



The Clew

ANNUAL MEETING SAT. NOV. 4, 2023

Doors open at 9:00am
Potluck Brunch at 9:30am
Meeting starts at 10:30am

Planning Meeting

Sat. Nov. 18 at 9:00am

Keelboat

Sun. Nov. 5, 12, 19: Fall Frostbites #2, #3, #4
Sun. Nov. 19: Wednesday Racing Awards & Potluck

Social

Sat. Dec. 9: Christmas Walk/Open House/Boat Parade
Sat. Dec. 16: Christmas Party

Smallboat

Sat. Dec. 9: Freeze Your Bucc Off Race

Friday Happy Hour

Fri. 5:30pm—9:00pm

MEMBERS CORNER

2023 Annual Meeting, Saturday, Nov. 4th

ANNUAL MEETING



Doors open—9:00 am

Brunch—9:30 am

Meeting begins—10:30 am

Members will be provided with a recap of 2023 by the Officers and Directors including the fiscal health of the club, purchase of the property as well as the results of the election. This event is a breakfast/brunch style pot-luck and the bar will be open (cash or credit) serving a drink special of \$3 Mimosas and Bloody Mary's.

Club Asset Availability

Just a reminder that the Smallboat, Kayak and SUP checkout period has ended and these assets can no longer be used until next season



BAR MANAGER WANTED



If you are interested in filling this position, please contact
John Blaney
(rearcommodore@smsa.com)



Marine Weather (ASA 119)

Register by 10 Nov for \$40 Early Bird Discount!



- Course Length: 4 days
- Date: Feb 10-11 & 17-18, 2024
- Time: 0900-1700 EST
- Venue: Live Zoom
- Cost: \$495 (includes text & presentation books, certification material)

Weather is the greatest factor affecting ALL mariners. Learn the basic principles of marine weather, take observations, interpret traditional weather charts, use the latest tools and apps. Apply the information for local, coastal and offshore voyages, to make your time on the water as safe and efficient as possible. This 4-day course combines lecture, video, hands-on practice, and an offshore voyage weather planning practical exercise. Max 25 students.

**Taught by Capt Lisa Batchelor Frailey,
marine meteorologist, oceanographer, ocean passage
maker, USCG Master and ASA Master Instructor.**

Contact for More Details:

Sail Solomons
info@sailsi.com
410-326-4917

Kinetic Sailing
410-474-7844



Scan to Register



Commodore's Corner

By David Meiser
commodore@smsa.com



With the weather that we just witnessed this past weekend, it is hard to believe that it is November. It just goes to show that Solomons is a full, three-season boating location.

November also means that it is time for our Annual Meeting on this Saturday, November 4th. The doors open at 9:00, brunch at 9:30, and the meeting starts at 10:30. This is always a popular event, and with the potential of possibly purchasing our clubhouse, I am sure that this year will be a packed house. So bring something to share and come see all of your friends.

With respect to the purchase of the property we currently lease, there is overwhelming support for the SMSA to make the purchase, and that is fantastic. There are also many creative ways that are being tossed around, regarding how best to facilitate that purchase.

I have had many members reach out to me to discuss options and provide advice. In the end, the newly elected Board will be faced with the challenge of structuring in the most effective (and reasonably feasible) approach to purchasing this property, within the time constraints of the purchase option the Owner/Landlord was willing to accept, as set forth in the current lease.

I look forward to the Club coming together, to devise and execute a plan which will responsibly and realistically make the purchase of our clubhouse property a reality, to secure the future of SMSA.

See you on Saturday..... after I buy my lottery ticket.

David



Smallboat Fall Invitational



THE SOCIAL SCENE

Katherine Woodworth & Paige Smith, Co-Chairs
social@smsa.com



October was full of events at the club, starting with the annual Crab Feast at the beginning of the month and closing with our annual Chili Cook-off at the end. Both events were very well attended! We had eleven chilis this year, with the winners of the Chili Cook-off walking away with custom spoon awards and bragging rights for their delicious efforts. Congratulations to our winners!

- ★ Best All-around Chili – Steven Birchfield, Midnight Bambi Chili
- ★ Most Unique Chili – Haley Sibley, Pirate Chili
- ★ Best Chicken Chili – Paige Smith
- ★ Best Side Dish – Steven Birchfield, Jalapeno Cornbread



Thank you to all the volunteers who helped cook, set-up, and tear down for these events! These gatherings would not be possible without your help.

