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The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington
May 2010

Commodore's Log

By Chris Von Guggenberg, Commodore

Dear SCOW members,

I look forward as I hope you do to the activities in May. The basic sailing will end and the cruiser class will begin and hopefully each will bring a new set of skippers. We will also be having the "rub the rust" seminar to help skippers brush up on their skills.

Tuesday night racing on the cruisers will continue and soon it will be time for another raffle among the racing skippers for the summer KISS series sponsored by our sister organization, Dangerfield Island Sailing Club. Wednesday night racing on the Scots will be back in May for those who enjoy small boat racing.

There are a whole host of river activities, including most prominently on the 1st and 2nd of May the Ft Washington raft up. Social activities will continue, most notably the Thursday night social sail.

I hope to see many of you in the coming month enjoying these and other ad hoc activities as they come up. I encourage many of you to attend the social sail in order to meet your fellow sailing enthusiasts so that together you can make the most of your membership in SCOW.

Sincerely,

Chris von Guggenberg
2010 SCOW Commodore

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Volunteers Make the Difference

By Mark Hogan, Maintenance Director

Thanks to the volunteer spirit of club members, we continue to improve the SCOW Fleet.

Beginning with our spring Maintenance Day in March, we initiated several upgrades to both the cruiser and the Flying Scot fleet. We continue to upgrade the club's sailboats on a project by project basis.

A jib roller furler was previously installed on Topaz and recently cleats were installed to assist in using the new roller furler. In addition, excess equipment has been removed from the cruisers and from the dock box to make the cruisers more usable and less cluttered. A boat cleaning kit is being placed in the dock box to assist in maintaining both cruisers.

We began installing storage hammocks on the Flying Scots to allow us to store life jackets off the floor. Some of the anchorage blocks for those storage hammocks have come loose so we are in the process of reconnecting those anchor blocks with stronger epoxy adhesive. Life vests stored on the floor can stay wet for long periods; get dirty and even moldy so the hammocks are helpful in keeping the club's equipment in good shape.

The updated Skipper Information File added flashlights to the list of required equipment on the Flying Scots so we have included LED flashlights and put extra flashlights in the Sail Locker. We have also purchased loud whistles for the Flying Scots to comply with US Coast Guard safety requirements that sound making devices be heard for up to one-half mile away.

A boat cleaning kit for the Flying Scots is being maintained in the Sail Locker to assist in removing scuff marks from the hulls. A new metal cleat to secure the centerboard line was added to Susie Q to replace the worn wooden cleat next the centerboard drum. The new metal cleat is being checked out by several skippers before the wooden cleats on other Flying Scots are replaced.

The tillers on the club's boats are continually exposed to the weather and need refinishing on a periodic schedule. To avoid out-of-service time, SCOW has an extra tiller which allows us to periodically replace a tiller so that a volunteer can take the weathered tiller home to sand it down and refinish it as time permits.

There are plenty of maintenance tasks that can be completed on your schedule so don't think that you have to rearrange your personal schedule to volunteer. If you would like to make a contribution of your time to the Club please let us know. Please note that all projects are initiated by an idea or suggestion from a member so if there is something that you have observed that would make the fleet better or our process run smoother please let us hear from you.

Thank you,
Mark Hogan, Maintenance Director

Updates to SCOW SIFS and Exams – Thanks to Those Involved

By Chris VonGuggenberg

The SCOW Skipper Information Files for the Flying Scots and Cruisers, the Flying Scot written exam and the Skipper Requirements and Boat Use Policy have just been updated and approved by the board. An updated Cruiser written exam is expected shortly.

Many thanks go to all the members of the Training and Skipper Certification Committee for their efforts to update these documents as well as to those on the Boat Asset Committee, maintenance team, trainers and board members for their review and comments. And special thanks to Joe DePoorter for taking the lead on updating the Flying Scot SIF; Jay Weitzel for the Cruiser SIF and Skipper Requirements and Boat Use Policy; John Rogers for the Flying Scot written exam; and Mike Rothenberg for overseeing the updating of all the documents.

This is the first update for these documents in many years. Below is a brief overview of some of the changes. Skippers and crew should read each of these to be sure they are up on the latest SCOW procedures and policy for our boats. This information can be located under the “Bylaws and Policies” tab of the website at www.scow.org:

Flying Scot SIF

1. The FS SIF has grown from 5 to 11 pages, and begins with an emphasis on “Safety First” and a new introduction and note, which serves to remind skippers of their responsibility to take pride in the club’s boats and leave them clean and in good repair.
2. It updates information on the club reservation and scheduling system.
3. It adds a “Personal Gear Checklist” based on a recent Channels article by Jan Earle, and lists new safety items (flashlight and throw line) now stowed on all club Flying Scots.
4. It goes into greater detail on Pre-Launching Procedures, Launching and using the new cranes, Rigging, Raising the Sails and Casting off, Under Way advice, Landing and Un-Rigging procedures, and Hauling-out and Securing.
5. Outlines a new docking procedure.
6. It also got a close review and update on what to do when going aground.
7. Based on a detailed write-up in Channels by George Umberger and Jim Klein, it includes instructions on the new Flying Scot reefing procedure.
8. Capsize information was also updated.
9. A list of Safe Havens was added as was a section on “Resources and References.”

