

The Commodore's Corner

By Jim Keen
commodore@smsa.com



COMMODORE'S MESSAGE FEBRUARY 2016

After a balmy December, winter finally arrived in Southern Maryland in mid-January... with a vengeance! Of course, the good news with the late start of winter was that it gave us more time to get our boats fully winterized.

As usual, several of our club members found a way to escape to warmer climes in January... **Joe and Jody Frost** cruising *Gemini* in the Bahamas; **John and Linda Edwards** with crew racing *Rhumb Punch* (chartered GP 26), **Peter D'Arista** with crew on *Supra Turbo* (GP 26), **Clarke and Mary Anne McKinney** with crew on *Family Truckster* (**Eddie Sierra's/Scotty Roland's J70**), and **Don Behrens** (Race Committee), all at Key West Race Week; **Jimmy** and **Kristi Yurko**, **Jim** and **Barb Whited**, and **Jennifer Marbourg-Miller** and **Robert Miller** racing their *Buccaneers* in Key Largo; and **Mark** and **Robin Witte**, **Dan Bowman** and **Nichole Doub** racing VX-Ones in Sarasota. And, at about 1800 miles north of the warm waters of Florida, **Les Griffith** was at Sunday River Ski Resort in Maine with about 30 SMSA members/friends who took a week off to hit the slopes with the SMSA Ski Trip.

At last month's inaugural 2016 BOD meeting, we installed the new Board of Directors and Committee Chairs and approved this year's budget, including dues and fees. Thanks to the diligence and hard work of last year's BOD members and Chairs in holding the line on expenses, we were able to approve the 2016 budget with the same dues and fees schedule as last year.

It's time once again to renew our club memberships. Watch your email accounts for an email describing the membership renewal process. (If we do not have your current e-mail address, you will receive an old-fashioned renewal letter.)

Members are requested to renew online. Follow the directions in the renewal email or go to www.smsa.com and click the button on the middle of the page. This will take you to the renewal site. You may pay by credit card or PayPal, or just fill out the renewal form and mail a check. You can also pay race fees, slip fees, dry storage fees and register for Adult Learn To Sail Class while renewing. Please complete your renewal by March 1st.

We are pleased to welcome new SMSA members **Lloyd** and **Barbara Conley**, sponsored by **Jerry** and **Donna Taylor**. The Conley's have volunteered to serve with Chair, **Tim Flaherty** on the Membership Committee.

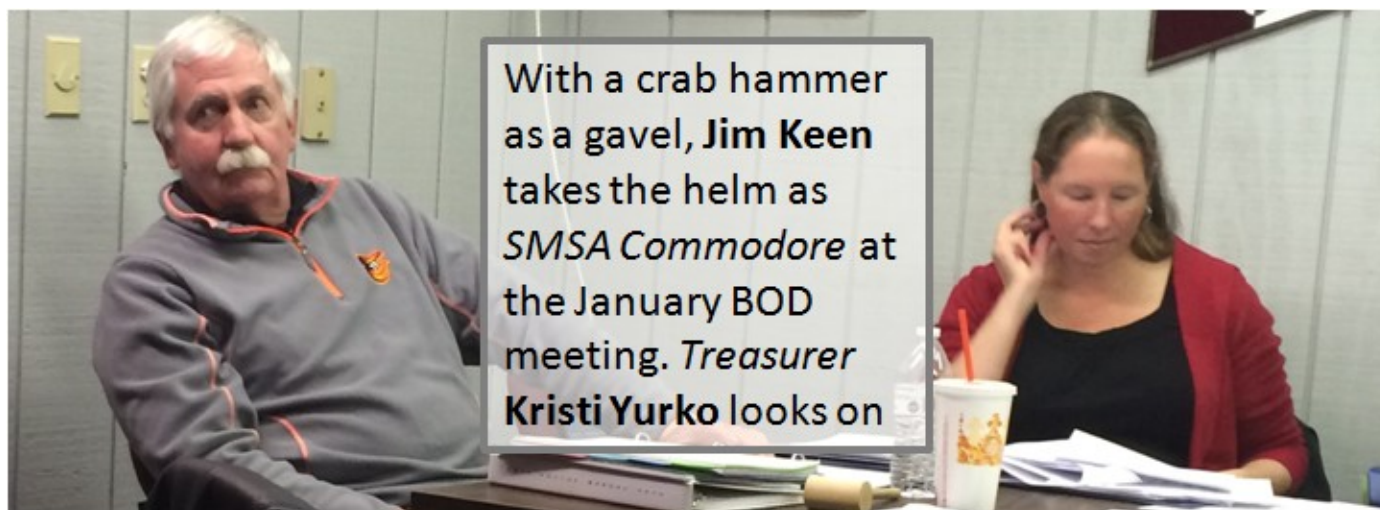
By now you have, hopefully, RSVP'd for our annual Banquet to be held on February 6th at the Hilton Garden Inn Solomons. This is always a nice affair at which we celebrate the previous year's many activities. Besides a sit-down dinner with a great menu selection, we will have live music by *Coastline*. The RSVP period has passed, but if you'd like to go, it can't hurt to ask about cancellations or new openings. E-mail [**social@smsa.com**](mailto:social@smsa.com).

