

May 2026 Vol. 48, No. 5

⚓ SOS 48th Anniversary Celebration

July 11 & 12, 2026

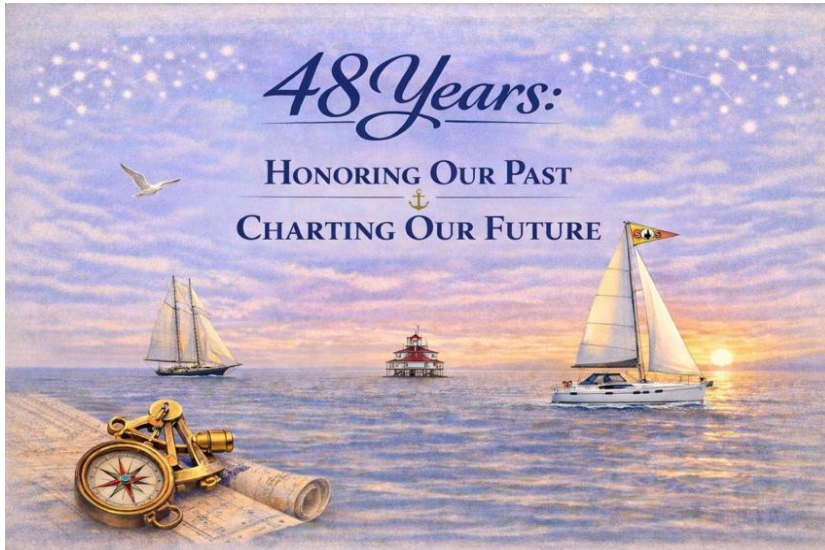
By Tina Lavato, Social Co-Chair

Mark your calendars and get ready to celebrate 48 incredible years of sailing, friendship, and unforgettable memories with SOS!

Whether you sail in for the weekend or drive in for the evening, this is the summer event you don't want to miss. Join fellow members and friends at the beautiful Maryland Yacht Club for a night filled with everything that makes SOS special.

This year's celebration is more than just a party—it's a tribute to the people, stories, and shared adventures that have shaped SOS over the past 48 years. From first sails to lifelong friendships, every member has been part of the journey.

So, hoist your sails or grab your car keys and come celebrate with your SOS family! Let's honor our past and celebrate charting our future!



Check the SOS website for more details — registration open soon!

SOS Social Committee
Co-Chairs:

Tina_Lavato,
202/746-0746,

Linda Casucci,
703/403-5357

What to expect:

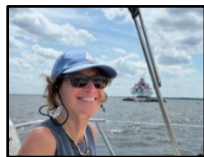
- 🍷 Delicious appetizers, dinner, and dessert to keep you fueled for a night of festivities
- 🍷 Open bar with wine, beer, and non-alcoholic drinks
- 🤝 Time to reconnect with old friends—and meet new ones
- 🗺️ A beautiful tribute to our past Commodores with a toast and cake
- 🎵 Music and dancing under the summer sky
- 🔥 A cozy beach bonfire under the stars

Schedule of Events:

- 4:30 – Bar Opens
- 4:30–5:40 – Social Time
- 5:40 – Welcome / Announcements
- 5:45 – Dinner Service Begins
- 6:50 – Commodore's Toast
- 6:55 – Cake & Dessert
- 7:05–10:00 pm – Music & Dancing

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

Dana Tulis, Commodore



Ahoy Sailors,
We had another impressive Board meeting on April 2nd, and we continue to update our policies and procedures to ensure a successful 2026 sailing season. We approved updates for the Cruising Committee's Policies and Procedures, discussed our successful sail trip in Grenada and lessons learned, updated folks on the upcoming Ireland trip and the Cruising Kickoff on April 18th, and heard about the latest database updates. The First Mates program is actively recruiting and has updated all of their supporting documents. Our training courses are well underway, as sailing season arrives.

On April 11, we had a successful extended Flare and Safety Day, with 50 registrants and expanded stations. It is always important to test flares and fire extinguishers, practice our knots and use of radios, and get practical advice about anchoring and passing lines. It was a beautiful day, with some folks getting credit for aspects of Basic Training and ending with "nutritional" cookies. Thank you to all of our volunteers "manning the stations," the leadership of the Safety Committee, and the support of the Education Committee. This year, we will be emphasizing the importance of "Man Overboard" drills, as we focus on safety first, followed by fun!

On April 12th, we had a very productive brunch followed by the general meeting. We presented the Rookie of Year Award to Margaret Schwartz for her outstanding work organizing the brunches and speakers, Linda Casucci for her cross-cutting efforts supporting most of our Committees, Milyn Jordan for her leadership on the Education Committee (the Elinor Abramson Award), and the prestigious Commodore Award went to Carrie Will, for her incredible efforts supporting our IT and web needs. See page 14 of this Whisker Pole for more details on all of their incredible

accomplishments. This was followed by John Parsons, our featured speaker of the photographic retrospective and photography awards. What a great year of pictures!! After a brief break, we started our General Meeting as I gave some updates on our Retreat follow-up and to remind people that soon we will be conducting a survey on potential ideas to expand membership. We will ask about allowing married members to serve on the Board and potentially opening up membership to select married Skippers or crew. Six of our Committee Chairs provided updates on their latest accomplishments and upcoming events. Members provided a few recommendations and we closed the meeting.

Our next training, "Welcome Aboard from Dock to Deck," on April 25th, is for prospective and newer members, and is also a good opportunity for our intermediate sailors to get the "cobwebs out" before our sailing season officially starts. On April 26th, SOS has a spot at the Eastport Yacht Club Spin Sheet Crew Party, please come and join us at this free party. We will also have a table at the Spring Boat Show, so stop on by and say "hi."

It's always great to meet our members, and I am looking forward to seeing you all as the season gets underway.

Dana T. — Commodore

Welcome New Members

Patti Aston, Herndon VA
Rene Cardona, Baltimore MD
Jennifer Diforte, Parkville MD
Bill Griswold, Bridgeville DE
Dagmar Mracna, Fairfax VA
Leo Penta, Annapolis MD
Chrissy Rocha, Annapolis MD
Sonja Schmidt, Arlington VA
Ira Taylor, Mount Laurel NJ
Catina Webster,
Hedgsville WV

Whisker Pole Newsletter

Published Monthly

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Boat US Discount Code #GA80619S

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Unofficial Condensed BOARD Notes April 2, 2026, via Zoom

Official April Minutes will be posted on the SOS website when approved in May by the Board of Directors.

Meeting called to order by Commodore Dana Tulis at 6:07 pm.

Treasurer: Treasurer’s Report of April 1, 2026: Through the end of March, our total net income is \$18,634, up somewhat from the same period last year. Keep in mind that a disproportionate share of our income is recognized in the first quarter when membership dues come in and will be largely offset by expenses throughout the year.

	Mar 31, 2026	Feb 28, 2026	Dec 31, 2025
Club Checking Account	\$40,290	\$53,241	\$35,580
7-Month CD	64,182	64,002	63,602
Bareboat Account	51,265	49,426	48,094
Total Cash	\$155,737	\$166,669	\$147,276
Club Credit Card	(1,839)	(16,916)	(16,127)

SOS Policies: Policy changes made by the Cruising Committee were approved. A motion to approve was made by Paul Anderson, seconded by Rich Stewart.

Committee Reports:

Bareboat: Spring 2026 – Grenada and Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Coordinator: Sandy Rosswork. Fall 2026 – Ireland Canal Trip, Coordinator: Doug Gage

Brunches: Chair is working on soliciting ideas from members for brunch speakers for the fall/winter brunches. Everything is in place for the April 12 brunch.

Cruising: Cruising Kickoff: April 18, Galesville Memorial Hall. 2026 Spring Extended Cruise: May 23 – June 6.

Database: We are working with Cruising and Fleet Exercises on building registration forms for sailing events. The Presentations tab on the Main Menu was re-vamped and updated with new information with the goal of using this tab instead of Forms & Such to store presentations.

Education: April 25, “Welcome Aboard Dock to Deck” registration is open. Final preparations are in progress by Carole Jordan and team. This is shaping up to be a wonderful classroom and hands-on event.

FM (First Mates): Program Development: All updated First Mate program documents have been uploaded to the SOS website under Forms and Such →First Mates. The first of three planned educational sessions for the 2026 sailing season was held on March 31 via Zoom. The next session, scheduled for this summer, will focus on Transiting the Narrows. A First Mate Kickoff meeting is scheduled for May 9. The Co-Chairs and Candidate Coordinator met in March to plan recruitment efforts for the 2026 season. A membership-wide survey is being developed to assess awareness of and interest in the First Mate program. The annual First Mate Cruise is scheduled for June 13–14, 2026. The Committee requests that skippers register early so all First Mates can participate.

Membership: In March 2026 there were 4 new members and 4 new skippers. Membership Co-Chair, Pat Tracey continues to look for a Co-Chair on the Membership Committee.

