November, 2026 **Volume 56, number 11**

The Clew

Annual Meeting

Saturday, Nov 7, 9:00am - 12:30pm. Contact commodore@smsa.com

Small Boat Racing

Thursday, Nov 5, 6pm - 7pm. Small Boat season debrief. Contact the Smallboat Chair at smallboatrace@smsa.com

Keel Boat Racing

Sundays through Nov 22. Fall Frostbites. See the SI's on the website. 1pm start in River, rendezvous after at clubhouse. Nov 22 is Wednesday Night Awards

BOD and Commodores

Tuesday, Nov 10, 7pm - 9pm, BOD Meeting. See website for Zoom info. contact the Commodore at commodore@smsa.com

Tuesday, Nov 24, 6:30pm - 8:00pm, Commodores & Chairs Meeting. Contact rearcommodore@smsa.com or vicecommodore@smsa.com

Saturday, Nov 14, 9am - Noon, Planning Meeting. commodore@smsa.com

Social

Thursday, Nov 19, 6pm 7pm, Christmas Pary & Open House Planning. social@smsa.com

Thursday, Nov 26, Noon - 8pm, Friendsgiving at SMSA. Contact social@smsa.com

Monday, Nov 30, 5:00pm - 8:30pm, Holiday Clubhouse Decorating. social@smsa.com

Commodore's Corner

By Russell Miller
commodore@smsa.com



Everyone needs a mentor, and BNAC

These warm, sunny days make it hard to believe November is here and along with it our Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 7. Doors open at 9:00, the meeting begins at 10:30. You should have received your ballot package by now. If you have not mailed it, you can bring it to the meeting and vote in person before the meeting begins.

We have a full slate of candidates. Most of last year's board members are returning with one new member on the ballot, Bob David running for Vice Commodore. After many years of dedication Clarke McKinney is stepping down as Director. A two-time Commodore, Clarke, has helped lead our club for as long as I can remember—since the early '80s.

I grew up in this club and learned how to sail mostly on Clarke's boats. From the Ranger 23 "Snuzuluz" with peanut butter and jelly sandwiches without jelly to the J-24 "Willin" sailing together in National Championship regattas on Biscayne Bay, Florida through my high school and college years. Later I crewed for him on Waldschmidt's Holland 42 "Tigress" and recently on the Melges 32 "Wild Horses" at Charleston Race Week. When my crew suggested we take Diablo to Block Island Clarke was my first call.

Everyone needs a mentor in life. A hero to show the way, teach values, share their knowledge, and most of all provide confidence. For me, that was Clarke. It was his image that I used when coaching the high school kids at SCC. The training courses we did last winter were made with knowledge he imparted in me. Today I sail Diablo mostly as he ran those crews.

Before the Town Hall meetings it was his counsel I sought and his views I considered. It is leaders like Clarke that have made our club what it is today. I look forward to the future of our club with optimism and the confidence he helped instill in me. Please seek him out and thank him for his extraordinary service. While you are at it, please also find Mary Anne and thank her for the infinite support she has provided so Clarke could volunteer his time to our club.

While we are talking about Clarke and sailing, last month SMSA hosted the Buccaneer North American Championships (BNAC). Congratulations to our very own Bill and Janet Shoemaker who are now National Champions. Clarke and the two Steffanie's sailed to a third-place while Jolie and I closed out the podium finishers in fifth. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and represented our club for this national level event.

SMSA ORGANIZATIONAL LICENSE PLATES
NOW AVAILABLE FOR ORDER!



PLEASE BRING YOUR FORMS TO THE ANNUAL MEETING *

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

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

To Order:

1. **Complete the VR-124 Form**
   - *(Available via email or from the Member Login area of the website)*
   - *(Note: Vehicle information needed for the form can be found on your Registration card.)*
2. **Include $30 check payable to the 'Maryland MVA'**
   - *(Cash also accepted if you don't have checks)*
3. **Return completed packet to the clubhouse to be placed in the safe or arrange drop-off with membership@smsa.com**

Please see the Member's Login Area of the website or the October View for a list of FAQs developed to answer the most expected questions.

Contact Membership@smsa.com with any additional questions.



