



The Clew

Annual Meeting, Sat. Nov. 8, 2025

Hand delivered ballots must be at the Clubhouse no later than 9:30am

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

Club Cleanup Day

Sat. Nov. 1 @ 9am

Social

Sat. Nov. 1: Murder Mystery Event at 6:00pm
Sat. Dec. 6: SMSA Christmas Party at 5:30pm

Board of Directors

Wed. Nov. 12 @ 7pm: Monthly Meeting

Planning Meeting

Sat. Nov. 15 @ 9am

Keelboat

Sun. Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23: Fall Frostbite Races
Wed. Dec. 3: Keelboat Feedback Session @ 6:30pm

Friendsgiving at SMSA

Thur. Nov. 27: Doors Open 12:30pm
Dinner served at 2pm
See page 2 for more information

Smallboat

Sat. Dec. 13: Freeze Your Bucc Off

Happy Hour

Fri. 5:30pm—9:00pm

Members' Corner!

Returning Your Ballot Reminder!!

By Mail: The envelope must be postmarked to arrive at the Solomons Post Office no later than Friday, November 7th.

By Hand Delivery: must be delivered to the Annual Membership Meeting at the clubhouse on Saturday, November 8th no later than 9:30am.



FRIENDSGIVING AT SMSA

Join us for a Potluck gathering on Thanksgiving Day at the SMSA clubhouse.

All SMSA Members, Friends and Family are invited.

Thursday, November 27th.

Doors open at 12:30 pm, Dinner served at 2pm

Enjoy camaraderie, games, puzzles and football on the TV.

Please sign up below so we can track who is coming and what dishes folks are planning to bring: <https://tinyurl.com/SMSAFriends>

Please contact Kristi.Yurko@gmail.com with questions.

Members' Corner! cont'd

Decorating the Clubhouse for the Holidays!!!



Monday, December 1st at 5pm. NEED VOLUNTEERS! Please sign up at the Annual Meeting! If you are unable to attend the meeting but want to help please email Paige at social@smsa.com.

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 ended October 31

See the Policy Manual, Appendix I for more information.

(https://www.smsa.com/SMSA_Policy_Manual_39.pdf)





Commodore's Corner

By John Blaney
commodore@smsa.com



This is the time of the year when things change. Summer has gone, the days are shorter, the leaves change color and fall down, and most sailing is finished. Those, hardy enough, will be out frostbiting. Bundled up on top with life jackets while the rail meat legs are getting splashed by relatively warm water. Some will be headed south or to the islands for the winter.

In club terms it means we think about what went well this year, what didn't, what could be improved, what we want to do next year and then plan around that. It's also the approaching end of the current board of directors terms and the election of a new board. In particular I have reached the end of the maximum two-year term as Commodore and will be passing the baton to another member. Might I say that it's been an interesting time and I hope that the club will continue to move forward. We own the premises we occupy and so have options to develop and improve them but we also have to remember we still have a mortgage to pay off even if to a cadre of members who funded the purchase. We have some financial history that would support a commercial loan but the banks will need us to keep building that history.

The Commodore gets to make some decisions but in all the important ones, it is the Board of Directors that makes those decisions. So with that I'd like to thank all of the members who have been on the board helping me and ultimately the club. Some of the Officer tasks are more onerous and time consuming than you think. For those who are still working that's a second job. I've been fortunate to have had a great team with me on the board. Thank you all.

However, by the time you read this months Clew you should have already received your ballot package in the mail for next years Board members. There are 5 officers and 2 director positions up for election. The ballot has a list of the candidates as well as a write in option for each position. Make your decision as that's what sets the Clubs direction for the next year and even beyond. It took a consistent multi-year board strategy to get us to

where we now own the premises.

Once the new board members are elected at the annual meeting in November, the combined current and new board members jointly participate in decision making, budgeting, and project programming during the handover period until January when the new Board is installed. I look forward to working with the new board and will continue to support the club in my role as past commodore.

We're all about sailing and supporting sailing in its many forms so I'll be around to help that in 2026. I wish our new board the best.

John



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.

Adult Learn to Sail (ALTS) Info

As the leaves change it's time for us to plan for next spring. We have great weeks of sailing ahead, but as the days grow short we need to get ready for what's next. Email learntosail@smsa.com to let us know what kinds of programming you're interested in seeing us schedule in the coming months.

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

Crusty Crab Dive Services, LLC, maintaining vessels in the SOMD area.

Crusty Crab Dive Services started as a passion and hobby for Phil Sibley Jr. Phil began boating at an early age and has been sailing for 10 years, once he completed his dive certifications, he started maintaining his own boats hulls throughout the year.



