



May 2025, Vol. 47, No 5

Cruising Corner

We have kicked off the 2025 Cruising Season – 85 days of sailing on our beautiful Chesapeake Bay!!! In our wake is the cruising kickoff, flare & safety training, one of three dockside trainings, raft-up training, spring training – so now we are ready to go!!

If you are new to the club, didn't attend these trainings, or have low experience – no worries. We want you to come out and sail! We are very inclusive of all levels of experience and will match you with the appropriate day sail/cruise, boat, and crew to enable a safe and fun experience!

We started with a mid-week Day Sail on April 30 which hopefully removed the cobwebs from our boats and brains and will end with a Blue Lips Cruise on Nov 8 and 9, where we will have well-honed skills and friendships.

There are a variety of types of cruises in the schedule, providing you a good selection based upon your desires – day sails, weekend cruises, extended cruises on Memorial, Independence Day, and Labor Day.

Please check the cruising schedule: https://www.singlesonsailboats.org/assets/documents/cruising/2025SOS_Cruising_Calendar.pdf and register soon!

The longest trip is a 2-week extended CBDB cruise to Yorktown, on May 24. See details below!

I want to thank the many members that are working tirelessly behind the scenes to plan, coordinate, and execute our cruises!

See you out on the water!

Laura Keough,
lurasan2@yahoo.com

Dana Stoffregen,
stoffregendana@gmail.com
Cruising Co-chairs

SLIPS FOR ANNIVERSARY CRUISE

Did you know that SOS gets a significant discount on facility usage at Port Annapolis when we have 15 or more boats in the slips? Even if your boat is nearby, we encourage you to attend by boat to help us take advantage of this discount.

CBDB IS BACK FOR 2025

by Laura Gwinn

Does lots of sailing without the cost of flights or charters appeal to you? How about exploring new rivers, creeks, ports of call in the comfort of a boat you are familiar with.

The Chesapeake Bay Domestic Bareboat (CBDB) aka the Extended Bay Cruise, is back for 2025. Mark your calendars for 10 days to 2 weeks May 24-June 8.

While details are still being discussed, the general plan will be to go from the Memorial Day cruise on the Choptank /Little Choptank to Yorktown (2 days) and Cape Charles (2 days) then work our way back up the Bay.

Each boat will be responsible for their expenses, although there will be a small cruising fee for crew.

There will be a suggested itinerary, but each boat will determine how closely they want to follow it. Decide for yourself if you want to anchor or use a marina; do you want to go to a different destination?

Skippers will be responsible for inviting their own crew, although I will maintain a list of interested crew to share with Skippers who may need additional members.

Skippers: If you are interested, please contact me now at: laura.gwinn1953@gmail.com

Crew: I will maintain a list to share with Skippers. DO NOT register until you are invited by a skipper!

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

Susan Zevin, Commodore



Ahoy, Mates,
As we launch into another sailing season, it's a great time to reflect on how far we've come—and what lies ahead. For

SOS, the rhythm of the year follows a steady beat: winter planning, spring prep, summer sailing.

Planning is when we take the long view—setting priorities, aligning finances, and shaping programs that support our mission. The SOS brand stands for excellence in education, safety, sailing, and socializing. This year we kicked things off with a December Board Retreat with many new faces in leadership positions. Since then, we've focused on understanding how the club functions, improving key processes, and documenting roles and responsibilities in our Continuity of Operations plans.

We listened, shared ideas, and tackled priorities: post-COVID financial recovery, modernizing our internal and public-facing systems, adding leadership depth, and streamlining crew coordination. With that foundation, we rolled out our winter, spring, and summer programming.

Preparation and Operations are where the "keel meets the water." This is the hands-on work of making plans real.

Our first big challenge: Education Day at Anne Arundel Community College. With 123 participants (including walk-ins), 29 presenters, and 19 volunteers, it was a hit. Huge thanks to Mylin Jordan and team for pulling it off—and breaking even financially.

Our final winter brunch brought a strong crowd and a visual treat: our

SOS photo competition and retrospective. Speaker Dave Blecman shared expert tips and humor, highlighting what makes a photo pop. He even offered to lead a spring photography seminar to encourage more members to capture the SOS experience. Thanks to George and Shirley Hollendursky and Ned Schwartz, that seminar already is scheduled for June 28.

Spring training rolled out with more preparatory programming: Flare and Safety Day at Camp Letts (always a hands-on favorite), the Cruising Kickoff for skippers, and Dockside Training for crew.

Now, in May, the real fun begins—we're on the water! That means full-time operations to ensure safe and sound cruising. Every crew member must sign a waiver and hand a sealed medical form to the skipper before boarding. Pre-cruise safety checkouts on board aren't just formalities—they're critical. Skippers are tracking weather days in advance. The Bay is beautiful, but fast-changing. Storms, heat, late-night raft break ups, anchor resets—our skippers and crew are ready 24/7.

It takes all of us to make the season work. Here's to a safe, adventurous, and fun summer and fall! With lots of PHOTOS!

Susan, Commodore

Welcome New Members

Mike Baker, Lothian MD

Phil Gallagher, Annapolis MD

Eric Heck, North Wales PA

Michele Kowansky, Cambridge MD

Robin O'Neill, Chevy Chase MD

Bill Shoemaker, Edgewater MD

Whisker Pole NEWSLETTER

Published Monthly

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15th of Month Submission Deadlines

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Boat US Discount Code #GA80619S

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DNR Party on the Wye River May 17-18, 2025

It's off to the races and time to 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, May 17-18. The theme for this year's party is "Off to the Races!" to coincide with the 150th running of the Preakness on Saturday, the 17th.

Whether you're on a boat or driving in, get ready for great food, drinks, music, and dancing. This is a wonderful time to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones.

This year's menu includes Pulled Pork, BBQ Chicken, Salads, Drinks, and Desserts. A vegetarian entree is also available. Please indicate your preference upon registering. Music will be provided by *DJ Infinite Sounds*, with a wide selection of songs sure to get everyone on their feet.

Those cruising in will anchor and dinghy ashore.

Anyone arriving early Saturday is welcome to assist us with party setup and prep – extra hands are always a help! You're also free to bike/hike around the beautiful grounds or just relax and watch the SOS fleet arrive. If you're driving in, please bring folding chairs so there is plenty of seating for relaxing by the creek and sitting around the firepit! Speaking of the fire pit, we'll also be making S'mores so be sure to save room for a second round of dessert!

DNR Schedule of Events:

- 4:15 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 Bar Opens
- 4:30 Appetizers
- 5:30 Dinner
- 6:15 Dessert
- 7:00 Music & Dancing

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



47th Anniversary Party Cruise and Shore Party at Port Annapolis June 21-22, 2025

Event Managers: Noreen McGuire
and Melinda Zimmerman

Ahoy! Please mark your calendars now for SOS's *47th Anniversary Cruise and Shore Party*, June 21-22 at Port Annapolis Marina. There will be appetizers, drinks, dinner (including vegetarian options) and dessert, along with great music provided by *DJ Infinite Sounds* to get us all on our feet. (Feel free to email us with any musical requests). This is a great time to reminisce with old friends and make new ones! (**All attendees are required to check-in even if you already have a "permanent" SOS name badge.**)

Skippers, please note that the Marina offers us a discounted rate for use of their party space if we reserve at least 15 slips for overnight, so we hope you plan to stay at the Marina even if your home port is close by! And as a

benefit, those who reserve a slip will also have access to the Marina's beautiful swimming pool and all other boater-friendly amenities such as laundry services, showers, restrooms, and pump-out station. Of course, there is plenty of on-site parking for those who wish to drive in; simply navigate to Port Annapolis Marina, 7074 Bembe Beach Rd., Annapolis, MD.

\$102.00 - Member or Non-Member
\$ 64.00 – Party Only

For questions or if you would like to volunteer to help with set-up or clean-up, please contact Noreen at nmcgny@gmail.com or Melinda at melbay22@gmail.com.

