



# The Clew

*CELEBRATING 50 YEARS*

**\*\*\*SMSA GALA—DATE CHANGE\*\*\***

Saturday, April 2, 2022

For more information see pages 3 & 8

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**CRUISE**

Planning Meeting & Lite Breakfast; Sat. Jan. 8 @ 9:30am  
RSVP to Cruise Chair John Blaney if you plan to attend  
(cruise@smsa.com)

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**Happy Hour**

Friday's 5:30—9:00 pm

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**PHOTOS WANTED!!!**

Looking for photos taken of our club and its members since 1972. If you have something to share please contact the Communications Chair (communications@smsa.com) and Clew Editor (clew@smsa.com)



## Commodore's Corner

By David Meiser  
commodore@smsa.com



Happy New Year! After a roller coaster of the past few, pandemic-focused years, I am hoping that 2022 will bring us some more normalcy and allow us to continue doing the sailing and socializing we like to do. I would like to thank our past Commodore, Marc Briere, and all the volunteers that provided the leadership, guidance, and support to the Club for the past term. I would also like to thank those who have volunteered for the current Board and Chair positions. Without all these people stepping up to serve, we would not have the planning and organization that provides all of the programs and facilities that we enjoy year-round.

Since this is my first article as the Commodore, I would like to tell you a little bit about me and my thoughts on the Club. My family joined SMSA in 1973, shortly after we moved to the area. I am married with three children, Mallory (31), Ellie (29), and Henry J (16). My wife Jacki (also a long-time SMSA member), son Henry J, and I are all very involved in many Club activities including racing our Melges 32, "One Trick Pony", cruising our Bay-built, "Right Shift", teaching at summer camp, participating in and helping with the Small Boat Program, and organizing Screwpile. Previously I have served as Facilities Chair, Race Governor, Yearbook Chair, as well as a Director, for several terms.

SMSA has been a large part of my life and I hope to keep the Club in a position to help others learn to sail and enjoy sailing, as I have been able to do. My goal is for SMSA to be a club that provides the members what they need, runs efficiently, and is positioned to be sustainable for the long term. I hope to attract members that view sailing as a lifestyle and have long term commitment to the Club.

My door is always open, and I hope to get to know those of you that I have not yet had the opportunity to meet. I will apologize in advance that I will not be very visible at the Club through the winter months, as we spend this time supporting Henry J's ski racing habit and we are not typically around during the winter weekends. That said, I will be available via email, cell, or text, so please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have questions, concerns, or ideas.

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I want to recognize Dan Bowman, Doug Hays, and John and Derrick Fahnestock for their efforts this past December in cleaning up leaves, weeds, and branches in the club boatyard.

Please thank them for their service to the club next time you see them.

Mark Witte  
SMSA Dockmaster

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Remember that this Club and the great programs that we offer are all made possible by the many volunteers. Volunteering is a great way to get involved, meet new people, and get to know this sport and hobby better. So please think about where you can help out and reach out to any member of the Board or one of our Chairs to sign up.

Remember that SMSA is celebrating 50 years this year. This year-long celebration will be kicked off at our Annual Gala, April 2nd at the Olde Breton Inn, in Leonardtown. Don't forget to get you tickets soon.

Looking forward to a great year!

Best,  
David



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## **Looking for Volunteers!**

**Social**—Ana Silveria has stepped down as the Social Chair (thank you Ana for volunteering) and Jody Keen is filling in on a temporary basis. So we are in need of someone willing to take this on. If interested please contact Commodore Briere (commodore@smsa.com).

**Keelboat Chair**—Dan Shannon will be stepping down after two years in this position. He did a great job dealing with the COVID restrictions while still allowing racing to continue. For 2022 we're in need of a volunteer, if you need more info contact Dan Shannon (keelboatrace@smsa.com) or the Vice Commodore, Peter Quinn (vicecommodore@smsa.com).

