



The Commodore's Corner

By Jim Keen

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Year-End Transition... Welcome the New Board of Directors

With the Annual Membership Meeting and election behind us, please join me in congratulating those elected to serve on our 2018 Board of Directors:

Jim Whited (Commodore)

Mark Gyorgy (Vice Commodore)

Robin Witte (Rear Commodore)

Kristi Yurko (Treasurer)

Lowell Martin (Secretary)

Nicole Doub and Jim Keen (Directors)

As Directors David Meiser and Betsy Dodge, and Rear Commodore Robert Herbig leave the BOD, I want to thank each of them for their many years of dedicated service to SMSA. And, thank you to all members who participated in the election process and who turned out to make the meeting and potluck brunch a success.

As I mentioned at the Annual Meeting, we were recently successful in negotiating a five year extension to the existing lease on our clubhouse. Fortunately, as reliable tenants and good stewards of the property, we were able to get a reduction of our monthly rent which will save us more than \$2,000 per year and \$10,000 over the five year term of the lease. This will enable us to continue to make long range improvements to our clubhouse as well as to enjoy a measure of stability.

At our Annual Meeting, the membership voted to approve a by-laws amendment that laid the groundwork for a new dues transaction process that promises to be simpler, provide flexibility, and offer improved cash flow for our members and the club. You will now be able to pay your club dues monthly, or continue with the prior annual payment approach. This new dues payment process gets us in line with the majority of yacht clubs across the country while taking advantage of today's modern banking practices. You will soon be receiving a letter that will provide further details of this change.

As I turn over the leadership of the club to our new Commodore, Jim Whited, I wish to thank him and the 2017 Board of Directors, the Committee Chairs, and many dozens of volunteers who have supported me and made my two years as Commodore a true pleasure. It has been an honor and most gratifying to me to have served with so many dedicated volunteers. Thank you all for your support.

I hope you all had a nice Thanksgiving and enjoy the Christmas holiday season.

James Keen
SMSA Commodore

THE SOCIAL SCENE WITH JODY KEEN

Jody Keen
Social Chair
social@smsa.com



November has come and gone. I hope that everyone had a very relaxing and enjoyable time with family and friends over Thanksgiving.

November was quite busy around the club. The membership brunch and meeting on the 4th were well attended. Congratulations to the new board!

On the 10th of November you may have heard laughter coming from the clubhouse as over eighty members and guests enjoyed an evening of Comedy with Kelly Terranova and two other comedians. Hats off to Hannah for organizing this event! Later in the month, on the sixteenth, BBQ was enjoyed at the Commodore's dinner. Upcoming events for the month of December include:

The Christmas walk and Open House on Friday, December 1st,
The Annual Christmas Party and dinner on Saturday, December 2nd,
The Commodore's dinner on Friday, December 15th, and
A New Year's Eve Party. Sunday, December 31st

Please be sure to stop by the club for the Christmas walk/Open house on Friday, December 1st starting at 5:00. The bar will be open and we will be welcoming in the public. Once again this year, we will have toy/model boats in the back room for young people to build and sail in the small pool. Thanks to Jimmy Yurko for making the boat kits and Jim Whited for repairing the pool.

The following evening, Saturday, December 2nd, is our Annual Christmas Party and dinner starting at 6 pm (Doors open at 5:00). Come and enjoy good food and first rate seats to the Christmas boat parade. The club will provide two turkeys and two hams. Please bring a dish to share; it can be a main dish or a side. Also, please bring an ornament for the tree.

Jim Keen's final Commodore's dinner will be on the 15th. The theme for the evening is Italian. Please come out and bring your favorite Italian dish.

There is a New Year's Eve celebration at the club on December 31st this year. Sponsored by Todd and Jennifer Porter, the theme is "Three Sheets to the Wind." Attire: Island Time. Doors open at 6pm, pot-luck at 7pm, the music starts at 8 pm, the ball drops at 12:00 pm and the bar closes at 1am. Come out for a great time!

Please put the date of January 20th on your calendar for the SMSA Awards Banquet and Gala. The location is Old Breton Inn in Leonardtown.

In the meantime, I hope that everyone has a wonderful Christmas/Holiday season. I hope to see everyone around the clubhouse.



CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS AT SMSA!