SERC Cruise & Drive-in May 2-4, 2025

By Barbara Wingrove,
SERC Director's Circle

SOS will sail to and raft up in the Rhode River on Friday, May 2nd. On Saturday, May 3rd, Skippers and crew will dinghy to Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC). Members may also drive in. You can participate in several events listed below.

- Docent-guided 90-minute tour of SERC research activity. Limited availability (20 per time slot). Sign up for the 10:00 am or 2:00 pm time slot.
- Hike or bicycle on the many trails available.
- Visit the Woodlawn House, a museum containing artifacts of Maryland History found on the property.
- Participate in archaeological dig.
- Listen to a lecture on the French and Indian War by Jim Gibb
- Join in a SOS pot-luck lunch at the pavilion at the Reed Center. (Bring food to share.)

<https://SERC.SI.edu>

Questions: Contact Coordinator
Linda Casucci casuccilj@gmail.com

Which SOS Events Did I Register For?

On the SOS web page, you can easily find a list of every event that you have registered for by following these steps on your computer or cell phone:

- Log in with your password
- Click on “My Profile”
- Click on “My Upcoming Events”
(This option will appear only if you have already registered for future events.)
 - On laptops this will be located to the right of your profile list
 - On cell phones this will be located at bottom of screen

See example below.

My Upcoming Events

SATURDAY, APR 26, 2025	
20250426CruisingKickoff: 2025 Cruising Kick Off	Balance: \$0.00
SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2025	
20250524MemorialDay_CBDB_14day: Memorial Day/CBDB-14 Day Extended	Balance: \$0.00
View My Events	

SOS Database Help Desk



We're pleased to announce the launch of our Database Help Desk, created to provide support for any requests, questions or issues

related to the SOS database. You can contact us at:

dbrequests.sos.org@gmail.com.

To help us assist you more effectively, please provide detailed information when you reach out. Include who is involved, when the issue arose, what the specific problem/request is, and why you need help. Your input will enable us to resolve your concerns or requests more efficiently. Thank you.

Database Team

A Sailors' Guide to Smartphone & Camera Photography

Eastport Annapolis Library
June 28, 10:30 – 12:30 PM

Presenter: David Blecman, an award winning, internationally recognized photographer, instructor, and SOS Photo Contest judge.



David will share

features and tricks that have helped him get the most out of his smartphone's camera. His advice is also applicable to users of traditional cameras.

Today, the latest smartphones are more like cameras than ever before. So, before you head out on your next sailing adventure, learn how easy it is to produce high-quality images with the phone you already own.

With these newly acquired skills, you may be motivated to enter some spectacular images in the 2025 SOS Photo Contest!

Questions: George Hollendursky
hollendu@yahoo.com

Sailing Fitness Program

SOS has a Sailing Fitness program to help members self-assess their physical ability to perform certain sailing tasks. This helps skippers invite a balanced crew to sail on their boats and divide typical sailing tasks. It's similar to the way we ask members to provide information on their Sailing Experience.



As we get ready to start a new sailing season, this is a good time to go in to your profile and update your Sailing Fitness.

Did you have knee replacement surgery and aren't fully recovered yet? Did you pull a muscle in your back? Or did you work hard over the winter to improve your fitness?

Your Sailing Fitness might vary for any number of reasons over the year. We suggest you review it every time you register for a sail.

Thank you in advance for supporting this important SOS Safety program and helping us get a good balance on all our boats.

We look forward to seeing everyone out on the water in our upcoming sailing season!

*Joan Tannen
SOS Safety Chair*

New Zealand Bareboat Cruise Recap

Written by the crew of “Shard”

Crew member Kathy McFadden

This was the first time for crew members Linda Pierce, Jo Young and Kathy McFadden on a SOS bareboat charter. There was a great deal of preparation in advance for the trip. Skipper Jon arranged for the crew to meet at his house for dinner and sail on his boat. All the 38 crew members sailing to New Zealand met for Deb Kaufman’s excellent informational meeting hosted by Michael Sommers.

During our meetings, Jon set the tone for our trip by having all crew members express what they would like to experience on the seven-day sail. That was the theme throughout the trip. First Mate Mark developed a comprehensive spreadsheet that included suggestions of islands to visit, marinas, points of interest and meal preparation.

Being in a confined space with five people for seven days can be overwhelming; however, the experience on our boat was filled with a lot of li. Skipper Jon and First Mate Mark patiently shared the wealth of knowledge as we all worked together.

Skipper Gabi VanWie of the other boat that sailed the first week made arrangements for two extra adventures for both boats. We were special guests at the Devenport Yacht Club on Friday night before we set sail and having dinner at Lin Pardey’s house! (See detailed article in April Whisker Pole.)

Other highlights were spending Tuesday and Thursday nights at the new marina on Waiheke Island. The owner, Tom Warren, joined us on our boat for an excellent Italian dinner prepared by Linda. Tom entertained us with his exciting sailing stories from around the world.

Many of the SOS members have been on numerous bareboat charters, and now I totally understand why!!! Thank you, SOS, for the opportunity.

Skipper Jon Bernheimer:

CharterLink gave us a well-maintained Beneteau Oceanis 41.3 with only a few minor issues. Of my many charters, this was the first where we were expected to report in where we were at the end of each day, where there was a prohibition of running dead downwind if the wind was blowing above a certain strength, and a preference that we stay put at daybreak, again, if the wind was too high.

In week one, the winds were often blowing from where we were headed or from directly behind us. When directly behind us, our genoa gave us a little boost. In a nutshell, with the distances we traveled the first few days, we did less sailing than I expected we would.

The Crew was delightful, the scenery was beautiful, and the people of New Zealand could not have been more friendly or helpful.

First Mate Mark Gordon:

We motored for the first five days in the Hauraki Gulf. That changed, thankfully, on day six. We’d spent the night in Woody Bay on the west side of Rakino Island. After pulling up our hook we headed southeast toward Waiheke Island, planning to spend the night in Waiheke Marina on the southeast corner of the island. It’s a brand-new marina where we’d already stayed for one night and it’s about two hours from Bayswater Marina, where we’d need to drop off the boat the following morning.

The southwest wind was brisk so we decided to sail west along the north side and nearly circumnavigate Waiheke Island. We were making seven knots under sail along the north side so all was good. Even after turning south past Kauri Point on the far eastern edge of Waiheke and passing by Man O’ War Bay we were making six knots. Passing the mussel farm and tacking a few times we continued onward then turned along the south side of Waiheke. The wind held and we kept at it. We made the marina before 4 PM; those hot showers were calling!

Crew Member Linda Pierce:

Living in a small town in Maine for the last 50 years, I never imagined myself half way around the world. The excitement and anticipation for New Zealand was incredible. My fondest memories are of the people. New Zealanders are the warmest, kindest and most welcoming folks I’ve ever met.

Along with that, the crew members I lived with for seven days on the Shard are smart, flexible and fun! We three women laughed so hard every day and created a friendship that will last a lifetime. This was my first SOS cruise in my second year as a member and I was the least experienced sailor. The crew was kind and patient and made my experience one that I will remember with a smile.

Thanks to our amazing crew photographer **Jo Young** who documented a memorable trip for all.



Crew members: Linda Pierce, Jo Young, and Kathy McFadden.



Skipper Jon Bernheimer and First Mate Mark Gordon



Jon Bernheimer and Linda Pierce walk on the beach

SOS Waiver of Liability

You may be curious about the meaning of the terms "Certification," "Certification Name," and "Certification Date" on your profile. These fields confirm that you have digitally signed a Cruising Waiver of Liability. Starting this year, the waiver will be presented to you for your digital signature when registering for a cruise, whether online or via a hard copy.

Below is a preview of the waiver you will be asked to digitally sign when you register for a cruise. Please contact the database committee if you have any questions or concerns: dbrequests.sos.org@gmail.com

SOS Waiver of Liability (2/2025)

I, the undersigned, understand that there are inherent risks involved with boating including, but not limited to, equipment failure, perils of the sea, acts of other participants, serious bodily injury, and adverse sea and weather conditions, and I hereby assume all such risks.

I understand that I have a duty to exercise reasonable care for my own safety and agree to do so.

