



The Commodore's Corner

by Jimmy Yurko
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The sun sets early in December. This provides long nights for fun with friends. There is much to be excited about this month. The Christmas walk, lighted boat parade and, of course, holidays with friends and family are all coming up quickly.

The long nights are cold and dark. They do however provide us with an excellent opportunity to enjoy, not only the beauty of the sunset but, for many of us who start a little later in the day, the sunrise. This December marks my last as Commodore, so I will sign off and proudly pass the gavel to Tim Flaherty. Tim has done an excellent job assisting SMSA for quite some time. He was our Publicity Chairperson for many years, and he has served as both Rear Commodore and Vice Commodore. He will be an excellent Commodore. I am very excited to pass this role on to such a capable leader and dedicated member.

Over the last two years I've had the fortune of working with a really impressive bunch of people. SMSA volunteers are amazing. In one article I can't summarize all that they do for us. In short, this organization doesn't stay together without all the dedicated volunteers.

It's no secret that the climate for growth of sailing is a harsh one. Despite challenges in the economy, ever tightening family budgets, strict time constraints, etc, SMSA has continued to grow and be a strong organization for all of us. Sailing isn't a family friendly sport in the conventional sense. It isn't easy; we don't have flashy cartoon characters selling the ideas to our kids. We aren't made out to be heroes on Sunday afternoons. We get together, work hard, play hard. We sail when the wind is strong, the air is cold, or when the sun bears down on our backs. We push each other to do our best. Be it racing or cruising with friends, we are required to work together as a team and overcome real challenges. This sport brings us together as a family, not in the conventional way ... but in a very practical way.

Thank you all for all that you've done to make the last two years so successful.

Upcoming 2013 Events!



Solomons Island Christmas Walk / SMSA Open House

December 6 (Fri), 6-9 PM

SMSA will again be participating in the Solomons Christmas walk. We are having an Open House during the Christmas Walk, and children are invited to come in to build and paint free toy boats they can sail in our indoor pool. Santa Claus will also stop by.

SMSA Annual Holiday Party

December 7 (Sat), 6-10 PM

Join us for our annual Holiday party for members. It is a pot-luck affair, and always quite a bit of fun. The lighted boat parade passes right in front of the clubhouse, making for a great view. Email social@smsa.com with questions.



Freeze Your Bucc Off

December 14 (Sat), 10 AM ...

Racing kicks off at noon, with a party to follow. Looking for the last opportunity to douse yourself — and your crew — into the river before the new year? Or do you just want to come out and watch others do silly things? Or does getting together afterwards in the warm clubhouse and sharing stories sound more your speed? Whether you are a small boat sailor, or just play one on TV, the fun-loving Buccaneer fleet is hosting their last regatta of the year Saturday December 14, and all are invited to come out and enjoy the fun. The first race kicks off at noon from the SMSA dock ... and the on-shore 'High-jacked Holiday' party starts at 6 PM. If you're interested, email jimmydyurko@gmail.com.

Laser Frostbites

Still interested in sailing, but can't convince a friend to shiver with you on the boat? The Laser Frostbite series is a low-key fun series to help you get your sailing in throughout the winter. Don't have a Laser? No problem — contact Jeff Moore for more details: jeffrey.moore@engilitycorp.com.



Upcoming Events for 2014!



New Year's Eve Party

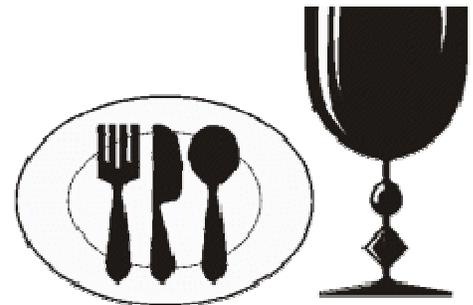
Dec 31 2013 (Tues) 8 PM ...

Still trying to figure out what to do for New Years? Look no further. Mark your calendar as *full*. The SMSA New Year party is on! Watch your email for details!

