



The Clew

Happy New Year

Cruise

Sat. Jan. 6 @ 9:30am: Cruise Planning Meeting

Board of Directors

Mon. Jan. 8 @ 7pm: Monthly Meeting

Commodore's Dinner

Fri. Jan. 19 @ 6:30pm: Potluck Dinner with a theme.
Check your weekly emails for details.

Friday Happy Hour

Fri. 5:30pm—9:00pm

SMSA GALA — SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, February 10, 2024

MEMBERS CORNER



PERPETUAL TROPHIES

If you still have a perpetual trophy and have not yet returned it to the clubhouse, please do so no later than **January 17, 2024**. Our Vice Commodore in conjunction with the Keelboat Chair need to get them updated prior to the Gala.

YEARBOOK HELP NEEDED

Jonathan Nepini, the SMSA Communications Chair is looking for volunteers to help him with the ad sales for the 2024 Yearbook. If you are willing to assist, please contact Jonathan at communications@smsa.com.

2024 SMSA Yard Storage Announcement



The 2024 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 2024 yard storage to Dockmaster Mark Witte at mcwitte@md.metrocast.net **by Jan. 26, 2024**.

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

Remember to Clean up and Lock up!!!

We are 100% volunteer organization, so please remember to clean up after yourselves as well as remember to lock up the facility if you are the last one out the door.





Marine Weather (ASA 119)



- Course Length: 4 days
- Date: Feb 10-11 & 17-18, 2024
- Time: 0900-1700 EST
- Venue: Live Zoom with audible & visual Q&A
- 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 for full engagement.

**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**

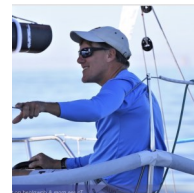


Scan to Register



Commodore's Corner

By David Meiser
commodore@smsa.com



As I sit down to write my final Clew article, I have many thoughts and emotions. Although I have to admit that I won't miss the monthly deadline for the Clew articles. On a serious note, it has been both an honor and a privilege to serve. Steering the Southern Maryland Sailing Association through the crests and troughs, witnessing our shared victories, and fostering the bonds that make our community so special has been an incredible journey.

Reflecting on the past month, our December festivities sparkled with the joy and warmth of the season. The Christmas Walk, Light Parade, and our jubilant Holiday Party were made unforgettable by your enthusiastic participation and unwavering support.

Looking ahead, our compass points towards exciting new horizons. One of the most monumental developments on our horizon is the planned purchase of our club property. This milestone marks a pivotal moment in our association's history, promising stability and opportunities for growth that will shape our sailing adventures for years to come.

The decision to invest in our own property embodies the collective dedication and vision of our members. It signifies a foundation on which we can build a vibrant, secure future for SMSA. This venture isn't merely a financial transaction; it's an investment in our shared passion for sailing and a commitment to fostering an even stronger community.

Before the helm changes hands, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to every individual who has contributed to SMSA's success. Your tireless efforts, camaraderie, and unwavering support have been the very wind that filled our sails.

As I step away from this role, I do so with a heart brimming with pride for all we've achieved and anticipation for the incredible journeys that lie ahead. The legacy we leave behind isn't just in the wakes we've made but in the friendships, memories, and experiences we've shared.

In closing, I invite you to join me in raising a toast to our future adventures, to the SMSA Gala that awaits, and to the exciting chapter that the purchase of our property will mark in SMSA's history.

Respectfully,
David



THE SOCIAL SCENE

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



As 2023 comes to an end, we hope that everyone has been enjoying this wonderful holiday season! The clubhouse has had a very busy December. Many thanks to all who helped decorate the clubhouse for Christmas. It all came together for the open house during the Solomons Christmas Walk. The clubhouse looks beautiful! We had a steady stream of guests visiting SMSA for mulled cider, cookies, boat building and the boat parade! Approximately 80 toy boats were decorated and sailed in the pool in the middle room.



Many thanks to all the volunteers that made this evening such a success! The following Saturday we had our Annual Christmas dinner at SMSA. It was very well attended and a tremendous success!



