



The Clew

Social

Mon. Dec. 1 @ 5pm: Decorating the Clubhouse
Sat. Dec. 6 @ 5:30pm: SMSA Christmas Party
Sat. Dec. 13 @ 5:30pm: Christmas Walk, Open House,
Lighted Boat Parade

Board of Directors

Tue. Dec. 9 @ 7pm: Monthly Meeting

Keelboat

Wed. Dec. 3 @ 6:30pm: Keelboat Feedback Session

Smallboat

Sat. Dec. 13: Freeze Your Bucc Off

Happy Hour

Fri. 5:30pm—9:00pm



Members' Corner!

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.

Sailing into the Holidays!!!

SMSA is proud to be participating in the Annual Solomons Christmas Walk on Saturday, December 13, 2025. Doors open at 5:30pm. The clubhouse will be open to the public, so please come so they can meet friendly sailors who love to share their passion, answer any questions they might have about sailing or our organization and enjoy some hot mulled cider and cookies!

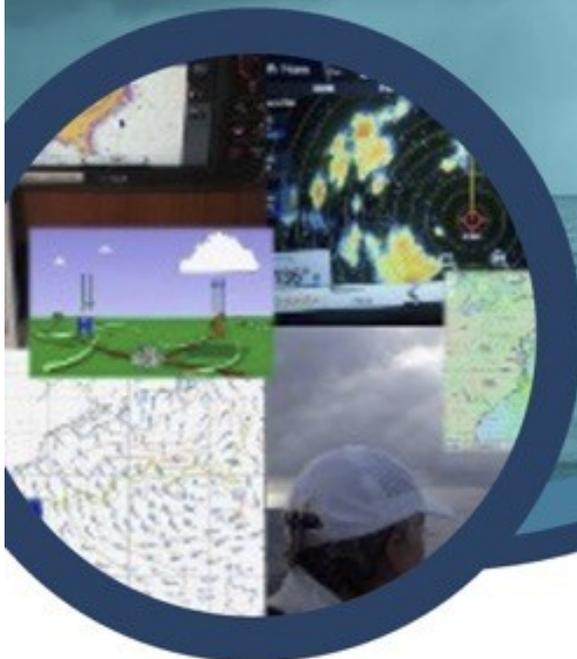
Bring your kids who will have the opportunity to build and decorate their own sailboat and then sail them in a pool set up just for the occasion.

If you can help with setup, pass out cookies and cider, or cleanup, please contact Paige at social@smsa.com.



MARINE WEATHER CLASS

(ASA 119)



**AMERICAN
SAILING**



*Kinetic
Sailing*

Weather is the greatest factor affecting ALL mariners. Learn the basic principles of marine weather, take observations, interpret traditional weather charts, use the latest tools and apps. Apply the information for local, coastal and offshore voyages, to make your time on the water as safe and efficient as possible. This 4-day course combines lecture, video, hands-on practice, and an offshore voyage weather planning practical exercise. Max 25 students for full engagement.

COURSE DETAILS

- Course Length: 4 days
- Date: Mar 21-22 & 28-29, 2026
- Time: 0900-1700 (219 +1hr)
- Venue: Live Zoom with audible & visual Q&A
- Cost: ASA 119 \$495, Combo ASA 119/219 \$650 (includes text & presentation books, certification material)

Taught by Capt Lisa Batchelor Frailey: Marine Meteorologist, Oceanographer, Ocean Passage Maker, USCG Master & ASA Master Instructor.

CONTACT FOR
MORE DETAILS

SAIL SOLOMONS
410-326-4917 | info@sailsi.com
KINETIC SAILING
410-474-7844 | lisa@kineticsail.com

REGISTER
ONLINE





Commodore's Corner

By John Blaney
commodore@smsa.com



Members,

In the UK they use the phrase "The Queen is dead, long live the King". At the recent annual meeting you elected a new set of officers Commodore - Russell Miller, Vice Commodore-Randy Gross, Rear Commodore-Shane Myers, Treasurer-Kristi Yurko, and Secretary-Nicole Foveaux, and a couple of new directors Polly Traynham and Steve Burchfield. I congratulate all of the new and remaining board members and wish them well when they assume the SMSA reins in January.

In the interim, we have joint meetings where they are in attendance and learn about the items on our agenda, which currently focus on setting the budgets for the 2026 SMSA programs. At the November BoD meeting we set an overall target for next year as a starting point. We distributed 2025 account info to the chairs and asked them to come up with ideas and budget requirements for next year. We will then discuss these at the Dec BoD with some items making the cut and some not.

