



February 2026, Vol. 48, No 2

Skilled Sailor Education Day

Calling all **SOS experienced sailors** – don't miss this opportunity to expand your sailing proficiency! Tailored specifically for experienced sailors (you know who you are), this day-long event will enhance your knowledge and provide plenty of opportunity to network with your SOS peers and some outstanding experts in the Annapolis sailing world.

- **Date:** February 28, 2026
- **Time:** Check in at 9:30 am, wrap up at 4:00 pm, followed by cash bar Happy Hour at the American Legion Lounge
- **Place:** American Legion Post 7, 1905 Crownsville Rd, Annapolis, MD
- **Cost:** \$40, includes snacks and lunch

To register click [Skilled Sailor Ed 2/28/2026](#)

Not convinced? Check out the line up below!

Morning Group Sessions Include:

- **Safety Second!** Presented by **Captain John Schafer**. Captain Schafer is a globally recognized safety innovator, offshore sailor, and team-building expert with over 40 years of experience in high-risk leadership. As a U.S. Army veteran and one of the first Humanitarian Security Officers, he has advised global Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and government leaders on how to lead and respond under pressure — from war zones to regattas. He helped shape international safety initiatives such as the UN's "Saving Lives Together" and the White House Office of Hostage Affairs and founded the International NGO Safety and Security Association.

Today, as a certified US Sailing Safety at Sea Moderator and a trusted voice on YouTube, Schafer brings proven crisis leadership tools to crews, companies, and organizations worldwide. This presentation considers the following: *"Without leadership, Safety will not be a core value!"* In sailing, strong leadership must come first because the captain

is responsible for assessing weather, navigating hazards, and making decisive commands that prevent disasters before they arise. Safety, while critical, is inherently secondary as it stems directly from the leader's foresight, crew training, and resource management—without these, even the best safety protocols falter. Ultimately, prioritizing leadership ensures that safety is not just a checklist but a natural outcome of competent guidance on the unpredictable seas.

- **How to Interpret Forecasts** presented by **Alan Miller**. Alan is a maritime professional, educator, and organizational leader with decades of experience in vessel operations, training, and program development. He serves in senior leadership at the Annapolis School of Seamanship, where he oversees maritime education programs, logistics, and professional partnerships while also teaching both basic and advanced marine weather forecasting. He holds a Penn State Weather Forecasting Certificate and brings extensive real-world, underway experience to weather instruction, translating theory into practical decision-making on the water. His background includes commercial and instructional sea time, including qualification as a Royal Yachting Association (RYA) 200T Commercial Skipper, and years of on-the-job operational training aboard a wide range of vessels. Alan is known for a calm, mission-focused approach, strong work ethic, and an ability to build systems that support safe, competent mariners in demanding environments.

The one-hour presentation introduces practical marine weather tools used by professional mariners and offshore sailors. The session will cover how to interpret forecasts and products from the Ocean Prediction Center and the National Weather Service, with an emphasis on real-world decision-making underway. Attendees will also learn how to effectively use the Predicting app to compare models, assess risk, and plan safer passages. (Continued on page 4.)

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

Dana Tulis, Commodore



Ahoy Sailors,
Our January Brunch was a great success with our featured speaker Alex Pellegrini, who delivered an informative and highly entertaining presentation on the life and behavior of the Osprey. Alex explained that a significant portion of the global osprey population can be found along the Patuxent River.

Alex discussed his work banding ospreys to track their migration patterns and lifespans—which can exceed 25 years. Alex noted that osprey populations have declined over time, which has led to efforts to install nesting towers along the river. With a great sense of humor and stunning action photographs, Alex kept the audience engaged throughout his talk. He even shared a personal story of a close encounter while banding a young osprey, when a protective mother swooped down and tore his T-shirt—leaving him with a memorable scar.

In February, Regional Brunches will be held in members' homes in several areas where our members live. (See page 5 for more information.) There will not be a brunch in March due to the Grenada bareboat trip. As noted below, the next brunch will be at the DoubleTree in Annapolis on April 12th, where the 2025 Retrospective and the results of the SOS Photo Contest will be presented, followed by a general meeting for all members.

On January 2nd, we had another very productive and engaging Board of Director/Committee Co-Chair meeting. Some of the highlights include there are 55 applicants for the Ireland Canal Barge bareboat trip in September 2026, this is one of our most popular trips.

The budget for 2026 was passed with the understanding that we need to raise the cruising fees to \$25 per day to ensure the Club's budget is not in the "red" next year. In fact, it does appear that overall the club was slightly in the "red" for 2025. As noted before, our expenses have increased while income was reduced, creating a gap.

The Education Committee has planned a "Skilled Sailor Education Day" for skippers, First Mates, and experienced members on February 28. The Education Committee is working on the April 11 "Flare and Safety Day", to include more stations. The Education Committee is also working on a day-long event for April 25. It is tailored for members looking for a refresher, as well as newbies or novice sailors. It's called "Welcome Aboard: From Dock to Deck" and features educational sessions in the morning followed by lunch. In the afternoon, small groups will visit some of our SOS boats at Castle Marina for hands-on, dockside training with skippers and First Mates.

The Database Team continues its impressive accomplishments including backing up invoices from 2025, updating active member and prospective member profiles, and media manager files. The Cruising Committee is finalizing the sailing calendar for 2026, and the Social Committee is actively identifying sites for our events. At our next meeting, we will delve further into the Action Items from our December Retreat.

After the Committee Chair meeting, there was a closed Board of Directors meeting, where we discussed nominees for the SOS awards, for those volunteers that work long hours, with major accomplishments, ensuring the success of SOS. Those awards will be presented at the April 12th Brunch in Annapolis, along with the photographic retrospective and photography awards, Committee Chair updates, and general membership feedback.

I continue to be impressed by the work of our Board and Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs. They keep this club running, but we still need some help: our Membership Chair will be vacant at the end of February. Please consider volunteering as you enjoy our off-season events!!

The next Board of Directors/ Committee Chairs meeting is Feb. 5.

Dana T. – Commodore

Whisker Pole Newsletter

Published Monthly

Singles on Sailboats, Inc.
P.O. Box 5708, Annapolis, MD 21403
410.798.4098
www.singlesonsailboats.org

Newsletter Editor: Julie Fort
editor@whiskerpole@yahoo.com

Proofreaders: Barbara Shoemaker, Marge Stembel, Doug Gage, Lynn Gilley, Chuck Fort

10th of Month Submission Deadlines
Fleet Exercises & Shore Leave:
Ned Schwartz
sosfleetexercises@gmail.com

Photos: Bob Wright
robert.wright.bowie@gmail.com

Happy Hours: Jill Montgomery
jill.montgom@gmail.com

Classified Ads: Nancy Briggs
nancybriggs@hotmail.com

Website Admin: Database Team
dbrequests.sos.org@gmail.com

New Member Inquiry:
info@singlesonsailboats.org

Boat US Discount Code #GA80619S

Barge Trip to Ireland	5, 6, 14
Brunches - Regional	5, 11
BOD Minutes	3, 8
Brunches - Regional	5, 11
Classified Ads	18
Contacts	19
Cruising Corner	7
CPR/AED and First Aid	7, 12
Dues Renewal Reminder	14
Fireside Chats	6, 11, 12, 13
Flare and Safety Day	13
Fleet Exercises	11-14
Happy Hours	17
Membership Numbers	18
Membership Chair	10
Photo Pages	15-16
Skilled Sailor Educ. Day	1, 4, 12
Welcome Aboard: Dock to Deck	4

Unofficial BOARD Notes January 2, 2026

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

Commodore: Dana Tulis - Meeting called to order by D. Tulis at 6:00pm.

Secretary: Barbara Wise – Minutes of December meeting approved.

