

Board of Directors

Tue. Oct. 14 @ 7pm: Monthly Meeting

Keelboat

Sat. Oct. 18: Hooper-Point/No-Point Race Sun. Oct. 19: Fall Invitational Sun. Nov. 2: Fall Frostbite #1

Smallboat

Sat. Oct. 25: Bucctoberfest

Cruise

Fri. Oct. 3—Sat. Oct. 4: Vera's Cruise Fri. Oct. 17—Sun. Oct. 19: Where the Wind Blows Cruise Sat. Oct. 25– Sun. Oct. 26: JT's Dock Party

Crab Feast

Sat. Oct. 4 See page 3 for more info

Club Cleanup Day

Sat. Nov. 1

<u>Social</u>

Sun. Oct. 19: Chili Cookoff Sat. Nov. 1: Murder Mystery Event

Annual Meeting, Sat. Nov. 9, 2025

Doors open at 9:00 am; Potluck Brunch at 9:30 am; Meeting starts at 10:30 am

Happy Hour

Fri. 5:30pm—9:00pm

Election Deadline: Friday, October 3, 2025 @ 5:00pm

Members' Corner!



2026 ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

In October, the SMSA Nominating Committee will begin reviewing names for the 2025 Officer and open Director positions.

Officer positions include Commodore, Vice Commodore, Rear Commodore, Treasurer, and Secre-

tary. Additionally, two Director positions will be voted on. The Officer positions are one-year terms, while Directors serve three-year terms.

To be an eligible candidate for Commodore, the nominee must have previously served at least two years in an Officer position or as a committee chair. There are no prerequisites for the other open positions. All nominees must be SMSA members in good standing.

Nominations must be received and confirmed by the Nomination Committee no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 3, 2025. Those wishing to provide input should send your nomination package, to include the desired position, a short biography of previous SMSA activities and service, and a recent photograph to the Nomination Committee at election@smsa.com.

Message from Facilities



- 1) Club Cleanup Day is scheduled for Saturday, November 1st. Please put it on your calendar and plan on coming to help. If you can't stay for the entire day, come for as long as you can. This is a volunteer club, and many hands make light work. Doesn't matter what you can or can't do, we can find useful work for everyone!
- 2) The outdoor light switches have been replaced with timers. Twist to set, done. You've seen them before. You can still twist them to off if you are done with the lights.
- 3) There are two new ashtrays on the front patio. Please use them, instead of the fire pit and the flower pots.

Any questions, please contact the Facilities Chair, Harry Keith at <u>facility@smsa.com</u>.

Members' Corner!

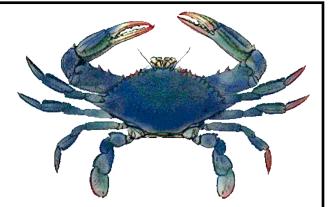
SMSA CRAB FEAST & BBQ

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4th, 5:30PM



(\$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

Limited tickets available for sale after Sept 28th.

No refunds after Sept 28th.



Our annual Chili Cook-off will be paired with the Fall Invitational on Sunday, October 19th. This event always proves to be a good time! Bring your best chili to compete for bragging rights or bring a side dish to share. Categories will include Best Chili, Most Unique Chili, and Best Side Dish. Winners will bring home a prize. Event begins at 5pm.

Members' Corner!

Club Asset Availability

Smallboat checkout ended Sept 30



However, boats may be signed out for SMSA racing events at the discretion of the appropriate Race Chair(s) for the purpose of participating in a sanctioned Small Boat event outside of the prescribed season. See the Policy Manual, Appendix D for more information.

(https://www.smsa.com/SMSA Policy Manual 39.pdf)

Kayak and SUP checkout continues until October 31
See the Policy Manual, Appendix I for more information.

(https://www.smsa.com/SMSA Policy Manual 39.pdf)





The Patuxent Pursuit

The Patuxent Pursuit committee is hard at work, already planning next year's regatta. Tentative dates are currently set for July 17th, 18th, and 19th. So mark your calendars early for our club's premiere keelboat regatta! If you wish to help with next year's event or are just curious about the planning process, we have our meetings set for the third Monday of the month at 6pm. The committee is looking forward to another spectacular event for SMSA in 2026, and hope to see you all there!

