



The Clew

Board of Directors

Tue. Jun 10 @ 7pm: Monthly Meeting

Keelboat

Wed. Jun 4, 11, 18, 25: Wednesday Night B Series
Sat. Jun 21: Smith Point Race (SMSA High Point)
Sat. Jun 22: Summer Invitational (CBYRA & SMSA High Point)

Social

Sat. Jun 7: Luau @4:30pm
Fri. Jul 4: Independence Day Party @4pm

Smallboat

Thur. Jun 5, 12, 19, 26: Smallboat Racing
Sat. Jun 7: Smallboat Invitational
Sun. Jun 8: Broken Rudder Regatta

Cruise

Fri. Jun 13—Thur. June 26: Delmarva Cruise
Sat. Jun 21—Sun. Jun. 22: SIYC/SMSA Summer
Sailstice 25th Anniv. Cruise
Fri. Jul 4—Mon. Jul 7: 4th of July Cruise

Happy Hour

Fri. 5:30pm—9:00pm



Commodore's Corner

By John Blaney
commodore@smsa.com



I've been doing some reading recently when not working on my boat and discovered a bunch of articles on racing - to use the rules or not. So as a cruiser, I was curious and after pouring through the articles, IMHO some prime guiding principles seem to be much better than the RRS's.

I saw that the current RRS '25-'28 is nearly 160 pages long. However pages 13 to 35 seem to be what really matters on the water. The rest is getting there.

Page 13 has two basic principles "Sportsmanship and the Rules" and "Environmental Responsibility". For the first one, the participant is expected to follow the rules but also to enforce them. So the participant is both a Player and a Referee, seems like a conflict to this cruiser.

Then they call sportsmanship as taking a penalty upon breaking a rule if not exonerated. That sets the expectation that rules will be broken. If that's the opening gambit of the "rules" then why bother to have them at all.

The environmental responsibility part seems to be common sense but probably as discardable as the rest of the rules.

As I kept reading, this next part was interesting to this cruiser as well, Part 1 Fundamental Rules. Helping, life preserving PFDs, fair sailing, it's your decision to race, and you accept the rules! Seems that putting someone in danger should be avoided and no matter whether racing rules are used or not there's the COLREGS and IPCAS which have the overriding emphasis to avoid a collision even if you have the right of way. I guess in the heat of the battle to win a race, this rule needs to be emphasized....hmmm.

Part 2, When Boats Meet, this seems to set the expectation they will "meet" not "nearly meet", where meet = collision. Article 14 Avoiding Contact starts "If reasonably possible..." appears to open the door to contact, not avoiding it. The emphasis seems to be all wrong, shouldn't contact be avoided.

Part 3, Conduct of a Race has more to do with being RC and getting a race started, run, changed, and concluded. There are a couple of sail the course instructions, don't hit marks or RC boats but not other boats.

Part 4, Other Requirements which includes Rule 42 Propulsion. This prevents ooching, aahing, pumping, etc. as motive power. If it works why not and let eve-

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ryone do it, but then again, I'm just a cruiser.

Finally Rule 43 explains Exoneration as if you got forced to break a rule you're ok. This one has me scratching my head a bit.

Part 5, Protests aka the lawyer bits. Why not say that a protest will result is a disqualification if you lose the protest, make the penalty not worth it.

Part 6, Entry and Qualification. The paperwork to get on the water.

Part 7, Event Organization. Lots of organizer issues to deal with. Why would you run an event? Seems like a lot of red tape.

Then there are 100 pages of appendices (Appendices A - T). Most are for racing variants such as windsurfing, kiteboarding, radio controlled, match, and team racing. Then others deal with Sail #'s, weights, NOR's, SI's while others deal with Protest committees, appeals, juries arbitration (lawyers anyone) and special attention for Rule 42 Propulsion.

Can it get more complicated? The RRS represent 100 years of complexity on complexity with some simplification attempted. Seems like we could get rid of the lawyers sweating over every word and start afresh with a couple of basics.

