



The Clew

The Patuxent Pursuit

Fri. Jul 18—Sun. Jul 20
See page 4 & 7 for more details

Social

Fri. Jul 4: Independence Day Party @4:30pm
See page 9 for more details

Board of Directors

Tue. Jul 8 @ 7pm: Monthly Meeting

Keelboat

Wed. Jul 2, 9, 16, 25: Wednesday Night B Series
Sat. Jul 12: Sharps Island Race (SMSA High Point)
Wed. Jul 23 Out n' Back Race
Wed. Jul 30 Wednesday Night C Series

Smallboat

Thur. Jul 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: Smallboat Racing
Sat. Jul 26: Rum Runners Regatta

Cruise

Fri. Jul 4—Mon. Jul 7: 4th of July Cruise
Fri. Jul 11—Wed. Jul 16: Annapolis Garden Cruise
Fri. Jul 25—Mon. Jul 28: Oxford/Cambridge Cruise

Happy Hour

Fri. 5:30pm—9:00pm



Commodore's Corner

By John Blaney
commodore@smsa.com



Good afternoon from the Atlantic off Ocean City, MD. We're half way around the DelMarVa cruise. Some mixed weather with the wind as usual for a cruise - dead ahead of us.

July brings an important event -The Patuxent Pursuit regatta. That's in addition to a the other July events etc. This is your opportunity to make the club run event a successful one. Bring your friends to participate. Sign your boats up for the races, volunteer for on water support or on land support. It will take the whole club to participate to make it successful and enjoyable for all.

I've signed *Thisilldous* up to race. That means my crew (I still have to find one) and I will need to get rid of a few cruising related items like my dinghy, davits, 150g water, and maybe some fuel to even be competitive. I'm doing it to participate and do my bit to make this event successful. My admiral is supporting the land based activities also.

The format is different with the pursuit races being added to our standard windward/leeward racing with the objective of fun for all. Our committee has been diligently working on all aspects of this event, with many of its members having years of both racing and organizing behind them. I'd like to thank them for stepping into the void following Screwpile's sundown and coming up with this as quickly as they did.

It's now your turn to make it a success however you participate. Thank you in advance.

John

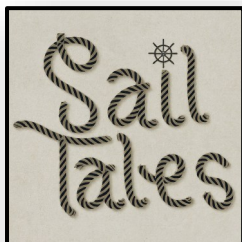


Members' Corner!

Member Protocols During Sailing Camp

SMSA operates certain youth sailing summer camps, during which camps the safety and security of youth campers must be of paramount importance. During these youth summer camps, it is recognized that SMSA members may need or desire to be on the SMSA property together with the youth campers. In order to ensure that proper protocols are in place to ensure camper safety, following are the procedures which should be followed by all SMSA members (and any accompanied guests) who are on the SMSA property during the hours of sailing camp:

1. All SMSA members shall check in with the camp Director immediately upon entering any part of the SMSA Clubhouse and surrounding property. The Director shall have access to a current SMSA membership roster and will verify the member's current membership status.
2. All SMSA members shall, to the fullest reasonable extent, stay clear of all campers and camp activities.
3. All SMSA members shall have no contact or interaction with any camper.
4. All SMSA members shall use the restroom facility inside the main front room of the clubhouse, which are off limits to campers.
5. All SMSA members who may need to enter the small boat equipment and sail storage area and rows D and E (Laser Storage Area) shall first coordinate with the camp Director.
6. The T-Head is closed from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, while camps are in session.

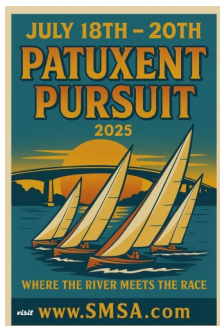


We invite all members to submit an article, story, photos, or anything they want to share with their fellow sailors! Please send all submissions to clew@smsa.com by the 20th of each month or contact us if you have any questions.

Members' Corner!

The Patuxent Pursuit

July 18 –20, 2025



Your very own SMSA summer regatta is only days away! The Patuxent Pursuit is the new premier 3-day regatta hosted by SMSA for SMSA.

