



# The Clew

## COVID-19 SMSA UPDATE

Continue to refer to the SMSA *COVID-19 Safety Plans and Guidelines* sent via email and located on the SMSA Website

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### ANNUAL MEETING—SAT. NOV. 7 @ 10AM

**Please save the date and time. The Annual Meeting will be held virtually, with details sent in a separate email.**

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### GALA POLL

Please reply to the poll sent out in the weekly email. We need to hear from the membership on your desires for this event.

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### Happy Hours Continue

Friday's 5:30—8:30 pm

Last call at 8:20 pm. At 8:30 pm we kindly ask members to depart so the club can be sanitized per CDC Guidelines

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### Solomons Boat Parade

Solomons Island Yacht Club (SIYC) will host the Solomons Island Lighted Boat Parade on Saturday, December 5. SMSA members are welcome to participate. For more info contact Anthony Baratta (814-777-5654 or ab2@psu.edu)

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### Frostbite Racing / Freeze Your Bucc Off Race!

Please check the respective webpages for more information  
Keelboat: Dan Shannon (keelboatrace@smsa.com)  
Smallboat: Henry Meiser/Meg Roberts (smallboatrace@smsa.com)

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**Please continue to watch your e-mail for any changes due to COVID-19**

**NOTE: Since COVID we do not publish and send hard copy Clews.**



## Commodore's Corner

By Marc Briere  
commodore@smsa.com



Ahoy SMSA shipmates!

Thank you to all of our hearty sailors and tireless volunteers for continuing SMSA's multi-faceted sailing lifestyle throughout this year's many challenges. As you can see in the many articles and references in this month's clew — we haven't stopped. For some, you haven't even slowed down.

Thank you for your responsible application of CDC guidelines on and off the water, complying with our COVID Guidelines and staying healthy!

Despite all of the additional challenges, time is still flying by. This year's Hybrid annual membership meeting is next week. We will host socially distanced in-person seating at the clubhouse and will simulcast using either Skype or Zoom. Check your email mid-week for the detailed information. Look forward to seeing you in person or virtually. Be sure to Vote, Vote, Vote.

I really hope more of you will consider volunteering your time and talents to our organization. We still have many program and support positions to fill. I sincerely hope we got write-in candidates or volunteers for Vice Commodore. Mark has done a great job for three years and he can't continue in this position for 2021.

If our Happy Hours begin to exceed the 50% capacity limit in the allotted spaces or if we need more space in order to be adequately socially distance, we can expand the usable space to include the middle room. However, we will have to assign responsibility for adequately sanitizing the space after use to minimize the risk of clubhouse activities or usage turning into COVID spreader events.

We have a team of volunteers on the Board of Directors who will arrange for Christmas Decorations—please contact Robin (rearcommodore@smsa.com) if you are available and interested in helping out.

We have been invited to participate in the Solomons Island Yacht Club (SIYC) and Solomons Island Business Association "Lighted Boat Parade" in December, a mere week after our last Frostbite race. Please consider decorating your boat and participating. We realize the planning and logistics for participating in these events is non-trivial and more than some anticipate. I am hoping my crew will be trying to get Cheetah dressed to impress.

See you around the clubhouse and on the water!

*Marc*

## SMSA Members,



Our Annual Meeting and announcement of our new officers is but a week away. We've had numerous changes with our Chair positions and the same will occur with our Officers. Be part of the change and please volunteer for one of the many available Chair Positions. Help bring your new ideas to the table and make them come to fruition. Put a new spin on an old event. Now is as good a time as any to get involved.

**Volunteers for Christmas Decorations.** We have a few Board of Director volunteers but could use a few more folks to help decorate the club for Christmas. We will socially distance, wear masks and sanitize accordingly but a few extra hands will make the job easier. If you are interested please contact Robin Witte at rearcommo-dore@smsa.com.