Public Relations: We have secured a spot at the EYC Spin Sheet Crew Party on April 26, 4-6pm. This is a free party. We encourage everyone to come, socialize with the amazing sailing community and have fun.

Safety: The boat activation process has begun. About 15 boats have been activated so far. Many skippers have not yet filled out their boat information. In keeping with our

continued emphasis on Man Overboard practices, we will briefly discuss MOB at the general meeting.

Skipper Advisory: 4 new skippers joined the club in March. Of these, 3 are new members and one is an existing member who purchased a boat. A Raft Captain seminar, led by Raft Captain Coordinator, Chuck Fort, was held on March 28. Skipper Helper Program: Emil Becker and Susan Vasco. Skipper “Liaison” Program: New this season, there are 4 area coordinators: Solomons area: Bill Ostrander; Castle Marina: Chuck Fort; Baltimore and North: Bob Morrow; Annapolis area: Dennis Krizek.

Social As decided by the Board, the Social Committee will have our event dates synced with the Cruising Committee beginning January 2027. Board-approved events are below.

- DNR Shore Party May 16, Wye Island NRMA, Queenstown, Md
- SOS 48th Anniversary Party July 11, Maryland Yacht Club, Pasadena, Md
- Seafood Feast August 15, Langford Bay Marina, Rock Hall, Md
- Chili Cook-off October 17, Maryland Yacht Club, Pasadena, Md
- Halloween Party October 31, Pirates Cove.

Whisker Pole: Julie Fort: The 20-page April *Whisker Pole* was mailed to 31 members including four Happy Hour Coordinators at a cost of **\$169.02**.

Reminder: Membership meetings in 2026 are April 12th and August 1st. The August 1st meeting is at the Galesville Town Hall.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm.

SOS General Meeting Minutes – April 12, 2026

Doubletree Hotel, Annapolis, MD

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Wise, Club Secretary

Meeting called to order by Commodore Dana Tulis at 2:00 pm.

Commodore: Discussion about the Board Retreat Nov. 2025.

The Board sees a need to smooth the transition from the previous Board to the new Board after Board elections each year. An Ad-Hoc committee has put together some ideas on this process and will be modifying the timeline to allow for more transition time, as well as looking at qualifications to run for the Board. That same Committee is also looking at ideas to expand membership such as allowing married members to serve on the Board, married skippers to join, or even the possibility of opening membership for all married sailors, who sail solo, to join SOS. A survey will be sent to membership to gauge interest in these potential changes, that could possibly be phased in. This would require by-law changes that entail a vote of at least 10% of the membership.

Treasurer: Treasurer's Report was given by Janet Pennewell. Janet introduced Lorna Bradley who will be assisting with treasurer duties. Janet gave a condensed summary of club financials. She noted that all details of the club financials are on the SOS website. The club's net income in 2024 was \$3,169. In 2025 the club had a net loss of \$232, partially because of fall sail cancellations due to weather, lower attendance at our Spring Training event, and slightly fewer membership renewals. Our largest expense continues to be the storage locker in Annapolis where shared club equipment is stored. This has increased to \$10,000/year. Actions taken to increase revenue are increasing dues, which was done this year, (dues have been held steady for several years) and increasing sailing fees from \$19/day to \$25/day, which the board passed in February 2026.

The 2026 outlook for increased revenue is the cruising fees increase from \$2,338 to \$5,150. Our goal is to build reserves back to above

\$100,000. A comment was made about considering that the club does not need to have the reserve account so large. Perhaps the case could be made that this could leave the club more vulnerable to litigious individuals making claims against SOS.

Committee Member Announcements

Bareboat: Doug Gage highlighted the upcoming trip to Ireland, September 5th to the 12th. There are currently 10 boats with a total of 64 people going. (Note: since the meeting an 11th boat has been added which will allow some of those on the wait list to go on the trip).

Education: Carole Jordan announced that the "Welcome Aboard, Dock to Deck" event planning is well underway. There are 20 registrations to date with more expected. The event is April 25th at Castle Marina.

First Mates: Jean Pierre Plé reported that the First Mates' Advisory committee has updated the First Mate program documents and has publicized the Potential First Mate program to help members become First Mate Candidates and eventually First Mates in the club.

Membership: Pat Tracey noted that the on-time payment of the club's annual dues has been more successful than usual. Email blasts were sent to current members and a committee of people made calls to remind people to pay their dues. New committee members are still needed for this committee. Pat brought 2025 directories to the meeting for distribution. The new 2026 Directory will be going to print very soon.

Safety: Joan Tannen reminded the group that the "Dinghy Dance" seminar is Sunday, June 7th in Annapolis. She reported that the "Flare and Safety" event was quite successful, with 50 members registered. The event was longer than in the past and there were

more learning stations. This was purposeful since some of the new stations were part of Spring Training which was not held this year. Joan also mentioned that skippers and crew are encouraged to practice "man-overboard" drills on cruises this season.

Skipper's Advisory: Sandy Rosswork reminded us about the "Skipper's Helper" program and encouraged members to participate in assisting skippers in readying their boats for the season. She also mentioned the successful raft captain event earlier this month. Sandy awarded Chuck Fort the Ursula Skagen Award for Skipper of the Year. She also awarded Ray Harris the "Most Sailed Skipper." Ray received a lovely blue collared shirt with the SOS logo for contributing about 200 crew sailing days to the club season.

Social Committee: Linda Casucci reminded everyone of the five land-based events planned for this season. DNR, Anniversary Party, Seafood Feast, Chili Cruise and the Halloween Party at Pirates Cove on Saturday, October 31st.

Public Relations: Janet Gonski reminded us of the Annapolis Boat Show April 25th. SOS will have a table in the tent advertising the club. The code for member discount to the show is SINGLESAIL26. Members have volunteered to stand at the table in shifts Saturday and Sunday to advertise SOS.

The meeting adjourned at 2:52 pm.



DNR Cruise and Shore Party - Wye River

May 16-17, 2026

By Tina Lavato, Social Co-Chair

It's time to **Spring Aboard!** and sign up for Social's first Cruise & Shore Party of the season at the beautiful DNR Natural Resources Management Area (DNR-NRMA) on the Wye River. Mark your calendar for May 16–17, with an option to sail in on Friday, May 15 (skipper's choice).



Whether you're cruising or driving in, get ready for a weekend of great food, drinks, music, and dancing. This is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones in a truly serene setting.

This year's menu includes Pulled Pork, BBQ Chicken, a Vegetarian Entrée, Salads, Drinks, and Desserts. (Please indicate if you prefer the Vegetarian Entrée when registering.) ... And don't miss the fun after dinner — *DJ Infinite Sounds* will be on hand to keep everyone on their feet dancing.

Those cruising in will anchor out and dinghy ashore, while those

driving in will find plenty of parking in designated areas.

If you're driving in, please consider bringing folding chairs so we will have plenty of comfortable seating for lounging by the creek or gathering around the firepit... And speaking of the firepit, we'll be making S'mores, so be sure to save room for a second round of dessert!

Anyone arriving early on Saturday is warmly invited to lend a hand with party setup and prep — extra hands are always appreciated! After that, you're free to bike or hike in the beautiful grounds, relax by the water, or simply enjoy watching the SOS fleet arrive.

Schedule of Events

Saturday, May 16

4:15 PM: Check in/ Registration open. (Please *note*, all attendees are required to check-in even if you already have a permanent SOS name badge.)

4:15 PM: Open Bar

4:30 PM: Appetizers

5:30 PM: Dinner

6:15 PM: Dessert

7:00-10:00 PM: Music & Dancing

Deadline for Cruise & Shore Party registration: May 5; party only: May 13.

If you would like to volunteer to help or have any questions, please contact the **Event Manager, Meeps Yox**, at mpsyx3@gmail.com.

To register click [DNR Cruise/Party](#)

Directions for DNR Cruise and Party – DNR Natural Resources Management Area

From Bay Bridge (East bound):

Travel 12.5 miles eastbound on Route 50 and turn right onto Carmichael Road. Travel 5.1 miles on Carmichael Road until you cross the Wye Island Bridge. From the Wye Island Bridge, travel south on Wye Island Road for approximately 4.2 miles. Numerous public parking areas are available along Wye Island Road. You are looking for the sign for DNR Conference Lodge.

From Easton (West bound):

Travel westbound on Route 50 to the Maryland Route 213 traffic light. Continue west on Route 50 for three miles and look for sign (Wye Island NRMA). Turn left onto Carmichael Road. Travel 5.1 miles on Carmichael Road until you cross the Wye Island Bridge. From the Wye Island Bridge, travel south on Wye Island Road for approximately 4.2 miles. Numerous public parking areas are available along Wye Island Road. You are looking for the sign for DNR Conference Lodge.

Check out the map of Wye Island: <http://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/eastern/wyeisland.html>

2026 Spring Extended Bay Cruise

By Laura Gwinn & Emil Becker

Calling all sailors!

How does 8, 10, or 14 days of sailing in the best season of the Chesapeake sound? Join the extended cruise May 23 - June 6 if you do the whole two weeks. The entire flotilla will join the Memorial Day cruise on the Magothy then head to points north, including Still Pond (where SOS members will host a BBQ at their home) and destinations on the C&D canal.



