



The Clew

Scott Kirby Concert

Sun. Aug. 10: Doors open at 3pm
Concert starts at 4pm

Board of Directors

Tue. Aug. 12 @ 7pm: Monthly Meeting

Keelboat

Wed. Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27: Wednesday Night C Series
Sat. Aug. 16—Sun. Aug. 17: Mixed Couples Race/Battle Creek Cruise
Sat. Sept. 6: Women's Race

Smallboat

Thur. Aug. 7, 14, 21, 28: Smallboat Racing
Sat. Aug. 23: Sharks with Lasers Regatta

High School / Middle School Sailing

Tue. Aug. 19: HS/MS Sailing Kickoff Meeting @6:00pm

Cruise

Thur. Aug. 7—Wed. Aug. 13: Where the Wind Blows Cruise
Sat. Aug. 16—Sun. Aug. 17: Mixed Couples Race/Battle Creek Cruise
Fri. Aug. 29—Wed. Sep. 3: St. Michael's/Knapps Narrows Cruise

Happy Hour

Fri. 5:30pm—9:00pm



Commodore's Corner

By John Blaney
commodore@smsa.com



Well, members we have our inaugural Patuxent Pursuit Regatta under our belts. By all accounts it was very successful. We had out of town boats who picked up a few beer glasses and decanters. Our own member boats likewise were successful. It's was a hot and sweaty weekend but we got all 3 pursuit races in and multiple races per day on the windward-leeward course. The wind gods mixed it up a bit with different main direction but plenty of shifts to spice it up. The food was exemplary. A jerk Friday and Mexican on Sat and Sun had some additions. Kristy and the kitchen volunteers deserve a big hand for what they achieved. I'm expecting a facility request to provide some additional cooling in the kitchen as it was steamy in there with all the doors open. The two bars catered to the post race crowd quickly and efficiently. The rum punches were tasty and appropriate for the heat.

The final accounting hasn't been done yet but we expect that our club coffers got added to.

The committee who organized this deserve your praise. They took on the task of organizing a new regatta in March which is a really short time to get all the ducks lined up. So without further ado let me name names to thank. Regatta chair was Steve Birchfield ably assisted by committee members John Herbig, Rhonda Lafleur, Jimmy Yurko, Kristy Yurko, Christy Poppy, Melinda Keith, Spencer Wait, Amanda Wait, Jay Ball, Samantha McGuire, Norm Dawley, and Polly Traynham. When you see them thank them.

If you happen to have volunteered to bartend, stuff competitor bags, provide on water support, or assist in the kitchen, please also accept our thanks.

THANK YOU from your board. A job very well done.

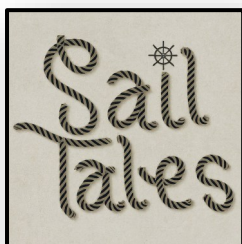
John

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.



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.

Adult Learn to Sail (ALTS) Info

What are you doing Friday, August 8? It's a full moon that evening, and a perfect excuse to get out sailing. Register for a sailing lesson at <https://www.smsa.com/ALTS.php>, or just come join us. We have a variety of boats and volunteer instructors to help you get sailing now. Can't make the 8th? Join us Fridays through September.

Do you have sailing questions you don't know where to get the answer? Do you need practice with knot tying, sailing terminology, basic rules of the road? We also have shore side sailing instruction to help answer all of those questions. The next shore session starts Monday August 4 at 6pm. Check out the SMSA website for more dates and information (<https://www.smsa.com/ALTS.php>)

Email learntosail@smsa.com with any questions or requests

Message from Facilities



We now own the building, and as Facility Chair, Harry Keith has a budget for repairs and upgrades. But despite being an engineer with a career in this field, he has trouble "seeing" things.

He is soliciting ideas from the membership on improvements or significant repairs that would enhance our use and enjoyment of the property. While there is no firm budget cap (he can always ask the board for more money!), he is specifically looking for modest projects with significant benefits. As a very rough idea of size, he would be most receptive to projects under \$10k.

He is not promising to do anything suggested, but will be doing a benefit analysis on anything suggested.

Please send ideas to him at facility@smsa.com



Patuxent River Sailing Team

Come join the FUN!!



Fall 2025 SEASON begins Tuesday, August 19th, 2025

WHAT: Practices Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday 3:15-6:30 PM
Regattas on select weekends

WHERE: Southern Maryland Sailing Association
Solomons, Maryland

WHO: Students in 7th-12th Grade
No experience required!

