



The Clew

Smallboat Racing

Smallboat Warm-up Regatta (Informal/Unscored)

Saturday, April 3, 2021

Thursday Night Racing Starts, April 8, 2021

Keelboat Racing

Frostbite #4, Sunday, April 11, 2021

Wednesday Night Series A, starts April 14, 2021

Little Choptank, Saturday, April 17, 2021

Spring Invitational, Sunday, April 18, 2020

Cruises

St. Leonard Creek Raft-Up 24-25 April, 2021

SMSA Opening Day / 2020 Sailing Awards

Please note the change in date

Saturday, May 1, 2021

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

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NOTE: Since COVID we do not publish and send hard copy Clews.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



Ongoing Activities, Organizational Evolution, Compliance, COVID and Enjoying our Membership.

FDR once said "A smooth sea never made a skilled sailor". Well after the past year SMSA has each earned its mettle in COVID sailing club dynamics. We continue to have a variety of ongoing activities amongst our diverse programs many of which are represented in this month's Clew articles.

Ongoing Activities - High School Sailing is going strong. Check them out on the SMSA Facebook page and also in the 2021 yearbook. It's great to see our next generation of sailors out on the water and loving every minute of it. Smallboat/dinghy owners and crew were in the yard prepping their boats. Most of our keelboat owners and crew are preparing for their cruising and racing for 2021. We've had a handful of boats racing Frostbites, adding a few each week but we hope to see more boats out for the last Spring Frostbite in early April. Happy Hours are helping members get reacquainted with one another and provide therapy for many who have missed the camaraderie and salty interludes. The Sock Burning Event is a great example with about 30 members "coming together", sharing a beverage and burning their socks on the day of the Vernal Equinox to celebrate the start of spring, a big success.

Organizational Evolution & Compliance - We've mentioned CDC compliance several times since the beginning of my tenure as our club "Coronadore". There are several other areas of compliance that we haven't discussed but require our attention nonetheless.

- **By-Laws, Policies and Procedures**: were cored in organizational doctrine for non-profit social clubs circa 1972. The *State of Maryland has evolved its expectations for non-profit organizations*. To comply with current regulations, laws and standards we are conducting a holistic review of our current documentation. Our last review preceded our status as an employer, marina facility, operating a fully stocked bar, operating a summer camp, resourcing a high-school racing program, etc. because much of these are not mentioned in who or how we fund, operate, manage risks, manage investments and ensure compliance in them.
- **So what does this mean?????**: We have been very lucky organizationally in initiating, evolving and operating for years without significant incidents or official audits. We have become a fairly complex business that has an exponentially more

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complex accounting, inventory, payroll and payment options in order to offer MORE to our membership. This includes offering the convenience of monthly billing, credit card option as well as a full service bar which results in hours and hours of additional administration and treasury efforts.

Bottomline: we need to improve our documentation to comply with the regulations, laws and standards so we can continue to offer the activities and convenience that SMSA Members have come to expect.

Enjoying Our Membership – Our club offers a more diverse collection of “value propositions” than were available just a couple of years ago. We have moved away from the simplicity of our original founding. For some of our more senior members this isn’t as comfortable as when it was simpler and we were smaller. For others, the prospect of growing even more and offering an even more diverse set of offerings to our membership is exciting. Key to ensuring everyone enjoys their membership is open and honest communications. Keep talking to us on how we can improve. We will always strive to satisfy membership desires. This is YOUR club.

"For to reach a port, we must sail - SAIL, not tie at anchor, SAIL not drift" (FDR April 14, 1938)

Stay Healthy and Think Sailing!

Marc



Yearbook Coordinator

We are in need of someone to lead the coordination of the 2021 Yearbook. This includes helping gather updates to the various sections, advertisements, coordinating with the printer, etc. Please consider stepping up to the plate and giving your time to lead this effort. For more information contact Marc Briere at commodore@smsa.com.



MEMBERS CORNER

This is a new section of our newsletter to help highlight important information for the membership.