Returning from the C&D canal we will visit the lovely Sassafras River with its bucolic anchorages. The 8-day cruise will continue south to Fairlee Creek (challenge your skills on the entry!) and home.

The longer cruise will go to Havre de Grace for a couple of nights then start south with Oxford as the final destination.

Whichever you choose there will be a good mix of marinas and anchorages, restaurants and cooking aboard. Or do your own thing and join the flotilla for the nights you choose. For all choices there will be sailing, fun, and camaraderie!

Skippers: Start inviting your crew now. Interested crew: Email Laura Keough (laurasan2@yahoo.com) to express interest. She will maintain a list to share with skippers looking for crew. When you are invited, you can register online (cost to crew: \$75, plus all expenses to be shared on each boat).

Cruising Corner The 2026 Cruising Season Is Underway!

By Cruising Co-chairs: Laura Keough – laurasan2@yahoo.com and
Dana Stoffregen – stoffregendana@gmail.com

We're officially underway with **over 85 days of sailing** planned on our beautiful Chesapeake Bay—and it's shaping up to be an incredible season!

This year's schedule offers something for everyone, whether you're looking for a relaxed day sail, a fun-filled weekend, or an extended adventure. From May through November, you'll find a wide variety of cruising options to match your interests and availability.

☞ Be sure to review the cruising schedule on page 7 and **register early** to secure your spot!

Don't miss the magic of May and June sailing. These early-season months bring some of the best winds on the Bay—perfect for shaking down our boats, brushing up on skills, and getting back into the rhythm of sailing.

Early Season Highlights

- **Many weekday & weekend Day Sails**
- **DNR Sail & Shore Party (May 16–17)**
Cruise to Granary Creek on the Wye River, anchor in pods, and dinghy ashore for a lively party. A longtime club favorite!
- **Memorial Day Cruises (May 23 – June 6)**
Choose your adventure! Join the 3-day cruise to the Magothy and Bodkin Creek for raft-ups and fun—or continue on an extended 7-to-14-day journey to the C&D Canal, Havre de Grace, and Oxford.
- **First Mate & General Cruise (June 13–14)**
Sail to Whitehall Creek. First Mates will build and practice skills, while General Cruise boats join for a shared raft-up and a great social evening.

- **Sail 250 Cruise (June 26–28)**
Head to Lighthouse Point Marina in Canton and be part of our nation's 250th celebration in Baltimore's Inner Harbor—featuring tall ships and a Blue Angels show. (See Page 8 more details.)
- **Independence Day Cruise (July 4–6)**
Sail to the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum for their spectacular Big Band and fireworks celebration.

New to the club or still building your sailing skills?

You're exactly who we want on board. We're an inclusive group that welcomes all experience levels, and we'll help match you with the right boat, crew, and cruise so you can learn, contribute, and have fun in a safe, supportive environment.

A heartfelt thank-you to the many members working behind the scenes to plan and coordinate these amazing experiences. Your dedication makes this season possible.

We can't wait to see you out on the water!



Singles on Sailboats 2026 Cruising Calendar

Date (s)	Cruise/Location	Date (s)	Cruise/Location
Feb 28	Skilled Sailor Education Day , American Legion Post 7, Annapolis	July 25 - 26	Appetizers & Desserts Cruise , Broad Creek, Magothy River
March 7	CPR Training Annapolis Fire Dept.	Aug 1	Town Hall Meeting , Galesville Memorial Hall
March 14 - 21	Bareboat : Grenada	Aug 2	Weekend Day Sail
March 28	Rafting and Raft Captain Training Queen Anne's Co. Library, Kent Island	Aug 8	Weekend Day Sail
April 11	Flare & Safety Day , Camp Letts	Aug 9	Weekend Day Sail
April 18	Cruising Kickoff , Galesville Memorial Hall	Aug 9	Weekend Day Power Boat Cruise
April 25	Welcome Aboard: From Dock to Deck Castle Marina	Aug 15 -16	Seafood Feast , Lankford Marina, Chester River, Sail or Drive-in
April 26	Weekend Day Sail	Aug 20	Mid-week Day Sail - Thurs
April 29	Mid-week Day Sail - Wed	Aug 29	Weekend Day Sail
May 2	Weekend Day Sail	Aug 30	Weekend Day Sail
May 3	Weekend Day Sail	Sept 2 – 7	Labor Day Extended Cruise , Chestertown
May 5	Mid-week Day Sail - Tues	Sept 5 – 7	Labor Day 3-Day Cruise , Old Man Creek/Magothy River, Gray's Inn Creek/Chester River
May 9	Weekend Day Sail	Sept 5 -11	Bareboat : Shannon River, Ireland
May 10	Weekend Day Sail	Sept 9	Mid-week Day Sail - Wed
May 16 - 17	DNR Cruise , Granary Creek, Wye River; Sail & Dinghy or Drive-in; Option for Fri leave	Sept 12 -13	Oyster Boys Concert , Shaw Bay; Sail & Dinghy
May 20	Blue Angels Day Sail - Wed	Sept 19 - 20	North & South , 2 Raft destinations: Bodkin Creek & Boby Owl Cove
May 23 - 25	Memorial 3-Day Cruise , Magothy, Bodkin Creek	Sept 23	Mid-week Day Sail - Wed
May 23 - Jun 06	Spring Extended Cruise C&D Canal (1-wk) & Oxford (2-wk)	Sept 23	Mid-week Day Power Boat Sail - Wed
June 4	Mid-week Day Sail - Thurs	Sept 26 - 27	Octoberfest , Castle Marina, Sail or Drive-in
June 6	Weekend Day Sail	Sept 29	Mid-week Day Sail - Tues
June 7	Dinghy Dance	Oct 3 - 4	Goose Cruise , Corsica River
June 13 - 14	First Mate Cruise , Whitehall Bay, Raft-up with General Cruise, Whitehall Creek	Oct 10	Weekend Day Sail
June 13 - 14	General Cruise , Raft-up with First Mate Cruise, Whitehall Creek	Oct 11	Weekend Day Sail
June 20	Weekend Day Sail	Oct 14	Mid-week Day Sail - Wed
June 21	Weekend Day Sail	Oct 17 - 18	Chili Cook-off , Maryland Yacht Club, Sail or Drive-in
June 26 - 28	Sail250 Tall Ships & Blue Angels, 3-Day Cruise Baltimore , Lighthouse Point Marina, Canton; Sail or Drive-in.	Oct 22	Mid-week Day Sail - Thurs
July 4 - 6	Independence 3-Day Cruise to CBMM Big Band & Fireworks Celebration , Sun, July 5, St. Michaels; Marina 2-night min	Oct 24 - 25	Rockin' to Rock Creek , Rock Creek, Patapsco River
July 8	Mid-week Day Sail - Wed	Oct 31 – Nov 1	Halloween Cruise & Party , TBD
July 11 - 12	SOS 48th Anniversary Party , Maryland Yacht Club, Rock Creek, Pasadena; Sail or Drive-in	Nov 6 - 8	OysterFest , CBMM, St. Michaels, Sail or Drive-in; *Fri leave, Marina 2-night min
July 14	Mid-week Day Power Boat Cruise - Tues	Nov 14	Cruising Wrap-up , Galesville Memorial Hall
July 16	Mid-week Day Sail - Thurs		
July 18	Dockside Training		
July 19	Weekend Day Sail		



June 26 - 28

Sail250 Maryland and Airshow Baltimore is a global gathering of international tall ships, military ships, and aircraft celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States. Maryland and Baltimore are part of a five-city national event which also includes the ports of New Orleans, Norfolk, New York and Boston. The event offers ship crews, cadets and midshipmen, aviators and, of course, visitors from all over the world to join in an unforgettable experience and a world-class celebration of all things maritime and aviation in commemoration of our Nation's semiquincentennial.

The Maryland event will feature the return of the U.S. Navy Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Squadron and other aviation performers for an airshow over Baltimore Harbor, flyovers at Baltimore Inner Harbor, and the Open House at Martin State Airport.

SAIL250 Maryland Fleet, Flight, and Festival activities will take place at Baltimore's Inner Harbor, Fells Point, North Locust Point, Baltimore Peninsula, and Martin State Airport.

For schedule of events, more information, and details: <https://www.sail250md.org/>

To register with the SOS Cruise to *Sail250* and for more details, (Log on first) click here: [Sail 250 Cruise](#)

Why Was There No Spring Training This Year?

Spring Training was paused this year; however, some members may have missed prior announcements in the *Whisker Pole* newsletters. The Education Committee would like to assure everyone that planning for 2026 continued, and in place of Spring Training, three outstanding educational events were offered:

1. Skippers and First Mates Day – February 28
2. Extended Flare and Safety Day – April 11
3. "Welcome Aboard: Dock to Deck" for new and prospective members – April 25
Morning classroom sessions followed by afternoon dockside training

Looking ahead, the Education Committee hopes all members will stay informed and take advantage of the wide range of training opportunities to be featured in future *Whisker Pole* newsletters.