I assert that I am physically fit according to Singles on Sailboats, Inc. ("SOS") criteria, to operate and/or ride on a boat and to perform the tasks necessary to maintain safe operation of the vessel. I will not hold any vessel upon which I may board during an SOS event, or its agents, Board members, or other associated personnel responsible if I am injured in any way (medically, accidentally or otherwise) while participating in an SOS event.

I agree to forever discharge, release and hold harmless any vessel upon which I may board during an SOS event, as well as SOS, its agents, Board members or other associated personnel, from any and all responsibility or liability for any and all injuries or damages which may arise from my participation in any SOS events ashore or afloat. I agree not to make a claim against or sue any of the above parties for injuries or damages, including, but not limited to, claims for emotional distress, with the exception of injury or damage arising from intentional, wanton or gross negligence.

Terms:

- **Certification = Agree (Yes) to Waiver or Disagree (No)**
- **Certification Name = Digital Signature of Waiver**
- **Certification Date = Date Waiver Signed**

Requests for Blasts

The Database Team has a new blast policy which will allow for the inclusion of last-minute action items:

- All requests must be sent to dbrequests.sos.org@gmail.com so that any of the team can update the scheduled Blast contents.
- Blasts go out Sunday evening at 5:00pm
- Requests for Blasts must be received by the Saturday before at 7:00am.
- Blasts will be simple text documents with clickable links as needed.



Receiving multiple Blasts in one week is no fun!

Singles on Sailboats 2025 Cruising Calendar

Date(s)	Cruise/Location
Feb 22- Mar 08	Bareboat: New Zealand Wk. 1
Mar 01-08 or 11	Bareboat: New Zealand Wk. 2
Mar 8	CPR Training, Annapolis Fire Dept.
Mar 15	Raft Captains Training, Eastport-Annapolis Neck Library, Annapolis
April 5	Spring Training, Anne Arundel Com. College
April 19	AM - Flare and Safety Day, Camp Letts, Edgewater
April 19	PM - Dockside Training
April 26	Cruising Kickoff, Galesville Memorial Hall
April 27	Dockside Training
April 30	Mid-week Day Sail – Wed
May 2-4	SERC Tour 3-Day Cruise, Rhode River, Sail & Dinghy/Drive-in, *Fri leave for raft-up
May 6	Mid-week Day Sail – Tues
May 10	Weekend Day Sail
May 11	Weekend Day Sail
May 17-18	DNR Cruise, Granary Creek, Wye River, Sail & Dinghy/Drive-in, *Option for Fri leave
May 21	Blue Angels Day Sail – Wed
May 24-26	Memorial Day 3-Day, Choptank River
May 24- Jun 08	Chesapeake Bay Domestic Bareboat (CBDB), Yorktown, VA
June 3	Mid-week Day Sail – Tues
June 7	Weekend Day Sail
June 8	Weekend Day Sail
June 14-15	First Mate & General Cruise, Round Bay, Severn River
June 19	Mid-week Day Sail – Thurs
June 21-22	47th Anniversary Cruise Port Annapolis, Back Creek, Sail/Drive-in
June 28	Weekend Day Sail
June 29	Dinghy Dance
June 29	Weekend Day Sail
July 4-6	Independence Day 3-Day Cruise, St. Michaels, *Fri leave needed if reserving marina (2-night min.)
July 8	Mid-week Day Sail – Tues
July 12-13	North & South Raft-ups, Loc. based on boat signups
July 17	Mid-week Day Sail – Thurs
July 19	Dockside Training

Date(s)	Cruise/Location
July 20	Weekend Day Sail
July 26-27	Appetizers & Desserts Cruise, Hunting Creek, Miles River
Aug 2	Weekend Day Sail or Power Boat Raft-up
Aug 3	Weekend Day Sail
Aug 9	Town Meeting, Galesville Memorial Hall
Aug 10	Weekend Day Sail
Aug 12	Mid-week Day Sail – Tues
Aug 16-17	Seafood Feast Cruise, Lankford Marina, Chester River, Sail/Drive-in
Aug 30- Sept 1	Labor Day 3-Day Cruise, Chestertown, MD, Chester River
Aug 30- Sept 4	Labor Day 6-Day Extended Cruise, Chestertown, Chester River
Sept 6-13	Bareboat Cruise: Lake Huron, Gore Bay, Ontario, Canada
Sept 6	Weekend Day Sail
Sept 7	Weekend Day Sail
Sept 10	Mid-week Day Sail – Wed
Sept 13-14	Return to the Scene (Monster Raft), Drum Pt., Wye River
Sept 20-21	Sail to the Wind, Loc. based on boat signups & wind forecast
Sept 25	Mid-week Day Sail – Thurs
Sept 27-28	Octoberfest Cruise, Castle Marina, Chester River, Sail/Drive-in
Oct 1	Mid-week Day Sail – Wed
Oct 4-5	Goose Cruise, Corsica River
Oct 11	Weekend Day Sail
Oct 12	Weekend Day Sail
Oct 16	Mid-week Day Sail – Thurs
Oct 18-19	Chili Cook-off, DNR, Granary Cr., Wye River, Sail & Dinghy/Drive-in
Oct 23	Mid-week Day Sail – Thurs
Oct 24-26	OysterFest Cruise, CBMM, St. Michaels, Sail/Drive-in *Fri leave needed if reserving marina (2-night min.)
Nov 1	Weekend Day Sail
Nov 2	Weekend Day Sail
Nov 8–9	Blue Lips Cruise, Loc TBD
Nov 15	Cruising Wrap-Up, Galesville Memorial Hall
Dec 13	EYC Light Parade
	<i>As of Feb 28, 2025</i>

Fleet Exercises and Shore Leave

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.**

The postmark is used as the mail in cutoff/deadline date.

Note: Individual request for refunds will incur 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 1

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.



Smithsonian

May 2-4

Friday – Sunday

SERC Tour Cruise

Destination:

Rhode Rv. Sail & Dinghy/Drive-in.
Smithsonian Environmental
Research Center - Edgewater, MD.

Cost: \$57 - Sailing - Member or Non-Member.
\$10 - Drive-in.

Deadline:

Mail and Online registrations must be received by Apr. 22 (9:00pm).

Note: More details in *Whisker Pole* article.

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

Coordinator:

Linda Casucci casucciLJ@gmail.com

To register and for more details, (**Log on first**) click here: [SERC Cruise](#)



May 6

Tuesday

Mid-Week Day Sail

Destination:

Skipper's Choice.

Cost: \$19 - Member or Non-Member.

Deadline:

Mail and Online registrations must be received by May 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:

Michael Sommer at msommer414@gmail.com

To register and for more details, (**Log on first**) click here: [5/6 Day Sail](#)



May 10

Saturday

Weekend Day Sail

Destination:

Skipper's Choice.

Cost: \$19 - Member or Non-Member.

Deadline:

Mail and Online registrations must be received by May 5 (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:

Mary Chevalier mary7570@yahoo.com

To register and for more details, (**Log on first**) click here: [5/10 Day Sail](#)



May 11

Sunday

Weekend Day Sail

Destination:

Skipper's Choice.

Cost: \$19 - Member or Non-Member.

Deadline:

Mail and Online registrations must be received by May 5 (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:

Mary Chevalier mary7570@yahoo.com

To register and for more details, (**Log on first**) click here: [5/11 Day Sail](#)



shutterstock.com - 169469201

May 17-18 Saturday – Sunday

Destination: Granary Creek, Wye East River.
Option for Friday leave.
Deadline: Mail and Online registrations must be received by May 7 (9:00pm).
Party only by May 12.

Coordinator: Cherie Comly mectwist@aol.com
To register and for more details, (**Log on first**) click here: [DNR Cruise](#)

DNR Cruise/Party – Off to the Races

Cost: \$93 - Member or Non-Member.
\$55 - 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 21 Wednesday**

Destination: Skipper's Choice.
Deadline: Mail and Online registrations must be received by May 15 (9:00pm).

