Singles On Sailboats

Whisker Pole

48 years

SOS, Inc. 1978-2026

October 2026, Vol. 48, No. 10

Cruising Corner

Fall is a wonderful time to sail on the Chesapeake Bay. Cooler temperatures, colorful shorelines, and good sailing winds make October and November some of the most enjoyable months to be on the Bay. And while summer may be behind us, the SOS cruising season is far from over!

A Fall Challenge to Skippers and Crew:

How many more days can you get out on the Bay before the season ends? We challenge every SOS member to sign up for **at least one more sail this fall**. As skippers have boats ready and berths available—we need the crew! Pick one of the October or November sails, register, and help us finish the 2026 cruising season strong.

We start the month with the **Goose Cruise Raft-up to the Corsica River, October 3–4**. It's a beautiful fall destination and a great way to enjoy an early October weekend on the water.

If a full weekend cruise doesn't fit your schedule, there are also several **day sails** coming up, with Weekend Day Sails on **October 10 and 11** and Mid-week Day Sails on **October 14 and 22**. These are an easy way to squeeze in another day on the water and take part in the fall crew challenge.

Next up is one of our favorite fall traditions, the **Chili Cook-off on October 17-18. This year it is at a new location, Maryland Yacht Club.** Sail-in or drive-in and join us for a weekend of good food, friendly competition, and plenty of SOS fun. Boats, bring your best chili to compete! Drive-ins bring the side dishes. Everyone, come ready to sample the entries and enjoy the company. **Skippers, reserve your slip through Dockwa for this event.**

On **October 24–25**, we'll head out for **Rockin' to Rhode River Raft-up**, another opportunity to enjoy the cooler temperatures and fall scenery on the Bay.

Then we'll close out October with the spooky **Halloween Cruise & Party, October 31–November 1 at Pirates Cove Marina**. Costumes, Halloween festivities, and a weekend on the water make this one of the most fun events of the fall cruising season. **Skippers: reserve your slips by calling the Dockmaster, Pat Rohr, 301-928-6605, or email: piratescovemarinamd@gmail.com**

November brings more opportunities to get together. The cruise to the **OysterFest in St. Michaels is November 6–8**, with both sail-in and drive-in. Enjoy a weekend in St. Michaels and one of the popular Eastern Shore's classic fall events at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum (CBMM).

Skippers, reserve your slip through Dockwa on October 7, 12:01am! Their slips fill up quickly.

Finally, we'll gather for our **Cruising Wrap-up on November 14 at Galesville Memorial Hall**. This invitation-only event is a chance to celebrate another great cruising season, thank the many volunteers and skippers who made it possible, and start looking ahead to next year.

There is still plenty of time to make a few more memories on the Bay. So, take the challenge: **choose one more sail, register, and join us on the water this fall.**

See you on the Bay!

Laura Keough, Dana Stoffregen
Cruising Co-Chairs



First Mate Training on Lights in the Bay

The next First Mate training session will be Tuesday, October 13th, 7-8 PM by Zoom. The topic will be lights on aids to navigation and on vessels commonly encountered in the Bay.

Skippers are invited to participate; all invitees will receive Zoom call-in information before the event.

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

Dana Tulis, Commodore



Ahoy Sailors!

The summer is ending, school is back in session, but we still have two more months of sailing season with plenty of sailing days, weekends, and the completion of the Ireland motorboat trip. We have the Goose Cruise, Chili Cook-off, and Halloween Party weekends still to enjoy!

We had a productive Board of Directors/Committee Chair/Co-Chair meeting on September 1, earlier than normal, to accommodate our Ireland travelers. At the meeting, we heard a preliminary analysis of the member-wide survey. We had over 150 respondents, with 91 percent of members wanting to see changes in the club to attract new members. Please see Janet Pennewell's summary for more details on page 11.

We also have a working group and various Committee Chairs evaluating the data, and plan to share more with you as we further analyze the data as well as presenting recommended action items for the club.

There continues to be impressive progress on inventory of the lockers, discussing a strategy for using the projectors as well as embracing newer technologies, and determining another locker location.

The Education Committee is planning for 2027 education activities, to include:

- New member education day
- Skilled sailor's education day
- Seminars
- Fireside Chats
- Planning an education opportunity for moderate experienced sailors

The Education Committee is also exploring how to better promote and support the Basic Skills program. At their August meeting, the Ed Committee reviewed and discussed statistics related to completion of Basic Skills for the last five years.

The Public Relations Committee is working with the SOS members who are hosting the Lin Pardey Fun-Ding event. Please sign up for this exciting evening event. Lin Pardey is a legend in the sailing community. She has sailed over 200,000 miles, circumnavigated the world (without an engine), and published numerous books.

Finally, there have been extensive conversations and plans for a new Web Administrator, please see a separate article from me on our next steps, to address this critical gap.

See you all on the water.

Dana T. — Commodore

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Welcome New Members

Deb Carrico – Chester, MD

Jo Wright – Woodbridge, VA



Whisker Pole Newsletter
Published Monthly

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INDEX	
Basic Skills - Part 1	10
BOD Minutes	3
Brunches	7,16,17
Chili Cook-off Cruise/Party	6,15
Classified Ads	22
Contacts	23
Cruising Corner	1
Holiday Dinners	4
FM Sailing by the Lee	8, 9
Fleet Exercises	14-17
Halloween Cruise and Party	6,15
Happy Hours	21
Membership Numbers	22
Membership Survey Summary	11-,13
New Members	2
OysterFest	6,16, 22
Photo Pages	18, 20
Rafting Reminders	9
Sailing Magazines in Your Pocket	10
Web Administrator	4

Unofficial Condensed BOD Notes September 1, 2026, via Zoom

Official September minutes will be posted on the SOS website when approved in October by the Board of Directors.

SOS Board Meeting Minutes – September 1, 2026, via ZOOM.

Member Survey: Janet Pennewell. There were 150 respondents with lots of detailed comments and suggestions. Interesting findings included that 91% of members felt we should consider changes to the club to help attract new members and 72% of respondents thought that married members should be allowed to serve on the Board. The survey working group and various committee chairs will continue to evaluate with a goal of recommending action items. Janet Pennewell will draft a summary of the results to be published in the next *Whisker Pole*.

Locker Subcommittee: Emil Becker, Co-Chair, gave an update on some findings regarding the contents of the locker. It was agreed that a ground floor storage locker with drive-up access would be important to avoid the inconvenience of interior elevator units that pose loading and unloading issues.

Treasurer's Report: Janet Pennewell. Our largest expenses during the month included:

- Catering: $4,739 included both the Seafood Feast & Town Hall meeting.
- Rent for our storage units which is now up to $1,051 per month.

	Aug. 30 2026	July 31 2026	Dec. 31 2025
Club Checking Account	$49,785	$50,144	$35,580
7-Month CD	65,056	65,056	63,602
Bareboat Account	52,442	49,691	48,094
Total Cash	**167,283**	**164,891**	**147,276**
Club Credit Card	(15,327)	(16,985)	(16,127)

The credit card balance includes payments for St. Martin Boats.

Database Committee: Carrie Will, Team Lead. Despite months of reaching out to various members with the skills needed, a volunteer has not stepped up for this critical job. As a result, the current model is no longer sustainable. A Web Administrator will need to be hired, which may require raising dues substantially in 2027.

Membership Registration forms for new members are published October 1st. SOS Policy states that new members who join from October 1st until the year end will have paid their membership dues for the entire following year. The BOD election form will be sent out to eligible voters on September 15, 2026.

Education Committee: Milyn Jordan, Chair. Gabe Ruiz coordinated a seminar on VHF Radio with Digital Selective Calling (DSC) for September 22.

The Education Committee continues planning for 2027 activities, to include:

- New member education day
- Skilled sailor's education day
- Seminars, Lead Gabe Ruiz
- Fireside chats, Lead Kerry Siebein
- TBD education opportunity for moderate experienced sailors

First Mate Advisory Committee Report: Lora Donia and Jean-Pierre Plé, Co-Chairs.

- FM Candidate Update: Dana Tulis has achieved the status of First Mate Candidate.
- Education: The third of three planned educational sessions for FMs will be held October 13, 7–8:30 PM via Zoom on "Lights on aids to navigation and on vessels commonly seen on the Bay."

Membership: Volunteers - Judy Hunt, Jennifer Diforte, Cindy Turner, Melinda Zimmerman, Suzanne Vaughn. One member of the five-person committee will be on the Board meeting call each month to represent the committee. The Board members are very appreciative of the contribution of these five individuals.

Public Relations: Janet Gonski and Victoria Rusakova. Public Relations is working with the SOS members who are hosting the Lin Pardey Fun-Ding event. Volunteers are needed for the CRAB event on October 16th.

Skippers Advisory: Sandy Rosswork.
The annual Skippers dinner was held August 30th. Twenty-five Skippers attended. Several issues were discussed. Two of the most relevant were:

- Marina reservations charged on each Skippers' credit card are not repaid for several months. There is a need to repay Skippers more promptly.
- There is a box on the registration form which Skippers may check to indicate their willingness to be raft captain for a specific cruise, however that information is not passed to the Raft Captain Coordinator, Chuck Fort. This needs to be addressed.