Christmas Walk Open House

Friday, December 1st, at 5:00

Join us for cookies, hot chocolate and cider as well as boat building and racing for the kids.

Christmas Tree lighting will occur at the Solomons Boardwalk Gazebo.

Santa will arrive on a fire truck and visit SMSA!

SMSA Members' Christmas Party

Saturday, December 2nd, at 5:00 PM

Bring the family and join us for a potluck Christmas party. The SMSA clubhouse is a prime spot for watching the Solomons Boat Parade of Lights as they pass by in the river.



Freeze Your Bucc Off!

December 9, 2017

First Signal: Noon at the SMSA dock

This is the Last Buccaneer Race of 2017!

I can't explain why so many people join us each year, maybe they are risk takers, maybe they just like to have fun. No matter how you shake it, they're coming, and you can too!

vicecommodore@smsa.com for more info!



You're Invited to Celebrate . . .

**'THREE SHEETS TO THE WIND'
NEW YEAR'S PARTY
At SMSA Club House!**

Dec 31st, 2017



Our Drinking Team has a Sailing Problem

Free soda/water for Designated Drivers!



Doors Open 6pm
Potluck Starts 7pm
Music Begins 8pm
BALL Drops at Midnight!

Attire . . . Island Time
Sail Trivia Prizes!
Boat Movies
Drink Specials
Corn-hole
And much more!



Have extra race award glasses taking up space?
Help keep bar costs down! Drop them off at the SMSA Bar!
We are in need of more rocks glasses and pint glasses.



YEARBOOK 2018

It is time for the 2018 yearbook preparation. We are working to remind our advertisers and thank them for support. Please consider asking businesses you know to participate.

We need your pictures and articles at some point. It is early, but I want to remind you so in your spare time, ha, ha, you can send some pictures along.

We will also select a few 2017 articles to highlight in the Yearbook for 2018. Any suggestions from you would be welcome.

Thanks,
Patty Kimmel
kimfree1413@gmail.com
703-618-0886

SMSA BAR - TAM CLASS!

SMSA is fortunate to have a fully operating Bar. Volunteers keep the Bar running, and per Maryland State Law, a Techniques of Alcohol Management (TAM) licensed representative must be on premises to legally sell alcoholic beverages. A TAM is not required to serve as a bar tender, but must be present on the premises.

Without TAM licenses volunteers, SMSA can't run the bar.

There is a TAM class offered at SMSA clubhouse,
December 10th, Sunday 12 to 4pm.

If interested please contact the Bar Manager (barmanager@smsa.com) or Todd Porter, portertodda@gmail.com, if you can attend.

Sailing Belize!

By Todd and Jennifer Porter

Time to go! With planning, packing & organizing complete and the Maryland winter weather approaching, it's time to head to Baltimore Washington International and make tracks for Belize. A rendezvous with 'Harvest Moon' (Moorings 3900 Catamaran) berthed at Placencia, a short flight from Belize City, is waiting. Planned several years in advance with high school friends Cindy and David, the crew is excited about seeing the longest continuous live reef in the world. With the recent closure of the British Virgin Island (BVI) sailing grounds due to Hurricane Maria, Belize is experiencing a surge in sail charters. An early November planned bareboat charter promises to beat the cruising rush but leaves the potential for stormy Northern weather as the rainy season in Belize lasts through December.



*Todd Porter with High School Friend David Brummitt on 'Harvest Moon'
Anchored off South Water Caye, Belize*

The seven day voyage includes journeys to Pelican, Hideaway, Twin, South Water, and Hachet Cayes (pronounced 'Keys'). Sailing along the Great Barrier Belize reef, from a navigational perspective, requires careful planning. A Bareboat Charter earlier in the year hit the reef Southwest of Rendezvous Caye, resulting in total loss of a Moorings 5800 Catamaran and a \$15,000 (U.S.) per square meter fine by the Belizean Government for damage to the coral reef. Not a happy day.