Vice Commodore: Richard Cordaro

Treasurer: Janet Pennewell

	Dec 31, 2025	Nov 31, 2025	Dec 30, 2024
Club Checking Account	\$35,580	\$20,635	\$18,312
7-Month CD	63,602	63,410	61,178
Bareboat Account	48,094	85,695	81,043
Total Cash	\$147,276	\$169,740	\$174,127
Club CC Chase	(16,127)	(6,403)	(3,940)

Full year 2025 results are not yet available. We are likely to fall somewhat short of our full-year budget of \$1,270.

The balance in our club checking account increased as dues payments for 2026 began to come in.

The Bareboat Account decreased as we made the final payments on all but one of the boats for Grenada. The final Grenada payment is due this month. At the same time, our credit card balance increased as we made deposits on the first 4 boats for Ireland.

There was discussion about the **SOS Directory** and associated costs. More about that in the Database report.

2026 Budget APPROVED: Dana Tulis made the motion to approve, seconded by Richard Cordaro. Unanimously approved by the Board.

Committee Reports:

Bareboat: Deb Kauffman and Heide Harper report that there are 55 applicants for the fall Ireland Canal trip, Carrick-on-Shannon to Portumna bareboat trip in September 2026 with Doug Gage as coordinator. The committee report illustrates and

documents a proposed **change to the Admin Fee for participants.**

Brunch: Margaret Schwartz. The November and December brunches went very well with 75+ attendees. The next brunch is January 11th. There will be no March brunch due to the Spring Skipper and New Member events being held. April brunch will require a new contract with the DoubleTree hotel since this is a new fiscal year for the facility. Brunch registration should be open to non-members. This was noted by Carrie Will for adjusting the sign-up form/procedure.

Cruising: Laura Keough and Dana Stoffregen, Co-chairs.

2026 Cruising Season Planning Schedule: Review survey results and develop calendar to be reviewed by skippers & Board – January. Finalize calendar and post in *Whisker Pole* – February 15. Cruising kickoff – April 18th at Galesville Memorial Hall. Cruising Wrap-up Party - November 15 at Galesville Memorial Hall.

2026 Spring Extended Sail is May 23–June 6; Northbound trip with 1-week & 2-week options. Zoom call for planning team 7pm, January 7.

SOS Policies Update: Cruising committee is working on a revision of the SOS policies to be consistent with the current cruising operations. It will be presented to the board when the proposed revision is completed.

Cruising Awards: Ray Harris has won the 2026 most sailed skipper award. Cruising will order his personalized shirt.

Education: Millyn Jordan. Kerry Siebein has confirmed six **Fireside Chats** including one each in Philadelphia and Springfield, VA.

The Education Committee is looking for a volunteer to coordinate **Seminars.**

The Education Delivery Focus Group continues to meet to discuss the best methods of delivering

education to SOS members. The next meeting will be January 14th.

Skilled Sailors Education Day (for experienced sailors, Skippers, and First Mates) is February 28.

Welcome Aboard: Dock to Deck Day is April 25th for beginning sailors, new members, and interested potential new members.

First Mates: Lora Donia & Jean-Pierre Plé, Co-Chairs. Candidate Coordinator is John Parsons.

Committee Formation: The newly reestablished First Mate Advisory Committee is in the process of being finalized, pending confirmation of members. Once formed, the committee will begin a comprehensive review and update of all First Mates Materials expected to be posted on the SOS website in early 2026.

First Mate Training and Education Teleconferences are tentatively scheduled for Spring, Summer, and Fall. Planned topics include Club expectations of First Mates and best practices; Transiting Knapp's Narrows and Kent Island Narrows; Inland Rules day shapes; Night, dusk, and low visibility sailing, including buoy light characteristics and vessel lighting requirements under Inland Rules.

Checkout Skipper Review: A meeting is tentatively planned for the third week in January to review the current list of First Mate Checkout Skippers and to add newly approved skippers.

Recruitment and Program Development: Recruitment of new First Mates remains a priority. The committee will focus on strengthening the program to better meet the needs of the club. This includes reviewing current certification requirements, identifying opportunities to streamline the process, updating the First Mate checkout form, and developing and implementing additional training and education sessions.

(BOD Notes continued on page 8.)

Skilled Sailors Education Day

(Continued from page 1.)

The focus is on translating weather information into clear, actionable choices for sailors.

Afternoon Breakout Sessions Include:

- **Electronic Navigation and Radar.** Presented by SOS's own **Harry Keith**. Harry is a long-time SOS skipper who has, with his wife Kati, cruised their Saga 43 over 10,000 miles in the last 5 years, including far north portions of Canada. He is a retired U.S. Navy Surface Warfare Officer. He will lead a 45-minute discussion on Electronic Navigation and Radar, including purpose-built devices, computer-based navigation, and cell phone apps. Benefits, concerns, compromises, tricks, and real-world stories will be shared. Questions and participant interests are welcome.
- **Advanced Sail Trim.** Presented by **Frank Mummert**. Frank has been with the Maryland School of Sailing for more than ten years where he teaches basic through ocean sailing courses. He currently holds a USCG 100-ton Ocean Master License. Frank is certified as an ASA Master Instructor, meaning that he can certify other instructors, and is qualified to teach all ASA keelboat courses from 101 up through 108 and all the ASA endorsement courses. Frank earned the ASA Outstanding Instructor Award for the years 2016 and 2022. This 45-minute discussion will help you get the most out of a sail.

Additional Options for Afternoon Breakout Sessions:

- Bareboat Skipper Panel moderated by SOS Skipper Coco Lanquetuit. This panel of SOS Skippers with significant bareboat experience will discuss **elements of skippering a bareboat cruise** including crew selection, planning the itinerary, provisioning, and leading a fun and successful onboard, multi-day experience.
- Bring Your Own Experience (BYOE) **Discussion on Docking/Mooring/Anchoring** facilitated by SOS Skipper Karen Lundgren. Come prepared to share your experience and listen to your peers. This session will present real life scenarios and evaluate what worked, what did not work, and what might have been done different.

To register click [Skilled Sailor Ed 2/28/2026](#)

Welcome Aboard: Dock to Deck Day

Saturday April 25
9AM – 5PM

Calling all new(er) members, novice sailors and prospective members!!! This year, your Education Committee is pausing Spring Training and offering a few separate events to address the needs of our membership.

On April 25, on Kent Island, we will be offering a day-long event tailored for members looking for a refresher, as well as newbies or novice sailors. We're calling it "**Welcome Aboard: Dock to Deck**" and it will feature a morning session on managing the website, how to get out on the water, what to bring on a sailing day, what is the mentorship program, and a professional introduction to sailing fundamentals.

In the afternoon, after a yummy lunch, small groups will visit some of our SOS boats in Castle Marina for hands-on sessions. These will include description of parts of the boat, safety gear, use of the head, galley, engine, and how to use a marine radio. You may even experience raising and lowering sails. This is what we normally refer to as "dockside training."

