the clew
Southern Maryland Sailing Association, Inc.

January 2014

Volume 44 Number 1

The Commodore's Corner

By Tim Flaherty
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New Year's greetings to you here in 2014! I begin my term as SMSA Commodore at the first board meeting this month. We have had a fabulous 2013 at SMSA, and I'm looking forward to having our participation and help in this new year.

The first thing I would like to do is thank outgoing Commodore Jimmy Yurko for all the hard work and dedication he has put into our organization the past two years. His enthusiasm and ideas for SMSA are evident in the growth in membership we've experienced, as well as the broadening of sailing opportunities at the club. I'm happy that Jimmy has agreed to stay on as Rear Commodore, and will continue to be an advocate for sailing in Southern Maryland and for SMSA.

To continue to be successful, SMSA needs YOU to be active in the club. We have two positions that urgently need to be filled. Former Clew editor Trevor Harney has stepped aside, and we need someone to take the reins of this publication. It only requires a few hours per month, and it's a great way to interact with many members of the club. We also would like to find a new Training Chair. Jenn Marbourg-Miller has been the Training Chair for the past two years and she continues in that position, but would like to hand-off to someone new. As this Chair, you would be responsible for arranging the several training programs SMSA presents over the course of the year. First Aid/CPR, navigation and weather forecasting are just some of the programs we often present. Contact me and step up!

Many of our other programs could use assistants. The Social Program can always use a couple of spare hands at our many events. Want some real fun? Bartend a Friday Happy Hour at the clubhouse. You'll meet lots of folks in a very relaxed atmosphere. Join the Facilities committee and help out around the yard and clubhouse. Get in with our race chairs and help either our Smallboat or Keelboat programs. How about leading a cruise this year? Contact me about any of the volunteer opportunities, and I will steer you in the right direction.

Some of the off-season activities we have coming up soon are the Commodore's Dinner on January 17th (potluck at the Clubhouse); a Bartending Basics class and TAM certification on February 1st; a Race Management seminar on February 22nd; and Gary Jobson's "Celebrating Sailing" presentation on March 29th.

Of course, I hope to see you all on January 11th at the SMSA Banquet at the Holiday Inn!

Tim

Commodore's Dinner

January 17th, 7pm

SMSA 2013 Awards Banquet

The Greatest Event Off the Water

Saturday, January 11th

Holiday Inn, Solomons, MD
6PM - 11PM

Featuring Live Music by the PAX Rats!

Tickets: $50 pp; RSVP with payment by January 3rd.

Dinner buffet consisting of Rock Fish in a Lemon Butter Sauce,
Chicken Cordon Bleu, and Carved Top Round Sirloin
Cash Bar available for drink purchases.

Email social@smsa.com with questions.

2014 Junior Sailing Camp Registration

Now OPEN!!!

Go to www.smsa.com to register today!

Techniques of Alcohol Management Training

Coming in February

The next Techniques of Alcohol Management (TAM) class is in the works for February 1st at SMSA. If you are interested in volunteering as a TAM/Bartender, email barmanager@smsa.com or training@smsa.com. A TAM certified person is required to be onsite anytime alcohol is being served. These are important folks!

You do not need to be TAM certified to volunteer to be a bartender. We will find a TAM if you want to pour drinks at an event. This is a great opportunity to meet your fellow club members and be part of the action. Not sure what to do as a bartender? Join us for Bartending Basics held prior to TAMs training on 01 Feb (open to all club members). We hope to see you there!

Please sign up as a volunteer bartender on the whiteboard at the clubhouse.

Bartending Basics

Saturday, Feb 1 at 10am

Learn how to bartend at SMSA!

TAM Training

Sat, Feb 1 at 11:30am

(Tentative)

Superbowl XLVIII at SMSA!

Sunday, February 2nd
Doors open at 5:30pm; Kickoff at 6:25pm

Bring a Superbowl snack to share with your friends while we watch the game on the big screen!

Happy New Year!

SMSA members rang in the new year at the club New Years Eve Party. Members enjoyed 1980's themed music, games (Tetris and Duck Hunt anyone?), and of course — their 80's attire as well as lots of great things to eat and drink. Wherever you were, we hope you enjoyed your evening and are looking forward to a great 2014!

Left: SMSA Members Jimmy Yurko, Kristi Yurko, Robin Witte, and Jolie Homsher strut their 80's style.

One-Day Basic Race Management Seminar

When: Saturday, 15 February, 0800-1700

Where: Eastport Yacht Club Clubhouse

Cost: $35

Web Registration: http://raceadmin.ussailing.org/Race_Officers/CertificationTraining/Race_Officer_Seminars/Seminar_Calendar.htm

Includes course fee, continental breakfast, & afternoon snack. Lunch will be available at EYC as a separate, standalone charge.

One-Day Judges Seminar

When: Saturday, 11 January, 0800-1700

Where: Eastport Yacht Club Clubhouse

Cost: $35

Web Registration: http://raceadmin.ussailing.org/Judges/Seminar_Calendar.htm

Includes course fee, continental breakfast, & afternoon snack. Lunch will be available at EYC as a separate, standalone charge.