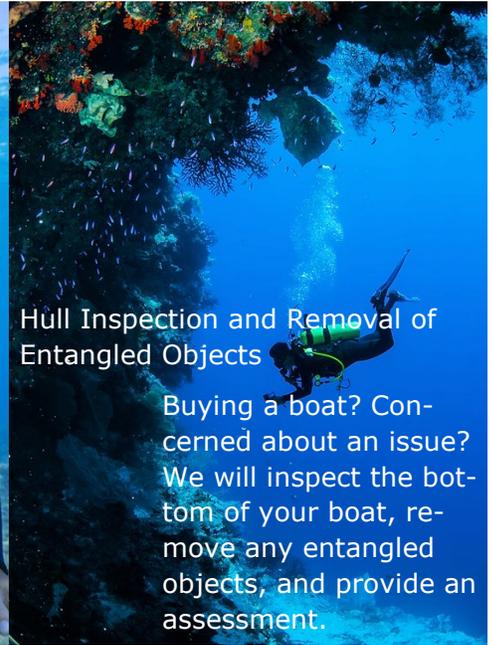
We offer the following services:



Hull & Bottom Cleaning Plans
Buying a boat? Concerned about an issue? We will inspect the bottom of your boat and provide an assessment.



Hull & Bottom Single Cleanings
Maintain your hull and lengthen your bottom paint by keeping your hull cleaned throughout the year.



Hull Inspection and Removal of Entangled Objects
Buying a boat? Concerned about an issue? We will inspect the bottom of your boat, remove any entangled objects, and provide an assessment.



Protecting Maryland's Waterways in SOMD



For more information contact:
Philip Sibley Jr.
Lexington Park, MD 20653
(c) 484-.390-.4044
CrustyCrabDiveServicesSOMD@gmail.com
Or check out their website:



<https://www.crustycrabdiveservicesomd.com/>

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM



Rebecca Wingate

High School Program Chair

hssailing@smsa.com

The high school sailing season is coming to a close, but October has been a great month of sailing! The team started out the month sailing in the SMSA Smallboat Invitational, with a 4-boat 420 fleet. Tommy Birchfield and Colt Touchton came in first place in the 420 fleet, with Nolan Wingate and his friend, Zephyr Dyro, coming in a close second. Following them was Max Wingate and Manu Schipper, and then Loundin Curtis and myself (Rebecca Wingate). Everyone had a great time on day 1 with no wind, with many raft ups, swimming, and frisbee between the boats, and then enjoyed day 2 with some races!

Our Tier 1 team qualified for the MDISA (Maryland Interscholastic Sailing Association) Fleet Championship hosted at Tred Avon Yacht Club in Oxford on October 11th-12th. Tommy and Nolan skippered with Joseph DiBonaventuro and Owen Myers as crew, and sailing against some tough competition, the team placed 15th out of 16 schools. Nolan placed 11th out of 16 in his division and his best race was a 3rd place! The second day of racing was cancelled due to high winds.

Next up was a Tier 3 regatta at St. Mary's Ryken on Saturday, October 18th. After a 1 hour delay with no wind, 6 races were sailed in both divisions. Max Wingate and Colt Touchton skippered with Beau Sink and Ryan Deibler as crew, and the team placed 4th out of 10 schools. Max, Beau, Colt, and Ryan all had several races in the top 3- way to go, sailors!

We will finish October out with a few more practices, a boat clean-up day, and a pizza party, before the Varsity and JV Championships the first weekend of November. More on those next time! As always, thanks for supporting this great group of sailors.





My recent diagnosis of a treatable form of cancer has put me in a reflective mood. I've had an absolute blast sailing at SMSA! I've loved sailing my laser on Thursday nights, enjoyed thinking tactics with the big boat sailors on Wednesday nights as I chased them around the course, and relished the competition during our Spring and Fall Series. I'll never forget the pleasure of competing in the Broken Rudder Race, the

Sharks with Lasers Regatta, and the Bucc Nationals held at SMSA a few years ago.

While the sailing has been a blast, the friendships I've made here are very special. I've made friends with sailors of all ages and stages. SMSA members are open, welcoming, ready to share, teach, and help. I've learned a lot about sailing and more about life and I cherish every moment.

In recent years I have particularly enjoyed getting to know some outstanding youth sailors. It's a pleasure to see how many of them have taken to sailing with astounding and contagious enthusiasm. But it's their willingness to listen to, learn from, and help their elders that truly makes them exceptional.

All of these reflections have me thinking about the future of SMSA. I naturally want others in the future to share the same pleasures I have enjoyed. Now that we have taken a great first step by purchasing our facilities, wouldn't it be great if we owned them debt free!

A debt-free SMSA could keep dues low to attract new sailors, repair and upgrade its facilities, expand into the building we now lease, and more. Your dream for the future is as good as mine.

