

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

# ChanNels

The Newsletter of the  
Sailing Club of Washington

**December 2015**

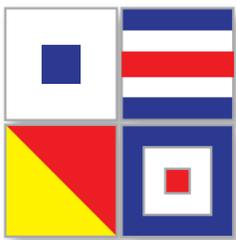
**Alexandria's  
Parade Of Lights**

**Hail & Farewell Fun**

**Audit Committee  
Report**



JULIE ANN PIXLER PHOTOGRAPHY



www.scow.org

# Chan Nels

## Commodore's Log

LUIS RIVAS, COMMODORE



With this being my last article for the year, I want to express my most sincere thank you for the privilege and honor to have served the club as the 2015 Commodore.

It has been fantastic meeting the many great volunteers this year including the winners of the top awards given at the Hail & Farewell:

### Ellie Abramson Award

Awarded annually for outstanding service to the club over an extended period. The 2015 recipient was **Chris McGraw.**

### Al Blankfield Award

Awarded annually for outstanding service to the club during the past year. The 2015 recipient was **John Kauffman.**

### Woodie Woodside Award

This is a newer award established in memory of Robert Custer "Woodie" Woodside, CDR USN (Retired), 1920-2009, one of the founders of SCOW. It is awarded annually to the SCOW member who has done the most to promote sailing by sharing his/her love of sailing through example, mentoring, and service to the club. The 2015 recipient was **Terry Mallett.**

I am looking forward to our 2016 celebration(s) as we honor our cherished club on her 50 year anniversary. Please extend your great support to the 2016 Board and thank you again for a year that I will never forget.

Fair Winds for the last time,

Luis

DECEMBER



LUIS RIVAS AND CHRIS MCGRAW  
PHOTO BY RICHARD KAISER



JOHN KAUFFMAN PHOTO BY ROB REUTER



TERRY AND JULIAN MALLETT  
PHOTO BY RICHARD KAISER

# Parade of Lights: A Newbie's Perspective

BY JULIE ANN PIXLER  
DEC. 2015

The Parade of Lights took place on Dec. 5th, 2015 on a warm winter day on the Potomac River. As a new SCOW member I learned about this unique holiday event at SCOW's Oktoberfest potluck from the seasoned sailor John Imparato. Thanks to the willing Rob Reuter, who decided to skipper Skirmish, I signed on to participate and we were very fortunate to be joined by the dazzling Stephanie Samoska and clever Don Ho.



To briefly summarize this year's Parade of Lights event, it consisted of a reported 60 powerboats, sailboats, The District's fireboat, and The "John Glenn" powerboat that spouted water 70 feet through the parade. It also included a water skiing Santa, (fully clothed) who waved from the fireboat in the parade and basically did publicity for the BIG show on Christmas Eve.

It was open to all in the area, as long as the boaters registered and attended an informational meeting that outlined the times, route, and your assigned slip at the Washington wharf for the after party. Cash prizes were awarded to fantastic boats that included; "Best in Show," "Best Thinking Outside the Christmas Box," and "Hardest Souls."

For our team, we went with simple and fun. We didn't have an elaborate plan, just a bundle of lights, great snacks, champagne, some garland, a couple of giant-sized candle sticks and matching elf hats that I think actually gave us an 'edge.'

On that sunny Saturday in early December I arrived at G Dock ready to go, and quickly realized that there are a lot of sailors who take the Parade of Lights competition seriously and to great lengths. I photographed the scene capturing the planning, the crockpots, the die cuts, the rope, the large plastic house, the balloons, the costumes, all pre-planned, well engineered, elaborate creativity that area sailors put into this holiday water parade. It was so inspiring!

In an effort to capture the perspectives of some of the SCOW members who participated in the event, I decided to interview a few whiz-bang lighters, crock-pot cooking, balloon holding, die-cut planning, glue gun sticking, Christmas light hangers who include; Sara Sepanski, Jeremy Goucher, Rob Reuter, and Jonathan Thron. Here are their responses...

**JP: What was the funniest quote or line you might have said or heard while participating in the event?**

Sara Sepanski: "As you might imagine, UP jokes abounded. (Their boat theme was the Pixar movie, "UP" and is featured on this issue's cover.) From the moment we all met on the docks Saturday morning to decorate, everyone was in fine form. "What's UP?" "Who's UP for this?" "I think you need to move it UP just a bit." There was a lot of merrymaking to say the least. In the end, as Kristine Sadusky said so well, we genuinely hoped that the lights of the season would lift people UP!"

Jonathan Thron: "We had about 50 boats registered for the parade, so sequencing and finding your place in line was important. You try to identify a couple of boats ahead of you so that you can find your spot. As we were lining up, we yelled out to a neighboring boat: "ARE YOU (theme of boat)???" We tried this a couple of times and got completely nonsensical (read: drunk) responses each time. Our crew was yelling that at each other the whole evening, it was great! "ARE YOU -----?"



