



The Clew

BOD & Committee Chairs

Tue. Oct 13 @ 7pm: Monthly BOD Meeting. commodore@smsa.com.

Tue. Oct 27, 630pm—8:00pm, Commodores/Chairs meeting.

Cruise

Saturday & Sunday, Oct 10 & 11, Vera's Cruise. Contact John Blainey at jkb330@gmail.com or Cruise Chair Phil Sibley cruise@smsa.com.

H & K Dock Party/WTWB #3, Sat.—Mon., Oct 24, 25 & 26. All members welcome on Sat at 4pm for a picnic at the Keith's dock! Contact Harry Keith at sailor11767@gmail.com, Kati Keith at kmsabin@msn.com, Todd Porter at portertodda@gmail.com, or Phil at cruise@smsa.com

Keelboat Racing

Saturday, Oct 10, Hooper's Point. Point No Point Race (SMSA High Point), contact keelboatrace@smsa.com

Sunday, Oct 11, Fall Invitational (SMSA & CBYRA High Point). Contact keelboatrace@smsa.com

Small Boat Racing

Saturday, Oct 24, Bucctober Fest. Contact smallboatrace@smsa.com



The Clew

Buccaneer 18 North American Championship

Thu.—Sun, Oct 1,2,3 & 4, Contact Kristi Yurko at kristi.yurko@gmail.com.

High School & Middle School Sailing

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

Social

Sunday, Oct 11, Chili Cookoff, 5:00pm—8:30pm.
Contact Paige at social@smsa.com

Wednesday, October 28, Annual Social Planning Meeting, 6pm—7pm. Contact Paige at social@smsa.com

Fall Club Cleanup Day

Saturday, Oct 31. Contact Jolie Homshur at facility@smsa.com

Patuxent Pursuit

October 28, 6:00pm—7:30pm. Planning meeting. Contact the Chair at paxpursuit@smsa.com



Commodore's Corner

By Russell Miller
commodore@smsa.com



Priorities achieved, and SMSA is Growing!

At the start of my term as Commodore, I set two priorities: develop our property-management practices and strengthen our culture as a premier sailing association. We achieved both goals. The Board focused on addressing our business practices, while the Rear and Vice Commodores encouraged their committees to focus efforts on sailing-centered events.

We began with three well-attended training sessions and introduced a "No Fault" protest format to help members learn the rules. These efforts increased sailing knowledge, enthusiasm, and confidence for the sport of sailing—and, in turn, participation on the water. Wednesday night boats had an abundance of crew as new members joined established teams. The Bay races also had a significant increase in participation with vigorous competition for perpetual trophies and the high-point championship. Our members traveled long distances in greater numbers proudly carrying our burgee to away events representing us well (see Jim Keen's article). All of this created an infectious sense of optimism that carried into the club house where sailors gathered to share tall tales of great feats and near misses.

Addressing our business practices began with revising the budget process. Our financial review confirmed a clean accounting system and balanced books. At two Town Hall meetings, members shared their perspectives to help us begin addressing long-term financial goals while considering options for clubhouse improvements.

A persistent concern was whether we could secure a commercial loan to repay the member lenders. My Town Hall handout addressed some concerns by outlining options from a balance-sheet perspective, but it did not answer the larger question of what we needed to do to qualify for a commercial loan.

I am pleased to share that our application for a commercial loan was recently approved for \$1,300,000.00, confirming the strength of our finances, the organization of our new business practices, and the transparency of our accounting systems. Although the application process was long and arduous, the lender's decision has reinforced confidence in our financial strength.

Commodore's Corner continued on next page



Commodore's Corner

By Russell Miller
commodore@smsa.com



Commodore's Corner continued from page 3

With this milestone achieved, I recommend that we confidently continue with our current financing arrangements.

Our club is growing, there is laughter, smiling faces, and recently the aroma of steaks on the grill as well as the scent of Old Bay in the air. None of what makes a growing club feel the way it does happens accidentally. I am proud of our culture. Proud that we open our doors to new members and give them the help they need to grow into our sport. Proud that the person who just bought an old boat is helped rather than laughed at, and racing is explained rather than treated as something you should already understand.

We have accomplished a great deal this year because our members have stepped forward to give their time, share their expertise, offer encouragement, and quietly kept us moving forward. New events—including the Junior Camp Regatta, Full Moon Raft-Up, and Patuxent Pursuit Race—also supported our club's growth. If you would like to join our leadership team, we are now accepting nominations for 2027 officer, director, and program chair positions.