Friendsgiving at SMSA

Join us for a Potluck gathering on Thanksgiving Day at the SMSA clubhouse.

All SMSA Members, Friends and Family are invited.

Thursday, November 26th.

Doors open at 12:30 pm, Dinner served at 2pm

Enjoy camaraderie, games, puzzles and football on the TV.

Please sign up below so we can track who is coming and what dishes folks are planning to bring:
https://tinyurl.com/SMSAFriends

Please contact Membership@smsa.com with questions.

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM



Rebecca Wingate
High School Program Chair
hssailing@smsa.com

Active High School/Middle School program wrapping up for the fall season

We are almost to the end of the fall sailing season! October sailing started with a Varsity regatta at DC Sail on Saturday, October 3rd. Tommy Birchfield and Jackson Myers sailed in A Division, while Nolan Wingate and Owen Myers sailed in B Division, earning a 4th-place team finish out of 8 schools. Despite the wet weather and light, shifty winds, the sailors had a great time, and Nolan and Owen secured second-place finishes in 3 out of 4 races!

Next up, Tommy Birchfield and Nolan Wingate skippered in the two-day MDISA Fleet Race Qualifier at Severn Sailing Association in Annapolis on October 10th and 11th, with Colt Touchton, Owen Myers, and Glenda Gioia rotating through A and B divisions as crew. Saturday was a beautiful day with light winds, and the race committee ran 9 races before the breeze died down. We returned to a very wet and rainy Sunday that brought a more steady breeze. The race committee ran 9 more races for a total of 18 over the entire weekend. This regatta brings out the best sailors competing to advance to the MASSA Fleet Champs (top 7). We did well against this tough competition, keeping smiles on our faces as we placed 13th out of 16 schools and secured our berth in the MASSA Fleet Invitational (next 7). Tommy, Nolan, Colt, Owen, and Glenda will be attending the Fleet Invitational on October 31st and November 1st at Washington College in Chestertown, MD.

Our JV team was scheduled to participate in a Tier 2 regatta at Baltimore County Sailing Center on that same rainy Sunday, October 11th, but the event was unfortunately cancelled. Max Wingate and Jackson Myers were ready to skipper, with Brayden Meechie and Lilianna Mitchell as crew. Our next Tier 3 beginner regatta at Ryken on Saturday, October 17th was also cancelled, but Hadley Ihnacik, Emerson Hildebrandt, Brayden Meechie, and Jaxon Speer were geared up and ready to go!

After two cancellations, the JV team finally got a chance to showcase their skills at Kent Island Yacht Club on Sunday, October 18th. Owen Myers and Colt Touchton skippered with Glenda Gioia and Lilianna Mitchell as crew. The team placed 7th out of 10 schools, sailing 7 races each in a decent breeze. We had our last regular JV regatta at Ryken on Saturday, October 24th. Annabelle Yurko and Hadley Ihnacik skippered with Brayden Meechie, Lilianna Mitchell, and Jaxon Speer. The kids had a good regatta experience, but placed 10th out of 10 schools.

Continued next page...

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM



Rebecca Wingate

High School Program Chair

hssailing@smsa.com

...Continued from last page

Following a great regatta season, our teams both qualified for the championships! The MDISA JV Champs will take place on Sunday, November 1st at Tred Avon Yacht Club in Oxford, and Varsity Champs are Sunday, November 15th at Sailing Center Chesapeake. We are looking forward to those events and will wrap up the rest of our fall highlights in the next Clew!

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FOR SALE

Two Wee Lassie Canoes

Hand-built cedar strip · Designed by Mac McCarthy

ASKING

$2,750 each









LENGTH
10′ 6″

WEIGHT
Under 50 lb each

CONSTRUCTION
Cedar strip, fiberglassed

BUILT
By hand, 1996

CONDITION
Excellent, always garaged

INCLUDES
Paddles

Bruce Hays
(410) 268-3143
bnhays@gmail.com

Bucctoberfest 2026

Twelve SMSA boats enjoyed nearly perfect conditions for Bucctoberfest 2026. Much silliness and mayhem involving unicorns, dragons, flamingos was enjoyed by all!