It's only a little over two months until opening day... April 9th. But until then there's plenty of on-shore activity around SMSA. Keep tuned into the weekly "This Week at SMSA" e-mails.

Lastly, as I get reacquainted with the inner workings of the SMSA leadership structure after being off the Board of Directors for the last three years, I am reminded of the enormous amount of activity and coordination it takes to keep this club functioning at the highly efficient and effective level that it does. Thank you to all the many dozens of club volunteers, including Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs and members who make SMSA the fun and rewarding organization that it is and continues to be.

Jim Keen

SMSA Commodore



Superbowl Party at SMSA!

Sunday, February 7th

Doors open at 5:30pm; Kickoff at 6:30pm

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

COMEDY NIGHT!

Starring Kelly Terranova



Friday, March 11th

8:00 pm

Presented by the
Southern
Maryland Sailing
Association

Doors open at 5:30 PM; Showtime 8 PM

Tickets are \$15 per person; \$20 per person after March 1st.

Purchase your tickets online at www.smsa.com

2015 Annual Banquet

Saturday, February 6th, 2016

Hilton Garden Inn, Solomons, MD



**5:30 PM Cocktail Hour
6:30 PM Dinner**

Featuring Live Music by Coastline!

Questions? Email social@smsa.com

The Reservation Deadline has passed.

Please contact social@smsa.com to be added to the waitlist if you wish to attend.

**NEW SMSA MERCHANDISE
AVAILABLE IN THE
CLUBHOUSE!**

See your bartender for details!

Cruising Program

One Thousand Mile Cruising Awards

A brass plaque and large burgee are awarded to the owners of yachts that have cruised 1,000 or more miles during the season on their own yacht.

Joe Frost	<i>Gemini</i>
Dennis & Carolyn Chandler	<i>Safina</i>
Jerry & Donna Taylor	<i>Piper</i>
Sarah Southworth & Bill Bacon	<i>Moonlight Serenade</i>
Rich Freeman & Patty Kimmel	<i>Patty K Too</i>

Distinguished Cruising

Joseph T. McGrath Trophy

A perpetual slate ice bucket is presented to the owner of the yacht displaying the SMSA burgee in the widest area while cruising on their own yacht during the season. Donated by Kathleen & Ron Trossbach in memory of Kathleen's father, Joseph T. McGrath.

Jerry & Donna Taylor	<i>Piper</i>
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Cruising High Point Awards

A large burgee is awarded to the owners of SMSA yachts that earn 35 or more cruising points in a calendar year while participating in scheduled SMSA cruises.

Rich Freeman & Patty Kimmel	<i>Patty K Too</i>
Rod & Pat Schroeder	<i>Ruste Nayle</i>
Carl & Martha Kemp	<i>Serenity</i>
Dave & Lois Zonderman	<i>Walkabout</i>

Cruiser Of The Year

Happy Hour Cruising Trophy

A perpetual silver cup is presented to the owner of the yacht accumulating the highest number of cruise points for participation in scheduled SMSA cruises. Donated by Mr. & Mrs. Donald B. Staake.

Rich Freeman & Patty Kimmel	<i>Patty K Too</i>
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Congratulations to 2015 Cruising Awards recipients!



Southern Maryland Sailing Association Inc.

P.O. Box 262 · Solomons, Maryland 20688

Mr. Neil Ringler
Secretary
Hyannis Yacht Club
490 Ocean St.
Hyannis, MA 02601

Re: Letter of Introduction for Marilyn and Lowell Martin

Dear Mr. Ringler:

This is to introduce Marilyn and Lowell Martin, who are members in good standing of the Southern Maryland Sailing Association.