1. Avoid collisions or else you're disqualified.
2. Starboard had right of way.
3. Rounding corners - stay in your lane.

The rules of the road are simpler than the RRS.

I guess I'll get an earful from my racer friends.



Members' Corner!

Help Needed!

Small Boat Racing Safety/Mark Boat Drivers & Crew



Your Safety Boat Captain (Randy Gross) is seeking Cruisers, Keelboat crew, and other club members interested in becoming Safety/Mark Boat drivers and/or crew. Come have an enjoyable evening on the water learning more about sailboat racing surrounded by enthusiastic, talented racers. If you want to watch some great racing while helping this

very appreciative group, this is your chance.

Every Thursday Evening throughout the summer (and some weekends), a dedicated cadre of SMSA sailors compete in multiple Small Boat races. While they do a great job taking turns to man the Race Committee boat, it can be challenging to also man the club's Medium Skiff as a Safety/Mark boat to support the races.

The Safety/Mark boat's primary purpose is to render assistance to any sailor who may capsize/turtle their boat or have any other breakdowns. Additionally, having a boat available to move Marks when the wind shifts greatly increases the Race Committee's ability to provide timely, competitive, race courses. Sometimes, towing boats back into the harbor when the wind dies is also called for.

For drivers, experience operating small outboard boats is desired, but I am willing to train. For crew, the ability to safely walk around on a small boat, is the only requirement, though being able to pull up and deploy the Mark anchors is a big plus.

The more availability the better, but even once a month would be a great help. I got into doing Small Boat Race Committee because I was getting too stiff and clumsy to move around on the racing boats, but I still wanted to be involved in sailboat racing. This has worked out great for me, and I have found the racers to be VERY appreciative at the bar.



Please contact Randy Gross at 301 904-9712 (texts welcome) or email maxgross83@gmail.com if you are interested.

Members' Corner!

The Patuxent Pursuit

July 18 –20, 2025

SMSA's newest regatta is now scheduled thanks to the many folks on the committee that have been sorting out the details. Information about this event is currently available on the front page of the SMSA Website (www.smsa.com). Click here ([Registration](#)) to register or here ([Online Shop](#)) for dinner tickets and merchandise. Please note there is a registration discount if you sign up before June 1st.

Adult Learn to Sail (ALTS) Info

Friday NIGHT ALTS sessions each week. Show up and sail! This season we will alternate Friday lessons between 420 / Sunfish sailing nights and Holder 20 Sailing nights in order to accommodate a broader range of sailors. Multiple instructors will be there to help you get sailing. Show up at 5pm to sail.

Schedule additional (Non-Friday) on the water lessons with an SMSA instructor by signing up on the SMSA website:

(<https://www.smsa.com/ALTS.php>)

Email learntosail@smsa.com with any questions

CLUB ACCESS—Door Combination Change

On Opening Day, Saturday, April 5th, Members received their Yearbook as well as a Welcome Letter which will contain the new door codes for the 2025 Season. These codes went into effect on Saturday, May 3rd. Any questions, please contact the Facilities Chair, Harry Keith (facility@smsa.com).

If you haven't received your yearbook and welcome letter, they are available for pickup at the club and if you need assistance please contact Membership Chair, Kristi Yurko (membership@smsa.com).

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:



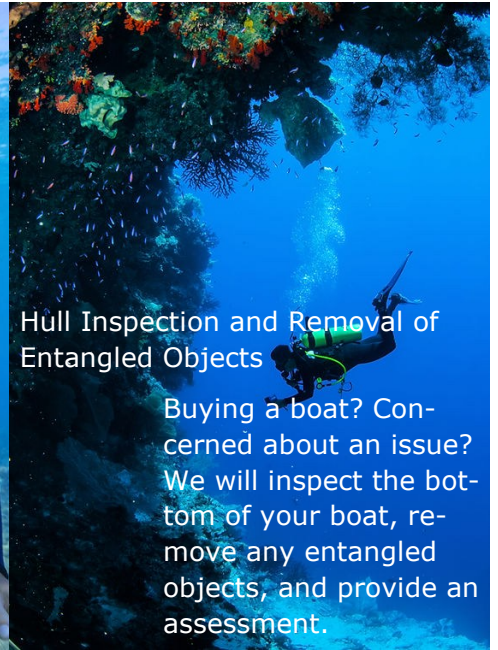
Hull & Bottom Cleaning Plans

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/>



HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM



Rebecca Wingate

High School Program Chair

hssailing@smsa.com

The Spring 2025 season has wrapped up for the middle school and high school team! They started out the month of May with two boats in a Tier 2 regatta at St. Mary's Ryken on May 10th, and ended at the JV and Varsity Championships at Tred Avon Yacht Club on May 24th and 25th, with lots of practice, Pirate Day, and a pizza party in between!

We had a full roster of sailors at the Ryken Tier 2 regatta on May 10th, with Tommy Birchfield, Nolan Wingate, Max Wingate, and Jekari Mason as skippers with Logan Coons, Loundin Curtis, Asher Egan, and Colt Touchton as crew. Our boats placed 5th and 10th, and had several top of the pack finishes! It was great to have eight sailors out racing instead of our usual four.

The much anticipated Pirate Day was held on Thursday, May 22nd, which is always a favorite with the team. They packed all their fun in before the thunderstorm hit that evening, during the Thursday night small boat race. Nolan, Max, and Asher were participating in the small boat race and made it back to the dock safe and sound. We had our season wrap up and pizza party on Friday, May 23rd. The kids had one last on the water sailing practice, and enjoyed a beautiful evening full of swimming, kayaking, and eating pizza with friends. A good time was had by all!

The MDISA League Championship regattas were by invitation, and based on high point scoring from the season. Both our JV and Varsity level teams were invited to participate and made the long drive out to Tred Avon Yacht Club in Oxford. On Saturday, May 24th, Annabelle Yurko and Owen Myers skippered in the JV Champs with Colt Touchton and Max Wingate as crew. The day was breezy, with many boats capsizing in the morning. The breeze held steady, and sailors sailed 12 races (6 in each division), placing 16th out of 17 teams. On Sunday, May 25th, Tommy Birchfield and Nolan Wingate skippered in the Varsity Champs with Layken Therres and Joseph DiBonaventuro as crew. The day was shift, and the race course was constantly adjusted. The sailors sailed 10 races (5 in each division), placing 10th out of 16 teams. It was a great weekend to end the season!

As we wrap up, I want to send a huge thanks to our coaches, families, and sailors. It takes a village to support these sailors who are passionate about being on the water. Jimmy Yurko, Randy Gross, Vlad Eremeev, and Bill Shoemaker spend many hours on the water practicing with the sailors, families (parents and sib-

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lings) spend many weekends at regattas, and the sailors dedicate their spare time to practices and their weekends to regattas- we see your efforts, and we appreciate them! Thank you to SMSA and the club members who support our team in various ways. It's been a pleasure watching this team grow this year, and we look forward to the next season!



JUNIOR

Kati Keith
Junior Chair
junior@smsa.com



Summer Sailing Camp Starts June 23!



In a few weeks, SMSA Sailing Camp will be starting! We are excited to host 7 weekly sessions from June 23rd through August 8th here at our wonderful SMSA facility in Solomons from 9 AM to 4 PM. We welcome beginner and experienced sailors ages 8 to 16.

Weeks are filling up fast!

	6/23	6/30	7/7	7/14	7/21	7/28	8/4
Opti's (ages 8-11)	Full	Full	Full	Full	1 spot left	Open	Open
420's (ages 11-16)	1 spot left	Open	Full	Open	Open	Open	Open

This year we are offering a discount for campers attending multiple weeks of camp.

For more information and to register, visit our website, www.smsa.com, and look for the Junior Camps tab. Any other questions, please contact Junior Chair, Kati Keith at junior@smsa.com.





