



The Commodore's Corner

By Jim Keen
commodore@smsa.com



Commodore's Message: Still Sailing!

Looking back to January... for a non-sailing month in the middle of winter, there still were plenty of SMSA sailors who found a way to get out on the water and practice their skills. **Hawk** and **Stephanie Caldwell** traveled with their *Short Bus* crew (**Priscilla Bradley, Tim Dillinger, Clarke McKinney, Scott Patterson, and Kyle & Stefanie Potts**) to Key West to participate in the annual *Key West Race Week*. They started out a little slow, but improved throughout the week in a very competitive ORC division. **Don Behrens** was at it again with his Race Committee expertise working the TP-52 Division. I hope you saw some of the spectacular photos that he took on that course with the big boys.

Even though *Rhumb Punch* was sold recently, **'Mama' & 'Papa' (Edwards) Punch**, with former crewmembers, found their way south to enjoy Key West anyway. Bunking at their long-time crew house, they raced vicariously with *Short Bus* and partied for real with the exuberance of all self-respecting SMSA racers.

Meanwhile, the SMSA Buccaneer18 fleet also escaped to Florida to compete in the Key Largo *Dead Dogs & Tin Whistles Regatta*. They were **Jim Whited & Nichole Doub, Jennifer Marbourg-Miller & Erik Gyorgy**, and **Jimmy & Kristi Yurko**. In very sporty conditions including winds up to 35 kts, Jennifer Marbourg-Miller & Erik Gyorgy brought home the first place trophy. Well done to all!

At the other climate extreme, **Les Griffith's** SMSA Sunday River ski trip took members to the cold north of Maine. **Les, Donna Maneely, Lowell Martin**, and **Jerry & Donna Taylor** skied and partied for a week at the Sunday River Ski Resort.

On January 7th, our Cruise Committee Chair, **Jerry Taylor**, along with 15 other cruisers, braved our first snow storm of the winter (9 inches in Solomons) to hash out a very aggressive cruise schedule that starts with the Season Shake

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(continued)

Down cruise to Rollins Cove in mid-April and ends with the Halloween Raft Up at Solomons Mill Creek at the end of October. The highlight of the cruise plan is a June trip to Cape May.

It's that time of year again that we renew our SMSA memberships. Members are requested to renew online. Follow the directions in the renewal email... go to www.smsa.com and click the green button on the middle of the page. This will take you to the renewal site where you will use the renewal code which you received in the renewal e-mail. You may pay on-line, 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. All fees remain the same as last year, by the way. Please complete your renewal by March 1st.

By now you have, hopefully, RSVP'd for our annual Banquet to be held on February 11th at the Olde Breton Inn in Leonardtown. This is always a nice affair at which we celebrate the previous year's many activities. Besides a buffet with a great menu selection, we will have live music by the Screwpile DJ. If you'd like to go, please don't hesitate to E-mail social@smsa.com or call **Jody Keen** at 301 904-3178.

At the January BOD meeting we approved the budget and inducted the 2017 Officers and Directors. We welcomed our new Secretary, **Lowell Martin**, while thanking outgoing **Cristin Shiffer** who is moving to Italy with her Navy family. We also welcomed new Director **Eddie Sierra**, and incoming Junior Chair, **Barbara Whited**.

Thank you and hats off to the Officers, Directors, Committee Chairs, and Volunteers for your hard work and dedication and for all you do to make SMSA the club that we all enjoy.

Jim Keen

SMSA Commodore
commodore@SMSA.com



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 & Jody Frost.....*Gemini*
Dennis & Carolyn Chandler.....*Safina*
Jerry & Donna Taylor..... *"No Sched..."*
Andy Batchelor & Lisa Frailey.....*Kinetic*
Rich Freeman & Patty Kimmel.....*Patty K Too*
Chris & Karen Eggert.....*Destiny*
Curt & Dottie Hamilton.....*Serenity*

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.

