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Southern Maryland Sailing Association  
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**the clew**  
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### **GOT PICTURES?????**

**SUBMIT THEM TO THE YEARBOOK!**

The 2009 SMSA Yearbook staff is currently seeking pictures from the 2008 SMSA sailing season. If you have photos from a cruise, race, rendezvous, regatta, boatyard, etc. that tells the story of SMSA last year, please send it to us. Pictures on a CD probably work best, although we can also work with pictures emailed to us.

Send discs to: **PO Box 284, Solomons, MD 20688.**

Email photos: **timfmsa@yahoo.com**

## **THE PAUL WASHBURN AWARD for the Love of the Sport**

**by:Bill Wagner**

John Edwards sported a curious look on his face as he listened to the introduction of the "Paul Washburn Award – For the Love of the Sport." That new perpetual award, to be presented annually during the skipper's meeting prior to the start of Acura Key West, is designed to recognize Key West participants who possess an obvious and true love of sailing, work hard to grow the sport and always display sportsmanship on and off the race course.

As presenter Ken Legler provided background information about this year's award winner, the expression on Edwards' face became more and more quizzical. After all, many of the descriptions seemed to fit Edwards and his wife Linda.

Well-known husband and wife team that are veterans of 10 Key West Race Weeks: Check.

Influential in starting and keeping their J/29 one-design class active and involved: Check. (continued on page 4)

### **Small Boat Road Trip**

#### **Escape the Midwinter Chill**

**By Jimmy Yurko**

With average temperatures well below freezing the mid weeks of January, it wasn't hard to be tempted by the mid '70s forecast and crystal clear waters of Key Largo, FL. This time, temptation was complimentary of the Upper Keys Sailing Club who was hosting the Buccaneer and Mutineer "Dead Dogs and Tin Whistles" regatta (which was also the Buccaneer 18 Mid-Winter championship).

Boat prep for the road trip took about four times longer than usual due to the cold. A typical small boat, like our Buccaneer can be ready for the highway in under 30 minutes; but in mid-January, with numb fingers and a cockpit full of chunks of ice and frozen lines...the prep time becomes a quite bit more extended. While it was cold, windy and dark getting ready for the trip, thoughts of sailing in crystal clear tropical waters were motivating enough to get the job done.

This road trip pulled a three member crew out of the cold and into the sun. Kristi, Brian O'hara and I loaded into the car (continued on pg 6)

### **ROUND MIDNIGHT REUNION**

**at  
SMSA**

**Saturday, February 14**

Round Midnight, the St. Mary's-based band that played many a banquet and regatta party before breaking up a few years ago, is reuniting for a show and dance at the SMSA clubhouse on Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>.

It will be an extra special night, as your ticket to the dance will include dinner from Boomerangs. And it won't be just any dinner. Evoking ghosts from the past, Lee, one of the cooks at Boomerangs, will be at SMSA that night overseeing the serving of "Bowen's Inn Fried Chicken".

Those of us who have been around Solomons for more than a few years remember with fondness the many evenings spent at the creaky, lovable old Bowen's and the good times we shared there. Lee, who worked at Bowen's for Joan and Tony off-and-on for a number of years, remembers the old chicken recipe used on those "Fried Chicken Special" nights and will recreate that delicious treat for us.

Also on the menu will be potatoes, another vegetable and desert. Our cash bar will be open the whole night.

- Bar Opens: 5:30pm
- Dinner served: 6:30pm
- Band Plays: 8:30pm.

Round Midnight plays a variety of music from oldies to current rock/pop hits. The SMSA appearance will be their first anywhere in about three years.

Tickets to this event are \$25 per person, and are available from:

Nettie Harold (410-610-1333)

Herb Reese (410-610-6973)

See them at the upcoming Friday Happy Hours or give them a call. We can only sell 99 tickets and by the time you read this, ticket sales will have been opened the general public. It is sure to sell out!

*Want to tell a sailing tale?*

Send your stories to [clew@smsa.com](mailto:clew@smsa.com)

# RACE Program

By the time you read this, the Annual Awards Banquet will have passed, RC representatives and racers will have returned from Key West, and we all should be chomping at the bit waiting for the sailing season to begin. But, it doesn't mean that nothing is happening to help prepare for this Season.

This year will bring a little bit of change and, I hope, some new fun.

The Mark Team has pulled the existing marks and is planning where to put replacements and a new mark. This year there will be a new race mark near the Solomons Gazebo. This mark will replace our current X for Wednesday nights and can be used as any normal River Race mark. Just remember to plan for extra time to get to your start!

The Circular Team has been revamping the General Sailing Instructions we have been using for the past few years to make it easier to understand and to resolve some inconsistencies. The difference between how we handle Wednesday races and our weekend races is less than in the past, so make sure to read this year's circular when it is published.