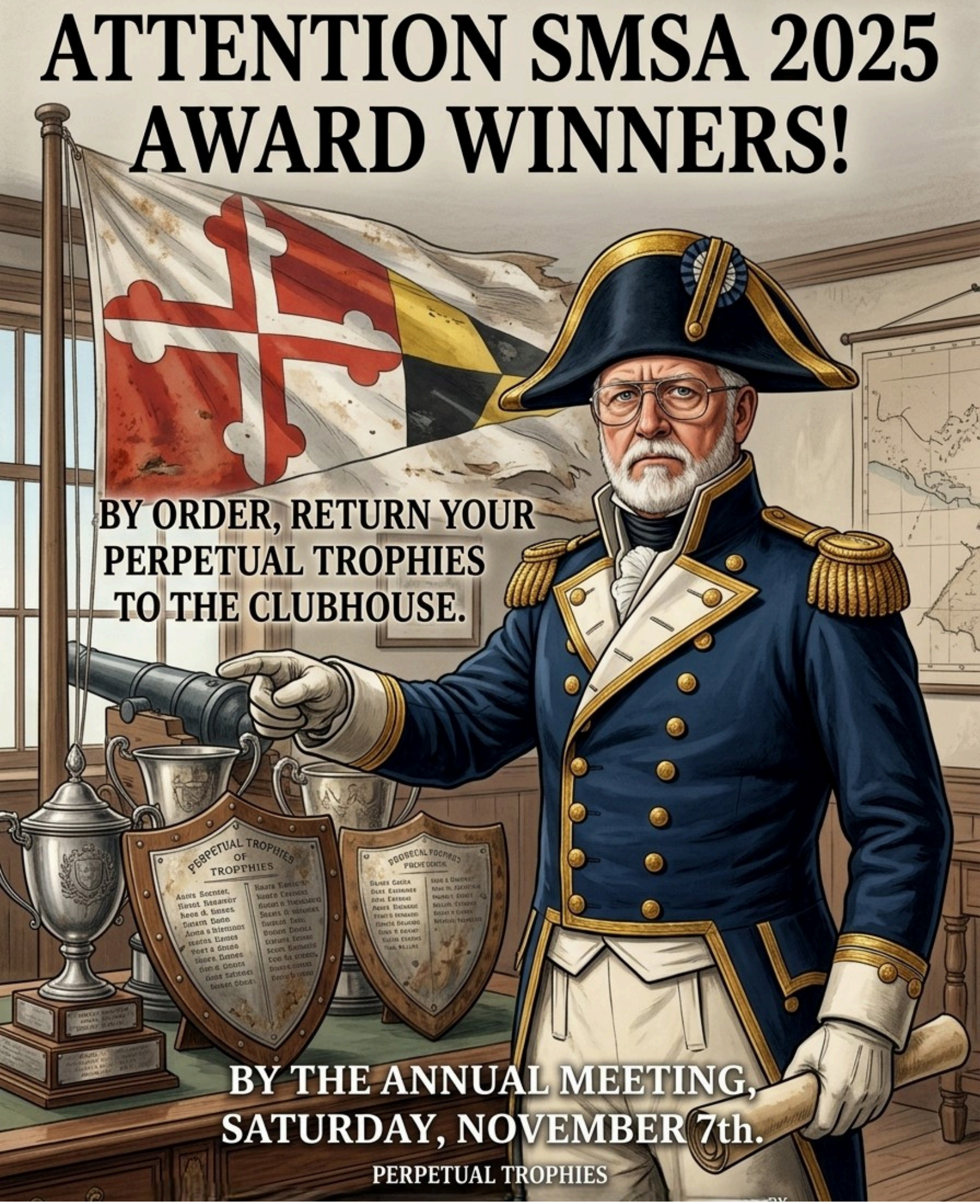
In the end, Chris and Ali (Karma Jus) took first place in their Bavarian finery, followed by Russ and Jolie (Jolly Roger). The Myers brothers battled it out for 3rd, with Owen and Colt (The Big D's) just edging out Jackson and Bob (Black and Tan). John, who easily won the "best hat/s contest", and Aaron (Heckle and Gybe) rounded out the top 5. Doug (Still Looking) beat out Kevin and Steve (Rick Bobby) in a tie breaker for 6th. Glenda and Vlad (Pumpkin boat) finished 8th despite sailing with only one hull. Zach and Peter (sailing a Bucc for the first time!) finished 9th. Don (Flipper) finished 10th but probably would have won if Portsmouth handicapping had been in effect. John and Brian (The Other Brown Boat) finished in 11th, but showed impressive improvement throughout the day. In 12th place, after making a rounding on the flamingo was the Pride of Baltimore. Bringing up the rear were Bill and Thomas (Scarlet Begonia).