Coordinator: Barbara Wingrove bkwingrove@outlook.com
To register and for more details, (**Log on first**) click here: [Blue Angles Day Sail](#)

Blue Angels Day Sail

Cost: \$19 - 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 24-26 Saturday – Monday**

Destination: Choptank River.
Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by May 13 (9:00pm).

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

Memorial Day Cruise

Cost: \$57 - 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 24 to June 8 16 Day – Saturday - Sunday**

Destination: Memorial Day Cruise – Choptank. Then Yorktown/Cape Charles, Chesapeake Bay.
Deadline: Mail and online registrations must be received by May 13 (9:00pm).

Coordinator: Laura Gwinn laura.gwinn1953@gmail.com
To register and for more details, (**Log on first**) click here: [CBDB Extended Cruise](#)

Chesapeake Bay Domestic Bareboat Cruise

Cost: \$57 + Crew self-supporting during the cruise - Member or Non-member.
(options for 10 or 16 days) Skipper choice.
Note: Before registering, contact Laura Gwinn with your interest in this cruise. Register after receiving an invitation by your Skipper.

**June 3 Tuesday**

Destination: Skipper's Choice.
Deadline: Mail and Online registrations must be received by May 29 (9:00pm).

Coordinator: Michael Sommer at msommer414@gmail.com
To register and for more details, (**Log on first**) click here: [6/3 Day Sail](#)

Mid-Week Day Sail

Cost: \$19 - 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 5 Thursday**

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

Board Meeting

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

**June 7 Saturday**

Destination: Skipper's Choice.
Deadline: Mail and Online registrations must be received by June 2 (9:00pm).

Coordinator: Carole Jordan seajay2844@gmail.com
To register and for more details, (**Log on first**) click here: [6/7 Day Sail](#)

Weekend Day Sail

Cost: \$19 - 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 8****Sunday****Weekend Day Sail**

Destination: Skipper's Choice.
Deadline: Mail and Online registrations must be received by June 2 (9:00pm).
Coordinator: Carole Jordan seajay2844@gmail.com
 To register and for more details, (Log on first) click here: [6/8 Day Sail](#)

Cost: \$19 - 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 14-15 Saturday – Sunday****General Cruise**

Destination: Round Bay, Severn River.
Deadline: Mail and Online registrations must be received by June 4 (9:00pm).
Coordinator: Bev Nash beverlynash@verizon.net
 To register and for more details, (Log on first) click here: [General Cruise](#)

Cost: \$38 - 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 14-15 Saturday – Sunday****First Mates' Sail**

Destination: Round Bay, Severn River.
Deadline: Mail and Online registrations must be received by June 4 (9:00pm).
BY INVITATION ONLY.
Coordinator: Bev Nash beverlynash@verizon.net
 To register and for more details, (Log on first) click here: [FM Cruise](#)

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.

**June 19 Tuesday****Mid-Week Day Sail**

Destination: Skipper's Choice.
Deadline: Mail and Online registrations must be received by June 12 (9:00pm).
Coordinator: Barbara Wingrove bkwingrove@outlook.com
 To register and for more details, (Log on first) click here: [6/19 Day Sail](#)

Cost: \$19 - 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 21-22 Saturday – Sunday****47th Anniversary Cruise & Party**

Destination: Port Annapolis Marina, Back Creek, Severn River.
Deadline: Mail and Online registrations must be received by June 11 (9:00pm).
(Party limit 100, so be sure to sign up early!).
Coordinator: Molly Harrison & Ned Schwartz mollyned@verizon.net
 To register and for more details, (Log on first) click here: [Anniversary Party](#)

Cost: \$102 - Member or Non-Member.
 Party only: \$64.
Note: Non-Member may sail once with a member and must mail a separate Registration form with a check to the coordinator.
Party Managers: Noreen McGuire & Melinda Zimmerman.

**June 28 Saturday****Weekend Day Sail**

Destination: Skipper's Choice.
Deadline: Mail and Online registrations must be received by June 23 (9:00pm).
Coordinator: Esther Massey estheraamd@gmail.com
 To register and for more details, (Log on first) click here: [6/28 Day Sail](#)

Cost: \$19 - 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 28 Saturday
Location: Eastport-Annapolis Neck Library
 Annapolis, MD 21403
Speaker: David Blecman, professional
 photographer & SOS photo judge
Topic: Sailors Guide to Photography
Deadline: Mail and online registrations must
 be received by June 24 (9:00pm).
Coordinator: Shirley Brooks shirleybbrooks@yahoo.com

**Seminar: A Sailors Guide to
 Smartphone & Camera Photography**

Cost: \$5 – Member or Non-Member
Time: 10:30am to 12:30pm.
Limit to 65 attendees.
Note: Coffee and light snack provided.

To register and for more details, **(Log on first)** click here [Smart Phone Camera Seminar](#)



June 29 Sunday
Destination: Skipper's Choice.
Deadline: Mail and Online registrations must
 be received by June 23 (9:00pm).
Coordinator: Esther Massey estheraamd@gmail.com

Weekend Day Sail

Cost: \$19 - 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: [6/29 Day Sail](#)



June 29 Sunday
Destination: Annapolis, MD – Private Home.
 (Directions sent upon registration).
Deadline: Mail and Online registrations must
 be received by June 21 (9:00pm).
Space limited.
Coordinator: Joan Tannen jtkeuka@gmail.com

Dinghy Dance Seminar

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.

To register and for more details, **(Log on first)** [click here TBD](#)



July 3 Thursday
Location: Zoom option only. Contact
 Commodore if interested in attending.
commodore@singlesonsailboats.org

Board Meeting

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



July 4-6 Friday – Sunday
Destination: St Michaels, Miles River.
Deadline: Mail and online registrations must
 be received by June 24 (9:00pm).
Coordinator: Laura Keough Laurasan2@yahoo.com

Independence Day Cruise

Cost: \$57 - 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: [TBD](#)



July 8 Tuesday
Destination: Skipper's Choice.
Deadline: Mail and Online registrations must
 be received by June 12 (9:00pm).
Coordinator: Heide Harper Heidepatternpro@gmail.com

Mid-Week Day Sail

Cost: \$19 - 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: [7/8 Day Sail](#)



July 12-13 Saturday – Sunday
Destination: Based on boat signups.
Deadline: Mail and Online registrations must
 be received by July 2 (9:00pm).
Coordinator: Dorothy Nicholson Dorothy.m.nicholson@verizon.net

North & South Raft-ups Cruise

Cost: \$38 - 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: [TBD](#)



Sept. 6 - 13 8-Day Trip Saturday to Sunday 2025 Fall Bareboat Cruise

Destination: Lake Huron,
Gore Bay, Ontario, Canada.

Note: Openings still available.

Coordinator: Carole Jordan seajay2844@gmail.com

Cost: Members \$1500 = Boat Cost and Admin Fee.
Air Fare and Insurance are separate.

Note: **To Download Registration Form with Payment Information** [2025-Lake-Huron-Charter](#)

SERC Cruise – May 3

Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, 647 Contees Wharf Road, Edgewater

From US 50:

Take exit 23A onto MD-2 South

Keep left to continue onto MD-2 South / Solomons Island Rd.

Turn left onto Solomons Island Rd. and continue for about 5 miles

Turn left onto MD-214 / Central Ave

Follow MD-214 / Central Ave. East to the traffic light

Turn right onto MD-468 / Muddy Creek Road

Proceed about 1 mile, then turn left onto Contees Wharf Road.

You'll see a brown Smithsonian Environmental Research Center sign at the turn.



Flare and Safety Day – April 19

YMCA Camp Letts, 4003 Camp Letts Road, Edgewater, MD 21037.

From Annapolis take Route 2 South (Solomons Island Road) towards Edgewater, then take a left onto MD 214 East. Go 3 miles and turn right onto Camp Letts Road (shortly after the BP gas station on the left). Follow for 1.5 miles into camp.