JULIE ANN PIXLER PHOTOGRAPHY



JULIE ANN PIXLER PHOTOGRAPHY

**JP: What would you do differently next year?**

Jeremy Goucher: “Now that we’ve sized up the competition, I think I’d put more into creating the props. I’d do those well ahead of time and do a good job painting things or covering things with cloth. The boats that won awards all had non-commercial props – that is they built their own props rather than buying a prefabricated decoration, and they did a great job of crafting those props by covering, painting, and creating.”

Rob Reuter: “I think given this experience, I would do more planning, come up with a sensible theme, and do something more enjoyable for the crowd on the banks. That and I’d also let the crew speak into the mic during our open PA address.” (No worries Rob, we thought you did an excellent job!)

Jonathan Thron: “Next year we’re gonna go bigger and brighter. POL (Parade of Lights) is like stage acting in the sense that the gestures, the makeup, the costuming if you will – it all has to be exaggerated and over-the-top so that people can actually see it from the shore. It looks big to us because we’re on a boat right next to it, but you need to play to an audience.

JT continued: “We had a great crew and a fantastic theme, and for the most part it was very well executed despite the technical challenges. Part of the nature of this event and what makes people play to win, is the ambitious (and sometimes really expensive and technically complex) projects. Our crew on Hiatus had a blast – we’d like to thank John Imparato, Bob Rubenkönig, Gangplank Marina, Old Dominion Boat Club and all of the folks at The Wharf DC for their generosity in putting on this great



JULIE ANN PIXLER PHOTOGRAPHY



JULIE ANN PIXLER PHOTOGRAPHY



JULIE ANN PIXLER PHOTOGRAPHY



JULIE ANN PIXLER PHOTOGRAPHY

event. Also thanks to fellow skippers Rob & Jeremy and their crews. We had all 3 SCOW cruisers in the parade this year, which might have been a first. Finally, congrats to our friend and dock mate Dave Easter on Firefly, who's a perennial champion in this event and who inspires us to #drawmoreamps every year! PHZZZZTTTT... ooops there goes another circuit breaker...

**JP: How many years have you participated in the Parade of Lights on the Potomac?**

Sara Sepanski: This was my third year to participate and second year to crew with fellow SCOW members Kristine Sadusky, Josh Sharpe, and Jonathan Thron on Hiatus. While unplanned, the crew always included two friends who are non-SCOW members. All of last year's crew confirmed their participation again this year, which was exciting since our group had managed to have a phenomenal time despite the wet and frigid temperatures during last year's event.

**JP: What was the inspiration to do this year's them 'Up?'**

Sara Sepanski: The inspiration came from packages of LED-lit balloons that I came across last summer. They were in a rainbow variety of colors, and I immediately thought of the movie 'Up.' While they aren't traditional Christmas lights, they were still lights, and I thought it might be neat to stretch the boundaries of the parade's concept a bit."

**JP: How long did your team spend in the creative process – to gathering the pieces?**

Sara Sepanski: “The idea had been cooking in my head for awhile, but it wasn’t until this October that I reached out to all of last year’s crew to see if anyone was interested in trying to pull off the theme and available to participate. Not only did I get a resounding YES from everyone, but Josh also attached a Google doc spreadsheet that he’d worked on with everything we might need or consider for the UP theme.”

Sara S. - Gathering the pieces: “We had one planning meeting and met once more before the event to watch the actual movie together. I think during the week leading up to the event, Jonathan had something to do every night to make sure we had the lights and house in place for Saturday. (SUPER COOL PART) I put in a weekend at the model shop at my firm (I work for HKS Architects) to create the lit UP letters and cloud, and I know the rest of the crew were working on costumes and their amazing chicken chili and hot apple cider, which were back by popular demand to help keep us warm while on the water.”

The Parade of Lighted Boats is co-produced by Washington Waterfront Association and Old Dominion Boat Club, presented by Hoffman-Madison Waterfront, developers of the new, world-class, mixed-use waterfront, The Wharf and Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association through the generosity of: Alexandria Fire Department, Cantina Marina, Capital Yacht Club, Destination DC, District of Columbia Fire Department, Entertainment Cruises, EventBrite, Gangplank Marina, Gangplank Slipholders Association, MPD Harbor Patrol, PhotoGenics, Port of Washington Yacht Club, RedPeg and Visit Alexandria, VA. – Information courtesy of: [www.HILLNOWevents.com](http://www.HILLNOWevents.com)

PHOTO COLLECTION  
BY RICHARD KAISER



JULIE ANN PIXLER PHOTOGRAPHY

# Goodbye 2015: Hail & Farewell Celebration



PHOTO BY RICHARD KAISER

The Hail & Farewell, SCOW's annual end of the season gala, was held on November 7th, at Pinstripes in Georgetown; a new and exciting venue for our festivities, that proved to be an outstanding choice for our special occasion.

Over cocktail hour followed by then dinner, awards and dancing, skippers and crew celebrated the end of another year of cruising and racing, rafting and repairing, and the too-many-to-count highlights of the year together on the Potomac.



PHOTO BY ROB REUTER



PHOTO BY RICHARD KAISER

We thanked our dedicated members and volunteers, who gave countless hours to benefit the entire membership, and we hailed the 2016 Board of Directors.