Many thanks to Kristi and Jimmy for putting on a fun event

Bill Shoemaker

Photos by Steve Birchfield and Kristi Yurko




ATTENTION SMSA 2025 AWARD WINNERS!
BY ORDER, RETURN YOUR PERPETUAL TROPHIES TO THE CLUBHOUSE.
BY THE ANNUAL MEETING, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7th.
PERPETUAL TROPHIES

SMALLBOAT RACING



Bill Shoemaker
Smallboat Race Chair
smallboatrace@smsa.com

BNACs very successful! Next up is "Freeze Your Bucc Off"

SMSA hosted the 2026 BNAC from 1-4 October. A huge thank you from the SMSA Smallboat community to race organizers Nichole Doub, Jen Marbourg and Kristi Yurko, Race Committee Randy Pinkelmann, Dan Bowman, Randy Gross and the many people who worked tirelessly on and off the water, before and during the event to make this such a huge success! 31 boats competed, many travelling from around the country and even overseas for the event.

SMSA was well represented with 12 boats on the starting line. Many thanks to Jimmy Yurko for working tirelessly to make so many boats available to local and traveling competitors! SMSA sailors took 3 of the top 5 positions in the A fleet and 2 of the top 5 in the B fleet. Congratulations to all the SMSA competitors!

FREEZE YOUR BUCC OFF

The final small boat event of 2026 will be the much anticipated "Freeze Your Bucc Off" on Saturday December 12. Bundle up and join us as we try to pry the coveted "Chamber Cup" from defending champion Nolan Wingate's frozen fingers.



Janet and Bill Shoemaker, Winners of "A" Fleet







October 11th Chili Cookoff photos by Susan Barnes

Rear Commodore

Shane Myers
rearcommodore@smsa.com



Busy October & off-season projects

October certainly kept SMSA busy! Between hosting BNAC Nationals, Bucctoberfest, and several projects moving forward, there was plenty happening around the club.

First, congratulations to everyone involved in hosting BNAC Nationals. Preparing our facilities and welcoming sailors for an event of this size takes considerable effort. Thank you to the volunteers who put in the time before, during, and after the event. Hosting a national championship is no small undertaking, and SMSA should be proud of what we accomplished. It's a great example of member participation and what we can achieve when everyone pitches in.

I'm also excited to share that the Board approved SMSA joining the Yacht Clubs of America (YCA) reciprocal program beginning in calendar year 2027. This is something I've been researching over the past several months, and I'm pleased to see it moving forward. Membership cards will be available for members who wish to take advantage of reciprocal privileges at participating yacht clubs, subject to each club's policies. Whether you're cruising the Bay, traveling, or accompanying our high school sailors to regattas, this creates new opportunities and adds another benefit to SMSA membership. We'll share more details as we approach the new year.

Our communications efforts had another strong month, with consistent social media activity, event coverage, and some great video interviews. A special thank-you to Tim and everyone contributing photos, videos, and content. These efforts help us reach beyond our existing membership and introduce more people to SMSA and the opportunities to get involved in sailing.

Please keep sharing your experiences and activities around the club!
On the social side, Bucctoberfest was reportedly a great time! Although I wasn't able to attend, both Owen and Jackson participated and enjoyed the festivities. Thank you to everyone who organized and supported the event. Activities like these provide opportunities for members and families to get together outside of our regular sailing programs.

A quick reminder about our SMSA organizational license plates: if you're interested in having one on your vehicle, please get your application submitted. It's another way to show a little SMSA pride wherever your travels take you.

