



# The Clew

*CELEBRATING 50 YEARS*

## **Keelboat Racing**

Wed. Night B-Series—Sep. 7, 14

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## **Smallboat Racing**

Thur. Sep. 1, 8

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## **Cruise**

Thu.-Tue. Sep. 1—6: Urbanna/Crisfield Cruise  
Sat.—Sun. Sep. 16-18: Where the Wind Blows #2  
Wed.—Tue. Sep. 28-Oct. 4: Chestertown Cruise

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## **High School Team Practice**

Tue., Thu. & Fri in the month of Sep.

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## **Friday Happy Hour**

Fri. 5:30pm—9:00pm

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## **SMSA CRAB FEAST & BBQ**

Saturday, Oct. 1  
See page 4 for details



## Commodore's Corner

By David Meiser  
commodore@smsa.com



Well August has come and gone, and it was jam packed with events and activities. The cruisers stayed as close as Cuckold Creek and traveled as far as the Bay Bridge this month. I was fortunate to join them on the mixed couples race/cruise to nearby Battle Creek, where Jacki and I celebrated our common wedding anniversary with Mark and Robin Witte, and Larry and Rose Ray. This is always a popular, well attended event and a ton of fun! Our SMSA social scene was happening, with the always popular Friday night happy hours, a concert by Scott Kirby, and an encore Friday night happy hour performance by Dave Rowe.

The end of summer always brings one of my favorite events which is sailing log canoes. Log canoes, you ask? For those that don't know log canoes, these boats really are not "canoes" in the typical use of the word---they are actually sailing vessels, dating back to the 1700's on the Chesapeake Bay. As documented in the 1880 Federal Census, it was estimated that there were 6,300 log canoes on the Bay, primarily used as simple work boats, for fishing, crabbing and oystering. The first recorded race of these crafts was in St. Michaels in 1859 and they have been racing ever since. The sail plan on these boats includes a total of five sails: jib, foresail, mainsail, staysail, and a kite. The sail plan, tall thin solid wooden masts, narrow beam, and lack of a ballasted keel on these boats, all add up to the highly unstable platform that characterizes log canoes. This instability is offset by springboards, which are approximately 12" wide and 12'-16' long that are moved back and forth across the boat to provide a perch for the crew to ballast the boat. Many of the boats racing today were built in the late 1800's and all the boats keep with the traditional heritage of being all wood, each built from three to five logs, with the same classic design proportions which have been maintained for hundreds of years of boat building.



For the past four years, I have had the privilege of crewing, with several other SMSA sailors, on one of the smallest boats in the fleet, EVE. This boat is also the newest in the fleet, built in 2017 by local craftsman, sailor, and former SMSA member, John Cook. This hand-crafted boat is a work of art and is arguably one of the toughest boats I have ever sailed. The inherent instability, large sail plan, crowded cockpit, and myriad of control lines and halyards, all make well-synchronized crew work, paramount.



Watching these boats race is somewhat of a cross between ballet, synchronized swimming, and NASCAR. These boats are

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# MEMBERS CORNER

## Club Cleanliness

Please remember to pick up your trash, put away items you may have borrowed and leave the clubhouse as neat and tidy for the next group of individuals using the clubhouse. We are a volunteer organization so your help would be greatly appreciated.



## Alcoholic Beverages

We are licensed by the state and therefore no personal alcoholic beverages are permitted in the clubhouse. This includes bringing your beverages and placing them in one of the refrigerators to keep them cold. Violation of this could imperil the club's alcoholic beverage license and therefore your cooperation is essential for us to continue serving beverages from the bar.

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very majestic and graceful with their powerful rigs and fine, sleek hulls. The crew works in unified motion, moving the boards across the boat on tacks and gybes and scurrying in and out on the boards like crabs, as the puffs come and go. And fairly often... they capsize, or less frequently, break a mast. Once these boats capsize, you are done for that race. After toppling into the water, the crew, while swimming and floating about, removes the sails from the rig and passes them off to the support boat, and then removes the wooden masts. Then the boat hull can be righted, bailed, and towed to shore to be re-rigged for the next race. As you may have guessed, each canoe must have its own support boat to tow, and to ensure the safety of the crew and equipment in a capsize. The race schedule is very civilized. There is typically one race at 10:30, then the boats come in for a picnic lunch ashore, then back out for a second race at 2:30. Two races on Saturday and one on Sunday.