Social Committee: Linda Casucci and Tina Lavato, Co-Chairs

- **Chili Cook-off Cruise/Shore Party** is October 17-18 at the Maryland Yacht Club. Each boat has been asked to bring a pot of chili. Members planning to drive-in are asked to bring a side dish to share. The cost for cruising and party is $70 per person. For those who drive-in the cost is $20. (And a side dish.)
- **Halloween Cruise/Shore Party** will be at Pirates Cove Marina. The theme is TV Shows from the 50's, 60's and 70's. Prizes will be awarded for the best TV show character. Heavy hors d' oeuvres will be served throughout the evening. The cost for the party/cruise is $118. For those driving in, the cost is $48.

The next meeting is October 1st at 6pm. (*As of Sept 10th, the next BOD has been changed to October 8th.)*

SOS Plan for the Web Administrator

By Dana Tulis, Commodore

The SOS leadership has been looking for a new Web Administrator for many months. The Database Team works with all of our committees.

After consulting with one of our members who has an Information Technology background, it was recommended that we reach out to a contractor to fill the Web Administrator void. The contractor currently performs a similar role for the Annapolis Friends Meeting (a non-profit organization.)

Janet Gonski, Susan Zevin, and Carrie Will worked on a strategy with the contractor, and were impressed by his knowledge, professionalism, flexibility in hours, and his easy-going personality. They highly endorsed hiring him. Carrie has graciously volunteered to work with him to start the transition process.

Hiring the contractor was unanimously approved by the Board of Directors at an Executive Session. It will require raising dues substantially to pay for the contractor starting in 2027. We are just beginning the CY27 budget, receiving feedback from each of our Committee Chairs. We will be focusing on possible ways to reduce spending to try to offset the cost of the contractor. The draft budget is due in October, and the final budget will be published in December 2026 *Whisker Pole* to be effective January 1. We will keep you apprised as we learn more. For interim funding, we agreed to draw from reserves temporarily in order to bring him on immediately.

It is disappointing that no one has stepped up on a voluntary basis to be the Web Administrator given that we are an all-volunteer organization. We need more than our small team of 40 or so people that serve on the Board of Directors and Committees to run an organization of over 400 people. Of course, with losing two team members, we still need volunteers to join the database team, so if you know anyone that can help, please let me know.

This really is our only choice at this point; we cannot run SOS without a Web Administrator. It's how we sign up for every event, take payments, and even distribute our voting ballots. And thanks to Carrie Will, **Susan** Zevin, and Janet Gonski for all of their concerted efforts to determine the best path forward.

Join the Traditional SOS Holiday Festivities!

Enjoy celebrating **Thanksgiving** and **Christmas** with your SOS sailing buddies!!!



Since the early 1990's, SOSers have gotten together at friends' houses for regional **Thanksgiving potluck celebrations!** Four gracious members have volunteered their homes this year in Annapolis, Kent Island, Bethesda, MD, and Delaware on Saturday, November 21st.

The host/hostess invites the sailors who have signed up and arranges for the turkey, beverages, decorations, etc. for ten or more SOS members. The guests bring their favorite holiday dish to share and contribute $15-$20 to cover the costs of the turkey and other things.

There is no online registration. If you miss the Tuesday, November 17th deadline to contact Hope, call the respective host/hostess to see if space is available. Hosts will be listed in the November *Whisker Pole*.



For the last 20 or so years, Barbara Mistrik hosted the **Christmas Potluck Dinner** at her home in Edgewater, MD, on December 25th.

Barbara is hosting Christmas dinner again this year. There is no online registration for this dinner.

Call Barbara via phone at 410-956-1445 AFTER DECEMBER 1st to reserve a place and get a side dish assignment.

Come Join us for Lin Pardey's Evening of Fun-Ding



A fundraiser to support CRAB (Chesapeake Region Accessible Boating)

Friday, October 16, 2026

SOS and Lin Pardey are sponsoring Fun-Ding for CRAB, at the United Church of Christ of Annapolis, 6 Carvel Circle, Edgewater, Maryland, 6:30pm - 9:00pm.

In the early days of CRAB, Lin and her late husband Larry were planning to attend the Annapolis Sailboat show to present a series of seminars. After exchanges with Don Backe, the founder of CRAB, they set up their world-renowned wooden boat *Taleisn* next to the CRAB boat on display at the event. The line of visitors wishing to explore the beautiful wooden boat while escorted below by CRAB disabled sailors raised a great deal of money for CRAB.

Lin returns to the Annapolis Boat Show this fall and--in addition to connecting with old friends, selling her books, and sharing stories, she also wanted to reprise her fundraising for CRAB. With the support of members of SOS, there will be an evening of food, laughter, fun, and silent auction with all profits going to support the mission of CRAB.

How did all of this come about? In March 2025 while on the SOS New Zealand bareboat trip, our skipper Gabi Van Wie contacted Lin to set up a meeting. As a long time follower of Lin's blogs and social media, Gabi knew how much Lin thrives on spending time with "friends she hasn't met yet." Upon reaching out to Lin, Gabi received an open invitation for the SOS boats to come to Lin's home – and two boats were able to take advantage of that gathering.

Now, 18+ months later, Lin plans to attend the October Annapolis Sailboat Show, and with so many of our SOS members already volunteering at CRAB, it seemed a natural fit to support Lin in her fundraising efforts.

This event is open to the public with a $30 registration fee and sign up on SOS website. There is limited space for 60 people so sign up soon.

There are opportunities for SOS members who are registered to volunteer for help make this a great event. You can sign up to volunteer on the SOS website. If you can't attend but would like to donate financially to the "Fun-Ding," select the donate button on the website.

Also, if you would like to donate something for the silent auction, please contact Kathy McFadden kjmcfadden@comcast.net.

To register click Lin Pardey's

Extended Cruise

Labor Day 2026

By Laura Gwinn

Three boats happily set sail from Castle Marina on Wednesday September 2, anticipating six days of glorious sailing and camaraderie. The extended Labor Day Cruise delivered! But not without a few glitches.

Leaving Castle Marina on the Chester River for the Magothy, winds let us sail comfortably around 5 knots, but as we approached the Bay proper, winds decreased. The forecast had predicted storms starting late afternoon, when we would be anchored in a protected area, but the darkening clouds told a different story.

Although all three boats made it into the Magothy, the storm arrived before we could make the anchorage, so two boats (*Odyssey* & *Satori*) stayed in the middle of the river to ride it out. After 20 minutes of up to 35 mph winds, and lashing rain, it abated, and the soaked crews of the two boats proceeded into Eagle Cove to meet the anchor boat (*At Last*). Although little wind was predicted for Thursday morning, to our delight winds were around 10, gusting to 15 crossing the Bay. We decided to return to Castle Marina for the night due to the heat advisory. The pavilion & grills at Castle Marina provided a delightful Happy Hour area, dinner, and socializing.

Chestertown for two nights was the next stop. This historic town has a lovely downtown marina, with friendly dock hands, great facilities, and fairly easy slip entries. Chestertown boasts a fantastic bakery (Breakfast anyone?), good restaurants, walking trails, and a historic area. A marina stop for two nights presents an opportunity to make those small repairs and changes you always forget about on shorter sails. Laura Keough (*Satori*) deployed her new kayak, which Tom Fort also took for a paddle. Friday night we sailed on the *Sultana*, a reproduction schooner, and enjoyed dinner at The Kitchen in an outside garden under fairy lights. Carol Niemand joined us and treated us to dessert back at the marina: Bourbon-soaked lemon pound cake!

Our last night on the water was on the Corsica River where we met up with the 3-day Labor Day Cruise: *Blue Wolf* (Mary Moore), *Jazzy Cat* (John Rogers), and *Sea Tango* (Dennis Krizek). At one point nearly the entire raft was on *Jazzy Cat* for Happy Hour, and the swim platform was under water! Dennis unwittingly gave a master class in grace under fire as he and Chuck Fort (*At Last*) worked on untangling the anchors.

Everyone headed home under motor, as there was no wind. However, *Odyssey* (Laura Gwinn) managed to eke out 20 minutes under sail, thus allowing her to brag of sailing every day on the Extended!

SOS Annual Chili Cook-off!

October 17–18

By Tina Lavato,
Social Committee Co-Chair

There's nothing quite like a crisp October weekend, good friends, and the aroma of homemade chili simmering away. This year, SOS is bringing all three together again for our **Annual Chili Cook-Off Cruise & Shore Party**, taking place **October 17–18** at the **Maryland Yacht Club (MYC) in Pasadena, MD.**



How it Works…

- **Location:** Maryland Yacht Club in Pasadena, MD
- **Cruise & Shore Party:** $70 per person
- **Shore Party Only:** Bring a favorite side dish to share **plus $20 per person.**
- **Skippers**: Book your slip via Dockwa. (Slip rates, amenities, etc., available on the MYC website.)