As the sailing season winds down, we're turning our attention to a few projects better suited for the winter months. ***continued on next page....***

Rear Commodore

Shane Myers
rearcommodore@smsa.com



Off-season projects. *Continued from previous page*

One priority will be modernizing SMSA's email system. Over the years, we've accumulated a collection of separate Gmail accounts created for various club positions and activities. While these accounts have served their purpose, managing them individually makes transitions between officers and committee chairs more difficult than necessary.

Our goal is to move toward a centrally managed, enterprise-level email system that provides long-term sustainability and continuity. Club correspondence, account access, and institutional knowledge should remain with SMSA as volunteers transition in and out of their roles. This will make it easier for incoming chairs to get started while preserving the work of those who came before them.

It's a behind-the-scenes improvement, but an important reinvestment in the long-term operation of our club.

Thank you again to everyone who contributed to another busy month at SMSA. As we head into the quieter part of the year, there's still plenty happening to keep the club moving forward.

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HAPPY HOUR IS

EVERY FRIDAY AT 5:30

Come in for fall libations, and bring a friend or two. We go until about 9pm or whenever Ana kicks us out!

Junior Chair

Melissa Myers

Junior Chair



Opti Success & Parents Night Out

I'm so happy with how our Opti experience turned out! It was wonderful to see our young sailors out on the water, having fun and building confidence over the four Fridays in October. A big thank you to all the parents who helped make it happen, Randy Gross and the Board for the new Opti sails, and our SMSA volunteers: Shane Myers, Steve Koefed, Susan St. George, and Shawna and Jon Gauthier. Your time and willingness to pitch in helped make the experience safe, fun, and memorable for everyone. We truly couldn't have done it without you!

I'm already looking forward to planning another Opti experience this spring, and I hope we'll see even more junior sailors joining in!

Parents Night Out: Saturday, November 21, from 5–8 PM:
Parents Night Out is coming up, and I'm excited to offer our junior members another fun evening at the club while parents enjoy a little time out!

Registration will open on Clubspot and will be limited to 10 member kids, so be sure to sign up early. We'll serve dinner, and the kids will make a special dessert to take home and share with the family after your date night.

Registration closes November 14. If you're interested in signing up, have questions, or need to let us know about any food allergies, please email Mel at melnmyers@gmail.com.

Thanks for continuing to support our junior sailing program and making SMSA such a welcoming place for our kids. I look forward to seeing everyone at the club!

Happy Sailing!
Mel





Crusty Crab Dive Services, LLC, maintaining vessels in the SOMD area.

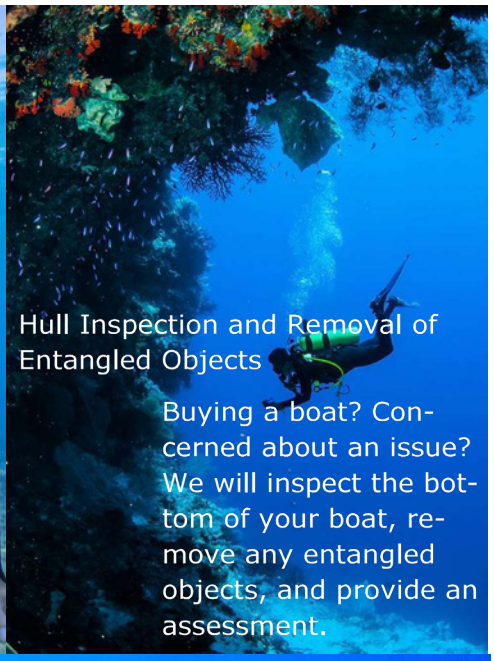


Crusty Crab Dive Services started as a passion and hobby for Phil Sibley Jr. Phil began boating at an early age and has been sailing for 10 years, once he completed his dive certifications, he started maintaining his own boats hulls throughout the year.

We offer the following services:









For more information contact:
Philip Sibley Jr.
Lexington Park, MD 20653
(c) 484 .390 .4044
CrustyCrabDiveServicesSOMD@gmail.com

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

Place Stamp

The Clew

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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!