Chris and Karen Eggert.....*Destiny*

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.....*Patty K Too*
Rod & Pat Schroeder.....*Ruste Nayle*
Curt & Dottie Hamilton.....*Serenity*
Jerry & Donna Taylor..... *"No Sched..."*

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..... *Patty K Too*

SOCIAL SCENE WITH JODY KEEN



Jody Keen
Social Chair
Social@SMSA.com

I hope that everyone has had a wonderful start to the New Year. January ended up being a light month around the club house. Unfortunately, *Ferris Bueller* had to take the day off because of nine inches of snow. The Movie night has been rescheduled to correspond with the Commodore's dinner on February 17th, with the Vice Commodore hosting.

The invitations to the Annual Gala and Awards Banquet went out in late December. RSVP's have been steadily coming in. There are still plenty of openings. So, if you haven't responded and would like to attend, please feel free to contact me at social@smsa.com or just go onto the SMSA website and register. We have booked The Old Breton Inn in Leonardtown which is a beautiful venue. Cocktails start at 5:30; so be sure to be there to catch a beautiful sunset view from their deck overlooking the Potomac.

**In March, we have
a very special event planned.
On Saturday, March 25th
we are hosting a \$\$ Casino Night \$\$!**

Come out and play Roulette, Black Jack and Craps with friends at the SMSA clubhouse. (Funny money of course) Never gambled? The experienced staff from Fantasy World will be happy to teach you how to play! Ticket price will be \$35.00 per person for an evening of fun.

**AND
DON'T
FORGET!**

2016 Annual Banquet *The Greatest Event Off the Water*

Saturday, February 11th, 2017
Olde Breton Inn, Leonardtown, MD
Watch your mailbox for your invitation!



Questions? Email social@smsa.com

PICTURES NEEDED FOR YEARBOOK

We could use some racing pictures for the yearbook.

Also, some general pictures taken at functions would be welcome. We have good cruising pictures but would welcome anything that you consider a keeper.

Email
to communications@smsa.com or kimfree1413@gmail.com.

Thanks, Patty

The yard sale for items you no longer want or need will begin @ 0800 hours and end @ 1200 hours on Saturday, 6 May, and will be conducted at the SMSA Club House. Members wishing to have a table should contact me at least two (2) days prior to reserve a space.

Start providing me with a list of items if you can. For example we will have a Yamaha 4hp outboard and a 35lb CQR with 33 feet of chain if we don't sell before the yard sale.

This year there will be a SMSA table. Those who have articles to sell but don't want to man a table can donate your items to SMSA [me] and we will sell them for you and the proceeds go to SMSA. No fuss. No muss...

So come on down to the Club House on Saturday morning. Browse the tables. Be sure to bring lots of cash. I'm sure you will find something you just cannot live without for your boat.

Rich Freeman, s/v *Patty K Too*,
email: teknikr2004@yahoo.com
freeman.richard.col@gmail.com



Ahoy!

Not much keelboat racing going on. But the wheels keep turning. There are new boats in the fleet arriving. There are to-do lists being worked up and maybe worked on. Sails being inspected or maybe Santa brought some new ones (He missed my house).

Some of our SMSA keelboat racers ventured south because.....well because it's warm, and great racing.

Short Bus made the trip to Key West and I'm sure put some new tricks in their bag. Some of our keelboat racers formed up to take 3 Buccaneer dinghys to the Dead Dogs and Tin Whistles regatta in Key Largo. Christopher Dragon, with skipper, Jenn Marbough-Miller, and helm, Erik Gyorgy, are bringing home the trophy with a first place finish that came down to the last race.

Our Frostbite races are just around the corner and keep your eyes open for refresher training on Rules and Race Committee training.

Our library has plenty of tactics books to review in the off season and Friday Happy Hours there is always a discussion of races past and future.

Mark Georgy

Keelboatrace@SMSA.com

CRUISERS CORNER

Many thanks to the 15 hardy cruisers who made it to the Cruise Planning meeting on Jan 5th in spite of the snow storm. You can find start/stop dates and destinations of all cruises on our website calendar for your planning purposes. Our Cruise Leaders are busy finalizing all the details for the upcoming season. I hope every member can find time to make it out for a couple of cruises. The winter is flying by and it won't be long before we will be doing it again!!

Jerry Taylor

Cruise@SMSA.com



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: CHECK SMSA.COM FOR THE FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2017 CALENDAR!