If you would like to help but don't want a leadership role, we have opportunities for you too!

Russell



Crab Feast Photos below by Steve Birchfield



CRUISERS CORNER

Jerry & Donna Taylor

Guest columnists

CRUISE TO HONGA RIVER/HOOPERS ISLAND

It was a beautiful day on September 5, 2026 when four cruisers departed Solomons for Fishing Creek, MD at the head of the Honga River.



John and Joan Blaney (Thisildous), Todd and Jennifer Porter (Constellation), Les Griffith (Cloud 9) and Jerry and Donna Taylor (Chesa) had a 12-15 knot broad reach across the bay until turning North to zig/zag up the Honga River.

The club has not gone to this area in many years. Maybe it is because the black flies are still horrific! The Eastern Shore of the bay has very shallow water overall, but the channels are quite deep. Hoopers Island is made up of three islands with two bridges. Upper, Middle and Lower Hoopers Island.

It was good to see that there is lots of revetment work going on trying to save the islands before they disappear. A lot of work was going on at Barren Island. It was also good to see all the crab potters and trot liners getting out after a poor crabbing season.

Chesa slipped under the 27' bridge to scope things out for dinner plans and this cut out about 15 miles on the journey for us. We found that we could tie up on Back Creek and walk over to Old Salty's Restaurant. Old Salty's Restaurant has been a mainstay on Hoopers Island for decades.



Dinner was fantastic with some good olde Eastern Sho' cooking. A popular local band came in later. The weather was nice and cool the entire trip.

We departed the dock after dark and while looking for old pilings, we got everyone back to their respective boats safely.

Folks departed early on Sunday before the flies woke up. They enjoyed a nice beat up the bay in 14-18 knots and 2-3 foot seas.

The Honga River/Hoopers Island was a nice place to visit, and we should consider it again. One could spend several days there in a dinghy discovering all the creeks and Blackwater Refuge is not that far away.

CRUISERS CORNER

Carl & Marth Kemp

Guest columnists

Cape Charles week-long cruise hits Onancock, town of Cape Charles and ALL the shops and restaurants!

The 110-mile sail to Cape Charles took place on Aug 26 to Sep 1. On Day 1, Constellation (Todd/Jennifer Porter) and Thisilldous (John/Joan Blaney) left Solomons in early morning and Serenity (Carl/Martha Kemp) left later in the day.

We sailed, then motor-sailed in 17 kt south winds with substantial waves and anchored near the Potomac. On Day 2, the three boats sailed across the Bay in southeast winds and met in Onancock. Dinner at Maurice, billed as a Fine Fun Fusion restaurant, was amazing and well-worth the stopover.

On Day 3, light south/southeast winds on the nose did not challenge us as we headed to Cape Charles. What was a challenge? A group of menhaden boats with fish finding helicopters. Guess they own that part of the Bay.

Cape Charles (Days 3-6)

There is lots to do, see, eat, and drink in Cape Charles. Cruisers spread out – some to the beach, some on bikes, others walked and shopped. The group activity--developed by Todd and Jennifer--was a scavenger hunt. Todd walked the town, then made 35 clues for the hunt. It was challenging . . . and very fun!

A couple of dining standouts were The Shanty, next to the marina, with lively music, cold beer, and an amazing sunset view. The Ambrogia Caffè & Enoteca, in the historic district, exceeded our expectations with authentic Italian food and drink.

Solomons (Days 6-7)

As happens, the winds shifted. For the trip north we had a light, northwest wind. The weather was pleasant as we motor-sailed up the Bay stopping overnight in Mill Creek off the Great Wicomico River. On the final day, with the same weather conditions in place we motor-sailed home to Solomons.

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 month!

Randy and Cindy Pickelmann: *While we lived in Florida for fifty years, we came here after living in Maine for twelve years. We are lifelong boaters, both under sail and power, although we are presently boatless - a condition we hope to remedy next spring.*



I am a US Sailing Race Officer. I did quite a bit of R/C work in Maine. Cindy also works R/C handling check-ins, recording finishes and generally keeping me on task. I am looking forward to helping out here in Solomons.



Officer and BOD nominations are due by October 13th. Vice Commodore, Secretary and one Director position have NO incumbents running!!

