



Sep 2023

# CHANNELS

The Newsletter of The **S**ailing **C**lub **O**f **W**ashington



100%

Volunteer-run club

Leave boats **better**  
than you found them

“If you can’t repair it, maybe it shouldn’t be on board.”

— Lin and Larry Pardey

# GET SCOW MERCH

SCOW has a new vendor  
for apparel & merchandise!

Checkout all the cool merch at:

[www.districtsailing.com/  
shop/42033090/scow](http://www.districtsailing.com/shop/42033090/scow)





# CHANNELS

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## Commodore's Log

Dear SCOW Members:

Well the sailing season is winding down – though some of our Members will take advantage of the remaining days and get out before winter settles in. Some hearty sailors will occasionally sail in the winter.

Though the season is ending – we still have a few social events and importantly the election of the SCOW Board.

Please monitor your SCOW email for the following – be sure your email is correct on SCOW:

- ◆ October 13 – Voting procedures will be distributed via email
- ◆ October 23 – Candidate BIOS will be published on website
- ◆ October 28 – Ballots will be distributed by email
  - ◇ Voting is online
- ◆ November 7 – Annual Membership Meeting @ 7PM
  - ◇ Voting will continue for 30 minutes after meeting is called to order
  - ◇ Results will be announced prior to adjournment.

Regards,

Brian



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## SCOW Membership Meetings

Tuesday, October 3

Monthly Meeting via Zoom

- ◆ Socializing begins at 6:30 with the meeting beginning at 7 pm
- ◆ The Nominating Committee will explain the procedures for the upcoming Board of Directors election.
- ◆ Nominations for Board Candidates will be taken from the floor at the meeting.
- ◆ Former Commodore Rob Rueter will speak on How to Become a USCG Certified Master and what that means

Tuesday, November 7

SCOW'S ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING via Zoom

- ◆ Socializing begins at 6:30 with the meeting beginning at 7 pm
- ◆ In Person Voting for the 2024 Board members as outlined in SCOW'S bylaws will commence electronically, then continue until 30 minutes after the meeting's start.
- ◆ Cruiser Maintenance Director Barry Yatt will be the featured speaker.

Tuesday, December 5

Monthly Meeting via Zoom

- ◆ Socializing begins at 6:30 with the meeting beginning at 7 pm
- ◆ Former Commodore Richard Kaiser will be the featured speaker. The Topic is Planning Boat Charters.

### II. Upcoming Election for the 2024 Board of Directors

- ◆ Nominations from the floor for Board of Directors candidates will be taken at SCOW'S Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, October 3.
- ◆ Pictures and short biographies of all candidates will be posted on SCOW'S website on or about October 23.
- ◆ Ballots will be distributed electronically via email at which time voting will begin on or about October 28
- ◆ In Person voting will open at the start of SCOW'S Annual Membership Meeting on Tuesday, November 7. Voting will close 30 minutes after the meeting is called to order.
- ◆ The Nominating Committee will announce the results of the election towards the end of the meeting.
- ◆ Details can be found on the SCOW website under the Bylaws and Policies tab.



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## SCOW Board Meeting - Oct 2, 2023

### Skipper Director Report

#### Skipper Certifications

- ◆ 2018 - 134 individuals
- ◆ 2019 - 133 individuals (99% of 2018)
- ◆ 2020 - 118 individuals (89% of 2019)
- ◆ 2021 - 119 individuals (101% of 2020)
- ◆ 2022 - 131 individuals (110% of 2021)
- ◆ 2022 - [to October 2] 120 individuals 92%
- ◆ 2023 - [to October 2] 141 individuals 108% [ FS 81, CR 18, Both 42]

**2 Skipper Certifications** [1FS] Scott Walker [1CR Chris McGraw]

**Written Exams** Graded 1 FS 4 CR

#### Skipper Queue

- ◆ 6 Checkout Skippers [3-FS] Joe L, Chip L, Jim K [3CR] Becky C, Jay W, Joe L
- ◆ Almost for Checkout: [5-FS] Dwight Fincher, Joan Olmstead, Brendan Ritchie, Scott Wilson, Liz Kauffman

