



The Clew

BOD & Committee Chairs

Tue. Aug 11 @ 7pm: Monthly BOD Meeting. commodore@smsa.com.

Tue. Aug 25, 630pm—8:00pm, Commodores/Chairs meeting.

Summer Camp, weekdays through August 7.

summercamp@smsa.com

Cruise

Friday—Monday, July 31—Aug3, Herrington Harbour South Cruise. Contact Cruise Chair Phil Sibley at cruise@smsa.com.

Friday—Monday, Aug 7—10, Oxford Cruise (Log Canoes). Contact John Blainey at jkb330@gmail.com or cruise@smsa.com

Wednesday—Wednesday, Aug 26—Sept 2, Cape Charles Cruise. Contact Martha at marthackemp@gmail.com or Phil Sibley at cruise@smsa.com

Keelboat Racing

Wednesday, Aug 5, 12, 18 & 25, Wed Keelboat Series C..

Saturday, & Sunday Aug 15 & 16, Mixed Couples Race/Battle Creek Cruise.

Open to keelboats, cruisers, dinghies. Contact keelboatrace@smsa.com

Special Event: Scott Kirby Concert/SMSA Fundraiser

Sunday, August 9, Scott Kirby presented by Corona Extra. Special guest Emily Randle. 4:00pm—6:30pm. Tickets [HERE!](#) Contact timfsmsa@gmail.com

Commodore's Steak Dinner & Town Hall

Friday, August 21, 5pm grill start, bar at 5:30, Town Hall from 7pm –8pm.

Contact the Commodore at commodore@smsa.com



The Clew

ALTS & Training

Fridays, Aug 7, 14, 21 & 28. Adult Learn to Sail Holder 20 & 420 sessions, 5:00pm –7:30pm. learntosail@smsa.com.

Sundays, Aug 9 & 23. ALTS Holder 20 session, 11:30am—2pm.
Learntosail@smsa.com

Monday Aug 3, ALTS Shore Session 1, 6pm—8pm.

Tuesday, Aug 4, ALTS Shore Session 2, 6pm—8pm.

Thursday, Aug 13, ALTS social cruise, 5:30—8:30pm. learntosail@smsa.com

Sign up for ALTS activities at <https://www.smsa.com/ALTS.php>

Small Boat Racing

Saturday, Aug 22, Sharks with Lasers. See website under [Smallboat](#).
smallboatrace@smsa.com

Thursdays, small boat races though Sept. 10. 6:30-9:00 with rendezvous in clubhouse. smallboatrace@smsa.com

High School & Middle School Sailing

Tuesday, Aug 18, 6pm—8pm. Sailing Kickoff for new & returning sailors.
Contact the High School Chair at hssailing@smsa.com

Starting Aug 20 and continuing every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday into November. High School & Middle School practice, 3:15pm—6:30pm.
Contact hssailing@smsa.com

WELCOME NEW SMSA MEMBERS

We'd like to take a moment to welcome the new and returning members that have joined our SMSA family over the past few months!

Steve Cassetta: *I became interested in sailing a few years ago when my daughter Mia started sailing for Leonardtown HS with SCC. I recently joined US Patriot Sailing and look forward to being here in Southern Maryland since 1996 and although I have been a long time power boater part of SMSA.*



Steve Cassetta

Duke Wells: Thank you all for welcoming me into the SMSA family! My name is Duke Wells. I am married to Christie, and we have daughters, Riley (16), Annie (14), Gracie (12), and Emmie (10). I fell in love with sailing at age 15 after my first outing on my best friend's Catalina 22. The boat had been abandoned for years and had become a home to many snakes and frogs, but with a lot of hard work, we brought her back to life. Once we hit the water that first time, I was hooked. Within weeks, I acquired my first boat—a free Vanguard 420 fixer-upper from St. Mary's College—and spent countless hours on it learning the basics. After graduating from West Virginia University in 2003, I crewed on various boats for Wednesday night races before finding a true home with Gary Shaw and Dan Trammell on *Elan*. *I have been sailing with them for the past 20+ years. Their experience and guidance have been invaluable and, as I'm sure many of you know, no one tells a sea story quite like Dan! During the COVID pandemic, I acquired a Flying Scot to teach my daughters how to sail, but I always kept an eye out for a larger boat to join the Wednesday night keelboat fleet. This past fall, with the help of Spencer Wait, I bought a J/70 and named her Junior. I've spent this summer working out the kinks, but I hope to officially join the keelboat races next season. I look forward to meeting all of you and enjoying some friendly competition on the water!!*



