



The Clew

ANNUAL GALA

Sat. February 7th @ 5:30pm. See smsa.com for tickets:

Board of Directors

Tue. February 10th @ 7pm: Monthly Meeting

Social

Wednesday, February 4th @ 6pm: dessert baking (Witte's house)

Wednesday, Feb. 18 @6pm, Trivia Night. social@smsa.com

Training

Sat. Feb. 14 @ 1pm: When Boats Meet—Education Session,
Contact the Vice Commodore, vicecommodore@smsa.com

Sat., Feb. 28 from 8:00am—4:00pm: US Sailing Basic Race Management
Course (rescheduled from Jan 25)

Commodore's Dinner

Fri. Feb. 20 @ 6:30pm

Smallboat

Fri. Jan. 30 @ 6:30pm: Pre-season meeting & sign ups

HS/MS

Thursdays through March 5 @ 4:30pm: D&D

Small Boat Event Planning

Mon, Feb. 16, @ 6pm Patuxent Pursuit meeting, paxpursuit@smsa.com

BNAC 2026 panning meeting @6:30pm, BNAC 2026@smsa.com

Happy Hour

Fri. 5:30pm—9:00pm

Members' Corner!



Our Adult Learn to Sail program is a volunteer driven learning program with small group sessions tailored to meet your needs. Designed for beginner sailors with classroom instruction, plus on the water training. Learn and gain confidence. No previous sailing experience is required. Taught on Holder 20s, Sunfish, 420s.

The Adult Learn to Sail program is open to any SMSA member age 16 and up interested in learning or improving their sailing skills.

Email learntosail@smsa.com to get more infor-

Special thanks to Jimmy Yurko for coming out to shovel the snow on Jan 26. When Harry and Kati arrived, he was already working!!!



Anchors Aweigh for Trivia Night!

Ready to test your general knowledge? Join **Southern Maryland Sailing Association (SMSA)** for an evening of friendly competition on **Wednesday, February 18**.

Trivia Night promises high-energy fun and a chance to mingle with the local sailing community. Gather your crew, sharpen your wits, and prepare for categories ranging from maritime history to pop culture.

- **When:** February 18, 2026, 6pm - 9pm
- **Where:** SMSA Clubhouse,





Commodore's Corner

By Russell Miller
commodore@smsa.com



Last year we deservedly recognized Jacki Meiser as our Member-Of-The-Year for her legal assistance to the Board in completing the last step of SMSA's vision statement. That vision was captured by the 1989 Board when our 15th Commodore, Gary Van Tassel, noted that we had closed the book on our first 16 years by becoming a land-based club. Renting the old Captain's House in Calvert Marina created new opportunities and new challenges. That BOD then opened a new book, Volume II, with energy and inspiration as they put in motion their plans for our club's future. They moved us into our new clubhouse, started Screwpile, initiated new traditions, drafted our bylaws, and documented our new goal: **"Develop a plan to acquire a permanent or semi-permanent clubhouse facility for future club activities"**.

As Treasurer on that 1989 Board, I look back on that period in our club's history with pride. It is important to also recognize the 36 years that followed and the Boards who contributed their part. Year after year they each supported our social programs, managed our races and organized our cruises. They kept our legacy programs running just as the bylaws anticipated. Now as property owners, we have new challenges brought on by our new responsibilities and obligations. Last year saw growing pains that I often found myself in the middle of. But I stayed optimistic and now am eager to take on those challenges serving as your 38th Commodore

Your 2026 BOD has set out to improve our business model by updating accounting practices with enhanced financial reporting and enhancing your membership experience while holding dues steady. We began by revising the budget process to capture allowances for depreciation and cost sharing between programs and addressed long-range maintenance concerns which our landlord used to be responsible for. We have taken on these new challenges as a team, full of optimism and the same pride I felt back in 1989. Our aim is for these efforts to ease the anxieties we experienced last year and help future boards have reliable resources to make informed decisions.

Recognizing that we have this gift of a new beginning, I am excited for us to join together as we open the cover of Volume III and, on page one, proudly discover a new vision, set new goals, and build on our legacy. Let us dream BIG and once again become an ambassador OF our sport and a leader IN our sport. Our club is in great shape, our sport is strong and growing, and our membership is able and willing.

One day, with the benefit of time, we will talk about these as the **GOOD OLD DAYS!**

Sincerely,

Russell

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



SMSA Annual Gala and Awards Banquet

The Greatest Event Off the Water!



Saturday, February 7th, 2026
Olde Breton Inn
5:30PM - 9:30PM

An evening to celebrate our love of sailing, enjoy some music, acknowledge the hard working volunteers and hand out a few awards

Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres 5:30 p.m.