Since the British Admiralty charts and resulting chart plotters don't accurately capture the barrier reef's navigational hazards, essential gear is Captain Freya Rauscher's, *Cruising Guide to Belize and Mexico's Caribbean Coast*. Captain Freya's hand-drawn charts, coupled with 'Harvest Moons' GPS chart plotter and a thorough brief from the Moorings' staff provides the tools needed to navigate Belize's inner reefs. Bringing along a hand-held compass to check sight bearings is reassuring, especially when entering the 'Blue Grounds'. I found positional lat/longs picked from Captain Freya's chart to be $\frac{1}{2}$ nm off compared to the on-board GPS, so I used Freya's bearing, course and depth information against the chart GPS

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SAILING BELIZE! (CONTINUED)

as the best navigation combo. Regardless, sight navigation is a primary tool. Researched literature and the Moorings briefing emphasize a need to keep a good look-out for hazards, as neither the GPS plotter nor Freya's charts identify all the coral heads along primary navigation routes. This advice paid big dividends as several times I had to pick around obstacles, including 'brown bars' and coral ridges to not encroach upon 'Harvest Moons' minimum 4 foot draft. Each evening, I mapped out our planned route while entering waypoints in the chart plotter and asked Jennifer to provide a sanity check before briefing the crew on potential hazards. Other than 0.2 feet under the keel off Hatchet Caye, we stayed in relatively deep water paying attending to the tide range and thanking our stars we selected a catamaran rather than a deep-keel sloop to charter.

With minimal mooring balls available, anchoring in turtle grass suggests two bow anchors. This presented some dynamic crew coordination in heavy chop while using the onboard dinghy to set the auxiliary anchor.

Forecast weather for the first part of the trip included winds gusting up to 35 kts with 4 to 6 foot swells from the North Northwest, and 2 inches of rain. After receiving good advice from a local professional charter captain, we adjusted our initial itinerary to find protected shelter at Twin Cayes, anchoring in protected waters on all sides inside a sizeable mangrove lagoon. We were glad we did since after the storm, several bareboat captains told of a sleepless night riding the anchor at the relatively unprotected anchorage off South Water Caye.



Jennifer Porter on 'Harvest Moon's Foredeck Checking the Approach to Pelican Caye, Belize

Fortunately avoiding the bleaching of many other reefs, the coral reefs off Belize are simply incredible. The trip highlight included hiring a local guide to enter the Queen Caye Natural Marine Reserve. The guide led a snorkel expedition in the marine reserve that included a swim with sea turtles, nurse sharks and several types of rays, and a dive for Conch shells. The local guide (Sean) did an incredible job pointing out different types of coral and reef fish off the Queen Caye reef. Upon the return from the outing, we encountered a pod of Atlantic

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SAILING BELIZE! (CONTINUED)

bottle-nosed dolphin who were content playing across, under and along the touring powerboat's bow.

Throughout our adventure, including a short stay at Laru Beya Resort across from the Moorings charter base in Placencia, we encountered Belize's greatest attribute . . . friendliness. The Belize people, a mixture of West African, Creole, Mayan and ex-pats, are among the friendliest encountered. This feeling of good-will affected the local charter community, typified by the Captain of 'No More Drama' freely offering his wine opener to my crew, thereby quickly averting a mutinous situation on my boat when the darn fangled device was found amiss.

With water temperatures at 85F and outside air temperatures hovering in the high 70's, swimming and snorkeling is more than pleasant. Coupled with uncrowded anchorages, great tasting dinners ashore, and incredible scenery, cruising Belize is a definite item on the bucket list. Unlike BVI, it's smart to provision well since meals ashore are sometimes hit and miss, especially during the off-season.

Other than a halyard shackle pin parting that caused temporary control loss of the main sail, the sailing in the Victoria Channel between the coastline of Belize and the inner reef was everything imagined. Close Hauled to a Broad Reach, we managed to get 'Harvest Moon' to 8.5kts on the GPS in a 15kt consistent breeze; not bad for a 'fat cat'. As all great vacations do though the end of our trip came much too fast. While turning over the big cat to the Moorings base, I experienced a small rush of relief as we successfully avoided any groundings or anchors dragging in the night.

As we departed Placencia via Tropic Air enroute Belize City, Jennifer spotted out her window the same type aircraft in 6 feet of water just off the end of the runway. Evidently, the Tropic Air flight the morning prior hit a crossing vehicle on departure resulting in sudden loss of airspeed and a watery crash landing.

As reported by the Washington Post, no one was seriously hurt, including the acting Belize Prime Minister who happened to be on the flight. Regardless, the vision of the orange prop plane settled in its watery cradle serves a gentle reminder that every day should be appreciated. And to me, a reminder I'd rather be sailing than flying.