Every cruising boat brings one pot of homemade chili for everyone to sample. Whether your specialty is classic beef, smoky and spicy, turkey, chicken, or a hearty vegetarian version bring your signature recipe and let the tasting begin!

After everyone has sampled the entries, members will vote for their favorites, and **prizes will be awarded** to the winning chili chefs. More importantly, you'll earn something every great cook treasures—serious bragging rights!

Landlubbers, We've Got a Job for You, too!

Members driving to the event are asked to help complete the meal by bringing a favorite side dish to share. Cornbread, salads, coleslaw, vegetable trays, baked beans, chips and dip, dessert or another favorite accompaniment are all welcome.

So, pull out that favorite chili pot, dust off your secret recipe, and get ready to claim your prize.

Deadlines:

- **For Shore Party Only:** Oct. 15 – 9:00pm
- **For Cruise and Shore Party:** Oct. 13 - 9:00pm

Party Manager: Meeps Yox

To register click Chili Cook-off

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OysterFest Cruise

Sail-in or Drive-in November 6-8

SOS is having a three-day sail-in /drive-in to the OysterFest at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michael's, MD. We will sail to CBMM on Friday November 6th so we can enjoy the OysterFest all day on Saturday November 7th from 10-4:00.

Why do we keep going back? It's not because we all love to eat oysters…in addition to oysters that are fried, steamed, raw, in chowder, etc., there will be food trucks offering a variety of Chesapeake delicacies, burgers, and all different kinds of foods. Guests will also have a beverage selection that includes specialty cocktails and an array of local craft beer options. All food and drinks are an additional charge.

There will also be live music, a full schedule of demonstrations and presentations as well as the CBMM's long-term exhibitions that offer an in-depth look at the Chesapeake's boatbuilding traditions and watercraft, the seafood industry, recreational boating, lighthouses and maritime navigation, drawing from their unique world-class collections of objects, art, and photography, to tell the stories of individuals, groups, and communities along the Bay.

OysterFest tickets can be purchased in advance online or at the door. Admission is set at $22 for adults, $19 for seniors (65+). Tickets for CBMM members are $10.

(Continued on page 22)

Halloween Cruise and Party

Oct. 31 – Nov.1

Party Managers: *Melinda Zimmerman and Kerry Siebein*



It was ten years ago that the club last celebrated this cultural and seasonal holiday. We're bringing it back!

This year's theme is **TV shows from the '50s, '60s, and '70s.** There's Dallas, Leave it to Beaver, Twilight Zone, Star Trek, Dark Shadows, Beverly Hillbillies, plenty of ideas to be had! Time to get the creative juices flowing, leave your inhibitions on shore, and join in the fun! Best recreation of a TV show character and two runners-up will be awarded prizes. So, put your creative hats on!

Party Schedule:

5:00 – Cash Bar (Captain's Lounge) & Heavy Hors d'oeuvres (throughout the night)

6:00 – Costume Judging Begins

6:30 – Dancing until 9:30 pm

Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served throughout the evening. Unfortunately, the regular Pirates Cove menu will not be available. **Deadline for Cruise and Party is** October 20th**. Deadline for those driving in** is October 28th.

Skippers: Ten slips are being held for both Friday and Saturday for skippers wishing to arrive a day early. To claim one, just call the Dockmaster, Pat Rohr, 301-928-6605, or email: piratescovemarinamd@gmail.com No need to use Dockwa.

Two (30 amp) plugs = $130/night and one (30 amp) plug = $100/night

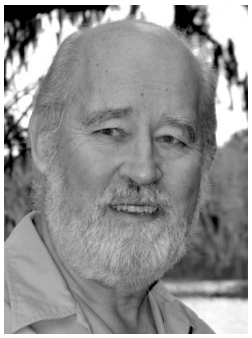
To register click Halloween Cruise/Party

Brunches are Coming Soon!

Pirates of the Chesapeake

November 15th

Join your fellow sailors for Brunch on Sunday, November 16 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Annapolis for an engaging presentation by Don Shomette.



From the first permanent English settlement in America at Jamestown, Virginia, the Chesapeake Tidewater would suffer from the scourge of seaborne piracy for the next two centuries. In a fully illustrated lecture, noted American author, maritime historian and archaeologist Donald Grady Shomette will present the largely forgotten tale of those perilous years, from the first pirates sailing aboard the ship *Swallow* from Jamestown in 1608, to the great sea battles between the Royal Navy and pirates fleets in Hampton Roads, to the ravages of the "picaroons" of the Revolution, and finally to the capture of the last pirate ship, the *General Massena* in the Patuxent River in 1807.

Donald Grady Shomette, a native of Washington, D.C., and three decade-long resident of Dunkirk, MD, completed his undergraduate work in art and art history at the Pratt Institute, in New York. He was the recipient of an Honorary Ph.D. in Humane Letters from the University of Baltimore for his contributions to the arts, science, and literature.

For nearly two decades he served on the staff of the Library of Congress and simultaneously as director of Nautical Archaeological Associates, Inc., a non-profit archaeological research organization, which conducted the first underwater cultural resource surveys in the states of Maryland, New Jersey, and Arkansas. Later he served as CEO of Cultural Resources Management, in Dunkirk, Maryland. He is currently serving as Honorary President, and Executive Board Member of the 1779 Research Group Ltd., North Yorkshire, England. As a historian he has served as a consultant for many states, agencies of the U.S. Government, museums, universities, and non-profit establishments.

As a marine archaeologist he has worked in the United States, Canada, and Great Britain under the sponsorship of such institutions as the National Geographic Society, the National Park Service, the United States Navy, and myriad educational foundations and museums. Shomette is the author of twenty books and contributor to numerous international encyclopedias and anthologies of history and poetry. His many works have also appeared in such publications as *National Geographic*, *History and Technology*, and *Sea History*.

Thrice winner of the prestigious John Lyman Book Award for Best American Maritime History, and twice winner of the Marion V. Brewington Book Award for Best Book of the year in Naval Literature, Shomette was also honored with the Calvert Prize, the highest award in Maryland for historic preservation. His latest publication is a two-volume set from Heritage Books, Inc., entitled Siege: T*he Canadian Campaign in the American Revolution*, 1775-1776, a comprehensive history of the ill-fated first American invasion of Canada.

Volunteers are always needed – please contact Margaret Schwartz at mschwartzusa@aim.com to help out at a future brunch.

To register click 11/15 Brunch

** A Food Pantry Collection will be at the November 15th Brunch. **See page 17 for more information.**

Tall Tales and Songs of the Chesapeake Bay

December 13th

Storyteller Jefferson Holland presents a delightful program of original tall tales and songs inspired by the people and places of the Bay, from the Native American who feasted on oysters along her shores to the modern-day sailors who ply her waters.

Jefferson Holland, Poet Laureate of the City of Annapolis, is a modern-day Chesapeake Troubadour: singer, songwriter, poet, storyteller, performing all original material inspired by decades of life on the Bay.

Jeff served as the director of the Annapolis Maritime Museum and the Riverkeeper for the West and Rhode Rivers. He co-founded the Chesapeake folk group "Crab Alley" in the 1980s and 90s and founded "Them Eastport Oyster Boys" with partner Kevin Brooks in 1992.

He lives in Annapolis with his emotional support spouse, Louise White, and their rescue retriever, Millie.

Jeff has released a collection of the outdoors columns that appear in the *Annapolis Capital* newspaper. Published by New Bay Books, it's called "Walk Around Arundel: 52 places to hike with your dog (and other best friends)."

Fall is right around the corner, and we have great speakers lined up for you. Mark your calendar now for November 15 and December 13.

Same place: (Annapolis DoubleTree Hotel with the same great food!)

Registration volunteers needed. Contact Margaret Schwartz at mschwartzusa@aiim.com to volunteer.

To register click 12/13 Brunch

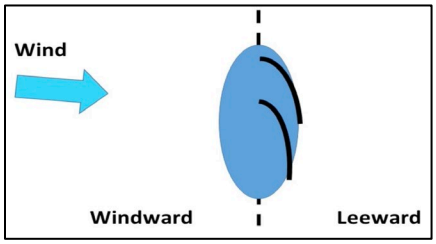
First Mates' Deck Notes:

Sailing By the Lee

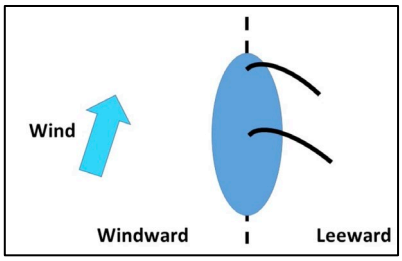
By Jean-Pierre Plé and Lora Donia, First Mate Co-Chairs

In an earlier edition, we shared some thoughts on stress-free gybing, and where the use of a preventer was highlighted. This month our topic explains why an accidental gybe, which can be dangerous, is likely to occur if you find yourself sailing by the lee and a preventer is not rigged. Much of the following text and all the diagrams are from a YouTube video by Colorado Sailing https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HhhQ8hul9q4

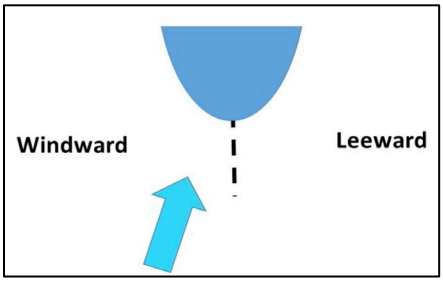
Normally when you're sailing, the main sail and the boom are set on the downwind or leeward side of the boat. As shown below, the boat is on a port tack - the wind is from the port side, and the main sail and the boom are set on the downwind or leeward side of the boat.