Duke Wells



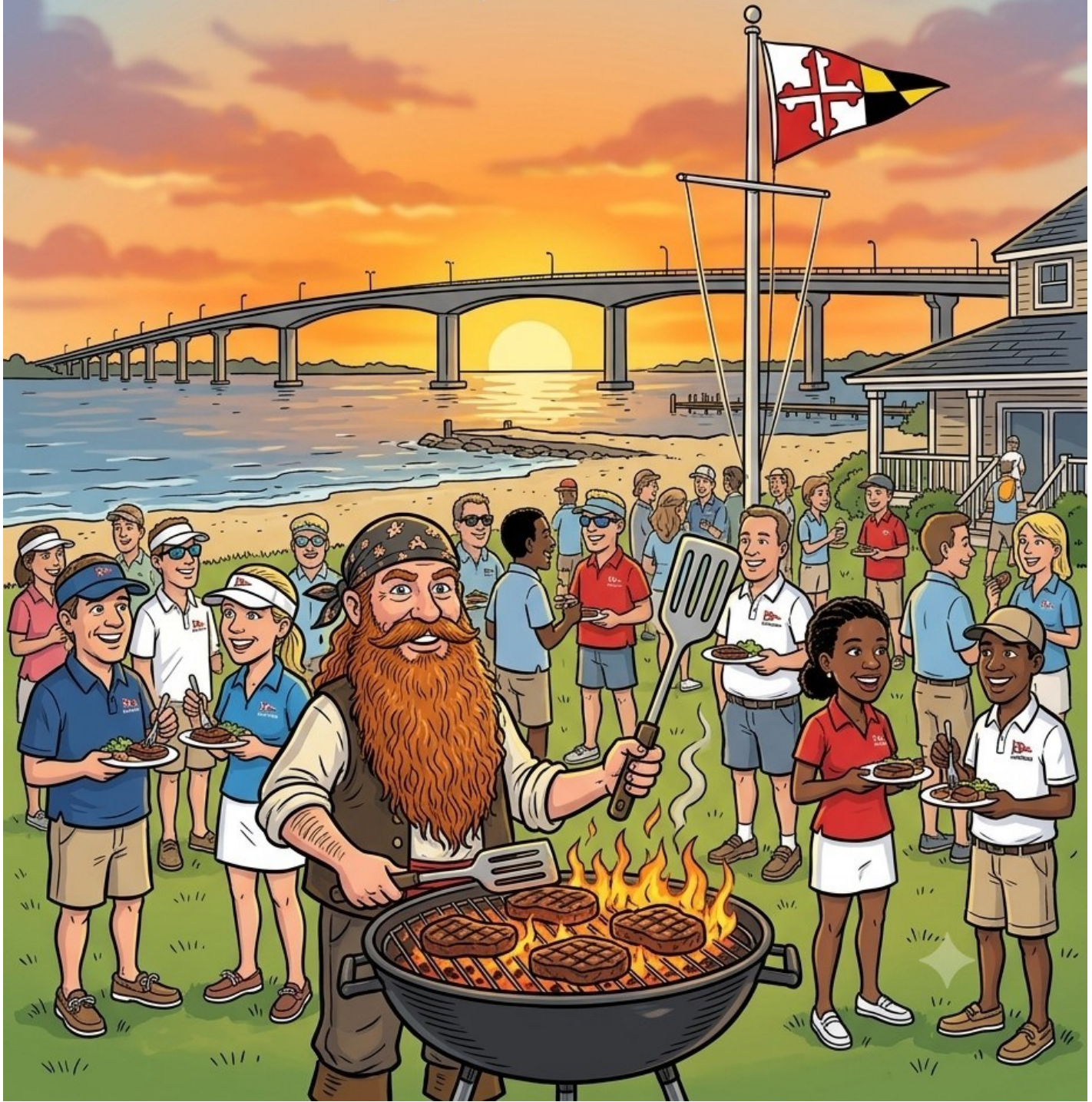
Ryan Brelage

Ryan Brelage: *Hi! I am Ryan Brelage, a local sailor to Southern Maryland who now sails in college at NC State. I love to learn new boats and am always up for a new sailing adventure!*

If you see any of our new members around the club, say hi and make them feel welcome!

