



The Commodore's Corner

By Tim Flaherty
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Can you believe it's October?

Where does summer go? Don't worry, we still have some terrific sailing weather ahead of us for the next month, along with some really good events at SMSA. I will get to those in a moment.

Our Fall Series keelboat race had to be cancelled because we did not have an RC. This is disappointing, although we can't be surprised; participation in such weekend sailing events has been flagging in recent years. If we don't have many people wanting to be competitors, how can we expect an increasing proportion of volunteers to be race officials?

SMSA has in seen increased membership and general participation in the past several years. Our membership has grown approximately 38% in the past four seasons, and we have many great social events attracting large crowds – if you missed the recent Crab Feast, you missed catching up with a lot of SMSA members! I see a steady parade of people, mostly families and young people, streaming through the gates to access our fleet of 420's and the other leased boats in the yard.

What has been going down is big boat participation. Plenty of our members still have big boats but seem reluctant to use them in races or even many cruising activities. It should be noted that we are not the only sailing club or yacht club to experience this phenomenon. I am hearing more and more from other clubs and from marina operators that the big boat market is shrinking. Older people have downsized or gotten out completely, and younger people are going small. It is still open to debate whether this change is the result of economics or just changes in desires; sailing isn't the easiest hobby to learn or one that takes a small amount of time.

Still, some of our on-water events do very well. The Battle Creek Race/Cruise has been a rocking-and-rolling time for several years. Screwpile received an incredible pick-me-up from the addition of a cruising class this year, along with a little innovation.

What does this mean? Maybe we need to try and put a little more fun in our events. Maybe we need to dump some of the old events and try something new. Whatever it is, I intend to find out what is going to get you out on the water more, into the clubhouse more, and be more active. At the next board meeting I plan to bring up the topic of having some type of membership survey later this fall, and will ask chairs, directors and officers to consider the results and reshape our calendar. Sure can't hurt.

Here's what's up this month: Hoopers/Point No Point is Saturday, Oct. 4th; Club Clean-up Day is Sunday, Oct. 5. Please show up by 9am to help make our facility sparkle; the Happy Hour Raft Up is the following Saturday night in St. Marys' Mill Creek; the Chili Cookoff/Oyster Scald is Saturday the 18th, right after the Fall Invitational races; I'm moving the Commodore's Dinner to Oct. 24th. Theme will be Chesapeake Seafood; the Halloween Cruise and Bucctoberfest are the last weekend of the month. See you soon!

Commodore's Potluck Dinner

October 24th, 7pm

Theme: "Chesapeake Seafood"

Tim!

Annual Chili Cook Off & Oyster Scald!

October 18th, 4pm



Oysters available at Market Price.
Please include in your RSVP if you want oysters or will be entering a chili.

Does your chili have what it takes to be the best?

RSVP to Commodore@smsa.com



FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS!

Docks: Beginning Monday, October 6th, Ward's Marine will begin demolition of our docks in preparation for new docks. Part of Club Cleanup Day will involve removing any hardware (cleats, ladders, fixtures, etc.) that we want to re-install on the new docks. Boats stored in-water at SMSA will have to be moved while construction is ongoing. If you still have not found alternative space, contact Facilities at facility@smsa.com.

None of the dry-stored boats to be moved. The hoist and launch ramp will be able to be used. The 420's, Optis and Sunfish will still be available for checkout. Use common sense to avoid the construction area when launching. The Holders will be out of the water during construction.



Lend your helping hands for our Fall Club Cleanup Day! October 5th, 9am

(This is the same day as the "Powerboat racing" so you will have a good parking space to watch that simply by helping at the club!)

Many of our club's programs have wound down, but some projects and cleaning still need to be done. The plan is to get things started around **9:00 am** until we run out of help or the tasks are done!

Whether you can pitch in an hour, or volunteer more time, we have a job for you!

Please contact facility@smsa.com to ask your Facility Chairs- Mark and Jolie- what they have planned or to let them know you can help!

Thank you in advance!

Clubhouse: On Monday, October 6th, you'll also find that the first phase in renovation of the front room of the clubhouse has begun. The Facilities Improvement Committee has been working hard. The week of October 6th will find the flooring being leveled and replaced. Things will be back together for the Friday Social. Come check it out!

Watch your mailbox at the end of Oct for the ballot.

There is still time to be added to the slate!

Email rearcommodore@smsa.com to put your name in the hat and volunteer for your club.

SMSA Annual Meeting

Saturday, Nov 1st
0930 Potluck Brunch
1000 Meeting

Bloody Marys and Mimosas at the bar.

BARTENDERS NEEDED:

Please remember to sign up for bartending for upcoming events. We currently need a bartender for Friday night socials and some major functions. Remember, you don't have to be TAM certified to open the bar, you just have to have a TAM on site with you.