Annual Banquet

January 11 (Sat), 6-11 PM

This year's banquet will be held at the Solomons Holiday Inn. You will soon be receiving your invitation. The social committee is finalizing the details. As always, you can expect a great time! Email social@smsa.com or vicecommandore@smsa.com with questions.



Bar Announcements

We are having a TAM class in February. If you are interested, email barmanager@smsa.com. More details on the TAM requirements and process will come out in the next Clew. Please sign up as a volunteer bartender on the whiteboard at the clubhouse.

Also, we have new winter beers arriving and on site!



Go or No-Go ...

By Megan Hildenberger and Robin Witte

As of the Saturday evening prior, *Rakali* was planning to race in the last Fall Frost-bite. The windy forecast suggested we use the reefing main. On Sunday, I dressed in my wet suit, bibs, fleece, coat, wool socks, thick boots, ski mask, and gloves so thick I could barely bend my fingers (think Ralphie's little brother in *A Christmas Story*).

Out of curiosity, Robin and Mark Witte had checked a 'Go / No Go' calculator, used by the Fort Worth Boat Club (FWBC), which helps to determine if racing should occur given a certain set of conditions. This formula assigns scores to wind strength, water/air temperature, and precipitation conditions. If the combined value is between 60 and 70 then canceling a race is at the discretion of the race committee, but if the combined value is greater than 70, FWBC cancels the race. So what was the point total given the conditions for Frost-bite #4? The winds were at a sustained 23 Knots at least, shore-side temperature was around 32 degrees, and the Slim 2 buoy reported the water temperature at 52 degrees. Even the sunny conditions didn't do much to offset the score, putting the final value at 95. Perhaps if we'd had more than 3 people to hold the boat down?

Instead, we joined race committee (*LAKAHI*) onshore, along with others SMSA racers, and admired the four boats who were brave enough to face the wild conditions: *Bad Cat*, *Lickety Split*, *Pursuit*, and *Stingray* (who decided to be spectator boat at the start). Cove Point reported winds over 30 Kts, with gusts to 41 at the start of the race. The lee of the island provided some little relief for our racers, but the K - V - Y course didn't take long at all for the three boats to complete. Even so, I think everyone was grateful for the hot (and cold) drinks back at the clubhouse.

GO / No-Go Formula



FORT WORTH BOAT CLUB
EAGLE MOUNTAIN LAKE

1. Wind Speed

MPH	Points										
9	1	14	24	19	35	24	42	29	50	34	59
10	5	15	28	20	36	25	44	30	52	35	62
11	10	16	30	21	38	26	46	31	53	36	65
12	14	17	31	22	39	27	47	32	55	37	68
13	19	18	33	23	41	28	49	33	57	38	70
2. Ambient Temperature

Deg	Points										
60	2	54	8	48	13	42	18	36	28	30	58
58	4	52	10	46	14	40	20	34	38	28	66
56	6	50	11	44	16	38	22	32	46		
3. Water Temperature

Deg	Points								
66	4	60	8	54	1	48	16	42	36
64	5	58	9	52	13	46	23	40	42
62	6	56	10	50	14	44	30	38	48
4. Weather

