



# The Clew

## **Board of Directors**

Mon. Mar. 11 @ 7pm: Monthly Meeting

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## **Racing Rules Seminar**

For Keelboat and Smallboat Racers

Sat. Mar. 2 @ 11:00am

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## **Keelboat**

Sun. Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24: Spring Frostbite Series

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## **High School/Middle School Sailing**

Thur. Mar. 14 @ 3:30pm Boat Prep/Rigging

Thur. Mar. 14 @ 6pm: Kickoff Meeting

Weekly on Tues, Thur. Fri @ 3:30pm

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## **Commodore's Dinner**

Fri. Mar. 15 @ 6:30pm: Potluck Dinner with an Irish Theme

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## **Spring Cleanup Day**

Sat. Mar. 16 @ 9:00am (See page 5 for more info)

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## **Spring Equinox—Sock Burning**

Tue. Mar. 19 @ 4:00pm

See page 2 for more information

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## **Race Management Basics**

For Keelboat and Smallboat Racers

Wed. Apr. 3 @ 6:30pm

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## **Friday Happy Hour**

Fri. 5:30pm—9:00pm

# MEMBERS CORNER

## Social Co-Chair Needed

Paige Smith is still 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 [social@smsa.com](mailto:social@smsa.com).



## **You are invited to a party at SMSA, a party about coming of spring!**

Though the winter was mild and the weather is already beginning to warm it was cold enough to keep most of us from sailing. So with the longer days Southern Maryland Sailing Association (SMSA) eagerly anticipates the arrival of the Vernal Equinox. This marks the beginning of spring and the racing season, and what better way to celebrate this occasion than by participating in the Sock Burning tradition, which is observed annually and originated in nearby Eastport, MD. The Burning of the Socks has its roots in the boating community, and it serves as a symbolic way to shed the old and welcome in the new. Sailors in Eastport, MD have been participating in this tradition for decades, and it has since become a popular regional event that draws in locals and visitors alike.

For the members of the SMSA, the Sock Burning marks the start of the racing season and signals the beginning of an exciting time for sailors in the area. As temperatures rise, boats are launched back into the water, and sailors prepare for the upcoming races and regattas throughout the region. To celebrate the arrival of spring and the start of the racing season, SMSA is organizing a party and sock burning gathering to be held in the club boatyard. Members and friends of members are invited to come and participate in this tradition, which is sure to be a fun and memorable experience.

The event will be held on the day of the Vernal or Spring Equinox which this year falls on March 19th and is astronomically official at 11:06PM. While some of us are loathe to miss an opportunity to seek cheer and fun, a night time event and fire is not ideal as morning comes quick on work/school days so we will convene at 4PM. The Vernal Equinox marks the sun's crossing above the Earth's equator, moving from south to north. It will involve gathering around a bonfire and burning old socks (natural materials please) in celebration of the new season. Participants are encouraged to wear boat shoes or sandals and bring a sock, symbolizing their readiness for the upcoming season. You may be booed for choosing a sock you are wearing that is pungent but it is traditional and is an accepted practice.

The Sock Burning is a fun and meaningful way to celebrate for many sailors across the Bay and further afield, it holds a special place in their hearts and marks an important milestone in the sailing calendar. **Mark the date and join us in the SMSA boatyard on March 19th at 4PM for a fun-filled evening of burning socks and celebration!**

Bring a main or side dish for sharing with others. Volunteers for setting up and cleaning up afterwards also needed. More information as we get closer to the event.



I hope everyone is ready for a great 2024 season!

Invoices for the 2024 season will be emailed March 15th. Membership dues for the 2024 season are \$576 for Regular memberships, \$288 for Young Adult and Regular memberships, and \$78 for Junior memberships. Members currently on the installment plan will see the new rates in their April 1st billing statement.

**Membership Account:** Please ensure that you log into your membership account and update your membership and boat information for any changes that may have occurred. For those with a PO Box, please ensure we have your accurate mailing address. (Click 'Member Login' from the menu bar at [www.smsa.com](http://www.smsa.com) to get to your membership account.) Please make these updates soon so that any new information can be included in the 2024 Yearbook.

