

ChanNels

*The pessimist complains about the wind;
The optimist expects it to change;
The realist adjusts the sails. - William A. Ward*

*The Newsletter of the
Sailing Club of Washington*

January 2012

Commodore's Log

Notes from the
Board

Revised Policy for
SCOW Boat Use

First Aid/CPR/AED
Training
February 11, 2012
Register by 1/25/12

Upcoming Events

Boat Asset
Committee Meeting
January 24, 2012

Happy Hour and
Member Meeting
February 13, 2012
New Venue!

Re-Up Brunch
March 11, 2012
and sign up for
SCOW Training

Contact the Board



Commodore's Log
Chris McGraw, Commodore

Happy January, Maties!

Let's have fun.

Last year we got brand new sails for our Flying Scots and began racing all of them with spinnakers. We added VHF radios to improve safety and updated policies to allow skippers to train and take boats out in a wider range of winds thanks to the great work of our Training and Skipper Certification Committee and dedicated volunteers. We set things up to allow members to book back-to-back sessions during the week for long eight hour sails. And we bought a fast spinnaker cruiser, Skirmish, that we can race with our sister DISC fleet in the new year. (By the way, SCOW is doing great in the races: scoring several 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in a large pack of excellent racers!) We added eight new Scot instructors, two new Cruiser instructors, and two instructors for Capsize as well as having trained and certified countless new skippers on our Scots and Cruisers. We made improvements to the website, got a new member meeting space, communicated through our newsletter, and we set up an investment committee to better steward our



Miss Ellie sporting a spinnaker.

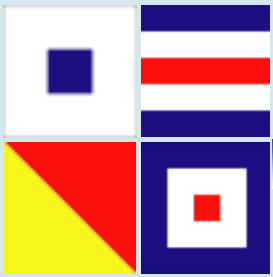
Enjoy this edition of ChanNels. Navigate with the Bookmarks pane or by using the next page/previous page buttons on the Acrobat toolbar.

This is your newsletter! Submit your feedback and ideas, content and photographs for next month's ChanNels to editor@scow.org



Skirmish, SCOW's latest acquisition.

continued



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Commodore's Log *continued*

funds (which ended the year in the black). We kept our fleet in awesome shape and we also had an amazing amount of fun with social sails, happy hours, and great parties, too! What cool things you guys have accomplished!

Now we're ready to do it again.

This year, we hope to offer a great training schedule with three basic sailing classes, three cruiser classes, two capsized classes, and two spinnaker classes. We hope, with the great leadership of Tom Vandenbosche on our Boat Assets Committee, to possibly purchase a newer cruiser to swap out for Topaz (a great cruiser in it's own right). If you have ideas, please share them with Tom and Bac@scow.org We're brushing up our first aid skills with First Aid/CPR/AED training to help with safety, and with John Roger's leadership we're working on recommendations with our Training and Skipper Certification Committee to explore additional single-handed skippering and night sailing on the Scots, as well as several policy revisions, updates to our training documents, and more.

If you haven't yet, please say 'thanks' to the new Board members. They're doing lots of work behind the scenes with our veteran volunteers to set things up and carry them out for the new year. Also, we have some great appointees including Barb Thacker (on our beautiful new ChaNNels), Luis Rivas (who is revolutionizing our website), Jeff Teitel, who is tackling all email and postmaster items, Mark Hogan who is a go-to fixer for any issue, and Henry Cheng, Jan Earle, and Chris von Guggenberg who are working with Membership Director Charles Gilbert on our new and re-upping members. We've got a lot of exciting things planned!

Looking forward to a great year!

Sincerely,
Chris



Photo courtesy Jonathan Thron.

Current skippers, take advantage of those occasional days of civilized weather we get during the winter... reserve a boat!

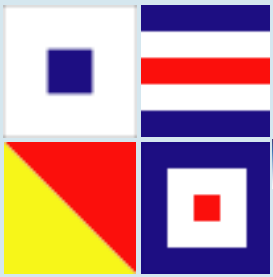
<http://faces.crcr.edu/>

Curious about the latest on the Alexandria waterfront initiative?