For as much work as these boats are to rig and sail, it is amazing to be able to participate in this historic class, that has not changed much in the past 150 years. If you are ever looking for a good reason to go to Oxford or St. Michaels, find a weekend when the canoes are racing. It is awesome to watch these pieces of history race around the course. You can find the log canoe schedule at [logcanoe.com](http://logcanoe.com). We are currently planning to race in the final event of the year, in St. Michaels on Sept 17-18. Maybe we will see you there.

See you on the water.





## THE SOCIAL SCENE WITH JODY KEEN

Jody Keen, Social Chair  
social@smsa.com

August was a month of music around the club. Scott Kirby played to a full crowd on Sunday the 7th. He commented that he was happy to say that we were his first indoor venue with a full house since the beginning of the pandemic., Kudos to us !!! Later in the month, on the 19th during happy hour, we hosted Dave Rowe once again, to a large and enthusiastic audience. We learned our vowels with a fun children's song, sang and clapped along to many favorites, learned the history of "Country Roads", (Who knew that those country roads were in Western Maryland?) and overall had a great time.

Looking forward, mark your calendars for the Crab Feast. The Crab feast is scheduled for Saturday, October 1st. Tickets will be available on our website. \$25.00 a ticket. We initially start with a half dozen crabs and sides. More crabs are available for a marginal cost. DON'T LIKE CRABS? Fried chicken, Eggplant Parmesan and many vegetarian options/sides are available.

Later in the month on Sunday the 23rd is our annual Chili cook-off. Paired with the Fall Invitational it should prove to be a good time! Bring your best Chili to compete for bragging rights or bring a side dish. Categories to be determined.

In the meantime, enjoy your September sailing and boating! I look forward to seeing everyone around the club.

Dave Rowe  
performing at  
SMSA



# Scott Kirby Performs 15th Annual SMSA Show

By Tim Flaherty

Singer-songwriter Scott Kirby came to SMSA on Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, to perform his annual SMSA show to another packed house. This was the first time since 2019 that Scott performed in the front room, as last year's show was held under the canopy in the yard, and 2020's performance was virtual.

Our great local sponsors helped make this a success for our organizations. Many thanks go to title sponsors *Corona Extra* and *the Joe Bozick Family*, and the *Solomons Inn Resort and Marina*. Our other sponsors include *Sail Solomons*; and *Primary Residential Mortgage Incorporated* of California, Maryland. Our guests not only enjoyed Scott's terrific music, but a free pizza party at intermission.

SMSA's local business neighbors also provided door prizes. The *Calvert Marine Museum* not only provided free passes to the museum, but also tickets for rides on the William B. Tennison tour boat. Dinner and lunch certificates were also provided by the *Bugeye Grill* and by the *Lighthouse Restaurant*.

Thanks to the many Club members who pitched in to work: Cindy Staley, Priscilla Bradley, Polly Traynham, Betsy Dodge, Rosa Bates, Robin Witte, Robert Herbig, Kristi Yurko, Jim Whited, and Lisa Flaherty. And thanks to guests and friends of SMSA Byrne Falke, Alan Hinman, Jack LaMay, Amy Cunning and Piper Deleon for helping with setup and teardown.

Kimberly Alston was our bartender, and we thank her for accepting the gig and being very accommodating.

If you aren't familiar with Scott Kirby and his music, or if you wish to order a CD, you can find out more about him at [scottkirby.com](http://scottkirby.com).



## Where are the **VOLUNTEERS?**



**Social**—We are still in need of someone willing to take this on. If interested please contact Commodore Meiser (commodore@smsa.com).

**Safety Boat Fleet Captain**—This exciting position includes ensuring completion of the safety boat fleet maintenance and keeping this fleet in good working order. This doesn't mean that you have to do all of the work.... you just need to make sure that it gets done. If you may be interested in this role, please contact Scotty Roland (vicecommodore@smsa.com)



## Smith Island Update

By Fred Siesseger

For those of us who fondly remember cruising to Smith Island Marina years ago, there is news. Pauli (the artist) and Captain Steve, who graciously hosted many SMSA cruises and crab feasts, moved to Iowa. They recently sold the property, and the new owners are well along in resurrecting the marina, despite the recent tornado and myriad construction problems at this remote location. Although the historic house is still in complete disrepair from storm damage, the new owners have rebuilt the docks with seven slips, two of which can now accommodate boats with a five-and-a-half-foot draft at low tide. Another boat could tie to a T-head nearer the channel. The marina is expected to have new electric and water connections in the next few weeks. The bath house is almost complete, featuring air-conditioning, showers, and a lounge. This renovation should offer a welcome cruising destination in the near future.