Great Comments from Flare & Safety Day

By Joan Tannen

One skipper said "I've always had flares on my boat...but I've never had the experience of lighting one. I'm so glad I have now...and won't need to figure it out in an emergency!"

Several attendees said it was genuinely nice to actually practice using VHF radios instead of hearing a lecture on them.

Another participant said he was really glad he had the opportunity to put out a small fire with a fire blanket. He said he was going to go home and buy a fire blanket for his kitchen.

One skipper said she has been an experienced sailor for years...but she learned a couple new tricks at the Line Over Pilings station.

One of the leaders at the Passing Line station was pleased that several participants, including long-time members, said simulating the use of a Passing Line finally made the whole process make sense to them. It was referred to as an "Aha!" moment.

Several attendees at the Line Toss station were pleased that they could practice cleating a line, feeding it under a simulated lifeline, and then practice throwing it.

It was wonderful to have such great feedback on Flare and Safety Day!

Electronic Distress Signaling

By Harry Keith



I assisted in Flare Training on April 11th, where Frank Beck and I provided hands-on experience with handheld flares and aerial flares. The training went well.

However, we didn't cover the latest distress signaling method -- electronics. For under \$100, you can buy a USCG-approved battery-powered device that meets your nighttime signaling requirements. These devices are the size of a package of flares, never expires (C-cell batteries do need periodic replacement), don't present disposal challenges, and aren't a fire hazard.

While they can be handheld, they are also required to float in an upright position. They don't meet day signal requirements, but the package includes a distress flag that does meet the requirements. Some even include infrared devices for enhanced visibility for Search and Rescue (SAR) teams.

Similar items are made by ACR, Sirius, Relink, and others, and available at Fawcetts, West Marine, Defender, Amazon, or wherever you buy your boating gear.

The 2026 Dinghy Dance

By Joan Tannen

We use the term Dinghy Dance to refer to the art of getting in and out of a dinghy on the water!

This fun training session begins with a brief presentation on various PFDs and a presentation on the safe and effective use of a dinghy. We show a video on techniques some members use to get in and out of a dinghy from a shore or a swim platform. Then, since the training is held at a member's private pool with a real dinghy, we are able to jump into the water and practice getting in and out of a dinghy on land and in deep water. We test some of the techniques that experienced dinghy users rely on. Last year almost every participant who tried to get into the dinghy in deep water was able to by using our tried-and-true techniques.

In addition, we bring various types of PFDs. Participants are able to try them on and practice putting them on in deep water. They quickly see how difficult that is and why it makes so much sense to already have a PFD on in the boat. We bring two inflatable PFDs and allow two people to jump into the pool with them on. It's interesting to experience and observe how the inflatable reacts. Afterwards we open up the inflated PFDs so people can see what's involved in re-arming them.

The 2026 Dinghy Dance is scheduled for Sunday, June 7 from 1:00 to 3:30. Bring a towel and wear a bathing suit because we are not offering a place to change your clothes. Space is limited, so sign up soon.

How Do I Get on a Bareboat Cruise?

By Deb Kauffman, Bareboat Co-Chair

This is the most asked question about bareboat cruises. And although it is the most talked about aspect of the bareboat cruising process, confusion still surrounds the process. The role of the bareboat committee and the coordinator for a cruise is to facilitate the leasing of boats, consolidate the application process with one central person and to collect funds from participants from which to pay the boat leasing fees.

SOS does not rent any boats.

On the leasing contract is the individual skipper's name who requested the boat commensurate with their experience. The skipper is responsible for the boat and their crew. The skipper picks his crew from a list of applicants. Of primary importance is the selection of the First Mate who will assume responsibility for the boat and crew if the skipper cannot complete the trip. The bareboat committee/coordinator does not assign any crew to a skipper. The committee may suggest crew who are still available but the decision to take a crew member resides solely with each skipper.

This process differs from day and weekend sails where crew can be offered to a skipper by a coordinator.



Of importance to the skipper is the balance of skill levels and personality. Skill levels must consider sailing knowledge, sailing experience and physical fitness levels. Crew members must be willing to volunteer cheerfully to take on all the jobs that need to be done for a 7-day cruise. Crew members must be able to get along with other crew members and mesh into a cohesive community in the tight corners of a sailboat. Hopefully at the end of the cruise, you can leave with new friends. "Come for the sailing, stay for the friendships."

For all that to happen, skippers must know who you are. They must have a sense of your skills and personality.

The number one way for that to happen is to sail regularly with the club on day sails and weekend sails throughout the sailing season. Even if the Chesapeake skippers do not

participate in bareboat cruises, your name is on the "as sailed list."

When a skipper acknowledges that they don't know a person, the coordinator gives them the names of other skippers as references. Many skippers call for references and call to interview an applicant before offering a spot on a boat. And don't forget that the skipper also asks his crew if they "know" you.

This trip is not just your vacation; it is also everyone else's vacation who is on board. If you are invited by a skipper onto a boat, stop and think.

Is this boat a good fit for me? Can I fulfill the expectations of the skipper and crew? Is this a boat that will sail hard or is it a boat with a balance of sailing and sightseeing? How often are they expecting to eat ashore, incurring higher restaurant costs than if they cooked aboard? Remember to ask lots of questions.

You have the opportunity to accept or decline the invitation. If you choose to decline the invitation, the coordinator puts you back into the pool of available crew.

Sail often, be good crew and persevere. You will find a boat.

First Mates' Deck Notes

By Lora Donia and Jean-Pierre Plé,
and with input from various current First Mates

Last month we shared some updates on the First Mate Program, in particular the Potential First Mate Program that anyone who has completed Basic Skills is eligible to participate in.

This month, we wish to share with you Part One on thoughts why current First Mates (FMs) took the steps to become a FM. These thoughts were collected to help Jean-Pierre lead a fireside chat earlier this year, where he spoke about his experience of becoming a FM in 2025. Part Two will follow next month. We hope these comments will inspire you to apply to become a Potential First Mate. Let us know if you are interested or if you have any questions.

Here are some of the replies to the following questions:

Why did you want to become a FM in the club?

"I wanted to enhance my own skills."

"Honestly, because I wanted to see if I could do it."

"I chose to become a FM because I genuinely believe in the value of the program and wanted to give back to a club that has given so much to me."

"Over the years, I've sailed with many skippers who generously shared their knowledge, experience, and boats with me and other members."

"By becoming a FM, I can help support older skippers and at the same time, it expands sailing opportunities for all members."

"For me, serving as a FM is a way to honor what others have invested in me and to help sustain the spirit of community and shared

learning that makes the club special."

"When I joined SOS, I already had my ASA 101, 103 and 104 sailing certificates. Joining the club was an opportunity for me to continue to grow and build my skills and confidence. I sailed as regular crew for a couple of years and skippers started to notice my skills. They believed in me, saw my value, and encouraged me to pursue the FM Candidacy program. Although they saw my value, I did not. With their encouragement, unwavering support, and recommendations, I applied to the program."

What benefits, besides the opportunity to sail with the daily/weekend costs waived, do you enjoy?

"I wanted to help new skippers feel like they had a crew member who was 100%."

"I get to meet new members and some members I don't know very well."

"I always learn something from the skippers that I have sailed with."

"Sailing as an FM is almost as good as owning a boat!"

"I'm flattered by some of the invitations I get, and a lot of that starts with being an FM."

"I enjoy learning about different boats and different ways of doing things."

"Although having the daily or weekend costs waived is a nice reward, it isn't what motivates me to serve as a FM. What I value most are the experiences that come with the role."

"I enjoy meeting new people, learning from seasoned skippers



and crew and sharing my own knowledge with others."

"Whenever I sign up for a day sail, weekend trip or even a bareboat cruise, I'm almost always assigned and/or asked to be the FM. That consistency gives me the chance to keep growing — every sail brings new situations, new challenges, and new lessons."

"I appreciate the opportunity to mentor newer members. Helping them build confidence and skills on the water is something I truly enjoy."

"The FM program has given me not just skills, but confidence, judgment, and the ability to speak up when it matters. Those lessons continue to shape the sailor I am today."

Is there anything special you experienced during your process to become a FM during cruising events, your FM checkout cruises, or training you undertook outside SOS?

"Confidence! Perhaps that's my biggest benefit in being a FM. I learned to rely on my instincts and training."

"I had the benefit of being "checked out" with three great Skippers who were tough but fair."

"I had boats elsewhere where I learned to sail, so people could see my confidence when I got to the SOS FM checkouts. But skippers all have their different ways of doing things, so that was interesting and a special learning opportunity."

"How to fix things if something fails - and adapt to new situations quickly. Being creative"

Ouchies, Boobos, and Boat Bites, Oh My!

By Chuck Fort, Safety Committee

Since sailing is not just sitting on the boat watching the scenery go by, but involves some work while in motion, we are all susceptible to the occasional "boat bite." When that happens, we may need to reach into our first aid kits for supplies. But what first aid supplies should we carry to treat our injuries until we can get back to shore and possibly more advanced care? Here is a list of suggestions.