**Race Registration:** Remember to head to the Keelboat and Smallboat Racing pages on the SMSA website to register for the season racing. All boats planning to participate must REGISTER for the season or the individual event!

For those having two PHRF certificates (ex. Spin or Non-spin) or Portsmouth numbers, please ensure to register BOTH classes for your boat. Please add a discount code to your cart when registering the boat in its second class so you don't pay twice – codes are available from the Member Discount code page in the Members area of the SMSA website ([www.smsa.com](http://www.smsa.com) – click on Member Login in the menu bar).

For those on the installment plan for race fees, please use the discount code for each registration as you are already paying the fee.

Kristi Yurko  
Membership Chair



## Commodore's Corner

By John Blaney  
commodore@smsa.com



To all our Membership,

Thank you all for your continued memberships because it's those increases in dues that are being used to both run the club and purchase the premises. You may not have loaned us funds but make no mistake you're doing the biggest part in this on-going process.

Fortunately we have quite a few members who loaned us the funds to make the actual purchase. Thanks to them also. So whether you loaned us funds or not, we thank you for investing in the future of the club through your continued memberships.

For our Officers and Chairs,

One of my themes for the year is communication. It's not hard to do and if not done creates more problems for the others trying to row our club boat in the same direction.

I'm asking that all chairs and officers need to provide the Clew editor with some content every Month about what will or did happen regarding the club. It doesn't have to be much, a paragraph or two.

It's very easy to dismiss this type of communication but it tells our members what's going on in the club at all levels. It also points out to membership all the little things they might not be aware of that are needed to make the club run. You're all volunteers and this is a way of being appreciated.

So tell our world what you're doing to make the club better no matter how little it is. If you provide nothing then you don't get appreciated.

Thank you members and our superstar volunteers.

John

My last name is Blaney but my games are Sailing and Blarney. Who ever heard of a quiet sailor?

PS See I managed a few paragraphs above on two subjects : Thanks and Communication.

# SMSA Spring Cleanup Day



**Saturday, March 16th starting at 9am is Spring Cleanup Day.** We need members to help us go through the entire facility, to organize and sort out stuff we want to keep and dispose of the rest, plus clean up and sweep everything.

We **need PEOPLE** to come and help. We'll supply coffee and donuts to get everyone kick started!

If you have a trailer that we can borrow so excess things can be removed from the property and thrown away, recycled, donated, or hauled off back home please contact Spencer Wait ([facility@smsa.com](mailto:facility@smsa.com)).

**Wear suitable clothes and gloves** as some the work can be dirty.

**Facility Standards, Donations and Dumping:** We do have and would like to improve our facility standards. If you have a donation, you think the club could use, please contact Spencer Wait ([facility@smsa.com](mailto:facility@smsa.com)) for prior approval. Items that aren't needed or left without permission will be removed from the property. The property is also not a temporary storage facility for unauthorized boats, trailers, sails, rigging, paint, epoxy, lifting hoists, fuel, chemicals, furniture, appliances, etc. We do use and store some of them, and if we do, we need to keep them stored and organized in the correct manner away from summer camp participants, etc.

During this Spring Cleanup we will be removing lots of gear adrift. If it doesn't have a use or place in the club, it'll probably get removed on the 16th, so if you have personal things, please remove them immediately.

**Cleanup Activities:** We will be cleaning the clubhouse starting at the front patio all the way to the dock area. If you have a project for us to consider, please email Spencer ([facility@smsa.com](mailto:facility@smsa.com)) and he'll get it on the list.

**Items include but are not limited to:**

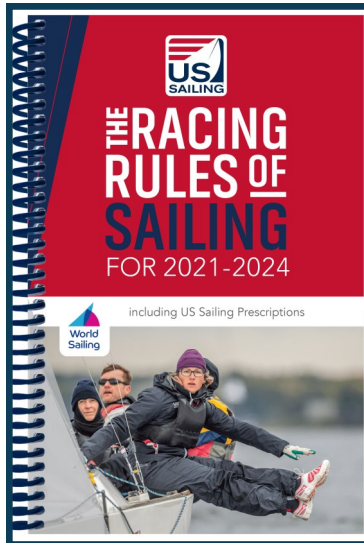
**Outside:** Front patio area around the transformer, pressure wash the patio, electrical box near front door needs to be remounted, front sensor light inop, fire pit top needs replacement cover, weed front patio area, spring plants in all flower boxes/pots, tidy up cables on front corner of building near trash cans, gutters cleaned out, remove leaves and debris around outside of property, trim vines off property fence (please bring shears/pruners).