Do you want to help navigate SMSA's future? Now is your chance! As a club we will be voting for the 2027 Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting in October. All Officer and some Director positions will be elected. Now is your chance to nominate yourself as a candidate!

We have been notified that the incumbents for Vice Commodore, Secretary, and one Director Position will not be running again, therefore we will need to fill those positions with new candidates. Additionally, it is our goal to offer alternative candidates for all positions if we can find willing candidates.

Officer positions include Commodore, Vice Commodore, Rear Commodore, Treasurer, and Secretary. Additionally, two Director positions will be voted on.

The Officer positions are one-year terms, while Directors serve three-year terms. To be an eligible candidate for Commodore, the nominee must have previously served at least two years in an Officer position or as a committee chair. There are no prerequisites for the other open positions. All nominees must be SMSA members in good standing.

Nomination packages must be received and confirmed by the Nomination Committee no later than 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13, 2026. Those wishing to provide input should send your nomination package, to include the desired position, a short biography of previous SMSA activities and service, and a recent photograph to the Nomination Committee at election@smsa.com.

From your Nominating Committee.

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM



Rebecca Wingate

High School Program Chair

hssailing@smsa.com

Twenty kids participating as High School/ Middle School Sailing of to an active start

The high school sailing season is off to a GREAT start! Our team is growing, with 4 middle schoolers signed up for the second season of our new Development Team, and 16 middle school and high schoolers on our JV & Varsity Teams! We started practice at the end of August, and have had record numbers of boats on the water. The Varsity Team members are taking a leadership role and helping the new JV and Development Team sailors learn the ropes, with guidance from our GREAT team of coaches. Welcome to our new sailors: Emerson Hildebrandt, Glenda Gioia, Jaxon Speer, Lilianna Mitchell, Jacob & Cora Houston, and Alex & Gabe McDonnell!

Practices are Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 3:30-6:30pm. Next time you are at the club during these days, come see the team in action! We'd love for you to see their skills progressing, get to know them, and let them know the club supports their hard work. Thank you for hosting our high school team!



All of the practice and hard work have already paid off this season. Our team has participated in two Varsity regattas and one JV regatta so far. Tommy Birchfield, Nolan Wingate, Jackson Myers, and Owen Myers sailed in MDISA's "Fall Frolic" Tier 1 (Varsity) regatta hosted by the Annapolis Yacht Club on Saturday, September 12th. Our team had several front-of-the-pack finishes throughout the day and saved the best for last, with both the A & B division boats scoring 1st-place finishes! We were so proud of our sailors– but those two first places were thrown out due to the time limit expiring for the last race. Even so, we finished 6th overall out of 16 boats, an excellent place and a great day of racing!



Next up, Owen & Jackson Myers, Annabelle Yurko, and Max Wingate sailed in the Tier 2 (JV) regatta hosted by the Kent Island Yacht Club on Saturday, September 19th. Again, we had several great finishes in the A division, while the B division struggled with some shifty, light winds. The race committee squeezed out 4 races in each division and we finished 5th out of 10 boats– a good start for the JV team!

Tommy Birchfield, Nolan Wingate, Colt Touchton, and Glenda Gioia sailed in the Tier 1 (Varsity) regatta hosted by West River Yacht Club on Sunday, September 20th. We had a full day of racing, with

8 races in each division and 16 overall. Our sailors kept us on pins and needles all day as they jockeyed with St. Mary's High School for first place. We ultimately ended the day in 2nd place out of 12 boats, marking our best varsity regatta performance on record!

Continued next page...

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM



Rebecca Wingate

High School Program Chair

hssailing@smsa.com

...Continued from last page

September ended with a bang when a nor'easter cancelled our next Tier 1 (Varsity) regatta at Tred Avon Yacht Club. Instead, the Varsity sailors and a few hardy crew sailed in the SMSA Invitational on Sunday, September 27th. We had hoped to get more team members out, but Mother Nature had other plans. The race committee scored the 420s separately, and Tommy Birchfield and Jackson Myers won their fleet, followed by Max Wingate and Jaxon Speer, and then Owen Myers, Colt Touchton, and Beau Sink! The conditions were sporty, and the regatta only ran two races. These kids gave it a go, but knew their limits; some came in early talking about wild rides and gale-force winds- all with big smiles on their faces!



SMSA Organizational License Plates - Now Available for Order!

SMSA is pleased to offer a Maryland Organizational License Plate for its members!