You can go out and buy a stocked first aid kit, and the size and composition of the kit can be based on how many are on board and how long you will be away from more advanced care. You can purchase a first aid kit from many sources such as a drug store, marine supply store such as West Marine or Defender, a commercial supplier such as Grainger, or an adventure store such as REI or EMS.

If you want to put together your own kit, or add to an existing kit, here are some suggestions:

Supplies

Band-Aids - Since the most common boat bite is a small cut or scrape, you want Band-Aids in an assortment of sizes.

Gauze - For larger wounds like skin tears, you want gauze in 2"x2" and 4"x4", preferably non-stick.

Eye Pads - For covering eyes when needed.

ABD Compression Dressing - Adds pressure when needed to stop bleeding.

Quick Clot Dressing - Clot Promoting Dressing for when patients are on blood thinners. It promotes localized clotting without affecting systemic anticoagulation.

Roller Gauze - For holding gauze on without using tape.

Coban Wrap - Elastic wrap for holding dressings in place.

Butterfly Closures - Pulls and holds cuts together.

Ace Wraps - For supporting sprains, holding splints in place.



Sam Splint - Moldable splint for supporting sprains and breaks, held in place by an Ace Wrap.

Instant Cold Pack - Instant cold for when ice is not available. Use for swelling or overheating.

Instant Hot Pack - Instant heat when needed, such as hypothermia.

Gloves - Protect yourself from bodily fluids. Nitrile is preferred over latex, as some people are allergic to latex.

Hand Sanitizer - Clean your hands before working on someone.

Antiseptic Spray - Cleaning the area around a wound.

Antiseptic Wipes - Cleaning the area around a wound.

Scissors - For cutting things.

Tweezers - For removing things.

CPR Mask - Protects the person giving mouth to mouth respirations.

First Aid Manual - Helps with what to do.

Medications

Ibuprofen - Helps with pain, swelling, and fever.

Acetaminophen - Helps with pain and swelling.

Aspirin - For someone is having sudden chest pain. Chew and swallow 160-325 mg.

Benadryl - For insect and sea nettle stings

Sting-Kill - Rub on for insect and sea nettle stings. The best kinds have topical anesthetic like lidocaine or benzocaine.

Vinegar - Probably in the galley. Pour on sea nettle stings.

Motion Sickness Tablets - Best taken before you get sea sickness.

EpiPen - Carry if you have severe allergies.

This is not an all-inclusive list, but a suggestion for where to start.

Hopefully, the more prepared you are, the less you will need.

Do You Know How to Inspect and Maintain Your Inflatable Life Jacket?

Inflatable life jackets can be a great option for protection out on the water. It's important, however, to know how they work and how to maintain them.

Did you know that inflatables have various options, such as automatic inflation, a pull cord to inflate, and a tube to blow into for inflation? You can buy an inflatable with a built-in harness to make it easier to pull you out of the water. Some even have crotch straps.

Did you know that you should see a green glow in the window of your inflatable if it is ready to be used? Always check.

It's important to understand that most inflatables have a small water-soluble device, such as a bobbin or a pill, which allows the gas in the CO2 cartridge to be released. These bobbins or pills have a limited shelf life requiring them to be replaced every one to three years. The expiration date should be imprinted right on the bobbin or pill. Re-arming kits for your specific inflatable can be purchased. In addition, you can purchase just the bobbin for some inflatables without incurring the expense of the whole re-arming kit.

Boat U.S. has a great video on inspecting and maintaining your inflatable. It can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KD5AqfQXxwI>

Bottom line...get to know your individual inflatable life jacket so you can use it safely out on the water!



Findings of the Recent Bareboat Survey

by

Emil Becker and Coco Lanquetuit, Bareboat Co-chairs

Late last winter, the Bareboat Committee sent a survey to the entire SOS membership to assess member preferences for future trips. One hundred eleven members completed the survey, which indicates a high level of interest in and regard for the bareboat program. Seventy-five percent had participated in one or more trips in the past five years, which were evenly divided between domestic and international destinations.

Domestic trips were favored because members could drive themselves to the sailing location, while international trips were valued for the travel and sightseeing opportunities. In the future, members would like to see trips more evenly split between international and domestic locations, if possible. Members also indicated that the ideal length of an SOS bareboat trip is 7 to 10 days.

Of the places the club has visited before, Greece was often mentioned as a preferred international destination, along with the Maine coast for a domestic trip. Winter destinations include various locations in the Caribbean. The committee is now considering a trip to St. Maarten next February.

The Bareboat Committee is already using the information from the survey to plan trips further in advance, which was another key finding.

Thank you to all who participated. Your input is valued and greatly appreciated!





2025 Club Awards!



Each year SOS recognizes four members for their significant contributions of time, energy, and talent to our all-volunteer Club.

Rookie of the Year Award: Margaret Schwartz

The annual Rookie of the Year award recognizes the individual who, in his or her first year sailing with SOS demonstrates great interest in and learning about sailing and who becomes involved in one or more aspects of the club. When the call went out in early 2025 for a new Brunch Chair, Margaret quickly responded YES! After hearing the duties, responsibilities, and expectations of that role, she still said yes. Having joined SOS only a bit more than a year, she shared that she had been thinking of ways in which she could give back to the club and meet new people. She has been highly responsive to others' input and acts effectively. The previous Brunch Chair sent Margaret the overview of committee jobs and roles, timeline and interactions with other committees and she has taken it forward seamlessly. Continuing the goal of increasing attendance at brunches and securing interesting speakers, Margaret has worked with members' suggestions and accomplished exactly that. She communicates well and succinctly when on the mic at brunches as well as in working with the Vice Commodore and her Board Liaison. Stepping into a critical role for SOS members, engaging with a variety of participants including speakers, Double Tree head office and lead caterers, as well as her role as a committee chair on the Board and Committee team, Margaret has made a great and positive contribution to SOS. We are proud to present the Rookie of the Year award to Margaret.

Commodore's Award: Carrie Will

The Commodore's Award offers public recognition and many thanks to an individual who has made significant contributions in fostering the goals of Singles on Sailboats. With a role that touches every aspect of the Singles on Sailboats club, from membership, to events, to finances, to historical data, the role of the Database Committee is crucial to our operations and existence. Both complicated and demanding, taking on this role requires expertise in technology, in site mapping, and tremendous interpersonal skills... and a great deal of patience with websites, server hosts, and club members' personalities. Carrie stepped into this role with optimism, professionalism, and enthusiasm. In every interaction we've had with her, no request has been too much. She responds quickly, thoroughly, and always with a willingness to help. While her title may not officially be "Database Chair," Carrie has effectively taken on that responsibility and more. Her work is often behind the scenes, but its impact is visible to every member. Carrie's commitment, expertise, and steady leadership make her truly deserving of the Commodore's Award.

Ellie Abramson Award: Milyn Jordan

Ellie Abramson created many educational programs for the members of SOS and developed the Spring Training program which attracts more members than any other event. Milyn is receiving this award due to her outstanding work in advancing SOS education programs. She volunteered to assist the Education Committee but ended up serving as the Committee Chair. It was time to rethink Spring Training as attendance had been declining in recent years. Milyn assembled a proactive team of new and seasoned members to develop a three-tiered program: Welcome Aboard from Dock to Deck for new and prospective members with morning sessions and afternoon dockside training; Skilled Sailors Education Day for Skippers, First Mates and advanced sailors; and an expanded Flare and Safety Day. Whenever a new training event is mentioned, Milyn is the first to ask the right questions and offer her help. Milyn is a natural leader, dedicated to working with her teams to access well-respected sailors and educators for each event, monitoring progress, and tracking every detail ensuring the best education programs are offered to our members, always with the emphasis on safety first, and furthering the mission of SOS.

Ed Kline Member of the Year Award: Linda Casucci

Ed Klein was an early member of SOS and introduced many of the club's much-cherished activities including raft-ups, brunches, and social gatherings. The Ed Klein member this year has "I can help with that" or "I can do that" as a frequent response. As an experienced member of the Spring Training committee, she provided 'How To' guidance and background information, as well as organizing the registration table and coordinating the assembly of participant folders. She stepped up her role in the Cruising Coordinator Liaison area and took on the role of Lead Coordinator Liaison, conducting training at the Cruising Kick Off meeting. She maintained communication with the database team leader to ensure all forms were updated, accessible and available on the SOS website. Linda has also been instrumental in important aspects of the Membership Committee – connecting new members with veteran mentors. She served as the Membership Co-Chair, the Co-Chair for the Seafood Feast this past year, and shifted to the Social Committee Co-Chair position for this upcoming year. Behind the scenes, Linda helps to organize volunteers at shore-based/social events. By encouraging volunteers, and personally reaching out to newer members, she helped to create a welcoming way for individuals to 'break the ice' and meet other members. Linda is often behind the scenes, filling critical roles as well as her lead roles and support on a variety of committees. We are proud to give the Ed Klein Member of the Year award to Linda Casucci, and to thank her for all her hard work and dedication this past year.