SMSA STEAK NIGHT & TOWN HALL

NEW DATE! Friday, August 21st, grills at 5pm, bar at 5:30pm
meeting at 7pm at the clubhouse.



Bring your own meats to grill, and bring a side dish to share. The grill master will be heating up the grills at 5pm, the bar will open at 5:30. Meeting around 7pm



Commodore's Corner

By Russell Miller
commodore@smsa.com



Steak Night and Town Hall moved to Friday, Aug 21st

Editor's Note: This article was updated on August 6th with new date for Steak Night

We recently lost two influential figures who helped shape our club in its early years; LG Raley and Matt Gambrill. During The Patuxent Pursuit, we honored them and reflected on those formative days. Mingling with so many energetic sailors was exciting, it was especially fun sharing the story of how LG "stole" an American flag from the Old Captain's House while SMSA moved in as tenants. Somehow, using "stolen" property to help build something new seemed fitting and flying that flag at our first land-based Opening Day ceremony felt entirely appropriate. Flying the larger American flags Matt gave as Diablo's battle flag when motoring out to races honors all who helped SMSA get started back in 1989. Now, 37 years later, we made a full-circle moment when I gave that "stolen" flag back in recognition that we no longer rent and in honor of those heroes.

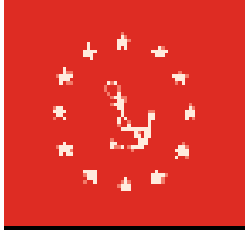
During the Patuxent Pursuit Regatta weekend our clubhouse was humming with activity. Everywhere you looked there were smiling faces, warm conversations, and the unmistakable energy of sailors enjoying each other's company. The line at the bar stretched past the trophy case and, when dinner was announced, the buffet line reached from the middle room all the way to the front doors.

Despite the crowd, everything came together and reminded us why these events are so important for the health of our sport and our club. The outstanding sailing here in the central Chesapeake Bay, the charm of the Solomons community, and the breathtaking sunsets over the Patuxent River all combined make our club one of the premier sailing destinations on the East Coast.

To help build a vision for a premier facility capable of supporting events like this while better serving the needs of our membership, I sent an email Monday evening asking for your input. I have already received several thoughtful and well-articulated responses and appreciate everyone who has taken the time to share their ideas.

To keep the conversation moving forward, I invite you to attend a second Commodore's Steak Night Dinner at our clubhouse, **Friday, August 21, from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m.** As before, Steve Birchfield will have the grills fired up by 5pm and will be happy to help you cook your favorite cut of meat that you brought along with a dish to share. After we've enjoyed a great meal together, I'll host a second Town Hall Meeting where we can continue discussing our vision for the future, exchange ideas, and explore how we can make our club an even better place for generations of sailors to come.

Russell



Vice Commodore

Randy Gross
vicecommodore@smsa.com



1st Annual Junior Member Regatta and fun sail is on August 14th!

This year we have decided to host a special event for our "Junior Sailors", whether they be summer camp participants, HS/MS participants, or regular Junior members.

This article serves (2) two purposes: 1) to get the word out to the families of our Junior Sailors letting them know about the event and that registration is now open, and 2) asking our general membership for help in executing this new event. We feel that encouraging our Junior Members is key to our club's continued success and growth.

The Junior Member Regatta and Fun Sail on 14 August (from 4:30-7:30) will encompass both Optimist and 420 sailboats. For some, this will be their very first regatta; others are accomplished sailors. As such, our Junior Sailors will choose between either a Competitive Race Course where they can pit their advanced skills against other sailors, or an "Un-Regatta" Fun Sail Course where they can demonstrate their skills while navigating a fun mini-course. We envision that there may be Unicorns, Dragons, water squirters, Mythical Eggs, and other fun elements involved in the "Un-Regatta". There will be a party following the event.

If you have Junior Sailors who are interested, please see the registration information further down in the email.

General Members: We are seeking volunteers who can either come up with ideas, help execute the ideas, or both! We are specifically seeking other members who want to help us encourage our Junior Members to be active participants in club sailing.