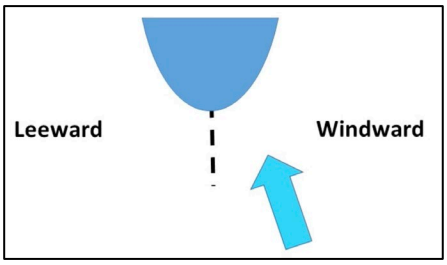


When sailing downwind, it's the same. Here we have the boat sailing downwind on a port tack. The wind is coming from the port side and the mainsail and boom are set to the leeward.

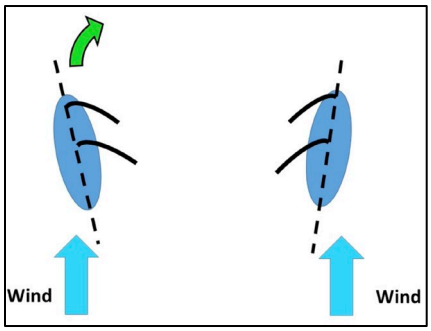


As shown in the next graphic, if sailing downwind and you continue to bear away (in this case turning to starboard) to the point where the wind crosses the stern, the windward and leeward sides will switch. The starboard side will now become windward, and the port side of the boat will now become the downwind or leeward side.

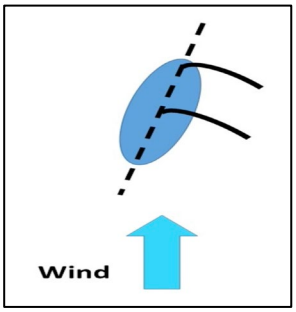




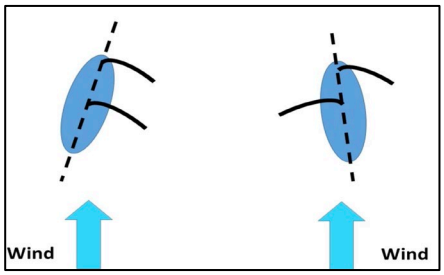
When the wind crosses the stern is normally when you would execute a gybe. As shown below, the wind crosses over the stern. With control, you bring the boom and the jib over to the other side of the boat and continue sailing downwind on a new tack – the boom is now set on the new leeward side.



However, if the wind crosses the stern and you don't bring the boom over to the new leeward side of the boat, meaning you leave the boom on the windward side of the boat, as shown below, this is called **sailing by the lee**.



Sailing by the lee can also occur if you set your sails wing on wing, if you don't maintain that dead downwind course, as shown below on the right.



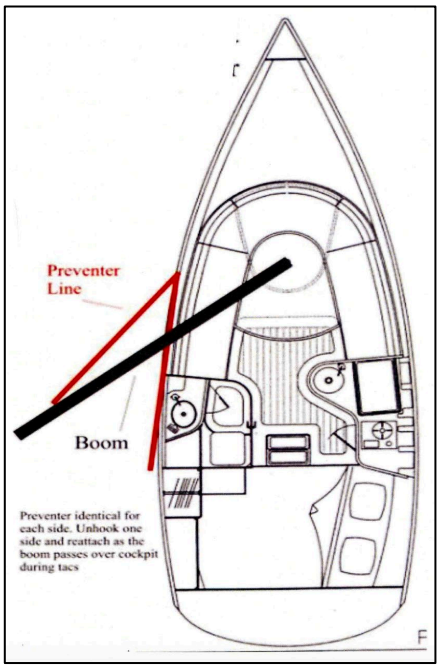
Sailing by the lee is a precursor condition for an accidental/unintended gybe. When sailing by the lee, the wind can violently swing the boom to the leeward side.

Some boats, especially small dinghies, can sail by the lee safely. Racers sometimes sail by the lee as means to avoid gybing, to sail in "clear air," or to maintain the privilege status (i.e., Rules of the Road). But for most sailors, sailing by the lee happens accidentally, either from a wind shift or a lack of attention by the helmsperson, and if not corrected quickly, can result in a sudden and potentially dangerous accidental gybe.

The **take-away message** is that unless you are racing or otherwise doing it intentionally with the consent of the skipper, sailing by the lee should be avoided. Our preference is that if the wind is more than 30 degrees** abaft of the beam, a preventer should be rigged, and we will propose this to the skipper.

Sailing by the Lee
(Continued from page 8.)

The diagram below illustrates the general idea how a preventer (the red line) is rigged - ideally with the preventer line coming back to the cockpit. How a preventer is rigged on each boat will vary.



Finally, when sailing downwind, the helmsperson needs to pay special attention to the wind, steer steadily, and make timely adjustments as needed; and if a preventer is rigged, don't forget to release it before executing a gybe.

One last note, we hope these articles are helpful and inspire you to join the ranks of First Mates. Please reach out to Lora or Jean-Pierre for more information about the program.

(**Correction from page 8: This article has been revised to correct the number of degrees: Our preference is that if the wind is more than 30 degrees abaft of the beam, a preventer should be rigged, and we will propose this to the skipper.)

Rafting Reminders for Skippers and Crew

By Chuck Fort, Raft Captain Coordinator

As we get into the part of our season when we build rafts almost every cruise, some reminders are in order to keep our rafting and docking safe and free of unnecessary delays.

- Make sure you call in to "Whisker Pole" on the working channel (78A) at 1315 hours (on **HIGH** power) when it is requested on the cruise Boat List.
- Contact the raft captain on **LOW** power on the working channel (78A) to announce your arrival at the raft site.
- Stand by on the working channel (78A) for your instructions. You may have to wait for a while until the raft captain needs a boat your size or for you anchor.
- Until you are entering the raft, all maneuvers in the vicinity of the raft should be at slow speed and at least 150 feet from the bows of boats in the raft.
- Have at least two fenders, two spring lines, and a bow and stern line ready (out of the lockers, uncoiled, and ready to deploy).
- Crew should have a clear understanding of their roles for rafting. Review what you want them to do before they have to do it.
- Stay close to the raft site so you can come in quickly when called.
- Set your fenders in the proper port or starboard position as soon as you are called.
- When you enter the raft, promptly secure all lines and be ready to receive the next boat.
- The boat coming into the raft passes the loop end to the receiving boat. At the direction of the skipper, either place the loop on the cleat or do a cleat hitch with the line.
- If your skipper directs you to cleat the bitter end of the line before passing the loop, cleat at the end of the line to maximize how much you can throw.
- While using one line as a spring line both forward and aft, using two separate lines is more adjustable.
- If you are anchoring, a passing line can help guide your boat back to the raft (Link to Passing Line Standard Operating Procedure).
- If anchoring, take time to set the anchor by backing down on it.
- Time is of the essence – if every boat takes 10 minutes to be ready from the time they are called until they are ready for the next boat, a 15-boat raft built from both sides takes a little over an hour – if every boat takes 15 minutes, it takes nearly two hours.
- Once your boat is secured, notify the next boat that you are ready to receive them.
- Monitor the working channel until the raft is closed in case lines or anchor rodes need to be adjusted.
- When the raft is closed, check your lines (no slack in any lines in a circle raft and no space between boats and fenders. No slack in anchor or spring lines in a linear raft and no space between boats and fenders).
- Turn anchor light on at dusk.
- When docking at a marina, toss the loop end of the line to those catching lines on the dock. The loops can be placed on cleats if available, or adjustable loops can be placed over pilings.
- Do not use existing lines on pilings- they belong to someone else.
- Use your own lines in marinas.

SOS Basic Skills Article 1

Basic Skills – What's the Skinny?

By Milyn Jordan and Bill Small

The Basic Skills Program is a fundamental part of sailing and safety at SOS. But how and why did the Basic Skills Program come to be? Many thanks to Skipper Emeritus, Bill Small, who kindly summarized the initiation of the program below.

In 1989, Singles on Sailboats had nearly doubled in membership in three years. Many of the new members had little or no knowledge of the basics of sailing. SOS skippers expressed a need for crew to have sufficient basic knowledge for them to be safe and helpful on board. In response to this need, Bill Small and Barbara Billek, members of the Education Committee and active skipper and First Mate in the Club, developed the first Basic Skills checklist. It was organized in four units that included information which helped new members become familiar with: nomenclature; personal safety; the roles of skippers, First Mates, and crew; some basic knots; and other information they needed to be safe and helpful.