To become debt free, allow me to share a few ideas:

- Let's give to the debt reduction fund in honor of every SMSA member who dies. If we made this a tradition, we could open a substantial path to a debt-free future.
- Let's consider forgiving some or all of the money we have loaned to SMSA. What a difference that would make!
- Let's include SMSA in our wills. Remember, the goal is to share with others the deep pleasure of sailing which we were privileged to experience.

My goal is to be back on the water sailing my laser by late spring. I hope to see you ashore before that.

Keep sailing,
Doug Hays

The months of November and December will be quite busy here at SMSA. Please mark your calendars for the **UPCOMING EVENTS**:

- Saturday, November 8th is the Annual Membership Meeting where newly elected or re-elected members of the Board of Directors are announced and snapshots of the club's programs and fiscal health are reviewed. For information on how to return your ballots, please see page 2. This event is a breakfast/brunch style potluck, and the bar will be open. Doors open at 9:00, breakfast will start at 9:30, and the meeting will start by 10:30. NEED VOLUNTEERS to Setup, Prep, and Cleanup! Please email Paige at social@smsa.com.
- Monday, December 1st—Clubhouse decorating for the Christmas Holiday Season. We will start at 5pm. NEED VOLUNTEERS! Please sign up at the Annual Meeting! If you are unable to attend the meeting but want to help please email Paige at social@smsa.com.
- Saturday, December 6th is the Annual SMSA Christmas Potluck Dinner. Doors open at 5:30pm, with dinner to follow at approximately 6:30pm. Come and enjoy the food and decorations! The club will provide turkey and ham, so please bring a favorite salad, side or dessert. In the meantime, we look forward to seeing everyone around the club! NEED VOLUNTEERS to cook turkeys and hams, Setup, Prep, and Cleanup! Please email Paige at social@smsa.com.
- Saturday, December 13th is the Annual Solomons Christmas Walk and Lighted Boat Parade. Doors open at 5:30pm. Be sure to come to enjoy the clubhouse decorations, spread Christmas and Holiday cheer, and have front row seats for the boat parade. You will be able to catch a glimpse of the parade at approximately 6:30pm as they leave Back Creek. The parade should make the bend into the river and be in front of the gazebo by 7:15pm. The club will host an open house this evening where youngsters can build their own sailboat and then sail them in a pool that is set up in the back room. We will provide hot mulled cider and cookies, as well as have the bar open. This is an event not to be missed! NEED VOLUNTEERS to Setup, Pass out cookies and cider, and Cleanup! Please email Paige at social@smsa.com

CRUISERS CORNER

Phil Sibley

Cruising Chair

cruise@smsa.com



It has been a busy season for the cruisers. They have sailed north and south in the Chesapeake Bay, navigated through the C&D Canal, ventured into many creeks and even headed out into the Atlantic Ocean. No doubt the cruising fleet has explored a lot of different waters this summer.

As we begin to winterize our boats and clean up the mess we caused throughout the season, please take some time and reflect on the fun adventures we have explored this year.

Looking into next year, the annual Cruise Planning meeting will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2026 at 9:30am with doors opening at 9:00am. I hope to see all of you then. In the meantime:

GO CRUISING!!



Cruise to Vera's, Oct. 3-4

By Fred Siesseger

A motley crew of more than 30 sailors met for a lively dinner party in the best DEI spirit of Vera. They arrived in cruising boats with heavy chain lockers and generators, racing boats with neither anchors nor aircon (tied up at the free dock), and land yachts filling the parking lot. They included seniors and juniors (relatively), recent and long-time SMSA members, diverse slip holders from all over southern Maryland, and even a ship's dog. After sharing liberal libations and apocryphal sailing stories on the patio in the best happy hour tradition, they filled all the chairs in the dining room at one preset table overlooking the creek. The young servers did their best to deliver diverse orders in a more or less equitable and inclusive fashion. For those familiar with Vera's kitchen, the food was predictable. Beautiful autumn weather continued the next day for a great sail back to home slips.