We will have a fun Pursuit style race on Friday afternoon followed by a gathering at the clubhouse afterwards with informal awards and food for purchase from the Jamaican Grill food truck to kickstart the weekend's fun.

Saturday and Sunday will be more pursuit racing on the cruiser course and classic W/L racing on the PHRF course. Both days are followed by food, drinks, music and more at the club and of course daily awards. If you haven't signed up, the event information and registration links are located 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.

We look forward to seeing you all there and are proud to bring you The Patuxent Pursuit.

Adult Learn to Sail (ALTS) Info

Are you looking for a great excuse to get out and do something different? Show up for Friday NIGHT sailing 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. Get personalized help and have a great time on the water. **YES, you can bring a friend!!!**

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

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.

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
- Support the race committee by moving marks
- Towing boats back into the harbor when the wind dies or boats have equipment issues and can't sail in on their own

Drivers: experienced with operating small outboard boats is desired, but training is available if you are interested in volunteering.

Safety Boat Crew: 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 plus.

Now is a good time to learn these skillsets in preparation to help with the Fall Smallboat Invitational, a 2-day event. You can practice these skills during Thursday night Smallboat Racing

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



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:



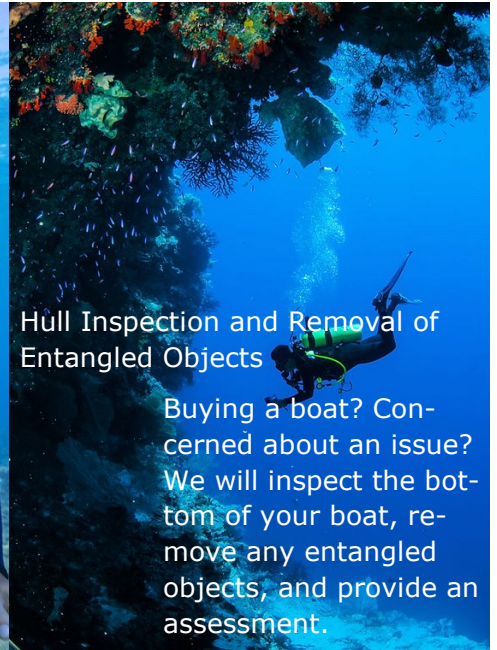
Hull & Bottom Cleaning Plans

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.

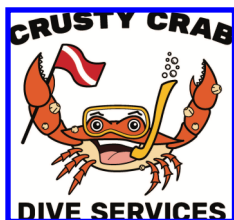


Hull Inspection and Removal of Entangled Objects

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/>



The Patuxent Pursuit

July 18 - 20, 2025

Where the River Meets the Race



Presented by:
SMSA



Shore events/Boat Check-in at:
Southern Maryland Sailing Association
14490 Solomons Island Road
Solomons, MD



Friday - Distance Pursuit Race for all boats



Saturday/Sunday Racing Option:
Windward/Leward Bay Bouy Racing
OR
Pursuit Racing on the Patuxent River
Navigator/Crusier Course



Register here:

www.smsa.com



Food/Drinks/Parties



Daily/Overall Awards



Swag for Purchase

For questions contact: Chair - Steve Birchfield - sbirchfield.sb@gmail.com
PRO - John Herbig - paxpursuitpro@smsa.com

JUNIOR

Kati Keith

Junior Chair

junior@smsa.com



Summer Sailing Camp in Action!



We started SMSA Sailing Camp on June 23 with a full slate of junior sailors. It was a hot, hot, hot week but the sailors and staff made the best of it and there was good instruction and sailing. Some action photos will be in next month's Clew.

We are excited to host 6 more weekly sessions 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.

There is still some space available!

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



Happy Summer SMSA! Summer has arrived and so has the heat! Even though June ended with high temperatures, the sailing weather could not have been more perfect! There were numerous days with great winds for races, cruises, and sunset sails.

The SMSA Luau was one of those great social events that occurred on a perfect weather day and was a tremendous success! Many thanks goes out to those who helped with party supply purchase, garnish prep on Friday evening, Saturday morning setup, food/beverage assistance during the party, grilling team, and clean up crew! I truly appreciated all the assistance.

