

Commodore's Log

By Tom Paquin, 2008 Commodore

Dear SCOW Members,

When I accepted the duties of 2008 Commodore, I had one reservation – that my new-found responsibilities might preclude me from making the time to go sailing. I am glad to report that my tiller-time has not suffered one bit. I have had many opportunities to sail with you – a Friday night raft-up, weekend cruise to Fort Washington, racing in the Cherry Blossom Regatta aboard Topaz and the first Tuesday night DISC series aboard “Little Tomato”, short excursions during the Thursday evening Social Sails, and even taking out Danschweida this past Monday evening for a very pleasant evening flying the spinnaker. Not to mention a trip or two with the first lady of SCOW. The time spent on the water with so many of you is priceless. Thanks for the invitations . . . and please keep them coming!



It seems like the club went from the planning stages, into the action stages, in the blink of an eye. Everything is coming together thanks to the dedication of your board members and other leaders, and followers, within the club. The boat maintenance work has been diligent and maintenance events well-attended, and with a few more tweaks, the fleet will be in tip-top shape. We are already through the first series of classes, Basic I on the Flying Scots and the first Cruiser class. Students are turning in their tests and preparing for their water checkout. Friday night raft-ups are being planned for the remainder of the year. SCOW is represented well in the Tuesday night DISC races with competent crews aboard Topaz and Rebecca. Overnight voyages are in the making, both on the river and on the bay. Thursday night Social Sails are a big hit with lots of potential members in attendance. Scot racing is just around the corner. At this rate, we're in for one fantastic year!

What binds the members of SCOW is a love of sailing. Some have gone out once or twice and enjoyed it so much that they wanted to learn the art themselves, and registered for a class. Others have been sailing their entire lives, and enjoy sharing their knowledge. Some are content serving as crew and bringing the refreshments. Others simply enjoy the social comradery of sailing. Whatever category you fit into, I'm glad that you found SCOW. Now tell your friends about us. □

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Next Membership Meeting: Monday, May 12, 2008

Location: American Legion, 400 Cameron Street, in Old Town Alexandria
Time: Socializing downstairs begins at 6:30 pm and the meeting begins upstairs at 7:30 pm.

Thursday Night	Social Sail, Washington Sailing Marina (WSM), April - October, 6:00PM
Social No-Sail	Events and locations will vary, December - April, 6:00PM
Wednesday Night Races	WSM with Flying Scotts, May - October 6:00PM
Board Meetings	4th Monday of every month, 7:00PM (Open to Membership)
Channels Deadline	15th of every month. Submit articles to: channels06@scow.org
2008 Calendar	http://www.scow.org/calendar.html
SCOW Pictures	http://picasaweb.google.com/Sailing.Club.of.Washington
SCOW Homepage	http://www.scow.org/index.html



SCOW Social Sail

The warm sailing season has started! On Thursdays enjoy food and sailing. Remember, we are a volunteer club, so there are opportunities to sign up to help with Thursday night social sail cooks & dock masters. To volunteer contact

SCOW Social Director,
Faith Rodell,
301-674-9324

fsrodell@comcast.net



Smith Island Cake



Smith Island (link)

<http://www.smithisland.org/>



Smith Island Cake (and link to recipe)

<http://www.smithisland.org/cakerecipe.html>

Rumors of an unusual multilayered cake have sparked national interest in a remote Chesapeake Bay island with fewer than 100 year-round residents. A cake that is now Maryland's official dessert. Nine layers of yellow cake with chocolate frosting. Last month Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley signed a bill making the Smith Island cake Maryland's official dessert.

The cake comes in dozens of flavors, but is always seven or more layers. Crowds may soon flock to the island to try the cake! The Smith Island cake, blue crabs, the Baltimore Orioles and the Chesapeake Bay Retriever are official symbols of the state.

Note that the past two seasons intrepid SCOW sailors and/or Smith Island fans have traveled to this remote island to enjoy the Chesapeake Bay. Perhaps another trip – with cake for dessert is in order.

