



# The Clew

## **Board of Directors**

Tue. Sep. 9 @ 7pm: Monthly Meeting

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## **Keelboat**

Wed. Sep. 3, 10: Wednesday Night C Series  
Sat. Sept. 6: Women's Race

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## **Smallboat**

Thur. Sept. 4, 11: Smallboat Racing  
Sat. Sept. 13: Buccs n' Lasers Regatta  
Thur. Sept. 18: Smallboat Fun Sail  
Sat. Oct 4—Sun. Oct. 5, 2025: Smallboat Invitational

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

Tue., Thur. & Fri. 3:15pm—6:30pm

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## **Cruise**

Thur. Sept. 18—Wed. Sep. 24: Chestertown Cruise  
Fri. Oct. 3—Sat. Oct. 4: Vera's Cruise

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## **Crab Feast**

Sat. Oct. 4  
See page 2 for more info

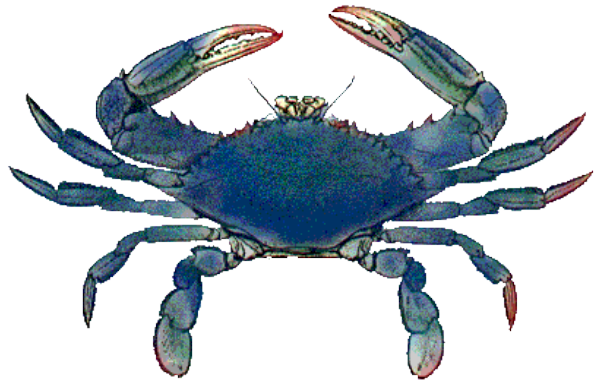
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## **Happy Hour**

Fri. 5:30pm—9:00pm

# Members' Corner!

## **SMSA CRAB FEAST & BBQ SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4th, 5:30PM**



**\$30/ticket**

(\$15 Kids 12 and under; 5 and under FREE) Includes crabs, non-seafood entrée options, numerous sides, and dessert.

Purchase tickets at  
[www.smsa.com](http://www.smsa.com)

**Tickets must be purchased by Sept 28th** so we can order crabs & plan sides.

Limited tickets available for sale after Sept 28th.  
No refunds after Sept 28th.



### **Women's Marcy Series**

Waves, Wind and Women at the Helm!

Celebrate the skill, spirit, and camaraderie of women sailors on the Chesapeake! Join us for an exhilarating day on the water followed by post-race festivities ashore.

Skipper's Meeting: Friday, September 5, 2025 @ 1800 at the Clubhouse

When: Saturday, September 6, 2025

For more details about the event, please see the event page at

<https://www.smsa.com/Race/2025/2025%20Amendment%201.pdf>

## 2025 Fall Race to Solomons Saturday, September 20, 2025



Co-Organizing Authority: Annapolis Yacht Club  
Annapolis, Maryland, USA and Southern Maryland Sailing Association,  
Solomons, Maryland

<http://www.annapolisyc.com/racing/regattas>



SMSA is serving again this year as the Co-Organizing Authority for the annual AYC Fall Race to Solomons. This is a fun race that many of us have done in the past. Joe Frost and a mixed crew of SMSA and AYC sailors will be at the finish line to record finishers at PR3. The course will be shortened if need be at G77.

We will host the post-race awards party at our clubhouse with cash bar and complimentary pizza once again.

The Notice of Race is posted. You can register at Yacht Scoring at <https://www.yachtscoring.com/emenu/17011>.

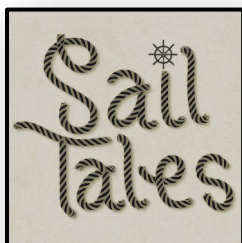
Let's have a good SMSA showing. Another fun day on the water!

### Message from Facilities



The switches for the outdoor floodlights (controlled through a hole in the wall beside the side door) have been replaced by 60 minute twist-style timers. This should solve the problem of the lights being left on and annoying our neighbors. While they can be set for up to an hour, be considerate and set them for the amount of time you need.

Any questions, please contact the Facilities Chair, Harry Keith at [facility@smsa.com](mailto:facility@smsa.com).



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](mailto:clew@smsa.com) by the 20th of each month or contact us if you have any questions.

## **Adult Learn to Sail (ALTS) Info**

Summer is wrapping up soon! Have you met your sailing goals for the season? Join us this Friday, or register for a sailing lesson <https://www.smsa.com/ALTS.php>. We have a variety of boats and volunteer instructors to help you get sailing now.

Don't wait, winter is coming fast!