If you have any questions contact us at PaxPursuitChairman@smsa.com



Commodore's Corner

By John Blaney commodore@smsa.com



We have elections coming up in early November for the club's Board of Directors (BOD). That means we're looking for folks who are prepared to roll up their sleeves and work to be a part of the club management, making SMSA a place where our current and future sailors want to be. If you are interested in any of the officer positions or the two director positions that are up for re-election this year, please submit your nomination packet (desired position, a short bio of previous SMSA activity and service, and a recent photo) to the Nomination Committee (election@smsa.com). The Commodore position has a prerequisite of 2 years as an officer, director or chair of one of our committees. Officer positions are one-year terms, Director positions are a three-year term.

Sadly my term as your Commodore is up and since I've served the 2-year maximum term, I'll be devoting my time to assisting a new Commodore in learning the ropes and maybe in some other role.

We became the owners of the club premises in Sept '24 and so masters of our own destiny. We are still in the early stages of learning about paying a mortgage. Yes we are doing it but we need to continue to be able to do that while establishing a auditable record to allow us to repay that using a commercial loan. I would urge us to continue to be fiscally conservative and make sure that the clubs finances are correctly setup to achieve this. It's a fine line between increasing annual fees and losing current and future members. Reductions will diminish our ability to repay the loan.

Our Treasurer has spent considerable time getting our accounts in order so we are setup to be tax efficient regarding the property and also being able to undergo a required audit. A big task. Thanks Jim.

We may like to have a Taj Mahal but we should stick with gussying things up that provide short term value for the membership. Feel free to add your wish to the list being maintained by our facility chair. They may never come to fruition but it provides a base of ideas to work on or incorporate in a longer term grand plan for the properties. We're newlyweds and should-

n't get out ahead of our headlights.

Of course SAILING is our main focus and that seems to be in good hands as is the education of members and future members. We enjoy a vibrant social scene.

There's a lot of good going on at SMSA and we hope you'll join us in an official capacity running it.

Thank you!

John



Adult Learn to Sail (ALTS) Info

Have you ever sailed in the dark and seen the glow of bioluminescent jelly-fish crashing in your wake? It's FALL! The best sailing of the year is here. Email learntosail@smsa.com to set up a time to go sailing. 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 can help you get out there and break through the beginner jitters or knock of some rust.

email learntosail@smsa.com with any questions or requests



We invite all members to submit an article, story, photos, or anything they want to share with their fellow sailors!

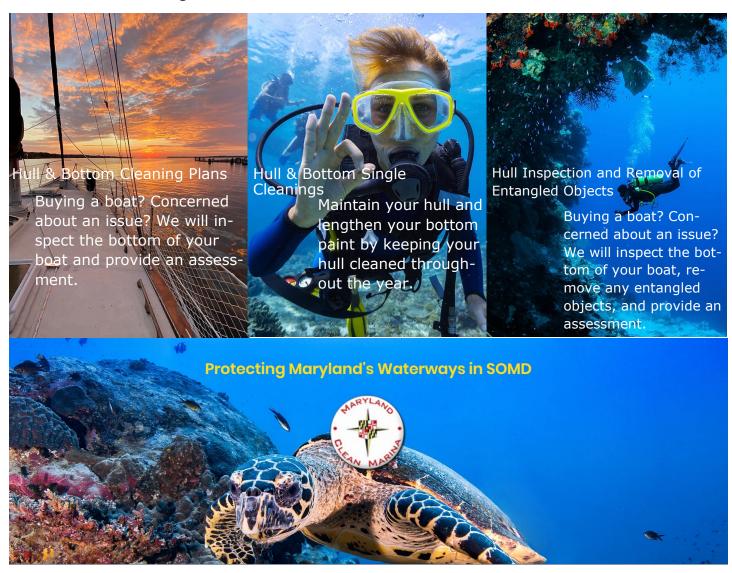
Please send all submissions to clew@smsa.com by the 20th of each month or contact us if you have any questions.

