



The Clew

SMSA GALA

Saturday, February 10, 2024 at the Olde Breton Inn

Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres: 5:30pm

Dinner: 6:30pm

(see page 3 for help needed & page 7 for Gala details)

Board of Directors

Mon. Feb. 12 @ 7pm: Monthly Meeting

Smallboat

Thur. Feb. 15 @ 6pm: Pre-Season Meeting

Keelboat

Wed. Feb. 21 @ 6:30pm: Pre-Season Meeting

Commodore's Dinner

Fri. Feb. 23 @ 6:30pm: Potluck Dinner with a theme.
Check your weekly emails for details.

Racing Rules Seminar

For Keelboat and Smallboat Racers

Sat. Mar. 2 @ 11:00am

Friday Happy Hour

Fri. 5:30pm—9:00pm

MEMBERS CORNER



FACILITIES CHAIR: Please welcome **Spencer Wait** as the new SMSA Facilities Chair starting in February 2024. Spencer took some time off but has now returned to SMSA and is part of the growing J-70 fleet with his boat *Woo Hoo!* He brings great energy to the position and will be looking for volunteers to help with maintaining our facility. Send your ideas or suggestions or just a thank you note for volunteering to Spencer at facility@smsa.com.

Social Co-Chair Needed

With Katherine Woodworth taking over the role of Treasurer, Paige Smith is looking for a volunteer to be her Co-Chair of the Social Committee. Our social events are fantastic and lots of fun, but it takes planning and organization, so please consider helping Paige to lead our social events. For more information, please contact Paige at so-cial@smsa.com.

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—LAST CALL



If you haven't made your request for boat storage in the yard, please do so immediately. Please email your request for 2024 yard storage to Dockmaster Mark Witte at 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>)

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.

MEMBERS CORNER

SAILING CAMP—ADDITIONAL WEEK ADDED



An additional week of Sailing Camp for Optis and 420s has been added to the schedule for the week of June 24 - 28. If you have already registered and would like to switch to this week, please contact the Junior Chairs at junior@smsa.com. Remember that registration is open to non-members starts on Feb. 1, so don't delay in getting registered to get the timeslot you need.

CALLING ALL SMSA BAKERS, DECORATORS AND MISCELLANEOUS PARTY HELPERS!



We need some cookie and cupcake bakers. I will put together a few baking supply "kits" and will meet bakers at the club this Saturday, February 3rd to distribute. (Will schedule meet-ups with each baker.)

Then, next week I will need some decorators! Robin Witte has graciously offered her home for cookie and cupcake decorating. We plan to meet on Wednesday, February 7th at 6:30pm to decorate.

In addition to decorating our baked goods, we will need some volunteers to help us decorate tables, mantels, and various side tables at the Old Breton Inn on the morning of the Gala (February 10th) at approximately 10am.



And last but not least, we will need Check-In volunteers at the entrance of the Old Breton on the evening of the gala and a few individuals for break-down and clean up when the gala is over.

Please email me at paigedillon@msn.com or text me at 703-475-5629 with an area that you would like to volunteer and contribute.



Commodore's Corner

By John Blaney
commodore@smsa.com



Members,

At our last board meeting I had the strange position of being both the past Rear Commodore and reporting on our dry land activities while also being the Commodore elect and eventually Commodore as the meeting progressed. That meant leading the meeting and getting the business of the club moved forward. There's a period where you wonder if you should take the reins or leave them until you get handed them. I can say procrastination does pay so bear with me while I play catch up.

The one thing we all got out of our past board members and the new elect transition members was a common direction that we plan on following to purchase the premises. That's my singular objective for this year but I know all our officers, directors and members also have that same objective.

I'd like to thank our past Commodore David Meiser and his attorney wife Jacki for leading the charge last year and continuing that activity this year. To those outgoing board members, we say thank you and please continue to work with us to support club activities. Luckily, we also had set up a committee of directors under Doug Hays to look into ways to support purchasing the premises. That provided the basis from which we developed our current strategy. There's more work to be done here and I'd like them to continue to do so.

Of course, to make any strategy work we needed our membership to come through and support us. You did and thank you for that but we're now at where the rubber meets the road stage.

One note of caution is that the details of what we are doing should be kept within club membership. "Loose lips sink ships" and I'd prefer to stay afloat.

Regards
John Blaney
SMSA Commodore



Dan Trammell will be presenting a **Racing Rules of Sailing Seminar** at the SMSA clubhouse on Saturday, March 2nd at 11:00 AM. The seminar will go to 2:30 PM with a half-hour break at about 12:30. All skippers and crews are invited.