- **OPENING DAY CHANGED TO SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2021 @ 0930**
- Policy Manual: an update manual is now available on the SMSA Website (Change 30 dated 11 January 2021)
- COVID-19 Guidelines: an update document is now available on the SMSA Website (Change 5 date 25 February 2021)

**As of March 1, 2021, the Officers, Directors and the Program Chairs, will have the combination to the Clubhouse should you need access.



Have you moved?
Changed your email address?
Have a new phone number?
Got a new boat?
Send any changes to
membership@smsa.com

RACING

WET/DRY STORAGE

Need to register for racing or storage?

Everyone must register regardless of how you pay your fees (yearly or monthly)

Contact Dockmaster to coordinate your storage needs. (see pg. 5)

If you haven't received an email with a code to verify your current data in the membership database and register for racing and/or storage, please contact Membership (membership@smsa.com)

**VICE
COMMODORE**



Peter Quinn

Vice Commodore

vicecommodore@smsa.com

I am glad to see our club racers back on the water! As more boats finish with winter maintenance and the weather warms to allow epoxy work and bottom paint, I look forward to seeing all of our fleet (racers, cruiser and learners) back sailing soon.

Congrats to our Frostbite victors. (Reminder all participants need to fully comply with NOR/SI's that include valid rating for the handicap system being used for scoring and race fees paid prior to racing.)

I want to publicly thank Henry Meiser and Joe Frost for their efforts to get our RHIBs and RC Boat ready for the season. As well, a thanks to everyone from Smallboat and High School Programs for ensuring the 420s were ready to go and getting HS Sailing season started; and to Lauren Miller for getting the Summer Camp off to a great start.

For coordination purposes, and to ensure we capture the programmatic data (maintenance and operational costs) of our RHIBs/Skiffs, Meg Roberts has volunteered to be the Boat Captain for the RHIB/Skiffs. The 'Boat Captain' concept has been proven by the RC boat management model and ensures the club has identified members overseeing and coordinating the readiness and management of the club's on-water assets.

Our volunteer time is our greatest asset, but also one of real cost to individuals. We owe it ourselves to review our business processes and operational commitments, so we may gain efficiencies, take advantage of technology opportunities to best meet our membership goals. In support of the Commodore's directed policy and operations review, I have asked individual Program Chairs to provide tailored input to ensure our policy and operations manuals reflect current reality, and asked that they present recommendations for improvement - I look forward to presenting them to the collective membership later this spring.

Have a great start to the 2021 sailing season!

Peter Quinn
Vice Commodore
SMSA



PAST DUE: MEMBERSHIP FEES!

2021 Annual Membership Dues and Annual Fees were due by March 31st.

There are no changes to dues or fees for 2021.

Members wishing to change from the lump sum payment to installment payments or modify their installment payments: Please submit forms by **15 March**. Forms are available on the SMSA Website (smsa.com) Membership page via the Payment button.

See the Membership page at www.smsa.com for more information.

Please contact Membership at membership@smsa.com with questions.

REMINDER: Membership year runs from April 1, 2021 — March 31, 2022



SMSA MERCHANDISE PRE-ORDERS!!

- Need a new t-shirt, tech shirt, polo, or fleece vest?
- Want a shirt in a special color?
- Did you lose your hat in the last race?



Now taking Merchandise Pre-Orders!

Order your SMSA merchandise by May 28th for delivery mid-June.

Watch the SMSA website for a list of our current inventory for purchase.

Contact membership@smsa.com with questions on sizes, colors, and for other unique personal items.



2nd Regatta of 2021 for SMSA HS Sailors at Sailing Center Chesapeake (SCC)

CRUISERS CORNER



Carl Kemp
Cruising Chair
cruise@smsa.com

IT'S TIME TO GO CRUISING!!!

The days are longer and warmer, boats are going back in the water, SMSA 2021 Opening Day is approaching, it's time to go cruising.