Maryland's official symbols:

<http://www.msa.md.gov/msa/mdmanual/01glance/html/symbols/00list.html>



SCOW - Jan, Tom and Karen setting sails.

Cherry Blossom Sailing

All three (3) SCOW cruisers participated in the DISC Cherry Blossom Sailing Regatta. NE winds of 17 knots made for fast sailing in the 1st race. In the second race the winds shifted and fell to 15. Topaz finished 7th and 4th and achieved a 5th overall out of 15 spin boats. Picture of Jan, Tom and Karen setting the sails (at the left).

Special Olympics Sailing

(Monday evenings in June)

Every summer in June, sailors at the Washington Sailing Marina donate their time and boats to sail with Special Olympics Athletes.

If SCOW volunteer cruiser skippers donate their time – then a cruiser may take the parents of the Special Olympic athletes out to anchor in the lagoon – for a better view of their kids sailing.

If you would like to volunteer to help setting up the SCOW Flying Scotts, or could volunteer to skipper Scotts or cruisers during this event please contact

SCOW Skipper Director
Wayne Williams
703-981-9320

skipper@scow.org



SCOW – Race Discussions were presented by KB of Gale Force Sailing. He has volunteered his time to discuss racing strategy and tactics (shown here at the Indigo Landing). Many of those in attendance will be participating in races this sailing season. If you have the chance to attend one of his discussions, it is highly recommended, as he is a professional racer.



SCOW – Rebecca (SCOW Catalina 25) is seen going out with a reefed main into the spring winds on the Potomac.



SCOW - Basic Sailing instructor Neil Shepherd is teaching sailing to a full class of students here in Indigo Landing. Neil is an avid and experienced sailor who is often seen sailing on the Potomac. As a volunteer instructor, please say thanks for the countless hours he has spent over the years teaching SCOW sailors. Many students go on to owning their own boats at Washington Sailing Marina or on the Chesapeake Bay.

SCOW Volunteer Instructors Meet Larry Gemoetz

Larry often flies into town on business from out West and participates in teaching both on land and on the water while in town.

Larry was voted in 1999 winner of the SCOW Al Blankfield Award, which is awarded annually for outstanding service to the club during the past year.

The same year (1999), Monica Maynard won the SCOW Ellie Abramson Award, which is awarded annually for outstanding service to the club over an extended period.



SCOW – Veri and Larry before Basic Sailing Class

The days pass happily with me wherever my ship sails.

Joshua Slocum

Author

Sailing Alone Around the World

Sailing Report

By Marlan Green

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

With an easterly breeze Topaz and her crew sailed up the Potomac on a beam reach the evening of Wednesday, April 16th.

Henry Yung, with Marlan and Julia as the crew, skippered topaz. The weather was beautiful and the water was quiet. With very few boats and only the likes of the Spirit of Washington or the Dandy and the occasional Coast Guard boat it was a quiet relaxing sail.

As we sailed along side Fort McNair we enjoyed the dinner we had brought with us and watched the sunset. While discussing world economics, and listening to Henry's sailing stories we turned around and headed back to the Marina accompanied by a very full moon.

The deck of Topaz shimmered in the moonlight from all the scrubbing by SCOW members on maintenance day.

Sailing Report

By Wayne Williams

Saturday, April 12, 2008

Careful review of NOA and BBC weather predictions led to selection of Saturday for a SCOW sail. Right before the big rains move in a steady southern Bahaman Breeze is a real treat for sailors tired of the long winter. Dot Almassy, Alice Starcke and Teri Nachazel responded to a call for SCOW crew.

Hoisting the main just off Alexandria, the wind was blowing about 15 knots. Psycho (sailing with a full main and a 130 jib) really stretched her legs and get right up to hull speed. A few times the wind pushed the boat right over - leading to a small avalanche of backpacks, goody bags and other loose gear in the cabin below. Alice had to actually climb from the low side of the cockpit to the high side!