Our next big event is the 4th of July Celebration. Please plan on joining us for the fireworks display organized by the Solomons Business Association and remember to bring your chairs. SMSA will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, and brats for the potluck. Doors will open at 4:30pm and the potluck will begin around 6:30pm. Members should plan to bring side dishes and desserts to provide for 8 -10 individuals.

IMPORTANT: Members are needed to help prepare for this event! Please contact Paige Smith at social@smsa.com or 703-475-5629 to assist in the setup, side dish table management, grilling and clean up.



FACILITIES



Harry Keith

Facilities Chair

facility@smsa.com

With the skilled help of Calvin Stull, the old, dim, and NOISY fluorescent lights around the soffits in the front room have been replaced with bright LED lights.

Note that the one over the projector has a switch (in the ceiling, just over the corner of the Trophy Cabinet). And thanks to Shane Myers who walked through while we were working and volunteered to take the old ones to the dump.

Also, I will be out of town from July 5 to mid-August sailing in Massachusetts. Phone/email (410-271-7682/facility@smsa.com) should be fairly consistent, but immediate action may be difficult. In the interim, please contact Randy Gross (maxgross83@gmail.com) if faster support is needed.



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.



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EVENT & RACE APPAREL
FOUL WEATHER GEAR
BOAT GRAPHICS,
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Some of our most popular brands include:



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MORE INFO!**

410-505-3201

everytimepromo.com

SMALLBOAT RACING



Steven Birchfield

Smallboat Race Chair

smallboatrace@smsa.com

Happy summer Smallboat Racers! It's always great to see everyone out on the water every Thursday crossing tacks with each other.

Recently, we held our annual Smallboat Invitational and the ever popular Broken Rudder Race. This year we had a strong fleet of 15 boats sailing on the start line but would love to see more boats join us in the future. Unfortunately the distance race was cut a little short due to potential weather conditions. It's always better to be safer, and for that we thank our RC teams over the weekend for all the help and keeping us safe!

Next year, look for the "Smallboat Invitational" to become the "Island Time Regatta"! We're hoping that this catchier name will help us draw other sailors to come join the fun.

Now that School is officially out for the summer I hope to see our high school sailors join us on Thursdays and weekends, continuing to hone their skills on the 420s or on their own boats! As always thank you to everyone who has signed up to do RC and if you haven't done so already, please do so!



KEELBOAT RACING



Larry Ray & Tom Moulds

Keelboat Race Co-Chairs

keelboatrace@smsa.com



We would like to congratulate and celebrate all the skippers and crew for the great turnout for Wednesday night races. Some 26 boats and 126 souls on board recently showed up for a beautiful Wednesday night of racing. The B fleet was the largest contingent with 9 boats as all 5 J70's made the starting line for first time this season. Let's keep this trend going.

The Keelboat Chairs have recently been requested to issue an SI modification changing the Women's race to September 6 from its original date of September 26. Please note if you are planning to participate in this race.

RC Volunteers: We strongly encourage you to review the instructions for managing RC duties in advance of the race. Preparing to have all necessary flags at the ready for display as needed at the start for any boats over the starting line was recently an issue. While hailing on the radio is also a good practice, flags are the definitive control. The RC's are run by much appreciated volunteers and a little advance preparation can go a long way to keep this experience issue free on the race course and post race results.

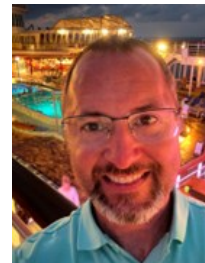


CRUISERS CORNER

Phil Sibley

Cruising Chair

cruise@smsa.com



The cruising fleet has been busy traveling the Chesapeake Bay during the month of June with an early trip to Cuckold Creek in the beginning of the month as part of a Where the Wind Blows (WTWB).

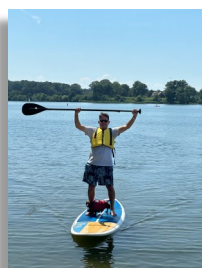
The Delmarva Cruise, led by Lester Griffith (*Cloud 9*), seemed well attended and brought out all aspects of cruising to include wind, no wind, rough weather, and many days of great sunlight. Looking forward to the full report which will be included in the next Clew Article.