**Front Room:** Hang Broken Rudder Dinghy Distance trophy, tidy up audio/video corner, vacuum carpet, clean chairs and tables, check/re-level the tables, dust.

**Bar Area:** Install new furnace filter, sweep/mop floors, remove access equipment.

**Middle Room:** Clean out refrigerators, sort through shelves/file cabinets, kids items, movable bar, sweep/mop floor.

**Hallway:** Sweep/mop floors, tidy the shelves.



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.

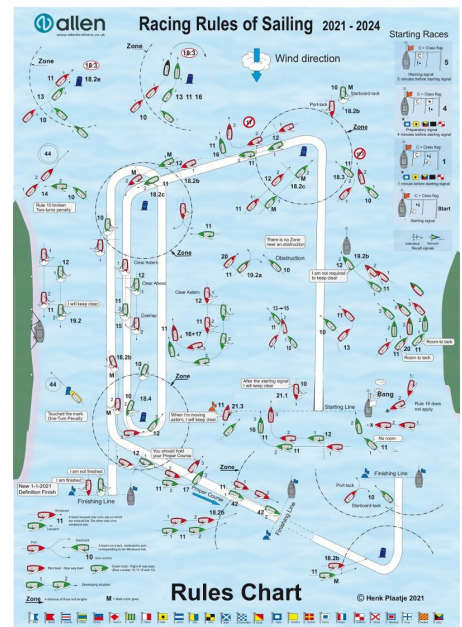
Dan will cover the rules using examples and how they apply to each situation. Definitions, starting area, upwind sailing, windward mark roundings, reaching, downwind sailing, leeward mark roundings, upwind finishes and downwind finishes will all be covered. The focus will primarily be on Part 2 of the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



# THE SOCIAL SCENE

Paige Smith, Chair  
social@smsa.com



Does March really come in like a lion and leave like a lamb? According to the Farmer's Almanac, the weather folklore stems from ancestral beliefs in balance, meaning if the weather at the start of March is bad (roaring like a lion), the month should end with good weather (gentle, like a lamb). Let's hope that there are only a few roars and many days of great sailing weather ahead for the Frostbite races!

Even though it is a Leap Year with 29 days for the month of February, there was much to do prior to the annual gala! The Social Committee was able to bake and decorate over 100 cookies and cupcakes the week prior to the event. Many thanks to Robin Witte for hosting an evening of snacks and beverages while we decorated the cookies and cupcakes in the traditional nautical themes. Thanks to our bakers and decorators: Jody Keen, Karen Eggert, Ali Banholzer, Donna Maneely, Katharine Gaines, Jen Marbourg and daughter Evie. In addition, many thanks to Jody Keen, Katherine Woodworth, and Joan Blaney for decorating the tables at the Olde Breton Inn on the morning of the gala. The centerpieces on the tabletops and fireplaces were amazing! A shout out should also go out to Haley Sibley, Vatanna and Katharine Gaines for manning the check-in table and ALL of the members who helped with clean up! Thank You!



## Upcoming Events:

Spring Clean-up - March 16th 9am (Social Committee will need help with Kitchen and Event Storage)

Opening Day - April 6th (Social Committee will need help with set-up, event coordination and clean up)

# Bring a friend to the SpinSheet Crew Party

*By Tim Flaherty*



Our annual open house held in conjunction with SpinSheet Magazine will be held at the clubhouse on **Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 6pm**, right after the day's Frostbite Series race. This year's Crew Party is also being sponsored by Coors Banquet Beer and Bozick Distributors of Waldorf, Maryland.

"Start Sailing Now" is a sub theme, once again, to this year's open house, and SMSA members are asked to bring along a non-sailing friend, neighbor or colleague in order to introduce them to SMSA and the joys of sailing. Each

SMSA program will have a table or special area where representatives will explain to newcomers what that program does, and how they can become involved and "start sailing now." SpinSheet representatives will also be on hand to greet guests, promote the magazine's "Start Sailing Now" effort, and lead a Q and A. Boats in need of crew and crew in need of a boat can make contacts, and new people can be brought into the sport via our local scene. Our Adult Learn to Sail program and High School and Summer Camp programs are especially good draws to attract new people, and each will have several people on hand to talk up sailing and SMSA with the general public.