<http://alexandriava.gov/Waterfront>

From Charles Gilbert: Here's an interesting read on an unfortunate vessel from the 19th century, the Mary Celeste.

http://www.slate.com/articles/life/culturebox/2011/12/the_mary_celeste_the_unluckiest_ship_to_ever_sail_the_seven_seas_.html



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Introducing the Tech Corner

Jonathan Thron, Skipper Director

Happy New Year SCOW Skippers,

Good news and not-so-good news: The good news is that you're a certified boat driver and you live next to a river. (Or, in my case, very far from one.) The not-so-good news-- let's call it the responsibility that comes with the privilege-- is that when you sign the book, the safety of your boat and crew is on you. Most of the time when you're out on the water, your friends and your boat and even the weather will

be gracious to you. But sooner or later your skills will be tested, and you'll want to make sure you're sharp. With this in mind, I'm excited to introduce a "Tech Corner" of sorts (the name will change when I think of something more profound!) where you'll find practical tips for staying safe, dry, and out of the hospital or jail.

From cold-water survival considerations to proper spring line configuration to got-

ta-have sailing gear to docking at National Harbor in a tailwind without a megayacht that's worth more than your 401k, this column should be of interest and assistance. Look for it in the February issue of ChaN-Nels, and as always, feel free to contact me anytime on skipper matters at skipper@scow.org.

Safe and fun sailing,
Jonathan Thron

From The Social Director

Anna Sheinberg, Social Director

Happy New Year SCOW!

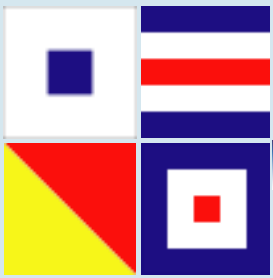
It was nice to see so many familiar faces and greet new ones for the afterglow party 2012. We had a successful turnout of 100 attendees who brought delicious entrees to share with their fellow sailors. We also enjoyed playing pool, ping-pong and listening to live guitar music played by Jim Klein and company. I would like to send out a special thank you to all the volunteers who assisted in putting such a great event together.

Looking forward, SCOW in association with its meet-up has a member meeting and happy hour planned for February 13, 2012 at the Capital Brewing Company. Then, in March 2012, our sailing club will hold its annual Re-up brunch where you and your fellow sailors can munch and sign up for various sailing classes whether it be beginning, intermediate, or advanced.

Happy Sails!
Anna

social@scow.org





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Revised Policy for SCOW Boat Use

John Rogers, SCOW TSCC Chair

In the past several years there has been some frustration with the SCOW Boat use Policy for the Flying Scots that prohibited sailing if there was a small craft advisory (roughly, forecast winds greater than 15 knots). On some occasions the forecast included a small craft advisory but the actual winds were lower and others were sailing without problems. After much discussion among skippers, the Training and Skipper Certification Committee (TSCC), and the Board, in October the Board passed a revised policy. The primary change increases the forecast wind conditions under which the Flying Scots can be sailed. With the new policy, the Flying Scots can be sailed if the forecast winds or wind gusts do not exceed 20 knots. However, if the forecast winds exceed 15 knots the Flying Scots must be sailed in the lagoon with reefed sails and all crew wearing PDFs. The complete policy is below.

Approved Policy Revisions to the SCOW Boat Use Policy

V. SKIPPER RESPONSIBILITIES.

Skippers are responsible for operating the boats in a safe, prudent and responsible manner at all times. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

A. The skipper must ensure conditions and equipment for sailing are safe before taking command of a boat and setting sail:

1. Weather. Check marine weather current conditions and forecast. Consider tides and currents to ensure safe return by end of scheduled time.

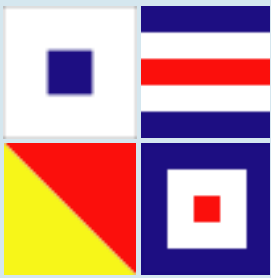
a) SCOW boats shall not be taken from slip during severe or unsafe weather conditions, including high winds and lightning. Even in lower wind or fair weather, no skipper should take a boat out in conditions in which he or she feels that the safety of the crew and boat could be at risk; this is a judgment based on the skipper's confidence, skill level, experience, crew experience, weather conditions, and weather forecast. In addition:

i. Cruising boats shall not be taken away from slips if National Weather Service forecast winds exceed 25 knots;

ii. Daysailers shall not be taken away from slips when National Weather Service forecast winds exceed 20 knots. If National Weather Service forecast winds exceed 15 knots daysailers must be reefed, must remain in the lagoon, and all aboard must wear PFDs. In addition, for Social Sail, if National Weather Service forecast wind speeds exceed 15 knots, the number of people in the boat is limited to 5 and shall include a second SCOW skipper or experienced crew member.