**Volunteer needed for RC Boat Captain.** Driving the RC boat for Race Committees—Not Required! That is the RC's responsibility. Your job is to take care of routine checks on the boat, assure it has adequate fuel, and interface with Zahnizer's on routine and not so routine maintenance, not terribly time-consuming! We'll do an orderly transition with plenty of boat familiarization for whoever takes it on. If you are interested, please contact Lowell Martin, 301 325-4877, martin-lowell@comcast.net for more details.

**Volunteers needed for a special committee.** Marc Briere is standing up a special committee to review our administrative and accounting procedures to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our treasurer functions. Please contact Russell Miller and Kristi Yurko at treasurer@smsa.com if you have the experience, interest and talent to help us find better ways to integrate and streamline our current procedures and activities.

**Thank You to those of you who volunteer.**

**Your support is greatly appreciated.**

Robin Witte  
SMSA Rear Commodore  
rearcommodore@smsa.com

# COVID STATUS



**Robin Witte**

*Rear Commodore*

rearcommodore@smsa.com

Greetings SMSA Members!

November is here and COVID hasn't gone away. The latest Executive Order #20-10-16-02 maintains the posture for Social Clubs (which we are considered) at 50% capacity (indoors) and the face covering requirements outlined in our current COVID Guidelines align with this Executive Order.

The clubhouse continues to be "open" for Happy Hour on Friday evenings with access being limited to the front/back patios and front room only. The rest of the clubhouse is still closed to members with the exception of essential personnel.

We continue to look for opportunities to hold some of our events in a COVID-friendly manner, so please remember to check the weekly emails for the latest information about SMSA activities.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation during these unusual times as we work to ensure your safety while offering as many activities as possible while remaining compliant with Maryland Law and Executive Orders.

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to give us a call or send an email.

On behalf of your Officers,

Robin Witte  
SMSA Rear Commodore



# CRUISERS CORNER



**Carl Kemp**  
*Cruising Chair*  
cruise@smsa.com

With the Halloween Happy Hour Raft-Up, our last cruise of 2020 over, it's time to start planning for 2021. The 2021 Cruise Planning Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 9, beginning at 9:30 AM in the SMSA Clubhouse. A light breakfast will be available. Please let me know if you plan to attend so I can have enough coffee and treats. Also, please identify any destinations you would like considered in 2021.

Please let me know if your boat is eligible for a One Thousand Mile Cruising Award. This award is given to the owner of a boat that cruised 1,000 or more miles during the 2020 season on their own boat.

The Distinguished Cruising – Joseph T. McGrath Trophy, awarded each year, is a perpetual slate ice bucket presented to the owner of the yacht displaying the SMSA burgee in the widest area while cruising on their own yacht during the season. If you want to be considered for the 2020 award, please email me destinations and dates visited this year at [cruise@smsa.com](mailto:cruise@smsa.com).

Think Cruising  
Carl

## Think Cruising!

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### Almost Onancock - September 17 - 21

Rich Freeman

What was supposed to be our cruise to Onancock on 17 September ended up very differently because of deteriorating weather conditions.

We began monitoring the weather conditions on Monday. Tuesday's forecast got our attention and some of the six boats pulled out of the cruise citing weather issues. Looking at the winds a suggestion was made to change the location of the cruise to Hudson Creek off the Little Choptank River. Going there on Thursday and returning Friday or Saturday would take advantage of the winds. Then a comment was made about going to St. Leonards Creek and spending the night; the increasing wind velocity wouldn't be noticed too much there.



Rod, Dave, Dennis, Joan,  
Donna, Martha & Pat

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On Wednesday the crew of s/v Safina suggested that cruising anywhere was going to be miserable because of the impending rain and suggested we have a grand happy hour somewhere, maybe at Spring Cove Marina under the big tent. An email went out and all agreed that was a grand idea. We reserved the tent for Thursday evening.