We will also have free light fare (probably pizza and perhaps fried chicken), and of course the bar will be open. Coors Banquet Beer, once considered the flagship beer of the Coors Brewing Company, is now being stocked by SMSA, and we invite you to try it and support our local sponsor.



The SMSA Crew Party is one of three such events promoted by SpinSheet on an annual basis, with the other two parties being held later this spring in Hampton and Annapolis. SpinSheet began the crew party experience about 20 years ago with their first "Crew Listing Party" in Eastport. The idea was to match experienced, as well as inexperienced, racing crew with boats in need of help. The effort caught on with not only experienced racers, but with newbies who otherwise had no idea how to get involved with sailing. The "party" part grew exponentially, and now the SpinSheet Crew Parties are highly anticipated events up and down the Chesapeake by cruisers and racers alike.



The SpinSheet Solomons Crew Party is a terrific way to show off our club, attract new members, promote sailing, find crew for your boat, find a skipper to sail with, and just talk sailing with new and old friends. So, ask a neighbor, co-worker, classmate, your mail carrier, etc. to come visit the club on Sunday, March 10 from 4pm – 6pm and find out more about sailing and SMSA.

Although not required to attend the party, skippers and prospective crew are urged to sign-up online for SpinSheet's Crew Finder at <https://www.spinsheet.com/crew-finder>.





## Juniors Can Learn Valuable Offshore Survival Skills on Shore and On the Water

- When: Tuesday, June 18, 2024, 0900h—1700h
- Where: Annapolis Yacht Club Sailing Center
- Cost: There is no fee
- Deadline for sign up is May 31, 2024!

Contact: David Shaeffer, Storm Trysail Governor, for questions or additional information at [dsshaeffer@gmail.com](mailto:dsshaeffer@gmail.com) • 410-507-1484

[Register Here](#)

## THE LESSONS LEARNED MAY SAVE SOMEONE'S LIFE!

**Topics typically include:** Crew overboard prevention and recovery, bit boat safety equipment, fire suppression, life raft deployment, and boarding, flair use, reefing sails and storm sail technique, and radio communications.

**Minimum age is 13. Participants must be proficient at basic sailing.**

**You must know how to sail!**

(Exception to age will be made upon inquiry)



[CBYRA.ORG](http://CBYRA.ORG)

## Eight Bells.....



David L. Zonderman, long time SMSA Member and husband of Lois Zonderman, set sail for the last time on February 14, 2024. He was a healer, a sailor, a man of integrity, humility, and generosity who touched the lives of many. A service commemorating his life took place on February 25, 2024 in Dover, New Jersey.

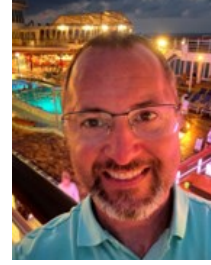
Dave, as he was known in SMSA, was an avid cruiser, who also enjoyed racing his boat in the Screwpile Cruising Class. He and Lois spent wonderful times aboard *Walkabout*, their Catalina 400, which they cruised

with the club and often in the company of their Solomons Landing neighbors and friends, who are also fellow club members. Dave and Lois recently moved back to New Jersey to be close to family, as his health was declining. But before that time, they were frequent Friday night happy hour participants and they attended as many club social events that their schedules would allow.



## CRUISERS CORNER

**Phil Sibley**  
*Cruising Chair*  
cruise@smsa.com



Cruisers have been hard at work finalizing plans for upcoming trips in 2024. Although the SMSA Website calendar is up to date with the planned cruising events, inputs for the Cruise Tab of the website will soon be finalized to include detailed descriptions for each cruise this year. Stay tuned to see all the incredible details associated with each cruise occurring in 2024! It sure will be one for the books!

Recent questions have been coming in regarding what is involved with cruising and how can we participate?