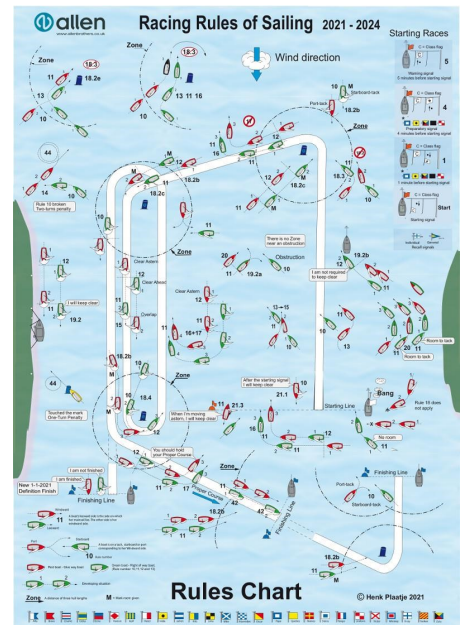
Dan will cover the rules using examples and how they apply to each situation. Definitions, starting area, upwind sailing, windward mark roundings, reaching, downwind sailing, leeward mark roundings, upwind finishes and downwind finishes will all be covered. The focus will primarily be on Part 2 of the RRS. Dan will

entertain any questions along the way and any examples you bring to share with the forum.

Dan is a certified US Sailing National Judge and has lectured extensively (CBYRA and member clubs) on the racing rules. He regularly lectures and coaches the Midshipmen of the US Naval Academy's Varsity Offshore Sailing Team on the racing rules.

Please remember to bring your rule book. If you do not have one, you can download a free copy, [click here](#).

Free to SMSA members and their crew. Come and join the fun!



If you're confused just looking at this chart, come listen to Dan break down the rules for many of these scenarios



Yes Keelboat racers, there once was an SMSA racing mark labeled "E". As with some of our other marks, most notably "L" and "T", they seem to have a mind of their own and wander off.

Photo submitted by Pete LaRoche

THE SOCIAL SCENE

Paige Smith, Chair
social@smsa.com



Happy New Year! I hope everyone was able to ring in the New Year with family and friends. The month of January was pretty quiet around the club. The only "social" event was to undecorate the club and take down decorations and organize them in the attic! It is always a sad day when the Christmas decorations come down. Thank you to all who came out for the different days/nights to take everything down, organize and label, and then haul everything back up to the attic.

Upcoming is the Gala on February 10th. Emails will go out to recruit bakers, decorators, set up and clean-up crew this week! Doors open at Old Breton Inn at 5:30 pm for appetizers, with dinner and awards and dancing to follow. Secure your tickets now! (See ad on page 7)



2023 Gala Celebration!

Come join the party in 2024, you won't want to miss it!

SMSA Annual Gala and Awards Banquet

The Greatest Event Off the Water!



Saturday, February 10th, 2024
Olde Breton Inn
5:30PM - 10:00PM

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

Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres 5:30 p.m.

Buffet Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

2023 Awards Presentations following Dinner

Buffet Selections:

Round of Beef with carver au jus and horseradish

Chicken Cordon Bleu

Fried Oysters

Dinner includes Garden Salad, Scalloped Potatoes, Squash Souffle,

Vegetable Medley, Dinner Rolls, Tea and Coffee

Tickets: \$70 per person; RSVP with payment by February 4th, info at www.smsa.com

Seating capacity limited to 120 people. Get your tickets early!

Featuring Live Music with DJ Carlton

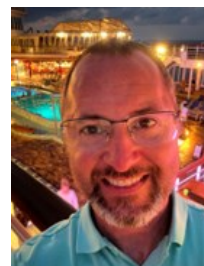
Cash Bar available for drink purchases.

Make it a Night to Remember!

Questions? Email social@smsa.com or call 443-684-SMSA (7672) and leave a message and we will return your call.

CRUISERS CORNER

Phil Sibley
Cruising Chair
cruise@smsa.com



The year is off to a great start for the cruising fleet. On January 6th, the annual Cruise Planning Meeting was held to identify potential destinations which attendees wished to visit throughout the calendar year 2024. Many of the frequently enjoyed destinations were chosen to include Rollins Cove, Saint Mary City (4th of July), Annapolis, Oxford/San Domingo, Urbanna, the Mixed Couples Race, Vera's, and JT's end of the year dock party. Other unique destinations chosen to explore this year include the South Bay with unique destinations along the way, Potomac River, Wye River, Magothy River, and the family friendly Herrington Harbor South.

Currently, each destination is displayed on the SMSA master schedule which can be found by following the calendar icon on the top right corner of the SMSA website. The Cruiser's page will be updated by the end of March once plans have been finalized and details published by each Cruise Leader. This cruise tab will include the unique details regarding each destination as well as any information in order to begin making your reservations.