At 1730 hours the crews began arriving. In addition to Patty and Rich (Patty K Too), Lois and David (Walkabout), Joan and John (Thisilldous), Martha and Carl (Serenity), Les (Cloud 9), Carolyn and Dennis (Safina), Pat and Rod (Ruste Nayle) and Donna (Lickety Split) joined in for the fun with everyone bringing some great looking and great tasting hors d'oeuvres. Happy hour lasted to nearly 2030 hours when crews reluctantly began leaving and going home in the rain.

While not as good as a cruise can be, it was a chance for the cruisers to come together and have a good time.



Rod, John, Patty & Carl



Pat & Martha

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***SMSA Cruisers Go 'Where the Winds Blow'! – October 10 - 12***  
*Todd & Jennifer Porter*

Let's admit it, sailing circa 2020 is challenging. From COVID-19 shutting down recreational sailing in March, to skippers dashing to the tackle box aisle at Wal Mart to launch their sailboats as fishing vessels (come'on, you at least thought about it), to pleading with West Marine employees in finding COVID-19 panic items (anyone that says toilet paper is not an essential boat item needs another Dark and Stormy), to dodging frat-house named tropical storms, to consulting with one's lawyer prior to COVID-19 constrained social engagements, 2020 is certainly one for the ages. With the Drydock restaurant closing, Screwpile without a party, and the annual Annapolis Boat Show canceling (what, no Painkillers?), it makes one think about ditching the sailboat for an RV, but there is redemption – 'Where the Wind Blows' Cruise.

With the winds forecast Southwest 7 to 11 kts with gusts to 24kts, and return the following Monday with Easterly winds, seven boats joined the cruise departing Solo

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mon's Saturday Oct 10 for San Domingo Creek (St Michaels), hoping to avoid the most serious wrath of Hurricane 'frat-house' Delta. After shaking sails, all experienced some great sailing up the bay arriving on-time for a dinghy social hour later that afternoon. With the passing around of St. Michael's local distillery's Rock n Rum by cruise leaders Todd and Jennifer Porter, the social hour extended well into the early evening before convening for the night.

The following day saw SMSA cruisers venturing into St Michael's to visit the local winery, brewery, distillery (there's a theme here), and many quaint shops in the lovely small town. A few broke off to watch the Ravens (win) and Washington Football Team (lose), followed by an early dinner at local restaurant favorite Limencello's. With sailing stories shared among the greater group, everyone appreciated the previous day's sail with favorable winds and swapped local knowledge for future adventures.

After a second night at anchor, SMSA cruisers awoke Monday morning expecting a brisk sail South back to Solomon's, but Tropical Storm Delta's lingering remnants had other ideas. With rain and sustained gusts well over 20 kts, it was time to break out the foul weather gear and a power cruise back to Solomon's.

Considering the tough start to 2020, the 'As the Winds Blow' cruise turned into a special event filled with adventurous fun-filled sailing. The weather reinforced the benefit of a Dodger Bimini combo in staying dry on the return trip! With one more cruise scheduled for the season, here's to a great remaining 2020 and bright 2021!

Cruise participants included:

- Carl and Martha Kemp (Serenity)
- Dennis & Carolyn Chandler (Safina)
- Les Griffith (Cloud 9)
- Elliot and Alexa Peterson (Stingray)
- Patty Kimmel and Rich Freeman (Patty K Too)
- John and Joan Blaney (Thisilldous)
- Todd, Jennifer (and Wookie) (Sabrena)



Wookie at the Wheel

## Small Boat Program



Henry Meiser / Meg Roberts  
*Smallboat Co-Chairs*  
smallboatrace@smsa.com



Although the Small Boat season has come to an end, the Chairs are still working on many projects and planning! We will be doing major maintenance to the skiff as soon as the high school season ends. This will include a fresh coat of bottom paint, as well a re-wiring of the dashboard. Big thank you to David Meiser for spear-heading this project. If you are interested in helping, please shoot us an email at [smallboatrace@smsa.com](mailto:smallboatrace@smsa.com). Maintenance will likely take place in late November or early December.