The Martins will be visiting Hyannis during the period August 29 through September 12, 2015.

We look forward to the Hyannis Yacht Club extending them a warm welcome and of course will do the same for any of your members who visit our Southern Maryland Sailing Association facilities when in Solomons, Maryland.

Sincerely,

Kristi Yurko
Secretary
Southern Maryland Sailing Association.

HYANNIS YACHT CLUB
VISITING YACHTSMAN

Date: Arrival 9/2 Departure 9/2
Vessel Name: Southern Maryland Sailing Assoc.
Owner/Contact Person: Lowell Martin
Authorized Signature: [Signature]

This authorizes card-holder to all privileges
of the Hyannis Yacht Club during paid dates.



THE GREAT BURGEE SWAP conspiracy!

By Lowell
Martin

THE GREAT BURGEE SWAP CONSPIRACY

Marilyn & I were filling in on a late summer rental week on Cape Cod for a couple who at the last minute couldn't make it. Low and behold, when we checked out the online listing for the place it was across the parking lot from the Hyannis, Massachusetts Yacht Club. The wheels in my head started turning!

Burgee Swap!

The Hyannis Yacht club is a bit different from SMSA. A check of its web site showed that shirts with collars were required in its several dining rooms, with long pants with creases de rigueur in the formal dining room. However, they did appear friendly to visiting "yachtsmen" with club privileges extended for your visit, provided your club was at least 50 miles away from Hyannis (which by the way is just a mile or two along the coast of Nantucket Sound from the Kennedy Compound).

A quick caucus with Kristi Yurko, then SMSA Secretary, and the conspiracy was born. We came up with a "letter of introduction" and off it went to the Hyannis club's secretary. I have a laminating machine and the newly-minted SMSA membership card found its home in my wallet.

So, off to Hyannis armed with a club burgee to trade. Sure enough, the club was a one minute walk from our place. A quick visit to the Steward's office and I was armed with a visiting yachtman pass to all club facilities and the burgee swap was done.

As the Steward was filling out my pass, I suggested he could just abbreviate Southern Maryland Sailing Association as "SMSA." He was aghast. "Oh no, I can't do that because SMSA also stands for Southern Massachusetts Sailing Association." Too close to Hyannis for visitor privileges. As it turned out, all at the club were very friendly and accommodating. Many of the club boats are on moorings. I spend an enjoyable hour or two just riding around in one of the two club launches as members traveled out and back from their boats in Hyannis Harbor. On our last day I broke out my pressed pants with creases still clearly visible and Marilyn & I headed for the main dining room for lunch. All went well and the club's general manager even greeted us personally and offered a tour of their facilities.

So, next time you are on the road somewhere, hatch your own "conspiracy" and let's make more additions to our burgee collection.



Reciprocity

The Hyannis Yacht Club welcomes reciprocal visitors provided you have a letter of introduction from your yacht club sent to us by your General Manager prior to your visit, and a current membership card from your yacht club. We ask that you take care of all charges during your stay with either cash or credit card.

SAILING BLOGS

Some of our cruisers headed South this winter season and we can follow their adventures on their blogs.

Joe and Jody Frost (*Gemini*) crossed the Gulf Stream on Jan. 16th; cleared customs at West End, Grand Bahama Island; and, are working their way through the Abacos then to the Exumas. Jody officially retired the end of December and is now a full time cruiser. You can follow their adventures at [www.sailblogs.com.member/geminionthe_move/](http://www.sailblogs.com/member/geminionthe_move/).

Dennis and Carolyn Chandler (*Safina*) left *Safina* in St. Augustine to take care of some domestic issues in Solomon's and will soon be back on the move. You can follow them You can follow them at <http://safinasouth2015.blogspot.com> and an older site, <http://2013safina.blogspot.com/>.

I spent seven months last winter on *Piper* and just finished updating my blog. You can catch up at www.sailblogs.com/member/piperadventures/. There are 500 photos in the photo album, many with captions at the bottom for some winter dreaming.