The Training Corner

Les Griffith, Training Chair



Planning for SMSA Training is in full swing. This year we will plan to hold a Race Rules Seminar, a Race Management Seminar, and a first aid class.

The Race Rules seminars are given in two sessions immediately following the Spring Frostbite race results. The first session will cover definitions, starting and upwind rules of sailing. The second session will cover mark rounding's and downwind racing rules of sailing.

Whether skipper or crew, anyone who races will gain valuable knowledge that will help you win more races. You will learn when you have the right of way or when you are the stand down boat in any situation on the race course. Skippers will stay out of trouble and out of "the room" when they know with confidence who has the right of way. Crew will be able to inform the skipper of an impending problem before it surprises everyone so a proper course of action can be taken to keep ahead of the pack. Having a thorough understanding of the rules makes you a better competitor, a safer competitor, and a welcome crew on any boat, so come on out and brush up on your rules knowledge and dispel any misconceptions you have.

The Race Management Seminar is always interesting and you will walk away with new insights into race management. If you are new to Race Committee, a seasoned PRO, or a crew member on a race boat you will be sure to benefit from his experience and insights to conducting races. New race committee members will benefit by gaining insights on how to set a course and run a race, giving you the confidence to meet your obligation to serve as race committee for two events this year. If you are a seasoned veteran of race committees you will benefit from the most up to date information and techniques and maybe dispel some bad habits developed over the years or just brush up on some information you may have forgotten over time. If you are a crew on a race boat you will benefit by understanding what is going on, what to expect next, and why it is happening. This will add another dimension to the skills you bring to the boat and make you even more valuable to your race skipper.

We are also holding a CPR/First Aid Training on 18 March 2017. If you have never had a first aid certificate or if your current certificate is expired this seminar is for you. You may not think you need to get CPR/First Aid certified until tragedy hits; you will be glad you attend the seminar and were able to save a loved one or crew mate. There is a minimum attendance requirement to ensure the instructor can cover the time and expenses required to conduct the course so spread the word and I will schedule a course when we have enough interest. The cost for the course is approximately \$50.00

Contact me at Training@SMSA.com if you are interested in attending any of the training seminars or if you have any ideas for seminars you would like us to host.



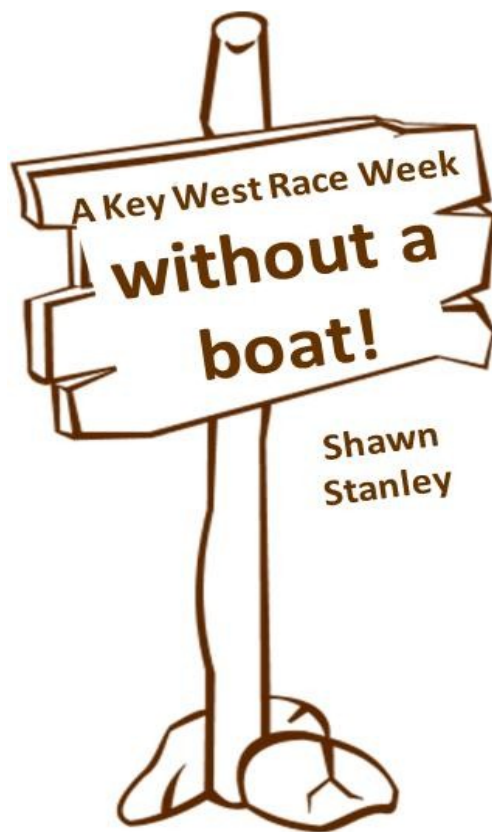
It doesn't get any better than racing in January on the crystal clear waters of Key West! The slogan, "January is best in Key West" is accurate. The wind ranged from 23 knots to 6 knots while the air temperature averaged 78 degrees. We could not have asked for better weather. We rented a centrally located house, so we could get to the regatta parties and out to dinner in reasonable time. The atmosphere of Key West is pleasant.

This regatta is full of professional sailors and well prepared boats, who are happy to recap the days events. The entire experience was well worth it. All sailors if given the chance to sail in Key West should go.