Cruising is essentially 2+ boats (and crew) gathering at a predetermined location to enjoy a great time of fellowship, laughter, fun games, great food, music, concerts, etc. It was once told to me that "Being a cruiser is not about the destination necessarily, but rather the entire trip!" Whether you power boat to the destination, sail, "Road Cruise", or even dinghy in, all are welcome to join in on the fun provided by the cruising fleet. Do not have a boat? Find/make friends with one of our many captains and join in on the fun. Not all cruising events are overnight excursions. Many of the destinations have lodging closely located at each marina if you do not have or do not feel like staying on the boat. If you are interested in hearing more, feel free to reach out to any of the cruisers within the club or myself as well for further information on how to participate in any of our amazing activities.

With only a little under two months remaining for preparing your vessels for the annual Rollins Cove Cruise and overnight raft up, there is still time to get those last minute repairs and additions completed on your boats. Continue the hard work of preparing your vessels for this upcoming season and feel free to spread the word about what SMSA and the cruising fleet has to offer. I cannot wait to see how many newer cruisers we can recruit this year!

**THINK CRUISING!**



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## JUNIOR



**Harry & Kati Keith**

*Junior Chairs*

junior@smsa.com



## Full Speed Ahead for 2024 Camp!

SMSA is holding Summer Sailing Camp for 7 weekly sessions starting June 24 and going through August 9. Registration for members and the public is open.

Camp is for beginner and experienced sailors ages 8 through 14 - Optis for the younger sailors and 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.

Please register your campers as soon as you can! Slots for all ages are still available in all 7 sessions.

For more information and registration, visit our website, [www.smsa.com](http://www.smsa.com), and look for the Junior Camps tab.

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

### **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](mailto:junior@smsa.com). Remember that registration is now open to non-members, so don't delay in getting registered to get the timeslot you need.

## KEELBOAT RACING



**Erick Burger**

*Keelboat Race Chair*

keelboatrace@smsa.com

Final preparations are wrapping up for the spring frostbites to start March 3rd. Race marks are being placed in the water over the next couple weekends once the RC boat is available. Race committee for the first Frostbite is going to be Rakali, with RC duties handled from the shore. For those not racing, come to the end of Solomons Island (by the round-about) for a good tailgate party!

The Keelboat Participants meeting was held the evening of Feb 21 at the clubhouse with a decent turnout. Presentation and discussions consisted of:

- **Fees and registration are mandatory for racing:**

- Registration is open now, and can be accessed via the SMSA website, Keelboat racing page ([https://www.smsa.com/Race/KBRace\\_2024.php](https://www.smsa.com/Race/KBRace_2024.php)). If you plan on racing in spinnaker and non-spinnaker classes (ie B-Fleet and Non-Spinnaker) during the year, please register your boat twice; appending the "NS" to your sail number when registering for Non-spinnaker. This allows the system to populate your boat in both classes for scoring purposes. There is a discount code for the second registration so you do not need to pay twice.
- Fees have increased for 2024 from \$366 to \$390. This increase was approved by the board earlier in the year, and is to assist with increased expenses (marks maintenance, RC fuel and maintenance, insurance, etc).

- **Scoring & Classes to remain the same:**

- Use of PHRF handicap as our formal scoring process will remain in place for all races in 2024.
- Jim Whited will also be scoring all races in ORR-EZ (separately). The purpose is to investigate the use of ORR-EZ as the handicap system for next or future years. This will allow us to show race results side by side and compare over the season.
- PHRF rating ranges for each fleet are to remain the same. This will allow for consistency within the bay area racing community. PLEASE have the correct pennant on display from your backstay while you're racing.

A Fleet: rating up to 109: #9 Pennant

B Fleet: rating 110 to 145: #6 Pennant

C Fleet: rating 146 and up: #7 Pennant

NS Fleet: All ratings: #5 Pennant

- **J/70 One design fleet:**

- New this year, we are welcoming the J/70 one design fleet.
- J/70's will start alongside the B-Fleet during all starts and participate in all races as

Continued on page 15

B-Fleet boats.

- Additionally, the J/70s will be scored against each other as a one design fleet for all Wednesday evening races, and all invitational races.
- Further discussions are needed with fleet captains, keelboat, and vice commodore on the scoring for middle distance and high-point races.

