



P.O. Box 262, Solomons, MD 20688
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the clew

APRIL 2006

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COMMODORE

Welcome to spring! Opening Day plans are set, (with rain in the forecast of course!) and everyone's been diligently working on their boats over recent weeks. Good luck getting your boat launched! The 2006 season brings many changes to SMSA. First, this will be the last Opening Day at our current clubhouse. Second, the BOG and Governance Committee have completed the proposed by-laws changes. You should have received a package of these proposed changes in the mail on or around March 25th. Please go over them carefully, as they are the most comprehensive changes to our by-laws that have ever been recommended. The BOG and the Governance Committee support these changes. Please use the SMSA members only forum to review other member's opinions and to voice your own. My recommendation is to review them and send your vote in early...you don't have to wait until the deadline!

One last note. Judy Pedersen is stepping down this month as *clew* editor. Many thanks to her for all of the hard work. If you'd like to volunteer as the new editor, please contact Publicity Governor, David Meiser.

Shawn
sastanley@verizon.net

UPCOMING BOG AGENDA

**Southern Maryland Sailing Association
2006 Board of Governors Meeting
Thursday, April 6, 2006 - 1930 – Holly II
Draft Agenda**

Opening Remarks - Meeting expectations - setting of the agenda

Monthly Business

Treasurer Report
New Member Applications
Significant events report(s) from Governors

Old Business

By-laws status
Junior program – status update:
PayPal;
Instructor;
HS site update;
Port Supply Acct

Use of Screwpile Proceeds - Carl

New Business

Closing Remarks –
Adjourn

CRUISING

Memorial Day Weekend “Start-of-Summer” Cruise

Rain or shine (it's still spring after all) plan to sail with the Solomons and Potomac fleets to Oxford. We'll anchor off The Strand on Saturday evening for happy hour and then a potluck dinner aboard. Sunday is a lay day set aside for laziness, or exploring old Oxford. For those inclined to dinner ashore, we'll pick a restaurant by consensus and meet there for Sunday dinner.

It will be a “fun race” to Choptank R. entrance, so be sure and record your own elapsed time (HH:MM:SS). Start at Drum Point light (red 4, Fl 2.5 sec) when it appears at 0-deg M (due north) abeam, then record your elapsed time at Red 2, Choptank R. entrance when it is left to starboard at 90-deg M (due east) abeam. You must leave Green 77 (Chesapeake channel, fl 2.5 sec) to port. Stay well clear of the Cove Point LNG terminal: its caution area is clearly marked on the chart. A prize (of sorts) will be awarded at happy hour. The cruise will start Saturday at 10:00 a.m. (or, otherwise... whenever you can make it!). If you can make the 10:00 a.m. start, have your digital camera ready and we will trade shots of the boats under sail following the cruise.

Coordination: please let us know if you think you may attend (via e-mail vadare@gmail.com, or voice message to Wayne & Sally Wilson at 703 716-2364). While underway we will coordinate on VHF at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. from hailing channel 9 – then move to working channel 72: cell phone connection underway is 703 489-0523. The anchorage coordinates are 38°41.67' N x 76°10.32' W. We hope to see you at the raft-up on Saturday. 4-cruise points will be awarded.

York River Historic Virginia Cruise June 10 – June 18

Join us for a cruise to a lovely and historic part of Virginia, the York River, where you can tour the

towns of Yorktown, Jamestown and Williamsburg along with other attractions. This should be a fun cruise and we hope many of you will join us. Here's the plan:

Saturday, June 10: Depart Solomons heading for Mill Creek on the Great Wicomico River (N 37 47.3; W 76 18.6); distance approx. 37.3 miles. Part of the first day will include a Fun Distance Race. The start will be at the Patuxent River G3 mark and the finish will be at Smith Point Light – keep your own time. Prizes for the race to be awarded at the Happy Hour raft up in Mill Creek.

Sunday, June 11: Depart Mill Creek heading to the York River. We will be staying at the York River Yacht Haven on Sarah Creek (N 37 14.3; W 76 29.1) distance approx. 51.2 miles. Please call (804) 642-2156 to make your own slip reservations. Price is \$1.75/ft plus electric. This is a full service facility with a beautiful pool, laundry facilities, showers, etc. There is also a seafood restaurant on site. I've given them the name of our group so please mention SMSA when making reservations.

Please note that if weather conditions are bad or this 2nd day trip appears to be too long, an alternate stop over in Mobjack Bay may be planned, arriving in the York River on Monday.

Monday, Tuesday, June 12 & 13: We will be touring the areas near the York River. This is a very historic area of Virginia. The towns of Yorktown, Jamestown and Williamsburg are within easy reach and are well worth seeing. There is a shuttle that can take you to any of the local sites as well as Busch Gardens & local outlet shopping. There are also rental cars available through Enterprise Rental Car (804) 694-8226 (they give a 15% discount to anyone staying at York River Yacht Haven).

Wednesday, June 14: Depart York River heading for Cape Charles (N 37 14; W 76 3) approx. 20.5 miles. Tentative plans are to anchor & raft up for the night.