Bartending is fun. Don't know how to do it? Its easy. Just ask for someone to show you how. Its a great way to meet, and keep up with, all the new club members, too.

Sign up is easy: you can sign up on the bartender link on the SMSA website, or on the white board at the club, or drop a note to barmanager@smsa.com.

Special Order SMSA Merchandise TODAY!

Back by popular demand—we are placing another SMSA Merchandise order!

Orders are due by October 15th and will be available for pickup at the Annual meeting.



Big hits last time were long sleeve tech shirts, fleece vests, polo shirts, visors, and canvas bags.

Purchase online at smsa.com or email webmaster@smsa.com with questions about color choices, etc.



YORKTOWN and CAPE CHARLES
CRUISE...CRUISE TO
BALTIMORE...UPCOMING SAILING
EVENTS

Cruising Corner

Rod Schroeder, SMSA Cruise Chair
cruise@smsa.com
(H) 410-326-0167
(C) 301-752-5515



Cruise South to Yorktown & Cape Charles: 30 Aug – 7 Sept 2014

Chesapeake Catalina Yacht Club (CCYC) boat **View Finder** (Commodore Claire Miller & husband Rich) **Walkabout** (Dave & Lois Zonderman) and **Ruste Nayle** (Rod & Pat Schroeder), along with SMSA cruisers **Piper** (Jerry Taylor) and **Safina** (Dennis & Carolyn Chandler) on a joint SMSA/CCYC cruise to the southern bay area.

Departing Solomons with a southerly breeze, we were able to enjoy a nice sail heading eastward out of the river until needing to turn south into the wind toward our destination in Mill Creek off of the Great Wicomico over 40 miles away. Most of the rest of the day was a motor sail to our quiet anchorage with our customary happy hour gathering.

During happy hour, Dave Zonderman took the "First Timers Stand Up Paddleboard Challenge" and entertained us with his aptitude, nimbleness, and agility as he quickly mastered the board.

Our next day's journey took us further south, once again directly into a southerly wind, to the Piankatank River. With a brisk south wind forecast overnight, we chose to anchor in Hills Bay rather than Fishing Bay in order to get some shelter from Gwynn Island.

The entrance to Piankatank was a busy place with a large racing fleet having fun in the strong breeze. SMSA boat Pursuit was sighted among the racing fleet as it was enjoying a wild spinnaker ride on a downwind leg. Continuing south on Labor Day, the wind was a little more cooperative out the southwest allowing for a decent sailing angle, along with a little motor sailing. Several pods of dolphin were sighted on this leg of the trip, mostly in the vicinity of New Point Comfort. One of the pods looked like it contained well over 30 dolphins.

We arrived early enough at the York River Yacht Haven on Sarah Creek to rejuvenate ourselves in the refreshing water of the swimming pool, have poolside cocktails, and enjoy great food and service at the York River Oyster Company restaurant at the marina. Our lay day in the Yorktown area was hot and humid as most of us toured the historic Yorktown Victory Center, Yorktown Battlefield, and Yorktown Boardwalk (i.e. lunch and Ben & Jerry's ice cream).

The marina was very generous with our use of their loaner car to shuttle our group over the bridge to/from the marina and Yorktown throughout the day. After playing tourist in the heat during the day, we cooled off with a swim and organized an impromptu potluck BBQ that we enjoyed in the bug free air-conditioned YRYC clubhouse. Claire's homemade lentil soup was one of the highlights of the meal.

On Wednesday 3 September, our fleet headed across the bay to spend a couple of nights at Cape Charles on the Virginia eastern shore. Decent wind from the SE provided us with an enjoyable sail. We stayed at the Cape Charles Town Harbor Marina that has recently rebuilt its floating docks and modern facilities, and is close to town. return to Solomons via Mill Creek upon leaving Cape Charles.