Put us on your calendar and look for further information in the next few months. **Registration will open in early March.** Enter to win a free day sail simply by registering for the event.



~~~~~ Kerry Siebein



By Samia AbdelWahed

## Regional Brunches

### February 15

By Suzanne Vaughn

It's not too late to sign up as a host - the more the merrier!

Winter weather is keeping you off the Bay and Regional Brunches are giving you an opportunity to have a casual get-together in a members' home to meet skippers and crew you might sail with this spring. This is not a speaker's event but a time to socialize.

Regional Brunches are designed to foster community connection among SOS's off season. **This is how it works:** Members interested in attending a brunch should consult the available locations below and **contact the host directly by email.** There is no online registration for this event.

Attendees should plan to arrive at 11:00am, or another mutually agreed-upon time by the host, and bring a pre-arranged food or beverage item to share. In addition, each participant is asked to contribute \$10.00 at the door to offset hosting expenses such as paper goods and basic beverages.

Any geographical location can have one! Please, volunteer to host a Brunch in your location, if there isn't one already planned. Nothing fancy, just a small casual get-together of SOS members, and possible new members. Meet skippers and crew you may be sailing with in 2026, members of the board, committee chairs, and other volunteers. Get to know those members that make the club HAPPEN!

Hosting a Brunch is great fun! Contact the Coordinator Suzanne Vaughn at [Suzyvaughn2@gmail.com](mailto:Suzyvaughn2@gmail.com) if you are interested in hosting a Brunch.

#### Brunch Locations:

**Annapolis, MD**  
Shirley & George Hollendursky  
20 guests  
[shirleybbrooks@yahoo.com](mailto:shirleybbrooks@yahoo.com)

#### Bethesda, MD

Flavia Favali  
20 guests  
[flavia4222@comcast.net](mailto:flavia4222@comcast.net)

#### Bradenton, FL

Molly Harrison & Ned Schwartz  
12 guests  
[mollyned@verizon.net](mailto:mollyned@verizon.net)

#### Newark, DE

Chuck & Julie Fort  
18 guests  
[sailrn@comcast.net](mailto:sailrn@comcast.net)

#### Solomon's Island, MD

Karen Lundgren  
10 guests  
[kar505@hotmail.com](mailto:kar505@hotmail.com)

size and "classiness" of each boat and the number of crew. Additional costs will include fuel and provisioning.

Our starting and ending points are each only about a 2-hour drive from the airports in Dublin (DUB) and Shannon (SNN). Le Boat can arrange transportation to/from either of the airports. Nonstop flights are available to Dublin (and seasonally to Shannon) from all major East Coast airports from Washington up to Boston - roundtrip fares currently range from \$550 to \$700.

The charter company is Le Boat, whom we used for our very successful French canal trips in 2015 and 2021. They operate in Ireland as "Emerald Star," and they offer a wide range of boats.

If you are interested in joining the cruise as either crew OR SKIPPER, here are some steps to take:

To find out more, sign in to the SOS website, and go to Bareboat Trips > 2026 Ireland River Cruise, where you can access:

- The Le Boat website, to get a better flavor of the experience, also accessible at <https://www.leboat.com/boating-vacations/ireland>
- Le Boat's *Ireland Cruising Guide* to check out the itinerary in detail.
- The trip application form in both Word and PDF formats, including instructions on how to make a payment via E-check.

You can also sign up to attend a Fireside Chat where Janet Gonski and Karl Scible will describe their experience doing this trip in 2024 (in Philadelphia on February 7th; in Annapolis on March 6th).

Still have questions after looking at the Le Boat website? Email coordinator Doug Gage at [ouggage@gmail.com](mailto:ouggage@gmail.com)

## Barge Trip In Ireland

September 5, 2026

The SOS Fall 2026 Bareboat trip will be a seven-day (September 5 – 12) cruise down the River Shannon, from Carrick-on-Shannon to Portumna. It's about 100 miles (160 kilometers), with a cruising time of about 20 hours, including 5 locks and 2 bridges, and a half-dozen-plus villages and towns worthy of exploration along the way.

Close to 70 people have already signed up (or at least expressed strong interest), and this promises to be one of the largest SOS Bareboat events ever — we will have between 9 and 12 boats in our "flotilla."

But IT IS NOT TOO LATE to sign up as crew, and we could possibly use another skipper or two.

Because this is a river trip on power boats, only minimal boating skills and experience are necessary, and the principal fitness requirement is to be able to safely get on and off the boat.

This will be an inexpensive trip. SOS will collect only \$1,000 from each participant, and after-trip refunds will vary, reflecting actual per-person boat costs that will depend on the



## Fireside Chats

It's time to weather the cold inside with a heartwarming Regional Fireside Chat (FSC).

FSCs are held at members' homes in areas where our members live. The evening starts with socializing and libations, and then dinner is served.

After dinner, a speaker presents a short program. The topics for FSCs can be of a wide variety of topics that are of interest to SOS members.

## Barge Trip Through Ireland

February 7<sup>th</sup> – Philadelphia  
March 6<sup>th</sup> – Annapolis

What do you say when you spend an evening in an Irish pub, in a little riverside town, and after playing nearly an hour past planned closing, the Irish musicians thank US for a great evening? You say, "It was great and thanks for the music!"

Listen to SOS members Janet Gonski and Karl Scible who rode a Le Boat "barge" down the Shannon River in early October 2024. They will share moments and photos of the beauty of the Irish landscape and the small Irish towns with their pubs, cemeteries, and churches. "Thanks for the experience" was their feeling each day as they cruised slowly down the river, through the heart of Ireland.

Karl and Janet's experience can be yours with the planned SOS bareboat barge trip through Ireland in September 2026. (See page 5.)

To register:

- Click [Feb 7 FSC](#) for Philadelphia.
- Click [Mar 6 FSC](#) for Annapolis.

## The War of 1812 Around the Chesapeake

February 21<sup>st</sup> – Annapolis

Captain Frederick H. Hallett (Ret.) is a lifelong sailor, retired naval officer, and author. Drawing on his distinguished career at sea and his deep respect for America's maritime heritage, Hallett brings history vividly to life. His latest work, *Rewinning the Revolution: The Misunderstood War of 1812*, explores the paradoxes of the War of 1812 — a conflict that changed everything while settling nothing.

Most of us learned in **Economics 101** the fact that **Trade Creates Wealth – Both parties are better off after a fair trade**.

Moving things by sea was the key since roads were few and far between. Thousands of American ships traded around the world and American steamboats were operating on U.S. rivers.

The second major fact was that Britain had no intention of granting American independence at sea. That would be an unwelcome surprise to the British along with superior U.S. Navy frigates and several thousand American privateers swarming around their home islands. It is an interesting tale of how they finally decided we should be friends.

To register, click [Feb 21 FSC](#)



By Nancy Parsons

## Becoming a First Mate: A Personal Experience

February 28<sup>th</sup> – Rockville, MD

Jean-Pierre Plé will speak at this Fireside Chat. It will be hosted by Barbara Wise in her Rockville home.

As a recently designated First Mate in the club, Jean-Pierre (aka "Andy Cooks") will share his path and experience towards becoming a First Mate.

He will also share lessons learned from his preparation and completion of the required checkout cruises.

You will be sure to have fun.

To register, click [Feb 28 FSC](#)



## Sock Burning

March 21 – Annapolis

We sailors anticipate the start of our sailing season! In celebration of our upcoming time on the water, we **bid the blustery winter season adieu!** In the Chesapeake Bay, especially in the Annapolis area, sailors celebrate the seasonal change with "The Burning of the Socks!"

No longer do we need to protect our toes and ankles from the wicked chill of Jack Frost. **Bring those odd socks**, you know the ones that have lost their mates, socks with missing heels or toes, or just those that are on their last legs, and **toss them into the fire** in this celebration of the Spring Equinox.

We'll celebrate with friends, anticipate future sailing, tell tales of past adventures, and share food and drink.

To register, click [3/21 Sock Burning](#)

## Cruising Corner

### Get Ready for an Epic 2026 Cruising Season!

Winter may have our boats tucked in, but it's the perfect time to start dreaming about a huge year on the Chesapeake Bay. The 2026 cruising season is shaping up to be one of our best ever—with over 85 days on the water, a great mix of club favorites, and several exciting new adventures added to the lineup.