Such exhilarating sailing as this is great to enjoy, especially sailing wing on wing back to WSM. It may be remembered as the best day of sailing this month!

SCOW Cruiser Maintenance

Fran Jezisek, this year's Maintenance Director, led the SCOW maintenance volunteers during the recent Saturday maintenance day devoted to the cruisers. SCOW offers many thanks to those volunteering their time and efforts.

Peg O'Laughlin
John Rogers
Juliet Roger
Lou Miller
Rhonda Glasmann
Peter Feltman
Wolfgang Schaefer
Jim Metcalf
Scott Risher
Marlan Green
Tom Paquin
Kaare Chaffer
Ron Sheldon
Kyoko Kawai
Dorothy Stocks
David Richter
Chris McGraw
Len Deeski
Bonnie Pritchard
Jay Weitzel



You can tell by the smiles on their faces, SCOW members are happy on a boat, no matter what they are doing.



Repairs to the Catalina rudders were made. One of the nice things about volunteering to help with SCOW is the opportunity to work with members who have sailed and repaired boats for years. Exposure to the skills, tools and techniques has led many members to make similar repairs on their own boats!



Note that the gash that was exposing the fiberglass to the water is no longer visible! And – as we learned this is not a blow dryer – it is a heat gun!



Skipper Director Wayne Williams monitors the work being performed, and approves.

Tutoring Program

It is that time of year to begin thinking about getting back out on the water. Whether you are an old salt or a newcomer to sailing, the tutoring program might be of interest to you.

If you are an experienced skipper who would enjoy taking new sailors out and showing them the ropes, consider serving the club this year as a tutor. If you are interested in becoming a club trainer, this is a great way to gain experience toward that goal.

If you are working toward becoming a skipper and need practice time on the water so you can get ready to check-out, or if you are a relatively inexperienced skipper who would like to refresh your skills with a more seasoned skipper aboard, consider signing up for tutoring.

If you are interested in being a tutor or in being tutored this year, please send me your name, and a short description of your qualifications, and what you hope to get out of the tutoring program. I will put you on the list and send you follow-up information about tutoring events to be scheduled throughout the year.

Priority in tutoring will be given to members who have completed a SCOW course (Basic or Cruiser Course) and who have completed the written test, but who have not yet passed the on-the-water test.

SCOW Tutoring rules:

A special category of trainer is a "tutor." A tutor is a person who agrees to provide occasional one-on-one or small-group sailing opportunities, generally for the purpose of allowing a member about to take an on-the-water exam to get additional "tiller time" before checking out. Tutors will normally work only with students who have completed a club course or have other sailing experience and are preparing to check out on SCOW boats. A tutor may not have all of the knowledge or experience of a trainer. Tutoring is not intended to be a substitute for club training classes. Tutors would be encouraged to move into training and the club should use the tutoring program as one way to identify new potential trainers.

A tutor should have all of the following skills and qualifications, and have sufficient experience to tutor safely:

1. Be a member of the club with dues paid in the current club year, be a paid-up skipper or a club skipper on the class of boats on which the tutor will be tutoring.
2. Have at least three years of experience sailing the type of boat on which the trainer will be instructing. Not all of this experience needs to be on the club's boats. For example, a person who owns a cruising boat could use time on that boat to qualify.
3. Have the intangible mix of personality, teaching ability, patience and good humor to be an effective trainer. They should have been observed to have the patience to lead a novice or beginning crew in learning to sail.

We are also looking for a volunteer to coordinate the tutoring program. If you are interested in taking on this important job, contact Commodore Tom and let him know!

Thanks, and see you on the water!

Lisa Eller
2008 SCOW Vice Commodore

Vice Commodore's Note: Thanks to Commodore Richard Knab of DISC for telling us about the DISC opportunities and ideas for collaboration between the two clubs at the April general meeting. Don't miss the May general meeting, our own former Commodore Jan Earle will be giving a presentation on how to read the weather!