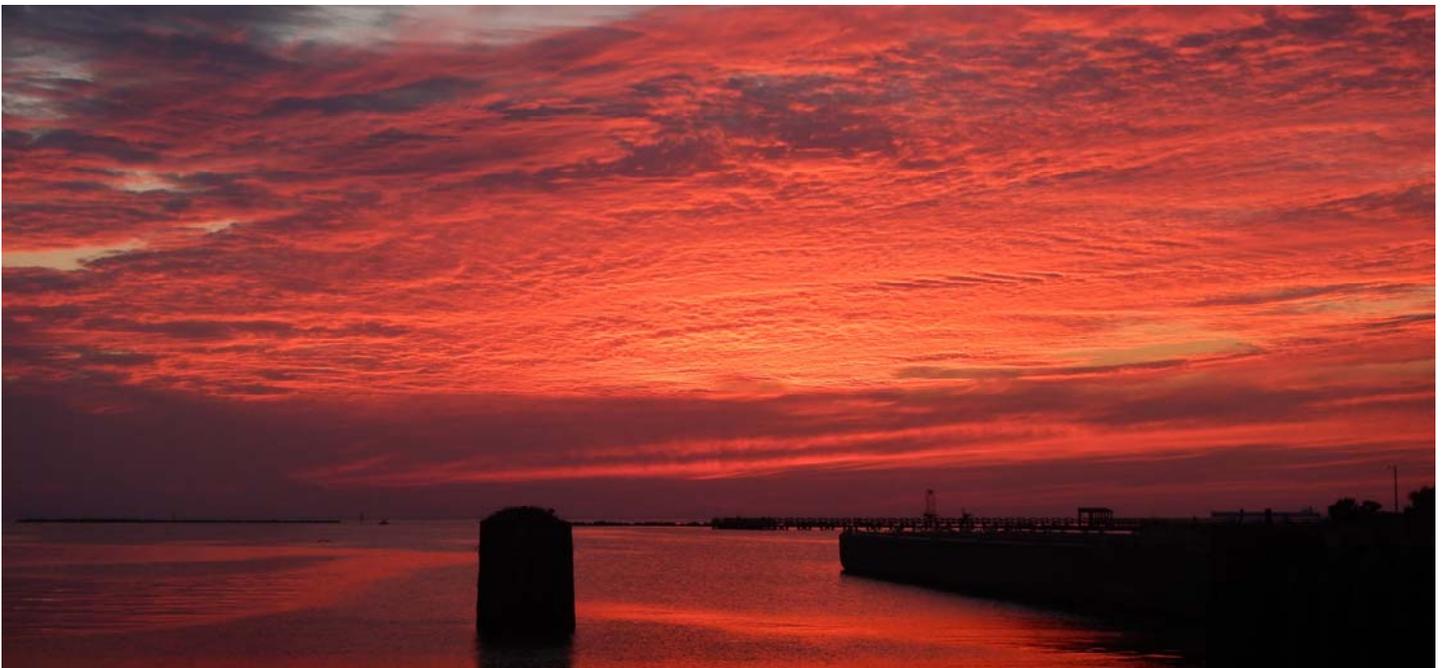


Cape Charles is a typical eastern shore small town with many boutique shops and a very interesting old-fashioned hardware store. Great dining experiences were had at The Shanty Seafood House, Kelly's Gingernut Pub, and the upscale Aqua restaurant.

For something different, have you ever tried Lemon Old Bay Ice Cream? It is uniquely delicious and is made locally in Cape Charles. In order to take advantage of favorable wind, and to give some of us a lay day in Solomons before embarking on the trip north to Baltimore, we chose to modify the itinerary to make a two day his time

Carolyn Chandler took the "First Timers Stand Up Paddle Board Challenge" and quickly mastered it just as Dave had done earlier that week.

The return leg from Mill Creek to Solomons turned out to be a long day of motor sailing to our home slips to complete a great cruise south, and for some of us to prep for the upcoming cruise north to Baltimore.





Cruise North to Baltimore: 8 – 14 September 2014

On Monday 8 September, 5 SMSA boats headed north toward Annapolis on our way to Baltimore for the Star Spangled Spectacular Celebration of the 200th patriotic fleet included ***Ruste Nayle*** (Rod & Pat Schroeder), ***Walkabout*** (Dave & Lois Zonderman), ***Lickety Split*** (Donna Maneely & Les Griffith), ***Chat Mechant*** (Egon Frech & Roxanne Summers), and ***Safina*** (Dennis & Carolyn Chandler).

A strong headwind and opposing current gave us a long, choppy and wet ride up the bay on this first leg of the trip. With strong winds forecast for overnight and the next day, we changed our first night's anchorage to the more sheltered Mill Creek off of Whitehall Bay and shared hors d'oeuvres and cocktails onboard ***Ruste Nayle***. As predicted, the next day's run to Baltimore was into a strong northerly, albeit a shorter distance.

Upon arrival at the very nice and conveniently located Inner Harbor East Marina we learned that slip space for the full weekend of activities was now available (they were booked up as early as last Feb) so ***Ruste Nayle***, ***Walkabout***, and ***Chat Mechant*** took advantage of that and extended our stay to depart on Sunday rather than Friday in order to experience more of the main attractions on Saturday.



Safina returned to Solomons on Thursday due to other commitments, and **Lickety Split** stuck to the original schedule by leaving Baltimore on Friday with an overnight stop in Annapolis on their way back to Solomons. After getting settled into our slips on Tuesday, our cruisers had cocktails on the dock before walking the short distance into Baltimore's Little Italy for dinner at Amicci's, and we were joined by Carolyn's son Blair, a merchant marine, in town for some training.