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:





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.crustycrabdiveservicessomd.com/

SMSA Helping the Community



On Friday morning, September 5th, 2025, Polly Traynham was contacted by an organization called the BecomeOne Project regarding an event they were holding on the island that was in possible jeopardy due to the impending weather forecast. That's when Polly started the ball rolling with help from Robin Witte, Kristi Yurko and John Blaney.

This organization had been planning the One More Light Suicide and Mental Health Awareness Walk for the evening of September 6th. Their original plan was to gather outside at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, but the forecast had shifted from clear skies earlier in the week to finally a 100% chance of thunderstorms. Canceling was something they truly wanted to avoid, because the night was about being together, remembering loved ones, supporting one another, and sharing resources with the community.

Thanks to SMSA's generosity, this event was able to take place as planned and they sent the following note to our members:

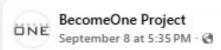
Our event was designed to take place entirely outdoors—beginning in the parking lot of Our Lady Star of the Sea, winding through Solomons Island, and pausing at the park near the bridge for a remembrance moment. With such a forecast, we were facing the heartbreaking possibility of canceling. For an event where people come to honor loved ones lost to suicide, to face that "why" that never goes away, and to stand together in moments of reflection and hope—cancellation would have been devastating. We knew we had to find a way to be together, no matter the storm.

Because of your kindness and the generosity of SMSA, we didn't have to send anyone home. Instead, we gathered together in warmth and safety. Your stage created a space where people felt comfortable sharing their stories—stories of heartbreak, resilience, and love. The adjoining space allowed community resource tables to provide vital information and support. What could have been a night of disappointment became an evening of connection, remembrance, and healing.

We cannot adequately express how much this meant to us. The setting was perfect, the atmosphere welcoming, and the impact profound. The moments we shared that evening would not have been possible without you.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you—for your generosity, for opening your doors, and for giving us a place to stand together in both storm and light.

With deepest gratitude, Anita Santoyo, BecomeOne Project



A huge THANK YOU! to the Southern Maryland Sailing Association (SMSA) for their incredible hospitality and generosity.

With the forecast shifting from 0% chance of rain... to 30%... to 65%... and finally to 100% thunderstorms, they stepped in without hesitation, opened their doors, and welcomed us in.

Keeping everyone safe and comfortable in your space was absolutely perfect.
That's what true community looks like.

Because of SMSA, the 4th Annual One More Light Suicide & Mental Health Awareness Walk was able to go on. We are so thankful, so grateful, and so moved by your kindness. You truly saved the day.



Welcome to Southern Maryland Sailing Association (SMSA) on the web.





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3 comments 2 shares

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HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM



Rebecca Wingate

High School Program Chair
hssailing@smsa.com

It's practice and regatta season for the middle school and high school team! We are busy practicing at SMSA on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, rain or shine, and travelling to regattas on the weekends. You might have seen the sailing team doing a cookie bake-off at a Friday happy hour too- these kids and parents have so many talents!

Our first regatta was a Tier 2 at Tred Avon Yacht Club in Oxford on September 7th. The day was cold and rainy, and we had some last minute crew changes. Tommy Birchfield, Nolan Wingate, Colt Touchton, and Ryan Deibler didn't let the wet day get them down, and they placed 4th out of 14 schools! Great start to the season. The next weekend was sunny and beautiful, but sailors encountered very light winds at both a Tier 1 regatta at West River Sailing Club on Saturday, and a Tier 2 regatta at St. Mary's Ryken on Sunday. Tommy, Nolan, Colt, and Owen Myers placed 6th out of 8 schools at the Tier 1, and Joseph DiBonaventuro, Max Wingate, Beau Sink, Annabelle Yurko, and Jackson Myers placed 7th out of 8 schools at the Tier 2. Next up was a Tier 1 regatta at DC Sail on Saturday, September 20th. A picture perfect regatta, with 7 races in each division, and a nice breeze all day! Tommy, Nolan, Joseph, and Colt placed 13th out of 15 schools. We finished September off with 8 of our sailors participating in two regattas on Saturday, September 27th. Tommy, Nolan, Joseph, and Max sailed 10 races at a Tier 1 at AYC in Annapolis, and they placed 11th out of 16 schools with some great races in both divisions. Owen, Annabelle, Loundin Curtis, and Jackson sailed 12 races at Baltimore County Sailing Center and placed 15th out of 15 schools, and were happy and smiling and had a great day. The spectators at both were glad the rain held off until the ride home!