b) If, while a boat is out, winds rise to these levels, or a lightning storm threatens or if indications are that these conditions will occur, the skipper will return to the Washington Sailing Marina or to a closer safe haven as quickly as possible.

c) For this section, winds refer to sustained or gust wind speeds, whether measured at the airport, along the river, or from the boat. These measurements may be in knots or MPH. For reference, 15 knots is 17 MPH, 20 knots is 23 MPH, and 25 knots is 29 MPH.



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Training Opportunities

First Aid/CPR/AED Training

Saturday February 11, 2012
9:00 am to 2:00 pm
\$80

Red Cross Headquarters
2025 E Street, NW,
Washington, DC 20006

The deadline for registration and payment is 1/25/12!

Please RSVP to Tom Vandenbosche
tom.vandenbosche@gmail.com

...worth every penny of it!

*The instructor was very knowledgeable and made it really fun for us. This is very valuable information and experience each of us should have for both our sailing and personal lives. I can't encourage you enough to take this course.
Faith Rodell, River/Bay Director*

The deadline for signing up for SCOW's February first aid training is quickly approaching.

This great opportunity is presented by the American Red Cross and will include first aid and CPR along with the instruction a two year certification will be achieved by taking this course. [this includes training on the correct use of Automatic External Defibrillator device (AED)].

Just a reminder, the class will be offered again on February 11. The cost will be paid entirely for SCOW Instructors, Di-

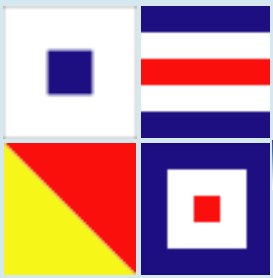
rectors, and Board of Director members. If your not in one of those groups, you can still get this great training. SCOW will pay \$10 of the \$90 cost for any member who takes this training. That's about 12.5% of the cost that SCOW will pay, so it will only cost you \$80.

Let me know if you want to sign up for this course. I need to have your name on the list and payment received by the sailing club before Wednesday (January 25). I would like to have the list of participants for the February class completed by Friday evening (1/27).



This month we added more than 20 members newly-certified by the Red Cross in First Aid, CPR, and automated external defibrillation (AED). The training will make our events on and off the water a little safer. Thanks to great efforts from Tom Vandenbosche, Mark, Chris, and Kyoko and to all the members who participated.

Chris McGraw, Commodore



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Boat Asset Committee (BAC) Meeting

Tom Vandenbosche

Ahoy Sailors,

I have scheduled a meeting of the SCOW Boat Asset Committee (BAC) for Tuesday January 24. We will be meeting at the Royal Restaurant on N. Saint Asaph St. in Alexandria from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM. I would welcome any SCOW member who would like to join us at that meeting (let me know, so I can warn the restaurant if we will get a lot of people). Any input to the BAC would be welcomed. You can email your thoughts, desires, or wishes to me, or communicate them to any of the BAC members.

Today, I want to share with you what we will be discussing at the 1/24/12 meeting. Our agenda includes the following topics of discussion:

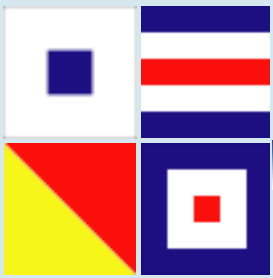
1. Review desired cruiser criteria from 2011 BAC: 25-30 foot long, 4 foot draft or less, fixed keel, model in mass production (e.g., Hunter, Catalina, Beneteau), 4 stroke outboard motor, functional nav lights, anchor, and steaming lights, port-a-potty instead of marine head, 15 years old or younger, price between 5K - 30K (close to NADA estimate of value)
2. Discuss fin keel vs. wing keel for cruisers
3. How many boats should SCOW own?
4. Should SCOW get a 5th Flying Scot?
5. What is Topaz' future?
6. Plans for liquidating any boat assets?
7. SCOW budget for boat acquisition
8. Plan of action (what to do next)

Item number 2 above is focused on the fact that most recent boat manufacturers are not using a fin keel, but a keel with a wing at the bottom of it. We will be discussing if the wing keel is harder to recover from a grounding, and we anticipate making a recommendation to the club about that issue.