Thank you to all those who helped over the months (years?) of work make this happen!

SMSA Organizational License Plates are now available for order!

Orders are due early November so we can submit the collective package to the MVA for issuance.

To order:

- * Complete the VR-124 from (available via email or from the Member Login area of the website)
- * Include \$30 check payable to the Maryland MVA
- * Return completed packet to the clubhouse to be placed in the safe or arrange drop-off with member-ship@smsa.com

See below for a list of FAQs developed to answer most the expected questions.

Contact Membership@smsa.com with questions not addressed below.

How do I apply for an SMSA organizational license plate?

You will complete the Owner information and vehicle information on a VR-124. The form is available via the member's area off the SMSA website.

Once complete, return the signed form along with a \$30 check made out to the MVA to Kristi Yurko (membership@smsa.com). Applications and checks may be dropped at the SMSA clubhouse and placed in the safe or they may be handed to Kristi directly. We will complete our portion of the form and submit the form and payment to the MVA.

The initial batch of plate requests will be submitted in early November. After that initial batch we will submit requests as they are received.

Continued next page...

SMSA license plates now available for order *Continued....*

How much does it cost to get the organizational plate?

The plate has a one-time issuance fee of \$30. After that, standard registration renewal fees apply.

Does getting an organizational plate affect my registration expiration date?

No. The current registration expiration date will stay the same and be applied to the new plate. Only the plate number will change.

Is there an additional cost for renewing the organizational plate?

No. There is not an additional recurring fee. Only the standard registration fees apply when you are ready to renew your registration.

How does this affect future registration renewals?

No impact. Future registration renewals will process as normal.

What types of vehicles are eligible for this plate type?

The plates can be assigned to passenger cars, multi-purpose vehicles (ex: RV), and trucks 1 ton or less. The plate cannot be used on a Trailer or motorcycle.

Will I be able to keep my current plate?

You will need to surrender your existing plate back to the MVA once you receive your new SMSA Organizational Plate.

What if I have another Specialty Plate?

You will surrender your current specialty plate (Ex: Agricultural and Chesapeake Bay plate) back to the MVA upon receipt of your new SMSA Organizational Plate.

Can I get an organizational plate for my business vehicle?

The vehicle must be for personal/non-commercial use. The vehicle cannot be registered solely in a business name - it must have a personal name in the registration.

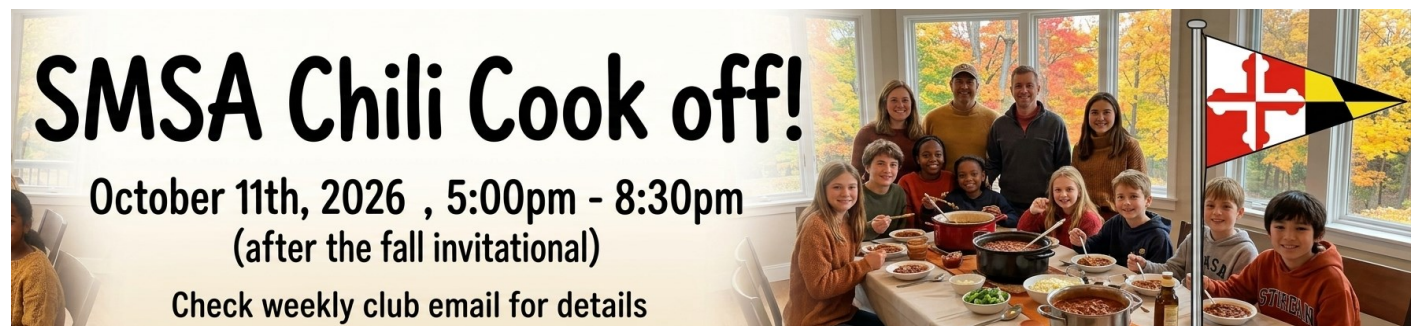
Can I request a specific plate number?

Plate numbers are issued in sequential order. We can hold applications until we are near a number, but the numbers cannot be issued grossly out of sequence. You can contact membership@smsa.com if you have any questions on where we are in sequence.

****For the initial batch of plates, we will submit them all together (minimum 25 plates). We CAN take requests for number assignment within this initial batch. (ex: if we submit 50 requests for plates, we can determine who gets which number in that range of 0001 to 0050. We still cannot assign numbers like 5104....**

Do I need to decide right now? Can I order later?