DNR Cruise and Party – May 17-18

DNR Natural Resources Management Area (DNR-NRMA) on the Wye River, 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. Check out the map of Wye Island: <http://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/eastern/wyeisland.html>

Seminar: A Sailors Guide to Smartphone & Camera Photography – June 28

Eastport-Annapolis Neck Library, 269 Hillsmere Drive, Annapolis, MD 21403. Annapolis, MD 21403

From Rt. 50 take Exit 22 onto Aris T. Allen Blvd (MD 665) which will become Forest Drive. Continue 4.3 miles. Turn right onto Hillsmere Drive. Continue ¼ mile to library which will be on your left.

Name Tag Event Reminder:

Please remember to check in at the registration table when attending events, even if you're wearing a permanent name tag. This is essential for helping us ensure there are enough tables, chairs, and food for everyone. Thank you for your cooperation!

Nautical Safety Terms

Do you know the international radio distress calls? If you are asked to be a First Mate or radio officer on an SOS cruise, do you know how to call for help, and under what conditions?

The nautical communication terms “Mayday”, “Pan-Pan”, and “Sécurité” are part of the International Radiotelephony Distress, Urgency, and Safety Signals established for maritime and aviation communication.



Here’s a quick overview of their origins and meanings:

1. Mayday

- Meaning: Distress signal—used when a vessel or person is in grave and imminent danger and immediate assistance is required.
- Origin: From the French phrase “m’aidez”, which means “help me” or more formally, “venez m’aider” (“come help me”).
- Pronunciation: Repeated three times: “Mayday, Mayday, Mayday”
- History: Coined in 1923 by Frederick Stanley Mockford, a senior radio officer in the UK. He was asked to think of a word that would be easily understood by pilots and ground staff in both English and French-speaking countries (since much of the early air traffic was between London and Paris).

2. Pan-Pan

- Meaning: Urgency signal—used when there is an urgent situation that is not immediately life-threatening, such as engine trouble, a medical issue, or a navigational hazard.
- Origin: From the French word “panne”, meaning a breakdown or mechanical failure.
- Pronunciation: “Pawn-Pawn-Pawn” (though it’s written “Pan-Pan”)
- Usage: Like Mayday, it’s said three times to distinguish it clearly from casual communication.

3. Sécurité

- Meaning: Safety signal—used to convey important safety information, such as weather warnings, navigational hazards, or other critical information.
- Origin: From the French word “sécurité”, meaning safety.
- Pronunciation: “Say-cure-it-TAY” (emphasis on the last syllable)
- Usage: Also repeated three times: “Sécurité, Sécurité, Sécurité”—usually followed by the safety message, often on a working channel after the alert on Channel 16 (VHF).

These terms were chosen for international clarity, as they sound distinct and are easy to recognize under poor radio conditions or by non-native English speakers.

Hierarchy of International radio distress calls

1. Mayday
2. Pan-Pan
3. Sécurité

Photo Contest Winners



GRAND PRIZE
Nancy Parsons

1st Prize "SAILBOATS"
Samia AbdelWahed

1st Prize "PEOPLE"
John Parsons



1st Prize "BAY SCENES"
Tina Lavato



2nd Prize "BAY SCENES"
John Parsons



2nd Prize "SAILBOATS"
Samia AbdelWahed

Photographs submitted: As Noted

Photo Contest Winners



2nd Prize "PEOPLE"
John Parsons



3rd Prize "PEOPLE"
John Parsons



3rd Prize "BAY SCENES"
John Parsons



4th Prize "SAILBOATS"
Nancy Parsons



3rd Prize "SAILBOATS"
John Parsons



4th Prize "BAY SCENES"
Samia AbdelWahed

Photographs submitted: As Noted



5th Prize "SAILBOATS"
Samia AbdelWahed

Annapolis Happy Hour

(All names are listed L to R)



Suzanne Vaughn
and Ray Harris (JFP)



Genienne Navarro, Cindy
Kalkwarf and Cindy Gross (MZ)



Kathy McFadden and
Linda Casucci (JFP)



Selma Manizade
and Lorna Bradley (MZ)



Karl Scible, Doug Gage
and Janet Gonski (MZ)



Pat Tracey and
Susan Zevin (MZ)



Julie (Guest) and
Dan Brail (MZ)



Bill Knapp and
Fran Wright (MZ)



Diana Duda and
Melinda Zimmerman (MZ)

Photographs submitted by John Parsons (JFP) or Melinda Zimmerman (MZ)

NOTE FROM PHOTO EDITOR: Please include names with your photos so we can learn everyone's names.

Jacob Gibson's Prank Cruise (Last Fall)

(All names are listed L to R)



Cindy Gross, Irene Aronian,
and Kerry Siebein



Dennis Krizek



Noreen McGuire, Anja Freyja,
Melinda Zimmerman, and
Katherine Ewins



Dennis Krizek, and Lynn
Gilley



S/V Skylark and
S/V Sea Tango



Catherine Fox,
and Ray Harris



Bill Ostrander, and
Catherine Fox



David Tuttle, Samia AbdelWahed,
Bill Ostrander, Catherine Fox, Doug
Townsend, and Marian Scheinholtz



Harry Keith, and
David Tuttle

Photographs submitted by John Parsons

NOTE FROM PHOTO EDITOR: Please include names with your photos so we can learn everyone's names.

Spring Training

(All names are listed L to R)



Emil Becker teaching Boat Systems



Chuck Fort teaching Knots



Dennis Krizek teaching Nautical Rules of the Road



Flavia Favali and Debbie Lyle



Cindy Kalkwarf and Dana Tulis



Roger Roberts and Amanda Wilson

Above: Spring Training photographs submitted by John Parsons

April Brunch



Craig Colthorp receiving The Commodore's Award from Susan Zevin



Kathy Blecman (wife), David Blecman (Photo Judge), Bob Wright, and Laura Keough
April Brunch photographs submitted by George Hollendursky



Anne Bastian, Lynn Gilley, Teeja Meier, and Shirley Hollendursky

NOTE FROM PHOTO EDITOR: Please include names with your photos so we can learn everyone's names.

Awards, Awards, and More Awards!



Each year SOS recognizes four members for their significant contributions of time, energy and talent to our all-volunteer Club. Nominations were from the membership and Board Members.

Recipient	Awards Presented at April Brunch
Craig Coltharp	<u>Commodore's Award:</u> The Board of Directors established the annual Commodore's award so that the highest-ranking officer of the Club could extend public recognition and many thanks to an individual who has made significant contributions in fostering the goals of Singles on Sailboats, and who continues to contribute to many aspects of the Club.
Jean Gough	<u>Elinor W. "Elli" Abramson Award for Contributions to SOS Education Programs:</u> Eli Abramson created many new educational programs for the members of Singles on Sailboats. After serving on the Board of Directors for two years, she gradually built an all-encompassing education program that provides the opportunity to broaden one's knowledge of sailing at minimal cost. She transformed the spring education program so that it attracts more participants than any other SOS event. Elli sailed beyond this world in 1992.

Recipient	Awards Presented at January Brunch
Suzanne Vaughn	<u>Ed Klein Member of the Year Award:</u> Singles on Sailboats owes its beginnings to Ed Klein. He co-sponsored the first rafts of two or three boats, the first brunches, the first social gatherings. But Ed offered more. He would teach you to sail without regard for your past experience or future expectations. Ed would take you aboard his boat, The Mai Kai, give you the helm, and develop your skills. He would challenge you to extend your horizons. He was one of those unique individuals who shared his joy of sailing with you. Ed sailed beyond this world in 1987.
Tina Lavato	<u>Rookie of the Year Award:</u> Singles on Sailboats attracts many new sailors each year. The Board of Directors established the annual Rookie of the Year Award to recognize the individual who, in his or her first year sailing with SOS, demonstrates superior interest in and learning about sailing, and who becomes highly involved in one or more of the many SOS programs.
Chuck Fort	<u>Ursula Skagen Skipper of the Year Award:</u> honors outstanding seamanship, navigation, and leadership by a skipper. Created by the Cruising Committee in memory of Ursula Skagen, a revered skipper and role model.