Find us at smsa.com/hssailing or via email hssailing@smsa.com



THE SOCIAL SCENE

Paige Smith, Chair
social@smsa.com



This past month was HOT, HOT, HOT! And so was our annual 4th of July party and potluck! It was a tremendous success and very well attended. The Solomons Business Association wowed the island again with a spectacular display of fireworks and many members took advantage of our prime location to celebrate the occasion and enjoy the fireworks with family and friends. Thank you to all who helped with the decorations and potluck setup. Special thanks

to Steve Birchfield for grilling the delicious foods for the event. And thanks to everyone who contributed to the potluck. The dishes were wonderful and your generous participation in these events is very much appreciated. We couldn't put together these great events without our group of dedicated volunteers and the enthusiastic members' contributions.



While there are no formal social events in August, the annual Scott Kirby Concert will be held on Sunday, August 10th, with doors opening at 3pm. Get your tickets early on the SMSA website to support the SMSA programs and enjoy some live music with your SMSA family.

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:



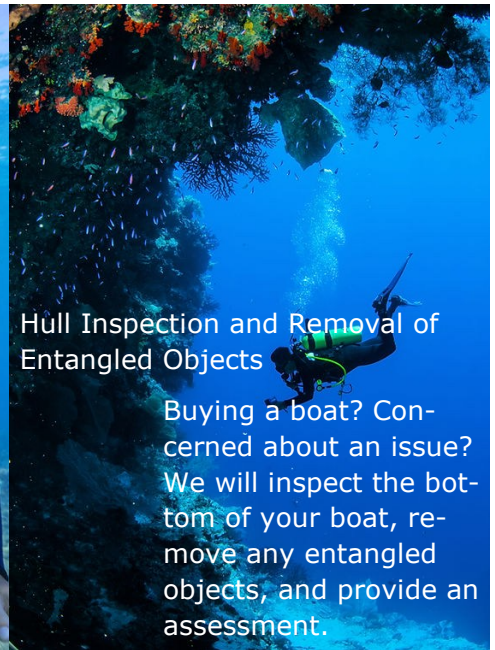
Hull & Bottom Cleaning Plans

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/>





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SMALLBOAT RACING



Steven Birchfield

Smallboat Race Chair

smallboatrace@smsa.com

We are having a great summer so far with excellent participation on Thursdays. Thank you to all of the members helping and volunteering for RC and mark boat responsibilities.

We had the third annual Rum Runners race this past Saturday with ultra tough conditions causing the race to be shortened. Thank you to all the racers and RC volunteers for coming out and congratulations to our winners and next year we will hopefully have more wind!

Early in July there was an incident with two young sailors who took out a club 420 during a Thursday night race. Unfortunately the boat was too much for them to handle at their skill level and they capsized the boat just before the racing started. Luckily other sailors and our mark boat volunteers were close and came to the rescue of these frightened sailors, helping them out of the water and onto the RC boat and getting the 420 righted, rudder replaced and sailed back safely to the club. A HUGE thank you for everyone who helped these young sailors. It truly shows how SMSA sailors care and look after each other on the water. But more importantly, please make sure you or your child gets checked out on a club 420 prior to you/they taking a boat out to sail. Getting checked out prior, ensures you have the skill level to manage the vessel in various conditions. We want everyone to be safe and have fun!

Upcoming events: Aug. 16th - Mixed couples race, Aug.23rd - Sharks with Lasers.



KEELBOAT RACING



Larry Ray & Tom Moulds

Keelboat Race Co-Chairs

keelboatrace@smsa.com



We are approaching our final Wednesday night series of the season. Turn-out has been great this season and competition has been keen. One Trick Pony continues to dominate in A fleet spinnaker. Microburst and Diablo keep swapping the lead in B fleet with Pony Express constantly threatening. Elan continues to dominate in C fleet spinnaker and Dauntless continues to dominate in non-spin fleet with Stingray threatening.

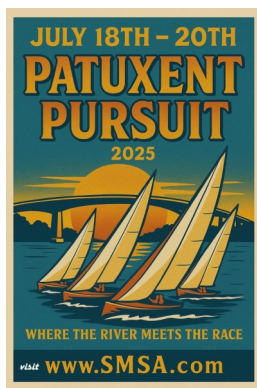
Diablo is dominating in the distance races with only one distance race remaining for this season. The fall invitational is coming soon with a break in racing until the Fall Frostbite racing begins.

Thanks to all the keelboat teams for completely filling all RC slots this season. Well done!!!!

Let's continue the great turnouts for the rest of this season and finish with high spirits and give the current leaders in each fleet a real challenge to finish this season.



What a Weekend in Solomons!



Wow—what an incredible, fun-filled weekend we had in Solomons! On behalf of the entire Patuxent Pursuit organizing team, I want to extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every volunteer and committee member who helped make this year's regatta such a resounding success.

We welcomed 30 boats and more than 120 guests over three days of racing, camaraderie, and celebration. Friday's Jamaican jerk food truck was a crowd favorite—so much so, they ran out of chicken! Saturday's Cantina Night was another standout, with multiple guests asking who the caterer was. I was so proud to tell them it was entirely brought to life by SMSA members and volunteers. Friday's American Affair was also a hit—we nearly ran out of food, with only a few small bags of leftovers reported.