The reaction of skippers was very positive and the Board of Directors requested that Bill and Barb revise the checklist so some units could be a requirement for sailing on weekend cruises with the Club. That was done and the first two units of the checklist were made a requirement for participating in the sailing activities of the Club for all, other than skippers and First Mates and a few others with documented sailing experience. For many years, the checklist continued in that format before a need for an update was recognized.

Around 2010, the checklist was reviewed and revised to our current Basic Skills organized in three levels.

The Basic Skills Program is specifically discussed in the SOS Policies and Procedures, Section C. Education, a portion of which is excerpted below:

"The Basic Skills Program (as updated in 2014) is designed to provide members with a basic working knowledge of sailboats and sailing. The Basic Skills Program (or equivalent) should enable them to safely participate in SOS sailing activities, but additional training/education from skilled external resources with professional staff is strongly encouraged.

Completion of Basic Skills Level I is a minimum skills requirement for all crew who sail with SOS. This Basic Skills Level I requirement may be completed ashore at dockside, or while sailing with a skipper who has agreed to do a Basic Skills Level I checkout….."

The Education Committee is looking at ways to improve the Basic Skills Program and to raise new member awareness of its importance. This is the first in a series of articles on Basic Skills. Stay tuned for more in coming issues of *Whisker Pole*.

The Basic Skills Checklist and Basic Skills Manual are available for review and download on the SOS website under Forms and Such in the Education Committee section.

Sailing Magazines Right in Your Pocket!

By Mindy Kinsey

You may have sailing magazines right in your pocket!

Many public libraries subscribe to the **Libby** app which is then available to you at no cost. Libby offers thousands of eBooks, eAudiobooks, and eMagazines to borrow right from your computer or mobile device. For example, Anne Arundel County, MD has digital subscriptions to SAIL and Cruising World.

If you are a resident of Maryland, you can apply for an AA County Library Card online: https://www.aacpl.net/books-more/get-a-card

Professional Mariner is free in the digital format: https://professionalmariner.com/subscribe

Ocean Navigator is no longer published.

If you need help navigating public library resources, please feel free to email me at berryberry@comcast.net and I will do my best to walk you through the process.

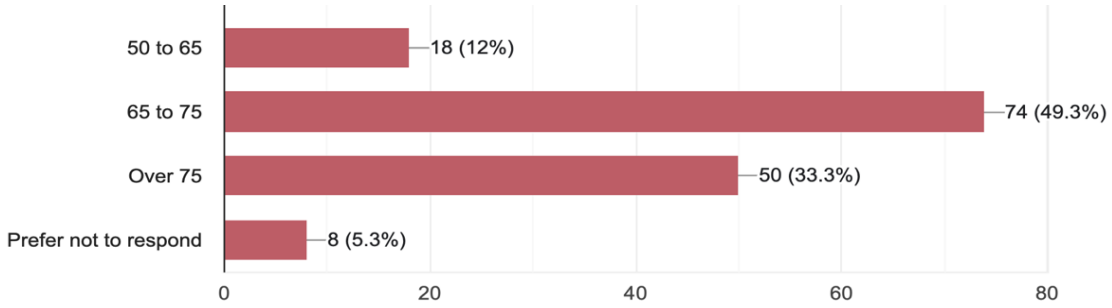
SOS Member Survey August 2026

Thanks so much to the 150 members who took time to complete the recent survey! We are especially appreciative of all of you who took the time to provide extensive written suggestions in response to several of the questions. Your responses will prove invaluable as your Board and Committee Chairs develop initiatives and priorities for next year.

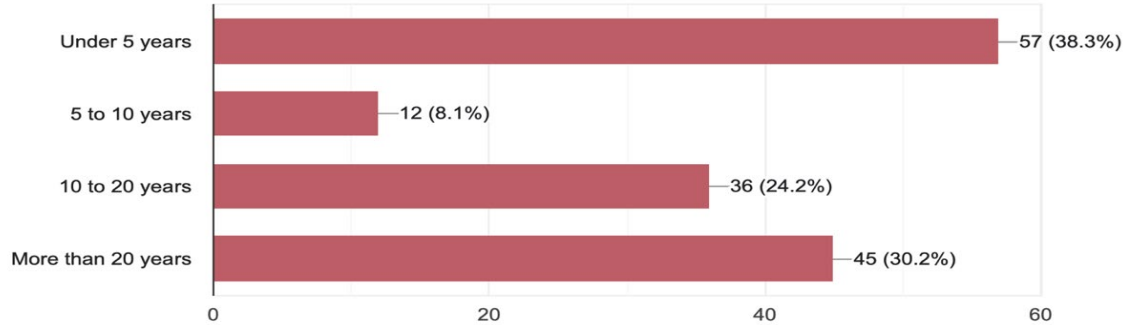
This month, we'd like to share just some of what we learned. It will take us more time to analyze all the great information and develop detailed recommendations, and we'll continue to keep you informed as we make progress.

Membership profile of respondents:

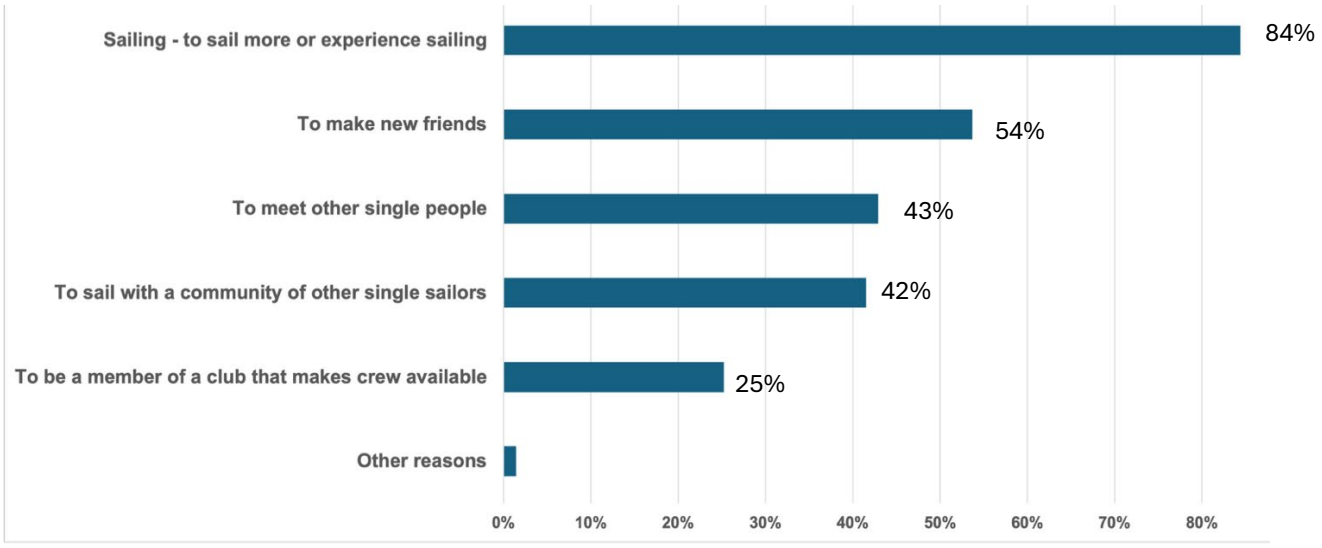
- **63% female**, 35% male, and 2% other/preferred not to answer.
- **Age -** Note that we had no respondents who are under 50**:**



- **Length of Membership:**



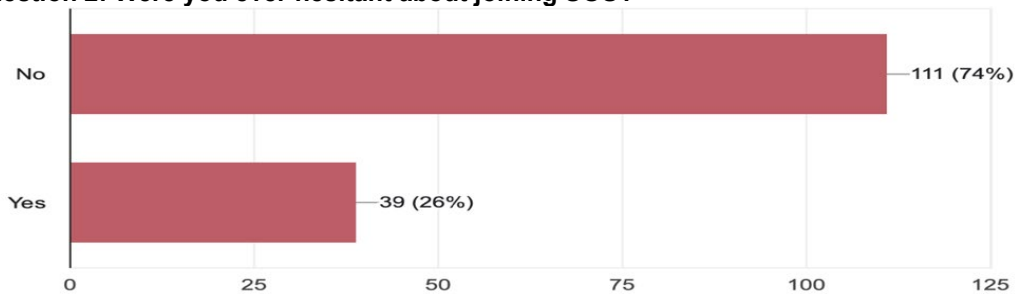
- **Question 1: Why did you join the Club originally (please check all that apply)?**



Member Survey Results Continued:

Sailing was consistently the most frequent reason that respondents provided for joining the Club, followed by making new friends – and this was true across all age groups and length of membership. Meeting or sailing with other single people was also a frequently noted reason.