THE SOCIAL SCENE

Paige Smith, Chair
social@smsa.com



Spring has definitely sprung! It has been a beautiful month of sunny and even cool weather. May brought some great sailing weather and while there was only one social event, the clubhouse was quite the scene after numerous racing, regatta and cruising events. June brings more sailing, racing and camaraderie.

Our next big event is the annual Luau. It will begin at 5pm on Saturday, June 7th at Safe Harbor Zahniser's. We will be serving hot dogs, hamburgers and grilled chicken. There will also be live music and the club will provide beer, wine and rum punch! Please plan to bring a side dish to serve 8 – 10. Try to think outside the box and be creative, so that we don't have ½ dozen watermelons and an abundance of deviled eggs!

REMINDER: We are in need of VOLUNTEERS to help with drink prep (Friday evening at clubhouse), decorations and table delivery (Saturday morning 10am), drink table servers (5:30 - 7:30pm) and clean up (7:30 - 8pm). Please contact Paige Smith at social@smsa.com or 703-475-5629.

Kentucky Derby Party
2025





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SMALLBOAT RACING



Steven Birchfield

Smallboat Race Chair

smallboatrace@smsa.com

Smallboat racing is off to a great start so far this year. Thank you to all the volunteers helping each week on RC and on the mark boat. Not only do you allow us to have a great race each Thursday, you also make our program safer each week! With that said if you have not signed up yet for RC, please make sure you get on line and sign up today.

Our summer activities are quickly approaching with the next upcoming events on June 7th and June 8th. Saturday is our annual Invitational race followed by Sunday's Broken Rudder Regatta. Come one and come all, and invite your out of town friends with boats to join us! Remember, afterwards we will be heading over to the SMSA Luau at Zahniser's on Saturday June 7th so don't forget your Hawaiian shirts!

Also a BIG thank you to the Yurko's for planning and having food available each Thursday night after racing. Everything has tasted SO delicious!



Singer-Songwriter **Scott Kirby** returns to Solomons on Sunday, August 10th. Doors open at 3pm, concert starts at 4pm. Scott will be joined by lead guitarist Dave Edmisten.

Tickets are \$18 for members (must be a current member to enter via the member ticket link), and \$25 for guests available at <http://SMSA.com> (scroll towards the bottom of the page). No tickets will be distributed, bring your ID to be checked at the door.

For more information about Scott's music check out his website: (<https://www.scottkirby.com/scott-kirby-biography>)

Money raised by this annual show directly supports SMSA programs where we can buy some new suits of sails for the 420's or even a new kayak. Come on out and bring some friends and enjoy the great acoustics and atmosphere we have at SMSA.

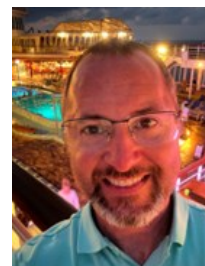
No refunds. Please email us if you sell your spot so we have an accurate list at the door.

CRUISERS CORNER

Phil Sibley

Cruising Chair

cruise@smsa.com



Rock'n Rollins Cove: SMSA Cruising Season Kick-Off!

By Todd Porter

Yep, Rain predicted. Yep, challenging to get boats splashed in time for the first cruise of the season. And yep, low seasonal tides kept several sailboats moored at the dock. But throw in some motivation and a little innovative thinking and wham, you get a whole lot of fun kicking off the 2025 Cruising Season!



Past and current cruisers can debate how many boats can fit into the 200 ft diameter nine feet depth Rollins Cove, whether 5 or 50 boats. But the 3-4 May 2025 Rock'n Rollins Cove cruise skippers opted for the 'Crescent' within viewing distance of Veras providing, well, some 'singing' room' . . . cause this cruise is all about 'Yacht' Rock! The Sibley's joined the fun via their high-powered motor dinghy, Les in *Cloud 9*,