We'll officially launch the season at the Cruising Kickoff on April 18 at Galesville Memorial Hall—a fun event to reconnect with friends, meet new cruising partners, and get fired up for the months ahead.

Along with our beloved annual cruises, here are a few highlights you won't want to miss:

- **Extended Cruise to the Northern Bay:** May 23 – June 6. A longer adventure exploring northern Chesapeake destinations.
- **Sail250 Tall Ships in Baltimore:** June 26 – 28. Join the excitement as we take in the spectacular tall ship festivities.
- **Oyster Boys in Shaw Bay:** September 12 – 13. A classic Chesapeake weekend with great music and a relaxed raft-up vibe.
- **New Destination Alert!** Both our **Anniversary Party Cruise** (July 11–12) and **Chili Cook-Off** (October 17–18) will be held at the beautiful Maryland Yacht Club.

The full 2026 cruising calendar will be published in the March *Whisker Pole*, but now is the time to start planning, blocking your calendar, and getting excited. Another unforgettable season on the Bay is just around the corner—we can't wait to see you out there!

Laura Keough & Dana Stoffregen  
Cruising Co-Chairs



### Training in CPR/AED and First Aid for Mariners

By Joan Tannen  
Safety Chair

Back by popular demand on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, we are holding this important training session before the season begins to help us learn these essential skills. The Annapolis Fire Department emergency medical personnel will conduct this hands-on class on CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), the use of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and first aid with a special focus on mariners. The training will be held at the Taylor Avenue Fire Station in Annapolis. (Annapolis Fire Department, Company 38, 620 Taylor Ave., Annapolis, MD 21401).

Because SOS recognizes the value of this American Heart Association certified training, the club pays half the cost. Whether you are learning these techniques for the first time, or recertifying, there is always more to learn. Recommended procedures are always being updated.

Certifications are valid for two years. The class will start at 9:00am and run to approximately 3:00pm. Your cost is \$48.00, which includes coffee and a light breakfast, as well as lunch. Be sure to sign up early because we need to limit attendance.

The deadline for registration is February 28. If you have any questions, please contact Joan Tannen, SOS Safety Chair, at [jtkeuka@gmail.com](mailto:jtkeuka@gmail.com)

To register click [3/7 CPR](#)

### SOS Gear Pop-Up Shop Now Open

Looking for new SOS logo gear? Our local partner, StoutGear, has opened the SOS online shop for a limited time. You'll have about two weeks to place your order before the shop closes. Once the window ends, they'll produce all jackets, hats, totes, and other items and ship them in time for Grenada and the start of our summer cruising season.



This seasonal pop-up offers a curated selection of apparel and accessories, including items with the Bareboat logo and optional permanent name tags or reusable drinkware for a personalized touch. Because this is a special ordering period, gear cannot be purchased year-round, only during this short offering.



If you've been thinking about updating your SOS gear, now is the perfect time to order before the shop closes. Go to: [www.stoutgear.com](http://www.stoutgear.com)



By Samia AbdelWahed

(BOD Notes cont'd from page 3.)

**Membership:** Pat Tracey, Chair

Membership is still looking for a new Chair. Currently Co-Chair, Linda Casucci, has ended her position but will continue to answer emails and is staying on to help with renewals. Co-Chair, Pat Tracey will end her position as of February 28, 2026. Pat will also stay on until the renewals have been completed and assist with the transition and training.

**Renewals:** The Membership Committee is looking for two volunteers to contact members at the end of January to renew their memberships. The grace period will continue to the end of February, and anyone who has not renewed their membership will need to pay as a new member.

**Newsletter:** Julie Fort. The December *Whisker Pole* went to the printer and to DB contact December 22. I am working with Irene, BOD liaison, to determine what topics would be good for articles and be ready to use when there is space available. Please let me know what topics that you think would be beneficial to our members. And, if you have an idea of who would be good to provide input on a topic, include that in your email.

**Public Relations:** Janet Gonski and Victoria Rusakova, Co-Chairs. Thanks to all who helped design, assemble, participate in work sessions, boat transport, and on Lights Night through some very chilly weather. And greatest thanks to our 4-year skipper Chuck Fort whose patience and generosity have made these opportunities happen. At this time, we will not be able to schedule/fit in the use of Chuck's boat for 2026, so we will need to skip unless another skipper/boat is offered. PR Focus for 2026: We are asking for input from skippers and other members on ways to feel more supported in the club and encouraged to continue club membership.

**Safety:** Joan Tannen and Michael Sommer, Co-Chairs.

The annual **CPR and First Aid for Mariners training** is coming up in March.

Co-Chairs have plans to write a *Whisker Pole* article on **man overboard (MOB) drills** in the next month or so. We are researching MOB

videos from professional organizations such as the Coast Guard and Boat US. Education and Safety committees have plans to add a few more stations to **Flare and Safety Day**. We plan to start activating boats in March.

**Two top priorities for Safety** this upcoming season are to stress the importance of wearing PFDs (Lifejackets) and to familiarize members on man overboard (MOB) practices.

**Skippers' Advisory:** Sandra Rosswork. No new skippers have joined the club during the past month. Input has been received about the proposed revisions to the Basic Skills Program and a report made within the upcoming month. Skippers' Advisory Committee worked with the Education Committee to provide input and speaker suggestions for the Skilled Sailor Education Day.

**Social Committee:** Tina Lavato and Linda Casucci, Co-Chairs. Board-approved events with either confirmed or tentative dates:

- **DNR Cruise & Shore Party.** May 15-17. Wye Island NRMA, Queenstown, Md. VENUE BOOKED.
- **SOS 48th Anniversary Party.** June 20 (tentative) TBD. The search for a venue continues. Some venues not available on June 20th have other dates available as possible alternatives.
- **Seafood Feast.** August 15-16. Langford Bay Marina, Rock Hall, Md. VENUE BOOKED.
- **Chili Cook-off.** October 17. \*location TBD. The DNR is booked for the month of October so alternative dates for the Chili Cook-Off will be discussed with Cruising.
- **Halloween Party.** October 31 (tentative) TBD.

**Old Business:** Commodore Dana Tulis.

**Summary of Action Items** from the December 7<sup>th</sup> SOS Board Retreat: **Evaluate timeline** for transition to new BOD and Officers and create an overlap for the former Commodore to brief the new leadership, i.e. transition responsibilities over a 30-day period to allow more time for briefing and resolution of issues for the new Commodore's decisions.

(Subcommittee – Dana Tulis, Susan Zevin, and Janet Gonski.)

**Determine criteria** for members to run for the BOD, look inward, and develop current BOD and Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs for possible succession. (Subcommittee – Dana Tulis, Susan Zevin, and Janet Gonski). **Chairs and Co-Chairs** should sign **confidentiality agreements** to participate in more sensitive discussions. (Dana Tulis sent document to all Chairs/Co-Chairs.)

**Volunteer Recognition** at Brunches and other events (all BOD/Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs).

**Member Criteria** – Develop a survey of all members to determine whether to open the BOD to single members who have married after joining SOS. And, to broaden membership to include single sailors, who may be married, but sail solo. (Paul Anderson, Irene Aronian, & Barbara Wise).

**Look at the SOS Facebook** site to expand membership. (Emil Becker and Victoria Rusakova).

**Retention of Documentation.** Evaluate current retention timeframes and determine if it makes sense to modify them; examine drop box or other options to replace flash drive storage. (Dana Tulis, Janet Pennewell, Paul Anderson, Irene Aronian, and Janet Gonski). Carrie Will is continuing to save files and organize minutes, articles of incorporation, etc.

**Treasurer Back-up:** Put note in *Whisker Pole* and find other opportunities to recruit.

**Recruit Membership Chair.** Carrie provided two contacts. Irene Aronian will call them and coordinate with Pat Tracey.

**For 2027, ensure SOS events** do not conflict with "Triple Crown." Crab Cup is always the third Saturday of August and conflicts with 2026 Seafood Feast. Check on MD Cures Cancer and Hospice Cup dates for 2027 (Janet Gonski and Janet Pennewell).

**For 2026/2027 – Evaluate costs** of directory mailing vs simply providing directories at monthly brunches and other events.

**Evaluate a potential plan for headsets** for Skippers for bareboat, day sails, and cruises. (Deb Kauffman, Sandy Rosswork, Laura Keough, Paul Anderson).

**Next Meetings** (via ZOOM only) Thursdays: February. 5, March 5, and April 2.

# SOS BRUNCH – APRIL 12, 2026



## 2025 Retrospective Presentation (See yourself in pictures!)

## Presentation of the Winners - 2025 SOS Photo Contest

## SOS General Membership Meeting

Come for a sumptuous brunch, then have some fun at the Annapolis DoubleTree Hotel. Prepare to meet and greet other SOS members and “be seen on the screen” with two major presentations of SOS in action.