Our trusty Flag bag has survived a double washing and our course flags are now whiter than in the past. A new design by Barb Whited and company will help keep it better organized and easier to transport. I look forward to using it this first Frostbite.

And speaking of Frostbites, the Spring Frostbites aren't that far away. This year there are five Sunday races this Spring and Fall. Here are the first Race Committee assignments:

Date	Race Committee
March 1	Spinnster
March 8	Jolly Roger
March 15	Little Latitudes
March 22	Toby/Shermax
March 29	Toby/Shermax



Don't forget to sign up for at least TWO Race Committee assignments this year. None of us can race unless we all pitch in! Check the web page and email me at [race@smsa.com](mailto:race@smsa.com) with your selections.

## Women's Program Update

For 2009 the SMSA Women's Program has been re-absorbed back into the parent Race and Cruise Programs. I just want to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has helped in the past years to make the Women's events a success! I look forward to continued participation in the event for years to come.

- Kristi Yurko, 2008 Women's Program Chair

### Race Management Series

7:30pm – 8:30pm at SMSA

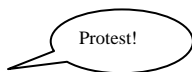
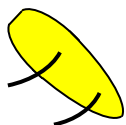
- Feb 13: Anchoring the Race Committee Boat  
& Setting a Square Line  
Feb 27: Starting / Finishing Races & Scoring Races  
Mar 13: Race Committee Options & Things That Can Not Be Changed  
Mar 27: Advanced Race Committee



Based on feedback, the Race Management Lecture has been re-worked to bring a fresh perspective and focus more on SMSA race management needs. To facilitate getting the information to the members, the single marathon session will now be broken out into 4 smaller topic-specific presentations, targeted to be an hour in length.

### Social:

We would all like to take this opportunity to introduce and thank Helen Cummings and Donna Taylor who are jointly taking over as the social program chair.



### 2009 – 2012 Racing Rules Seminar

February 21<sup>st</sup>  
3:00pm – 6:00 pm

Reminder: the rules have changed for this season!  
Come figure out what's new!  
Bar will be open!

### FIRST AID / CPR CLASS

February is American Heart Month!  
Sign up and save a life!



Date: March 21  
Time 8:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Cost: \$60/person. (Includes both books)

Earn certification cards for both CPR and First Aid  
Email [training@smsa.com](mailto:training@smsa.com) to sign up!  
Bring Lunch!

### For the love of the sport, (continued from pg 2)

Many a Chesapeake Bay sailor has learned to sail and learned to love the sport while crewing aboard their boat: Check.

Instilled their love of the sport in their two children and sailing has always been a family affair: Check.

When Legler said the Southern Maryland Sailing Association is proud to have these Solomons, Maryland-based folks as members, it was obvious he was talking about John and Linda Edwards.

Truly dumbfounded and totally taken aback by the unexpected award, Edwards handed his beer to a friend and hugged his wife. It was obvious that both were still in disbelief as they strode to the podium hand-in-hand to accept the Paul Washburn Award.

"I am really surprised... pleasantly surprised," Edwards said.

Tears flowed among long-time Rhumb Punch crew members as they joined the audience of Key West sailors in applauding John and Linda, who have made many friends while campaigning their J/29 of that name up and down the East Coast.

In reality, John and Linda should not have been surprised about being selected to receive an award "For the Love of the Sport." The couple, who race out of Solomons, but actually live in California, Md., have exhibited the characteristics that define the award ever since they took up the sport in 1979.

The Edwards were power-boaters up until the gas crisis of the late 1970s. Looking to continue spending time on the water, but in a less expensive way, they purchased an Edell 22 and began sailing out of the Eastern Shore town of Oxford. In 1988, the couple upgraded to the J/29 and began racing and cruising the Chesapeake with their two children, Regan and Patrick.

Introduced to Solomons through the old Audi-Yachting Race Week (now the Screwpile Lighthouse Challenge), the Edwards' fell in



love with the southern Maryland area and moved there from Seaford, Del. They quickly became active members with the Southern Maryland Sailing Association and began enjoying tremendous success on the race course.

Rhumb Punch captured the J/29 North American championship in 2006 then garnered class honors at Acura Key West 2007 by winning eight of nine races. There were also many wins in other notable events such as the Governor's Cup and Screwpile.

Along the way, the Edwards introduced many newcomers to the sport of sailing. Among those were numerous troubled youths, orphans and foreign exchange students that stayed at their home and became part of their extended family.

"Many of our club members started out as new crew on Rhumb Punch," reports Herb Reese, a long-time member of the Southern Maryland Sailing Association and also a regular of the race committee at Key West. "John and Linda have always been focused on building participation in sailing."

John and Linda have always unselfishly volunteered their time and talents as active members of their local clubs and committees. They were leaders within the J/29 class and have routinely served on the race committee during their 15 years as members of SMSA.