Thursday, June 15: Depart Cape Charles heading to Deltaville (Jackson Creek); approx. 24 miles.

This is a lovely spot to anchor for the evening. There's a very friendly Yacht Club on the peninsula that welcomes members of other clubs and has a swimming pool, etc.

After Deltaville our choices are Lookout Point, St. Mary's River, Yeocomico River on the Potomac or back to Solomons. These choices will depend on weather conditions throughout the trip, delays and the group's choice of location. There are marinas available at Cape Charles, Deltaville and Lookout Point. Otherwise we will be anchoring and rafting up, weather permitting. We think this will be a fun trip and hope many of you will join us. Please let us know if you plan to join our group.

Dave & Lois Zonderman onboard *Walkabout*
sail274@optonline.net (973) 584-3981

Cruise Where the Wind Blows

Beginning on Saturday, May 27, we will be leading a cruise where the wind blows. This will be a one-week cruise to wherever the wind takes us. There will, hopefully, be no beating against the wind and we will have seven days of sailing. We will leave Solomons at approximately 0900 on Saturday, the 27th. We will be in contact on Friday evening by e-mail, to let cruisers know our probable destination for Saturday; but we will not finalize the destination until Saturday morning. We will hail on channel 9 on Saturday, the 27th, at 0800 and again at 0900. At that time, we will announce our final destination for that day.

Each evening of the cruise, we will discuss, at the rendezvous, possible destinations for the following day. We will finalize the destination, on the radio, each morning at 0800.

We will hail SMSA boats at 1000, 1200, and 1400 each day, on channel 9 to monitor progress and determine if there are any problems. Throughout the cruise, we will monitor channels 9 and 16 if there are questions about our destinations or other concerns. We will also have our cell phone with us if anyone wishes to join us during the cruise. We are looking forward to this cruise and hope that you can join us. If you think you will join the

cruise, please contact us and provide your e-mail address and your cell phone number.

Ron and Suzie Williams, Cruise Leaders

easytime@verizon.net

home phone 410-326-3423

cell phone 410-474-1430

RACING

Boatyard Magic

by Joanne Forbes

Ulysses

Sail Crew Member's Rite of Passage: if you want to sail on the top, you have to work on the bottom.
– Pete (Synergy)

Barbara (*Spinnster*) called it *Boatyard Magic*. She was referring, of course, to the annual spring maintenance ritual which sailboat owners must perform prior to that first face-numbing frostbite race of the season. I had also heard about annual boat maintenance from our skipper, Ray, and I couldn't wait to join in, even though I am only a wet-behind-the ears novice crew member. I wanted to feel the thrill of preparing *Ulysses* for her best racing season ever. More importantly, I didn't want to miss out on any piece of the sailing action, and, if painting *Ulysses'* bottom was a sail crew rite of passage, then I wanted to be initiated into the club – lock, stock and barrel.

Equally interesting to me was the idea of seeing a lot of people around the boatyard, all working enthusiastically and intensely on their boats, sharing tools and good advice, problem solving and trading parts, providing ideas along with plenty of encouragement – in essence, creating their own special community. I found it intriguing to hear about this flip side of racing, this camaraderie that is so fondly remembered. It is a family reunion of sorts, a time of bonding, a social event to catch up on the news collected over the long winter and to compare notes about improvements in progress. It is a time that, to me, made the previous season's racing competition seem like an entirely different

world. Simply hearing about it was not good enough. I knew I had to see it for myself.

On a summer-like day in mid-March, I arrived at Washburn's Boatyard, full of anticipation, hoping to see Ray and *Ulysses*, but especially wanting to experience a strong sense of belonging. Like rays of sunshine sparkling all around me, boatyard magic filled the air with a comfortable family atmosphere that was deliciously intoxicating. I was inspired to see everyone enjoying their work in a buzz of activity that was as warm as the soft breeze gently wafting the halyards. I wandered through the maze of boats, vehicles, extension cords, water hoses, step ladders and shop vacs – hearing the sanders, smelling the paint, seeing grins all around – my senses were reeling and it was great to recognize familiar faces, even if they were covered in blue paint.

Pete was there, working hard at feathering the bottom of *Synergy* to ensure perfect smoothness and he was more than willing to take a break for several minutes to talk to me about his project. While we were chatting, Marc (*Rigel*), came by to offer parts and say hello to a new club member working nearby. Across the way, Betsy was covered with a cool-looking throw-away paint jumpsuit she had purchased for only six dollars at Lowe's – both she and Barbara sported blue spray-paint tennies and were working hard on *Spinnster*, with some much-appreciated assistance from Max (*Shermax*).

I drank in the conversation, the laughter, and the comfortable family atmosphere like water for life. Then I finally made it over to *Ulysses* and, at that moment, I truly felt like I was coming home. She was looking even more beautiful than I remembered, still perched high above the ground, but this time, her white beam and tall silver mast were shining brightly in the sun. And sure enough, there was Ray, running a shop-vac to catch the blue sanding dust, and grinning from ear to ear when he saw me. We shared conversation like family talking around the dinner table, laughing together and being genuinely glad for the company.