Restore, Revive & Rejuvenate the Recognition Program

Before the pandemic, SOS had a wonderful recognition program that celebrated our members in four unique categories:

1. **Jump In Whenever**
2. **Keeps SOS Floating**
3. **Above and Beyond**
4. **Extraordinaire**

Each category reflects the spirit and dedication of our amazing community. For full descriptions, please refer to the *SOS Policies and Procedures* (as of June 2024) under Section #5: Membership in the SOS Membership Directory.

This sailing season, we're excited to bring this tradition back—and we want YOU to be part of it! Help us recognize those who embody these values by submitting your nominations. Think of the Spring Training volunteers—what a stellar job they did! Now's your chance to shine a light on someone you admire.

To nominate, simply send an email to me at flavia4222@comcast.net with the person's name, the category, and a few words about why they deserve recognition.

- Awards for the first three categories will be a **personal letter of recognition**.
- For the **Extraordinaire** category, our Membership Chair will present the winner with a **voucher for the SOS event of their choice!**

Let's celebrate the heart of our club—its people. I can't wait to read your nominations! - *Flavia Favali*

Unofficial Board Notes March 6, 2025

Official April full minutes will be posted on the SOS website when approved in April by the Board of Directors. In this month's WP we present minutes of the April General meeting as well as "Unofficial Board Notes" for both the April and March BOD meetings. These Notes have been very highly condensed, to eliminate duplicated material in the Committee Chairs' reports.

Commodore: Susan Zevin — Meeting Called to Order at about 6:01 pm.

Secretary: Doug Gage — Minutes of the March BOD Meeting approved.

Treasurer: Janet Pennewell

	Feb 28, 2025	Dec 30, 2024
Club Checking Account	\$37,470	\$16,101
Hi-Yield Savings Account	0	13,594
7-Month CD	61,420	61,178
Bareboat Account	58,865	81,043
Total Cash	157,755	\$171,916
Club Credit Card - Chase	(\$6,732)	(\$180)
Credit Card – Wells Fargo	0)	(\$3,760)

The balances in our non-Bareboat accounts **increased by about \$8000** from the end of 2024 – primarily as the result of the influx of membership dues income. At the same time, the balance in the Bareboat account decreased as we made the final payments for the New Zealand charter boats.

I was able to renew our CD with Wells Fargo at a 4% annual percentage rate – that's down from the 4.75% we earned last year, but it will continue to earn us about \$2,400 per year.

Our independent financial review was completed by our accountants Gorfine, Shiller & Gardyn (GSG). They did not find any issues. A copy of the report will be distributed to Board Members together with a draft of our IRS tax filing for 2024.

Cruising: Laura Keough and Dana Stoffregen. From Linda Casucci: The 2025 Sailing Calendar has been posted in this month's WP, Regional Leaders have selected the sailing events they will be responsible for finding coordinators, and Members who have expressed interest in coordinating a sailing event and previous coordinators have been contacted. All the sailing events have an assigned coordinator to handle their coordination.

Database: Chair TBD; DB Team: Dennis Krizek, Don Yerger, Esther Massey, Carrie Will, and John McDonald.

Ahoy, esteemed crew of the Board! The Database Team finds itself navigating choppy waters in the absence of Carrie, our steadfast Team Captain. Without a steady hand at the helm, we've encountered the blustery headwinds of unexpected glitches and the treacherous tide of Members' Clicks idiosyncrasies, causing a few unintended jibes and near broaches. This humble deckhand, still learning the ropes of database seamanship, has been struggling to secure his Basic Database I Skills certification. Despite repeated training sessions, he continues to find himself ensnared in the rigging, unable to tie the quintessential IT bowline, and adrift in an ocean of queries and constraints. The Database Team members thank the Committee Chairs for their patience and encourages all to contact the team at the Help Desk email address (dbrequests.sos.org@gmail.com) rather than to email individual members.

Membership: Pat Tracey. Six New Members and Five New Skippers who joined from December 2024 through February 2025 received SOS documents in the digital format. **Annual Dues:** Assisted members in the payment of their annual dues. Most errors occur when members are navigating the SOS website. I'm beginning the process to make phone calls with volunteers to remind members to pay their annual dues.

Meeting with Area contacts: Scheduling Area Contacts to attend a meeting in March.

2025 Directory: Doug Gage working on making revisions to the 2025 Directory on updating policies and bylaws. Will ask Rita Svec to start the process for completing the 2025 Directory

Newsletter: Julie Fort

The March 2025 Whisker Pole was published on the SOS website and sent out to members via email on March 1, 2025. It was printed and mailed to 32 members for a cost of \$263.99.

Public Relations: Janet Gonski and Victoria Rusakova. The PR team jointly (via email) designed an ad for the Spring Training event and ordered 1,000 4 X 6 postcards which we already received. We will turn over the postcards to a ST team member on Thursday for distribution. We also designed an electronic flyer that we want anyone with a marina, yacht club, boat club (Beneteau, Hunter, etc.) to share.

Skippers Advisory: Sandy Rosswork. There were two new skippers joining in February. That brings the total number of current skipper members to seventy-eight.

Unofficial Board Notes April 3, 2025

Official April full minutes will be posted on the SOS website when approved in May by the Board of Directors.
 The following text is abbreviated minutes.

Commodore: Susan Zevin — Meeting Called to Order at about 6:01 pm.

Secretary: Doug Gage — Minutes of the March, 2025 BOD Meeting were approved.

Treasurer: Janet Pennewell

	March 31, 2025
Club Checking Account	\$41,263
Hi-Yield Savings Account	0
7-Month CD	61,825
Bareboat Account	60,185
Total Cash	163,273
Club Credit Card - Chase	(\$4,871)
Credit Card – Wells Fargo	0)

The balances in our non-Bareboat accounts **increased** from the end of 2024 primarily as the result of the influx of membership dues income. At the same time, the balance in the Bareboat account decreased as we made the final payments for the New Zealand charter boats. I filed our IRS form 990-EZ (our income tax return) in March - I reviewed this with the board last month. And I filed our Annual Report/Personal Property Return with the State of Maryland
Bareboat : Deb Kauffman and Heide Harper

Spring 2025 – New Zealand Two skippers were injured in accidents prior to the trip. One skipper withdrew: the other skipper continued with the trip. Post trip party planned for May 31.

Fall 2025 – Lake Huron Sept 7-13, 2025. Boats full, waitlist established. Looking for additional skippers.

Spring 2026 & Fall 2026, Currently looking for coordinators and locations for 2026.

Cruising: Laura Keough and Dana Stoffregen, Cruising Kickoff: Invitations for April 26th will be sent out shortly to all skippers, first mates, and coordinators. CBDB/Extended Cruise: Laura Gwinn hosted a zoom meeting with interested skippers. She is asking committed skippers and invited crew to register online. Laura is maintaining a list of interested crew to assist skippers in finding crew.

Database: Chair TBD; DB Team: Dennis Krizek, Don Yerger, Esther Massey, Carrie Will, and John McDonald. Researching best practices for blasts. All requests must be sent to dbrequests.sos.org@gmail.com so that any of the team can update the scheduled Blast contents.

Blasts go out Sunday at 5:00pm. Requests for Blasts must be received by the Saturday before at 7:00am.

First Mates: Lora Donia. Jean-Pierre Pl'e has been accepted as a First Mate Candidate. All First Mates are encouraged to sign up to assist with the upcoming Dockside Training events scheduled for April 19 & 27 and July 19

Membership: Pat Tracey and Linda Casucci. Fifty-six Membership Renewals between Feb 1 – Mar 24 resulting in income of \$3,547. Some reasons for not renewing: health, work-related, money, and 1-2 stated bad experience with sailing. Most people contacted were left a message, and did not return our calls.

	April 2025	April 2024	April 2023	April 2022
Members	211	205	196	194
Skippers	56	58	58	55
Lifetime Members	75	78	86	99
Lifetime Skippers	24	21	22	24
Inactive Members	15	17	17	21
Totals	382	379	379	393

Newsletter: Julie Fort. The April 2025 *Whisker Pole* was published on the SOS website and sent out to members via email on March 31, 2025. It was printed and mailed to 33 members and 15 copies went to Happy Hour Coordinators. Shirley Brooks-Hollendursky will be publishing the May 2025 WP as I will be gone for most of April.