"Many times, John will pull his boat from the race course to fill in if people who were supposed to do race committee duties fail to show," Reese said.

Looking for a new challenge, the Edwards' reluctantly sold their beloved J/29 last year and moved into the Farr 30 class.

The Edwards and Rhumb Punch are back again this year and hoping for a mid-fleet finish in Farr 30 class. John has steadily improved as an owner-driver thanks largely to the help of Quantum professional Clarke McKinney, a fellow Solomons resident who serves as tactician.

"Last year, I hit three marks and two boats in one week. I will probably do better this year and I imagine the rest of the class hopes I do also," John said in typical self-deprecating fashion.

In addition to McKinney, other regular crew members aboard Rhumb Punch include Geoff Rhodes, Shawn Stanley and Joe Szymanski. Patrick and Regan routinely help their parents around the race course while son-in-law Tom Weaver, a former professional sailor, has recently joined the team.

"Everything we do is designed to foster a family atmosphere aboard the boat. The camaraderie is crucial and we don't yell out on the race course," John Edwards said. "If something goes wrong or someone messes up, we say 'Don't worry about it, we'll make up for it at the next mark rounding.' "

John and Linda, known affectionately to crew members as Papa and Mama, have allowed a remarkable number of Rhumb Punch crew members to live at their home – whether four weeks or four years in one case.

“John is just an easy-going guy with a great personality who has a way of keeping everyone smiling on and off the boat,” McKinney said. “For as long as I have been sailing with the Edwards, it’s been a total family affair: Linda handles all the logistics, Patrick does a lot of the boat preparation and Regan does a great job of pulling together the crew.”

Steve Washburn, a veteran member of the Premiere Racing team in Key West, established the “For the Love of the Sport” award in honor of his youngest son. Paul Washburn became enamored of sailing while cruising to Catalina Island on the family’s Columbia 52 and racing off Long Beach aboard their B-25 T-Rex.

Paul began his own sailing career by racing Sabot’s out of Alamitos Bay Yacht Club and was named “Outstanding Beginning Sailor.” Sadly, the youngster died of natural causes at the tender age of 10, one day after competing in the ABYC “Inverted Start” race.

**Bill Wagner, Key West Race Week**

**Small boat sailors head south,** (continued from pg 2)

and left Thursday morning for the 19 hour drive, and despite sleeping on the road, the three driver team made the trip quite pleasant.

Traveling south has many advantages in the middle of the winter. In addition to the obvious opportunity to escape the cold, you also get more daylight (about 40 minutes on each end!) and a delicious anytime breakfast at the Waffle House!

The folks at the Upper Keys Sailing Club are first class. Upon arrival, we were greeted by numerous members. I could go on for hours about their hospitality, but to sum it up: the bar is always open! In addition to being friendly hosts they are extremely capable on the water. The UKSC hosts large regattas for many large classes including Melges 24s and Sunfish Masters.

Sixty degree nights make for great camp out weather. Our camp site was amidst the mangroves which provided entertainment from much wildlife, especially the raccoons. Despite the abundant signage to keep the woods clean, the raccoons couldn’t help but dragging trash into the woods!

Road trips are a great part of the small boat sailing experience, and there is

much more to tell than what can be stated here...Days of wonderful sailing, evenings barbecuing on the beach, and nights laughing at the raccoons...but don’t take my word for it. If you want to try it out, contact a small boater in the club and hit a regatta. It is new places, lots of fun with friends, and a chance to meet new people.



**The Neighbors**



**The Racing**

Dead Dogs and Tin Whistle’s Regatta  
Buccaneer 18 Midwinter  
Championship 2009  
Key Largo, FL

**Upcoming Events**

Feb	Mon	9	Program Chair Meeting 7:30 pm	March	Fri	13	Race Management Seminar 7:30 pm
	Fri	13	Race Management Seminar 7:30pm		Sat	14	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday Cruisers Raft-Up
	Sat	14	“Round Midnight” Concert 5:30pm		Sun	15	Frostbite #2
	Mon	16	Yearbook inputs due		Sat	21	CPR/First Aid Training Seminar
	Sat	21	Racing Rules Seminar 3:00-6:00 pm		Sun	22	Frostbite #3
	Fri	27	Race Management Seminar 7:30pm		Fri	27	Race Management Seminar 7:30pm
March	Sat	7	Training Seminar		Sat	28	Spring Clubhouse Clean-up
	Sun	8	Spring Frostbite Race #1		Sun	29	Frostbite #4
	Mon	9	BOD meeting				

Got a story to tell? Are you interested in placing an event or article in the Clew? After all this is your newsletter....email any inputs to [clew@msa.com](mailto:clew@msa.com) and your article or ideas could be included in the next issue! Articles submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month have priority for the following month.