Check out the January calendar to see what is happening at the club as we begin the new year! And mark your calendars for the Gala and Awards! It is scheduled for Saturday, February 10th and will be held at Olde Breton Inn in Leonardtown. We will be sending out ticket purchasing information in the first days of January. Come celebrate the successes of the season and the wonderful camaraderie of our club. In the meantime, here's to good health and peace on earth in 2024! Happy New Year!

CRUISERS CORNER



John Blaney / Phil Sibley
Cruising Chair
cruise@smsa.com



Please welcome our new cruise chair Phil Sibley. We will be gradually transitioning the role over to him in the next couple of weeks.

Get prepared with suggestions for destinations up down and around the bay that we can discuss at our Jan 6th planning meeting. Its purpose is to figure out a combination of short and long cruises to fill out the calendar from late April to late Oct 2024. We will choose destinations and durations at the meeting and cruise leaders who will be responsible for the intermediate details like anchorages, marinas, restaurants, games, fancy dress parties, and whatever sightseeing might be worth doing. The one thing the cruise chair is not responsible for is leading any or all cruises. So step up to the plate please. Phil, has kids and works so may not be able to participate on many of the longer cruises.



Ideally we try for short weekend cruises early as shakedown, then for the main months a long and a short cruise. We try not to arrive back Monday and leave later that week on Friday. Remember, Cruising is about the destination not the getting there in a hurry. Racers tend to be go nowhere fast and party in the same place afterwards. We're trying to be mellow and maybe convert them to join us.

I apologize for writing this with the following view. My corona hasn't arrived yet but St Kitts and Nevis are in the distance. Our boat is in Nelson's Dockyard and we're chillin on Darkwood Beach. Cruising in the Caribbean.



Back to reality:

Look out for conflicts with the other club events and avoid them or adapt to compliment them. There are a few standards like July 4th and the Mixed Couples Race/ Battle Creek Raft Up.

Once we get the overall destination calendar set which will be at the meeting. Robin Witte is helping us do that. Thank you.

Now it's up to the individual cruise leaders to flesh out the details of their cruises. Plan on daylight sailing somewhere between 30 and less than 60nms so we can get there by happy hour. Pick anchorages we can navigate into. Remember some draw 8 ft so they need to be able to get into them or at least anchor nearby to dinghy in.

Consultation during the detail planning stage among cruisers is advised as others may have been there before and may like/dislike a specific spot.

The plan and calendar is to have them all fleshed out by early March as the detailed calendar gets published in the Yearbook and on the website. We're driven by that publishing schedule.

So "Be Prepared" to come up with cruise ideas and to volunteer to plan and lead one. They're not onerous tasks and if you wanted to go there on your own you would have the same work to do. We're also willing to assist you to get the plan published in March.

John on behalf of Phil





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KEELBOAT RACING



Erick Burger

Keelboat Race Chair

keelboatrace@smsa.com

New Year, new opportunities... What are your 2024 sailing goals?

Race marks have been pulled for maintenance and replacement. Thanks to the volunteer crew of RC Captain Joe Frost, Vice Commodore Scotty Roland, and Director Shawn Stanley, who pulled the marks. At this time we plan on placing marks in the same locations as 2023. There are a couple maintenance items that will need to be addressed with the marks before placing them back into the water. Be on the lookout for emails later in Jan & Feb about maintenance days for the marks. Also, I'll need volunteers to help drop marks before the first frostbite in early March so please reach out at keelboatrace@smsa.com if you can assist.

Upcoming Keelboat events:

- The Annual Gala scheduled for Feb 10th.
- Keelboat pre-season meeting is scheduled for February 21st.
- Rules of Racing seminar is scheduled for March 2nd.
- First Spring Frostbite is scheduled for Sunday, March 3rd.
- Race Management Basics, Wednesday, April 3rd

We are also looking for feedback and input to improve, add or change things up a bit in our keelboat program. Some suggestions received so far:

- Independent J/70 class - this will reduce the B fleet significantly, but will result in one design competition. More thoughts and impacts to follow.
- Changing from PHRF class designation to SMSA determined class designation. This will allow SMSA to size the fleets based on the number of participants making for even numbers of boats per class, but may make boats previously in a fast fleet, now dominate a slower fleet. More discussion to follow.

Please feel free to email me your thoughts and concerns on the above at keelboatrace@smsa.com. After all, at the end of the regatta, the sailing program is your sailing program, so, what says you all?