Bay Raftup in St. Michael's June 28

Scow Bay Skippers-Come on over to St. Mike's and check out the Maritime Museum! Memberships (\$100 tax deductible contribution) include free dockage during the day while touring the museum, admission for members and their crew, and option of overnight dockage for \$1.50/foot (reservations suggested 2 weeks in advance).

Scow members -- Come along as crew on one of the Bay boats! (Send a brief description of your experience along with contact information; if any skippers have openings, they may call you to come along.)

After touring the museum, we may head over to the Crab Claw, or another establishment for dinner. Members who want to come by land can join in the fun.

Fair winds,
Jack Schwartz, raftmaster (graphixand@netscape.net)
s/v Odyssey

SCOW Audit Completed

As required by the club's Bylaws, an audit of the 2007 financial records of the Sailing Club of Washington was recently completed. Dorothy Stocks is again commended for the awesome job she did managing SCOW's financial affairs in 2007. The books and records have been turned over to 2008 treasurer Chris Von Guggenberg in a smooth transition.

The audit committee also noted the Boat Asset Committee completed an evaluation of major club assets (boats, trailers, etc.) in 2007. Overall everything was found to be in good order, with adequate reserves and adequate boat asset fund.

SCOW Audit Committee
Jack Weaver, Chairman
Mary Bashore, Associate Auditor

Commodore's Sailing Report

By Tom Paquin

Date: April 19, 2008 – Sandro's First Voyage



Sandro Ansari joined his dad, Steve, along with Commodore Tom Paquin and the First Lady of SCOW, Heather Whitlow, on a special mission aboard the sailing vessel Topaz to liberate the historic Fort Washington from the grasp of the Pirates of the Potomac. This was no voyage for the timid, and even though it was Sandro's first time on a sailboat, he was up to the challenge; it helped that the Commodore lent him the trusty Commodore's Scimitar, Jonas.

With strong winds out of the south, the first leg to the Fort was exhilarating. The crew learned that in strong, gusty winds, it is not wise to cleat the jib sheet, as a sudden back-winded jib can ruin a sailor's day.

During the approach to the fort, Sandro unsheathed and wielded Jonas in preparation for the battle ahead. In an unexpected turn of events, Topaz ran aground, and the mission was aborted. Topaz gently glided off the soft bottom and returned to deeper water. It was noted that there were no pirates at the Fort, it must have been a rumor propagated by some unruly sailor. The waters of the Potomac and the Fort were safe, for now



2008 Board of Directors

Position	Name	Home	Work	E-mail
Commodore	Tom Paquin	202.281.8999	202.659.6500	commodore@scow.org
Vice Commodore	Lisa Eller	423.360.6899	202.353.2755	vice@scow.org
Secretary	Maggie Nelson	202.415.1983		secretary@scow.org
Treasurer	Chris Von Guggenberg	703.683.6649	703.622.9125	treasurer@scow.org
Training Director	Mike Rothenberg	703.820.1270		training@scow.org
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Social Director	Faith Rodell	301.474.2444	301.674.9324	social@scow.org
Skipper Director	Wayne Williams		703.981.9320 cell	skipper@scow.org
River Director	Melissa Ennis	703.845.5764		river@scow.org
Racing Director	Adam Pressman		703.850.2072 cell	race@scow.org
Records Director	John Roland	703.368.9792	703.321.4614	records@scow.org

Other Key People

Crew Liaison	Melissa Ennis	703.845.5764		crew@scow.org
SCOW Photos	Alice Starcke			pictures@scow.org
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Channels Editor	Lisa Eller	423.360.6899	202.353.2755	channels06@scow.org
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Tutor Coordinator	Lisa Eller – Acting	423.360.6899	202.353.2755	tutor@scow.org

For Information about Club Activities

Visit <http://www.scow.org> or email info@scow.org