**\*\*\*SMSA GALA\*\*\***  
**DATE CHANGE**

*As the COVID numbers have been on the rise and with concern from some of our members, the Board of Directors has voted to change the date of the Gala to*

*Saturday, April 2, 2022 @ 5:30 pm*

*At the Olde Breton Inn*

*see page 8 for details*

*Tickets already purchased are good for the new date. If you purchased tickets and can no longer attend on the rescheduled date, please contact Social ([social@smsa.com](mailto:social@smsa.com)) and Treasurer ([treasurer@smsa.com](mailto:treasurer@smsa.com))*

*Tickets refunds for the original Gala date can be refunded through March 24th.*

*Questions should be sent to Social ([social@smsa.com](mailto:social@smsa.com))*

*We appreciate everyone's flexibility as we take some precautions and strive to keep our members safe*

## **MEMBERS CORNER**

**COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR:** Please welcome Jonathan Nepini as the new SMSA Communications Chair. Jonathan brings a wealth of knowledge doing graphic design, and managing the social media for the local printing company where he works. Although a relatively new member, Jonathan has participated in many of the club's racing and social programs.



Send your ideas or suggestions or just a thank you note for volunteering to Jonathan at [communications@smsa.com](mailto:communications@smsa.com).

### **2022 SMSA Yard Storage Announcement**



The 2022 Small Boat season is coming up and it is time for the annual yard assignment lottery as prescribed by club policy. **Please email your request for 2022 yard storage NLT January 15, 2022** to Dockmaster Mark Witte at [mcwitte@md.metrocast.net](mailto:mcwitte@md.metrocast.net).

The policy can be found in the SMSA Policy Manual located on the SMSA Website (<https://www.smsa.com/location.php>)

**UTILITY WORK IN FRONT OF THE CLUB:** If you need to access the driveway to SMSA you might be restricted over the next week or so. The road in front of the club will be dug up for a 6ft deep trench in order to put all pole mounted utilities underground. The contractor is using flaggers to direct traffic around the work zone.

You should be able to access the driveways after 4pm daily and during the weekend.

If you have any questions please contact our Facility Chair, John Blaney ([facility@smsa.com](mailto:facility@smsa.com)).



## THE SOCIAL SCENE WITH JODY KEEN

Jody Keen, Social Chair  
social@smsa.com

As December comes to an end I hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas and that everyone has been enjoying this wonderful season!

The social team has been busy around the club. We hosted an open house for the Christmas walk on Saturday December 4th, and our annual Christmas dinner the following Saturday the 11th. My sincere thanks go out to Betsy Dodge and Barbara Whited for spearheading these two events.

According to Betsy Dodge, "The mild weather brought out a large crowd to the Solomons' Christmas walk on Dec. 4. We had a steady stream of guests visiting SMSA for mulled cider, cookies and boat building. Nearly 100 toy boats were decorated and sailed in the pool in the middle room. Besides decorating their boat kits, some youngsters decided to modify their design in very creative ways. Everything from tall ships with multiple tiers of sails to multi-hulls held together with duct tape were constructed and tested. Many thanks to Lois Zondermann, and Melinda Spring for their help in making the evening such a success!"



The annual Christmas dinner was very well attended and a tremendous success! The house was packed with the usual suspects in addition to many new members. Please see Barbara Whited's note on page 6.

Last but not least. **The Gala is back !!! (please note the change in date)** This year we are celebrating the **50th Anniversary of the founding of SMSA** on Saturday, April 2nd, 2022. The Gala will be held at the **Olde Breton Inn** in Leonardtown. Invitations have been sent with registration details. Four of the first 100 people to sign up will have an opportunity to win the price of admission back!! The price per person is \$65.00. Be sure to register early as seating is limited to 120 people.

In the meantime, here's to good health and peace on earth!

# SMSA Christmas Potluck Dinner



Many thanks to the great group of people who helped organize, setup, cook, clean, and make our holiday dinner a very special evening. More than 70 members and their families joined us for turkey, ham, great side dishes and more desserts than any of us needed. A special thanks to John and Joan Blaney who made moving and setting up the tables a quick and easy task. And to all of you: many hands made quick work for us all.