Public Relations: Janet Gonski and Victoria Rusakova.. Thanks to the Solomons Spin Sheet Crew Party team who represented SOS at the last moment and made connections with sailors, but most importantly, connected with Molly of Spin Sheet and our Catherine is going to collaborate on writing some articles for them. Even without a direct promo to SOS, it is great relations! Thank you, Catherine, for using your talents so well.

We have a set of possible dates to go to Thomas Point. When John Potvin came to our brunch, he said it would be \$90 and that is the price. But people seem to be interested so I explored. I tried to pick some dates that were not too close to a lot of our sailing weekends and the response from a few of you was fairly positive. But I had been picking Thursdays and a comment was made that some people didn't work on Friday and that might be more accessible.

Skippers Advisory: Sandy Rosswork. One new skipper joined in March.....on last day! S.A. Committee meeting was held on 30 March. Plans for the upcoming season were discussed. One idea is to offer some kind of training (to skippers who request) about backing under power into a raft or a marina. This needs to be explored!

Social: Tina Lavato and Kathy McFadden

DNR Wye River Cruise & Shore Party, May 17th-18th (optional Fri. leave):

- The Social Committee Co-Chairs and Event Managers, Meeps Yox and Linda Casucci, visited the DNR facility on March 13th so the Chairs could see the venue firsthand. A ranger nicely agreed to meet us and allowed us to tour both the Lodge and

Bunkhouse, and to look around the grounds. Both the Lodge and Bunkhouse are fully booked for the weekend by the Social Committee event staff.

- The rental fee charged for tables & chairs by *Eastern Shore Tents & Events* is now nearly double what it was last year. In view of this, it was decided that it is more economical to purchase a few folding tables and chairs for nearly the same cost as a one-time rental, and store them for reuse. The purchased tables & chairs, combined with chairs brought by attendees should more than meet our event needs.

SOS 47th Anniversary Party-June 21st

- The Anniversary party is on track: venue, caterer and D.J. are lined up. A few changes to the menu were made based on feedback from last year. We are hoping that we meet the 15-boat target for the slips at Port Annapolis.

Seafood Feast-August 16th

- The Seafood Feast event is on track; as with the Anniversary Party, the venue, caterer, and D.J. are lined up and will be the same as last year. Like last year, there will be a separate additional charge for those wanting steamed crabs. This proved to be a very popular option last year.

Chili Cook-off-October 18th

- As previously reported, the Social Committee will oversee the shore party for this event. The venue will be the same as last year, and two individuals have volunteered to be Event Managers. Look for more details as we get closer to October.

Halloween Party - October 31st

- Our Co-Chair, Kathy, worked some magic and has received the ok from her Church to use their meeting/gathering space for a Halloween Party, if we wish. The space is available on Oct. 31st, is equipped with a kitchen, fridge, etc., and is located in Edgewater, MD. A visit to the site will be planned in the future as well as further discussions on proposed event ideas.

Other

- To ensure that we have an accurate count of attendees at our events, we are emphasizing that EVERYONE who attends an event check-in upon arrival at the venue.
- The Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) was completed and submitted to the SOS Commodore on March 31st.

SOS GENERAL MEETING
April 6, 2025
Doubletree Inn, following April Brunch

Board Members in attendance: Commodore Susan Zevin, Treasurer Janet Pennewell, Secretary Doug Gage, Bob Morrow, Michelle Watters, Irene Aronian, Gabe Ruiz

Absent: Vice Commodore Karl Scible, Rich Stewart

Guests: Total attendance was approximately 60 Club Members.

The Commodore called the Meeting to order at about 1:45 pm.

MOTION by Michelle Watters, seconded by Hope Andruss to accept the August 2024 General Meeting Minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Treasurer's Report - Janet Pennewell

Janet presented this spreadsheet of 2023 Actuals and 2024 Budgeted Operating Net Income by Class:

	2023 Actuals	2024 Budget	2024 Actuals
Admin	\$23,603	-\$22,523	-\$25,294
Board of Directors	-4,576	-3,210	-4,987
Membership	22,223	22,200	23,050
Brunches	-543	-515	126
Cruising	-995	-2,113	5,173
Education	2,904	1,829	2,330
Social	- 2,019	-3,173	-207
Bareboat	2,865	1,500	-440
Total	-\$3,742	-\$6,005	-\$251

To strengthen the Club's financial position, we have considered a number of options that were presented at last year's General Meeting.

We have taken several steps to increase revenue:

- Increased dues to cover basic club admin expenses
- Increased event charges only as necessary to offset event expenses
- Invested in a high-yield CD

And we have also taken steps to reduce costs:

- Reduced the use of costly facilities — e.g., moved the Seafood Feast from Haven Harbor to Lankford
- Reduced the granting of "freebies" as appropriate
- But we have NOT reduced the quality of our events
- And we have NOT reduced/limited reimbursements

Janet presented the Club's financial outlook for 2025 in this spreadsheet:

	2023 Actuals	2024 Actuals	2025 Budget
Admin	\$23,603	-\$25,294	-\$29,700
Board of Directors	-4,576	-4,987	-3,500
Membership	22,223	23,050	27,000
Brunches	-543	126	320
Cruising	-995	5,173	3,450
Education	2,904	2,330	1,400
Social	- 2,019	-207	300
Bareboat	2,865	-440	2,000
Total	-\$3,742	-\$251	\$1,270

Cruising – Laura Keough

Laura went through the 2024 Cruising calendar that begins after the April 26 Cruising Kickoff meeting in Galesville with the SERC sail-in/drive-in event (potluck lunch, facility tours) May 2-4. Yes, the Cruising Calendar is available online and in the Whisker Pole. Yes, folks can and should sign up now!

Skipper Advisors - Sandy Rosswork

Sandy reminded everybody about the Skipper Helper Program — prospective helpers should sign up with Emil Becker or Susan Vasco — and stressed the need for additional volunteers to serve as raft captains.

Social – Kathy McFadden, co-chair

Kathy introduced the Event Managers present, and described the social events, including a new Halloween Party to be held at her church (United Church of Christ of Annapolis).

Membership — Pat Tracey, co-chair

Have improved their process and saved money by moving away from mailing hard copies to electronic distribution of materials to new members, etc. Have removed cutoff date for online renewal. John McDonald presented numbers showing that our membership numbers have stabilized for the last couple of years. Annual renewal rate is about 80%. John also talked about how valuable SOS has been to him personally.

A person in the audience paid kudos for the friendliness and helpfulness of our members, specifically mentioning Bob Wright and Linda “CucciCucci” .

Brunch – Suzanne Vaughn

Suzanne is retiring after 8 years as Brunch Chair, and is soliciting leads for her replacement. Sandy Rosswork has signed Gary Jobson for the November brunch.

Safety – Joan Tannen

Joan once again encouraged everyone to wear their PFDs! She reminded everyone that Flare and Safety Day will be held on 19 April, and touted the fun Dinghy Dance in June.

Commodore — Susan Zevin

Susan thanked the Database Team for their ongoing efforts, and she mentioned the “hot button” folks should use to contact them (dbrequests.sos.org@gmail.com). She mentioned that committee Continuity of Operations Plans (COOPs) are now being finalized. She made two points regarding Fireside Chats: (1) we need to have a clear policy/process for canceling in the event of inclement weather, and (2) providing dinner for 20 or so folks can be a challenge, and we might want to look at the costs...

From the floor, Becky Strandberg raised the possibility of creating a 501(c)(3) charitable entity to allow people to make tax-deductible contributions to support educational and other appropriate charitable activities of SOS. She will explore options...