Jennifer and I can't wait to return to Belize. Until then, break out the Belizean Rum!

Friday, December 01, 2017	Christmas Walk/SMSA Open House	5:00PM	Tuesday, January 02, 2018	Sailing Center Chesapeake Pot Luck	5:30 PM
Saturday, December 02, 2017	SMSA Christmas Party/Boat Parade	5:00 PM	Friday, January 05, 2018	Happy Hour at the Clubhouse	5:30 PM
Friday, December 08, 2017	Happy Hour at the Clubhouse	5:30 PM	Saturday, January 06, 2018	Cruise Planning Meeting	9:30 AM
Saturday, December 09, 2017	FYBO		Monday, January 08, 2018	BOD Meeting	7:00 PM
Sunday, December 10, 2017	TAM Training Class	12:00 PM	Friday, January 12, 2018	Happy Hour at the Clubhouse	5:30 PM
Monday, December 11, 2017	BOD Meeting	7:00 PM	Friday, January 12, 2018	VX ONE MIDWINTERS	
Friday, December 15, 2017	Happy Hour at the Clubhouse	5:30 PM	Saturday, January 13, 2018	VX ONE MIDWINTERS	
	Commodores Dinner	7:00 PM	Friday, January 12, 2018	DEAD DOGS AND TIN WHISTLES (KEY LARGO)	
Wednesday, December 20, 2017	CLEW INPUTS DUE		Saturday, January 13, 2018	DEAD DOGS AND TIN WHISTLES (KEY LARGO)	
Friday, December 22, 2017	Happy Hour at the Clubhouse	5:30 PM	Sunday, January 14, 2018	DEAD DOGS AND TIN WHISTLES (KEY LARGO)	
Friday, December 29, 2017	Happy Hour at the Clubhouse	5:30 PM	Sunday, January 14, 2018	SMSA SKI TRIP (TILL 1/19)	
Sunday, December 31, 2017	NEW YEAR PARTY AT THE CLUBHOUSE	6:00 PM	Friday, January 19, 2018	Happy Hour at the Clubhouse	5:30 PM
DECEMBER/JANUARY 2017 CLUB CALENDAR			Saturday, January 20, 2018	SMSA AWARDS BANQUET	
			Saturday, January 20, 2018	CLEW INPUTS DUE	
			Friday, January 26, 2018	Happy Hour at the Clubhouse	5:30 PM
				Commodores Dinner	7:00 PM

TILGHMAN ISLAND/CAMBRIDGE CRUISE

Dennis Chandler

On Friday, October 20, eight SMSA cruisers sailed and motor-sailed 25 NM to Tilghman Island, just off of the Choptank River. The participants were No Sched (Taylor), Rusty Nayle (Schroeder), Serenity (Kemp), Tanqueray (Conley), Kalypso (Seisseger), Chat Mechant (Frech), Cloud 9 (Griffith/Maneely), and Safina (Chandler). Despite 10-15 knots on the nose and 2-foot waves, everyone arrived at the Tilghman-on-the-Chesapeake (TOC) marina in good shape. The TOC marina has floating docks and a very helpful staff and is within walking distance of the events. That night the SMSA had a cookout and ate on the upper deck of the clubhouse.

On Saturday, the town virtually stopped all work in order to celebrate Tilghman Island Day and the watermen's way of life, as depicted in an excellent museum. There were oysters galore as well as a watermen's boat docking contest, anchor throwing and a thrilling race by the watermen in their workboats. The SMSA cruisers had fun watching all of these activities. That evening the group met at the famous Harrison's restaurant for a family-style dinner.

On Sunday, three of the SMSA boats had to return to Solomons and encountered some fog enroute in the Bay. The rest of the flotilla, adding catamaran Serenity (Hamilton), journeyed the 18 NM upriver in the Choptank from Tilghman Island to Cambridge to take slips on fixed docks in the municipal marina there. Everyone enjoyed walking around Cambridge, which is something of a hidden jewel with its quaint homes and tasteful restaurants. The marina dockmaster arranged on Monday a small bus to take the group to the newly opened Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Museum, which shows the life and times of Harriet Tubman, who escaped from her slavery and returned to help some 70 others to escape both before and during the Civil War.