September was a great month of sailing for this crew!











KEELBOAT RACING



Larry Ray & Tom Moulds
Keelboat Race Co-Chairs
keelboatrace@smsa.com



Wow! This season is rapidly approaching the finish line. One more distance race to Hooper Point/No Point followed the next day by the Fall Invitational, on October 18 and 19, respectively. Then a couple of weeks to November 2 for the first of four Sundays of frostbite racing and this season will be complete. The turnout has been great this year and the competition keen. All the best to make us all better sailors.

Please note that the informal race awards will occur at the SMSA Clubhouse immediately following the November 16 frostbite race. Additionally, the Keelboat Co-Chairs will soon be scheduling an end of season wrap up/feedback meeting to get input for issues to be addressed for the next keelboat season. A short list of items thus far include scoring methods/issues, whether certain racing marks should be removed for Wednesday night racing courses, protocols for RC boat check out and operation and clarification on which races should or should not be included in the club race fees (ex. Women's Series and Invitational Races).

J70 Fleet 8 recently elected Spencer Wait as the 2026 Fleet Captain.













THE SOCIAL SCENE

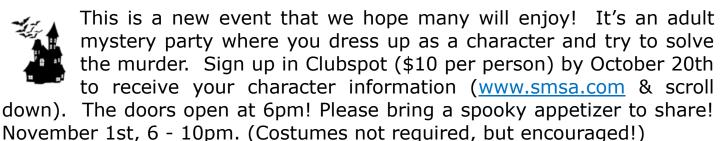
Paige Smith, Chair social@smsa.com



Happy Fall Y'all!

After an amazing summer of racing, cruising and club events, it's time to pull out our flannel and foulies and prepare for the last quarter of the year!

The Crab Feast will be held this Saturday, October 4th, following the Small Boat Invitational. We hope to see you there! Thank you to those of you who have volunteered so far to help with side preps, setup, clean up and trash removal starting on the evening of Thursday, October 2nd— and ending Sunday, October 5th! However, we still need a few more volunteers to help make the process quick and easy! Please contact Paige at social@smsa.com or Kristi Yurko at kristi.yurko@gmail.com if you can help.



Also in November...please mark your calendars for the meeting on Saturday, November 8th. Here, newly elected members of the Board of Directors are announced and snapshots of the club's pro-

grams and fiscal health are reviewed. This event is a breakfast/brunch style pot-luck. Doors open at 9:00, breakfast will start at 9:30 and the meeting will start by 10:30. Please bring a breakfast dish to share. Coffee, tea and juice is provided.

SMALLBOAT RACING



Steven Birchfield

Smallboat Race Chair

smallboatrace@smsa.com

Happy fall Smallboat racers! As our Thursday night racing has come to a close, we still have some great events coming up in the next few months!

Starting in October, we have the Smallboat Invitational on the 4th and 5th. Nestled in between this 2-day event is the club's annual Crab Feast and BBQ! Check out page 3 for more information.

Then on October 25th we have our annual Bucctoberfest! All sailors, and their choice of Smallboat are invited to participate in the fun on the water and join us for the party afterwards.

Starting in November, the keelboat program has their fall frostbites series and as a reminder, if you choose to sail alongside the big boats, make sure to stay clear of the starting line and avoid the racers while they are on the course.

In December we will have the annual "Freeze your Bucc Off Regatta" on December 13th. It is recommended that sailors have the proper sailing gear for cold weather dinghy sailing if wishing to participate in this event. Like with Bucctoberfest, NON-Buccaneers are also invited to join in.

I hope all of you continue to sail in this beautiful time of year. Hope to see you out on the water and as always, Stay Safe!