This year's schedule is filling up fast! Whether you are interested in an exciting week long adventure or the occasional weekend excursion, you will have no problems finding a unique destination to attend. No matter whether you own your own boat or wish to join any cruise as a crew member, cruises are open to all SMSA members, friends, or families. We hope to see you all out on the water this coming boating season!

THINK CRUISING!



"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.



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Rhinestones and Bling

Owner: Ali Banholzer (SMSA Member)

<https://everytimepromo.com/>



Call 410-505-3201

JUNIOR



Harry & Kati Keith

Junior Chairs

junior@smsa.com



Full Speed Ahead for 2024 Summer Camp Planning!

We have scheduled SMSA Summer Sailing Camp for 7 weekly sessions starting June 24 and going through August 9. Registration for members opened in mid-January and will open to the public on February 1.

We are offering camp for beginner and experienced sailors ages 8 through 14. Sailing the Optis for the younger sailors and the 420s for the older and more experienced sailors. This year we will have a dedicated intermediate/advanced session the last week of camp – August 5 - 9. At this point, we're planning this only for the 420s, but, depending on input from camp parents and instructors, we may do the same for the Optis during that last week.

Look for our ad in the February SpinSheet and please register your campers as soon as you can! For more information and registration visit our website or click on <https://www.smsa.com/Jr/Classes.php>, then look in the upper right corner to register.

Classes	Class FAQs	Form Downloads	What to Bring	Register!
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2024 Junior Sailing Summer Camp

If you have any questions, please contact Junior Chairs, Kati & Harry Keith (junior@smsa.com).

KEELBOAT RACING



Erick Burger

Keelboat Race Chair

keelboatrace@smsa.com

Preparations are underway for the new calendar year. A new anchor has been made for replacement as well as the anchor created last year in memory of Brian Steuart. Both will be used this year while setting marks. I will be spending the next couple weekends getting the marks ready for the new year. New paint, new wrapping, and new ground tackle installed.

HELP Needed:

- I will need someone to assist with placing Racing marks this spring prior to the first race on March 3rd. I will be out of the country yet again.
- I will also welcome some assistance with preparing the marks over the next few weekends. Please reach out if you are willing to help out.

Upcoming Keelboat events:

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

I have been asking for the last few months for inputs for improving the racing at SMSA. I have not received any comments other than the following suggestions which will be discussed at the Pre-Season Meeting:

- 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.



Race Management Training *in Annapolis*



Join Us at the Eastport Yacht Club

Two Upcoming Seminars Will be Taught by National and Area C Race Officer Sharon Hadsell!

- The first one-day course of *Basic Race Management* will be held Saturday, February 10th, at EYC from 8:00AM - 5:00PM. Sign up early! Space is limited to 24 attendees. There is a \$40 registration fee.
- The second course will be a two-day session at EYC on Saturday, March 9th, and Sunday, March 10th, from 8:00AM - 5:00PM. This *Advanced Race Management* course will set you on a path towards becoming a US Sailing Certified Race Officer. Again, space is limited and there is a \$40 registration fee.

[REGISTER HERE](#)





169 Days Until Screwpile Harbor Start!

Here in the middle of winter (although it's 68 degrees outside as I write this today), one hundred, sixty-nine days sounds like a long time off. But our 32nd annual Screwpile will be here before we know it. So, our Screwpile Planning Committee is already hard at work with the myriad of tasks that it takes to produce SMSA's signature regatta. There's still lots of work to do, but for now... the Screwpile website has been updated <http://screwpile.net>, and the Yacht Scoring website is available and is ready for registrations ([https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?](https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=16375)

[eID=16375](https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=16375)). The March SpinSheet ad is in development. The barrage of FaceBook posts have started at <https://www.facebook.com/SplcRegatta> (please feel free to share!). And, sponsors have been lined up for another year of support.

Yes it's early. But, I urge ALL SMSA racers and cruiser/racers to go ahead and register NOW so we can show Bay racers that we are supporting our own regatta. A Yacht Scoring scratch sheet that is filling up is always a magnet for more registrations. You can register now and pay later. And by the way... now is the time to start talking up Screwpile with your friends at other clubs.

Again this year, Screwpile will host the PHRF of the Chesapeake Mid-Bay Championships. In addition to Screwpile daily's and overall awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishes, PHRF championship trophies will be awarded for overall top three places on Sunday. Hopefully the PHRF Championships will catch on and start to attract more racers.

The Notice of Race is posted in Yacht Scoring. The regatta is open to PHRF classes (A0/A1, A2, B, C), One-Design, and CRCA Spinnaker and CRCA Non-Spinnaker cruisers. The CRCA Non-Spin Cruisers who also have a PHRF Cruising Certificate will be dual scored and be eligible for Screwpile CRCA and PHRF trophies. So, if you are racing in the CRCA Non-Spin Class, ensure you also have a current PHRF Cruising rating in addition to your CRCA certificate. For help with obtaining a CRCA certificate, please contact Jim Whited at 410 474-8198 or jimw625@comcast.net.