Our main source of income to service ownership debt and operationally run the club is membership dues. If we get too fancy on improvements which require increased income then membership numbers can suffer depending on the size of the increase. Personally, we all have had to deal with increasing costs and inflation on everything and SMSA is no different, suffering those same increase in costs. So the joint process is to come up with an affordable budget that can be approved and implemented by the new BoD, starting in January.

There's some additional tax and financial work to be done in the new year relative to our 2025 finances. We need to have a 3rd party financial review conducted which shows we're in good position but if any issues are found they can be quickly corrected. Likewise, as you all experience, SMSA has to file 2025 taxes at various stages in early 2026. The current and new treasurers have considerable work to do to get this completed.

My initial advice to our new Commodore was to poll all the current chairs

for their continued support. If changes to the chairs or the reporting structure need to be made, then it's important to get them on board asap since the Commodore nominates the chairs and gets approval for them at the January BoD.

Luckily we're about to conclude most club sailing activities, which gives us time to enjoy a busy holiday season of family, work and club events between Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. Just remember that the new and old BoD's work continues during that time so SMSA is properly setup for next year.

We hope you enjoyed your Thanksgiving and please don't forget to thank the many volunteers who make SMSA work.

John

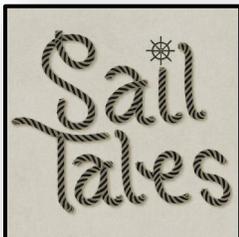


Join the fun at the annual Freeze Your Bucc Off Regatta, Saturday Dec 13th. Get your boat on the water for the last SMSA event in 2025! Event is open to all small boats, not just Buccaneer 18s. Join us for sailing, dinner and camaraderie and then stick around for the Solomons Christmas Walk.

Want to join the fun, but not ready to sail in Dec? Contact JimmyYurko@smsa.com to help with RC or for shoreside support.

Check out the registration page for the NOR and more information:

<https://southernmarylandsailingassociation.theclubspot.com/regatta/46r6sFZN1p>



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.

JUNIOR

Kati Keith

Junior Chair

junior@smsa.com



Holidays Around the Corner? How about Next Summer?

We are getting ready for the holidays and the new year, but you may want to start planning for next summer – specifically Sailing Camp at SMSA!

In Summer 2026, we will be offering 7 weekly sessions from June 22nd through August 7th. Sailing camp is here at our wonderful SMSA facility from 9 AM to 4 PM. We welcome beginning and experienced sailors ages 8 to 16. This year we will again offer a discount for campers attending multiple weeks of camp.

Registration will open for SMSA regular, young adult, and emeritus members in mid-January and for all members and the general public in early February.

For more information, visit our website, www.smsa.com, and look for the Junior Camps tab. Any other questions, please contact the Junior Chair, Kati Keith, at junior@smsa.com.



Message From Facilities!

Fall cleanup was held on November 1, with many helpers. In addition to a long list of mundane items like cleaning windows, cleaning refrigerators, changing light bulbs, and stripping boat stalls, some notable work included climbing ladders to clean gutters, cleaning out the waterfront storage shed, and painting the small boat ramps. Names were surely missed, but thanks to Larry Ray, Kevin Pachas and Paige Smith, Robin and Mark Witte, Jonathan Nepini, Les Griffith, Harry and Kati Keith, Annabelle, Cora, and Kristi Yurko, John Blaney, Karl Adler, Scott Patterson, Barbara Miller, Lisa Frailey, Bill and Janet Shoemaker, Vatanna Gaines, Shawn and Laura Stanley, Alexa Peterson, Jim and Barb Whited, Jeff Carlsen, Lucy and Jerry English, Hali Kilbourne, Aaron Shiffer, Rebecaa Murphy, and Michael Sullivan. If you couldn't make it, we hope to see you in the spring!

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.



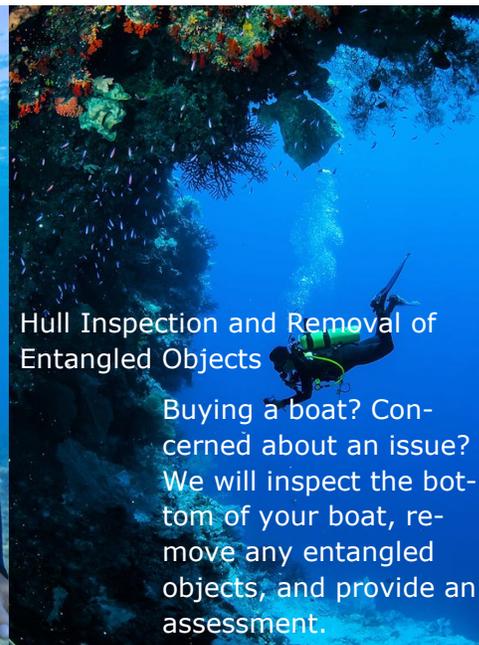
We offer the following services:



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.