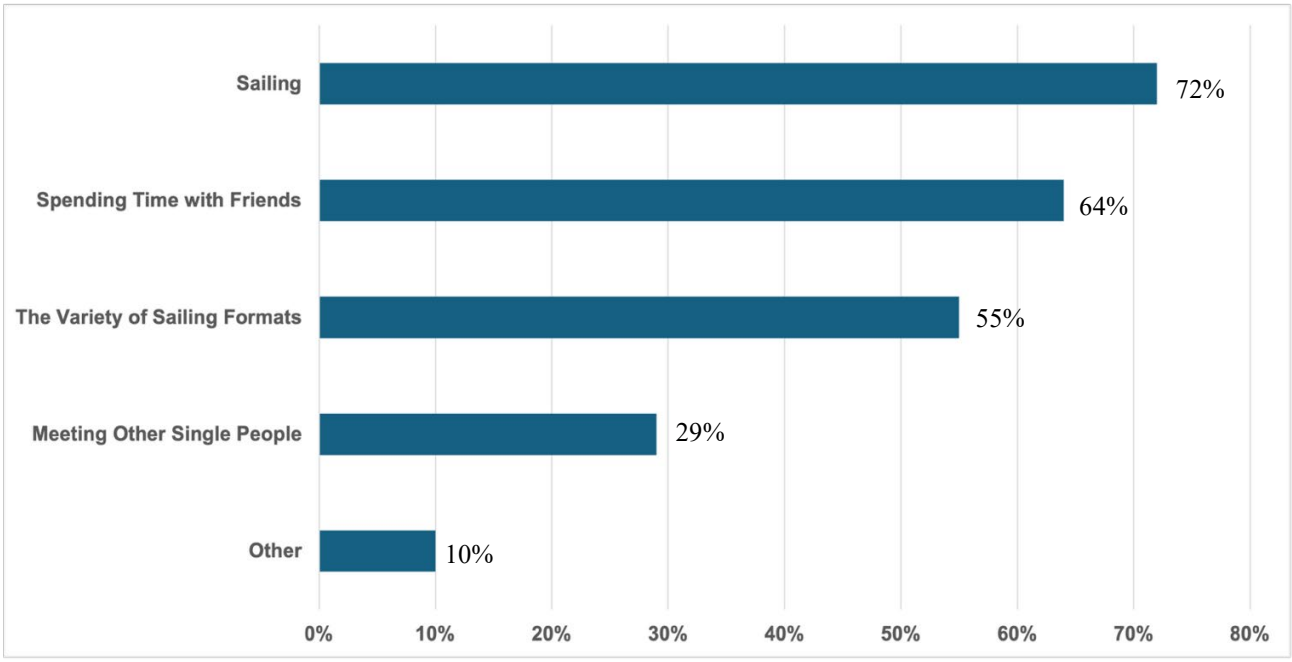
Question 2: Were you ever hesitant about joining SOS?



Of 150 respondents, 39 said they had been hesitant to join. The main themes were:

- **Concern that SOS was a dating or "singles" club -** This was the most common hesitation. Several people found the club's name or the word "singles" off-putting, embarrassing, or suggestive of a dating service rather than a sailing organization.
- **Age or demographic fit –** Some respondents worried that the membership was considerably older than they were or wondered whether they would fit in based on age, gender, race, or political outlook.
- **Discomfort entering an unfamiliar group -** Shyness, not knowing anyone, joining an established social circle, and staying overnight with strangers caused anxiety. Some noted that they felt welcomed once they attended.
- **Safety and trust concerns –** Some members—especially skippers—were hesitant about sailing with unfamiliar people, unknown skipper abilities, boat condition, or taking people they did not know aboard their own boats.
- **Distance and travel -** Living far from Annapolis and the travel time require.

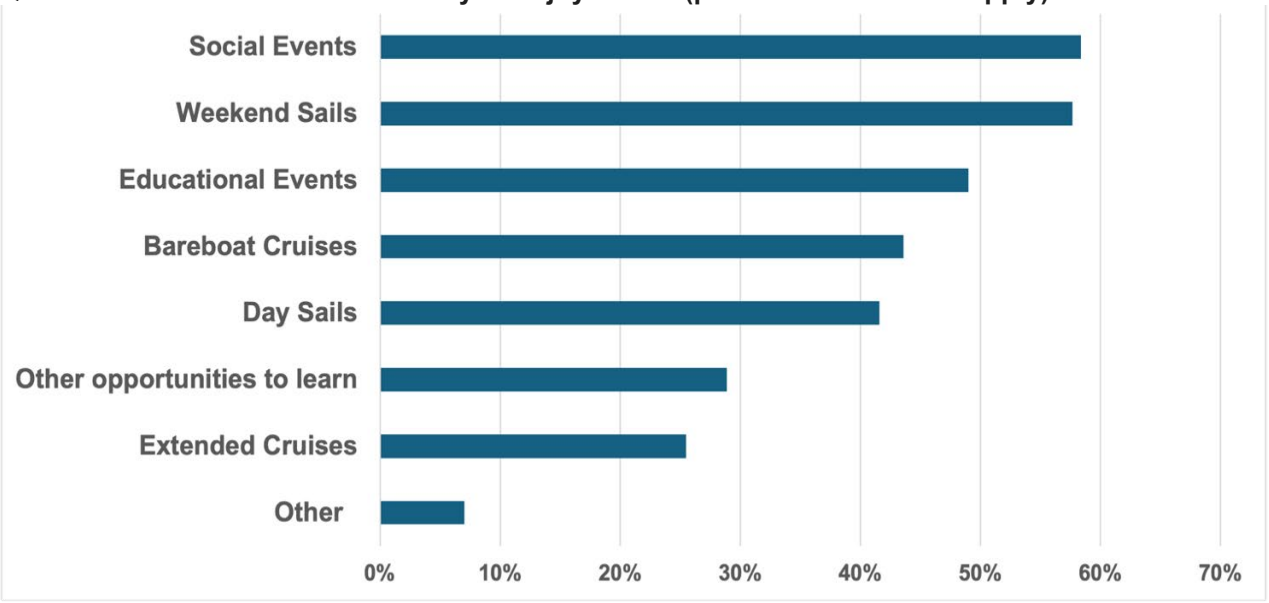
Question 3: What do you currently value most about the club (check all the apply)?



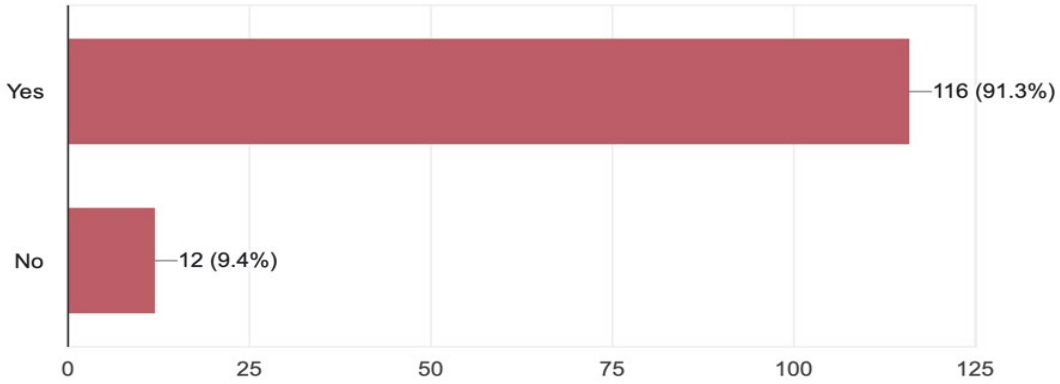
When looking at what members currently value most, as opposed to why they joined the club, we found that sailing and friends continued to lead the responses, with the importance of meeting other single people declining somewhat in importance.

Member Survey Results Continued:

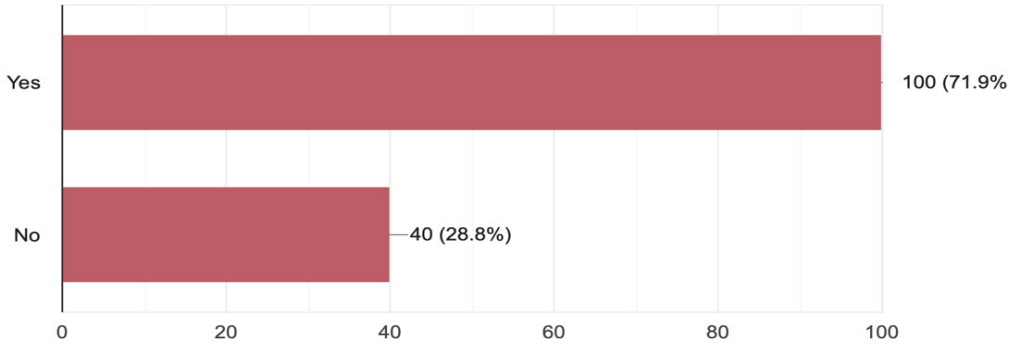
Question 4: What club activities do you enjoy most? (please check all that apply)



Question 10: Do you think the club should consider changes that might help us attract more new members, especially more young members?



Question 12: Should we allow married members to serve on the board?



Note: Other questions had primarily written comments and will be explored in the coming months.

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.