Happy winter!!! See you at the Gala and frostbites will be with us soon. Stay healthy!

Thanks to these great folks who helped setup/cleanup/organize/cook everything for the Christmas dinner, in no specific order:

Lois Zonderman  
BethAnne Caccivio  
Paula Mueller  
Joan Blaney  
John Blaney  
Robin Witte  
Melinda Spring  
Betsy Dodge  
Jody Keen  
Joe Frost  
Karen Eggert  
Chris Eggert  
Eric Andreas  
Asha Andreas  
Terry Farman  
Polly Traynham



And if we missed you, mea culpa from an old, bad memory.

Best, Barbara Whited



*Come help us celebrate 50 years at  
the SMSA GALA*



*Saturday, April 2, 2022\* @ 5:30 pm  
Olde Breton Inn, Leonardtown*

*An evening to celebrate our love of sailing, enjoy  
some music, acknowledge the hard working vol-  
unteers and hand out a few awards*

*Invitations have been sent so check your mailbox. RSVP and  
note that payment can be made online ([www.smsa.com](http://www.smsa.com))*

\* Date Change

# CRUISERS CORNER



**John Blaney**  
*Cruising Chair*  
cruise@smsa.com



It seems like we just had our last cruise of 2020. It was a successful year despite challenges. We got a full program in and only had to cancel out on our planned Sassafras Cruise. That was all Carl Kemps doing. However you'll notice a new name above. That means a changing of the guard. I spent the last year as Carl helper as some time ago he persuaded me to take up the role of Cruise

Chair which I've just done. Luckily for me Carl has agreed to be my helper for 2022 which I appreciate. Carl has run the SMSA Cruise Program excellently for the last 4 years and all my cruising has been done under his leadership. I thank him for that as do all our cruisers. So, nothing is going to really change.

After the holiday celebrations are over, it is time to start thinking about a new year of cruising. Our first overnight cruise, to some local spot like St. Leonard Creek, is only three and a half months away. All other cruises are yet to be determined at the Cruise Planning Meeting on Saturday, January 8th, at the SMSA clubhouse. The meeting will begin at 9:30 AM and a lite breakfast will be provided. All cruisers and anyone interested in cruising are welcome. Please let me know if you plan to attend so I can get a head count for the food. Carl handed me the Panera order form to replicate.



Also, please let me know if there are any destinations you would like to consider for cruises. Some already suggested are Annapolis, Cape

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Charles/Southern Bay, Baltimore, St. Michaels, Cambridge, and Oxford/San Domingo. We had a successful "Where the Wind Blows" (WTWB) cruise where the destination was decided based on the weather forecast and direction, so there was some guaranteed sailing. Should we do more of these? The gotcha with WTWB cruises is that we only get a week or so's notice to book any marinas we plan on visiting. Recognize that flexibility and WTWB cruises go hand in hand. Do we want a longer cruise challenge like NYC? We will begin the meeting with a discussion of these and other options.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting and planning a great year on the bay. Until then,

### **THINK CRUISING!**



This could be you! Plan on attending the 2022 Cruising Planning Meeting on Saturday, Jan. 8 @ 9:30am.



## SCREWPILE GOES INTO 2022

As we move into the new year, we are getting cranked up for our **30th year** of hosting **the premier regatta weekend on the Chesapeake Bay**. This year, our long-running Screwpile Lighthouse Challenge will go back to its roots, and is returning as a 3-day weekend regatta, Friday-Sunday, 15-17 July. Three days of fun in the warm sunshine of the Chesapeake Bay, excellent racing, and great parties with live bands and plenty of Mount Gay Rum Punch each evening under the tent at Safe Harbor Zahnisers. It doesn't get much better.