Looking into the future, our annual Small Boat Fleet Meeting is scheduled for January 6th at 6:00 PM. The clubhouse will be open in accordance with the COVID guidelines for those that wish to join us in person, and we will have a Zoom for those who would feel more comfortable attending from another location.

Megan and I have also decided to institute for our members a "Small Boat Rigging Party", which will occur on March 13th from 11-2 PM! Get help from the "pros" when you start rigging your boat for the season and have a slice of pizza! We are also doing a rigging order from West Coast Sailing, who is giving us a great discount on rigging supplies. If you need new rigging for your boat next season, contact us for more information. Our deadline for allow ample time for our order to come in is no later than February 13th, 2021 please plan accordingly.

Wrapping things up, we sent out a survey for the Small Boat Fleet last week. Please use the link below or pick up a paper copy at the next Friday Happy Hour. Your feedback is greatly appreciated!

<https://form.jotform.com/202895113176052>





## Screwpile... Looking Back, Looking Forward



The 2020 sailing season will be looked back on as the year of Covid-19, and the year we did Screwpile in one day of racing with no awards parties. None the less, all of us who were involved in it, both racers and volunteers, made the best of a very unique sailing event and had great fun doing it.



Without the awards parties, we knew we would have some time to get the trophies out to recipients. What we didn't know is that our trophy vendor's engraving machine would break, which would delay delivery. As we are dealing with that, I want to thank all SMSA racers who participated in Screwpile, and to congratulate those who will receive trophies... Mark and Robin Witte (Rakali) for 3<sup>rd</sup> in A2/B class, Terry Reese (Family Tradition) for 2<sup>nd</sup> in C class, Dan Schneider (American Flyer) for 2<sup>nd</sup> in Racer/Cruiser class, Norm and Rosemary Dawley (Pursuit) for first in Non-Spin class, and Chris Eggert (Destiny) for 2<sup>nd</sup> in True Cruiser class.



Successfully pulling off a big-time regatta like Screwpile takes a lot of work and coordination by many, many SMSA volunteers who work to ensure the event is run smoothly, is fun for the participants, and promotes and retains the stature and reputation of our club. There are countless SMSA members who I wish to thank and appreciate for your great work and tireless efforts:

- ▲ The Screwpile 2020 Planning Committee for your many months of tirelessly working to prepare for the regatta... Don Behrens, David Meiser, Cyndi Tatar, Shawn Stanley, Jeff Jeffries, and Jody Keen
- ▲ Joe Frost, Cyndi Tatar, Jody Keen, and Don Behrens who carried RC marks, anchors, flags and other race equipment down from of our clubhouse attic, organized and distributed it, washed it after the regatta, and stored it back in the attic... a five day evolution
- ▲ Our home-grown and world class Principal Race Officer (PRO), Don Behrens, who worked a myriad of race management details leading up to race day and then did a brilliant job, as he has many times before, in doing what he does best... getting in a maximum number of extremely well-orchestrated races.

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- ▲ Race Officers, Joe Kubinec, Robert Herbig (with Boat Captain Jeff Jeffies), Keith Jacobs, Joe Frost, and Jay Tyson all did a great job of their duties on the courses' mark boats
- ▲ Cyndi Tatar, Trish Olkowski, D'Ann Morris, Betsy Dodge, Jody Keen, and Glenn Walters on the PHRF course Signal Boat with PRO, Don Behrens
- ▲ Tracy Kubinec, Alexa Peterson, Will Rutherford, and Tim Flaherty with Race Officer Joe Kubinec on the Weather Mark Boat
- ▲ Julie Huffine and Darwin Weigel on the Gate/Leeward Mark Boat with Race Officer Robert Herbig and Boat Captain Jeff Jeffries
- ▲ Marlene Plumley, Todd Porter and Keith Mayes with Race Officer/Boat Captain Keith Jacobs on the Pin Boat. And, thanks to Keith for bringing his boat from Annapolis.
- ▲ Terry Farman with PRO Jay Tyson on the CRCA Cruiser Course Signal Boat  
Karen Eggert and John Blaney on the Cruiser course Pin Boat with Race Officer and Captain Joe Frost
- ▲ Guy Barbato and Nelson Pemberton with Chief Judge Dan Trammell on the Protest Committee
- ▲ Jim Whited and Norm Dawley for assistance in setting up and scoring the CRCA Cruiser fleet