**Tutor Program** 12 Active Tutors: [FS-8] Becky Cole, Joel Hough, Bailey Ham, Larry Law, Alice S, Bob Oppelt, Tim Bliss, Gordon Marzzacco [CR-4] David Numrych, Becky Cole, Joe Leoncio, Eric Schmidt

- ◆ 47 TOTAL TUTEES: FS 41 Cr 6
- ◆ Members requesting "Side Door" [initiation fee] Skipper Certification required to have Sailing & Skipper skills assessed by Authorized Tutor, prior to submitting written exam and interview with SD.

**Special Projects** Volunteers available for help with cranes, knots, cigar roll - Bob Hollendonner, Sheila Callahan

**Incident & Policy Violations** NONE

**SCOW TUTOR PROGRAM 2022-2023, September 2nd Summary**



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**Total Written Exams Graded: 97 [ 47 Tutees, 48 New Skippers, 1 Exit 4 DQ ]**

**Total New Skippers: 48 [ 29 FS 19 CR ]**

Eric Schmidt

Skipper Director 2023



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## Household Memberships - Missing Members

This year we've changed how memberships are processed and it is working well. Many members found working with fillable PDFs to be difficult so we created an on-line Membership Agreement that renewing and new members can digitally "Accept" using a checkbox within their SCOW profile. No one can be a SCOW member without having Accepted the SCOW Membership Agreement.

As of early October, we still have 10 former household members that have not accepted the Membership Agreement. We have reached out to them, but to no avail. If you are a Household Coordinator (the person who renewed your household membership and paid for it), Please be sure that everyone in your household has accepted the Membership Agreement.

Some new Household members have not yet added additional members to their household.

That is easily done within your SCOW profile. You must accept the Membership Agreement on the new member's behalf, having received their permission to do so.

If anyone needs help with getting these additional household members renewed or added, please reach out to me at [membership@scow.org](mailto:membership@scow.org).

Happy Sailing

Josh Morin – Interim 2023 Membership Director



# CHANNELS

## Social Sail

Please go to the sign up genius below and sign up.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080A4EA5AD2AAAF49-social1>

Your warm hospitality is the reason people keep coming back...oh and maybe the sailing.

If you want a handful of SCOW brochures or business cards to pass the word amongst your various networks, let me know.

Thank you in advance to all of the volunteers who come week after week to make these events run smoothly.

Note:

- ◆ We need:
  - ◇ Ice, and any food items you can bring to share.
  - ◇ Assistant Dockmaster- Would love 2 people , one on each dock.
  - ◇ Set up- arrive early about 4:45pm and move the DHOW into place, put out folding chairs, and trash bins
  - ◇ Clean up-Stay late and help put DHOW away, put away folding chairs, and put trash bags in appropriate bins.
  - ◇ Please check your pantry for assorted plastic forks, and paper plates from left over events. I can purchase these but I'd rather reduce, reuse if possible.
- ◆ If I can't get volunteers for these key positions each week, I guess I may have to start cancelling Social Sail.
- ◆ If you are interested in being the chef for the main food item for a future Thursday please let me know. I know there are plans for a spaghetti night (with different sauce options), a hotdog night on the electric grill and even...a PIE night! Reach out to me and we can discuss how to make this happen.

Genevieve

Social Activities Director

703-623-3694 (text is best for me)

Sailing Club of Washington

[www.scow.org](http://www.scow.org)



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## **Hail and Farewell registration**

Please don't forget to register for Hail and Farewell, on November 11, 2023 at Island Time at Columbia Island Marina.

I will need helpers to decorate in the morning prior to the event so please reach out to me via text or email if you can assist with this.

<https://www.scow.org/event-5393518>

Genevieve

703-623-3694





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## SCOW Racing Update

### Director's Cup Results

Director's Cup results are now available. [Click here](#) or go to the Race with SCOW page and look under [Racing Sign Ups and Results](#).