Looking Ahead: The months of November and December will be quite busy here at SMSA. Please mark your calendars for the following events:

- November 4th is the Annual Business Meeting where newly elected or re-elected members of the Board of Directors are announced and snapshots of the club's programs and fiscal health are reviewed. If you are mailing your ballots please give the post office enough time for arrival by Friday, November 3rd. You can also hand deliver your ballot to the club on the morning of the election. This event is a breakfast/brunch style potluck, and the bar will be open. Doors open at 9:00, breakfast will start at 9:30, and the meeting

Continued on page 6

will start by 10:30.

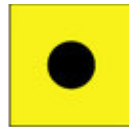
- Friday, December 1st—Clubhouse decorating for the Christmas Holiday Season. We will start at 5pm and work through happy hour.
- Saturday, December 9th is the Annual Solomons Christmas Walk and Lighted Boat Parade. Doors open at 5:30. Be sure to come to enjoy the clubhouse decorations, spread Christmas and Holiday cheer, and have front row seats for the boat parade. You will be able to catch a glimpse of the parade at approximately 6:30 as they leave Back Creek. The parade should make the bend into the river and be in front of the gazebo by 7:15. The club will host an open house this evening with a pool set up in the back room for youngsters to sail and race little boats. We will provide hot mulled cider and cookies, as well as having the bar open. This is an event not to be missed!
- Saturday, the 16th is the Annual SMSA Christmas Potluck Dinner. Doors open at 5:30, with dinner to follow at approximately 6:30. Come and enjoy the food and decorations! The club will provide turkey and ham, so please bring a favorite side.

In the meantime, we look forward to seeing everyone around the club!



Chili Cookoff





Chestertown Cruise

By Todd and Jen Porter

This year's SMSA cruise to Chestertown had something for everyone; rain, wind, sun, sailing, motor-sailing, a Gilligan's Island theme party, longest single point of sail challenge, whiskey tasting and just for fun, a treasure hunt! But the most memorable part of the cruise was visiting several idyllic Chesapeake towns exemplifying the best of sailing the Chesapeake Bay.

Tropical Storm Ophelia delayed the start of the cruise from to Monday September 25, but by Sunday, it was evident Ophelia was not done. With the forecast less than stellar, discussions ensued on whether to adjust the cruise, but the courageous crew of **Constellation**, **Cloud 9**, **Thisilddous**, **Circe** and **Serenity** elected 'to go for it' and fought the North wind and opposing current enroute to the Rhode River just South of Annapolis.



Jennifer "Ginger" & Todd
"Gilligan" Porter

Departing Monday morning September 25 on a 'three-hour tour' up the bay in 15 knots of wind, low visibility and light rain was tough going. Searching warmer weather, the castaways made the trip safely, if not all a bit soaked, by safely anchoring in the Rhode River nearby Sheepshead Cove Flat, a 'deserted island'. In true SMSA cruising fashion, all scoffed at the less than favorable conditions, donned their favorite Gilligan Island cast-away attire and gathered on Constellation for Happy Hour.

For a bottle of the 'Tallest Bottle on the Bottom Shelf' rum, the castaways participated in a Gilligan Island trivia with John Blaney demonstrating his mis-spent youth answering the question to "a Soviet space capsule lands on the island and the two Russian cosmonauts attempt to leave the island without the Castaways. Paranoia spreads as the Russians think the Castaways are spies and the Castaways think the cosmonauts have ulterior motives. How did the cosmo-



Joan "Lovey" & John "Mr.
Howell" Blaney

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

nauts leave the island?" [answer submarine] and winning the trivia contest!

The next day, not overly eager, but anxious to tackle the challenging weather conditions with gusts blowing over 20, our SMSA cruisers braved the conditions to clear Thomas Point, cruise under the Bay Bridge and voyage to Rock Hall on the Eastern shore. By carefully navigating the shallows in Rock Hall's Harbor while avoiding the center channel, **Circe** headed to Northpoint while the remaining cruisers docked at Rock Hall Landing Marina.

After Happy Hour, many enjoyed dinner at the Waterman Cove restaurant next to the Marina.