- **Race Committee (RC):**

- RC Sign-up is now live on the SMSA website, Keelboat Racing page.
- Signing up for RC is mandatory for being included in racing and scoring over the course of the season.
- Please sign up for 1 race, however if all boats don't sign up, a second RC duty could be required.
- As the sign-up begins to fill up, we will work together to find a slot for everyone. Reach out to fellow skippers to see who is willing to change or swap slots. Contact information is available for most folks in the membership directory on Clubspot.
- Remember, your time as RC is a job. You are there to run a race. It is not a social hour, and not family time on the water. Some key rules to remember:
  - ♦ NO ALCOHOL for the skipper while underway or during the race (even at anchor). Often RC needs to pull anchor and move to shorten the course. It is up to the skipper if others are allowed to drink, but remember why you are there. Feel free to indulge back at the club following the race.
  - ♦ Children MUST wear life vests at all times. Read up on regulations for details.
  - ♦ Ensure you are familiar with RC Management, and how to operate the RC Boat. There is a RC Management course being offered, and RC Boat operations and refreshers are available by contacting the RC Boat Captain (Joe Frost).
  - ♦ RC gets very crowded with more than 8 people onboard. Please plan accordingly. your entire racing crew does not need to be onboard to get credit for RC duties.

- **Schedule of upcoming events:**

- Rules of Racing seminar - March 2nd: presented by our in-house Judge (and member) Dan Trammell.
- First Spring Frostbite - Sunday, March 3rd. (see 2023 SI's for details)
- Spinsheet Crew Party - March 10th, 4-6PM.
- RC Management Basics - April 3rd: presented by our in-house Professional Principal Race Officer (and member) Don Behrens
- First 2024 Season race - April 10th

Please feel free to email me your thoughts and concerns on the above at [keelboatrace@smsa.com](mailto:keelboatrace@smsa.com).

LET'S HAVE A GREAT SEASON - EB



## 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](#)**







## 140 Days Until Screwpile Harbor Start!

It seems like I just finished writing the February Screwpile CLEW article. Time is whipping by, and summer will be on top of us before we know it. That means it'll be time for our Screwpile regatta again in a flash. The days leading up to that weekend of July 19th-21st will be increasingly busy for the Screwpile Planning Committee (David Meiser, Joe

Frost, Shawn Stanley, Cindi Tatar, Don Behrens, and Jody Keen). And, as we converge on Screwpile weekend, sixty plus additional club volunteers will become directly engaged in working the event. An additional ~150 SMSA racers will crew boats during the 3-day regatta. Add in a number of other club members who attend the regatta parties, and Screwpile becomes an all-hands-on-deck event for SMSA.

As I wrote last month, Screwpile will again host one of the three PHRF of the Chesapeake Championship regattas. The PHRF of the Chesapeake leadership board has shifted the hosting clubs' line up for the series. This year, SMSA will host the Northern-Bay Championships at Screwpile. Fishing Bay Yacht Club will host the PHRF Mid-Bay Championships at Stingray Point Regatta on Labor Day, and Hampton Yacht Club will host the Southern-Bay Championships at Southern Bay Race Week the weekend after Memorial Day. You can register for all three of these PHRF Championship regattas now at:

Screwpile... <https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=16375>

Stingray Pt... [https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/27580#\\_registration](https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/27580#_registration)

SBRW... <https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eID=16366>

In addition to regatta daylies 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 series will catch on and start to attract more racers.

Our Screwpile 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](mailto:jimw625@comcast.net). PHRF Non-Spin Cruiser Certificates are free this year.

If you are planning to race your boat, please go ahead and register now. You can pay the fee later. We need to start filling up the Yacht Scoring Scratch Sheet so other clubs see we are trending to a very successful regatta. Whether racing or volunteering or both... or just coming for the great parties, hope to see you there.

Jim Keen

2024 Screwpile Chairman



# *Fiddler's Green*

ON SOLOMONS ISLAND

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Weekly & monthly rates available.