Eccentric sailors and Vera



SMALLBOAT RACING



Steven Birchfield

Smallboat Race Chair

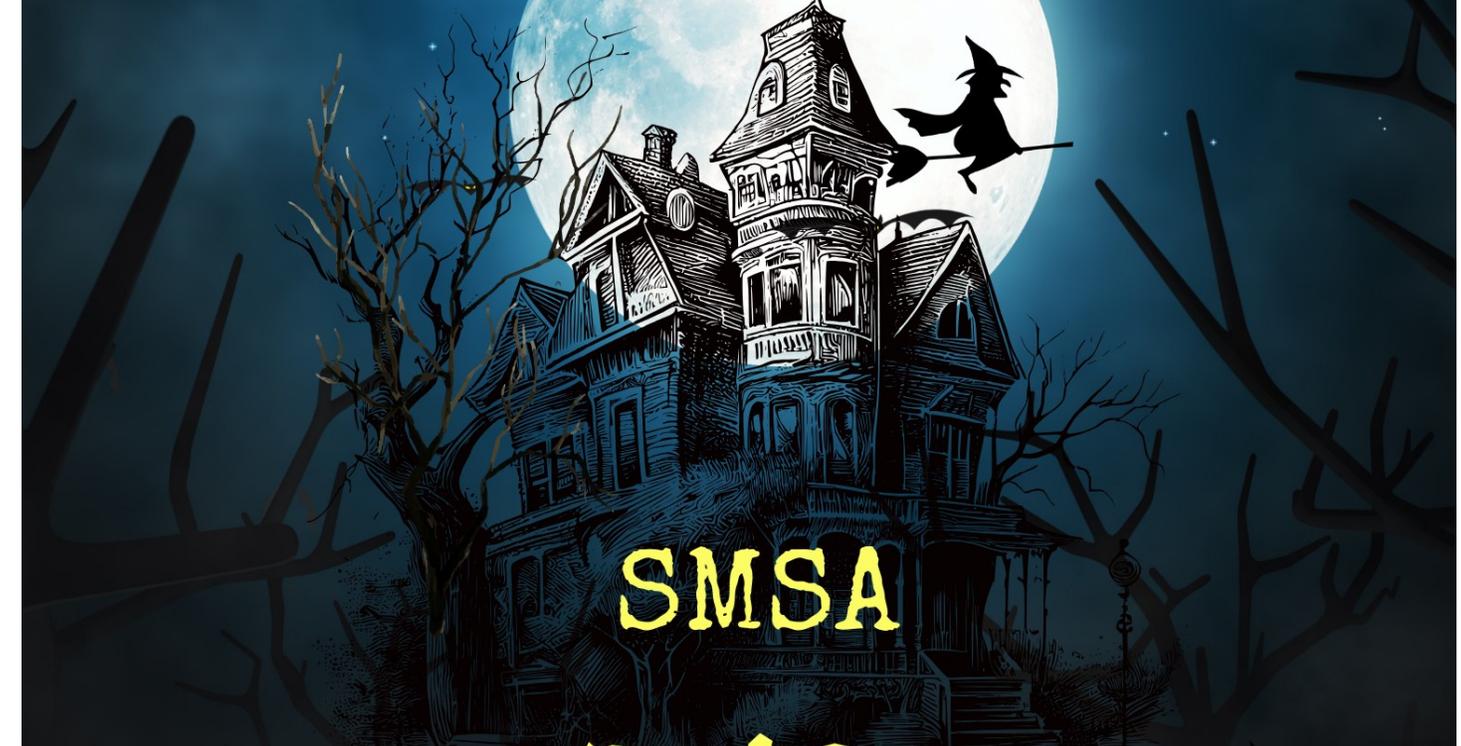
smallboatrace@smsa.com

As our year winds down and we start thinking about winterizing our boats or finally getting to those boat projects and upgrades we've been wanting to do, we still have a few fun events left on the 2025 calendar. Bucctoberfest, for example, will have happened by this time this CLEW addition is published and as we all know Bucctoberfest is one of our favorites of all the SMSA sailing events all year. There is really nothing else like it... I mean who wouldn't have fun rounding marks like pink flamingos and white unicorns?!?! Oh, and the after party with German inspired food! YUM!!! I hope everyone signed up and had an amazing time!

Following Bucctoberfest we have the Freeze-Your-Bucc Off Regatta on December 13th. Don't forget to sign up and race for the coveted chamber pot!

Reminder: If sailors are interested and plan to sail during any Keelboat Fall Frostbites races, please be courteous and safe by keeping clear of the start line and any boats on course. I hope everyone has a wonderful fall and stays warm out there!





SMSA

MURDER MYSTERY PARTY

ADULTS
ONLY

\$10 PER PERSON



NOVEMBER 1ST

6 PM-10 PM

KIDS ALLOWED
IN THE BACK
ROOM
SUPERVISED



SIGN-UP AND COMPLETE INFORMATION FORM
BY OCTOBER 20TH

AFTER YOU SIGN UP, YOU WILL
RECEIVE YOUR CHARACTER INFORMATION.
DRESSING UP AS YOUR CHARACTER IS
ENCOURAGED BUT NOT REQUIRED.



Click here to sign up:

<https://southernmarylandsailingassociation.theclubspot.com/event/biPHQZYsYN>



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 Egle at russegle@gmail.com or 949-338-8351





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

Place
Stamp



The Clew

NOVEMBER 2025

Volume 55 Number 11

 **West Marine Pro**

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!