Women's Race Event

September 6, 2025

A Skipper's Meeting held Friday night at the Clubhouse kicked off the weekend's festivities. Ali Banholzer, the event organizer, welcomed all of the skippers and crew in attendance and introduced the Race Committee, comprised of Tom Moulds, Chris Bates and Don Behrens. Tom and Chris announced that the race would be run in the Patuxent River, with a plan for one (1) race. Ali provided each skipper with a bag of goodies, which included some treats and gift certificates donated by some of the event sponsors. After touching on some details of the race and the post-race gathering, Ali thanked everyone for helping to resurrect this event and mentioned how pleased and excited she is to be a part of it.



Saturday arrived in a warm and sunny fashion for an early September day on the Patuxent River. Aboard Favored End was Race Committee members Tom Moulds and Chris Bates. Don Behrens along with his son Pete, were aboard his center console Shark Bait. Additional on-the-water support was provided by Shawn Stanley aboard Second Love, with Rebecca

Murphy taking photographs and standing by to provide on-the-water medical assistance (if needed), as well as Barry Murphy and Mark Witte. Lastly, aboard one of the club skiff's driven by Jay Ball was Steven Birchfield, who was taking video and action shots of the fleet.

With a great turnout of five (5) boats participating in the race, along with a total combined crew of 38, Barba Roja, Patriot, Rakali, T-Bone and Wicked Good made their way to the course with crews of varying experience, but a lot of spirit and enthusiasm. The



course board displayed K-M-L-V-T-K-X for a total course length of 9.64nm, and crews appeared to be discussing race strategy prior to the start. Rounding the first mark of the course ahead of all others was *Patriot* and her crew. The first downwind leg to the bridge proved to be a little challenging for some, as the shifting breeze made for a tight reach and *Rakali* managed to move ahead of the competition and rounded the bridge first, while *T-Bone* worked to close the gap on *Patriot*. The velocity of the wind diminished slightly during the race and crew weight shifted from the

windward to leeward sides with greater frequency. Boats continued to jockey for position during the remainder of the race and *T-Bone* was able to pass *Patriot* by mid-race, while *Rakali* continued to hold their lead.



As the boats finished, winning line honors was *Rakali*, helmed by Robin Witte, and some 5 minutes and 30 seconds later, *T-Bone*, helmed by Melissa Myers, crossed the finish line and won the race; correcting over Rakali by 10 seconds. Finishing third was *Patriot*, helmed by Ali Banholzer, followed by *Wicked Good*, helmed by Nicole Doub

and Clara Gyorgy, in fourth and *Barba Roja*, helmed by Christy Poppy, in fifth. Boats who finished were loudly cheering on the other boats as they crossed the finish line, further elevating everyone's spirit on what was a great day of racing.

A post-race gathering was held at Spring Cove Marina, where the marina staff provided a covered seating area for all to gather and eat, a small bar and a bartender serving up all of the ladies' favorites, as well as a grill station and tables. Taking on the role of grill master



was Steven Birchfield, who was aided by a few others present. Hamburgers and Hot Dogs were provided and many of the race participants brought side dishes and a great number of desserts to share.



As the day's events wrapped up, it was evident that everyone had a wonderful time on and off the water. There was a tremendous amount of camaraderie amongst the women, coupled with a sense of pride and accomplishment after a fun day of racing. After expressing thanks to Ali Banholzer for spearheading

the event, many competitors spoke about their desire to participate in more Women's racing in 2026. All noted that she, along with a small committee, would be working in the near future to try to place another event on the calendar and increase participation; potentially making this a series which would include boats and racers from Herrington Harbor



and perhaps Cambridge. Cheers to all of the ladies who came together and showed skill, commitment and enthusiasm, including our youngest of racers, Clara Gyorgy (Age 11) and Evie Miller (Age 13), and congratulations to Melissa "Mel" Myers and her crew aboard T-Bone for the win!



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 new members **Jeff and Sandra Gray** sponsored by Fred Siesseger.

A little about Jeff and Sandra: We just recently relocated from Northern Baltimore County to Solomons this past March. We have been sailing since we purchased our first boat, a Catalina 22, which was just after we were married 50 years ago. We now sail on the Pleasance II, a 37 ft Dickerson ketch. We also



live aboard a Grand Banks trawler which we are gradually restoring. Aside from our time on the water, we travel quite a bit visiting our three children, their spouses, and our nine grandchildren.

