



The Clew

SpinSheet Solomons Crew Party Presented by Coors Banquet Beer

Sunday, March 8th. 4-6pm at clubhouse after Frostbite #1

Board of Directors

Tue. March 10th @ 7pm: Monthly Meeting

Social

Wednesday, March 11th @6pm, Trivia Night. social@smsa.com

Training

Sat., March 14, 11am – 2p: Racing Rules Seminar
Contact the Vice Commodore, vicecommodore@smsa.com

Racing

Sun., March 8, 15, 22, 29— Keelboat Frostbite Racing
Mon., March 16, @ 6pm Patuxent Pursuit meeting, paxpursuit@smsa.com
Wed., March 25, Small Boat pre-season meeting, 6pm—7pm

Sock Burning & Commodore's Dinner

Fri., March 20. Socks at 5pm, Dinner at 6:30pm

Spring Club Cleanup Day

Sat., March 21, 9am –5pm. Contact Facilities Chair, facility@smsa.com

HS/MS Sailing Team Kickoff, New & Returning Sailors

Thursday., March 26, 6pm—8pm. Contact hssailing@smsa.com

Opening Day

Sat., March 28, 9am—12:30pm

Happy Hour

Every 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 information about upcoming opportunities.

Don't forget, Opening Day is on Saturday, March 28th from 9am - 12:30pm! Check your upcoming weekly emails for details on potluck, Bloody Mary's, etc.



Come by for March Trivia Night!

Ready to test your general knowledge? Join **Southern Maryland Sailing Association (SMSA)** for an evening of friendly competition on **Wednesday, March 11**.

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:** March 18, 6pm - 9pm
- **Where:** SMSA Clubhouse





Commodore's Corner

By Russell Miller
commodore@smsa.com



Last month we introduced a new education series that began with a Basics of Sailing class, focusing on a single boat and then a second class that focused on When Boats Meet by adding a second boat. The third session will look at a fleet of boats and cover rules 16, 17, and 18 as they apply in various situations on the racecourse. As I write this, we're set to make up the snow-delayed US Sailing Basics Of Race Management class. This nationally accredited course will strengthen our volunteer Race Committee program. Everyone is asked to do their part as a member of the Race Committee and this course will help improve our skills.

On the business front, the new budget process has been completed and was submitted to the Board of Directors for approval. Following extensive discussions, it was adopted with provisional values for reserve items. Drawing on my experience as a real estate developer and property manager, I have found that strategic planning for future events helps lessen their impact and allows proactive decisions instead of reactive desperations.

Now that we own our building and have new responsibilities there is a wide wake of confused financial data flowing off our stern. In a more subtle business accolade, our economic strategy has shifted but our financial obligations are not yet clearly defined. As we have worked through meeting these new responsibilities a shift in the approach to the budget has also occurred. This means changing our approach from "*who*" to "*what*" does the club need to carry out its business. It will take time to identify all the new responsibilities and develop a plan to meet them, but this budget has started that process.

All these exercises were initiated to provide better planning, remove as much of the guesswork as possible, improve financial data and refine our financial postering for future commercial lender consideration. We are aware of the financial anxiety the previous BOD experienced and their attempt to balance those anxieties in the budget. Our goal was to ease those anxieties by identifying the future responsibilities and proactively planning for their occurrence.

Our further goal is to identify discretionary funds in our current cash position as opposed to reserve funds or operating funds. Once the discretionary funds are identified it is our intention to have a conversation with membership to gain guidance for investing, saving or spending those discretionary funds. To better make that decision we will need to agree on a new vision. Something I hope we can work on together over the next several months.

Sincerely,
Russell

JUNIOR

Kati Keith
Junior Chair
junior@smsa.com



Winter is almost over!!

Spring is almost here! How about
Camp this Summer?

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 for everyone and some of the weeks are filling up. 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!!*



**Important Social
Committee
meeting on
Wed., March 18
from 6pm–7pm**

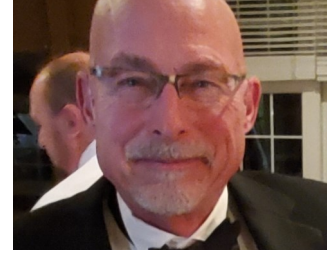
Paige is calling all Social Committee Members to come to this meeting to plan Opening Day, 2026!! Contact her at social@smsa.com

Facility

Harry Keith

Outgoing Facility Chair

Facility@smsa.com

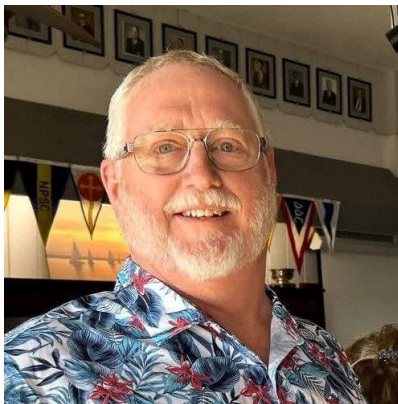


Come for the whole day or just an hour; we need YOUR help on Club Cleanup Day, March 21st!!