Kati 'Ginger' Keith

Wednesday, 27 September saw improved conditions, enabling everyone to 'climb the ladder' under sail up the scenic Chester River to Chestertown, MD on the Eastern Shore. Katie and Harry Keith, showing the beauty of downwind sailing, flew their asymmetrical spinnaker for 90 minutes up the river. After docking at Chestertown Marina, several cruisers met the challenge of backing their boats into marina slips next to their SMSA neighbors in sufficient time to explore the historic town with an impromptu dinner

ashore.

As a lay-day Thursday 28 September, the quest for SMSA cruisers commenced to help 'Captain Jack Sparrow', of Pirates of the Caribbean fame, to recover his lost treasure and find the name of his 'next' true love hidden somewhere in Chestertown. With the prize a bottle of Pussers Rum at stake, the intrepid SMSA cruisers transitioned into 'treasure' hunting mode by following clues throughout historic town. Questions such as, 'What is the name of the Bordello where Captain Jack Sparrow finds his true love? (hint - the Ugly Duckling)' stumped some but not for long, as Team Blaney correct-



Sultana's 'Connie' Bow Sculpture

Continued on page 9

ly answered 16 of 17 questions, finding the 'coin treasure' and discovering the Captain Sparrow's true love name Connie.

Following cocktail hour aboard **Constellation**, the SMSA cruisers transitioned to 'Bad Alfred's' for pizza and beer to discuss sea stories after an eventful fun-filled day.

Friday 29 September commenced a fantastic sail to Mill Creek off Whitehall Bay, near Annapolis, arriving in time for Happy Hour followed by dinner at Cantler's Restaurant. Departing in sequence with Northerly winds and the sun fighting to make an appearance late in the day, most boats hoisted their sails aloft

and made great time sailing the Southern part of the Chester River, then 'Reaching' under the Bay Bridge toward Whitehall Bay. Sailing in the same direction as the wind and current for a change, some saw speeds in excess of 7 knots sailing without the aid of the Iron Jenny. By navigating the 'Swaggle' (a new self-created nautical cruising name for navigating a tight zig zag bend in the shallows) entrance to Mill Creek, the cruising party anchored smartly with Happy Hour aboard **Thisilldous**, followed by dinner at Annapolis' world-famous Cantler's crab shack.



SMSA Cruisers on Good Behavior at 'Bad Alfred'



The Ladies Strike a Pose

Saturday 30 September included a cruise stopover at Hudson Creek, just off the Little Choptank River. With optimal Northerly winds while sailing South, *Circe* was seen on AIS flying down the Bay with her kite at over 9 kts in 15 knots of wind. **Constellation** and the rest mastered the art of 'wing on wing' and deep broad sailing. Hudson Creek, one of the author's favorite anchorages, is simply inspiring with plenty of anchor room and large home estates along a scenic coastline. Happy Hour started with awarding Les a 'Tallest Bottle on the Bottom Shelf' rum for achieving the longest single point of sail during the trip of over 91 minutes!

To keep the party going, this night featured 'Whiskey Tasting' aboard **Constellation** with the goal to guess the whiskey brand while ranking favorites during the 'blind' taste test. After an extensive discussion on the colors of the tasting cups, with the Irish contingent led by John's sister Anne pitching 'Lime, Pink and Purple' and the American contingent rebutting with 'Green, Red and Blue' the different whiskeys were sorted and most, including yours truly, completely misidentified which whiskey was what during the blind test. Surprisingly, the Irish contingent chose the American made 'Tin Cup' mountain whiskey while the American consortium selected Jamison's Triple-Triple as the best libation. If only the UN worked this way! Author's note; Woodford Reserve surprisingly didn't make the cut!



Cloud 9's Les Wins a Bottle!

Sunday 1 October graced the SMSA cruisers with favorable winds and seas, enabling sailing the remaining distance across the Bay to Solomons in short order. Even though everyone left at different times, the sailboats themselves evidently negotiated a separate treatise as all four boats arrived together at Drum Point in an impromptu SMSA Parade of Sail, completing a fantastic 210 nm cruise!



Thisildous and Cloud 9 arriving in Parade Formation off Drum Point



Vera's Cruise

By Fred Siesseger (Kalypso)

In a fresh westerly breeze on a beautiful fall afternoon, cruisers headed upriver at hull speed toward St. Leonard creek and their anchorage off Vera's docks. A dining table set for twenty-two sailors overlooking the water awaited while they enjoyed their traditional happy hour.