SMSA Race Management Seminar

Want to decipher what those flags are on the race course?

Don't know how to set a square starting line?

Come join us and meet some fellow sailors!

FOR WHO: Anyone interested in learning more about Race Committee Duties!
WHEN: Saturday, February 22nd, 830am~1230pm
WHERE: SMSA Clubhouse

WHAT: This course is focused on race committee training.
Topics include: Anchoring the Race Committee (RC) Boat; Setting a Square Starting Line; Starting and Finishing Races; Scoring the Race; What RC can and cannot change; and More!

Registration: Register before February 15th at: training@smsa.com.

SMSA is looking for a Clew Editor

Do you like desktop publishing? Are you interested in keeping up with SMSA events? Would you like to help others keep up with SMSA events?

If you're interested email commodore@smsa.com

Volunteers Needed

Whether you are new to the club or an old salt, we need you to come and contribute. The SMSA programs are staffed by all member volunteers. We don't keep a paid staff so that means you own 100% of your experience with SMSA. If you want to see something happen here…all you have to do is volunteer and make it happen.

There are still plenty of opportunities for you to help. Keep an eye out for calls for volunteers. Of course if you just want to get involved, and don't want to be in charge, then you can contact any of the current program chairs or officers and jump onto a committee and contribute that way.

Thank you in advance for your contribution to YOUR club! Its going to be a GREAT year!

Please contact the Commodore at commodore@smsa.com with ideas or to volunteer to help.

Congratulations to SMSA Cruisers

Cruising Corner

Rod Schroeder, SMSA Cruise Chair
cruise@smsa.com
(H) 410-326-0167
(C) 301-752-5515

Many SMSA cruisers spent a lot of time on the water this past year enjoying their favorite pastime. Congratulations to boat owners who had enough fun this past year to earn the following cruising awards for their 2013 adventures:

1000 Mile Cruising Awards

Joe Frost *(Gemini)*
Dennis & Carolyn Chandler *(Safina)*
Curt & Dottie Hamilton *(Serenity)*
Sarah Southworth *(Moonlight Serenade)*

Joseph T. McGrath Trophy

Joe Frost *(Gemini)*

Cruising High Point Awards

Jerry & Donna Taylor *(Piper)*
Rod & Pat Schroeder *(Ruste Nayle)*
Dennis & Carolyn Chandler *(Safina)*
Rich & Patty Freeman *(Patty K)*
Dave & Lois Zonderman *(Walkabout)*

Cruiser of the Year (Happy Hour Trophy)

Jerry & Donna Taylor *(Piper)*

Cruise Planning for 2014 (Date/Time Change)

Due to winter travel plans of your Cruise Chairman, our 2014 Cruise Planning Meeting has been moved to Saturday morning, 1 March 2014. Send me your cruise ideas, suggestions, and comments in advance so that I can create a draft schedule to start with. I will be at the SMSA clubhouse at 0900 on 1 March to review, discuss, and finalize a cruise schedule to include in our 2014 Yearbook. Coffee, pastry, and fruit will be provided. If you are unable to attend the meeting please forward your cruise inputs to me by email prior to the meeting. I am especially interested in learning of any bay-wide events that may be interest, and identifying cruise leaders for each cruise. As in the past, I anticipate creating a schedule that includes a couple of extended cruises, a few long weekend cruises, and some local overnight outings.

Freeze Your Bucc Off!

It has only been a few weeks since the fifth annual Freeze Your Bucc Off! regatta. For the second time Gus Rappold (Long Island, NY) has taken home the top honors!

Freeze Your Bucc Off! originated as a fleet building event for the Southern Maryland fleet (Fleet 69) and has grown into a bit of a regional attraction. This year we had registrants from CT, VA, MD, NC, and NY.

The weather forecast was pretty dismal. We all got set to run a regatta in 10-20mph winds, 45 degree water, and freezing rain...

As you can imagine the forecast turned away quite a few competitors. The threat of snow in the north kept our Connecticut contingency at home and some of the locals decided to find indoor activities instead.

Fortunate for all of us the rain held off and the air temperatures held above freezing for most of the day.

Heading out to the River in Race 3

Our first gun was at noon and four boats made the start. This race was a tricky two lap race around the Solomons harbor and around a small island "Ma's Leg" which is notorious for unpredictable wind shadows & vortices. Mark Gyorgy's "Kick'Em Jenny" took the early lead and finished just ahead of Gus Rappold's "Lunatic".

Gus & Hans on Lunatic
Long Island, NY

Our second race had five boats and was also a tricky harbor start with laps around some of the odd features around the harbor. Despite being an out of towner, without the local knowledge of the tricky harbor "Lunatic" (Gus & crew Hans, of Long Island, NY) tied up the series by taking the second bullet...just one place ahead of Kick'Em Jenny.

Mark Gyorgy and Nichole Doub,
Kick'Em Jenny

By race three all of the seven competing boats made it to the line, and were off on a point to point race (with a few local twists) out of the harbor. Jeff Neurater's "Irene" with the aid of his lovely new crew Robyn, sailed off to a first place finish despite lacking a spinnaker and a late start.