There are also a couple of slips on the old docks of Rukes store (on the channel but without water or electricity) for additional boats on a first-come basis.

According to the new owners, the western channel was dredged a couple of years ago to seven feet at low tide.

The new owner is Captain Patrick. The marina's new name is 3 Knots Marine. Phone is 443-797-2490. (<https://sites.google.com/view/3knotsmarine/home>)

# CRUISERS CORNER



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



## The Mixed Couples Race and Battle Creek Raft-up

By John & Joan Blaney

What a spectacular Saturday for this event with reasonable temperatures, sun, and a glorious stiff northerly breeze.

So this is both a Cruise to Battle Creek for an overnight but its also a race from Pax River marker 6A to marker 18 if you're so inclined. Some of us did record our times and some didn't. Many boats raced or took part since the adage is two boats going in the same direction is automatically a race. The difference is that the racers are serious about going and getting there fast while the cruisers typically tack once and trim in about every hour or so.

The race north made for some early tacking to get under the bridge and into the open Pax River beyond Mill Creek, followed by a long close hauled leg up to marker 18.

Shortly after 6A **Thisilldous** got a good view of the Dragon Boat paddlers over by the board-walk pergola.



Upon arrival at marker 18 it was time to navigate the entrance to Battle Creek which is a little tricky with a 90° left turn followed quickly with a 90° right turn to get into it. The distance to marker 18 is only 10nm which means that it doesn't take long to get there and by mid afternoon a raft-up gets established in Battle Creek that all sailors and few stinkpots joined.

Early on **Thisilldous** dropped anchor to establish the raft but **Dauntless** checked out the bottom so **Right Shift** and **Thisilldous** decided to move the raft. A manual muddy anchor lift was involved but we got it moved to deeper water. At the end we had 14 boats rafted up, most with ancillary inflatables, paddleboards, whalers, kayaks. There were even a few land cruisers who got picked up and brought over to join the celebrations.



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A beverage and hors d'oeuvres on every boat makes for a spectacular floating social event. Of course a cause for a celebration only adds to the fun. The Ray's (54), Witte's (42) and Meiser's (20) all share the same anniversary date so they bring mudslides, chocolates, and champagne to celebrate. Henry J had also organized and hidden a cake on board.

To reduce the average age we had some future cruisers in 2 Kania grandsons, 3 Sibley boys, a Wookiee or two, and the lady of the day Queen Marinaita. My chore was to launch the inflatable and take the boys around the raft up to the cadence of "can I drive" from one 7 year old while towing another on a kayak. They also enjoyed swimming safely in **Right Shift's** swim net but ended with an open water encounter with a Jelly.



Then whether you stay or not depends on your accommodations. Racers tend to like solitary confinement prison cells with a bunk, a head, a bedsit kitchen, and limited headroom all in the same space. Cruisers tend to travel in comfort and style with all the materiel that entails. **Stingray, Aurora, Zelda** and the Roland's returned to Solomons which left 10 boats for the overnight. Then as dusk settled in we split the raft in 2 for safety as Battle Creek is notorious for lack of hold.

The overnight forecast made for a comfortable nights sleep and passed very pleasantly with everyone waking to a glorious sunny flat calm morning. We did another run in the rib around the rafts and got to smell the breakfasts being cooked on some of the boats. Then when we had collected our wits and gotten rid of the cobwebs we headed back home, motoring all the way as the Sunday forecast was nearly equally good except for the lack of wind and when it came it was too late as well as being a southerly. Beat up and beat back...or motor.