We had a great turn out and an exciting day of racing with fourteen boats on the starting line and just one point separating the first and second place boats in the end. More pictures to come, but in the meantime, congratulations to the winners and to all boats for a successful day of racing.

- ◆ **1st Place:** Aeolus - Brian McPherson and Dave Beckett
- ◆ **2nd Place:** Bodacious - Jim Schuster and Lloyd Leonard
- ◆ **3rd Place:** Double D - Dana Howe, Dick Kerr, and Jennifer Murphy
- ◆ **1st Place Club Boat:** Andiamo - Becky Cole, Caroline Cobb, and Drew Royal



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1st Place - Aeolus



2nd Place - Bodacious



3rd Place - Double D



1st Place Club Boat - Andiamo



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## **A Wednesday Night Racing Update--On a breezy edge - Tue, Aug 29, 2023**

This week we've got another high-low pair up north forecast to drive a northerly wind down the Potomac for racing. Last week's pair eventually delivered, but not before a pre-race lull that left Jersey Girl paddling downriver back to the docks from an afternoon outing.

Tomorrow the issue won't be an ill-timed lull but rather a bit too much of a good thing. The wind-driving pressure difference between the high and the low being rather considerable, the National Weather Service is calling for 14-15 mph from the northwest with gusts to 18-20 mph at Reagan National through racing. If that were to come to pass, SCOW regs would keep us in the lagoon with Club boats reefed (with low tide at 3:10 p.m., there may be enough water there to race).

But forecasters would be happy if the wind came in a couple mph above their forecast, keeping all Club Scots at the dock, or a couple mph below, letting us out on the river. Either way, not a bad forecast, they'd say. We'll see.

As always, an early arrival at the docks is recommended to make full use of the dwindling daylight (an hour less of it than back in June). Boats become available to skippers at 4:00; skippers and prospective crew would do best to arrive earlier (by 4:30 or so) rather than later (planning to be gone by 5:00). Wind (and cloud) gods allowing, we'll take in the rising full moon at 7:53 over post-racing refreshments.

Dick Kerr

Assistant Race Director





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## Cruiser Care

### Off-season Sailing

Are you sliding into depression as the leaves start to turn and temperatures drop, thinking that sailing season on the Potomac is drawing to a close? And does a Caribbean charter seem just a bit too much of a stretch this year?

Well, I've got some great news for you: Cruisers are great for late fall and early spring sails and even through much of the winter. No blasting sun, no relentless glare, no meaningful chance of capsizes, and a comfy cabin with a galley, private head, and cushioned benches (and even an anchor) for a break if the wind gets a bit much.

As we wind down the regular season, our 3 Catalina 25' cruisers are all in good shape and have been bottom-washed relatively recently.

The cruisers will, as always, be on the water throughout winter. If you want to sail on a sunny 40 degree day in the winter, come on out – just wear layers and a wind resistant jacket. PFDs are required in the off-season and sunscreen and chapstick are a good idea.

Skippers often need crew (check emailed requests) and we're looking into enlisting some cruiser skippers (please contact me if able) to continue last winter's very well-attended periodic Sunday Social program of afternoon member winter sails.

### Cruising 101

Of course, SCOW has a very active racing program for both Scot daysailers and Catalina cruisers. But cruisers are also perfect for non-competitive (though not necessarily slower) cruising as far as Ft. Washington, Mount Vernon, and even Dumfries. At the November 8 Zoom member meeting, I will be sharing some thoughts on cruising and cruiser ownership (a very different sailing perspective than the world of dinghies). Whether curious or experienced, please attend with your own stories and/or questions. We'll likely talk about the sunsets and sunrises experienced when staying out overnight, provisioning for an extended sail, exploring coves and inlets south of the Wilson bridge, myths and truths about cruisers and the joys, burdens, opportunities, and costs of cruiser ownership.