As noted in the January CLEW, the former Holiday Inn, which is now the Solomons Inn Resort & Marina is currently under renovation. The great news for Screwpile out-of-town racers is that the original plan to turn the hotel into an assisted living facility has been scrapped. Upon completion of the renovation, it will serve as a full service HOTEL with the 350 rooms being split between traditional hotel rooms and extended stay hotel rooms. The hotel General Manager is setting aside 75 discounted rooms for Screwpile crews.

Screwpile 2024 is shaping up to be a great event! Whether racing or volunteering or both...or just coming for the great parties, hope to see you there.

Jim Keen
2024 Screwpile Chairman

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM



Troy Raines

High School Program Chair

hssailing@smsa.com

It has been a very slow time during our break between the fall and spring High School Sailing season. As we are not on the water I have decided to mention what our sailors have been up to and keeping up their spirits. I have taken a humorous and fun approach.

Paul Wilson has been looking forward to the comradery of sailing again and taking a vacation from adults on the water. Enthusiastically expanding his Xbox playing skills, pumping iron and getting fit and growing taller, listening to the radio loudly the way it should be!

Joseph's had a busy year so far – singing in the school chorus, earned a spot in a theater production, took his first flight in the cockpit, and developed new epithets to describe AP Chemistry. He's looking forward to the upcoming season and getting back in the boats.

Owen spent most of his pastimes over the holiday breaks playing Roblox, Gorilla Tagging with his brother, and traveling to foreign lands to see extended family up in Philadelphia. He started tinkering with a small Arduino board learning a bit of coding and basic electronics.

Nolan spent late fall/winter going to a concussion clinic in Takoma Park, but was officially cleared to sail in March and is doing much better! He participated in a research study for adolescents with concussions through Children's Hospital, which he and his family thought was pretty cool to be a part of. He has a new helmet and has been working on his bailer collection for the spring by drinking many glasses of orange juice out of the solid white gallon jugs.

Freyja has been focusing on her participation in Aries Orchestra, as well as her work with her viola and piano, attending various plays and films with friends as well as learning to effectively run her farm in Stardew Valley, she looks forward to warmer weather.

Tommy Birchfield has been following his educational pursuits and studying for a future career in domestic environmental services all the while doing what teenagers do (what do teenagers do for fun? I am not quite sure)

Patuxent River Sailing Team

Come join the FUN!!



WHEN:

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 3:30pm—6:30pm
Regatta on selected Weekends

WHERE:

Southern Maryland Sailing Association
14490 Solomons Island Road
Solomons, Maryland



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

WHO:

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



SPRING SEASON: This 10 week season
begins on Tuesday, March 5, 2024

SEASON FEE INCLUDES:

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

Find us at smsa.com/hssailing OR via email hssailing@smsa.com
See you on the water!

SMALLBOAT RACING



Steve Birchfield

Smallboat Race Chair

smallboatrace@smsa.com

NO INPUT PROVIDED

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:



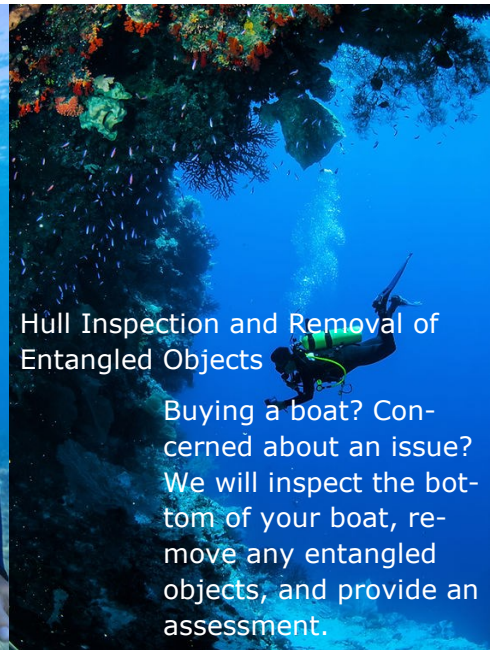
Hull & Bottom Cleaning Plans

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

2010 BUCCANEER TECHNORA BLACK Quantum Main & Jib for Sale

- Loose-footed main fits 8" raised boom configuration. Modified post-manufacture, it is NOT class legal, but would make a great sail for club racing. \$550.
- Furling Jib IS class legal - with patch. \$400.

Prefer to sell as a set, but will consider separating. Contact Jenn at jlmarbourg@smcm.edu.



SMSA Sailors enjoying the unseasonably warm January weather.





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

Place
Stamp



The Clew

FEBRUARY 2024

Volume 54 Number 2



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!