Many attendees expressed how much they appreciated the new event format. In fact, racers from the Old Dominion Boat Club in Alexandria, VA, told us they're already looking forward to returning year after year.

Of course, events like this don't happen without the support of an extraordinary community and the hard work of incredible people behind the scenes. We are especially grateful to our sponsors, whose generosity helped bring this memorable weekend to life.

A very special thank you goes to Malinda Keith for her unwavering commitment and generous contribution—your weekly involvement on the committee made a meaningful difference. Thank you, Malinda!

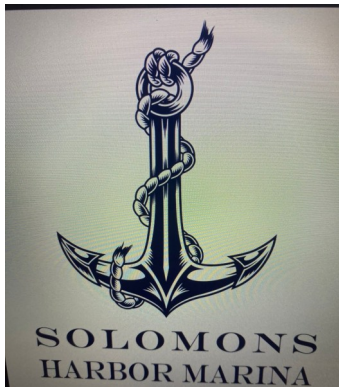
And another shout out to our sponsors! **Solomons Inn Resort & Marina** and **Solomons Harbor Marina**, **Sweet Reverie Beauty Studio**, **Wear Your Spirit Warehouse**, **Amanda Wait with O'Brien Realty**, **Hidden Harbor**, and **QUANTUMSAILS Solomons**—thank you for your continued dedication to SMSA and to the pursuit of excellence both on and off the water.

Whether you were racing on the course, working tirelessly behind the scenes, or cheering from the shore—thank you for being part of this incredible journey. We look forward to welcoming you back for many more years to come.

Here's to fair winds, great friends, and many more unforgettable Patuxent Pursuits!

Thank You to our Patuxent Pursuit Sponsors!!!

Please remember to patronize these businesses.



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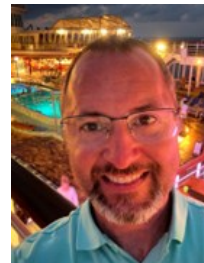


CRUISERS CORNER

Phil Sibley

Cruising Chair

cruise@smsa.com



As we are more than halfway through the summer boating season, the cruising fleet still have a lot to accomplish in upcoming weeks.

Starting off the month, please join the cruisers for an unforgettable trip up the Little Choptank River and through Oxford as part of a long Where The Wind Blows (WTWB) adventure. Cruise leaders Todd and Jennifer Porter are ones known for their extravagantly planned activities, so be ready to have a lot of fun!

The second cruise of the month will be the annual Mixed Couples Race which is always a blast for Racers and Cruisers of all boating types to include race boats, power boats, kayaks, dinghy's, catamarans, and even Tri-marans! Grab that partner to race with and be sure not to miss this fun raft up and overnight excursion.

Finishing up the month, the ladies Martha Kemp and Joan Blaney will lead the group to Saint Michael's and the Knapps Narrows. With one anchorage and a few nights at marinas to break up the hot sun, all participants should look forward to enjoying some museum and pool time to relax and end the summer months.

GO CRUISING!



Battle Creek Cruise—2024

Around DELMARVA Cruise By Les Griffith



SMSA cruisers departed on a 2-week epic voyage on 14 June that included 2 Bay's, a canal, and the North Atlantic Ocean, circumnavigating the DELMARVA Peninsula. The participants were *Cloud 9* and *Thisilldous* with Carl and Martha Kemp from *Serenity* joining *Thisilldous* as crew. *Cloud 9* had guest crew Angie Baylis (Solomons to Delaware City) and Brian Goode (Delaware City to Hampton VA).

The first day provided good downwind sailing conditions across the bay allowing us to brush up on our wing-on-wing sailing skills. Our first stop was at Hudson Creek, one of the favorite anchorages not so far from Solomons. After getting settled in on anchor, Joan Blaney and Martha Kemp put together fantastic happy hour fare onboard *Thisilldous* featuring Joan Blaney's famous Buffalo Chicken dip. Thank you, John and Joan Blaney, for hosting the happy hours. The next morning started off with light air but soon picked up and everyone was able to raise sails and head to Whitehall Bay where we had dinner at Cantlers, one of our favorite restaurants.

On Sunday we headed to the Sassafras River. That evening we all gathered on *Thisilldous* for a happy hour and a hilarious round of Pub Trivia.



Early on Monday we all headed out to pass through the C&D Canal, with current assistance we made



great speed and arrived at Delaware City Marina mid-afternoon. The staff at Chesapeake City did a great job of spinning the boats around in the narrow canal so everyone was facing outbound for an early departure. The next day was a lay day giving the cruisers an opportunity to explore the town and ride bikes along the C&D Canal.