- **SOS 2025 Retrospective** – SOS member John Parsons will share a compilation of music and photos from 2025 of SOS members sailing, having fun at gatherings, being silly, eating crabs, working on the SOS Parade of Lights boat, etc., starring YOU, our members! The candid shots will get you laughing and remembering the fun year we had on the water and on land!
- **2025 Photo Contest** – You will see the winners of the 2025 SOS Photo Contest. SOS member Bob Wright has gathered your best photos and is working with a local professional photographer to determine which photos are the best! Again, you might be in the photos!

**General Membership Meeting** – SOS Awards will be given out. See what the SOS Board of Directors and Committee Chairs have to say about SOS and learn how the club is moving forward with plans for the rest of 2026.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Treat Yourself to a Weekend in Annapolis

**On Saturday April 11**, learn how to use a fire extinguisher, set off a flare, properly wrap a line on a winch, and much more at the always rewarding **Flare and Safety Day**.

**On Sunday April 12**, attend the brunch, watch the SOS Retrospective, see who wins the 2025 SOS Photo Contest, and stay for the General Membership Meeting.

A great weekend to have fun socializing with fellow SOS members. Sign up now at [Apr. Brunch](#)

## SOS Membership Chair Needed

### Roles and Responsibilities

#### Chair(s) Monthly Roles:

- Write a monthly report to present to the Board of Directors. The report is usually emailed to all the Board Members to preview before the actual meeting.
- Attend the monthly Board meetings either in person or zoom.

#### Committee Roles:

**Brunch Greeters.** Recruit 1 or 2 committee members to participate at the brunch check-in table to welcome new and/or prospective members. Pair them with a seasoned member, who will introduce the new and/or prospective member to other members during the social hour. If there is room at the seasoned member's table include the new or prospective member.

**Membership Renewal Coordinator.** Oversee the membership renewal process which requires recruiting helpers to make follow-up phone calls, texts, or emails for renewal reminders. This occurs in the beginning of February of any year. Develop a basic telephone script for the renewal reminders and instruct helpers to report back with the member's feedback. Any member who doesn't pay their annual dues by the grace period ending on February 28 will be charged an additional \$10 to renew their membership.

**SOS Voice Message and Email Responder:** Respond to a message left on SOS's phone message box or email contact box. SOS's phone # 410-798-4098, email contact is [info@singlesonsailboats.org](mailto:info@singlesonsailboats.org). This process is through "Ring Central" which will pop up as a text and email.

**New Member Manual and Materials:** If needed, update the New Member manual and materials which are either emailed or mailed to new members when they join SOS.

#### **New Member Welcome Email and Packet Coordinator:**

The Coordinator sends out an email to each new member welcoming him/her to the club. This email includes instructions on how to implement the New Member Sailing Voucher, Happy Hour information, and any other event information that is pertinent for the new member to be aware of and attend. Additionally, two documents are attached to the email which are the **New Member Manual** and **Medical Form**.

**New Member Packet Materials:** The packet includes a current Directory, and Basic Skills Manual. Regular postage is used. The coordinator is responsible for keeping on hand enough copies of the Basic Skills Manual to be placed in the packet and mailed. Receipts for postage and printing are necessary for reimbursement purposes. When several receipts have been collected fill out the SOS reimbursement form and email it to the current Treasurer.

#### **Updating and Printing the SOS Annual Directory - completed by Rita Svec:**

A Coordinator is responsible to find a member who knows how to update SOS's membership database and work with the Database Chair. It is very important to ensure changes to the by-laws are included in the revised Directory. Locate a Company who will print "x" number of Directories and mail them out to the members. Usually the mail out time frame is June-July.

#### **New Member Contact/Area**

**Contact Coordinator:** New Member Contacts are also known as "Area Contacts." These are members who live in a specific area. The coordinator will call or email each Area Contact before the beginning of the new club year to confirm that the Area Contact would like to continue with their responsibilities. The Area Contact receives a monthly list from the Database Chair. If a new member lives in the Area Contact's region, the Area Contact will communicate with the new member welcoming him/her into the club, answering questions and encouraging the new member to

attend Happy Hours and other events.

**New Member Mentor Program Coordinator:** The coordinator automatically receives the new member's information when that new member joins SOS. The coordinator emails the new member welcoming him/her to the club and asks if the new member knows a current seasoned SOS member. If so, the coordinator will reach out to that member requesting they act as a mentor to the new member. If the new member doesn't know a current seasoned SOS member, then the coordinator will find a mentor for the new member.

**The question is what is the role of a mentor?** Essentially a mentor assists the new member in the "How to" ways of SOS. For example, how to sign up for a sail and when to sign up for a sail (early). Encourage him/her to review and practice the Basic Skills exercises. Encourage him/her to attend activities and point out events specifically for new members, for example, Dockside Training. Basically, a mentor is someone the new member can call on with questions and advice.

**Volunteer Recognition Program Coordinator:** The Coordinator provides the Volunteer Recognition form to any SOS member who expresses the desire to recognize another member for their volunteer efforts. There are four categories to consider; they are 1) Jump in Whenever; 2) Keeps SOS Afloat; 3) Above and Beyond; and 4) Extraordinaire. The completed form is emailed to the coordinator. The Chair(s) and coordinator review the form and present the information to the Board of Directors. The recognized member's name is featured in the WP with a write up of their efforts.

There are already a few committee members that handle much of the committee's work. If you would consider being the Chair or Co-Chair of Membership, please contact Dana Tulis at [danatulis2@verizon.net](mailto:danatulis2@verizon.net)

## 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 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.



**Feb. 5**

**Thursday**

**Board Meeting**

**Location:**

Zoom option only. Contact Commodore if interested in attending. [commodore@singlesonsailboats.org](mailto:commodore@singlesonsailboats.org)

**Time:** 6:00pm to 7:00pm.

**Note:** Open to all Members.



**Feb. 7**

**Saturday**

**Area Fireside Chat**

**Location:**

Philadelphia, PA.

**Cost:** \$20 by deadline.

\$25 after deadline.

**Speakers:**

Janet Gonski and Karl Scible.

**Host:** Deb Kauffman.

**Topic:**

A Barge Trip Through Ireland.

**Time:** 3:30pm to 7:30pm. **Limited to 12 people.**

**Deadline:**

Mail and online registrations must be received by Jan. 30 (9:00pm).

**Note:** Non-members must be accompanied by member. No Smoking, no walk-ins.

**Coordinator:**

Paul Anderson [pbabylon5@gmail.com](mailto:pbabylon5@gmail.com) [Feb 7 FSC](#)

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



**BRUNCH**

**Feb. 15**

**Sunday**

**Regional Brunches**

**Location:**

Held in private homes of SOS members. MD, VA, DE, & FL.