The first scheduled cruise of the year is on April 24 & 25 to Rollins Cove in St. Leonard's Creek. Jerry and Donna Taylor on **No Sched...** are the cruise leaders and plan to arrive and set the anchor around 3:00 PM. Maintaining all current SMSA COVID-19 guidelines, arriving boats can then raft up for a Happy Hour. For those unfamiliar with Rollins Cove, enter the cove in the center of the channel and stay away from the sandbar on the starboard side of the entrance. After Happy Hour the raft will break up and boats can anchor in the area or head back to Solomons. This short two day cruise is a great chance to get the boat ready for the sailing season and, for new cruisers, a chance to become more familiar with the cruise program.

The second cruise, also a two day cruise, begins May 8. After a day of sailing as the wind allows, the boats will gather in Cuckold Creek around 4:00 PM and once again raft up for Happy Hour and then anchor. Dave and Lois Zonderman on **Walkabout** are the cruise leaders.

The first longer cruise of the season is the 7-day Urbanna, VA Cruise beginning on May 17. John and Joan Blaney on **Thisilldous** are cruise leaders. Slips in Urbanna for May 19 and 20 can be reserved at the **Urbanna Port Marina** (804-758-0000). Slips for May 21 and 22 in Chrisfield, MD can be reserved at **Chrisfield Somers Cove Marina** (410-968-0925). Be sure to inform the marinas that you are with SMSA when reserving a slip so they can try to keep our boats together. Also, always let the cruise leader and cruise chairman know that you plan to go on a cruise and have made reservations.

Information about these, and future, cruises can be found in the Cruise Schedule on the SMSA website under the Cruise tab and in the 2021 SMSA Yearbook. Seven of the scheduled cruises have nights at marinas and it is a good idea to make marina reservations now to insure a slip. Phone numbers for each marina are included on the Cruise Schedule.

There are 14 cruises of various lengths and destinations this year. If you have never been on a SMSA cruise, pick one that fits your schedule and give it a try.

Until then,
Think Cruising!

KEELBOAT RACING



Dan Shannon

Keelboat Race Chair

keelboatrace@smsa.com

Greetings, fellow Keelboat Skippers and Crew. *-Spring Frostbite races have started.*

Many thanks to *Rakali, Cheetah* and *Elan* for being our Race Committee for this series. First race was windy with gusts above 30kts. Second race was much less with winds below 10kts. The third race has not occurred at the time of writing this article. We will take a break for Easter and finish with the fourth race on April 11th.

Five boats, *C2 (squared), Pony Express, Tennacity, Barba Roja* and *Artic Turn* braved the windy conditions in Frostbite #1. Seven boats were on the line for Frostbite #2, *Bad Cat, Pursuit, Tennacity, Pony Express, Barba Roja, Arctic Tern, C 2 (squared)*. For the last two races check them out from the starting line which is onshore at the south end of Solomons Island.

Race Fees: You got to **pay to play** in our racing program. If you pay your race fees monthly, great. If you pay annually, like me, please visit our website with your credit card. Another cost that is due this time of year is your PHRF certificate. I like the two-year PHRF cycle, but I always forget which year I am in. Dig out your certificate or look online at www.phrfchesbay.org.

Race Program: Sailing Instructions are in draft mode getting ready to send to the printers. I plan to have the race circulars in your hands by the first Wednesday Night race on April 14th. Shortly after sending the SIs to the printer, we will post the PDF file on the Keelboat website. On April 14th we will begin an incremental return to the pre-COVID-19 racing schedule. What does that mean? For 2021 all races will be held as scheduled, high point scoring will be back and Wednesday Night Racing will return to the 5-minute rolling start sequence. Otherwise we will continue to follow SMSA COVID procedures until such time that the COVID restrictions are eased and we can amend the sailing instructions accordingly. So the SIs will be set up to run a race from the RC boat or shore for the Patuxent River Races. For the Bay races, there are provisions to start and finish races with or without a race committee boat. For Bay and River races, we will continue to use radio and horn signals only and NO FLAGS. So, mask up and get to the starting line! Have fun and be SAFE!!!