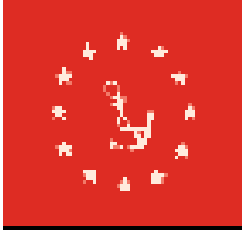
We intend to have a final planning meeting hopefully next week to finalize ideas and would love to have some extra input.

Also, on the day of the regatta, we will need LOTS of help wrangling sailors while keeping it a Fun, Safe event. Roles will include Boat wranglers to help rig/derig boats, and manage swapping sailors into/out of boats, sailor coordinators for each course to pair sailors up into races and boats, "Race Committee" members to man the skiffs and RHIBs on the courses, "Superlative Judges" to watch the going's on and identify those who deserve some non-traditional recognition, as well as Shore side coordinators, grill masters and general set up/clean up help. We are seeking volunteers to be on-site the evening of Friday, August 14, from about 4 to about 8:00. If you're interested in helping, please contact Randy Gross at ViceCommodore@smsa.com.

Calling all SMSA Junior member sailors: This regatta is for our Junior member sailors – be they summer camp participants, HS/MS participants or just regular Junior members.

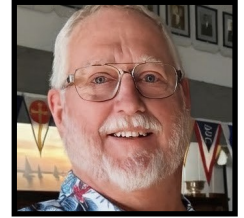
Choose to sail in an Opti or 420 on either the competitive regatta course or the 'un-regatta' - fun sail course. Sailors age 8-12 may compete in an Opti sailboat. Sailors age 8-18 may compete in a 420 sailboat. Dress to get wet, and as always, everyone on the water must be in a PFD.

Continued on next page....



Vice Commodore

Randy Gross
vicecommodore@smsa.com



August 14 Junior fun regatta coming up! *Continued from p. 6*

This is intended to be a Family Fun Event to allow our Sailors to demonstrate their skills while having fun. Parents **must** remain onsite during the regatta. Parent volunteers are greatly appreciated!

We will have a Social Gathering and awards afterwards. Hot Dogs, Brats and chips will be provided. Bring a side or dessert to share potluck style.

Registration: There is NO Fee to register. Additional Information and a link to register can be found on the SMSA Website at <https://www.smsa.com/Jr/jrregatta.php>
Reach out to ViceCommodore@smsa.com for more information or to volunteer.



Adult Learn to Sail is available to all adult SMSA members!

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.

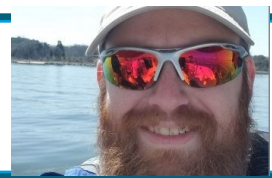
The Adult Learn to Sail program is open to any SMSA member age 16 and up interested in learning or improving skills. Classes continue all season.

Check smsa.com for schedules and signup!

Free CPR and AED training

The Solomons VRS&FD provides FREE CPR/AED training to everyone. Sign up for a class on their website: www.svrsfd.org. Classes are typically held twice per month. Upcoming classes are Aug. 6th and 15th, and Sept 7th and 20th. Registration is required.

Learn more about the AED at SMSA and about CPR. Questions?? Write Rebecca Murphy at rebeccasruth@gmail.com or call (412)401-5083.



Patuxent Pursuit features 37 boats, HUGE crowds at SMSA parties and dinners.

The winds were back in Solomons for the second year in a row! Southern Maryland Sailing Association held our Patuxent Pursuit Regatta July 17th thru the 19th proudly proclaiming it as the "most fun July regatta."

In our second year, we are clearly growing in participation with a dozen more boats/teams from elsewhere in Maryland and Virginia participating than in the inaugural year of 2025.

Like last year, Friday's race was a fun race to help introduce competitors to the pursuit platform and the racecourse for the weekend. On Saturday and Sunday, some of the fleet split off into W/L and one design racing while the remainder and larger portion of the fleet continued in pursuit racing for daily awards and CBYRA points. Taking into account decades of wind data and various other calculations, the course was well planned, keeping boats together for good, close racing and ensuring all competitors completed the race each day. Although poor air quality and bad afternoon storms hit the area, it did not deter the racing or the evening parties proving that sailors love to attend both!