Barbara was right, boatyard magic does exist and it was happening right now. I didn't need to paint the bottom to be initiated into this family but I knew that Ray would accept me working alongside him just the same. We and the other crew members will come together in the next few weeks to sweat and paint, to laugh and share, and to give ourselves a physical and mental edge for this season's racing series. *Ulysses* will start the races on April 19 with a freshly painted bottom and we will all be inducted into the boatyard family. And if anyone asks, we'll have the magical blue tennies to prove it.

SMSA LIBRARY

The author and title listings of the SMSA library are now available at the SMSA website at www.smsa.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

DON'T FORGET: You are entitled to three months of **free advertising!**

FOR SALE: The Small Boat Program has six four-pound anchors for sale. We have received new race marks for which our existing anchor set is too small. Great for dinghies! All proceeds from the sale of these anchors will be used to purchase a new, larger anchor set for use with the new marks. Asking \$8 per anchor. Contact: Keith Jacobs @ (301) 997-1001 or hokiesailor@verizon.net.

FOR SALE:: 1986 21' Bayliner Trophy series I/O. Hard top cabin w/canvas rear. Economical Ford 4cyl 3.3ci inline, OMC drive. Regularly maintained, greatfishing boat, trolled. Has outriggers too! Asking \$7500 including trailer. Email maxmunger@verizon.net 410-326-9024

CREW WANTED: SherMax and Toby are looking for permanent crew members for both Wednesday night and all weekend races. We had a great 2005 year and are looking forward to even better for 2006. We take beginners and capable "seniors" and everyone in between. We

could use a few more ladies aboard too! Come sail and have fun with our existing crew. email maxmunger@verizon.net 410-326-9024

FOR SALE: Bottom Siders custom-made cockpit cushions for Catalina 34 (1986) Color: Royal blue with white accent stripe. \$50 for complete set. Contact: Dave Zonderman (973) 584-3981 sail274@optonline.net (1/06)

EDITOR'S NOTE

The deadline for submitting articles for the May 2006 issue of *The Clew* will be:

April 15, 2006

E-mail: clew_submissions@verizon.net

Snail Mail: *For May clew only*

Shawn Stanley
23460 Myrtle Point Road
California, MD 20619

If you submit an article for *the clew*, you will receive an email acknowledging receipt. Articles are always appreciated!

APRIL 2006 SMSA CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 • Frostbite Race #2	27 Sunset: 6:20 PM	28	29	30	31 • RC Seminar	1 [±] April Fool's Day • Weekend Cruise • Opening Day
2 [±] Daylight Savings Time Begins • Frostbite Race #3	3 [±] Sunset: 7:27 PM	4 [±]	5 [±]	6 [±] • BOG meeting	7 [±]	8 [±] • SBP Kickoff meeting
9 [±] • Frostbite Race #4	10 [±] Sunset: 7:33 PM	11 [±]	12 [±]	13 [±]	14 [±]	15 [±]
16 [±]	17 [±] Sunset: 7:40 PM	18 [±]	19 [±] • Wed Nite Race #1	20 [±]	21 [±]	22 [±] • Weekend Cruise • LCYC Opening Day • Sharps Island Race
23 [±] • Spring Invitational Race • mini-rendezvous	24 [±] Sunset: 7:46 PM	25 [±]	26 [±] • Wed Nite Race #1	27 [±]	28 [±]	29 [±] • Weekend Cruise • VOR IPR
30 [±]	1 Sunset: 7:53 PM	2 • BOG Meeting	3 • Wed Nite Race #3	4 • Thur Nite Race	5	6 • Dbl Hnded Race

MAY 2006 SMSA CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1+ Sunset: 7:53 PM	2+ • BOG Meeting	3+ • Wed Nite Race #3	4+ • Thur Nite Race	5+	6+ • Dbl Hnded Race
7+ • VOR restart • Double Handed Race	8+ Sunset: 7:59 PM	9+	10+ • Wed Nite Race #4 (CS)	11+ • Thur Nite Race	12+	13+ • Race/Cruise #1 • Women's Day Sail
14+ Mother's Day • Race/Cruise #1	15+ Sunset: 8:06 PM	16+	17+ • Wed Nite Race #5	18+ • Thur Nite Race	19+	20+ Armed Forces Day • Proctor-Bailey Race Series • Rendezvous
21+ • HS Awards Luncheon	22+ Sunset: 8:12 PM	23+	24+ • Wed Nite Race #6	25+ • Thur Nite Race	26+	27+ • LCYC Spring Event • Wind Blows Cruise • Memorial Day Cruise
28+ • Women's Day Sail • Memorial Day Cruise	29+ Memorial Day (Observed) Sunset: 8:17 PM • Memorial Day Cruise	30+	31+ • Wed Nite Race #7	1 • Thur Nite Race	2	3 • Marcy Series Races • Luau / Marcy Series Rendezvous • Marcy Series Skippers Meeting • Weekend Cruise