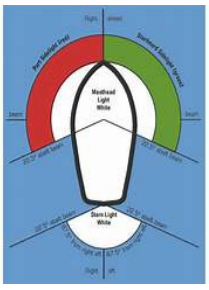
Oct. 8 **Thursday** **Board Meeting**
Change
Location: Zoom option only. Contact Commodore if interested in attending. commodore@singlesonsailboats.org
Time: 6:00pm to 7:00pm.
Note: Open to all Members.



Oct. 10 **Saturday** **Weekend Day Sail**
Destination: Skipper's Choice.
Cost: $25 - Member or Non-Member.
Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by Oct. 4 (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: Mindy Kinsey berryberry@comcast.net
2nd Change
To register and for more details, **(Log on first)** click here: 10/10 Day Sail



Oct. 11 **Sunday** **Weekend Day Sail**
Destination: Skipper's Choice.
Cost: $25 - Member or Non-Member.
Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by Oct. 4 (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: Mindy Kinsey berryberry@comcast.net
2nd Change
To register and for more details, **(Log on first)** click here: 10/11 Day Sail



Oct. 13 **Tuesday** **Education Seminar – Navigation Lights**
Location: Zoom - Call-in details will be provided closer to the event.
Cost: Free.
Speaker: Jean-Pierre Plé.
Time: 7:00pm to 8:30pm.
Topic: Lights on Aids to Navigation and on vessels commonly found on the Bay.
Note: **By invitation only.**
Coordinator: Jean-Pierre Plé ple.jpp@gmail.com
To register and for more details, **(Log on first)** click here: Ed Seminar - lights



Oct. 14 **Wednesday** **Mid-Week Day Sail**
Destination: Skipper's Choice.
Cost: $25 - Member or Non-Member.
Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by Oct. 7 (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: Melinda Zimmerman melbay22@gmail.com
To register and for more details, **(Log on first)** click here: 10/14 Day Sail

Oct. 16 **Friday** **Lin Pardey's Evening Fun Ding**

Destination: United Church of Christ of Annapolis, 6 Carvel Circle, Edgewater, Maryland.

Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by Oct. 12 (9:00pm). **Limit to 60 Attendees.**

Coordinator: Janet Gonski jgsunset@yahoo.com

Cost: $30 Registration fee. See article in September *Whisker Pole*.

Time: 6:30 to 9:00pm.

Note: There will be an evening of food, laughter, fun, and silent auction with all profits going to support the mission of CRAB.

To register or donate, **(Log on first)** click here: Lin Pardey's

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Oct. 17-18 **Saturday – Sunday** **Chill Cook-off Cruise**

Destination: Maryland Yacht Club, Patapsco Rv. Sail or Drive in. **Skippers, reserve your slip for MYC through Dockwa.**

Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by Oct. 6 (9:00pm).

Coordinator: Janet Gonski jgsunset@yahoo.com

Cost: $70 + pot of chili per boat. $20 + side dish to share - For Saturday Drive-in.

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

To register and for more details, **(Log on first)** click here: Chili Cook-off

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Oct. 22 **Thursday** **Mid-Week Day Sail**

Destination: Skipper's Choice.

Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by Oct. 14 (9:00pm).

Coordinator: Carole Jordan seajay2844@gmail.com

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.

To register and for more details, **(Log on first)** click here: 10/22 Day Sail

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Oct. 24-25 **Saturday – Sunday** **Rockin' to Rhode River Cruise**

Destination: Outside Sheephead Cove, Rhode River.

Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by Oct. 13 (9:00pm).

Coordinator: Dorothy Nicholson dorothy.m.nicholson@verizon.net

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.

To register and for more details, **(Log on first)** click here: Rocking the Rhode

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Oct. 31- Nov. 1 **Saturday – Sunday** **Halloween Cruise & Party**

Destination: Pirates Cove Marina, Galesville. **Skippers, contact Pirates Cove Marina to reserve your slip. (301) 928-6605.**

Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by Oct. 20 (9:00pm). Party only Deadline: Oct. 28.

Coordinator: Barbara Wise Bwise8426@gmail.com

Cost: $118 - Member or Non-Member. $48 - Party only.

Note: Non-Member may sail once with a Member and must mail a separate Registration Form with a check to the coordinator. **Costume Judging begins at 6:00pm** Event Managers: Melinda Z. & Kerry S.

To register and for more details, **(Log on first)** click here: Halloween Cruise/Party

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Nov. 5 **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.



Nov. 6-8 **Friday – Sunday** **OysterFest Cruise**

Destination: CBMM, St Michaels, Miles River. **Skippers, reserve your slip through Dockwa on October 7, 12:01am.**

Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by Oct. 27 (9:00pm).

Coordinator: Linda Casucci casuccilj@gmail.com

Cost: $105 - Member or Non-Member. **There is a separate charge to attend the OysterFest on Saturday.**

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

To register and for more details, **(Log on first)** click here: Oyster Fest

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Nov. 14 **Saturday** **Cruising Appreciation (Wrap-up) Meeting/Party**

Destination: Galesville Memorial Hall.

BY INVITATION ONLY.

Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by Nov. 4 (9:00pm).

Coordinator: Laura Keough Laurasan2@yahoo.com

Cost: Free to invited Participating Skippers, First Mates and Coordinators only. $20 for Guest of Invitees.

Time: 11:00am to 3:00pm.

To register and for more details, **(Log on first)** click here. Wrap-up Meeting

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Nov. 15 **Sunday** **Brunch**

Location: DoubleTree Hotel, Annapolis, MD.

Speaker: Don Shomette; Historian, Author, and Underwater Archaeologist.

Topic: Pirates of the Chesapeake.

Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by Nov. 10 (5:00pm).

Coordinator: Linda Casucci casuccilj@gmail.com

Cost: $43 - Brunch. $45 - After deadline and walk-ins.

Time: **Walk-ins CANNOT be guaranteed a seat.** 11:00am Social Hour. 11:45am Brunch. 1:00pm Program.

Note: To be held in the Ballroom. **Remember to bring Food Bank donations.**

To register and for more details, **(Log on first)** click here: 11/15 Brunch

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Nov. 22 **Sunday** **Regional Pre-Thanksgiving Dinners**

Location: Annapolis, Bethesda, Delaware, plus TBD.

Deadline: Registrations must be received by Nov. 17 (9:00pm).

Coordinator: To sign-up as a guest, contact: Hope Andruss, hopeda@verizon.net or text 703-973-0865.

Cost: Contribution up to $15 and dish to share, coordinated with host/ess.

Note: To volunteer to be a host/ess, contact: Hope Andruss, hopeda@verizon.net

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Dec. 3 **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.



Dec. 12 **Saturday** **Parade of Lights Viewing**

Location: Annapolis Waterfront Hotel, Marriott's Autograph Collection, Annapolis, MD.

Coordinator and Hostess: Sandy Rosswork. sgrosswork@aol.com 443-223-8239

Cost: $TBD per person. Plus, bring an appetizer or dessert.

Time: 5:00pm in room, 6:00pm Parade starts.

Note: Contact the coordinator directly. **Space limit of 25.**



Dec. 13 **Sunday** **Brunch**

Location: DoubleTree Hotel, Annapolis, MD.

Speaker: Jeff Holland; Poet Laureate of Annapolis, Songwriter, Essayist.

Topic: Tall Tales and Songs of the Chesapeake Bay

Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by Dec. 8 (5:00pm).

Cost: $43 - Brunch.
$45 - After deadline and walk-ins.

Time: **Walk-ins CANNOT be guaranteed a seat.** 11:00am Social Hour. 11:45am Brunch. 1:00pm Program.

Note: To be held in the Ballroom.

Coordinator: Carole Jordan seajay2844@gmail.com

To register and for more details, **(Log on first)** click here: 12/13 Brunch



Feb. 20 to March 2 **7-day Trip or 10-Day Trip**

Destination: Saint Martin/Sint Maarten. With Dream Yacht Charter.

Note: Details can be found on: St. Martin 2027 Presentation

Coordinator: Coco Lanquetuit - clanquetuit@hotmail.com

Early 2027 – Bareboat Cruise

Cost: (See Presentation) = Boat Cost and Admin Fee. Air Fare and Insurance are separate.

Note: To Download Registration Form with Payment Information, click here: St. Martin Application



Food Pantry Collection

November 15th Brunch

By Janet Gonski

As in previous years, we will donate food collected at our November brunch to the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. I recently heard an interview with the Maryland Food Bank about the increased needs because of higher price of groceries and one response really hit me: When asked if they were concerned about reduced donations and support, how it would impact their outreach, the answer was that they would "continue with [their] mission and choose to believe that the donations will come."

Food Banks are encouraging healthy donations that have no-added sugar, low sodium, whole grains, and high fiber foods. And, If possible, please select items in plastic or metal containers.