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 the questions you didn't know where to ask. The next shore session starts Monday Sept 15 at 6pm. check out the SMSA website for more dates and information.

email [learntosail@smsa.com](mailto:learntosail@smsa.com) with any questions or requests



An impressive turnout by SMSA Sailors who participated in the Solomons to Oxford Race. SMSA's performance was marked by several notable achievements.



# 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 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade  
No experience required!

Find us at [smsa.com/hssailing](https://smsa.com/hssailing) or via email [hssailing@smsa.com](mailto:hssailing@smsa.com)



# JUNIOR

**Kati Keith**

*Junior Chair*

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



## A Great SMSA Sailing Camp Season!



A successful SMSA Sailing Camp season is now in the books.

Our Summer Sailing Camp program provided sailing instruction for campers ages 8 to 16 on basic seamanship and sailing fundamentals, and advanced techniques for sailors who had mastered the basics. Emphasis was placed on safety, learning and fun. Lessons on and off the water allowed sailors to improve their skills, build confidence in their sailing abilities, conduct themselves safely and with respect for others, their equipment, and with a spirit of teamwork and healthy competition.

This summer, we had 7 weeks of camp with a total of 163 campers. We averaged 13 campers per week in the Optimist class and 11 campers per week in the 420s class. What a great turnout!

We would like to thank our wonderful staff – Camp Directors Ana Donnelly and Sue Hewitt; Instructors Kyle Engel (Head Instructor), Saoirse Corry, Senan Corry, Adam Nilsson, Sophia Shiffer, Claire Sullivan, Clara Wilson, and Grace Wilson; and Assistant Instructors Joseph DiBonaventuro, Sam Glauner, and Everett Moulds. We would also like to thank our CITs (Counselors in Training) – Nolan Wingate, Cathy Hicks, and Xander Moulds. This summer would not have been possible without you.

We are always looking to improve the camp experience. Feel free to send any comments, suggestions, compliments, etc. to [junior@smsa.com](mailto:junior@smsa.com).

Kati Keith  
SMSA Junior Chair



# 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:



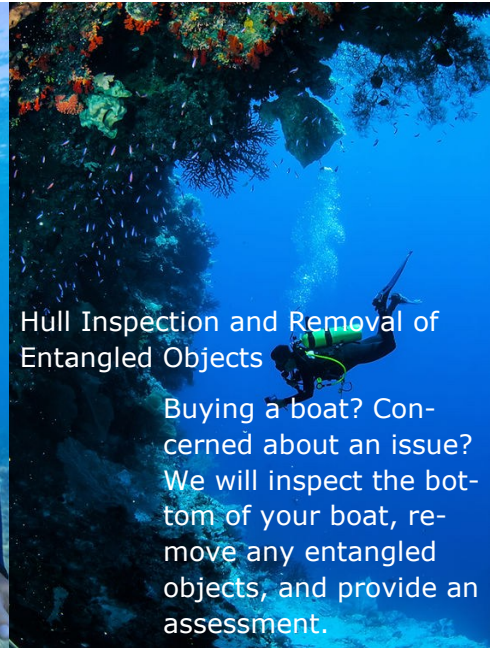
## Hull & Bottom Cleaning Plans

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](mailto:hssailing@smsa.com)

Our fall high school and middle school sailing season is off to a great start! We had our season kickoff on Tuesday, August 19th, and filled the clubhouse with new and returning families. We currently have three new members on our team to start the season off, and we hope to recruit a few more throughout the season. Welcome to Jackson Myers, Manu Schipper, and Beau Sink! Please say hello if you see new young faces around the club.

The first on-the-water practice was on Tuesday, August 26th, and we had a great turnout with 12 sailors and 6 420s out on the water. Practices will be Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 3:15-6:30pm. Come and see what the sailing team is all about if you find yourself around the club when we are practicing. The season will go through September and October, with the championship regattas the first weekend in November. Our fall regattas are listed below, and best of luck to our high school sailors as they start school and sailing practice!

### Fall Regattas:

9/7/25 Tred Avon Yacht Club, Tier 2

9/13/25 West River Sailing Center, Tier 1

9/14/25 St. Mary's Ryken, Tier 2

9/20/25 DC Sail, Tier 1

9/27/25\* Annapolis Yacht Club, Tier 1

9/27/25\* Baltimore County Sailing Center, Tier 2

9/28/25 Tred Avon Yacht Club, Tier 1

10/5/25 St. Mary's Ryken, Tier 2

10/11-12/25 MDSA Fleet Champs

10/18/25 St. Mary's Ryken, Ryken, Tier 3

10/19/25 North East River Yacht Club, Tier 3





**GRAPHIC DESIGN  
CUSTOM APPAREL  
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EVENT & RACE APPAREL  
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Some of our most popular brands include:



SMSA Member owned.