Looking ahead, the month of July will bring many of the cruisers favorite destinations beginning with the 4th of July Cruise led by Carl and Martha Kemp which concludes just day before the Annapolis Garden Theater Cruise. Make sure to get your tickets for the Garden Theater, which are on sale now!

The month of July will end with another favorite trip to Oxford/Cambridge being led by one of our newest Cruising Leaders, Chris and Russ Egle who plan to put together a great trip.

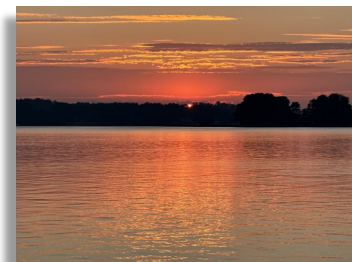
If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to any of the Cruise Leaders assigned to each of the cruises or the Cruise Chair for additional details. Either way,

KEEP CRUISING!



Photos from the 2024
4th of July Cruise!

2025 is looking to be
just as much fun!



What you need to know for the St. Mary's and 4th of July Picnic Cruise with Cruise Leaders Carl and Martha Kemp!

If you plan to attend this cruise, email carlfkemp@gmail.com or call Carl on 703-969-8783.



Day 1 - Jul 4, '25

Sail south to Potomac, then St. Mary's River. Anchor in St. Mary's at Horseshoe Bend. Opportunity to Dinghy ashore for Independence Day Concert by Chesapeake Orchestra, at St. Mary's College (7-9pm); or stay on boat and listen to concert. If going ashore take a chair. Food trucks are available on shore. Gather on the left side of the concert grounds (facing the stage).

This is a large anchorage area and gets busy before the event, plan to get there early.

Day 2 – Jul 5, '25

This is the picnic day – it takes place around 3:00pm. It will be at Price's Cove or on the grounds of St. Mary's College at the sailing building, depending on weather. Spend the morning sailing or walking ashore to explore the college campus. Dinghy ashore to the picnic on the beach. Bring steaks, chicken, dogs or whatever you prefer to throw on the grill and a side, appetizer or dessert to share. (If we go to Price's Cove, sail out St Mary's River from Horseshoe Bend 4 nm to the entrance of St George Creek. Price Cove is to the north just after entering the creek.)

This anchorage is dependent on the weather and preferences. Messages will go out during cruise.

Day 3 – Jul 6 '25

Sunday is a lazy day. Sail, paddle board or kayak around the area, hike, or work on a project. If you want to stay at anchor, Smith Creek is nearby and has many spots to anchor that are a short dinghy ride to Pier 450 where we will meet at 4:00 for happy hour and dinner. Another option is to 'beat the heat' and reserve a slip at Point Lookout Marina. (301-872-5000).

Day 4 – Jul 7, '25

Return to Solomons

(For Lat and Longitude refer to schedules in the SMSA directory)

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.



Engel MD40F 38L Fridge Freezer 12/24V DC:
Contact Russ Fink at 757-288-1339
or rfinklegal@gmail.com for more information.



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



CLASSIFIED ADS

Dock Lines: West Marine 5/8" premium dock lines Navy Blue - new in boxes. Two 25' and one 35'. Best offer. Contact Russell Fink at 757-288-1339 or rfinklegal@gmail.com for more information.

Yamaha 4 stroke, F6 SHMA 2012 Outboard:
\$500 obo. Includes full 6 gallon external fuel tank. Lightly used and runs well. Replaced cooling water pump and impeller. Bought a lighter Honda unit. Text John Blaney at 412-576-3093 for more information.

Victron Lithium Battery and Electrical System

This is a near complete Lithium system that is approximately 2 years old. It would easily power a 45ft monohull or a Catamaran. It is almost everything you need to go lithium for your boat.

- Total of 990 Amps/Hours
- 3 x 330 amp/hour Batteries
- Multiplus Inverter (12v, 3000w, 120amps)
- Lynx Battery Management System
- 2 x DC to DC Orion converters
- 2x Lynx Distributors



\$5,000

Message: Thomasbhutson@yahoo.com or (910)-619-5729





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

Place
Stamp



The Clew

JULY 2025

Volume 55 Number 7



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!