Screwpile 2024... July 19th-21st

Screwpile is scheduled in its customary mid-summer weekend... July 19th-21st, with regatta headquarters and awards parties at Safe Harbor Zahnisers Marina. Now that Solomons Inn Resort & Marina (formerly Holiday Inn) promises to be back in business offering discounted rooms to Screwpile crews, we hope to attract a good number of out-of-town boats this year.

We believe the hotel's unfortunate closure in October 2022 was primarily responsible for the disappointing Screwpile participation last year by non-SMSA boats. Fortunately, a favorable zoning decision by the Calvert County Commissioners resulted in rejection of a plan to convert the hotel into a commercial assisted living facility.

For the second year, Screwpile will host the PHRF of the Chesapeake Mid-Bay Championships. You have probably seen the four large perpetual trophies in our trophy case that were won by SMSA crews last year... One Trick Pony (PHRF A), Wicked Good (PHRF B), Barba Roja (PHRF C), and Stingray (PHRF NS).

The success of thirty-one years of Screwpile has been made possible by the many, many dedicated volunteers who have served on the water as well as shoreside... operating their own boats for race committee, deploying and retrieving race marks, timing starts and finishes, handling signal flags, serving as protest judges, selling drink tickets, serving Mount Gay Rum drinks, pouring draft beer, delivering ice, managing trash, taking photos, managing trophies, stuffing Skippers' bags... the list of duties goes on and on. Kudos to the many volunteers who have taken on this multitude of necessary tasks over the years! Notice... we will soon be contacting previous volunteers to confirm this year's participation as well to encourage new club members to join in on the fun on Screwpile weekend.

I can tell you from my many years of personal experience on both sides of this regatta... either racing my own boat, serving as Race Committee, and most recently being in the middle of planning and managing the regatta, it's all a very rewarding and FUN time! So, whether racing or volunteering on-the-water or ashore (or both), you will never regret it, and the memories of Screwpile will be lasting! For newbies, if you have an inkling of volunteering, please talk to us, and we will get you involved. Thank you all!

...Jim Keen, Chairman 2024 Screwpile

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM



Troy Raines

High School Program Chair

hssailing@smsa.com

Happy New Year to everyone, and I hope everyone had a great set of holidays. December was a relatively slow month for the Middle and High School Sailing program. Some of our sailors helped decorate and participate in the boat parade, I want to give a big thank you to Steve Birchfield who graciously donated his boat for use by the High School team. Thank you to Tommy Birchfield, Freyja Raines, Nolan Wingate, and their two guests. Also, thank you to Jonathan Nepini, Dewey Melton and Ben Green for riding along.



HS Sailors during the
Lighted Boat Parade



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:



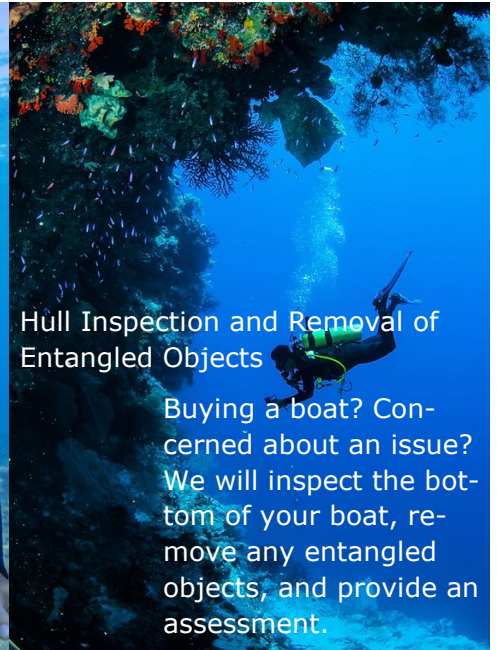
Hull & Bottom Cleaning Plans

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.

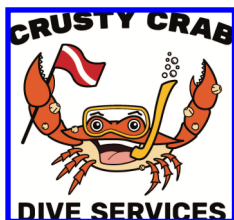


Hull Inspection and Removal of Entangled Objects

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/>



CLASSIFIED ADS

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.





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

Place
Stamp



The Clew

JANUARY 2024

Volume 54 Number 1



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!