Dinner was planned to celebrate the birthday of Todd Porter (**Constellation**), the recipient (together with Admiral Jennifer) of the first annual Cruise Leader Award in honor of Patti Kimmel. Eschewing the normal Happy Birthday sing-along, cruisers organized a skit for Todd based on his love of all things related to USC football. (He played trumpet in the USC band a few moons ago).

To stir up the crowd, Fred (**Kalypso**) crowned Todd as the USC drum major with an authentic Trojan helmet (collectible) and a baton lookalike (boat tiller) while copies of the USC fight song lyrics were distributed. Martha Kemp (**Serenity**) and Joan Blaney (**Thisilldous**), dressed in the full regalia of hot USC Pom Pom girls, joined Todd to show their rhythmic moves on the dance floor and lead the revelers in the fight song. They rocked! It was the highlight of the cruise.



The group then gifted Todd an official USC bandana for Wookie, the wiener dog member of **Constellation's** crew. The SC also stands for Super Canine (ex Southern Cal) according to the vet Dr. Jennifer (and she should know).



When the uproarious laughter, clapping, and singing subsided, Todd graciously shared his Trojan helmet for photos with Haley Sibley's boys (**Sinbad**), apparently recruiting them as prospective USC drum majors.

Several other ladies also played leading roles in the festivities by channeling Vera with beautifully eccentric and colorful dresses, scarves, and even heirloom amber jewelry. They included Kati Keith (**Circe**), Donna Maneely,

Continued on page 12



and a new club member, Margrette Moore. Yet others joined in the uninhibited banter, including Dennis and Carolyn Chandler (***Safina***), Karen Lundgren (***China Doll***), and Egon Frech (***Chat Mechant***).

As a measure of the raucous good time, an audacious young sailor was overheard chastising an adult for "creating a scene." Vera would have considered that a compliment.

By all accounts, the food and ambience at dinner was also up to standard. Cruisers returned to their Solomons slips the next morning convinced that Vera's should be on the cruise program again next year.



John Blaney

Rear Commodore

rearcommodore@smsa.com



Happy Hour/Irish Wake for Rich Freeman

On Friday Oct 6th we celebrated Rich Freeman's departure from this world on another adventure where he gets to join up with his wife Patty Kimmel. We had fun reviewing the slide show of them, their families and exploits. The opportunity to celebrate Rich was brought to us by the Freeman and Kimmel families who traveled in from all over to celebrate them. We're glad it provided them a chance to have a family reunion also.

Our thanks to Rich's family Tom, Gabe, Kelly, Heather, Stephane, and Kandon plus the Kimmel family Shawn, Ann Marie, Robin, Katie and family friend Mary, who all catered our happy hour.

Many thanks to them and may we all enjoy the remembrances we have of both Rich and Patty.



"Life is Hard, T-shirts shouldn't be." That's our motto. Why?

Because when you soar into our shop, we help you from the minute you start your project with us. From helping you find the perfect material that feels and looks good to design, we're with you every step of the way.



ALL OF THE POSSIBILITIES

The combination of thousands of products and our inhouse processes, the possibilities are almost endless. We provide the following services at our warehouse in Maryland;

Laser Engraving

Embroidering

Full Color Sublimation

C.A.D. Cutting

Digital Print Process

Wide Format Printing

Silk Screening

Rhinestones and Bling

Owner: Ali Banholzer (SMSA Member)

<https://everytimepromo.com/>



Call 410-505-3201

KEELBOAT RACING



Erick Burger

Keelboat Race Chair

keelboatrace@smsa.com

I'm writing from sunny Guam. Hope you all are having a wonderful time sailing the remaining races before winter break. Summer sailing is officially completed with the conclusion of the Summer C-Series, and the Hooper Point/No-Point middle distance race. The fall series kicked off with the Fall Invitational Race and then move to the Fall Frostbites. From the posts on Facebook, it seems the winds are up and the racing is fast.

Results for all SMSA races series can be found on the internet at the following location: https://www.smsa.com/Race/KBRace_2023.php

Fall Frostbite race #1 was Oct 29, so only 3 more races in this calendar year. Remaining races are Frostbite #2-Nov 5th , #3-Nov 12th , and #4-Nov 19th . Race marks to be removed from the water after the last Frostbite race. Anyone wanting to help with that task, please email (keelboatrace@smsa.com). I'm in need of assistance this year because I will still be out of the country.