MOTION to adjourn by Kathy McFadden, seconded by Linda Perkins. **MOTION CARRIED.** Meeting adjourned at 2:41 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Doug Gage, Secretary



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 7th 5:30-7:00 PM
MT WASHINGTON TAVERN, 5700 Newbury St., Baltimore, MD 21029. 410-367-6903. Email coordinator to be added to notification email. www.mtwashingtontavern.com
COORDINATOR: JOSH singlesonsailboats@JoshuaGraff.com

1st Wednesday
NOVA/DC: May 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 – hopedav@verizon.net

2nd Thursday
ELLCOTT CITY: May 8th 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 21st 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 www.timothysontheriverfront.com
COORDINATOR: JULIE-jafort@comcast.net

3rd Thursday
ROCKVILLE: May 15th 5:00-7:00 PM
Seasons 52, 11414 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852 301-816-0369. Free parking at Whole Foods.
www.m.seasons52.com
CORDINATOR: DEBBIE - hidebbieg@yahoo.com

3rd Thursday *LOOKING for a NEW HOST**
KENT ISLAND: May 15th 5:00-7:00 PM
THE DOCK HOUSE, 110 Piney Narrows Road, Chester, MD 21619. 443-446-4477 www.dockhouserestaurant.com
COORDINATOR: TBD –

4th Thursday **CANCELLED until new Host found**
PHILLY AREA: 4:30 PM
DiFabios, 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 21st 5:00-7:00 PM
Coconut Joe's Bar & Grill (formerly The Pier), 48 South River Rd, Edgewater, MD. Rt 2 on south side of South River bridge. If we're not in the bar area we'll be in the enclosed, heated UPPER deck. 443-837-6057 www.coconutjoesmd.com
COORDINATOR: JERE- jerewglover@msn.com



Baltimore HH- Feb, 2023

Cindy Turner, Marcy Klein, Janet Gonski, Pam Ledford, Bill Knapp, Kathy Haven, Steve Fisher, Joe McNeely, Karl Scible, Shirley Undal, Pat Tracey, Charles Myers, Melvin Lessing.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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: 1984 Danish LM-32 Pilothouse Diesel Sloop for sale, \$47,000. Amazing sailboat. Virtual one owner and hauled most winters. Lying in Naval Station Annapolis.



Amazingly equipped with 5 berths, beautiful wood interior, and lots of extras/features. Galley up, two steering stations, trawler-like fast sailing, and underwater ladder platform aft. Sailed exclusively on Chesapeake. Additional photos available.

Call Bill Studeman at 703-402-9857.

7-25

BOAT FOR SALE: 1985 one owner Bavaria 960 sloop (31.5' LOA), \$17,500. Well-built, excellent sailing boat. Nearly new sails. New sail drive seal and bottom paint. Severn House slip available for rent to new owner.



Contact John Halstead at jhalstead@mindspring.com or 410-336-3575

6-25

BASIC SKILLS REMINDER

Important Reminder: Did you complete a Basic Skills level at Dockside Training or during the Flare & Safety Demo? If so, please make sure you've submitted your completed form for it to be recorded in your profile.

ALERT: Double-check that the email address on your form is up-to-date. If it's outdated, be sure to send a scanned copy or photo of the form to the correct email: basicskills.sos.org@gmail.com.

The purpose of the Basic Skills Program is to educate members with the fundamentals for sailing safely with other SOS Members. The Basic Skills Program is not intended to teach sailing or piloting, but rather to give information needed to be safe and helpful crew.

CHECK SHEET FOR LEVEL I of the BASIC SKILLS PROGRAM

Name of Member: _____

You must present this form at the time in which you wish to complete your Level I Basic Skills Checkout. When all items have been initialed and the form has been signed on the lines provided, you must forward this form as directed in the packet. **UNTIL THEN, YOU CANNOT BE GIVEN CREDIT FOR COMPLETION.**

For confirmation that your check sheet has been received, review your SOS web site "My Profile". It will have the level of skills completed, such as completion of Basic Skills I and II. If you have completed Basic Skills III, it will show Basic Skills Graduate. Save a copy of each completed form for your own records. The club will not be responsible for maintaining a completion file for you. Things can get lost.

NOTE TO SKIPPERS AND FIRST MATES: Initial only those items that have been satisfactorily completed. Remember to sign and date on the lines provided below. Members may need to sail more than once to complete Level I.

Have the Member

- ____ Properly put on a PFD.
- ____ Read the instructions on a fire extinguisher and explain how to use it.
- ____ Read the instructions on a hand held flare and explain how to use it.
- ____ Identify throwable flotation devices (ring, cushion, etc.).
- ____ Describe what steps he/she is to take in a man-overboard drill.
- ____ Demonstrate safely getting on and off a boat and moving from boat to boat.

Sailing Skills

- ____ Properly secured a line to a cleat (cleat hitch).
- ____ Tie a clove hitch by attaching a fender to a lifeline.
- ____ Tie a stopper knot.
- ____ Tie a square knot (reefing knot).
- ____ Toss a coiled line.
- ____ Wrap and tail a sheet around a winch.
- ____ Properly crank a winch.

General Sailing Knowledge

- ____ Was responsive to directions from the Skipper and First Mate.
- ____ Had reasonable protection against the elements (cold, sun, etc.).
- ____ Was familiar with most nomenclature for Level I.
- ____ Was familiar with the role of crew in leaving a dock or slip.
- ____ Stowed gear in a proper manner.

Name(s) of Skipper and/or First Mate doing check-outs

____ Signature _____ Printed Name _____ Date / /

____ Signature _____ Printed Name _____ Date / /

When completed, send a copy of the checkout sheet to basicskills.sos.org@gmail.com You should check the website under "My Profile" to verify the listing of your completed skills.

Contacts

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Name	Office	Liaison to Committee	E-mail Address
Susan Zevin	Commodore		susanzevin@comcast.net
Karl Scible	Vice Commodore	Newsletter, Public Relations	kscible2@aol.com
Janet Pennewell	Treasurer	Social	treasurer@singlesonsailboats.org
Doug Gage	Secretary	Brunches, Skippers' Advisory	douggage@gmail.com
Irene Aronian		Bareboat, First Mates' Advisory	irene.aronian@gmail.com
Bob Morrow		Cruising	cogito28@aol.com
Gabriel Ruiz		Database	gabriel_ruiz@valdesautomation.com
Rich Stewart		Education, Membership	logo4848@gmail.com
Michelle Watters		Safety	michelle.watters@gmail.com

YOUR COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

Committee	Name	E-mail Address
Bareboat Cruising Co-Chairs	Deb Kauffman Heide Harper	bareboatchair@singlesonsailboats.org
Brunches	Suzanne Vaughn	brunchchair.sos.org@gmail.com
Cruising Co-Chairs	Laura Keough Dana Stoffregen	lurasan2@yahoo.com stoffregendana@gmail.com
Database Internet Team	Carrie Will Dennis Krizek Esther Massey	dbrequests.sos.org@gmail.com
Education		
First Mates' Advisory	Lora Donia	doniala@aol.com
Membership Co-Chairs	Pat Tracey Linda Casucci	ppttracey63@gmail.com casuccilj@gmail.com
Newsletter	Julie Fort	editorwhiskerpole@yahoo.com
Public Relations	Janet Gonski Victoria Rusakova	jgsunset@yahoo.com v.rusakova@yahoo.com
Safety	Joan Tannen	safety@singlesonsailboats.org
Skippers' Advisory	Sandy Rosswork	sgrosswork@aol.com
Social Co-Chairs	Tina Lavato Kathy McFadden	socialchair.sos.org@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	sailrn@comcast.net
Northern Virginia & Washington, DC	TBD	
Prince George's County	Flavia Favali	flavia4222@comcast.net
Montgomery County	Debbie Goldberg	hidebbieg@yahoo.com
Annapolis, Crownsville, Edgewater	Sandy Huberfeld	huberfelds@aol.com
Baltimore	Kathy Haven	mskathha@gmail.com
Eastern Shore, North East	Pat Tracey	ppttracey63@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>

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P. O. Box 5708
Annapolis, MD 21403

Upcoming Activities

Day Sails: May 6, 10, 11

SERC Tour Cruise, West River: May 2-4

DNR – Off to the Races Cruise: May 17-18

Blue Angels Day Sail: May 21

Memorial Weekend 3-Day Cruise: May 24-26