**Cost:** \$10 payable at the door. Plus, a dish to share.

**See list on page 5.**

Then members contact host to register and receive directions.

**Time:** 11:00am Social Hour. 12:00noon Brunch.

**Deadline:**

Contact host by February 8.

**Note:** No online sign-up for this event. Please RSVP directly to the host.

**Coordinator:**

Contact Suzanne Vaughn if interested to host: [suzyvaughn2@gmail.com](mailto:suzyvaughn2@gmail.com)



**Feb. 21**

**Saturday**

**Area Fireside Chat**

**Location:**

Annapolis, Maryland.

**Cost:** \$20 by deadline.

**Speakers:**

Fred Hallett.

\$25 after deadline.

**Topic:**

The War of 1812 Around the Chesapeake.

**Host:** Irene Aronian.

**Deadline:**

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

**Time:** 4:00pm to 8:00pm. **Limited to 12 people.**

**Coordinator:**

Kathy Higdon [khigdon610@comcast.net](mailto:khigdon610@comcast.net)

To register and for more details, ([Log on first](#)) click here: [Feb 21 FSC](#)



|                     |                                                                            |                                                                                                  |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Feb. 28</b>      | <b>Saturday</b>                                                            | <b>Area Fireside Chat</b>                                                                        |
| <b>Location:</b>    | Rockville, MD.                                                             | <b>Cost:</b> \$20 by deadline.<br>\$25 after deadline, if space available.                       |
| <b>Speaker:</b>     | Jean-Pierre Plé.                                                           | <b>Host:</b> Barbara Wise.                                                                       |
| <b>Topic:</b>       | Becoming a First Mate: A Personal Experience.                              | <b>Time:</b> 5:00pm to 9:30pm. <b>Limited to 12.</b>                                             |
| <b>Deadline:</b>    | Mail and online registrations must be received by Feb. 20 (9:00pm).        | <b>Note:</b> Non-members must be accompanied by member. No Smoking, no walk-ins.                 |
| <b>Coordinator:</b> | Linda Casucci <a href="mailto:casuccilj@gmail.com">casuccilj@gmail.com</a> | To register and for more details, ( <b>Log on first</b> ) click here. <a href="#">Feb 28 FSC</a> |



|                     |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Feb. 28</b>      | <b>Saturday</b>                                                                                                                   | <b>Seminar – Skilled Sailor Education Day</b>                                                                     |
| <b>Location:</b>    | American Legion Post #7, Crownsville Rd, Annapolis, MD.                                                                           | <b>Cost:</b> \$40, after deadline \$45.<br>Cost includes snacks and lunch.                                        |
| <b>Speaker:</b>     | Various.                                                                                                                          | <b>Time:</b> 9:30am to approximately 4:15pm.                                                                      |
| <b>Topic:</b>       | A special education day designed for ALL SOS experienced sailors. Click on registration information below for additional details. | <b>Limit of 50.</b><br>Cash bar Happy Hour follows.<br>No Smoking, no walk-ins.                                   |
| <b>Deadline:</b>    | Online registrations must be received by Feb. 25 (9:00pm).                                                                        | <b>Note:</b> Lunch will be provided.<br>Then, afternoon Breakout sessions.                                        |
| <b>Coordinator:</b> | Milyn Jordan <a href="mailto:educ.sos.org@gmail.com">educ.sos.org@gmail.com</a>                                                   | To register and for more details, ( <b>Log on first</b> ) click here. <a href="#">Skilled Sailor Ed 2/28/2026</a> |



|                  |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                     |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Mar. 5</b>    | <b>Thursday</b>                                                                                                                                        | <b>Board Meeting</b>                                                |
| <b>Location:</b> | Zoom option only. Contact Commodore if interested in attending. <a href="mailto:commodore@singlesonsailboats.org">commodore@singlesonsailboats.org</a> | <b>Time:</b> 6:00pm to 7:00pm.<br><b>Note:</b> Open to all Members. |



|                     |                                                                     |                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Mar. 6</b>       | <b>Friday</b>                                                       | <b>Area Fireside Chat</b>                                                                                                          |
| <b>Location:</b>    | Annapolis, MD.                                                      | <b>Cost:</b> \$20 by deadline.<br>\$25 after deadline.                                                                             |
| <b>Speakers:</b>    | Janet Gonski and Karl Scible.                                       | <b>Host:</b> George & Shirley Hollendursky.                                                                                        |
| <b>Topic:</b>       | A Barge Trip Through Ireland.                                       | <b>Time:</b> 3:30pm to 7:30pm. <b>Limited to 30 people.</b><br>Non-members must be accompanied by member. No Smoking, no walk-ins. |
| <b>Deadline:</b>    | Mail and online registrations must be received by Feb. 26 (9:00pm). | <b>Note:</b> For those who may have missed the February Fireside Chat on this subject.                                             |
| <b>Coordinator:</b> | Meeps Yox <a href="mailto:mpsyx3@gmail.com">mpsyx3@gmail.com</a>    | To register and for more details, ( <b>Log on first</b> ) click here. <a href="#">Mar 6 FSC</a>                                    |



|                     |                                                                                            |                                                                                                |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Mar. 7</b>       | <b>Saturday</b>                                                                            | <b>Seminar – CPR &amp; First Aid for Mariners</b>                                              |
| <b>Location:</b>    | Annapolis Fire Department, 620 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis, MD.                               | <b>Cost:</b> \$48 (the club is paying the other half of the training and certification costs). |
| <b>Speaker:</b>     | Annapolis Fire Dept., EMS Team.                                                            | <b>Time:</b> 9:00am to approximately 3:00pm.                                                   |
| <b>Topic:</b>       | CPR/AED and First Aid for Mariners.                                                        | <b>Limit of 20.</b>                                                                            |
| <b>Deadline:</b>    | Mail and online registrations must be received by Feb. 28 (9:00pm).                        | <b>Note:</b> A light breakfast and lunch will be included.                                     |
| <b>Coordinator:</b> | Joan Tannen <a href="mailto:safety@singlesonsailboat.org">safety@singlesonsailboat.org</a> | To register and for more details, ( <b>Log on first</b> ) click here. <a href="#">3/7 CPR</a>  |



**Mar. 14,  
2026**

**7 or 10-day trip**

**2026 Spring Bareboat Cruise**

**Destination:** Grenada and Saint Vincent & the Grenadines.

**Note:**

**Coordinator:** Sandy Rosswork [sgrosswork@aol.com](mailto:sgrosswork@aol.com) - Contact Sandy if interested.

**Cost:** Members about \$2,200 for 7 days, \$3,000 for 10 days, for Boat Cost and Admin Fee. Air Fare and Insurance are separate.

**Note:** **To Download Registration Form with Payment Information, go to: [Grenada Registration](#)**



**March 21**

**Saturday**

**Fireside Chat/Sock Burning: Annapolis**

**Location:** Annapolis, Maryland.

**Cost:** \$20 by deadline.

**Speaker:** George Hollendursky.  
**Topic:** Sock Burning.

\$25 after deadline, if space available.

**Deadline:** Mail and online registrations must be received by Mar. 12 (9:00pm).

**Host:** Shirley Brooks-Hollendursky.  
**Time:** 5:00pm to 7:00pm.

**Coordinator:** Melinda Zimmerman [melbay22@gmail.com](mailto:melbay22@gmail.com)

**Limited to 20 persons.**  
**Note:** Non-Members must be accompanied by Member. No Smoking, no walk-ins.

To register and for more details, **(Log on first)** click here. [3/21 Sock Burning](#)