John and Joan Blaney in the newly refitted *Thisilldous*, new cruise member Karl Adler in *Decoy*, Martha and Carl in *Serenity* and cruise leaders Todd and Jennifer (and Wookie) Porter in *Constellation*. Before expected showers, Todd elected to greet arriving cruisers in a stand-up paddle board, only to fall in after a few minutes. But, after confirming the lack of stinging nettles and the surprising comfortable water temperature, Yacht Rock Porter made it back to his *Constellation* in time to start Happy' Hour with a rendition of Michael McDonald's 'Tak'n it to the Streets,' the national anthem of 'Yacht Rock.' Though maybe lacking in natural talent, our cruisers more than made up for it in sheer enthusiasm with the clientele at Sunset Creek at Veras clearly hearing our Yacht Rock in all its glory. Due to the volume of sound, or the increased wind pulling on an inverted anchor, the rafted-up boats slid across the 'Crescent,' thankfully noticed by Haley in time to temporally break apart the raft up for safer an-

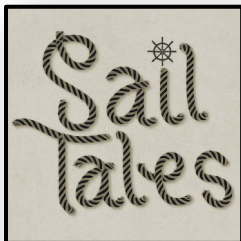


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choring. As the cruisers re-convened on *Constellation*, the Happy Hour(s) took advantage of the delayed setting sun and continued the impromptu Karaoke festivities with Ashton, Devin and Chase revealing Phil Sibley's favorite song, 'Wannabe' by the Spice Girls. Not needing any lyrics, Phil serenaded us all as the Sibley boys put on the dance moves. But not to be out-done, Devin revealed Haley Sibley's favorite song by One Direction, and the party continued. With Karl Adler

watching in amazement and not knowing what he got himself into as a new cruiser, he thankfully kept Wookie, the mini-dachshund, calm as Carl Kemp revved up the Michigan Fight Song with 'All Hail to Maize and Blue!' As the sun started to set, the Sibley boys assisted 'Yacht Rock' Porter in rowing Wookie to shore for some doggie personal business. During the shore excursion, Ashton, Devin and Chase discussed camping out on the beach for the night 'Lord of the Flies' style, but since Todd read the book, he coached the young lads back to *Constellation* to say farewell to the gang for the night as the Sibley's returned in their high speed 'dinghy' for home. For the rest of the cruisers, the rain started in the early hours of the morning, helping to cool things down. Smartly, all waited until the rain abated before heading back to Solomons. While trying to depart, *Constellation's* anchor refused to budge, being well dug-into the mud. After consulting the onboard emergency document, Google 'how to raise a stuck anchor,' the Porter's performed crafty throttling maneuvers worthy of Speed Racer in successfully freeing the anchor. Todd, hoping to stay longer rather than heading home to prepare for the upcoming work week, promises next time to leave 'Google' at the dock. Until the next cruise . . .



We invite all members to submit an article, story, photos, or anything they want to share with their fellow sailors! Please send all submissions to clew@smsa.com by the 20th of each month or contact us if you have any questions.

The 'Top Gun' Magothy Cruise

By Todd Porter

Led by Todd and Jennifer Porter, the Magothy cruise to reach the Magothy River, dine at Pirates Cove and watch the Blue Angles flight demonstration at the Naval Academy, did not all go as planned.



Todd invited popular Movie Star Tom Cruise to join the first Happy Hour. Tom Cruise jumped from his Mission Impossible speedboat shouting 'I feel the need for speed', just before sinking his stunt-boat, bow up in the Little Choptank River. The Maverick star then exited the scene by grabbing a tether line attached to a nearby C-130 to get to his next movie premier,

thereby missing the SMSA cruiser Happy Hour at Dunn Creek.

But not to be outdone, after a rousing sail up the Bay from Pax, John 'You can be my Wingman Anytime' and Joan 'Talk to me Goose' Blaney, Fred 'I am Dangerous' Siesseger and Les 'Son, Your Ego is Writing Checks Your Body Can't Cash' Griffith joined the Porter's aboard their Jeanneau 449 *Constellation* to find that 'Loving Feeling!' Accompanied by stunt Cat 'Solo' and 'Because I was Inverted' Wookie the dachshund, the cruisers' happy hour at Dunn Cove was a box office smash.