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MORE INFO!**

**410-505-3201**

[everytimepromo.com](http://everytimepromo.com)

## KEELBOAT RACING



**Larry Ray & Tom Moulds**

*Keelboat Race Co-Chairs*

keelboatrace@smsa.com



Wow, it is hard to believe that we are actually winding down the Wednesday night racing series with only four more races in the C series. Great turnout this year with lots of souls on board.

Please note that Amendment 1 has been posted to the SI'S. The Women's Marcy series has been changed to September 6 from September 26 and the SI for that race has been modified.

The Mixed Couples Race/Battle Creek Cruise had a great turnout. Only one of the three August 17th wedding anniversary couples were able to make the event (Mark and Robin Witte) to keep the celebration going, but all three couples were toasted (David and Jacki Meiser; Larry and Rose Ray). It is amazing that these three couples had no idea that they shared the same anniversary date until a fateful Mixed Couples Race/Raft up several years ago. It looks like a tradition has developed and now also includes Shane and Mel Myers as they celebrated their anniversary on the 15th.

Looks like we have had the most Wednesday night race cancelations (3 so far) this season. The storms seem more intense lately and caution is always a good policy for safety. It is up to the RC to make the call. It is very good to let Tom, Larry (keelboatrace@smsa.com) or Robin (communications@smsa.com) know as early as possible to get the word out. Otherwise, it is a radio on site announcement.

The racing has been well attended and the competition keen. Nicely done!





# New Member Introductions

We'd like to take a moment to welcome the new members and returning members that have joined our SMSA family over the past month!

Please welcome some of our new members:

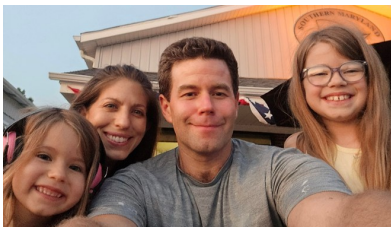
**Dimitri Ververelli** sponsored by Russell Miller,

**Dayna Aist** sponsored by Kristi Yurko

**Benjamin and Kristen Barbour and Ava and Ella** sponsored by Polly Traynham

**Ian Leon** sponsored by Liam Herkins

Please keep an eye out for our new members and introduce yourself!



From the Barbour Family: Originally from Northern Virginia, we purchased a weekend home in Southern Maryland soon after the birth of our first daughter, Ava, in 2017. Our home backs to the bay and we enjoyed years of launching our Hobie kayaks



from our backyard beach. In 2020, we came down to the bay after Ella was born and ran our business virtually. This year we decided Southern Maryland is home and are currently opening an office two doors down from SMSA with the girls enrolled at Our Lady Star of the Sea. We are new to sailing but excited to learn both large and small boats, and can be found either two docks over from SMSA or on the boardwalk walking various configurations of our four puppies.



Thank you for welcoming me to SMSA. My name is Dayna Aist. I have lived and worked in Southern Maryland for the last 30 years. I am a territory manager for US Foods and service some of my favorite restaurants in Solomons. I have always been pretty adven-



turous, finding joy in biking, skiing, hang gliding, rock climbing and hiking. I have raised four foster children and adopted my beautiful daughter 13 years ago. She has flown the coup and I am entering into my empty nest phase of life. I have always wanted to learn to sail but never had the time. I am hoping to do just that and resurrect this beat up beauty of a boat I was gifted. I would love any advice or encouragement along this journey. I am looking forward to joining your sailing family!

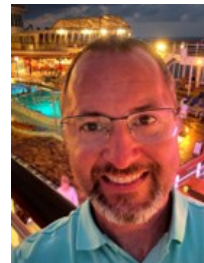


# CRUISERS CORNER

**Phil Sibley**

*Cruising Chair*

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



The month of September will begin with the cruising fleet already underway to St. Michael's and Knapps Narrows lead by Cruise Leaders Martha Kemp (*Serenity*) and Joan Blaney (*Thisilldous*) returning home on September 3rd.