Buffet Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

2025 Awards Presentations following Dinner

Buffet Selections:

Round of Beef with carver, au jus and horseradish

Stuffed Chicken Breast

Southern Maryland Crab Balls

Dinner includes Garden Salad, Red Roasted Potatoes, Long Grain Wild Rice,
Whole Green Beans, Dinner Rolls, Tea and Coffee

Tickets: \$80 per person; RSVP with payment by February
3rd, info at www.smsa.com

Seating capacity limited to 120 people. Get your tickets in advance!

Featuring fun dance music with a DJ

Cash Bar available for drink purchases.

Make it a Night to Remember!

Questions? Email social@smsa.com or call 443-684-SMSA (7672) and leave a message and we will return your call.



Basic Race Management Seminar at Southern Maryland Sailing Association

Saturday, February 28, 2026 (1-day)

[Enroll Now](#)

There are 15 available slots

[Southern Maryland Sailing Association](#)

PO Box 262

Solomons, MD 20688-0262

Contact: [Randy Gross](#)

Instructor: [Sharon Hadsell](#)

IN-PERSON Basic Race Management Seminar hosted by Southern Maryland Sailing Association and Herrington Harbour Sailing Association.

The seminar will be held at Southern Maryland Sailing Association
14490 Solomons Island Road, Solomons, MD.

The seminar consists of One In-Person session, rescheduled for Saturday, February 28, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. (Original date was snowed out!)

There is approximately 90-120 minutes of REQUIRED pre-course work prior to the In-Person session. Attendance is required to complete and pass the course. Please be sure to download the Racing Rules App at: <https://www.ussailing.org/competition/rules-officiating/the-racing-rules-of-sailing-2025-2028/>

About 10 days before your course begins, you will receive an email from Canvas Free for Teachers, inviting you to participate in the course through Canvas, US Sailing's online learning platform. Please click the "Get Started" link to complete your profile in Canvas and access the required course materials.

The lead instructor will email you with additional course information.

US Sailing course registration fee: \$40. A discounted US Sailing special introductory membership is available for first-timers during the registration process.

Lunch will be available for pre-order (Blue Wind). Go to www.smsa.com to pre-order. Contact info@smsa.com for questions.

Registration required in advance.

Walk-In registrations are NOT allowed.

JUNIOR

Kati Keith
Junior Chair
junior@smsa.com



Settling in for Winter? How about Next Summer?

Snowy Winter Blues? How about Camp Next Summer?

We're over the holidays and getting into the long, dragging part of winter, so let's cheer up by 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 is open now for SMSA regular, young adult, and emeritus members 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 Summer Camp Chair, Kati Keith, at summercamp@smsa.com. Please note the new email address!!

Vlad makes call to bring Victoria's back to Sunday RC racing

Just as this issue was about to hit the press, SMSA member and radio controlled sailing guru Vlad Eremeev contacted *The Clew* with news that February 1st RC sailing behind the clubhouse is cancelled because of ice in the creek. Too late really for *The Clew* to be of service for that, but the second part of what he asked about is not!

A few years back there was an active Victoria RC fleet at SMSA. Most of those boats are now in members' garages and basements gathering dust. "Bring them in so we can have another racing class!" Vlad wrote, "Our current thinking that if there are Victorias we will put a different windward mark for the class but keep the same start and finish. Or something like this. We will figure it out if you come."

RC racing is Sunday's at noon behind the club, assuming the creek is clear of ice! Contact Vlad at vladimir.eremeev@gmail.com.



Vlad Eremeev and his DragonForce 65 That he has been sailing most Sundays behind SMSA.

Patuxent River Sailing Team

Come join the FUN!!



Spring 2026 SEASON begins in March! Date TBD.
Registration is OPEN!

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



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:



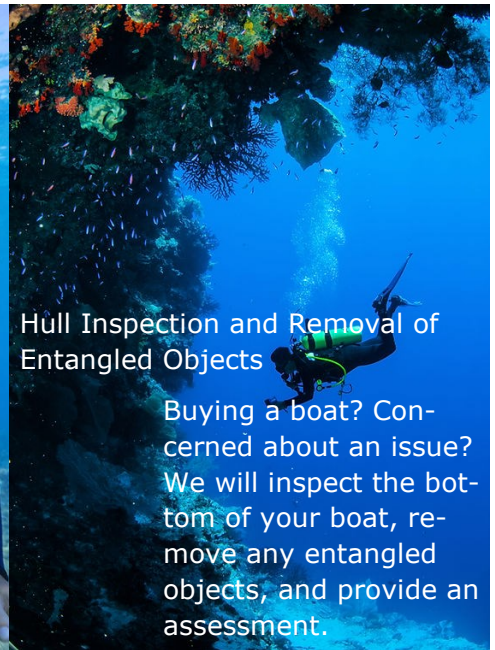
Hull & Bottom Cleaning Plans

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

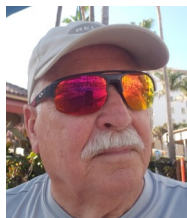
CrustyCrabDiveServicesSOMD@gmail.com

Or check out their website:

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



KEELBOAT RACING



Larry Ray & Tom Moulds

Keelboat Race Co-Chairs

keelboatrace@smsa.com



Keelboat Co-chairs are continuing to consider all the input from the feedback meeting last month. This will influence the draft SI'S for 2026.