Over the next few days, SMSA sailors explored a wide range of activities including: visit to Ft McHenry to watch the ships arrive and receive cannon salutes; tour some unique visiting ships; explore several curious museums in the area; listen to concerts; watch Blue Angels practice; sample various eating establishments; and of course shopping. Those of us who extended our stay in Baltimore also sampled the local culture by riding the free connector bus from Little Italy up to the ballpark for a game between the Orioles and Yankees.

The Blue Angels buzzed the stadium a few times during their practice that day, and the O's won the game in 11 innings. On Saturday, a low overcast ceiling with a little rain limited the Blue Angel show to just a few low altitude maneuvers; however, the weather cleared up in time to witness a spectacular fireworks show that evening. Six fireworks barges lined up in the water from the Inner Harbor all the way to Ft McHenry.

One barge was directly in front of our marina, and we could easily see all six explosive aerial shows right from our boats as over 98,000 rockets were launched. On Sunday, **Ruste Nayle**, **Walkabout**, and **Chat Mechant** left Baltimore for a long one day run (mostly motor sailing) back to Solomons with a light northerly breeze and mostly favorable current.

We hope to do the same trip again when they have the 300th anniversary celebration in a few years.

Coming Up

Here are the highlights of what's coming up for the rest of the season.

11 Oct – 12 Oct SMSA Happy Hour Raft-Up: Join us in Mill Creek (St Mary's side of the river) for an informal happy hour raft up. Come for the day and return to Solomons, or spend the night at anchor.

25 Oct - 26 Oct Halloween Cruise to Mill Creek: Cruise Leader needed. Contact Cruise Chairman Rod Schroeder if interested.



SMSA CRAB FEAST AN AWESOME EVENT! - Jimmy Yurko

The SMSA Crab Feast was an awesome event! We had over 70 SMSA members & guests come out to enjoy the best September has to offer. The grill was fired up, burgers & dogs were served at breakneck pace. The crab steamers put 3 bushels of crabs on the tables...

At the end we even "pardoned" a bushel of female crabs by releasing them back to the river to grow bigger & make new crabs for next season.

Our next major social event is the Chili Cook-off & Oyster Scald, October 18th.





SMSA CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2014			
3	Fri	Friday Happy Hour	5pm
4	Sat	Hooper's Island, Point No Point Race	
5	Sun	Clubhouse Clean-Up Day	9am
6	Mon	BOD meeting	7pm
10	Fri	Friday Happy Hour	5pm
11	Sat	Happy Hour Raft Up Cruise	
12	Sun	Happy Hour Raft Up Cruise	
17	Fri	Friday Happy Hour	5pm
18	Sat	Fall Invitational Race	
18	Sat	Chili Cook Off/Oyster Scald	4pm
20	Mon	Clew Inputs Due	
24	Fri	Friday Happy Hour	5pm
24	Fri	Commodore's Dinner	7pm
25	Sat	Halloween Cruise	
25	Sat	Bucctoberfest regatta	
26	Sun	Halloween Cruise	
27	Mon	Chair Meeting	7pm
31	Fri	Friday Happy Hour	5pm

NOVEMBER 2014			
1	Sat	Annual Meeting & Brunch	9:30am
2	Sun	Fall Frostbite Series	
7	Fri	Friday Happy Hour	5pm
9	Sun	Fall Frostbite Series	
14	Fri	Friday Happy Hour	5pm
16	Sun	Fall Frostbite Series	
20	Thu	Clew Inputs Due	
21	Fri	Friday Happy Hour	5pm
21	Fri	Commodore's Dinner	7pm
23	Sun	Fall Frostbite Series	
24	Mon	Chair Meeting	7pm
28	Fri	Friday Happy Hour	7pm

**The pessimist complains about the wind;
the optimist expects it to change;
the realist adjusts the sails.**



- William Arthur Ward



FOR SALE:

Max Munger, Lusby, MD 410-353-1150
maxmunger@verizon.net

1986 Boston Whaler

16'0" Montauk w/ 2001 Johnson Ocean Pro 90hp motor, dry stored (boathouse or trailer), depth finder, USCG equipment, anchor, new bimini top (2008), new battery. Engine just serviced and new gas tank and fuel lines July 014. \$9,000

1986 COX Trailer, inspected, storage only. \$800

2009 Jet Dock Floating dock, 8'x17' (fits 16' Whaler type), winch and Tide Manager mooring poles. \$4600



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

PLACE
STAMP
HERE



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**Lend your helping hands for our
Fall Club Clean-up Day!
Sunday, Oct 5th, 9am**