After checking the weather forecast with adverse winds and rain in the mix, the cruisers elected to head for San Domingo Creek and visit St Michael's rather than 'buzz the tower' at the Magothy. With gusty winds between 16 and 30 kts, the sail to San Domingo was more of a power cruise. As Les said, "You Don't Have Time to Think out There. If you Think, you're Dead", but all arrived safely to enjoy dinner at

Foxy's in the St Michael's harbor. The dinner was terrific, but a water outage at the restaurant called for an early night.

The plan for the next day, a sail to Annapolis to catch a mooring ball before the Annapolis harbor closed for the air show, didn't go quite as planned. Leaving early, the Blaney's on *Thisildous* put on the afterburners and cruised to the last available anchorage off the Naval Academy, reporting to

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the remaining cruisers that all mooring balls were taken. With Fred departing back to Solomons rather than face the wrath of the Chesapeake's adverse winds and current, the remaining boats decided to 'turn and burn' and not risk playing bumper boats in the Annapolis Harbor. After detouring to the South River, Les, Todd and Jennifer arrived at Selby Bay,



discovering a wonderful peaceful and tranquil anchorage. Again, with winds and rain in the forecast, the Porter's aboard *Constellation* and Les on *Cloud 9* elected to return to home base. Meanwhile, the Blaney's stayed for the air show reporting afterwards "Cool wasn't the word I use.

Supercalifrag . . . sensational. They [Blue Angels] flew directly over us a couple of times . . . Max 150 feet in the air. Reach out and touch them. The racket!! They'll do a few surprise blow over where 5 of them keep you occupied while the 6th sneaks up on you. What a show." Which only goes to prove that sometimes the best laid plans turn out even better. The cruise that actually did not make it to the Magothy River was better than ever!



CLASSIFIED ADS

New 2024 3.5hp Mercury Long Shaft. Only 10 hours on it. I bought it for Charleston Race Week and decided it was too big for my J70. Warranty can be transferred into your name. Purchased from West Marine. Email Spencer.g.wait@gmail.com or call or text 904-860-3796. \$900obo.



Dinghy - Zodiac Cadet C 260 8' 6"

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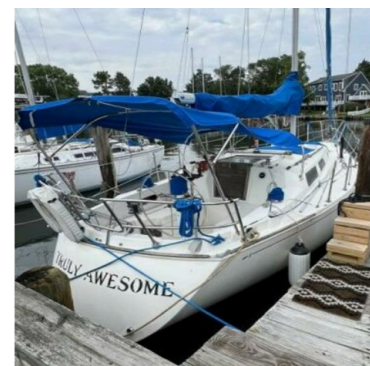
- Flexible fiber, inflatable with oars and inflation pump
- Includes a fabric wrap for storage.
- 2004 model, in storage for past 5 years
- Local pick-up in Solomons

Contact Carl Kemp for more information 703-969-8783



1990 Sabre 30-3 MKIII Sailboat racer-cruiser for sale - \$20,000 (REDUCED PRICE) Well maintained and ready to sail! Great for racing, sailing on the bay, and weekend trips.

Dimensions: Beam: 10'6", LOA: 30'6", LWL: 25'6", Draft Max: 5'3"; **Features:** Westerbeke 18 HP Diesel, 20 Gal Fuel Tank; Plenty of counter & cabinet space for food prep/storage, 2 burner propane stove & oven, Sink with pressure hot & cold water, Large ice chest storage, 47 Gal fresh water, Navigation station, 2 x 6' couches, tons of storage, drop down table, pull-out bed; Sleeps up to 6 (V-berth, Quarter Berth) Salon; **Recent Upgrades:** 2023: Bottom Paint & hull waxed, Engine mounts & cutlass bearing, Bimini replaced; 2022: New Genoa 130% with 2 reef points, Garmin 943 Chartplotter, Running rigging; 2021: New V-berth Cushion, Portable Air-conditioner, Boom replacement with 2 reef points. Contact: Russ Egle at russegle@gmail.com or 949-338-8351





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

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The Clew

JUNE 2025

Volume 55 Number 6



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. West Marine may ask for your name which will be checked 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!

