Day Regatta    | 10:00 |
| 23 Fri          | Cruise to Oxfore Starts     | 10:00 |
| 23 Fri          | Social at SMSA              | 5:00  |

| September |                  |      |
|-----------|------------------|------|
| 24 Sat    | Fall Race Series | 9:15 |
| 30 Fri    | Social at SMSA   | 5:00 |

*For more details: Go to [www.smsa.com](http://www.smsa.com), then click on Calendar, then click the item that interests you.*