The initial set of orders will be sent to the MVA in early November 2026. You can still decide to order a plate after that time by submitting the completed VR-124 form along with a check for \$30 made out to the Maryland MVA to SMSA to be processed. Please contact membership@smsa.com with questions.



SMSA Chili Cook off!
October 11th, 2026 , 5:00pm - 8:30pm
(after the fall invitational)
Check weekly club email for details

THE SOCIAL SCENE

Paige Smith, Chair

social@smsa.com



Hooray for the Autumnal Equinox

Thank goodness for the fall weather! It has been a very warm summer and if you all are like me, you are ready to pull out the flannel and foulies and prepare for the last sailing quarter of the year!

Upcoming events at the club include:

- Sunday, October 11th at 5pm; Chili Cook Off: Bring your best chili recipe to contend with other club members. If you are not a "chili chef" then bring a side to share! Categories will include Best Chili, Most Unique Chili, and Best Side Dish. Winners will bring home a prize.
- Saturday, October 31st at 9am; Fall Club Cleanup: Social will need a few volunteers to clean out cabinets, drawers and the ovens in the kitchen. We will also need help with organizing cabinets and storage areas in the middle room, plus organizing the bins in the creepy, spooky attic (It will be Halloween, after all!)

Upcoming in November...please mark your calendars for the Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, November 7th. Here, newly elected members of the Board of Directors are announced and snapshots of the club's programs and fiscal health are reviewed. This event is a breakfast/brunch style pot-luck. Doors open at 9:00, breakfast will start at 9:30 and the meeting will start by 10:30. Please bring a breakfast dish to share. Coffee, tea and juice is provided. Prior to this event, we will need volunteers to help with set up and afterwards much help is needed to clean up and get items stored away in our freshly cleaned club!!

BNAC's ARE BACK!!!!

We need YOU
October 1-4 to
volunteer to help
make this the best
Buccaneer 18
North Americans
in history!



Contact BNAC2026@smsa.com TODAY!

SMALLBOAT RACING



Bill Shoemaker

Smallboat Race Chair

smallboatrace@smsa.com

Still plenty of small boat sailing in October!

We ended our Thursday Night series on September 10. Over the course of the season, we had 32 registered boats, 17 nights of racing with 43 starts, two nights of team racing and only two nights canceled for weather. The Rum Runner Distance Race on September 12 capped off the week with nine racers going the distance in strong winds.

SMSA held the annual Fall Invitational on September 26 and 27. Saturday's racing was called off because of poor weather, but RC did manage to get races in on Sunday as 12 of 22 registered boats made it to the course.

October 1-4, SMSA is hosting the Buccaneer 18 North American Championships. October 24 is the always zany Bucctoberfest. For those brave souls, December 12 is the Freeze Your Bucc Off event. Come and either join us on the water or cheer us on from shore!



*Fall Invitational photos courtesy of Shane Myers
and Randy Gross.*

Are you ready? Buctoberfest 2026 is here on October 24th!!!

By Kristi Yurko

Are you interested in a day of fun on the water with Buccaneer 18 enthusiasts? Have you not quite ended your sailing season yet? Still got an itch to scratch? Seen enough of, or not quite enough of the conventional regatta scene? Do you like fall weather, hanging out with friends in Solomons, talking like a pirate, sailing with friends?

Buctoberfest just might be the event for you.

This is not your 'typical' regatta. From flamingos to unicorns, pirate costumes and wenches, It's a silly good time and *anything* is possible.



Review the NOR to better familiarize yourself with the event.

All boats 20' and under are welcome. We have extra boats on hand for visiting sailors if you're interested (contact jimmydyurko@gmail.com for details).

This is a non-sanctioned sailing event...we're just doing this for fun...there is no prize money...and no trophies there is a \$40/boat (\$5/junior boat) registration fee to cover

gas money for RC and party favors like snacks, 2 dinners per boat... If you don't have \$40, just come and sail. Cheapskates are welcome too, but be prepared to be taunted appropriately. Additional dinners \$15. Have fun!



Planned Menu: Bratwurst, Soft Pretzels, Red Cabbage, Potato Salad, Spaetzle, Various mustards and sauerkraut, Apple dessert



Rear Commodore

Shane Myers
rearcommodore@smsa.com



Myers outlines “bigger picture” for SMSA

As we head into another busy month at SMSA, my focus is on the bigger picture—how all of the work happening across communications, membership, social, and facilities comes together to improve the member experience. Ultimately, I want to make sure we continue to increase the value of being an SMSA member.