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 [coshiffer@gmail.com](mailto:coshiffer@gmail.com)



## HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM



**Troy Raines**

*High School Program Chair*

[hssailing@smsa.com](mailto:hssailing@smsa.com)

We are coming off of the slow period between seasons, however we have a very exciting month ahead of us. Starting March 14th we are kicking off the start of Middle and High School sailing season. Starting at 3:30pm we will have Boat Prep, Equipment setup, Personal gear check (Bring your foul weather gear). Immediately following at 6:00pm will be the Parent and Sailor meeting.

A note about this season: **Practices will run Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 3:30 - 6:30pm.** (Rig the boats to be on the water by 4:00pm).

If any parents are interested we would gladly welcome parent volunteer helpers! Please contact me at [hssailing@smsa.com](mailto:hssailing@smsa.com) if you can lend a hand.

### Volunteers are needed to help with:

- Fundraising representation
- "Parent on-site" (during practices, to assist if needed and provide a shore point of contact)
- Equipment helper (inventory out-grown gear, help with finding deals/loaner gear for new sailors)
- Facebook liaison, photographer, etc.

We have seven regattas for this spring:

- April 14 West River
- April 21 Kent Island
- April 27 Baltimore County Sailing Center
- April 28 Ryken
- May 5 Kent Island
- May 11 Baltimore County Sailing Center
- May 18 Ryken

Coach Jimmy and myself look forward to seeing the students out on the water, and don't forget to bring a friend if they are interested in sailing!!!!

# 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 Thursday, March 14, 2024

## **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!



## **SMALLBOAT RACING**



**Steven Birchfield**

*Smallboat Race Chair*

smallboatrace@smsa.com

Happy early spring SMSA sailors! Our Smallboat schedule is set with a few date changes from last years schedule. Make sure you check the website for the most up-to-date calendar of events.

We had a well attended Smallboat race meeting in February where we discussed this years events and a possible scoring change for how the highpoint is calculated for our Smallboat season. Randy Gross has put a lot of work and research into the Highpoint scoring "possible changes," and we would like your input. If you could not make the meeting and would like a copy of Randy's work on highpoint scoring, please reach out to me and I will email you a copy.

I am always looking for ideas to improve the program and increase participation. Got a great idea? Send it my way!

Our Thursdays will start up on 4/25/24, this means you still have plenty of time and dates to sign up for RC, so don't forget!

Also, at your earliest convenience, please login to Clubspot and register for all our great races we have planned this year! NORs and SIs are also ready for these events and will be posted very soon to the SMSA website.

Our first fun race this year will be the "First Annual" - Beer and Soda Run. As with last year, we will have fun sailing all around our beautiful Solomons Island and once we return to the dock, hot food will be ready for all participants.

This is going to be an awesome year on water, and I cant wait to see all of you back out on the water! Stay warm and stay safe.

Steven

# 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:



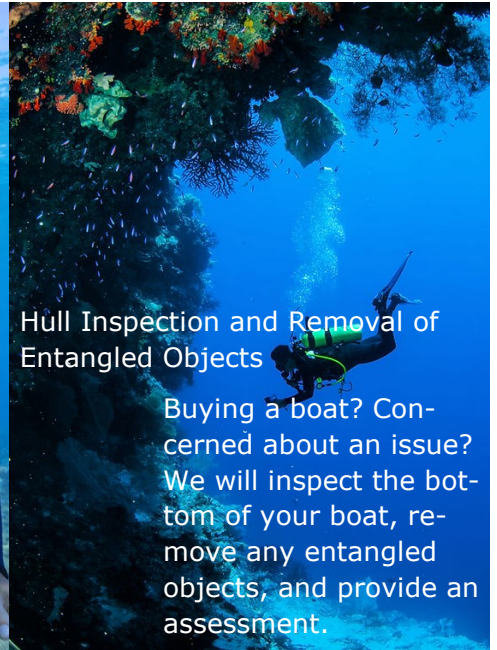
## Hull & Bottom Cleaning Plans

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.

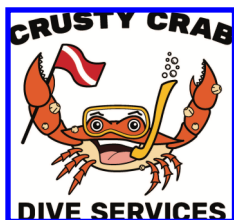


## Hull Inspection and Removal of Entangled Objects

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](mailto:jlmARBourg@smcm.edu).



SMSA Laser Sailors out practicing



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

Place  
Stamp



# The Clew

**MARCH 2024**

**Volume 54 Number 3**



## **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!