The rest of September will include one, 7-day cruise, to Chestertown leaving on Thursday, September 18 coordinated by Cruise leaders Carl and Martha Kemp. Details for this trip will follow in coming weeks. As the rest of the cruising fleet begins to prepare for the busy month of October, remember:

**GO CRUISING!**



# Cruising, It's Not Just a Job, It's an Adventure!

## By Todd Porter

Just as the 1986 recruiting slogan enticed young Todd Porter to join the US Navy, pop-up thunderstorms, fouled engine filters, biting flies, stinging nettles, crab traps floating into running gear, and the wind seemingly always in the same direction as the intended point of travel; sailboat cruising certainly is an adventure!



SV Constellation  
Reefed while reaching

The concept of cruising As the Wind Blows is navigating to destinations with the wind, rather than against it. But when the Oxford Tred Avon Yacht Club sponsors a Log Canoe Race, regardless of the wind direction, one adapts and joins the Fun! This is certainly true for avid cruisers John and Joan Blaney, Fred Siesseger, Les Griffith and cruise leaders, Todd and Jennifer Porter, who departed Friday August 8th enroute to the first leg of the Journey, the Hudson Creek off the Little Choptank River. With favorable winds for this portion of the cruise, a few boats went for the gusto and managed to sail the entirety of the route, making the Hudson Creek anchorage in good time for a Margaritaville style Happy Hour aboard *Constellation*, complete with Log Canoe Trivia!



Jennifer Porter & Joan Blaney  
enjoying margaritas!



Fred, the Victor of a Bottle  
of Rum!

Log Canoe Trivia was hotly contested, and with a bottle of rum at stake, the competition quickly ramped up. With 'Ready Freddy' Siesseger edging on the competition, the separation between teams was close. But, in the end 'Ready Freddy' took the prize, winning without the help of Google AI!

Although the cruisers vowed to make an early start for a timely arrival in Oxford for the first Log Canoe race, the Porters slept in and elected to attempt sailing the entirety from Hudson Creek to Oxford. This resulted with arriving in the Tred Avon River which was more crowded than Los Angeles traffic during rush hour! With concurrent Opti, Sole, and 420 races and numerous spectators gathering for the Log Canoe



Junior Sailors fighting it out on 420's, Tred Avon  
River

Continued on page 14



Go Meiser's, Go!  
(Log Canoe)

Race, the Tred Avon is a spectacular sight on race day!

Shawn and Laura Stanley aboard their Alura 35, *Second Love* accompanied by the Rolands, greeted the arriving cruisers and pointed out that SMSA members, David and Jacki Meiser, would be crewing on one of the larger Log Canoe Racers. To see the race, the Blaney's, Porter's, Fred and Les deployed dinghies from their cruising sailboats and ventured into the mix with the spectator fleet. True to the Adventure ethos, several powerboat-generated waves flooded Les's dinghy, with the Blaney's aboard. With a quick shout out for help, and true to his name, 'Ready Freddy' came to the rescue lending a tow.

The next day, as the wind filled in, the Log Canoe races re-commenced. The sheer beauty of these historical sailing machines, purposefully over-rigged and balanced by crewmembers on boards abeam, is a sight to behold!

As the cruise adventure continued, the tired and dehydrated cruisers in search of respite headed for the Oxford Marina Pool! For the Porter's this is reason enough to journey across the Bay from Solomons Island. Following a cool down in the pool, the cruisers dressed and meandered to Capsize restaurant, for a continuation of Happy Hour and Dinner. As the beverages flowed, an alarming Mutiny occurred worthy of Captain Bligh's HMS Bounty! The mutineers announced not continuing the Cruise



Les Griffith & John Blaney contemplating  
a run for the 2028 Summer Olympics US  
Synchronized Swimming Team



SV Constellation trying a new  
fender technique with a non-  
floating dock. Suitable for a  
future ASA manual [Lisa/Andy]?

across the Bay to Annapolis, but rather, journey As the Wind Blows. And since 'no' wind, means no go! Cruise Leader Todd Porter looked to his Master at Arms, Wookie the Barking Dachshund for support, but once bribed by a French fry from the mutineers, Todd was on his own. Reluctant to be put to sea on a deflating dinghy towards a deserted island, Todd acquiesced, and the cruisers elected to journey the short distance to Cambridge for the final leg of the Cruise. With the Blaney's needing to boogie home for an upcoming SMSA Board Meeting, the decision was made.