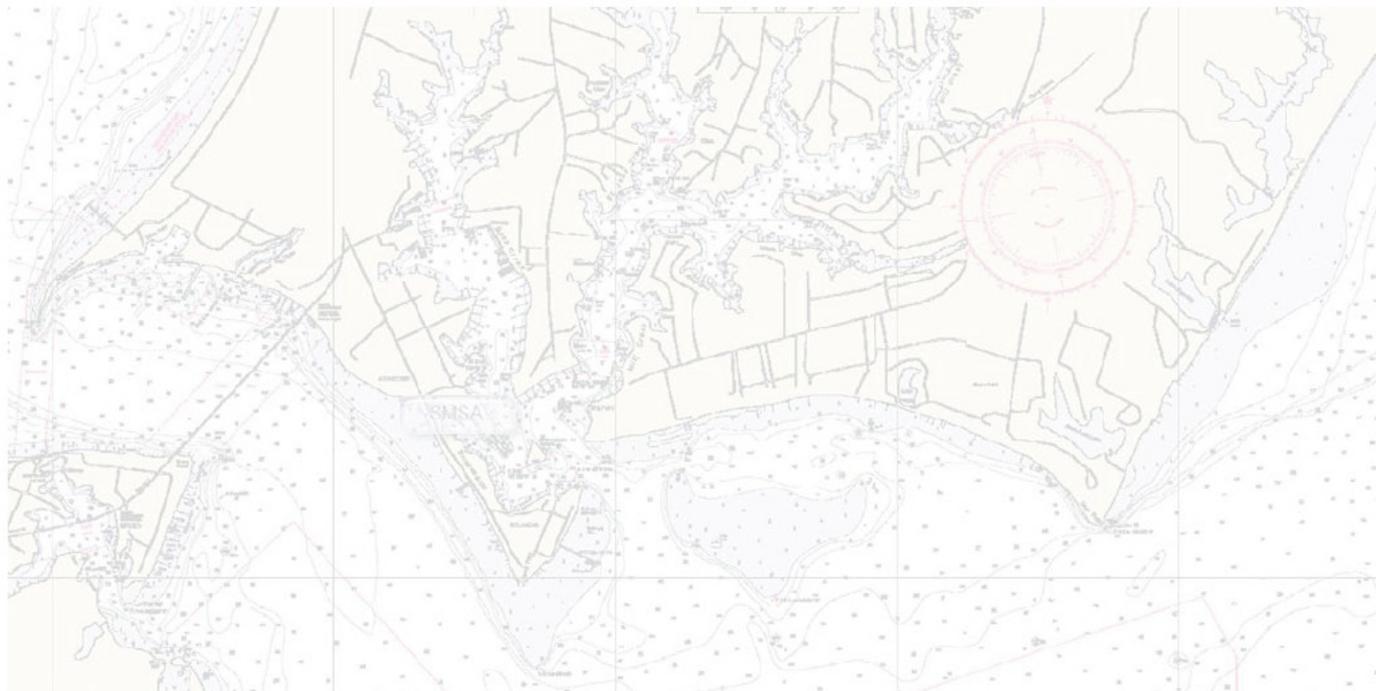
Other Conditions:	Sunny	Overcast	Rain	Lightning
Points	-5	0	10	71
5. Total Points

* Accumulate the point count. If it is less than 60 pts., sail. If it is 60-70 pts. it is the Race Committee's Discretion. If the pt. count is great than 70, there will be no sailing.



Southern Maryland Sailing Association
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December 2013 Volume 43 Number 12

December		
01	Sun	Laser Frostbite Race
02	Mon	Chair Meeting
06	Fri	Friday Happy Hour
06	Fri	Christmas Walk Open House
07	Sat	SMSA Holiday Party
08	Sun	Laser Frostbite Race
13	Fri	Friday Happy Hour
14	Sat	Freeze Your Bucc Off
15	Sun	Laser Frostbite Race
16	Mon	BOD Meeting
20	Fri	Clew Inputs Due
20	Fri	Friday Happy Hour
22	Sun	Laser Frostbite Race
27	Fri	Friday Happy Hour
29	Sun	Laser Frostbite Race
31	Tue	New Year's Eve Party

January		
01	Wed	New Year's Eve Party (cont.)
03	Fri	Friday Happy Hour
06	Mon	Inaugural BOD meeting
10	Fri	Friday Happy Hour
11	Sat	SMSA Annual Banquet
15	Wed	Membership renewals mailed
17	Fri	Friday Happy Hour
17	Fri	Commodore's Dinner
20	Mon	Clew Inputs Due
24	Fri	Friday Happy Hour
25	Sat	Tentative Boaters Safety Class
27	Mon	Chair Meeting
31	Fri	Friday Happy Hour

For more details, visit www.smsa.com, click on Calendar, then click the item that interests you.