Race four was a two lap windward/Leeward out in the river. The breeze was shifting and starting position was critical. Lunatic was dialing in for a port-at-pin favored start, taking advantage of the shift, and her competitors mistake...but failed to notice "Wasabi" sneaking around to windward. Wasabi, sailed by Jimmy Yurko & high school sailor Tim Roland, managed to sneak in to windward and lead the entire race.

Race five was a triangle, again with a port tack favored start, this time the fleet was more wise to the wind shifts as the wind was becoming stronger and more persistent. By this time the temperature had dropped significantly, and the rain was becoming steady. Christopher Dragon (Jim Whited/Jen Miller) sailed for the bar. Lunatic again dialed in for a port approach to the line, Wasabi again tried to get in to windward, but when the gun fired for the start Wasabi's windward position was of little use as Lunatic came through the line with more speed and effectively provided a lee-bow effect to Wasabi forcing a tack. The wind continued to shift to the left. This did provide opportunities for advancement, as boat in mid pack traded tacks. Lunatic managed to hold onto the lead entering the first turn, while Kick'Em Jenny rounded next. On the reach to the gybe mark the pack was tight, and the wind was building. We had our spinnakers drawing, and were approaching planing speeds. Kick'Em Jenny suffered a round-up, and Wasabi gained inside advantage at the next turn. This advantage was quickly lost when Wasabi elected to douse-gybe-set rather than a simple gybe. This maneuver cost the team valuable seconds as Kick'Em Jenny recovered quickly from their round-up and were already up to full speed on port coming into the mark above the now accelerating Wasabi. All the while, Irene (without spinnaker) was conservatively sailing on the heels of the other boats awaiting a mistake. Entering the final turn the wind continued to build and we are now in full HIKE mode heading towards the upwind finish line. Lunatic took first followed closely by Kick'Em Jenny then Wasabi, Irene, Dodgem!!, and Team Weiser respectively.

Jimmy Yurko and Tim Roland, Wasabi

And then...Race 6. With the wind and rain building steadily the race committee decided to switch the course and hold the final on the water event...the race back to the dock. This race was point to point, with a distinct downwind start. The right side of the line was slightly to windward, so advantages were split...get a lead on the left side, or keep clear air on the right. Many boats clamored for the left as it was the slightly shorter run and if secured would provide a lead off the line. The lead was short lived however as those closest to the left quickly became shadowed by the boats to the right and were shown that the little extra distance sailed from the right was worth it, as Dodgem!! (Michelle and Mike Major) pulled right up to the front of the pack and lead a very close race right up to the finish line. Wasabi edged Lunatic out at the finish, but failed to stage herself properly for the last (and arguably most important) race of the day....to the bar!

And then the rain came….Race 6

Michelle and Mike Major, Dodgem!!

Upon crossing the finish line Lunatic had already headed toward the shore with crewman Hans on deck. Ready to jump Hans lept from the bow of Lunatic (while still underway) to the dock and led the race to the bar. This mad dash was quite a spectacle, as the downwind race brought all the boats to the dock nearly simultaneously and all crews were scrambling to get to the shore and darting through the boatyard in a sprint to be first. Frank Patch scaled a wall to secure his position, Irene's crew Robyn took a swim attempting to find a shortcut...but the crew aboard the aptly named Lunatic won 2nd place honors in this final race.

You may be wondering who beat Hans to the final finish? Why of course Christopher Dragon...who's crew had plenty of time to get back, warm up have a beverage and keep finish times of the remaining crews!

So while this year's Freeze Your Bucc Off! looked like it was going to be ruined by bad weather, the opposite was true. The event was an absolute blast. We put seven Buccs on the water for an incredibly fun time, and the post race party lasted well into the evening.

Drying off during the Party

Gus & Hans took home first and the fleet welcomed some new sailors, Phillip Weiser and Tim Roland. I can't think of a better way to spend a Saturday in mid December!

Thanks to Chris Helmkamp, Nicole Hutchins, LeAnne Patch, Kyra Tallon, Eric Smith, Annabelle Yurko, Kristi Yurko, and Chloe for being race committee and keeping us safe!

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 details: jeffrey.moore@engilitycorp.com

Southern Maryland Sailing Association
PO Box 262, Solomons, MD 20688

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January		
01	Wed	New Year's Eve Party (cont.)
03	Fri	Friday Happy Hour
10	Fri	Friday Happy Hour
11	Sat	SMSA Annual Banquet
13	Mon	Inaugural BOD meeting
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
27	Mon	Chair Meeting
31	Fri	Friday Happy Hour

February		
01	Sat	Bartending Basics
01	Sat	TAM Certification Class
02	Sun	Superbowl Party!
07	Fri	Friday Happy Hour
07	Fri	Keelboat Racers General Mtg
14	Fri	Friday Happy Hour
15	Sat	Membership Renewals Due
20	Thu	Clew Inputs Due
21	Fri	Commodore's Dinner
21	Fri	Friday Happy Hour
22	Sat	Race Management Seminar
24	Mon	Program Chair Meeting
27	Thu	Yearbook Inputs Due
28	Fri	Friday Happy Hour

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