Pizza & Beer at Oxford

The remaining cruisers put on their best power boat impersonation traveling from the Tred Avon to the Choptank River, arriving at the Cambridge Yacht Basin marina in good order. With optimal slips along the Bulkhead, *Cloud 9*, *Kalypso* and *Constellation* had terrific views of the town park with easy access to streets leading to downtown. A lot has changed since this author last visited Cambridge during COVID. Stores are now open; restaurants are thriving and the town vibe significantly

changed for the better. The staff at the Yacht Basin Marina are very friendly and the Wi-Fi, a must for any spoiled cruiser without Starlink, actually works! With news of the first Atlantic Hurricane forming East of the Caribbean, the obvious happy hour beverage, of course, is Hurricanes! While breaking in their new portable ice maker, Jennifer and Todd hosted and beverages flowed followed by a Pizza and Beer dinner in Oxford.

With an uneventful return to Solomons Island, interrupted only by dodging a slow Cargo ship (9 kts SOA) bearing down the middle of the Chesapeake Bay followed by a short sail into the Patuxent River, the 'As the Wind Blows to Oxford' adventure came to a peaceful close Tuesday, August 12th. Despite flooding dinghies, mutinies and seemingly killer robotically controlled crab traps targeting sailboat props (thank goodness, no Killer Whales), the Cruise was a resounding success! Onward to the next adventure! And remember...



Harvest Moon from  
SV Cloud 9, Oxford

Think Cruising!

## Mixed Couples Race / Battle Creek Cruise

By Phil Sibley & Robin Witte



This season's Mixed Couples Race and Raft Up had a great start with plenty of wind with *Sinbad*, cruised by Haley and Phil Sibley, crossing the starting line at 10:05. Shortly thereafter, was *Christina Rose* crewed by Vlad Eremeev and Johna Johnson, *Circe* crewed by Harry and Kati Keith and *Constellation* crewed by Todd and Jennifer Porter. A short time later, *Rakali* crewed by Robin and Mark Witte (with snackticians Jenn Marbourg and Scott Patterson), *Thisilldous* sailed by Joan and Mason (grandson) with John along for the ride, *T-Bone* crewed by Mel and Shane Myers (with their snackticians, Rolla and Mary Louise Burk, Jackson Myers) and *Ricky Bobby*, a Melges 15 crewed by Kevin Pachas and Paige Smith and *Patriot* crewed by Ali Banholzer and Chris Bates. Joining in for the fun during the raft up included motor boats *Nautic Times* captained by Calvin and his First Mate Kathleen Stull, Jim and his First Mate Jody Keen on their Whaler as well as John Andries and Owen Myers on *Escape Goat*. Bringing all the excitement to the party and enjoying chasing the wasps onboard *Sinbad* and throwing jelly fish into of the "Hot Tub" were Jackson and Owen Myers, Mason Kania, and Ashton, Devin, and Chase Sibley. Yes, all boys!



Reaching the finish line first was *Christina Rose* followed in close perspire by *Rakali*. Only one other vessel finished the race successfully which was *Patriot*. To no one's surprise and in typical Mixed Couple Race fashion, come mid afternoon, the wind died in the river. With the dying winds and to not miss the party, or in the case of *Circe* be the anchor boat for the raft-up, all other boats turned on their iron jibs and made their way into Battle Creek.



After a great sturdy anchoring by *Circe*, boats began joining in. The raft up was quite lengthy with only *Christina Rose* separated from the raft up but lat-

Continued on page 17

er joining in on the fun by kayak. The kayaks, paddle boards, Witte's blow-up "hot tub" (that kept the jelly fish out), and the floating ring behind *Patriot* (that definitely did not keep the jelly fish out as advertised) were a hit for all ages! The pool noodles and boat bumpers that kept floating away kept the kids in high alert allowing them to practice their rescue skills.

Heavy hors d'oeuvres as well as champagne was flowing across the raft-up. The crew of *Constellation* with Chase Sibley onboard chose to by-pass the heavy hors d'oeuvres and have a more elegant meal of steak on the grill.

As night fell, and the need to head home at the crack of dawn to make high tides back at their own dock, *Sinbad* requested to split for the night to reduce the difficulty of disconnecting in the morning. With the sun setting quickly, crew from multiple vessels assisted in the exciting method of kicking someone off a raft-up. Successfully, *Sinbad* left peacefully and was successful setting anchor elsewhere for the night.

*Rakali*, *Patriot* and *Nautic Times* also broke away into a smaller raft for the evening where they enjoyed some grilled chicken and shrimp. Who knew that a race boat (*Rakali*) had a BBQ grill?





## CLASSIFIED ADS

### **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](mailto:Thomasbhutson@yahoo.com) or (910)-619-5729



### **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 [russeigle@gmail.com](mailto:russeigle@gmail.com) or 949-338-8351



**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.



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

Place  
Stamp



# The Clew

**SEPTEMBER 2025**

**Volume 55 Number 9**



## **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!