Club cleanup day is March 21, 9 to 5. Note that there may have been confusion on the date (I know I had another date on my personal calendar), so check your notes, calendar, and plans and be sure you have the right date! We will be on site from 9 to 5, with donuts, coffee, and juice. We will also have lots of supplies! So come in grubby clothes, and come ready to do any task you want to -- we will have a list of things we'd like to get done, and you can pick what you want. And stay as long as you want! Your contribution, as little or as much as you can give, on whatever task you can help with, will be greatly appreciated by me and the club!



Randy Gross is SMSA Member of the Year



Randy Gross was named 2025 SMSA Member of the Year at last month's Annual Gala held at Olde Breton Inn.

Randy wore multiple hats for SMSA in 2025. He was the safety boat captain as well as an instructor for both the Adult Learn to Sail program and the high school sailing team. He also assisted almost every week with RC for the Small Boat



Program, as well as helping out wherever needed.

In 2026, Randy is serving as SMSA Vice Commodore in addition to continuing his role as one of the Learn to Sail instructors and heading up sail training events.

Patuxent River Sailing Team

Come join the FUN!!



**Spring 2026 SEASON begins Thursday, March 26th.
Registration is OPEN!**

WHAT: Team practices Tues, Thurs, & Fri 3:15-6:30 PM,
MDISA regattas on select weekends.

Development team practices Tues & Thurs 3:15-6:30 PM, no
regattas, no team fee (Junior Membership only), come try it out!

WHERE: Southern Maryland Sailing Association, Solomons, MD

WHO: Students in 6th-12th grade, no experience required!
Try the development team first!

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.



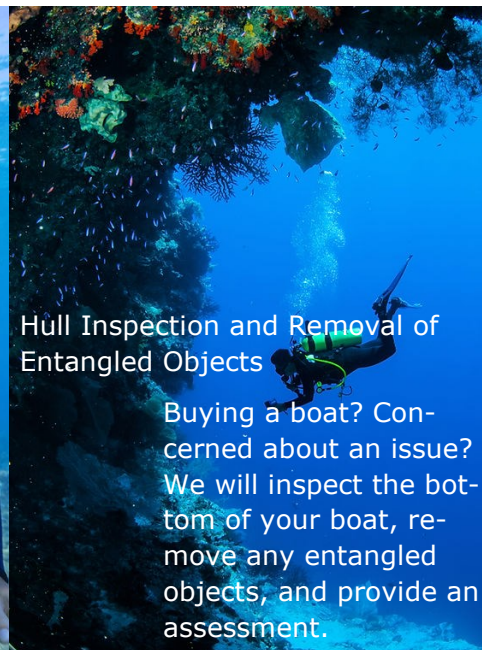
We offer the following services:



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.



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/>

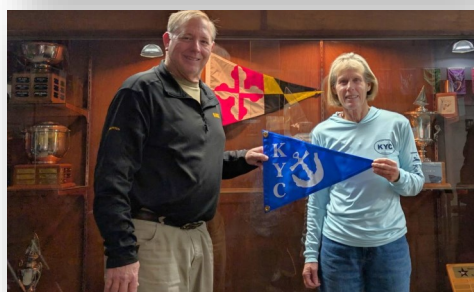
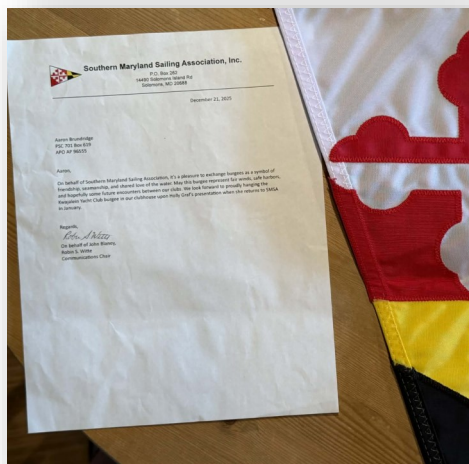
SMSA burgee now hangs in Marshall Islands yacht club

As the result of a recent burgee exchange, the SMSA colors now hang at the **Kwajalein Yacht Club** in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The exchange was facilitated by SMSA member Holly Graff, who worked nearby for about two years. A brief description of Kwajalein is below:

“The **Kwajalein Yacht Club** is [located](#) in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, approximately 2500 miles southwest of Honolulu Hawaii. The club has been in existence since the early 1950's (see photo below). We have approximately 120 active members and hold regular club meetings on the 4th Saturday of each month. The club sponsors many events throughout the year such as: Beer Can races, regattas (sunfish regatta photo below), cruising trips to outer islands, and both a Commodore's and a Swashbuckler's Ball.”