### Cruiser Maintenance Days...

...will be held 9:00 am to noon on Saturday, October 14 for assessment and basic maintenance and October 28 focusing more on repairs and upgrades, with a possible makeup session on Nov 4 if either of the first two need to be rescheduled.

Registration is open now from the online calendar. While cruiser skippers are required to participate, it's also a great way for anyone interested in larger boats to get more comfortable with cruiser configuration and systems, maintenance and repair. Please sign-up and join us.



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## Learn a Craft

We're always looking for people willing to help maintain, repair, and upgrade our cruisers. None of us are experts but we pair less experienced people with more, and figure it out together with help when needed from books, the internet, and sometimes the WSM boatyard staff. If you're interested and have a few hours a month, let me know and we'll find you a role you'll enjoy.

## Notes to Cruiser Skippers

We didn't forget you. A few items:

- ◆ Soap: Mildew (those little black spots you see) attacks and corrodes boat decks and cockpits. Skippers (including experienced ones) need to make sure they or crew wash with a brush and properly-diluted (read the label) boat soap either before or after the sail. It only takes a few minutes – soap, buckets, and brushes are on board and in the Skipper dockbox; use water from the dock hose. Hosing with water alone is mostly worthless. Note that spots won't disappear as you wash but after maybe 15 minutes, the combined effect of boat soap and sunlight will eliminate the problem. Also, ask crew to be gentle on the decks – no rocks in shoe soles, no dropping of heavyish objects like dropboards or padlocks.
- ◆ Grounding: Running a 2-ton boat with a fixed keel into the mud on the bottom of the Potomac can do serious damage to keel, hull, and rudder, which are not hinged to swing out of the way as a Scot's are.
- ◆ Review the nav charts periodically to remind yourself of where the water will likely be too shallow to sail safely.
- ◆ While sailing, pay attention to the boat's depth gauge, making sure crew isn't blocking your view of it, and set the alarm to sound at 4' or 8' if there's less than that remaining under the keel.
- ◆ Subscribe to a GPS program such as Navionics (only \$25/year) and check the river's bottom contours frequently while sailing.
- ◆ Winter Winds: Reefing your sails is necessary when winds pick up. Make sure you can do it, and do it when you first think it might be a good idea. Also, make sure you know how and can heave to and also know the locations of Potomac safe havens for when things get out of hand.

Thanks for reading and have a good and safe time on the water. See you at the marina!

Barry Yatt

2023 SCOW Cruiser Maintenance Director

[cruisermaint@scow.org](mailto:cruisermaint@scow.org)



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## Cruiser Maintenance Day sign ups are open

Ahoy!

Fall Cruiser Maintenance Days are almost here. If you are a cruiser skipper, are interested in learning some skills for managing larger boats, or just want to help out, please register to join us 9:00 to noon on Oct 14 to help with routine maintenance and assessment and/or on Oct 28 for more complex maintenance, repairs, and upgrades. If either needs to be cancelled, we will hold a make-up session on Nov 4. We'll be on G Dock on the other side of the parking lot from the Flying Scots and cranes.

We'll provide tools, materials, and instruction. Just come ready to work. Register by going to the website calendar and clicking on the relevant date. Email me if you have any questions.

Thank you and wishing you fair winds...

Barry Yatt

2023 SCOW Cruiser Maintenance Director





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## SCOW Training Courses



SCOW FS Training Lynn Durbin & Jersey Girl



# CHANNELS



by Emily Feagans



by Emily Feagans





# CHANNELS

## Editor's Note

Hello everyone!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to ChaNNels.

Please (continue to) send content for potential inclusion in ChaNNels to [editor@scow.org](mailto:editor@scow.org).

Feedback on ChaNNels would be appreciated. For instance - What do you like about ChaNNels? What could be improved? Do you have any suggestions of content you would like to see included?

Cheers,  
- AK

P.S. Please forgive any typos, omissions and other forms of booboos; a note sent to [editor@scow.org](mailto:editor@scow.org) informing about any such occurrence(s) would be appreciated. Also, all photos are copyright to whoever took them.



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