While one boat had to return to Solomons due to a prior commitment, the remaining boats stayed in the relative safety of the marina for an extra night rather than anchoring out because of a fierce storm that night with strong winds and high tides. The final event was a great meal that we had at the Cambridge Yacht Club that welcomed us warmly. Everyone returned safely to Solomons on Wednesday. Overall it was a fun and interesting cruise.



Work Boat Races



Dinner at Harrisons restaurant, Tilghman Island



Picnic Table Toast in Cambridge

CRUISERS CORNER



Jerry Taylor
SMSA Cruise Chair
cruise@smsa.com

The cruisers had another very active year. We had everything from weekend raft ups to a trip to Cape May, New Jersey with nine boats attending and the last extended cruise of the season to Tilghman Island/Cambridge with nine boats. A total of 20 boats accumulated cruise points. One had over 100 points with several more not far behind. Eight boats had over 35 points which qualifies them for a large burgee to be given out at the awards banquet. The final tally is on our website.

Please let me know if you have accumulated 1,000 miles or more in 2017 on your boat. So far I have **Serenity** (Kemps), **Serenity** (Hamiltons), **Patty K Too**, **Safina**, **Cloud 9**, **Destiny**, **Cefalu** and "**No Sched...**".

I would like to thank all the cruise leaders for their time spent planning, executing and reporting on their cruises this year.

Again, I would like to thank Carl Kemp for taking over as Cruise Chairman for 2018. Carl will be holding a cruise planning meeting on January 6th at 9:30 with a light breakfast being provided. All cruisers and anyone interested in cruising are welcome to attend. Please let Carl know if you will be attending, so he can plan on how many eats to order. Start sending Carl (carlfkemp@gmail.com) your ideas and destinations. The cruising program is in good hands!!

Halloween Cruise

Jerry Taylor

The Halloween Raft-up was held on October 27 and 28 with some beautiful weather. A total of five boats participated. Non-member 'John the Scot' (Ciara) set the hook early and was soon joined by Dave and Lois Zonderman (Walkabout), Jerry and Donna Taylor with grandsons Emerson and Wyatt ("No Sched..."), Les Griffith (Cloud 9), and Elliott and Alexa Petersen on their neighbor's Catalina 36 (Sweet Caroline). A great time was had by all and the boys enjoyed checking out all the other boats. Ciara and Sweet Caroline departed at sundown. "No Sched..." had an interesting time re-setting the hook in the dark with boats still in the raft, the current and other boats nearby. Cloud 9 departed soon after. It was another beautiful warm fall morning with lots of wind before the remaining boats departed.



Captain Bones on Kalypso



Happy hour on No Sched...

2017 Small Boat Report by Scott Patterson

We had 35 registered participants in the Thursday night summer series, which is level with last year. Good participation from the high school sailors, with three club 420s out many of the Thursday nights. We would like to challenge the high school program to get all six boats out each week; it'd be great to be in a position where we have to consider giving them a one design start. We had 11 participants in the spring one day regatta including two guest boats from PRSA, and six participants in the second annual dinghy distance race. 22 registered participants in the fall invitational regatta, which is up from the year before. We had several first time visitors from the SSA Laser fleet, who had to have their boats out of the yard due to the 505 event at their club. Of course, the best way to get our name out there and encourage sailors to attend our events is for us to travel to their regattas, so thank you to the very active traveling programs we have in the Buccaneer, VXOne, and Laser fleets. Thank you also to the Social committee for another excellent dinner and crab feast on Saturday night of the regatta weekend. Interest in a dinghy start for November frostbites is borderline for making it worthwhile, with a target of 5-6 racers minimum each week as well as two people on the club skiff as a safety boat. The idea was shelved for the 2017 season, but we'll socialize the idea earlier for 2018 to give people time to plan it in to their schedules and acquire the proper cold weather sailing gear to see if we can build interest in the series. Two unofficial events are coming up. The local Buccaneer fleet's Freeze Your Bucc Off will be held on Saturday, 9 December; and the Laser class is planning to hold a New Year's Day hangover regatta.



Southern Maryland Sailing Association

PO Box 262, Solomons, MD 20688

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CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS AT SMSA!



SOLOMONS ISLAND CHRISTMAS WALK AND SMSA OPEN HOUSE
Friday, December 1, 2017 at 5:00 PM

SMSA MEMBERS CHRISTMAS PARTY AND BOAT PARADE
Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 5:00 PM