2025 Cruising Awards!

Each year SOS recognizes two members for unique awards

The Ursula Skagen Skipper of the Year Award: **Chuck Fort**

The **Ursula Skagen Skipper of the Year Award** is an annual honor to recognize a skipper for their outstanding contribution to Singles on Sailboats and who demonstrates excellence in sailing and service to the club. The award is named after Ursula Skagen, a former active member of the club and licensed captain who, along with her husband Dane, had been involved in organizing sailing events and deliveries in the Annapolis area.

The Skagen family donated a sextant to be given to the recipient of this award.

Notably, Chuck serves as the Lead Raft Captain, teaches Raft Captain training, volunteers his boat and time for the Eastport Yacht Club's light parade, and helps transport club members from boats to shore as a dinghy uber driver for the DNR cruises. This is the second year Chuck has been honored with this award.



2025 Most Sailed Skipper Award: **Ray Harris**

This award is presented to the skipper who has achieved the most sailing days this season. Ray achieved 200 crew sailing days during the club season and skippered almost all of the 2025 cruises, a major contribution to the club members.

He was awarded a personalized SOS polo shirt for the second time, as he also received this award for the 2024 season.

(In the photo he is wearing his 2024 shirt and holding his 2025 shirt.)



Fleet Exercises and Shore Leave

By Ned Schwartz, Editor sosfleetexercises@gmail.com

Please email your questions and request for directions to the coordinator.

If you are paying by check for any sailing event, a paper Sailing Registration Form must **accompany the check** mailed to the **coordinator**. A copy of this form can be found on the SOS website. All checks are to be made payable to **SOS, Inc.** Mail-in forms must be received by the 9:00pm on the Register By date.

Note: Individual request for refunds will incur a \$3 Administration Fee.

SOS Wellness Protocol Revised (3/7/2024)

All participants attending SOS in-person events should be feeling well. They should not attend an event if they have symptoms of a communicable respiratory or gastrointestinal illness, are "feeling like something is coming on," have a recent significant exposure to someone with a communicable respiratory or gastrointestinal illness, or have not waited a recommended isolation time after a recent respiratory or gastrointestinal infection. In addition, a skipper/host may have further requirements or request other preventive measures (for example, crew or guests having received the currently recommended COVID-19 vaccine or wearing masks when below deck). All in-person participants should expect to be denied admission without a refund if they fail to comply with this policy.



May 2

Saturday

Weekend Day Sail

Destination: Skipper's Choice.

Cost: \$25 - Member or Non-Member.

Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by Apr. 26 (9:00pm).

Note: Non-Member may sail once with a Member and must mail a separate Registration Form with a check to the coordinator.

Coordinator: Jill Montgomery jill.montgom@gmail.com
To register and for more details, (**Log on first**) click here: [5/2 Day Sail](#)



May 3

Sunday

Weekend Day Sail

Destination: Skipper's Choice.

Cost: \$25 - Member or Non-Member.

Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by Apr. 26 (9:00pm).

Note: Non-Member may sail once with a Member and must mail a separate Registration Form with a check to the coordinator.

Coordinator: Jill Montgomery jill.montgom@gmail.com
To register and for more details, (**Log on first**) click here: [5/3 Day Sail](#)



May 5

Tuesday

Mid-Week Day Sail

Destination: Skipper's Choice.

Cost: \$25 - Member or Non-Member.

Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by Apr. 29 (9:00pm).

Note: Non-Member may sail once with a Member and must mail a separate Registration Form with a check to the coordinator.

Coordinator: Michael Sommer msommer414@gmail.com
To register and for more details, (**Log on first**) click here: [5/5 Day Sail](#)



May 7

Thursday

Board Meeting

Location: Zoom option only. Contact Commodore if interested in attending.
commodore@singlesonsailboats.org

Time: 6:00pm to 7:00pm.
Note: Open to all Members.



May 9

Saturday

Weekend Day Sail

Destination: Skipper's Choice.

Cost: \$25 - Member or Non-Member.

Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by May 3 (9:00pm).

Note: Non-Member may sail once with a Member and must mail a separate Registration Form with a check to the coordinator.

Coordinator: Noreen McGuire nmcgny@gmail.com
To register and for more details, (**Log on first**) click here: [5/9 Day Sail](#)



May 10 Sunday

Weekend Day Sail

Destination: Skipper's Choice.
Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by May 3 (9:00pm).
Coordinator: Noreen McGuire nmcgny@gmail.com
 To register and for more details, (Log on first) click here: [5/10 Day Sail](#)

Cost: \$25 - Member or Non-Member.
Note: Non-Member may sail once with a Member and must mail a separate Registration Form with a check to the coordinator.



May 16-17 Saturday – Sunday

DNR Cruise/Party – Spring Aboard

Destination: Granary Creek, Wye East River. Option to sail in on Friday.
Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by May 5 (9:00pm). Drive in Party only by May 13.
Coordinator: Cherie Comly mectwist@aol.com
 To register and for more details, (Log on first) click here: [DNR Cruise/Party](#)

Cost: \$105 - Member or Non-Member. \$55 - Drive in Shore Party only.
Note: Non-Member may sail once with a Member and must mail a separate Registration Form with a check to the coordinator. Party Manager - Meeps Yox.



May 20 Wednesday

Blue Angels Day Sail

Destination: Skipper's Choice.
Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by May 13 (9:00pm).
Coordinator: Michael Sommer msommer414@gmail.com
 To register and for more details, (Log on first) click here: [5/20 Blue Angles Day Sail](#)

Cost: \$25 - Member or Non-Member.
Note: Non-Member may sail once with a Member and must mail a separate Registration Form with a check to the coordinator.



May 23-25 Saturday – Monday

3-Day Memorial Day Cruise

Destination: Magothy River and Bodkin Creek.
Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by May 12 (9:00pm).
Coordinator: Nancy Briggs nancybriggs@hotmail.com
 To register and for more details, (Log on first) click here: [3 Day Memorial Day Cruise](#)

Cost: \$75 - Member or Non-member.
Note: Non-Member may sail once with a Member and must mail a separate Registration Form with a check to the coordinator.



May 23 - June 6 1-Week or 2-Weeks

Spring Extended Cruise

Destination: C&D Canal (1-wk) and Oxford (2-wks).
Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by May 12 (9:00pm).
Skippers: Please register per the link below.
Contact: Laura Keough, laurasan2@yahoo.com.
 To register and for more details, (Log on first) click here: [Spring Extended Cruise](#)

Cost: \$75 Plus costs associated with extended cruising - (options for 1wk or 2wks). Member or Non-member.
Note: **Crew:** Contact Laura Keough to be added to a list of potential Crew. **Only register after receiving an invitation by your Skipper.**



June 4 Thursday

Board Meeting

Location: Zoom option only. Contact Commodore if interested in attending. commodore@singlesonsailboats.org

Time: 6:00pm to 7:00pm.
Note: Open to all Members.



June 4 Thursday

Mid-Week Day Sail

Destination: Skipper's Choice.
Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by May 27 (9:00pm).
Coordinator: Barbara Wingrove bkwingrove@outlook.com
 To register and for more details, (Log on first) click here: [6/4 Day Sail](#)

Cost: \$25 - Member or Non-Member.
Note: Non-Member may sail once with a Member and must mail a separate Registration Form with a check to the coordinator.

**June 6****Saturday****Weekend Day Sail**

Destination: Skipper's Choice.
Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by May 31 (9:00pm).

Cost: \$25 - Member or Non-Member.

Note: Non-Member may sail once with a Member and must mail a separate Registration Form with a check to the coordinator.

Coordinator: Mary Chevalier Mary7570@yahoo.com
 To register and for more details, **(Log on first)** click here: [6/6 Day Sail](#)

**June 7****Sunday****Dinghy Dance Seminar**

Destination: Annapolis, MD – Private Home. (Directions sent upon registration).
Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by May 31 (9:00pm).
Space limited.

Cost: \$15 - Members only.

Time: 1:00pm to 3:30pm.

Note: Bring a towel and wear bathing suit to event as there will be no facilities to change clothes. Beverages and snacks provided.

Coordinator: Joan Tannen & Michael Sommer safety@singlesonsailboats.org
 To register and for more details, **(Log on first)** click here: [Dinghy Dance](#)

**June 13-14 Saturday – Sunday****General Cruise**

Destination: Whitehall Creek, off Whitehall Bay.
Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by June 2 (9:00pm).

Cost: \$50 - Member or Non-Member.

Note: Non-Member may sail once with a Member and must mail a separate Registration Form with a check to the coordinator.

Coordinator: Bev Nash beverlynash@verizon.net
 To register and for more details, **(Log on first)** click here: [6/13 General Cruise](#)

**June 13-14 Saturday – Sunday****First Mates Sail**

Destination: Whitehall Creek, off Whitehall Bay.
Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by June 2 (9:00pm).
BY INVITATION ONLY.

Cost: No cost. Open to First Mates, First Mate Emeritus, and First Mate Candidates.