By the time you read this, the Screwpile website, <http://screwpile.net>, will be updated, the Yacht Scoring website, <https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=14923>, will be ready to take registrations and the Notice of Race will be posted. You will see our full-page advertisement in the January issue of Spin-Sheet, and we will be ready for Screwpile registrations on January 1st. I urge all SMSA racers and cruiser/racers to get into Yacht Scoring and register early. (You won't need to pay your registration fee until July.) Your early registrations will help attract other registrants who are also thinking about entering.

Screwpile is a prestigious, signature event for SMSA, with a large footprint across the Bay. There are literally thousands of Chesapeake racers who have very fond memories of their experiences racing with us, and our 30th will not disappoint.

We have always had great support from our club members pitching in to serve on Race Committee boats, with the many tasks shoreside, as well as making up a large number of the boats that are racing. Your continued participation and support are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Jim Keen  
2022 Screwpile Chairman



# KEELBOAT RACING



**Dan Shannon**

*Keelboat Race Chair*

keelboatrace@smsa.com

Happy New Year! Winter solstice marks the half way point between the last 2021 Keelboat race and the first race of 2022. And you just thought winter solstice was just the first day of winter! I hope you are able to use the warm unseasonable days ahead to tackle winter boat maintenance so you can launch into the Spring Frostbite Race #1 on 20 March 2022.

The 2022 Keelboat Race schedule will be posted in the next few days. As you are planning your race schedule, please sign up for at least two Race Committee dates. Early bird gets the worm as your favorite spots may also be someone else's spot.

We are going to try out a simple method to capture crew looking for a ride and skippers looking for crew. The signup sheet will function similar to the RC sign-up sheet. Below is an example of what we are planning to post on the Keelboat web site.

Skippers looking for Crew			Crew looking for Skippers	
Boatname	Skipper	Contact number or email	Name	Contact number or email
The Doghouse	Dan Shannon	<a href="mailto:abc@gmail.com">abc@gmail.com</a>	Jane Doe	<a href="mailto:efg@gmail.com">efg@gmail.com</a>

We are planning to remove all of the COVID restrictions in the 2022 Sailing instructions. Should we need to implement future COVID protective behaviors in our racing program, we will address those parameters in a Sailing Instruction Amendment.

For those of us, me included, that pay our racing fees in a lump sum, 2022 racing fees are just around the corner. Use your leftover Christmas budget towards the fees. For me, I asked Santa to pay for mine this year, but there was a hole in my stocking and it was empty! Regardless, I will pay my dues on time to not miss out on any racing.

Our racing programs relies on our members volunteering for RC duties or as Keelboat Program Chair. My time is coming to a close at as your Keelboat Chairman. I will help with the next chair's transition. If you are interested in what job duties and responsibilities, please reach out to me, the Vice Commodore or the Commodore. I have enjoyed my time as Keelboat Chair.

Happy New Year!.....Dan

## **CLASSIFIED ADS**



Brand new, never used – Snapit Versatile Curved Binnacle Drink Holder. I bought this summer and it didn't fit my boat, and I missed the return window. Retails new for \$80 (you can look up on Amazon or Snapit website). Selling for \$45. Please contact Bill at [kingwg@gmail.com](mailto:kingwg@gmail.com) or 703-987-8276 if you're interested.



Boat Foundation at St Mary College is selling their 2007 Melges 32, Hull #157—lots of sails, covers, trailer. Rates 24 PHRF

\$50K

Contact Bill Ward—[wjward@smcm.edu](mailto:wjward@smcm.edu)

 **West Marine Pro**

### **Discounts at West Marine—Solomons**

SMSA Members can receive a discount at our local West Marine during checkout. Just tell them you are an SMSA Member to receive the discount.

Due to some non-member use of this privilege, West Marine will be checking names against our membership roster and a photo ID may be requested.

Please note: the West Marine Pro discount is only available at the Solomons West Marine.

Don't miss out on this great SMSA benefit!





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

Place  
Stamp



# The Clew

**JANUARY 2022**

**Volume 52 Number 1**



**SMSA Open House**  
Boatbuilding at its best!  
A great time was had by all