We are always looking for feedback; input to improve, add or change things up a bit. Please feel free to email. I have received a request for consideration to change the fleet division splits from PHRF of Chesapeake defined values to a local SMSA defined value. This would allow SMSA to even out the number of boats in each fleet. I have also heard rumblings of the J/70's wanting to create their own one design fleet. So, I have a couple items to bring to the Board and Vice Commodore, but if you can think of anything else, please reach out at keelboatrace@smsa.com.



FALL INVITATIONAL



HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM



Troy Raines

High School Program Chair

hssailing@smsa.com

We are winding down the fall 2023 season for HS Sailing and have had some wonderful and at times interesting moments this month.

I however want to start with a shout out to Randy Gross, Vlad Eremeev and Steve Birchfield for volunteering their time supporting the HS Sailing Program. I want to thank Jimmy Yurko for once again stepping in as coach for the team.

We had three regattas scheduled for this month, October 1st at Gunston, October 15th Tred Avon Yacht Club (TAYC) and October 22nd at Kent, unfortunately Kent was canceled due to extreme high winds. We are extremely proud of our sailors.

They have learned new drills and skills and continued to reinforce existing skills, and they had fun doing it!

We will be putting away the boats for the winter either October 26th or the 27th and we will be having an end of season wrap up party/gathering.

If you see any of these ambitious young people around the club, please give them a job well done.

One last biggie!!!! Please send any High school students who love the outdoors our way.... we are hoping to expand the team size come Spring, so any extra help in getting young sailors on the water would be much appreciated.



Solomons Inn & Marina (Ex-Holiday Inn) is Back!

In October of 2022, the new ownership group of *Solomons Inn & Marina* in Solomons (formerly known as the *Holiday Inn*) closed its doors with plans to convert the 350-room hotel into an assisted living facility. For 30 years the Holiday Inn had been the go-to residence for Screwpile crews. As a long-time Holiday Inn Assistant Manager put it, "They would sometimes 'stuff' six crewmembers into those rooms." From 2006 to 2019 the Holiday Inn served as Screwpile's headquarters and site of post-race parties. With the hotel's closing this past year, out-of-town crews had to scramble to find other accommodations. With a lack of suitable and affordable housing options, many of those crews opted to stay home this past year. In fact, of 37 boats that ultimately raced, only 9 were from out of town... 7 from Northern Bay and 2 from South Bay. Not good! Screwpile participation had been on a nice upward trajectory until that bombshell hit.

Fast forward to Screwpile 2024... In October 2023, the Screwpile regatta organizing committee was excited to learn that, due to Calvert County zoning roadblocks, the previous plan to renovate the *Solomons Inn & Marina* property into an assisted living facility has been scrapped. The outcome is a return to a full-facility hotel with pool, restaurant, and bar. Hotel management expects to have 70 rooms available to Screwpile crews by late Spring. This news is HUGE! It will give new life to a great regatta whose long-term viability became questionable when we lost the only hotel with large capacity in Solomons.

With the regatta's headquarters at Safer Harbor Zahnisers Marina in Solomons and discounted rooms once again available at Solomons Inn & Marina (ex-Holiday Inn), Screwpile 2024 is scheduled for the 3-day weekend of July 19th-21st.

Thanks again to the 65 SMSA volunteers and 28 race crews who played a part in the success of this past summer's Screwpile! We will be back in touch soon to start planning Screwpile 2024. Mark your calendars!

James Keen
2014 Screwpile Chairman



Crusty Crab Dive Services, LLC, maintaining vessels in the SOMD area.

Crusty Crab Dive Services started as a passion and hobby for Phil Sibley Jr. Phil began boating at an early age and has been sailing for 10 years, once he completed his dive certifications, he started maintaining his own boats hulls throughout the year.



We offer the following services:



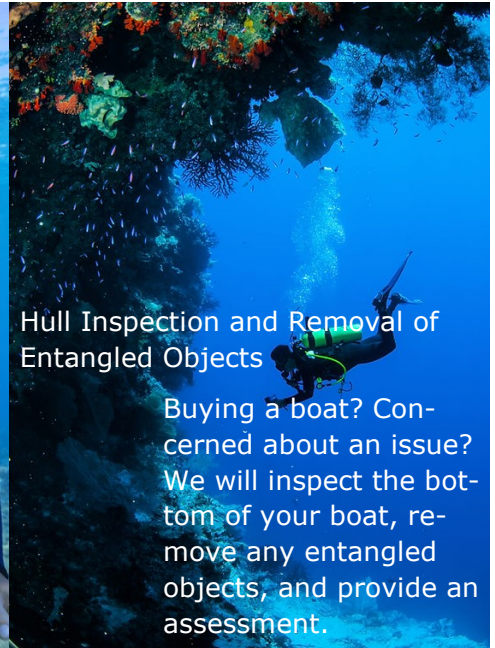
Hull & Bottom Cleaning Plans

Buying a boat? Concerned about an issue? We will inspect the bottom of your boat and provide an assessment.