If the 500 photos do not wear you out and you are up for more, go to www.thesailinglife.net. Here you will find **Jake and Laura** on their Beneteau 40, Life Aquatic. They were on same dock as Piper at Solomon's Harbor Marina. **Jake** retired as a Navy helicopter pilot on November 4th and left the next day for the Bahamas and ...beyond. They eventually hope to end up in the Med. **Laura** is fairly new to sailing and had some trepidations, but seems to be holding up well. You can see their daily activities and realize that even in paradise, cruising has its moments! **Laura** is a semi-professional photographer and her photos are incredible.

The blogs are all quite different and you will find a real variety of entertainment.

Our cruise leaders are busy finalizing all the details for the 2016 cruising season. You can find the start/stop dates and destinations of all cruises on our website calendar for your planning purposes.

Only one more month and we will be busy preparing our boats for another splash and an adventuresome season!

The beautiful NEW
Catalina 445 Patty K Too
Urbana Cruise



Carl Kemp single handing Serenity
Urbana Cruise





This month, you will be filling out your 2016 SMSA renewal forms. For those of you with email addresses on file, you will receive a renewal letter via email. Others will receive a letter via USPS. We encourage all members to use the online renewal portal accessed on the front page of smsa.com!

Whichever way you use to renew, I ask this of all of you: PLEASE check your contact and address information and update it and make sure it is correct. We have several members who either made mistakes when filling out the original forms, or who have changed their physical

and/or email addresses in the past year and have not updated their info with the membership chair. Otherwise, we have a difficult time getting you important club info such as the Clew, the weekly clubhouse calendar, and emergency announcements.

As the new Membership Chair, I'd like to have a robust and active Membership Committee committed to helping SMSA grow and bring in new members and sailing friends. Already, new members Lloyd and Barbara Conley have jumped on board with this committee. Why don't YOU do the same? If you like to talk to people, promote sailing, and help host events, this is the perfect opportunity for you to be involved.

Membership this year is planning to have several open house-type events, a presence at some events around Calvert and St. Mary's counties, and a Sailing Mentor or Introduction to Sailing Program in order to promote sailing and SMSA. The first event will be our annual SpinSheet Crew Listing Party presented by Miller Lite Beer & Buck Distributing of Upper Marlboro on Saturday, March 19th at 4pm. Contact me now about being one of the hosts for this event and to help plan others!

Let's spread the joy of sailing in 2016!

Thanks!
Tim Flaherty,
2016 Membership Chair
membership@smsa.com



DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING OF INTEREST (AN ARTICLE, PHOTO, AD) to SMSA's Newsletter THE CLEW?

Email me, Larry Mattivi, CLEW Editor, at
clew@smsa.com



2016 Santa Claus beard
growing contest competitor

Fri, Feb 05, 2016	5:30 PM	Happy Hour
Sat, Feb 06, 2016	5:30 PM	SMSA Annual Banquet
Sun, Feb 07, 2016		CLUBHOUSE AND BAR OPEN FOR SUPERBOWL
Mon, Feb 08, 2016	7:00 PM	BOD Meeting
Thu, Feb 11, 2016	7:00 PM	YEARBOOK INPUTS DUE
Fri, Feb 12, 2016	5:30 PM	Happy Hour
Fri, Feb 19, 2016	5:30 PM 7:00 PM	Happy Hour Commodores Dinner
Sat, Feb 20, 2016		CLEW INPUTS DUE
Fri, Feb 26, 2016	5:30 PM	Happy Hour
Fri, Mar 04, 2016	5:30 PM	Happy Hour
Sun, Mar 06, 2016	1:00 PM	Spring Frostbite Series
Mon, Mar 07, 2016	7:00 PM	BOD Meeting
Fri, Mar 11, 2016	5:30 PM 8:00 PM	Happy Hour Comedy Show
Sun, Mar 13, 2016	1:00 PM	Spring Frostbite Series
Fri, Mar 18, 2016	5:30 PM 7:30 PM	Happy Hour Commodore Dinner
Sat, Mar 19, 2016		CREW LISTING PARTY
Sun, Mar 20, 2016	1:00 PM	Spring Frostbite Series
Sun, Mar 20, 2016		CLEW INPUTS DUE
Fri, Mar 25, 2016	5:30 PM	Happy Hour

SMSA CALENDAR

February 2016
— March 2016



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

PLACE
STAMP
HERE



FEBRUARY 2016 Volume 46 Number 2

Membership Renewal Time!

It's that time of year again - time to renew your SMSA membership.



Renewals are due by
March 1st.