Note: Spend the day honing FM skills, as well as enjoying the day. First Mates to join General Cruise Raft after the Saturday sail.

Coordinator: Bev Nash beverlynash@verizon.net
 To register and for more details, **(Log on first)** click here: [FM Cruise](#)

**June 20****Saturday****Weekend Day Sail**

Destination: Skipper's Choice.
Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by June 14 (9:00pm).

Cost: \$25 - Member or Non-Member.

Note: Non-Member may sail once with a Member and must mail a separate Registration Form with a check to the coordinator.

Coordinator: Laura Gwinn laura.gwinn1953@gmail.com
 To register and for more details, **(Log on first)** click here: [6/20 Day Sail](#)

**June 21****Sunday****Weekend Day Sail**

Destination: Skipper's Choice.
Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by June 14 (9:00pm).

Cost: \$25 - Member or Non-Member.

Note: Non-Member may sail once with a Member and must mail a separate Registration Form with a check to the coordinator.

Coordinator: Laura Gwinn laura.gwinn1953@gmail.com
 To register and for more details, **(Log on first)** click here: [6/21 Day Sail](#)



June 26-28 3-Day – Friday to Sunday Sail 250 – Tall Ships & Blue Angels Cruise
Destination: Baltimore, Lighthouse Point Marina, Canton, MD.
Cost: \$105 - Sail in Member or Non-Member.
Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by June 16 (9:00pm).
Note: Non-Member may sail once with a Member and must mail a separate Registration Form with a check to the coordinator.
Coordinator: Josh Graff, singlesonsailboats@Joshuagraff.com
 To register and for more details, (Log on first) click here: [Sail 250 Cruise](#)



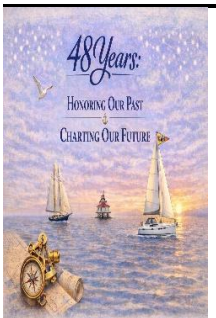
July 2 Thursday Board Meeting
Location: Zoom option only. Contact Commodore if interested in attending. commodore@singlesonsailboats.org
Time: 6:00pm to 7:00pm.
Note: Open to all Members.



July 4-6 3-Day – Saturday to Monday Independence Day Cruise Big Band & Fireworks Celebration
Destination: Sunday, CBMM, St. Michaels, Miles River; **Marina, 2-night min.**
Cost: \$105 - Member or Non-Member.
Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by June 23 (9:00pm).
Note: Non-Member may sail once with a Member and must mail a separate Registration Form with a check to the coordinator.
Coordinator: Hope Andruss hoped@verizon.net
 To register and for more details, (Log on first) click here: [4 July Cruise](#)



July 8 Wednesday Mid-Week Day Sail
Destination: Skipper's Choice.
Cost: \$25 - Member or Non-Member.
Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by July 1 (9:00pm).
Note: Non-Member may sail once with a Member and must mail a separate Registration Form with a check to the coordinator.
Coordinator: Heide Harper Heide.patternpro@gmail.com
 To register and for more details, (Log on first) click here: [7/8 Day Sail](#)



July 11-12 Saturday – Sunday 48th Anniversary Cruise & Party
Destination: Maryland Yacht Club, Pasadena, Rock Creek off Patapsco River.
Cost: \$130 - Member or Non-Member. Party only: \$60.
Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by June 30 (9:00pm). Party only by July 6 (9:00pm).
Note: Non-Member may sail once with a Member and must mail a separate Registration Form with a check to the coordinator.
Party Manager: Tina Lavato
Coordinator: Molly Harrison & Ned Schwartz mollyned@verizon.net
 To register and for more details, (Log on first) click here: [Anniversary Cruise/Party](#)



July 14 Tuesday Mid-Week Power Boat Day Cruise
Destination: Skipper's Choice.
Cost: \$25 - Member or Non-Member.
Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by July 8 (9:00pm).
Note: Non-Member may sail once with a Member and must mail a separate Registration Form with a check to the coordinator.
Coordinator: Michelle Watters michelle.watters@gmail.com
 To register and for more details, (Log on first) click here: [7/14 Power Boat Day Trip](#)



Sept. 5-12 7-Day Trip Saturday to Sunday Fall 2026 - Bareboat Cruise
Destination: River Shannon from Carrick-on-Shannon to Portlanna, Ireland.
Cost: Members \$1,000 = Boat Cost and Admin Fee. Air Fare and Insurance are separate.
Note: Details can be found on Le Boat Cruising Guide [Le Boat Cruise information](#). Plus [Ireland 2026](#)
Note: To Download Registration Form with Payment Information, click here [Ireland Register](#)
Coordinator: Doug Gage douggage@gmail.com

2025 SOS Photo Contest



"BAY SCENES"
1st PRIZE - Harry Keith



"DESTINATION"
1st PRIZE - Emil Becker



GRAND PRIZE AWARD
Joshua Graff



"PEOPLE"
1st PRIZE – Barbara Wise



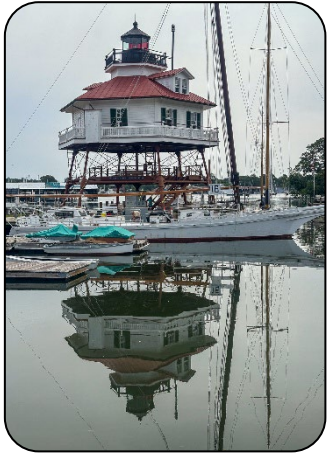
"SAILBOATS"
1st PRIZE – Lora Donia

2025 SOS Photo Contest



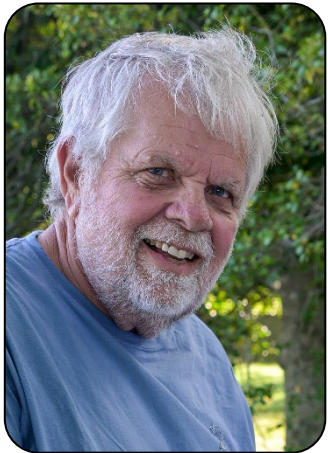
← "BAY SCENES"
2nd PRIZE – Jean-Pierre Plé

"BAY SCENES" →
3rd PRIZE – John Parsons



← "DESTINATION"
2nd PRIZE – Emil Becker

"DESTINATION" →
3rd PRIZE – Peter Van Houten



← "PEOPLE"
2nd PRIZE – John Parsons

"PEOPLE" →
3rd PRIZE – John Parsons



← "SAILBOATS"
2nd PRIZE - Peter Van Houten

"SAILBOATS" →
3rd PRIZE - John Parsons



Flare and Safety Day

(All names are listed L to R)



Gene Jacob



Meaux Gatto and Harry Keith



Meaux Gatto



Frank Beck and Peter Van Houten



Chrissy Rocha and Frank Beck



Karl Scible, Meaux Gatto, and Bill Shoemaker



Paul Anderson



Ginny Trulio and Chuck Fort



Dennis Krizek, Gene Jacob, Kathy McFadden, and John McDonald

Photographs submitted by John Parsons

PHOTO EDITOR: Bob Wright – robert.wright.bowie@gmail.com
Please include names with your photos so we can learn everyone's names.

Cruising Kickoff

(All names are listed L to R)



Laura Keough
(Cruising Co-Chair)



Group during the presentations (RAW)



Dana Stoffregen (Cruising Co-Chair) and Heide Harper



Teresa Scolfield and Jill Montgomery



Bob Wright and Mary Chevalier



Ray Harris, Samia AdelWahed, and Ian Sanderson



Bill Ostrander and Catherine Fox



Doug Gage and Joshua Graff



Lynn Gilley and Ian Sanderson

Photographs submitted by John Parsons, or Bob Wright (RAW)
PHOTO EDITOR: Bob Wright – robert.wright.bowie@gmail.com
Please include names with your photos so we can learn everyone’s names.

April Brunch & Membership Mtg.

(All names are listed L to R)



Margaret Schwartz receiving **"Rookie of the Year"** from Commodore Dana Tulis



Dana Tulis presenting **"Ed Klein Member of the Year"** to Linda Casucci



Julie Fort and John Parsons (RAW)



Sandy Rosswork presenting **"Most Sailed Skipper"** to Ray Harris



Sandy Rosswork presenting **"Ursala Skagen Award"** to Chuck Fort



Marsha Bradshaw (NM) and Nancy Harrison



Margaret Schwartz, Marsha Bradshaw (NM) and Anja Freyja (RAW)



Frank Beck and Joan Tannen (RAW)



Melinda Zimmerman and Victoria Rusakova (RAW)

Photographs submitted by John Parsons, or Bob Wright (RAW).

PHOTO EDITOR: Bob Wright – robert.wright.bowie@gmail.com
Please include names with your photos so we can learn everyone's names.



Welcome to the SOS Happy Hour page!
Be sure to check here for a Happy Hour event in your area.
 Send any changes, updates or new information about Happy Hours to Jill Montgomery
jill.montgom@gmail.com



Virtual Happy Hours on ZOOM VARIOUS DATES: Get in touch with your Area Contact, listed in back of your Whisker Pole to be put on their HH notification list. Or check out the SOS web site for dates and ZOOM links to all the Virtual Happy Hours.