Hull & Bottom Single Cleanings

Maintain your hull and lengthen your bottom paint by keeping your hull cleaned throughout the year.



Hull Inspection and Removal of Entangled Objects

Buying a boat? Concerned about an issue? We will inspect the bottom of your boat, remove any entangled objects, and provide an assessment.



Protecting Maryland's Waterways in SOMD



For more information contact:

Philip Sibley Jr.

Lexington Park, MD 20653

(c) 484-.390-.4044

CrustyCrabDiveServicesSOMD@gmail.com

Or check out their website:

<https://www.crustycrabdiveservicesomd.com/>



Solomons Lighted Boat Parade

Saturday, December 9th, 2023

Calling all Captains and Crew! The annual Solomons Lighted Boat Parade will be held on **Saturday, December 9th (weather permitting)**. This year's parade will be hosted by Solomons Island Yacht Club (SIYC), Solomons Yachting Center (SYC), Patuxent River Sail and Power Squadron (PRSPS), Sail Solomons (SS), Zahniser's Yachting Center (ZYC) and the Solomons Business Association (SBA).

Come out and show the Solomons community your holiday spirit - lighted sail and power boats of any size and shape are welcome. Decorate your boat's starboard side for the judging, and the rest is up to you. The parade travels at about 3 knots. Pre-registration is requested, please see contact information below.

Captains meeting 5:45pm at SYC dock office (next to fuel dock) - Parade starts at 6:30pm - Parade awards ceremony begins at 8:00pm at SIYC. Please tie up at your home port or another marina directly after the parade but come to SIYC otherwise to enjoy the festivities and awards ceremony

Awards will include: First Prize/ Best in Show, Second Prize/ Sail & Power, Third Prize/ Sail & Power, and Honorable mention. **NB: Christmas Walk theme this year will be Island/Nautical So there will be extra points for those that showcase our 2023 theme**

Boats will be judged on: Technical Merit, Creativity, Theme, Crew Involvement, and Overall Presentation

For information and preregistration see www.solomonsmaryland.com or call Fleet Captain SIYC, 667-256-6272 or email fciyc@gmail.com



CLASSIFIED ADS

29er for Sale, hull 1098 built by PS2000 (former Canadian builder), mast, extra top section, jib, main, spin, all sheets, Seitech dolly, and top cover. Hull is clean. Cleats and blocks for the spinnaker were replaced, a few lines replaced. Spinnaker/Jib hal-yard (they are continuous) replaced. The sails are good for practice and decent for racing Portsmouth but strongly advise new sails for 29er one design racing. This is an initial soft sale within the club for \$4,000. The boat will eventually be advertised for \$5,000 but for now I'm offering it within SMSA for \$4,000. I will also assist if there are minor repair needed in the short term and if the boat ends up in the SMSA yard I will always offer a hand. I'm having a good time on the RS600 so if you want to practice with another skiff I would come out. I will move the boat to the SMSA yard or someone's home if requested. For more information, contact Dan Bowman at me@danlb.com.



Hunter 31 for Sale

Sea's The Day, 1986 Hunter 31, 5 ft draft, 11 ft beam. Yanmar inboard diesel, 16 hp. Annual maintenance done by Zahnisers to include annual hauls, cleaning, bottom painting and engine servicing. Records are available for review. This boat is ready to sail. Sleeps six, basic kitchen and bench table. Asking \$15,000. Contact Bill at (301) 481-3132 or billreuter54@gmail.com



20' Lightning Class wood sailboat, built on the Severn River at Indian Landing in 1954. Includes center board, transom rudder, trailer, mast, and sail. Located in Lusby, Maryland. Asking **\$6,000 OBO**. Contact Edward Hainke at 410-326-2888.



Smallboat Fall Invitational



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

Place
Stamp



The Clew

NOVEMBER 2023

Volume 53 Number 11



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!