Later that afternoon we met at the marina office for a weather brief from Tim followed by everyone meeting at Dolly Spanker's restaurant (formerly Crabby Dicks) for dinner and a stop for ice cream next door. The next day was scheduled for a long sail, 55 miles, down Delaware Bay to Cape Henlo-

Continued on page 16

pen. Once again, the current was with us most of the way allowing us to arrive at the anchorage before the afternoon thunderstorms hit. It is always fun sitting in the cockpit at anchor watching the storms go by. Early the next morning we headed offshore looking to arrive in Ocean City MD mid-afternoon for a couple of days at Sunset Marina. The channel into Ocean City was well marked and an easy entrance if you stayed between the marks. The entrance into Sunset Marina was interesting with a cross current for about a boat length or two churning up the wa-



ter before settling down inside the breakwater. The next day Brian and Les went to the boardwalk in Ocean City while others enjoyed the amenities at the marina. Sunset Marina is one of the nicer marinas we visited with 2 pools, a restaurant and bar.

On Saturday everyone headed offshore once again for a 20 hour sail down to Hampton VA. The offshore passage was pleasant with moderate seas but winds on the nose requiring motoring into Hampton. After settling in at The Docks at Downtown Hampton we headed into town for dinner at the Brown Chicken Brown Cow, a nice local restaurant with very good food. The next day was a lay day allowing us to enjoy the Mariners Museum Newport News VA followed by another dinner at Brown Chicken Brown Cow. The next day we departed Hampton VA and headed up the bay to continue our journey. As occasionally happens, the weather dictates changes in the cruise plan, so it was with the wisdom of Solomon in the face of nearly 100 degree temperatures and less than 5 kts of wind that the group decided to sail directly from Hampton VA to Solomons MD. Everyone arrived back at their home docks shortly after 11pm to enjoy the comfort of air conditioning at home.



ANNAPOLIS SUMMER GARDEN THEATER CRUISE

By Dennis Chandler

On Friday, July 11, six SMSA cruisers headed out into the Bay for the now annual cruise to Annapolis to enjoy the town and attend a performance of the musical comedy "The Best Little Whore House in Texas" at the Annapolis Summer Garden Theater on Saturday. The flotilla included *Kalypso* (Siesseger), *Serenity* (Kemp), *Cloud 9* (Griffith), *Thisilldous* (Blaney) and *Safina* (Chandlers, father and daughter, cruise leader). The Porters, Gillies, and Carolyn Chandler came by "land yacht".

Because the weather for most of the week had called for heavy rain, the group pushed on rather than making a preliminary stop in the Rhode River. Also, because of the possible rain the next day, the group's "scout" (*Kalypso*) arrived early in Annapolis and confirmed via VHF that there were still plenty of mooring balls available in Annapolis harbor on Friday. The cruisers enjoyed a day on mooring balls and the sights and sounds of Annapolis.

On Saturday, the group of 12 SMSA cruisers gathered at the Card Room in the Annapolis Yacht Club (AYC) for an early dinner under a reciprocity arrangement between AYC and the Solomons Island Yacht Club (SIYC). The food and service were excellent. Afterwards, there was a brief visit by some to an ice cream parlor near Ego Alley. It was then time to enter the nearby theater, hoping that there would be no rain that evening since the theater by design has no roof over it.

The performance was delightful and we thoroughly enjoy many of the songs and dancing from this long-running Broadway play. Unfortunately, during the intermission between the first and second acts, it started to rain. Because the rain increased steadily in intensity and the water taxis would not run after a certain time, the cruisers sprinted down Ego Alley to catch perhaps the last ride to their boats on mooring balls. Everyone on boats and in cars was soaked. As cruisers arrived at their boats and climbed aboard, the next task was to close open ports and to dry off before going to bed for the night.

The group was up early the following morning, Sunday, most casting off their mooring balls by about 7 AM for the sail or motor-sail back to Solomons arriving by about 3:30 PM. Despite the unexpected rain, it was still a fun weekend.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Engel MD40F 38L Fridge Freezer 12/24V DC:

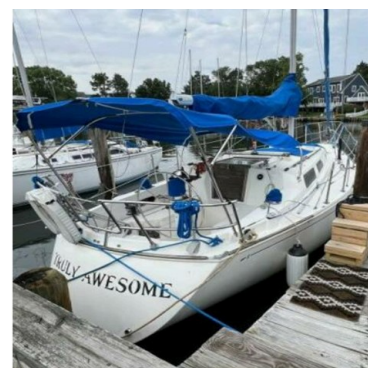
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Dock Lines: West Marine 5/8" premium dock lines Navy Blue - new in boxes. Two 25' and one 35'. Best offer. Contact Russell Fink at 757-288-1339 or rfinklegal@gmail.com for more information.

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.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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The Clew

AUGUST 2025

Volume 55 Number 8



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.

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