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



The 2025 Buccaneer North American Championship (BNAC) was hosted by the Alaska Sailing Club (AKSC) at Big Lake, Alaska. 21 teams from around the US (and Canada) descended on the club July 8th through the 13th. Two teams from SMSA attended - Jimmy & Kristi Yurko, and Jenn Marbourg & Scott Patterson. Other visiting teams hailed from Arizona, Florida, Mississippi, New York, Virgina, South Caroli-

na, and Wisconsin. Alaska had 7 teams representing their club.

The format for racing this year's event was unusual for a BNAC, but would look familiar to our high school or collegiate sailors. Given the challenges in

asking owners to bring their own boats all the way to Alaska (4,329 miles from SMSA!), AKSC provided all the boats for the event. Races were sailed in a round robin format with teams swapping boats between each race. With 12 boats sailing in A Fleet and 9 in B Fleet, RC successfully ran enough races to get every team in each boat once, removing any bias based on differences between the boats or the age of the sails.



A-Fleet Racing

The class collected data to analyze performance of various configurations such as boom height and sail maker. The analysis is available at https://buccaneer18.org for any one that might be interested.

The racing was very well run, but the highlight of the event was AKSC's phenomenal hospitality. The club welcomed the out-of-towners with open arms, kegs of beer (and root beer!), and mountains of delicious food. We



Jimmy and his fresh caught fish

feasted on fresh Alaskan salmon, moose stew, and both rainbow trout and pike that were caught in the lake during the regatta. Since the winds didn't fill in until after lunch and the sky stayed bright past midnight, racing started in the afternoon and went well into the evening. This left the mornings available for adventures at the club like fishing, paddle-boating, and kayaking, or trips a little farther afield to explore beautiful Alaska. A planned

lay day in the middle of the event ensured that everyone had the opportunity to make the most of their trip. The end of the race day wasn't the

end of the fun, either, as that just meant it was time for a quick (and chilly!) dip in the lake followed by a trip to the sauna to warm back up. And for an added treat, the clouds parted for a rare look at Mount Denali looming over the race area, visible from more than 100 miles away. Every one of us got to join the "30% club" of Alaska visitors that get a view of the summit.



SMSA's Buccaneer Children

AKSC certainly set a high bar for racing, food, and social activities for next year's BNAC host. Which, as it turns out, is us! SMSA will be hosting BNAC 2026 October 1-4, 2026. Mark your calendars and be on the lookout for more information in the coming months.

Want to race, but don't have a boat? Talk to Jimmy (jimmydyurko@gmail.com) or Kristi Yurko (kristi.yurko@gmail.com).

Willing to volunteer for Race Committee or shoreside events? Contact Nichole Doub (<u>nichole@doub.com</u>), Jenn Marbourg (<u>ilmarbourg@smcm.edu</u>) or Kristi Yurko (<u>kristi.yurko@gmail.com</u>).



Buccaneer Group Photo

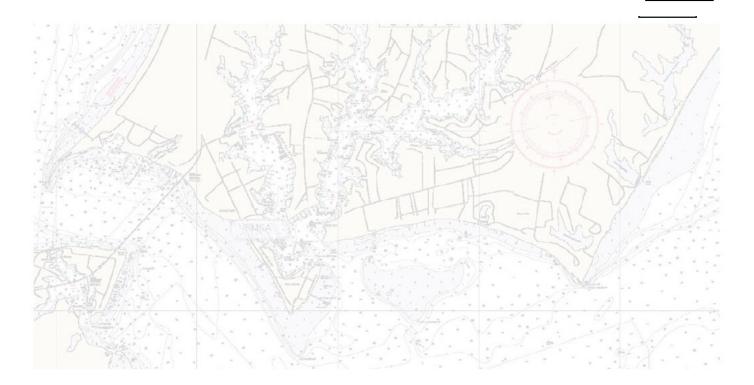
CLASSIFIED ADS

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 Eigle at russeigle@gmail.com or 949-338-8351









OCTOBER 2025

West MarinePro.

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!