In the end we all had a great sail, a great raft up, and much fun. Make sure to mark your calendar for next years Battle Creek Mixed Couples Race and Raft Up. Come by cruiser, racer, powerboat, or car and join this fun event, just ask any of our participants:

**Pony Express** – Jimmy & Kristi Yurko (Annabelle & Cora)

**Thisilldous** – John & Joan Blaney (Gill, Mason, Gavin)

**Rakali** – Mark & Robin Witte

**Splash**– Tom & Donna Attick



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**Sabrena** – Todd & Jen Porter (Wookie)

**Dauntless** – Jim & Jody Keen

**Aurora** – Phil & Haley Sibley (Ashton, Devin, Chase)

**Right Shift** – David & Jacki Meiser (Henry, Laura & Jim VanDeen, Mariana & Marianita Rutherford)

**Serenity** – Carl & Martha Kemp

**Zelda** – Kevin Pachas & Paige Smith

**Brown Eyed Girl** – Sean Richardson & Karron

**Iratzu** – Larry & Rose Ray

**Holiday** – Shawn & Laura Stanley





**Sunrise over Battle Creek**



**Tom Attick fixing the halyard on Splash**



Photo Credits:  
John Blaney, Larry Ray, Sean Richardson,  
and Robin Witte





# SMSA SUMMER CAMP

SMSA's Summer Sailing Camp ran from July 18 - Aug. 5 this year. We hosted 64 students over those weeks and some actually learned a bit about sailing. Although the weather was very hot, the young



sailors had lots of energy - certainly more than the adults and instructors who worked with them. This season we had a group of adult volunteers who went on the water with our sailors and instructors. We can't begin to thank those volunteers enough for the great job they did coaching kids, making sure all were safe, and managing the RHIBS and skiffs through the weeks. Many thanks to Rob Miller (week 1), Robin and Mark Witte (week 2), Joe Frost and Jim Whited (week 3) for being in the heat and on the water with the students and instructors.



Getting ready for camp and maintaining the equipment for and during camp is a club wide project. Dan Bowman and Mark Witte doctored, refinished and rebuilt the various rudders and center boards for the Optis. Every Opti got scrubbed clean and many new air bags installed. Our instructors did a huge job before camp going over every Opti and 420 with rigs/sails to be sure they were all put together correctly and ready to go. And yes, we have new maintenance items to do now that camp is over.

Absolutely critical to the whole effort were our club members who fixed, repaired, and otherwise cajoled the RHIBS and Skiffs to keep running as our safety boats. Without their efforts, camp would not have happened. Dave Meiser, Scott Roland, and Shawn Stanley are our heroes and saviours who fixed and kept cranky power boats running. And helped our instructors understand how sensitive a pull starter can be.

Our club has several talented young sailors who were instructors or volunteers for us this year: Sophia Shiffer, Grace and Clara Wilson, Saoirse and Senan Corry, and Everett Moulds, They were joined by Kyle Engle and Sterling Maggard from Sailing Center of the Chesapeake, Charlotte Staas from Fishing Bay Yacht Club and Piper Deleon, a recent graduate of St. Mary's College.. These great young people taught, herded, corrected, disciplined and directed a lot of challenging 10 year old boys plus the rest of our students. Great job everyone!!!!

Thanks to all our members who helped put this year's camp together. And please think about how you can help with next year's camp. Yes it's a lot of work, but it is also a lot of fun. Seeing a youngster catch on to how to sail a boat is a real treat!



# CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

## SMSA YEARBOOK COVERS (1979–2022)



# KEELBOAT RACING



**Terry Reese**

*Keelboat Race Chair*

keelboatrace@smsa.com

With the conclusion of August we have only two total Wednesday night races left for the season; September 7, Wednesday Night Series B-6; September 14, Wednesday Night Series B-7 and two High Point Races, Saturday October 22 Hooper/Point No-Point Race (High Point Race) and Sunday October 23 Fall Invitational Race (CBYRA & High Point Race).

Wednesday Night Racing has consistently seen 15-18 boats participating throughout the year and the official results can be found on the SMSA Website ([https://www.smsa.com/Race/KBRace\\_2022.php](https://www.smsa.com/Race/KBRace_2022.php))

Race Committee Volunteers are still needed for the Wednesday, September 7, Wednesday Night Series B-6 & Sunday, October 23 Fall Invitational Race (CBYRA & High Point Race). Please remember to sign up for Race Committee duty if you have not done so already.

Thank you to all Race Committee Volunteers for providing your time and efforts to ensure that racing continues as scheduled.

New race Mark L is in position and ready to use for our races. The old Race Mark L has been recovered by Jim Keen and will be refurbished and on stand-by as a backup for any other marks that turn up missing.