Kwajalein reportedly was very happy to receive our burgee, and they send a big THANK YOU to SMSA! Among the pictures below is one of a letter sent by Robin Witte that accompanied our burgee to the Marshall Islands.

Holly brought a KYC burgee to the club last month and presented it to Commodore Miller. It's now in our clubhouse.



KEELBOAT RACING



Larry Ray & Tom Moulds

Keelboat Race Co-Chairs

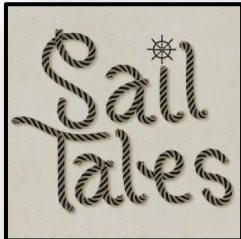
keelboatrace@smsa.com



Keelboat Co-chairs are continuing to consider all the input from the feedback meeting in January. This will influence the draft S1'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 Pierogi making day at SMSA that was hosted by Kristi Yurko. Fifteen members made Pierogi and sampled them there and took some home!

Keep an eye out for our next event—targeting April!





THE SOCIAL SCENE

Paige Smith, Chair
social@smsa.com



Whew! What a month! Even though it was a short month, there were plenty of club activities to bring members in from the cold! We started off with our wonderful gala and awards celebration at The Olde Breton Inn. Thank you to the many members who assisted with baking and decorating approximately 150 cookies and cupcakes. Another note of appreciation goes out to the Gala Decoration Team who helped set up the table centerpieces, tabletops, and fireplaces with vibrant greenery and flowers. Thank you also to our volunteers who checked in members and for the cleanup crew! Mid-month we held our second Trivia Night facilitated by Christy Poppy, Laura Birchfield and Mike Downey. Thank you to all participants. It's always fun to match trivia skills amongst team members!

Wednesday, March 18th is the Social Committee Planning Meeting for upcoming events! Volunteers needed for Opening Day, Luau and July 4th events! Come to the clubhouse at 6pm to participate!



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

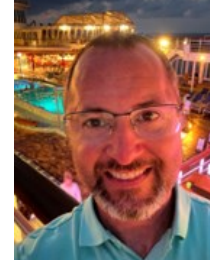


CRUISERS CORNER

Phil Sibley

Cruising Chair

cruise@smsa.com



As the spring months are upon us, we cruisers are preparing ourselves for the many trips we plan on accomplishing this calendar year. This year we will be traveling both up and down the bay, visiting many of the cruiser's favorite destinations along the way. This year we have a few new Cruise Leaders, so we are excited to see what kind of activities they can bring to the table.

Although the month of March still is typically quite cool, and this year especially the waters just began to thaw out, no trips are planned to begin until April. The month of March is a great time to begin preparing your vessels, planning your trips, and making necessary bookings. Please be sure not to miss out on some of our fun trips this summer and remember...

GO CRUISING

SMALLBOAT RACING



Bill Shoemaker


Smallboat Race Chair

smallboatrace@smsa.com

There will be a Small Boat Pre-Season Meeting and Sign-Up at SMSA on Wednesday, March 25, from 6-7 PM. There will be an opportunity to sign up for the season as well as sign up for race committee slots. We'll also try to close out some business from the February meeting and consider new suggestions/proposals. Contact me at the above email.

Membership and Registration Updates!

Keep your contact information
UPDATED



Update your membership data (phone, boat, address, etc.) by **MARCH 5** for yearbook deadlines

[Member Login](#)

I hope everyone is ready for a great 2026 season! The planning and prep are well underway and it's going to be a GREAT year. I look forward to seeing everyone at **Opening Day on March 28th**!

2026 Membership Invoices will be emailed March 15th

Membership dues for the 2026 season are unchanged. They are \$636 for Regular memberships, \$324 for Young Adult and Emeritus memberships, \$128 for Remote and \$78 for Junior memberships. Members currently on the installment plan will see the updated rates in their April 1st billing statement.

Membership Account: Please update your phone, physical and mailing address, and boat information for any changes that may have occurred. For those with a PO Box, please

ensure we have your accurate mailing address. Please make these updates soon so that any new information can be included in the 2026 Yearbook. Even if you miss that deadline, please keep your information up to date so folks can reach you throughout the year.

Race Registration: Remember to head to the Keelboat and ~~Smallboat~~ Racing pages on the SMSA website to register for the 2026 racing seasons. All boats planning to participate must REGISTER for the season or the individual event!

Note: If you switch between 2 boats for racing, please register the 2nd boat using the discount code available from the Member's Area of SMSA.com so you don't pay twice (only 1 boat may race at a time).

Please contact Membership@smsa.com if you have any questions or need assistance!



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

Place
Stamp



March, 2026

The Clew

Volume 56 Number 3



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!