The Short Bus crew had a wonderful time in Key West and we look forward to doing it again. We are also more than happy to answer any questions on how to get your boat down there. Hope to see you next year for Key West Race Week 2018!

Hawk Caldwell
hawkcaldwell@gmail.com





So, what do you do when you've gone to Key West Race Week during the third week of January for 16 of the last 18 years, but your skipper sold his boat?

(Hint: It turns out there is plenty to do!)

The above scenario is exactly what happened to the core travel crew of Rhumb Punch for KWRW 2017. John and Linda recently sold their Farr 30 "Rhumb Punch", but house reservations in paradise were made months ago.

A discussion ensued...should we go anyway? What are we going to do all week...aren't we going to be bored out of our skulls being tourists? The answer is, nope, not with this crew!!

As fall lingered on, the Rhumb Punch girls (and Joe) made their plane reservations. Papa Punch & Shawn Puppy started to think about the long drive (24 hours with a boat!) and if we could shave anytime off without a tow. Wait, what do you mean no boat!?!? Papa started thinking, maybe we should charter a sailboat and race? Ugh, didn't he just sell his racing boat? What about towing down a power boat and go to the Dry Tortugas, do some sightseeing, go fishing, and watch some races? We eventually nixed the idea of dragging a boat when we discovered that the couple of boats we could easily get our hands on required as much prep work and teardown as taking a sailboat to race. Not to mention operating costs, launch, storage, etc..

OK, what about golf clubs? Joe, Papa & Shawn play golf, so let's try that, we've passed by Key West Golf Club a million times on Stock Island over the last 18 years!

As departure time grew closer, anticipation did as well, but without all the usual anxiety associated with packing the boat, prepping the trailer and filling the Punch Mobile & boat trailer with a week's worth of fun.

We leisurely dropped off duffle bags & golf clubs, but didn't worry about sails, greasing hubs, lashing booms, spin poles, or foul weather gear, although we all learned later that each of the boys packed some sailing gear, **"just in case"!**