Please reach out to me [keelboatrace@smsa.com](mailto:keelboatrace@smsa.com) if you are looking for a boat to crew on or know of somebody else that might be in need of a spot and I will put out an e-mail request to see what is available.

We are always looking for feedback/input in order to improve or if we forgot something, so please feel free to email the keelboat address.

See you soon. Terry



New Mark L in place



Old Mark L recovered by Jim Keen

# SMALLBOAT RACING



**Steve Birchfield**

*Smallboat Race Chair*

smallboatrace@smsa.com

Happy September!

Smallboat racing is looking forward to some cooler evening temps and hopefully some better breeze out there! As the evenings get shorter we will unfortunately have less time to get those races in. Please do your best to try and get to the club and get your boats rigged and launched with enough time that you can get to the start line before 6:30. The RC has the discretion to postpone racing (AP Flag) until all of the competitors get to the starting area, but starts really need to happen by 6:30 if we want to get in at least 3 races! Thank you to those who have recently stepped up to volunteer as RC. Your help is greatly appreciated!!!

Come one, Come All - October 1st and 2nd is the Smallboat Fall Invitational. Will We see you out there? Details and sign up should be live on the website soon. Stay tuned!



# HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM



**Andy Wilson**  
High School Program Chair  
hssailing@smsa.com

## Come join the FUN!! Patuxent River Sailing Team



### WHEN:

Tuesday & Friday 3:30pm—6:30pm  
Team Free-Sail on Thursdays 3:30pm—6:30pm  
Regatta on selected Weekends

### WHERE:

Southern Maryland Sailing Associate  
14490 Solomons Island Road  
Solomons, Maryland

### WHO:

Students in 7th—12th Grade  
...No experience required!



**LEARN TO SAIL  
FOR FUN OR TO  
COMPETE**



**FALL SEASON:** This 10 week season begins on Tuesday, September 6, 2022

### SEASON FEE INCLUDES:

- ⇒ **Sailing Instruction**
- ⇒ **Racing Coaching**
- ⇒ **Interscholastic League Competition**
- ⇒ **420 Sailboats Season Use**

Find us at [smsa.com/hssailing](https://smsa.com/hssailing) OR via email [hssailing@smsa.com](mailto:hssailing@smsa.com)  
See you on the water!

## CLASSIFIED ADS

*Merdeka* 1999 Celestial 50 is a 50' pilot house, center cockpit, cutter-rigged sloop. \$169,000

Some features:

All standing rigging replaced 2019, & 90% new running rigging; spade anchor, new windlass 2022, new headsail, 2019; freezer and fridge 12 volt, 2021; complete B & G electronics package + autopilot, 2019; engine and generator serviced; low hours on engine; washing and dryer machine, solar panels; two double berths, plus one massive aft cabin; 2 heads, & one bath tub, new LED lighting; large capacity water storage and diesel storage. Contact Jamie Chase ([jwfc Chase@yahoo.com](mailto:jwfc Chase@yahoo.com)) for more info.



*Twice Around*, 1977 Catalina 30. Well maintained with many upgrades including hull paint, complete re-wire with 230Ah house bank and Wi-Fi navigation. FWC Atomic4 runs great. Contact Shawn or Laura for more details, a million pictures or a tour. \$9,900. Offers considered.

[sstanley511@gmail.com](mailto:sstanley511@gmail.com), [llcstanley@gmail.com](mailto:llcstanley@gmail.com)



Modernized C&C 30: 1970 hull was extensively upgraded by Zahnisers boatworks in Solomons around 2010 and used for racing. This boat is ready to sail. It has been kept on a boatlift on Mill Creek near Solomons since 2016 so bottom is clean. Classic lines, fast sailer. Needs some teak work. Features include mast, sails & rigging in almost new condition – main, jib and spinnaker; Jib roller furler and mainsail lazy jacks, installed in 2016; Awlgrip hull and deck; 10 HP Yanmar Diesel engine with low hours and new gas tank; tiller steering; Garmin chart plotter and depth finder; Marine radio and auto-pilot; New batteries and onboard charger; upgraded electrical systems; Sleeps three, basic kitchen and bench table; Recently replaced water tank, little used. Asking \$29,000 Contact John at [jrwille@gmail.com](mailto:jrwille@gmail.com)





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

Place  
Stamp



# The Clew

SEPTEMBER 2022

Volume 52 Number 9

 **West MarinePro**

## 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!