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 schoolers finished up their fall sailing season at the beginning of November with the Varsity and JV Championship regattas!

Tommy Birchfield, Joseph DiBonaventuro, Nolan Wingate, and Colt Touchton participated in the Varsity Championship on Saturday, November 1st on the St. Mary's River, hosted by Sailing Center Chesapeake and Great Mills and Leonardtown High School. The weather was great for this championship regatta, and the boys sailed 16 races in two divisions in a steady breeze. Tommy skippered with Colt as crew in A Division, and Nolan and Joseph switched off as skipper and crew in B Division, with Joseph skippering most races. Tough competition at this regatta left them with 13th place out of 13 teams, and their best races included some 8th, 9th, and 10th places!

Annabelle Yurko, Owen Myers, Max Wingate, and Beau Sink participated in the JV Championship on Sunday, November 2nd at Baltimore County Sailing Center. The day was full of challenges, with an extreme low tide and a beach launch, and very light wind. The race committee was able to get 3 races off for A Division (with Annabelle skippering and Beau as crew), but only one very long race was sailed in B Division (with Owen skippering and Max as crew) due to extremely light winds. The regatta was cancelled and no official scores were reported. Despite challenging conditions, these sailors had a good time participating in the championship!

We are looking forward to starting the spring 2026 season in March. In the meantime, please talk about our sailing team and help us recruit new members! Please stop by the clubhouse and say hello to the youth sailors, as they are part of SMSA's future. Get to know them, and help our team grow. It's a win-win for all.

SMSA High School/Middle School Team in Action!!!



KEELBOAT RACING



Larry Ray & Tom Moulds

Keelboat Race Co-Chairs

keelboatrace@smsa.com



Another successful season has come to an end. Frostbite #4 ended with a whimper compared to Frostbite #3. Now the Awards Gala can be anticipated with great enthusiasm. The Keelboat racers will represent their accomplishments very well and in style as usual.

Don't forget your opportunity to be heard at the December 3 Keelboat Feedback Session at 6:30pm. Your ideas, concerns and suggested improvements will be important to getting as many keelboats and participants on the water next season as possible. We will be bringing ideas and some of the issues raised this season with us but look forward to hearing from all of you. This session is in the spirit of making the keelboat program as successful as possible.

We thank everyone for their support and feedback this season and look forward to next year.





THE SOCIAL SCENE

Paige Smith, Chair
social@smsa.com



It is hard to believe that it is the last month of the year. The clubhouse was quite busy in November from the first day to the last! We started out with a Monster Murder Mystery that was very attended and great fun! The costumes were a hoot and the Halloween-theme foods were wonderful. The month ended with a nice turnout for Friendsgiving!



Other major events included the Annual Business Meeting, the Sunday Frostbite races followed by the results gatherings, and the Wednesday Racing Awards & Potluck. It was great to spend time with everyone as the Keelboat sailing and racing season came to an end. Thank you to all the club members who brought dishes to share, helped set up and break down for these events. All of the club's gatherings would not be possible without everyone's contributions.

December will be just as busy as November, so please mark your calendars to help the social committee and SMSA make these upcoming events as spectacular as always!

Saturday, December 6th: Annual SMSA Christmas Potluck Dinner—The doors open at 5:30pm and dinner will start at approximately 6:30pm. Come and enjoy the food, fellowship and joyous carol singing. The club will provide turkey and ham, so please bring a side or dessert (that serves 8-10) to share. The social committee will need volunteers for this wonderful holiday tradition, so again, please sign up to assist with prep, setup and breakdown/cleanup for this event!

Saturday, December 13th: Christmas Walk/Open House/Boat Parade—Doors open at 5:30pm. Be sure to come to the clubhouse to spread holiday cheer and watch the boat parade. The boat parade should be in front of the gazebo by 7:15pm. As in the past, the club will host an open house with a pool set up in the back for children to sail and race little wooden boats. We will also provide warm mulled cider and cookies. The social committee will need volunteers to help us make this a great holiday tradition, so please sign up to help!

CRUISERS CORNER

Phil Sibley

Cruising Chair

cruise@smsa.com



With all cruises complete for the year and no more planned events, the cruising fleet is working hard to winterize and prepare their boat for the upcoming winter season.

The annual Cruise Planning Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 10, 2026 at 9:00am. Join us as the cruising plans for the upcoming season will be discussed and laid out. If you think you want to join in on the cruising fun in 2026, please plan on attending.

GO CRUSING!!



Cruising In 2025





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

Place
Stamp



The Clew

DECEMBER 2025

Volume 55 Number 12



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!