One area I’ve been exploring is **reciprocity with other yacht and sailing clubs**. We have an active cruising community, but the potential value goes beyond cruising. I’ve been looking at ways SMSA membership could provide additional benefits when our members travel around the Bay and beyond—whether they’re cruising, racing, traveling recreationally, or supporting our sailors at high school regattas.

I’ve been researching several opportunities and will be presenting my findings to the Board for consideration. There are potential benefits including access to participating clubs, dockage opportunities, and simply having a welcoming place for SMSA members and families when their travels take them away from Solomons.

I also see reciprocity as a two-way relationship. SMSA has something valuable to offer visiting sailors as well. Our location in Solomons, our waterfront, and our active sailing and social community make us a great destination. If we decide to pursue these opportunities, I want to make sure they create real value for our members while strengthening SMSA’s relationships throughout the broader sailing community.

We also have a new way for members to show a little **SMSA pride**. Our organizational license plate effort is moving forward, and members interested in having an SMSA plate on their vehicle should get their applications submitted. Beyond being something fun for our members, seeing SMSA represented on the road is another small way we can increase awareness of the club throughout the community.

We also have a new way for members to show a little **SMSA pride**. Our organizational license plate effort is moving forward, and members interested in having an SMSA plate on their vehicle should get their applications submitted. Beyond being something fun for our members, seeing SMSA represented on the road is another small way we can increase awareness of the club throughout the community.

On the **communications** side, I want to reinforce the difference between our Facebook Group and Facebook Page because they serve two different purposes.

The Group is our community. It’s where members and friends of SMSA interact, share photos, talk about what’s happening, and keep the conversation going.

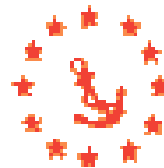
The Page is our outward-facing voice. It gives us the ability to put SMSA in front of people who may not already know us and, importantly, reach audiences who might be interested in sailing, learning to sail, or becoming part of our club.

We need both. One helps strengthen the community we already have, while the other
Continued on next page.....

Rear Commodore

Shane Myers

rearcommodore@smsa.com



Myers' "bigger picture" for SMSA *continued from page 10*

helps us introduce SMSA to the community we want to reach.

There is also some visible progress happening around the **facility**. A new projector is on the way, and the rear yard is being cleared and prepared as we get ready to host the **BNAC Nationals**. Hosting an event of this size is something we should all take pride in. It's not just logistics and getting the property ready—SMSA is showing up on a bigger stage.

As we welcome sailors and guests to our club, I'd ask everyone to remember that **we are all ambassadors for SMSA**. How we greet someone, lend a hand, answer a question, or simply interact with our visitors shapes their impression of our club. I want people to leave Solomons remembering not only the racing, but also the people and community they found here.

And speaking of community, our recent **Crab Feast** was a success despite Mother Nature throwing a little rain our way. Thank you to everyone who helped put it together, pitched in, and came out to enjoy the event.

There are a lot of individual things happening around SMSA right now, but they all contribute to the bigger picture. We want more people to know who we are. We want membership to provide real and recognizable value. And we want to continue building a club that our members are proud to be part of—and proud to represent. The programs, events, facilities, communications, and relationships all contribute to this, but ultimately, the strongest part of SMSA will always be the community we create together.



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!

Junior Chair

Melissa Myers

Junior Chair



Trial Optimist program puts kids in boats this fall as Junior expands.

The SMSA junior program continues to grow, and it's wonderful to see our middle school and high school sailors building friendships, having fun, and making the most of their time at the club!

After Friday night practices, the fun doesn't stop when the boats come off the water. Our juniors have been hanging out at the club, laughing, playing, and even creating their own version of volleyball with a line strung across the outdoor canopy serving as their net!

The juniors also recently put their creativity to work by helping build a scarecrow for the scarecrow stroll contest. The job well done deserved a reward, and everyone enjoyed some well-earned chicken nuggets and cookies afterward.

We're also excited to expand our junior sailing opportunities for our younger sailors in first through fifth grade with the addition of an Optimist sailing experience. We are starting off with 4 spots for the rest of this season. Demand and volunteerism will determine future capacity.