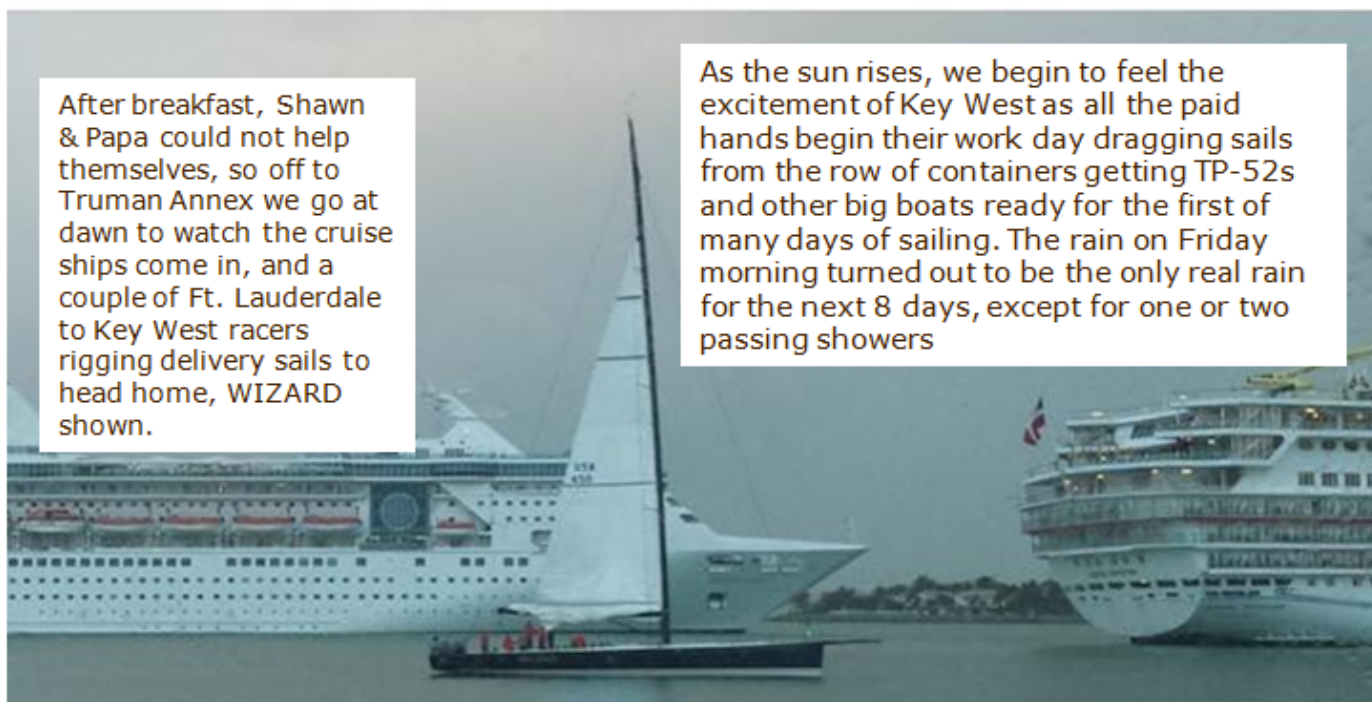


The drive and flights down were uneventful (we did not stop at nor are there pictures of South of the Border!!), except for the startling realization that when you are driving to Key West and get to Florida you are only halfway there!! Once south of Orlando, I-95 is flat, straight and borrrring. Easy as pie, and not much traffic at night either... A little jaunt to the west to get onto the Florida Turnpike to avoid Miami and boom, US-1 at Florida City all the way to Key West.

Closely following Papa & Puppy were Mama, LaLa, Joe, Sandy, Mike & Becky Ironmonger, arriving on Friday afternoon. Remember the 24 hours? The Punch Mobile did it in about 20 hours this time around, even at a slightly leisurely pace...Papa was driving slow trying to keep the fuel economy up, which averaged almost 19 MPG over 2,200 miles. However, as thrifty as that big 7.3L diesel was, it is still a big vehicle and requires concentration to keep it in between the lines and reflectors. First stop after Mile Zero??? Denny's on Duval Street (about the only thing open at 0500 on Friday morning as the street cleaners whiz by for the next round.)

After breakfast, Shawn & Papa could not help themselves, so off to Truman Annex we go at dawn to watch the cruise ships come in, and a couple of Ft. Lauderdale to Key West racers rigging delivery sails to head home, WIZARD shown.

As the sun rises, we begin to feel the excitement of Key West as all the paid hands begin their work day dragging sails from the row of containers getting TP-52s and other big boats ready for the first of many days of sailing. The rain on Friday morning turned out to be the only real rain for the next 8 days, except for one or two passing showers



After getting word from Mama Punch that it was OK to head to the rental, we had the pool and hot tub running, relaxing by 0930. Throughout the afternoon, the remaining crew trickled into town via car and air. Mike & Becky drove down in their Prius with folding bikes stuffed inside stopping to visit family and friends along the way. The Prius would prove to be a key asset in busy Key West for running grocery errands and golfing...the Punch Mobile stayed parked for 6 days!



Knowing how busy we often get on vacation, we opted to venture as a group to Mallory Square early in the week. The entire crew enjoyed this beautiful sunset soon after all the cruise ships left town.



Packing golf clubs in the Punch Mobile turned out to be a great plan, as all three boys play about the same pitiful round. We each had our shining moments with a good drive off the tee box, a nice chip or good putt here and there at the country's Southernmost Golf Course. Papa and Shawn got some of the cobwebs out at the driving range on Sunday, but when we played our first round on Monday we still felt sorry for Scott from Texas, the fourth that got paired up with Papa, Puppy & Joe. Scott spent a lot of time sitting in the golf cart while we chased golf balls into the mangroves. From Scott's stories, this is par for the course and he said he often gets paired up more with tourists than locals, as he winters in Key West. Puppy thinks he was just helping us to feel better about our terrible golf game.

During the second round later in the week, we mercifully did not have to subject other players to our dysfunction on the golf course, but we also had Mama Punch with us on this round. She drove one of the golf carts, kept us on our toes, helped us avoid distraction when the nice young lady in the beverage cart, Petra frequently came by, and our golf game magically improved! The golf course was in much better condition than the included picture, but it is one of the few with one of us actually making contact with the ball and getting it down the fairway in the proper direction...nice shot, Joe!