KEY WEST, FL: SOS HAPPY HOUR place and time to be determined. **Contact: TERRI AND KARL, 410-707-4319 or 267-221-6312**

1st Wednesday
BALTIMORE: **May 6th** **5:30-7:00 PM**
BALTIMORE WINE COLLECTIVE, 1700 W 41st St Suite 490, Baltimore, MD 21211. (443) 869-5172.
<https://winecollective.vin/>
 Email coordinator to be added to notification email.
COOR: JOSH singlesonsailboats@JoshuaGraff.com

1st Wednesday
NOVA/DC: **May 6th** **5:00-7:00 PM**
MYLO'S GRILL, in the back dining room, 6238 Old Dominion Dr, McLean, VA. 21218. 703-533-5880. www.mylosgrill.com
COORDINATOR: **HOPE** – hoped@verizon.net

2nd Thursday
ELLCOTT CITY: **May 14th** **5:00-7:30 PM**
LA PALAPA GRILL, 8307 Main Street, Ellicott City MD 21043 410-465-0070
www.lapalapagrill.com
COORDINATORS: **KATHY** – miskathha@gmail.com
JANET – jgsunset@yahoo.com

3rd Wednesday
WILMINGTON: **May 20th** **5:30 PM**
TIMOTHY'S RESTAURANT AND BAR, 930 Justison Street, Wilmington, DE 19801 Wilmington Riverfront by Blue Rock Stadium, facing the waterfront. Drink and appetizer specials until 7PM 302-429-7427
<https://riverfrontde.mytimothysrestaurants.com>
COORDINATOR: **JULIE** – jafort@comcast.net

3rd Thursday
ROCKVILLE: **May 21st** **5:00-7:00 PM**
SEASONS 52, 11414 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852 301-816-0369. Free parking at Whole Foods.
<https://seasons52.com/home>
CORDINATOR: **DEBBIE** – hidebbieg@yahoo.com

3rd Thursday
KENT ISLAND: **May 21st** **5:00-7:00 PM**
LIBBEY'S COASTAL RESTAURANT, (formerly Hemingway's) 357 Pier 1 Road, Stevensville, MD 21666 410-604-0999.
www.Libbeyscoastalkitchen.com
COORDINATOR: **PETER** – Beneteau461@gmail.com

4th Thursday ****CANCELLED until new Host found****
PHILLY AREA: **4:30 PM**
DI FABIOS, 1243 Providence Road, Media, PA 19063 (location of the Old Rose Tree Inn) 484-444-0850. Great food, lots of parking. Gather in patio area. www.difabiosevents.com
COORDINATORS: **TBD**

4th Thursday
ANNAPOLIS: **May 28th** **5:00-7:00 PM**
COCONUT JOE'S BAR & GRILL, 48 South River Road, Edgewater, MD 21037 443-837-6057
www.coconutjoesmd.com
COORDINATOR: **JERE** – jerewglover@msn.com



NOVA/DC Happy Hour

L-R: Milyn Jordan, Teresa Scofield, Karen Parsons, Margaret Schwartz, Mark Gordon, Susan Jenkins, Hope Andruss, Susan Absher, Gene Jacob.

TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD:

- **Due 10th of month** for publication the following month
- Send email to NancyBriggs@hotmail.com with "classified ad" in the subject line
- You will receive a confirmation email back
- Ads will appear for only three months unless you notify me earlier to delete or continue.
- 75 word limit

Nancy Briggs, Classified Page Editor

BOATS FOR SALE

BOAT FOR SALE:

18' Cape Dory Typhoon. Boat has lots of extra features. Asking \$2,000. Contact Pat at 202-244-0194. 4-26

FOR SALE

FOR SALE:

Ladies' Gill OFFSHORE, heavy duty OS2 COAT AND BIB PANTS Waterproof, breathable, windproof, great for open ocean boating. Fits size 12 comfortably. Perfect, like new condition. Selling as set only for \$300 (Catalogue price is \$640.) If interested or want additional details, contact Ellen Penndorf at espenn16co@gmail.com or 303-635-6766. 5-26



FOR SALE:

5 HP Honda 4-stroke outboard, tank, and dolly. Older, but gently used. Professionally serviced. \$600.00 or best offer. Located in Annapolis. Contact John Halstead at jhalstead@mindspring.com or 410-336-3575 7-26



FOR SALE:

Two-person LIFETIME kayak for sale. KOKANEE 106 sit-on-top model. Length 10'6", Width 36". Constructed of durable high-density polyethylene (HDPE). Brand-new condition. Located in Annapolis. Asking \$375. Send Text to Irene at 703.593.2088. 6-26

FOR SALE: Maringo 30-amp, 50 foot shore power cable, \$35. AND 3.5 diameter para-anchor, \$20 Call Gabe 240-304-1072 7-26

Photos Needed

Help the Database Team keep the Singles on Sailboats home page fresh and current by sharing your photos throughout the season.



We're looking for landscape images, ideally sized at 2000 x 400 pixels.

Please send submissions to dbrequests.sos.org@gmail.com

SOS MEMBERSHIP				
	April 2026	April 2025	April 2024	April 2023
Members	206	222	229	213
New Members	+5			
Skippers	58	57	60	64
New Skipper	+1			
Lifetime Members	70	75	78	85
Lifetime Skippers	21	23	21	22
Inactive Members	13	15	17	17
Totals	374	392	405	401

Contacts

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Name	Office	Liaison to Committee	E-mail Address
Dana Tulis	Commodore		danatulis2@verizon.net
Richard Cordaro	Vice Commodore	First Mates' Advisory, Safety	richardjcordaro@aol.com
Janet Pennewell	Treasurer	Bareboat	treasurer@singlesonsailboats.org
Barbabra Wise	Secretary	Brunches, Social	bwise8426@gmail.com
Paul Anderson		Database, Membership	pbabylon5@gmail.com
Irene Aronian		Newsletter, Public Relations	irene.aronian@gmail.com
Gabriel Ruiz		Skippers' Advisory	gabriel_ruiz@valdesautomation.com
Rich Stewart		Cruising	logo4848@gmail.com
Susan Zevin		Education	susanzevin@me.com

YOUR COMMITTEE CHAIRS

(Click on the committee name to be linked to the committee description)

Committee	Name	E-mail Address
Bareboat Cruising	Deb Kauffman, Heide Harper (2026 Trips) Coco Lanquetuit, Emil Becker (2027 Trips)	bareboatchair@singlesonsailboats.org
Brunches	Margaret Schwartz	mschwartz.usa@aim.com
Cruising Co-Chairs	Laura Keough Dana Stoffregen	cruisingchair.sos.org@gmail.com
Database Internet	Carrie Will – Team Lead, Don Yerger	dbrequests.sos.org@gmail.com
Education	Milyn Jordan	educ.sos.org@gmail.com
First Mates' Advisory Co-Chairs	Lora Donia Jean-Pierre Plé	doniala@aol.com ple.jpp@gmail.com
Membership Chair		
Newsletter	Julie Fort	editorwhiskerpole@yahoo.com
Public Relations	Janet Gonski Victoria Rusakova	jgsunset@yahoo.com v.rusakova@yahoo.com
Safety Co-Chairs	Joan Tannen, Michael Sommer	safety@singlesonsailboats.org
Skippers' Advisory	Sandy Rosswork, Chuck Fort (Backup)	sgrosswork@aol.com
Social Co-Chairs	Tina Lavato Linda Casucci	tinalav1@gmail.com casuccilj@gmail.com
Assistant Treasurer	Lorna Bradley	lorna.bradley@gmail.com

YOUR AREA CONTACTS

Geographic Area	Area Contact	E-mail Address
Central PA	Bob Morrow	sosrjmorrow@aol.com
Philadelphia & Suburbs	Patti Evans	evansapatti@gmail.com
Delaware	Chuck Fort	saillrn@comcast.net
Northern Virginia & Washington, DC	TBD	
Prince George's County, MD	Flavia Favali	flavia4222@comcast.net
Montgomery County, MD	Debbie Goldberg	hidebbieg@yahoo.com
Annapolis, Crownsville, Edgewater	Sandy Huberfeld	huberfelds@aol.com
Baltimore, MD	Kathy Haven	mskathha@gmail.com
Eastern Shore, North East	Pat Tracey	pptracey@gmail.com

Singles on Sailboats, Inc. 410-798-4098 www.singlesonsailboats.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/268838264195

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/Singles_on_sailboats

Meetup: <https://www.meetup.com/Singles-on-Sailboats>

**Singles
On
Sailboats**
INCORPORATED



P. O. Box 5708
Annapolis, MD 21403

Sailing Season Has Begun

DNR Cruise & Party – May 16-17

3-Day Memorial Weekend Cruise – May 23-25

Spring Extended Cruise – May 23-June 6

Weekend Day Sails – May 2, 3, 9, 10

Midweek Day Sails – May 5, 20 (Blue Angels)