Race Committee: Thanks to all who have signed up for race committee. We have volunteers for all races through April. My stress level is low, thanks to all! To keep my stress level low, please add your name to the Race Committee list. If there are more SMSA or non-members who would enjoy helping out with race committee on a regular bases, please contact me at 301-481-8824 (text or call). I will provide the training for all the parts of race management.

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM



Andy Wilson

High School Program Chair

hssailing@smsa.com

We've had a good start to our Spring 2021 Season! The Team spent the first week cleaning and rigging the 420s, along with some knot tying and rigging practice. The veterans held some dock-side introductions and a capsizing drill demonstration. The next two weeks were spent on the water, three days each week in winds that varied from dead calm to over 20 knots. We ventured just out into the Patuxent River, swapped skippers and crews around, and prepared for the early season regattas. Thanks again to Coach Jimmy and John, and all the parents, for helping the Team get started to what is shaping up to be another fun season! See you on the waterfront!

Andy Wilson, High School Sailing Chair



The Beginning of a Great Season

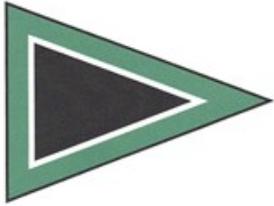


There are 15 sailors in all this season. Ranging from national level experience to never been sailing, and from 12 to 18 years old. We've sailed in a few no wind days and a few high wind days which has definitely made it an interesting first two weeks. In addition, trying to figure out pairs for practice, and the wind was not always cooperating - it turns it into adventurous practices! The weekend of March 27th the team will be participating in the first regatta of the season up in West River Sail Club, followed by a Sunday regatta at Sailing Center Chesapeake! With the few crazy days we have had so far we will have many more before this season is over!

Grace Wilson, SMSA High School Sailing Co-Captain

HIGH SCHOOL SAILORS IN THEIR ELEMENT!!!





HIGH SCHOOL SAILING OFF TO A GREAT START!

The SMSA High School Team had TWO regattas this past weekend a great and busy start to the season.

Saturday, the team kicked things off at West River who hosted 6 teams. It's a gorgeous spot and they had a bright sunny day with a consistent fresh breeze. They had lots of 4ths in the races but did manage to get a 1st and 2nd. The team got 4th overall, not a bad way to dust off the cobwebs. Unfortunately wetsuits were required due to the water temp which made life on land a bit uncomfortable. Coach John went on record as offering to eat a surgical mask should Ayden get a 1st in any races and is hoping that will occur this season. Quite a few families came and enjoyed hanging out. Thanks to Mrs. D for being mum for the gang. This JV event was a great introduction for Cara Mederos, Trent Schnieder as new skippers, Nyah Dufek as an experienced skipper, and crew mates Phoebe Tate Anderson, Ayden Muchmore and Sam Somers. Well done!

Sunday racing took place at the new location of Sailing Center Chesapeake (SCC), down past Historic St. Mary's City. Eleven boats rounded out the Fleet, with our Patuxent Team coming in 5th! Skippers Avi Dufek and Derick Fahnstock and their crews - Nyah Dufek and Ayden Muchmore respectively, represented SMSA very well - Congratulations!



JUNIOR PROGRAM



Lauren Miller

Junior Program Chair

junior@smsa.com

The junior summer camp registration has now been open for over two months. With the support of our members and local families the camp is almost fully booked!! There are many spots open towards the end of summer that can still be filled if any students are looking for more time on the water.

For this month, the junior program will be focusing on our instructor certifications as the camp is now almost fully staffed!

Again, thank you for supporting the program and we look forward to having many new and returning sailors getting back out on the water!



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

1988 Gemini 3000 CATAMARAN.

Serenity- 30' x 14' wide (fits in most standard slips).
Draws from 2'-5'. Great for gunk-holing! 50 HP Honda
outboard (serviced 2020). Three double staterooms.
Cockpit enclosure and many upgrades. Comfortable for
cruising and sailing. USCG Documented.



Contact Dottie at 301-863-2454 for more information.





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

Place
Stamp



The Clew

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