**Apr. 2**

**Thursday**

**Board Meeting**

**Location:**

Zoom option only. Contact Commodore if interested in attending. [commodore@singlesonsailboats.org](mailto:commodore@singlesonsailboats.org)

**Time:** 6:00pm to 7:00pm.

**Note:** Open to all Members.



**April**

**Weekends & Weekdays**

**Skipper Helper Days**

**Location:** Pick your Skipper.

**Cost:** A little bit of your time and energy.

**Description:** Help those skippers that so graciously provide us with their boats all throughout the sailing season.

**Note:** See details in March *Whisker Pole*. Possible April 5th, 12th or 19th weekends. Weekdays are also an option. Skippers, pick your dates.

**Point of Contact:**

Susan Vasco [suvasco@comcast.net](mailto:suvasco@comcast.net)



**April 11**

**Saturday**

**Flare and Safety Day**

**Location:**

YMCA Camp Letts, Edgewater, Maryland.

**Cost:** Free.

**Deadline:**

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

**Time:** 9:00am to 12:30pm.

**Coordinator:**

Joan Tannen [safety@singlesonsailboat.org](mailto:safety@singlesonsailboat.org)

**Note:** Final details in the March *Whisker Pole*.

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



| Apr. 12             | Sunday                                                                                                                                                                             | Brunch                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Location:</b>    | DoubleTree Hotel, Annapolis, MD.                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Cost:</b> \$43 - Brunch.                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Speaker:</b>     | John Parsons and Bob Wright.                                                                                                                                                       | \$52 - After deadline and walk-ins.                                                                                                           |
| <b>Topic:</b>       | 2025 SOS Retrospective, Photo Contest Results & SOS Awards.                                                                                                                        | <b>Walk-ins</b> <b>CANNOT</b> be guaranteed a seat.                                                                                           |
| <b>Deadline:</b>    | <b>General Membership meeting will be after the program.</b><br>Mail and online registrations must be received by Apr. 7 (9:00pm).                                                 | <b>Time:</b> 11:00am Social Hour. 11:45am Brunch. 1:00pm Program.                                                                             |
| <b>Coordinator:</b> | Anne Bastian <a href="mailto:bastian.anne@gmail.com">bastian.anne@gmail.com</a><br>To register and for more details, <b>(Log on first)</b> click here: <a href="#">Apr. Brunch</a> | <b>Note:</b> Please note that audio or video recording of this presentation is not permitted without the express permission of the presenter. |



### Sept. 5 - 12 7-Day Trip Saturday to Sunday 2026 Fall Bareboat Cruise

|                     |                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Destination:</b> | River Shannon from Carrick-on-Shannon to Portuma, Ireland.                                                                    |
| <b>Note:</b>        | Details can be found on Le Boat Cruising Guide <a href="#">Le Boat Cruise information</a> . Plus <a href="#">Ireland 2026</a> |
| <b>Coordinator:</b> | Doug Gage <a href="mailto:douggage@gmail.com">douggage@gmail.com</a>                                                          |

|              |                                                                                                     |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Cost:</b> | Members \$1,000 = Boat Cost and Admin Fee. Air Fare and Insurance are separate.                     |
| <b>Note:</b> | To Download Registration Form with Payment Information, click here <a href="#">Ireland Register</a> |

### In Memory of Geri Walker

**Geraldine (Geri) Walker**, age 93, of Wilmington, Delaware passed away peacefully on January 12, 2026. Born in Islip, New York but she lived in Wilmington, DE for most of her life.



Geri had nursing and Nurse Anesthetist degrees and had a long and active career in hospitals, schools, and corporate settings. After she retired, she volunteered and continued to provide care at the Sunday Breakfast Mission in Wilmington.

Geri had a fierce passion for living life to the fullest, whether it was for work or play or what challenges were in her way. She loved sailing with family and SOS on the Chesapeake Bay and especially enjoyed the SOS bareboat barge trips through France.

She was an asset to the club both as a skipper and as crew. She always made sure that all potential and new members were warmly welcomed, introduced to other members of the club, and were invited to the most current activities.

Geraldine is survived by her son, Robert "Bob" Walker, III and her stepbrother, William "Bill" Mills. A service will be held in late January or early February.

The family suggests in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made in Geraldine's honor to the [SPCA of Anne Arundel Co. MD](#)

### Dues Renewal Reminder

By Pat Tracey

Friendly Reminder, your annual dues payment of \$72 should be paid by January 31.

**Important note:** Although the requested deadline is January 31, the club will honor membership renewals that have been processed by February 28, 2026. After this grace period, memberships that have not been renewed will lapse. Lapsed members that wish to rejoin after February 28 will need to join as new members and pay the \$10 administrative fee charged to members in addition to the regular dues.

**Online renewal:** Use this link to open the 2026 renewal form: [Singles on Sailboats](#)

- Review and make any updates to your Member Profile.
- You pay your membership dues by credit card (Visa, American Express, Discover, MasterCard).

**Offline renewal:** Download a hard copy of the renewal form: [Singles on Sailboats](#)

Print, fill out, and mail dues payment (check only) to P.O. Box 5708, Annapolis, MD 21403. Regular and Lifetime Skipper Members: Follow the instructions for Regular.

# November Brunch

(All names are listed L to R)



2026 New Commodore  
Dana Tulis and Past  
Commodore Susan Zevin



Paul Anderson  
and Deb Kauffman



Marge Stembel, Hope  
Andruss and Rita Svec

# January FireSide Chat



Chuck Fort, Linda Perkins,  
and Barbara Wingrove



Barbara Mistrik and Heide  
Harper



Karen Lundgren  
and Chuck Fort



Teri Nachazel, Carole Jordan,  
Heide Harper, and  
Barbara Wingrove



Nancy Briggs, Nancy Parsons,  
Anne Bastian, Janet  
Pennewell, and Teri Nachazel



Daisy and Nancy Parsons

Photographs submitted by John Parsons.

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

# January Brunch

(All names are listed L to R)



Peter Van Houten and  
Dana Stoffregen



Janet Pennewell, Dan Brail,  
and Linda Perkins



Teri Nachazel and  
Cindy Kalkwarf



Doug Gage and  
Karen Lundgren



Deb Kuba, Nancy Briggs, Nancy  
Harrison, and Teresa Scofield



Bill Small and  
Kyle Stump



Donna Boman (NM), and  
Cindy Kalkwarf



Marian Scheinholtz, Doug  
Townsend, and Karla Addess



Doug Love and  
Suzanne Vaughn

**New Member (NM)**  
Photographs submitted by John Parsons.

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



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

**1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday**

**BALTIMORE:** **Feb 4th** **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.mtwashingontavern.com](http://www.mtwashingontavern.com)  
**COORD:** **JOSH** [singlesonsailboats@JoshuaGraff.com](mailto:singlesonsailboats@JoshuaGraff.com)

**1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday**

**NOVA/DC:** **Feb 4th** **5:00-7:00 PM**  
**MYLO'S GRILL**, in back dining room, 6238 Old Dominion Dr. McLean, VA 22128. 703-533-5880. [www.mylosgrill.com](http://www.mylosgrill.com)  
**COORDINATOR:** **HOPE** - [hopeda@verizon.net](mailto:hopeda@verizon.net)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday**

**ELLIOTT CITY:** **Feb 12th** **5:00-7:30 PM**  
**LA PALAPA GRILL**, 8307 Main Street, Ellicott City, MD 21043 410-465-0070. [www.lapalapagrill.com](http://www.lapalapagrill.com)  
**COORDINATORS:** **KATHY** - [mskathha@gmail.com](mailto:mskathha@gmail.com)  
**JANET** - [jgsunset@yahoo.com](mailto:jgsunset@yahoo.com)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday**

**WILMINGTON:** **Feb 18th** **5:30 PM**  
**TIMOTHY'S RESTAURANT AND BAR**, 930 Justison Street, Wilmington, DE 19801 Wilmington Riverfront by Blue Rock Stadium, facing the waterfront. Drink and appetizer specials until 7PM. 302-429-7427.  
[https://riverfrontde.mytimothysrestaurants.com](http://riverfrontde.mytimothysrestaurants.com)  