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Cruiser SIF

1. Like the FS SIF, the Cruiser SIF begins with a note to remind skippers of their responsibility to take pride in the club's boats and leave them clean and in good repair.
2. It adds information on Topaz to the SIF and removes reference to Psycho, a club cruiser that was sold in 2008.
3. Updates information on procedures for use and care of the marine head on each boat.
4. Updates information on the operation of the motors on each boat and the battery switch that are important to know about to prevent inadvertent damage to the engines. It also notes the new location of the gas tank on Rebecca.
5. Includes safety and operating procedures for the butane stove on Topaz, and additional updates in the Safety Considerations and Operating Procedures sections.

SCOW Skipper Requirements and Boat Use Policy

1. Includes a major revision to the clubs boat scheduling procedure and includes information about the online Faces boat reservation system.
2. Expands the list of safety equipment on the Flying Scots, which now includes a flashlight and throw line.
3. Includes a list of safe havens

Basic Sailing Written Exam (formerly known as the Flying Scot written exam)

The basic sailing written exam also got a thorough review, with updates and revisions made to both the text and some of the test diagrams to correspond with the new FS SIF and Skipper Requirements and Boat Use Policy and to clarify some of the questions. Please note for those of you who have the former test under way, it will continue to be accepted up until 06.01.10.

The new test is available on the website under the member section (along with a copy of the existing cruiser test). If you've never logged in before, select "Forgot Password" and a temporary password will be emailed to you. If you're not set up as a member, feel free to contact the skipper director, skipper@scow.org. □

SCOW Activity on the River

Submitted by Lisa Carr, River/Bay Director

Skipper John Jiang, along with crew members Alexis Joiner and Margaret Rasor on Topaz. This photo was taken as they were getting ready for the Friday Moonlight Sail on April 30, 2010. Join us on May 21 for the next Friday Night Moonlight Sail and Memorial Day Weekend for the Rhode River Raftup. More info will be sent to SCOW members by email.



Upcoming May Membership Meeting -- SPECIAL NOTE ON VENUE CHANGE: Beginning May 10, 2010 and thereafter for the remainder of 2010, the monthly SCOW Membership Meeting will be held at a new location, namely:

Holiday Inn, 625 First Street, Alexandria, Virginia.

The Holiday Inn is located across the street from the Giant. There is courtesy parking in the rear of the Hotel and there will be half-price happy hour menu and drinks available in the lobby bar. See below for information on the guest presentation for the kickoff meeting at the new venue on May 10, 2010.

General Membership Meeting
With Guest Presenters Bill Davenport, Fred Guillermet and Ryan Galloway
May 10th
Happy Hour: 6:30pm – 7:30pm
Business Meeting and Speaker: 7:30pm – 9:00pm

At the Holiday Inn, 625 First Street, Alexandria, Virginia.

Bill Davenport and members of "Runneth Over's" racing crew will talk on subjects of interest to RACERS. Bill is a long time SCOW member, has extensive ocean voyaging and racing experience, and is an 11 time Leukemia cup winner. He will talk about tides and currents found on our local race courses.



Fred Guillermet is a SCOW Skipper and former University of Florida Sailing team member, where he competed on 420's and F/J's as well as other larger boats. Fred has served as a South Atlantic Intercollegiate Sailing Association Board of Directors as well as many race and protest committees. He will talk about Racing Rules.

Ryan Galloway has extensive racing experience and has his own Racing boat which he skippers out of Leesylvania Park, where he is also a sailing instructor. Ryan performs "PIT" duties on "RUNNETH OVER" and is her VIDEOGRAPHER. Ryan's videos have been featured on TACHY cam's and DISC's web sites. Ryan will show videos and talk about his racing experiences.

Please let Vice Commodore, Faith Rodell, know if there are other topics that you would like to hear about this year by submitting your request to: vice@scow.org.

"I really don't know why it is that all of us are so committed to the sea, except I think it is because in addition to the fact that the sea changes and the light changes, and ships change, it is because we all came from the sea. And it is an interesting biological fact that all of us have, in our veins the exact same percentage of salt in our blood that exists in the ocean, and, therefore, we have salt in our blood, in our sweat, in our tears. We are tied to the ocean. And when we go back to the sea, whether it is to sail or to watch it we are going back from whence we came."

John F. Kennedy
U.S. President and Sailor
Americas Cup, 1962

Quote submitted by Wayne Williams, SCOW Member. Source – www.jfklibrary.org

Got an article idea, photos or other content for a future newsletter? Send an email to the editor, Tom Paquin, at: editor@scow.org.

Next Membership Meeting: Monday, May 10

Guest Presenters: Bill Davenport, Fred Guillermetty and Ryan Galloway

Location: Holiday Inn, 625 First Street, Alexandria, Virginia

Time: Socializing begins at 6:30pm with reduced price happy hour food and drinks; meeting begins at 7:30pm

Social Sail: Every Thursday, Washington Sailing Marina, April - October, 6:00 pm
Social No-Sail: Events and locations vary, December - April, 6:00 pm
Board Meetings 1st Monday of every month, 7:00 pm (open to members)
Channels Content: submit by the 20th of every month to: editor@scow.org
2010 Calendar: <http://www.scow.org/calendar.html>
SCOW Pictures: <http://picasaweb.google.com/Sailing.Club.of.Washington>
SCOW Website: <http://www.scow.org>



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For information about club activities

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