We realize that many SOS members are from other mid-Atlantic areas and want to encourage your participation in reducing food insecurity in your home regions. So, we are providing these links:

- Central Pennsylvania Food Bank
- Maryland Food Bank: Maryland Food Bank - A Hunger Relief Non-Profit | Donate Now
- Federation of Virginia Food Banks: Fighting Hunger Across Virginia | Federation of Virginia Food Banks
- Food Bank of Delaware: Food Bank of Delaware

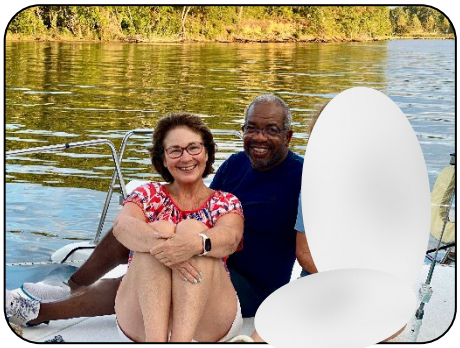
Labor Day 3-Day Cruise

NOTE: Extended Cruise started with the Labor Day 3-Day Cruise.

(All names are listed L to R)



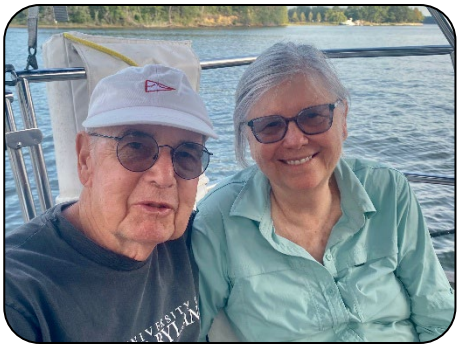
Raft-Up



Genienne Navarro, Tony Welch, and (PNA)



Mary Beth Roska, Genienne Navarro, Tony Welch, and John Rogers (Skipper & Raft Caption)



Dennis Krizek and Mary Moore



Dancing on the deck of *s/v Jazzy Cat.*



Laura Keough and Laura Gwinn

Photographs submitted by Samia AbdelWahed



Tony Welch, Samia AbdelWahed and Genienne Navarro



Carole Jordan and Chuck Fort



Margaret Meginnis, (PNA), and Daggie Mracna

Photograph NOT ALLOWED (PNA)

PHOTO EDITOR: Bob Wright – robert.wright.bowie@gmail.com

Please include names with your photos so we can learn everyone's names.

Fall Extended Cruise

(All names are listed L to R)



An evening cruise on the schooner SULTANA.



Carol Niemand, Tom Fort, Laura Gwinn, Margaret Schwartz, Chuck Fort, Julie Fort, Cindy Gross, Laura Keough, Carole Jordan, Linda Casucci



Unknown willing sailor to help with repairs aloft



Fall Extended Cruise photographs submitted by Laura Gwinn

Morning Dancing on Jazzy Cat
Dancing: Genienne Navarro & Tony Walsh.
Watching:
(left); John Rogers & Cindy Gross;
(right) Chuck Fort & Samia AbdelWahed

More Anniversary Photos



Samia AbdelWahed and Karla Addess



Melinda Zimmerman, Rob Swick, Noreen McGuire, and Denise Fairman



Dennis Krizek and Samia AbdelWahed

Anniversary photographs submitted by Samia AbdelWahed

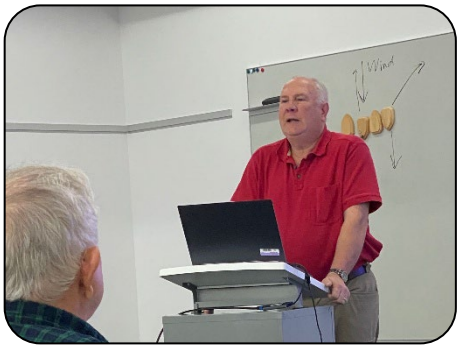
PHOTO EDITOR: Bob Wright – robert.wright.bowie@gmail.com
Please include names with your photos so we can learn everyone's names.

Rafting Semiar (March 2025)

(All names are listed L to R)



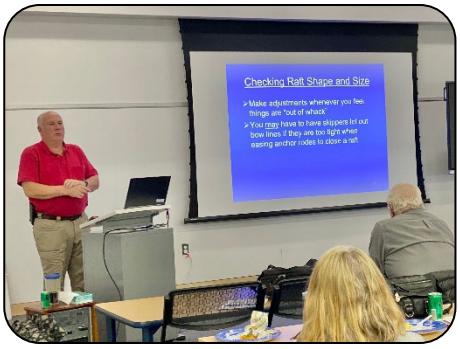
Chuck Fort and participants



Speaker: Chuck Fort



Dramatic Wind Shift



Checking Raft Shape and Size

FSC: Becoming a First Mate: A Personal Experience

Host: Barbara Wise



Speaker: Jean-Pierre Plé



Jon Bernheimer and Nancy Parsons



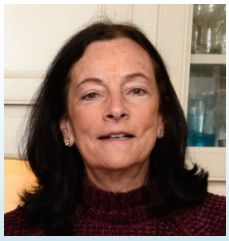
Tony Welch, Genienne Navaro, and Melinda Zimmerman



Hope Andruss, Tony Welch, and Genienne Navaro

Rafting Seminar Photographs submitted by Samia AbdelWahed
FSC 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.



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 (Happy Hour Editor)
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: Oct 7th 5:30-7:00 PM
TRUE CHESAPEAKE, 3300 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 400, Baltimore, MD 21211. 443-913-6374.
https://TrueChesapeake.com
Email coordinator to be added to notification email.
COORD: JOSH singlesonsailboats@JoshuaGraff.com

1st Wednesday
NOVA/DC: Oct 7th 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 – hopeda@verizon.net

2nd Thursday
ELLICOTT CITY: Oct 8th 5:00-7:30 PM
LA PALAPA GRILL, 8307 Main Street, Ellicott City MD 21043. 410-465-0070. **www.lapalapagrill.com**
COORDINATORS: KATHY – mskathha@gmail.com
JANET – jgsunset@yahoo.com

3rd Wednesday
WILMINGTON: Oct 21st 5:00 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 6PM. 302-429-7427.
https://riverfrontde.mytimothysrestaurants.com
COORDINATOR: JULIE – jafort@comcast.net

3rd Thursday
ROCKVILLE: Oct 15th 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: Oct 15th 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: Oct 22nd 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, and 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 notifiy me earlier to delete or continue.
- 75 word limit.

Nancy Briggs, Classified Page Editor

BOAT FOR SALE

BOAT FOR SALE: Matilda 20 trailer able day sailer/cruiser LOA 19.5' LWL 16.3' Beam 7.9' Draft 4.2' retractable keel Mast 23.5' Displacement 1550 lbs, Fiberglass hull, full cabin Includes trailer, mainsail, foresail, bumpers, life jackets, 4HP outboard motor, and WHF radio. Asking $3,500 Contact Ed at 610-639-2161. 10-26

FOR SALE

FOR SALE:
Ladies' Gill *offshore*, *heavy-duty* OS2 JACKET AND BIB PANTS. Waterproof, breathable, windproof, great for open ocean boating. Size 8, but fits size 12 comfortably. Perfect, like new condition. Selling as set for $250. (Catalogue price is $640.) Want additional details? Contact Ellen at espenn16co@gmail.com or 303-635-6766. Call only, no texts. 12-26





(OysterFest Cont'd from page 6)

Aside from the OysterFest, SOS will have a Happy Hour on Friday and Saturday nights. Bring an appetizer or dessert and your own beverages. Often, groups go out to eat after Happy Hour or have dinner on the boat. There is also kayaking (reserve your kayak early!), biking, two places for wine tastings, and one for rum tasting. Tour the town's Halloween decorations, restaurants, and shops!

If you drive-in, there are plenty of hotels, inns, and B&Bs.

If you sail-in, Friday leave is necessary if booking a slip (**2-night minimum**). Club will reimburse one night of the slip fee if the skipper has taken at least one crew from coordination. Crew should be prepared to share in the cost of the second night.

Skippers, reserve your slip through Dockwa on October 7, 12:01am. Their slips fill up quickly. To get a slip at the CBMM, you must have a membership there at the Mariner level or higher.

If you are not a CBMM member, another good option for a slip is at Higgins Yacht Yard next door at https://higginsyachtyard.com or (410) 745-9303. Or, you can anchor out and dingy in or use the water taxi.

For tickets and more information visit: https://cbmm.org/event/oysterfest/

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Membership Numbers

	Sept 2026	Sept 2025	Sept 2024	Sept 2023
Members	243	251	259	235
Skippers	62	62	68	70
Lifetime Members	70	76	79	87
Lifetime Skippers	21	23	21	20
Inactive Members	13	15	16	18
Totals	409	427	443	430

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	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 Co-Chairs		
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	ppttracey@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

Fall Activities

Goose Cruise – Oct. 3-4

Weekend Day Sails – Oct. 10, 11

Mid-Week Day Sails – Oct. 14, 22

Chili Cook-off Cruise and Party – Oct. 17-18

Rocking to the Rhode – Oct. 24-25

Halloween Cruise and Party – Oct. 31-Nov. 1

OysterFest Cruise – Nov. 6-8