**COORDINATOR:** **JULIE** - [jafort@comcast.net](mailto:jafort@comcast.net)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday**

**ROCKVILLE:** **Feb 19th** **5:00-7:00 PM**  
**SEASONS 52**, 11414 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852 301-816-0369. Free parking at Whole Foods.

**COORDINATOR:** **DEBBIE** - [hidebbieq@yahoo.com](mailto:hidebbieq@yahoo.com)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday**

**KENT ISLAND:** **Feb 19th** **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](http://www.Libbeyscoastalkitchen.com)

**COORDINATOR:** **PETER** - [Beneteau461@gmail.com](mailto:Beneteau461@gmail.com)

**4<sup>th</sup> 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.difabioevents.com](http://www.difabioevents.com)  
**COORDINATOR:** **TBD**

**4<sup>th</sup> Thursday**

**ANNEAPOLIS:** **Feb 26<sup>th</sup>** **5:00-7:00PM**  
**ANNEAPOLIS SMOKEHOUSE**, 107 Hillsmere Drive, Annapolis, MD 21403. [www.annapolissmokehouse.com](http://www.annapolissmokehouse.com)

**COORDINATOR:** **JERE** - [jerewglover@msn.com](mailto:jerewglover@msn.com)



**Wilmington Happy Hour**

**Top:** Lynn Winkler, Gabi Van Wie, Tim Weber, Chuck Fort, Laura Keough, Rich Stewart.

**Bottom:** Julie Fort, Chuck Fort, Cherie Comly, Banner, Jeff Strauss, Chic Bach.

**TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD:**

- Due 10<sup>th</sup> of month for publication the following month
- Send email to [NancyBriggs@hotmail.com](mailto: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:**

2003 Corsair 28R trimaran #161 with carbon fiber rotating mast and bow sprit. Recent mainsail, jib, screecher, and running nets. 2019 Tohatsu Sail-Pro 6 hp 4-stroke outboard motor. 2003 Pacific tandem axle rebuilt trailer. Very fast and fun to day sail or race! Located in Whitemarsh Creek (off Rhode River) in Mayo. Yard storage paid through 3/26. Contact Dana at 215-350-7553 for details & price. 3-26

**BOAT FOR SALE:**

1982 Tartan T-33, set up for blue water sailing, all standing rigging replaced in 2021. New Beta 25 diesel installed in 2019. Equipped with self steering Hydrovane, as well as Raymarine Auto Pilot and Chartplotter. Dickinson diesel heater, Sun Pure watermaker. Schaeffer jib furler; 130, 100, and storm Jibs, Parasailor spinnaker, Achilles dinghy and Tohatsu outboard. Asking \$34,900. Contact Jon Van Drent, Veteran Yacht Sales, 443-512-2960. 3-26

**BOAT FOR SALE:**

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

**Membership Numbers**

|                      | Dec.<br>2025 | Dec.<br>2024 | Dec.<br>2023 | Dec.<br>2022 |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Inactive<br>Members  | 16           | 17           | 18           | 24           |
| Lifetime<br>Members  | 79           | 81           | 89           | 98           |
| Lifetime<br>Skippers | 21           | 25           | 21           | 24           |
| Members              | 254          | 267          | 245          | 255          |
| New Members          | 4            | 0            | 0            | 0            |
| New Skippers         | 0            | 0            | 0            | 0            |
| Skippers             | 64           | 66           | 69           | 64           |
|                      |              |              |              |              |

\*\*\*\*\*

**Welcome New Members****Carol Yawornicky Withers**

Reston, VA

**Carol Lander**

Hickory, NC

**Kim Watson**

Deale, MD

**Mary Beth (MB) Roska**

Chester, MD

**Sharon Teger**

Hertford, NC

**Lee Bao**

Ellicott City, MD

**Marsha Bradshaw**

Arlington, VA

**Ed Underhill**

Ellicott City, MD

\*\*\*\*\*

# Contacts

## YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

## YOUR COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

| Committee                                       | Name                                                                                 | E-mail Address                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Bareboat Cruising</a>               | Deb Kauffman, Heide Harper (2026 Trips)<br>Coco Lanquetuit, Emil Becker (2027 Trips) | <a href="mailto:bareboatchair@singlesonsailboats.org">bareboatchair@singlesonsailboats.org</a>                               |
| <a href="#">Brunches</a>                        | Margaret Schwartz                                                                    | <a href="mailto:mschwartz.usa@aim.com">mschwartz.usa@aim.com</a>                                                             |
| <a href="#">Cruising Co-Chairs</a>              | Laura Keough<br>Dana Stoffregen                                                      | <a href="mailto:cruisingchair.sos.org@gmail.com">cruisingchair.sos.org@gmail.com</a>                                         |
| <a href="#">Database Internet</a>               | Carrie Will – Team Lead, Don Yerger                                                  | <a href="mailto:dbrequests.sos.org@gmail.com">dbrequests.sos.org@gmail.com</a>                                               |
| <a href="#">Education</a>                       | Milyn Jordan                                                                         | <a href="mailto:educ.sos.org@gmail.com">educ.sos.org@gmail.com</a>                                                           |
| <a href="#">First Mates' Advisory Co-Chairs</a> | Lora Donia<br>Jean Pierre Plé                                                        | <a href="mailto:doniala@aol.com">doniala@aol.com</a><br><a href="mailto:ple.jpp@gmaail.com">ple.jpp@gmaail.com</a>           |
| <a href="#">Membership Chair</a>                | Pat Tracey (until Feb 2026)                                                          | <a href="mailto:ppttracey63@gmail.com">ppttracey63@gmail.com</a>                                                             |
| <a href="#">Newsletter</a>                      | Julie Fort                                                                           | <a href="mailto:editorwhiskerpole@yahoo.com">editorwhiskerpole@yahoo.com</a>                                                 |
| <a href="#">Public Relations</a>                | Janet Gonski<br>Victoria Rusakova                                                    | <a href="mailto:jgsunset@yahoo.com">jgsunset@yahoo.com</a><br><a href="mailto:v.rusakova@yahoo.com">v.rusakova@yahoo.com</a> |
| <a href="#">Safety Co-Chairs</a>                | Joan Tannen, Michael Sommer                                                          | <a href="mailto:safety@singlesonsailboats.org">safety@singlesonsailboats.org</a>                                             |
| <a href="#">Skippers' Advisory</a>              | Sandy Roswork, Chuck Fort (Backup)                                                   | <a href="mailto:sgrosswork@aol.com">sgrosswork@aol.com</a>                                                                   |
| <a href="#">Social Co-Chairs</a>                | Tina Lavato<br>Linda Casucci                                                         | <a href="mailto:tinalav1@gmail.com">tinalav1@gmail.com</a><br><a href="mailto:casuccilj@gmail.com">casuccilj@gmail.com</a>   |

## YOUR AREA CONTACTS

| Geographic Area                    | Area Contact    | E-mail Address                                                     |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Central PA                         | Bob Morrow      | <a href="mailto:sosrjmorrow@aol.com">sosrjmorrow@aol.com</a>       |
| Philadelphia & Suburbs             | Patti Evans     | <a href="mailto:evansapatti@gmail.com">evansapatti@gmail.com</a>   |
| Delaware                           | Chuck Fort      | <a href="mailto:sailrn@comcast.net">sailrn@comcast.net</a>         |
| Northern Virginia & Washington, DC | TBD             |                                                                    |
| Prince George's County, MD         | Flavia Favali   | <a href="mailto:flavia4222@comcast.net">flavia4222@comcast.net</a> |
| Montgomery County, MD              | Debbie Goldberg | <a href="mailto:hidebbieq@yahoo.com">hidebbieq@yahoo.com</a>       |
| Annapolis, Crownsville, Edgewater  | Sandy Huberfeld | <a href="mailto:huberfelds@aol.com">huberfelds@aol.com</a>         |
| Baltimore, MD                      | Kathy Haven     | <a href="mailto:mskathha@gmail.com">mskathha@gmail.com</a>         |
| Eastern Shore, North East          | Pat Tracey      | <a href="mailto:ppttracey@gmail.com">ppttracey@gmail.com</a>       |

Singles on Sailboats, Inc. 410-798-4098 [www.singlesonsailboats.org](http://www.singlesonsailboats.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/268838264195](https://www.facebook.com/groups/268838264195)

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/Singles\\_on\\_sailboats](https://www.instagram.com/Singles_on_sailboats)

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



P. O. Box 5708  
Annapolis, MD 21403

## Winter Activities

**Fireside Chats:** Feb. 7, 21, 28, Mar. 6

**Regional Brunches:** Feb. 15

**CPR and First Aid Seminar:** March 7

**Skilled Sailor Education Day:** Feb. 28