The Patuxent Pursuit did a great job getting cruisers to join in the racing, some who would have normally passed on the classic W/L buoy racing. Without the added stress of a normally packed start line, skippers just had to start at their assigned start time which is what most cruisers didn't like about W/L racing. I truly believe this style of racing will help to rejuvenate the sailing sport and increase participation across the Chesapeake as it is clearly doing for SMSA and Solomons, MD.



CRUISERS CORNER

Les Griffith
Guest Columnist



July 4th Cruise to the St. Mary's River

July started off with the SMSA cruisers heading out on our annual 4th of July Cruise. This year the cruise was delayed because of extreme weather with high heat and dangerous thunderstorms predicted. Nonetheless, we were able to start on Saturday the 4th.

With the extreme weather the events at St Mary's City were cancelled by the college, so we changed our destination to Carthagen Creek just off Dennis Point Marina. Despite uncertain weather, Dennis Point Marina decided to continue with their America 250th celebration including fireworks. Our first choice of anchorages happened to be in the area of the fireworks so the fire department asked us to move for safety reasons. After pulling anchor we moved slightly further up the creek near the north side of the marina where we had a clear line of sight to the fireworks barge. Chesa (Jerry and Donna Taylor) and Cloud 9 (Les Griffith) rafted up and enjoyed happy hour festivities before the fireworks show began. As the evening progressed and thunderstorms developed over most of St Mary's County and the Potomac River, we were in the sweet spot watching nature's fireworks all around us. We had a brief storm pass over us, but winds were not problematic, and the rain came through quickly. As the sun set, the barge was put in place and we were able to enjoy a wonderful fireworks display while the rest of the county hunkered down in storms.



*Some of the SMSA cruisers on the dock
at SALT on Smith Creek after dinner*

On the morning of the 5th, we pulled anchor and headed south down the Potomac for Point Lookout Marina. After getting tied up, power connected, and air conditioning on, we were able to get cleaned up ahead of a planned dinner at SALT. Many SMSA cruisers, around 16 of us who could not make the trip by boat, arrived by land yacht to enjoy the fare offered by SALT. The restaurant did a great job of taking care of such a large group and the food was very good. After dinner several people moved to Chesa to continue the gathering and enjoy the evening.

As the sun rose on the 6th, we left Point Lookout Marina to head home or the next stop on our sailing adventure on the Potomac. The winds were light, so motoring was required to arrive back at Solomons before the predicted afternoon storms arrived.

Although mother nature tried to derail the cruising event, we had a good time on the water and gathering at our various destinations.

CRUISERS CORNER II

Dennis Chandler
Guest Columnist



Annapolis Summer Garden Dinner cruisers see “Carol King” and dine at AYC

SMSA's annual Annapolis Summer Garden Theater cruise was July 10 through 12 with Dennis Chandler and Les Griffith as co-cruise leaders. We left Solomons the area heading for Selby Bay in the South River to start the cruise with a raft up and happy hour. Selby Bay is a quiet anchorage just inside the South River which is a great jumping off point for heading to Annapolis Harbor the next day. The sail had winds out of the North at 10 knots, so motor sailing was necessary most of the way. At times, our heading allowed us to shut off the engine and enjoy close-hauled sailing. It was a comfortable sail with temps in the 80's and low humidity making an enjoyable trip up the bay. Upon arrival in Selby Bay, Decoy (Karl and Danielle Adler) and Cloud 9 (Les Griffith) rafted up and enjoyed happy hour with good food and stories of sailing adventures. As sunset approached, we broke up the raft and anchored separately for a peaceful night with light winds making for comfortable sleeping.

The following morning, we hauled anchor and set sail for Annapolis Harbor, we had winds from the NE which allowed us to sail the short distance from South River to Annapolis Harbor. Entering Annapolis under sail is always interesting with a combination of work boats, power boats, cruising sailboats, racing sail boats, small fishing boats, paddle boards and kayaks. Needless to say, you need to keep a sharp lookout for your fellow boaters. After selecting a choice mooring ball from the large selection, we took a water taxi into town for a walk around before dinner. That evening we all gathered at the Annapolis Yacht Club for happy hour and dinner. The boat cruisers were joined by several land cruisers (Dennis and Caroline Chandler, and Carl and Martha Kemp) who drove up to join us at the Yacht Club. As always Annapolis Yacht Club offered a varied and interesting menu of well-prepared delicious selections. Their lobster over fruit salad was a wonderful and refreshing entrée for a summer evening. A big THANK YOU to Dennis Chandler for arranging access to the Yacht Club. After dinner, as tradition dictates, several of us made our way to Kilwin's for ice cream for dessert. Later that evening we gathered at Annapolis Summer Garden Theater to enjoy the show “Beautiful – The Carole King Musical” enjoying many of her songs from our youth.