Please support our great sponsors... AMEWAS, Toyota of Southern Maryland, and Anne Arundel Dive Services for their generous monetary support; SpinSheet for their 5 full-page ads, numerous news articles, as well as their encouragement; Mt Gay Rum for their highly coveted red Screwpile hats; Holiday Inn for their compt'd rooms and boat slips for our-of-town Race Committee volunteers and room discounts for visiting race crews; and Chesapeake Embroidery for supplying skippers' bags.

We will be back next year for our 29<sup>th</sup> running of the Screwpile Lighthouse Challenge. We are tentatively planning, once again, to team with Annapolis Yacht Club to hold Screwpile on the same weekend as their AYC Fall Race to Solomons, 26/27 September. With good prospects of being past the Covid-19 Pandemic, we will be looking to return to our traditional Screwpile with not only the great races, but the fun awards parties that we all know and love. We will be needing even more volunteers next year. And, I encourage more SMSA sailors to race your boats.

### **Don't miss out on the fun in 2021!**

Jim Keen  
Chairman, Screwpile Lighthouse  
Challenge Regatta



## High School Sailing

Under Barbara Whited's direction and Jimmy Yurko's coaching we have had quite a socially distanced high school sailing program. Everybody survived mask wearing on land.

At times we had up to 7 boats doing starts, circles and figures of 8's tacking and gybing. If you're the thing they are rounding when it got breezier it got quite exciting. We kept the sailing to Back Creek and the Patuxent River. One afternoon we did a capsize practice in which the gang readily participated. We had the occasional mishap capsize including one where the skipper missed the hiking straps and the relatively inexperienced crew managed to hang on and get the boat under control to avoid Molly's Leg.

Our high schoolers have one more session on Wednesday from 3pm onwards to pack up the boats for the winter.

Next up will be decorating boat/s for the Solomons Lighted Boat Parade on Sat Dec 5 @ 6:30pm. We will be having a meeting as we need to figure out our display to fit with the theme of Santa's Workshop. This will require high schooler participation with parental coordination and support to supply materials, costumes etc. Our efforts won overall last year, so hopefully we can repeat while simplifying things.

Thanks to all who participated especially those new to sailing. Thanks to those more experienced for helming and passing on their knowledge. We hope to see you when we start backup next year. Come dressed for cold water sailing and bring a dry change to go home in.





## **HELP the JUNIOR PROGRAM**

**Join or renew your US Sailing Membership via the MVP Program!**

**You save \$ off your membership and SMSA junior program gets credits for books and training materials. Everyone benefits!**

**See the SMSA Website Homepage for the link!!!**

**Our sailing campers & high school sailors thank you.**

### **CLASSIFIED ADS**

FOR SALE: New gallon of Pettit Trinidad Pro paint, \$150.

Contact Don Fletcher at 240-237-0748 or via email (fletch23199@gmail.com)

FOR SALE: Slocum 43 blue water cruiser. Perfect liveaboard. Updates and refit include replaced decks, new seacocks, pumps, sump pumps, plumbing, sinks, faucets, toilet, counter tops, many new electronics, transducers, refrigerator, blinds, canvas, air conditioning new engine, etc. Recently installed a hot air heating system. New Quantum sails. Asking \$100K. Contact Charlie Collins@ccolins218@gmail.com or 240-577-1004. View listing on Southern MD Craigslist





**Southern Maryland Sailing Association**  
P.O. Box 262, Solomons, MD 20688

Place  
Stamp



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