On non-golfing days, we were often walking in the morning (the girls), jogging (Joe & Becky), sleeping (Puppy) or relaxing by the pool after a morning coffee (Mike) and swim (Papa). Some days Shawn, Papa & Joe got out on bikes and rode up near the airport to check on our SMSA friends "Short Bus" to see how they were doing racing in the Gulf of Mexico. The big roach main is easily recognizable even a couple miles out from shore, as well as the big yellow spinnaker. Although the Punch crew talked at the seawall about missing the sailing just a little bit, there was plenty to keep us occupied ashore...lots of people watching along A1A, checking out bikinis on Smather's Beach, enjoying the sunshine and warm breeze. However, we still grew bored after watching one race, so we would continue around the island of Key West on our bikes, completing at least two (maybe three) circumnavigations on our rented beach cruisers during the week, which usually ended with a cool dip in the pool at the house.

The evenings were about the same as years past...great bands at Sloppy Joe's Bar or the Green Parrot, beers at Key West Bait & Tackle or an evening on Duval Street. But, with no curfew in effect for the Rhumb Punch crew, it allowed for a bit more relaxed atmosphere and an opportunity for a little line dancing at Cowboy Bills with the Short Bus crew looking on, as shown in the picture below. No need to rush from bar to bar just to say you hit them all. The Rhumb Punch crew could go to Schooner's Wharf or B.O.'s Fish Wagon for lunch tomorrow!

There was no shortage of repair work to do while in town either. On Thursday, after an on shore delay by the Race Committee, the Rhumb Punch crew went down to Truman Annex to check on Short Bus, after reports earlier in the week of some trailer brake issues on the way down. Sure enough, there was nothing but shiny shoe and drum left on one axle with all the remaining pieces and springs shredded or disintegrated. Being the good souls that we are, Papa & Puppy offered to ride up to Big Coppitt Key with the remaining parts to try and find a match at the "Hitch King", the closest trailer parts store. After some parts comparisons we hear, "I don't have that size here, but I can get them by tomorrow", which on Friday turned into, "UPS misrouted the package, I'll have them next Monday", to which Papa exclaimed, "There is ONE road between here and Miami, how can a package get misrouted?!?!?!" As far as we know, Short Bus made it home OK despite missing one set of brakes (Hawk's truck is so big they could probably eliminate all brakes from any trailer he ever tows!)

On Friday, our favorite watering hole Key West Bait & Tackle hooked us up with Jeremy from Moe's Lucky Fishing Fleet for a half day of light tackle fishing. His 30' turbo diesel powered center console "Reel Lucky" could accommodate six passengers, perfect for our group, as Mike & Becky had left town Friday morning to head back up the coast. The remaining crew hopped aboard and headed west for a great morning of fishing with enough in the cooler by noon to enjoy an absolute feast of fresh Yellow Tail and Grey Snapper that evening (our Captain and guide, Jeremy with Sandy after a big Grey Snapper was landed!)

As Papa & Shawn departed town on Saturday after dropping Joe off at the airport, one last look towards Key West and the azure waters (incidentally the same seawall where we watched Short Bus race during the week.)

While the men departed that afternoon, the remaining ladies (Mama, Sandy & LaLa) enjoyed a few extra days filled with sunshine, day drinking, music at Hogs Breath Saloon and tasty food at some of their favorite spots.

No trip with Papa Punch is complete without a stop (or two) at a Waffle House. This one was somewhere in the middle of nowhere South Carolina on the way home, about 0530 on Sunday morning after a great week in Key West, with no boat. With everyone safe and accounted for back in Maryland, we can't wait for spring time!





Southern Maryland Sailing Association

PO Box 262, Solomons, MD 20688

PLACE
STAMP
HERE



February 2017 Volume 47 Number 2

2016 Annual Banquet

The Greatest Event

Off the Water

Saturday, February 11th, 2017
Olde Breton Inn, Leonardtown, MD
Watch your mailbox for your invitation!



Questions? Email social@smsa.com