One new junior member participated in the program just before the scarecrow building activity and is already excited to learn more and get out on the water again! He also decided to stick around to help build the scarecrow and was quickly welcomed to the club by our older sailors.

The program will continue for the first four weeks of October, giving our youngest sailors an opportunity to develop their skills and discover the fun of Optimist sailing. Our goal is to develop interest in sailing at the earliest age by exploring the Opti at each sailor's comfort level and pace with fun activities. Our hope is to eventually develop a competitive Optimist team for next year's Junior Regatta. We're excited to see where this new program takes our young sailors! If you have a young sailor interested in the Opti experience, ask now if spots remain while it is still a free benefit of membership.



There's plenty more fun ahead! Stay tuned for more junior activities next month, including SMSA's first Parents' Night Out. Our young members will have the opportunity to participate in a fun baking activity while their parents enjoy a well-deserved date night. Space will be limited for this event. Details coming soon!

Cheers to all fun sailing!

Mel

SMSA sailors dominate at Stingray Point

As soon as Dauntless finished Patuxent Pursuit in July, we started thinking about the next off-site regatta... Stingray Point. The Stingray Point Regatta is hosted annually on Labor Day weekend by Fishing Bay Yacht Club in Deltaville, VA.

SMSA was very well represented at Fishing Bay again this year. Of the 36 boats that raced, 7 were SMSA boats.... **Bad Cat** (Jim & Barbara Whited), **One Trick Pony** (David & Jacki Meiser), **tbd** (Clarke McKinney), **Whirlaway** (Frank Walter), **Barba Roja** (Steven Birchfield), **Dauntless** (Jim & Jody Keen), and **Celebration** (Ron Wilson & Karen KallioJarvi).

At our SMSA Wednesday night race results a couple days before we delivered our boats to Fishing Bay, Shawn Stanley, David Meiser and I joked that wouldn't it be something if our SMSA contingent at Fishing Bay swept all the 1st place trophies. Well, we didn't quite do that, but SMSA boats did very well as evidenced by podium finishes in all classes entered. Final overall results:

Bad Cat... 3rd in A1 Class

One Trick Pony... 1st in A2 Class

Tbd, 1st in B Class, and winner of Brent Halsey Jr. Memorial Trophy

Barba Roja... 2nd in C Class

Dauntless... 1st in Cruising Non-Spinnaker Class, winner of Dick Cole Memorial Trophy, and 3rd place in 2026 Middle Bay PHRF Championship

Final regatta scoring can be viewed at: [https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/30940 - newsroom](https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/30940-newsroom)



Fishing Bay Yacht Club outdid themselves this year with the Old Havana party theme. "Cuban" Cigar sales, and Cuban party area adorned with old Havana street scenes. Party organizers really had fun with it and did an all-out great job with creating the look and feel of old Cuba. The band Saturday night was great also!

Keelboat Racing

Jim Keen
Guest Columnist

Pictures from FBYC and Stingray Point

Courtesy of Jim Keen, Susan Barnes and Rhonda LaFleur



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:



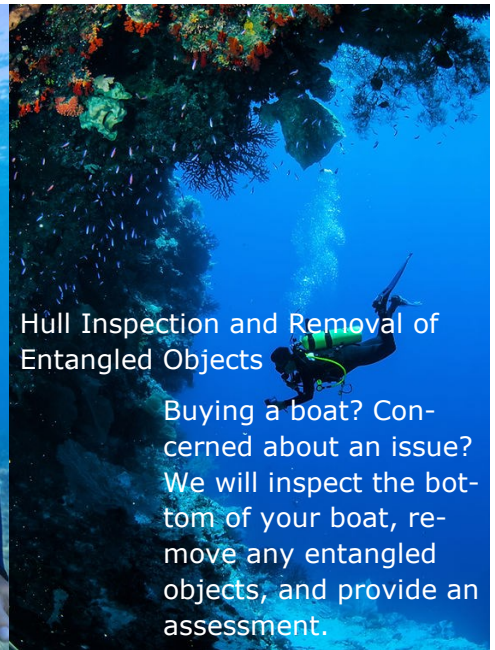
Hull & Bottom Cleaning Plans

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.

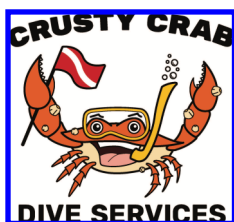


Hull Inspection and Removal of Entangled Objects

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/>





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

Place
Stamp



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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!