After a comfortable night in the mooring field with a cool breeze, we headed home starting with a gentle wind out of the East. This allowed for broad reach sailing as we made our way down the bay under full sail. As the day progressed the winds began to increase contrary to the weather predictions. As we passed the Choptank, winds were 20+ knots Easterly for a sporty sail with boat speed exceeding 9 kts. Everyone arrived at their home marina by early evening before the thunderstorms pushed through, ending a fun trip safely at home.

Waldschmidt Trophy goes to Barba Roja in Gov Cup Triumph



Steve Birchfield and crew on Barba Roja won their class, and they were named 2026 winners of the Waldschmidt Best in Fleet Trophy as the most competitive boat in the most competitive class. This trophy is considered the highest honor at Governor's Cup, held July 31st—Aug. 1st.



Nelleke says "thanks" for aluminum drive help

Nelleke Schijf thanks everyone at SMSA for saving cans to help her collect aluminum. We are now ending the collection. Any remaining items, please recycle on your own. She collected more than 60\$ worth of scrap and \$21.25 in cash donations for the Mission Center in Solomons. She is continuing her collection of donations at the Solomons Island Yacht Club, but no longer doing the scrap aluminum drive.



SCOTT KIRBY

— LIVE IN CONCERT! —

PRESENTED BY



AUGUST 9TH
— 4PM —

AT
SOUTHERN MARYLAND
SAILING ASSOCIATION
Solomons, Maryland



*Great Music.
Great Friends.*
GREAT TIME!



**Hilton
Garden Inn®**

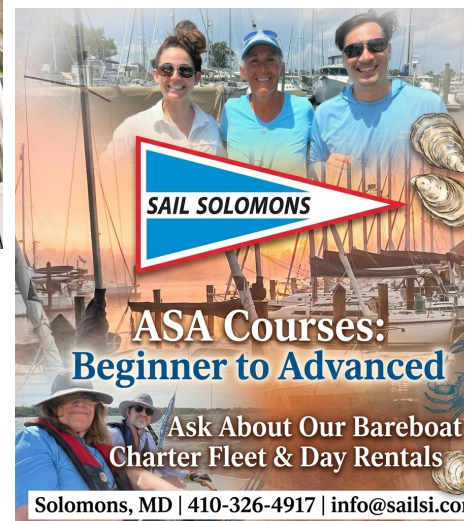
Tickets are \$18pp for members. Your guests are \$25pp. RSVP at [SMSA.com](https://www.smsa.com)

Scott Kirby show will feature Emily Randle as special guest for first time since 2023

Violinist Emily Randle will join Scott Kirby for his Sunday, August 9th show at SMSA. It will be the first time Kirby has had an accompanist at SMSA since 2023, the last time Randle was here.

SMSA usually makes about \$1,500 or more in profit from this event, enough to buy some new 420 sails or take care of some equipment needs in the back. Please join us August 9th for this annual special event with this amazing singer-songwriter!

Once again, our sponsors make possible the intermission Pizza Party, and also are making Emily's appearance possible. Please thank the sponsors for supporting SMSA when you see them.



HAPPY HOUR IS EVERY FRIDAY AT 5:30

Come in for fun and terrific sunsets on the front patio. We go until about 9:30pm or whenever Ana kicks us out! Sit on the patio and watch the crowds and boats go by!

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:



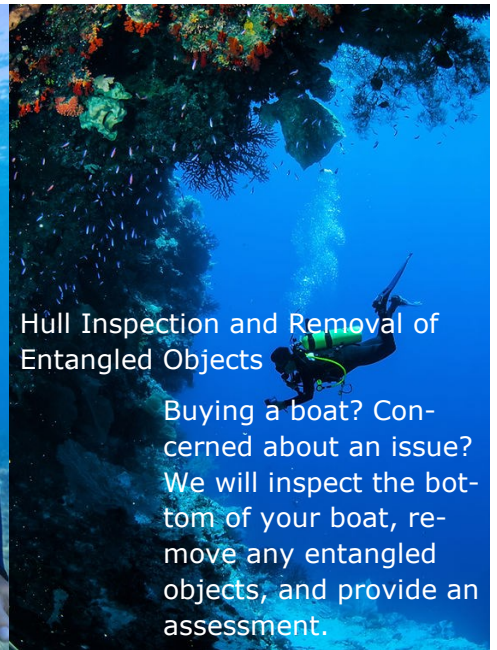
Hull & Bottom Cleaning Plans

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.