The SCOW BAC is currently myself, Chris McGraw, Jim Klein, Kyoko Kawai, Mark Hogan, John Roland, Chris Tindal, and Sarah Jones.

I will try to keep you informed of our conversations and you send a summary of any recommendations that we make to the SCOW Board Of Directors.

Sincerely, Tom Vandenbosche
tom.vandenbosche@gmail.com



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Upcoming Events

SCOW Happy Hour & Member Meeting

Monday, Feb 13, 2012
6:30-7:30 pm Happy Hour
7:30-8:00 pm Membership Meeting
8:00-9:00 pm Knots & Door Prize
Capitol City Brewing Company
4001 Campbell Avenue
Arlington, Virginia 22206 ([map](#))

Please join us to socialize with SCOW members and potential members, and brush up your knot making skills!

SCOW sailing instructors, Bill Davenport, Chris Tindal and Joe Deporter will be demonstrating how to make the basic nautical knots and helping individuals practice. Other experienced sailors encouraged to help individuals practice.

You are welcome to bring your non member friends who you want to invite as your crew.

If you have questions regards to the Feb. Membership meeting, please contact me at vice@scow.org. We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the meeting!

Kyoko Kawai, SCOW Vice Commodore

For a complete list of upcoming events, view the calendar at <http://www.scow.org/>

Re-Up Brunch

Sunday, March 11, 2012
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
The Colonies of McLean
7681 Provincial Dr., Mc Lean, VA
([map](#))

Mark the official kick-off party for our sailing season. Bring a dish to share or pay \$10.

- Renew your membership.
- Sign up for the awesome training classes (be there by 10 am because classes fill up fast).
- See what's on schedule for River, Bay, Racing, and Social Activities this year.
- Enjoy a delicious brunch of ham & roast beef plus omelets & pancakes.
- Bloody marys and mimosas!
- Socialize, shoot pool, play ping pong, sing, eat, drink & be merry.

Volunteers make our events a success, as seen at the After Glow Party in January! Help is needed for set-up, clean-up, omelet cooks, bartenders. Think about how you can help, and contact Anna at social@scow.org.

Train the Trainer

Saturday, March 17, 2012
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Washington Sailing Marina

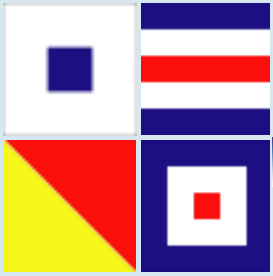
Rub Off The Rust

Sunday, March 18, 2012
12:00 noon - 4:00 pm
Washington Sailing Marina

Sign up for SCOW training at the Re-Up Brunch! For a complete list of classes see the calendar at www.scow.org

From Tom Kelly: A very cool animated knot tying web site:

<http://www.animatedknots.com/indexboating.php?LogoImage=LogoGrog.jpg&Website=www.animatedknots.com>



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SCOW Board

2012 Officers

Commodore Chris McGraw commodore@scow.org

Vice Commodore Kyoko Kawai vice@scow.org

Secretary Maggie Kruesi secretary@scow.org

Treasurer Doug Roark treasurer@scow.org

2012 Board Members

Maintenance Director Sarah Jones maintdir@scow.org

Racing Director Deepak Bellani racing@scow.org

River/Bay Director Faith Rodell river@scow.org

Membership Director Charles Gilbert membership@scow.org

Skipper Director Jonathan Thron skipper@scow.org

Social Director Anna Sheinberg social@scow.org

Training Director Tom Vaughan training@scow.org
& Anne Reb

A Message from the Editor:

Members,

Perhaps you have a favorite racing strategy book, or a great web link explaining right-of-way? Have you stumbled onto an informative boat maintenance web site or heard about an interesting sailing-related event?

This is your Newsletter. Please consider joining in and sharing your experiences and knowledge with the club through this forum.

Submit your feedback and ideas, content and photographs for next month's ChaNNels to editor@scow.org

Thank you in advance,

Barbara