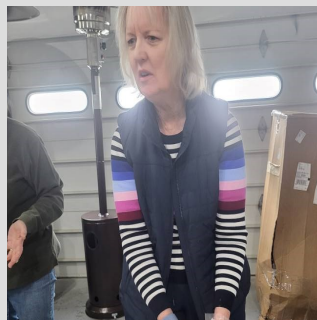
J70 Fleet 8 has just added Duke Wells as a new J70 owner. Duke has sailed on Elan in the past and is eager to learn the nuances of his new race craft.

The 2026 season is not to far away. Stay warm, weather the winter storms and arrive ready to have fun next season.



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.



Photos from last month's Tamale making day at SMSA that was hosted by Kristi Yurko. Eleven members made Tamales and either ate them there or took them home!





THE SOCIAL SCENE

Paige Smith, Chair

social@smsa.com



Check out the February calendar to see what is happening at the club as we begin the new year with sailing and membership activities! This year the Gala and Awards is scheduled for Saturday, February 7th and will be held at The Olde Breton Inn. Reservations are required for this event. Please contact Paige Smith at social@smsa.com to help with Gala preparations, to include baking and decorating, gala table prep and cleanup. There is a Gala Committee meeting scheduled Wednesday, February 4th at the Witte's house to bake cookies and cupcakes for dessert.

SpinSheet
CHESAPEAKE BAY SAILING

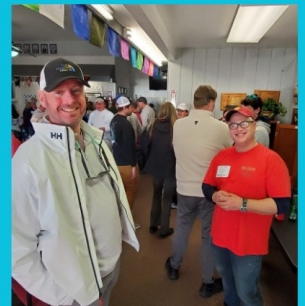


SOLOMONS

CREW PARTY!!!
2026

SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH
4PM - 6PM AT THE
SMSA CLUBHOUSE

**THE CREW PARTY IS BACK WITH FREE PIZZA,
SPINSHEET CELEBS, SMSA ROCKSTARS, AND NEW
AND NEW-TO-US SAILORS READY TO JOIN THE
SOLOMONS SAILING LIFESTYLE. COME FIND CREW,
FIND A RIDE, AND FIND NEW SAILING BUDDIES AS WE
PROMOTE SAILING AND WELCOME NEW SAILORS.
COME AND HAVE FUN AFTER THE FROSTBITE RACE
FROM 4PM - 6PM**

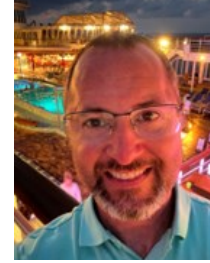


CRUISERS CORNER

Phil Sibley

Cruising Chair

cruise@smsa.com



As the month of February is upon us, our boats are secured and covered up. We, however are not! This is the time of year to begin researching those exciting destinations and more importantly, making dock reservations at each of our many sites this year.

Following our successful Cruise Planning Meeting in early January, I have begun to receive information on each of our cruises. If you chose or were delegated to lead a cruise this upcoming season, please get your inputs in to me ASAP so I can finalize the website and get it published. This is also required to support the annual yearbook! If you have any questions or would like a list of cruises and the Cruise Leader for each this year until the Cruising page is released, each cruise is listed on the SMSA Calendar which can be found on the website.

I would like to share some information provided to me by one of the Cruise Leaders who has already begun blocking slips at each of his destinations and is realizing that slips are beginning to fill up:

"I am getting this to you as soon as I can to encourage folks to make their Marina reservations early. DOCKWA may only let you reserve now to April, but you can also call the dockmaster.

For those interested in the Sailvirgina250 festival in Norfolk (Tall Ship Festival), it's really important to call for a slip at Tidewater Marina, Portsmouth VA now (it may be already too late). When I called last week, I was #30 on the list. Believe another member of SMSA is #31. We both look good to get in, but it's getting tight.

I plan on putting in reservations for the remaining marinas on the list later this week. I'll ask to hold for a few other SMSA boats, but in the end, its first come first serve."

If you have any questions or find it difficult to understand our plans this year, feel free to reach out! Until then, GO CRUISING!

SMALLBOAT RACING



Bill Shoemaker

Smallboat Race Chair

smallboatrace@smsa.com

Smallboat Pre-Season Meeting and Sign-up is Thursday, February 26th from 6pm—7pm at the clubhouse. Racing Season registration is open to SMSA Club Members. Invitational events are open to the public. Check SMSA.com for on-line registration, or contact the Smallboat Chair at smallboatrace@smsa.com



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

Place
Stamp



February, 2026

The Clew

Volume 56 Number 2



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!