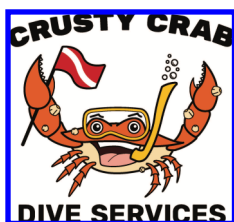


Hull Inspection and Removal of Entangled Objects

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/>



SMALLBOAT RACING



Bill Shoemaker

Smallboat Race Chair

smallboatrace@smsa.com

Thursday night turnouts increase in July 2026!

We have seen steadily increasing turnout for Thursday night small boat racing, with a dozen or more boats showing up each week. It has been particularly great to have Doug Hayes out on the water either helping with RC or in his laser!

Upcoming events for Smallboats

August 13: Team racing in the club 420s.

We had a good turnout for team racing in June (4 teams). This will be a similar format, with the number of boats per team (2 or 3) determined by the number of crews who show up. The intent is to make this an informal learning opportunity, please come out if you're interested!

August 22: Sharks with Lasers

Registration and information will be posted to the SMSA website soon.

September 10. Last night of Thursday Smallboat Racing

September 12: Rum Runner. More information will be posted soon.

September 26-27 - Smallboat Fall Invitational - if you are interested in helping with RC or shore activities, please contact smallboat@smsa.com. All help is greatly appreciated.

October 1-4: SMSA is hosting the Buccaneer 18 North American Championship (BNACj).

If you are not racing in BNAC, and you have a boat parked in the dry-sailing lot, you will be expected to move your boat during BNAC to make space for visiting teams. If you are not racing in the Fall Invitational, it would be much appreciated if you would move your boat from the

Scott Kirby presented by **Corona Extra**
Hilton Garden Inn
Sunday, August 9th, 4pm!
at **SMSA Clubhouse!** in Solomons!
with special guest **Emily Randle**
Tickets: \$18 for members, \$25 for guests.
see smsa.com for tickets, or write to scottatsmsa@gmail.com

SHARKS WITH LASERS
SAILBOAT RACE
AUGUST 22 at SMSA in SOLOMONS
See SMSA.com for details

Creators and collaborators wanted to promote SMSA!!!

Think you're good with a camera? How about that video feature on your phone? Well, then! SMSA Communications has a proposal for you; become a collaborator and/or contributor to the SMSA Facebook page and the SMSA Instagram! We are seeking people with that eye for good shots and for interesting and exciting video to feed us material or become a collaborator from your Instagram account!

What's in it for you? The chance to show your chops and to help SMSA grow by attracting new members!

We actually have a budget this year to run targeted ads through Facebook and Instagram, but we need kick-butt content and more followers to make the algorithms work for us. Email the Communications Chair, Tim Flaherty, at communications@smsa.com to get started!

THE SOCIAL SCENE

Paige Smith, Chair

social@smsa.com



We did our July 4th Party TWICE in our prime location! Thanks to everyone for helping!

WHEW!! What a scorcher of a month! The 4th of July party and potluck was a tremendous success and very well attended. The display of fireworks eventually occurred (due to the storm on the 4th) so many members took advantage of our prime location to celebrate the occasion AGAIN with family and friends on Sunday. Thank you to all who helped with the decorations and potluck setup. Special thanks to Steve Birchfield and crew for grilling the delicious foods for the event. And thanks to everyone who contributed to the potluck. The dishes were wonderful and your generous participation in these events is very much appreciated. We couldn't put together these great events without our group of dedicated volunteers and the enthusiastic members' contributions.

While there are no formal social events in August, the annual Scott Kirby Concert will be held on Sunday, August 9th, with doors opening at 3pm. Get your tickets early on the SMSA website to support the SMSA programs and enjoy some live music with your SMSA family.



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

Place
Stamp



May 2026

The Clew

Volume 56 Number 5



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!