PHOTOS BY ROB REUTER

## 2016 SCOW Board of Directors

Commodore .....Rob Reuter  
 Vice Commodore ..... Amy Cheryl Deckelbaum  
 Secretary .....Kevin Longenbach  
 Treasurer ..... Mike Hooban  
 Training Director.....Gregory Prather  
 Skipper Certification Director ..... Teresa Fralish  
 Social Director ..... Richard Kaiser  
 Maintenance Director .....Steve Ochenkoski  
 River & Bay Activities Director..... Jose Leoncio  
 Racing Director ..... Csilla Gal  
 Membership Director ..... Elisabeth Graham



PHOTO BY RICHARD KAISER



## Audit Report for Calendar Year 2014

Date: December 12, 2015

To: SCOW Membership via Channels

From: SCOW Audit Committee

Kevin Mullane  
Ellen McCallie  
Jay Weitzel

### Audit Summary

Pursuant to the requirements of the club's Bylaws, Article VII, Section 8, the above named conducted an audit of the 2014 financial records of the Sailing Club of Washington. We believe the results of our audit will help assure the membership that their interests were responsibly being pursued in collective fashion and in accordance with the best principles of democracy.

We reviewed the income and expense statements for the year. All recorded revenue and expenditures were reconciled to bank records. The reserve fund was maintained as required in the bylaws. We inquired after papers of incorporation, the 2014 tax return, bonding and insurance coverage, and satisfied ourselves that the Club continued to be protected and managed in accordance with the laws and regulations of the District of Columbia as a 501 (c) (7) non-profit organization.

The budget for 2014 was reviewed, which projected a modest positive cash flow for that year. Acquisition of another Flying Scot, purchase of new sails for all Flying Scots and other unanticipated upgrades to the fleet were welcomed by the membership. Capital improvements included solar panels, now installed on the lockers. As a consequence of these investments, expenditures exceeded revenue by approximately \$10,000. We note that the Club had not made a 2014 contribution to the Boat Asset Fund as required by the bylaws. We are advised that the 2015 Board intends to address this oversight by doubling the required contribution as it closes out this calendar year. We also recommend that in view of the desire for a larger fleet, that the Boat Asset Fund contribution level be reviewed to ensure that it will meet the Club's future needs.

After examining the items mentioned above, the financial statements and supporting schedules, bookkeeping procedures and accounting practices, the committee is of the opinion that the audited records fairly and accurately reflected the fiscal position of the Sailing Club of Washington as of the end of last year (2014).

We would like to state our appreciation for the exceptional volunteerism exhibited by the Board, Directors and many hard-working members.

DECEMBER

## Contact the Board

### 2015 Officers

Commodore..... Luis Rivas.....[commodore@scow.org](mailto:commodore@scow.org)  
Vice Commodore ..... David Beckett.....[vice@scow.org](mailto:vice@scow.org)  
Secretary ..... Barbara Thacker .....[secretary@scow.org](mailto:secretary@scow.org)  
Treasurer ..... Mike Hooban.....[treasurer@scow.org](mailto:treasurer@scow.org)

### 2015 Board Members

Training Director ..... Jonathan Thron.....[training@scow.org](mailto:training@scow.org)  
Skipper Director..... Rob Reuter .....[skipper@scow.org](mailto:skipper@scow.org)  
Social Director ..... Amy Deckelbaum.....[social@scow.org](mailto:social@scow.org)  
Maintenance Director..... Jim Talley .....[maintdir@scow.org](mailto:maintdir@scow.org)  
River/Bay Director..... Kristine Sadusky .....[river@scow.org](mailto:river@scow.org)  
Racing Director..... Julian Mallett.....[racing@scow.org](mailto:racing@scow.org)  
Membership Director ..... Elisabeth Graham .....[membership@scow.org](mailto:membership@scow.org)

### 2015 Board Appointees

Chair, Training & Skipper

Certification Committee..... John Rogers.....[TSCC@scow.org](mailto:TSCC@scow.org)  
Chair, Boat Assets Committee ..... Alex White .....[BAC@scow.org](mailto:BAC@scow.org)  
Chair, Investments Committee..... Valerie Pelton .....[investment@scow.org](mailto:investment@scow.org)  
Chair, Audit Committee ..... VACANT.....[audit@scow.org](mailto:audit@scow.org)  
Channels Editor..... Barbara Thacker .....[editor@scow.org](mailto:editor@scow.org)  
Membership Coordinator ..... Henry Cheng .....[members@scow.org](mailto:members@scow.org)  
Email Administrator..... Jeff Teitel.....[postmaster@scow.org](mailto:postmaster@scow.org)  
Picasa Pictures ..... George Clark .....[pictures@scow.org](mailto:pictures@scow.org)  
Web Editor ..... Luis Rivas.....[webmaster@scow.org](mailto:webmaster@scow.org)

**Thank you to everyone who contributed to ChaNNels,  
especially the amazingly talented Julie Pixler.**

SAILING CLUB OF WASHINGTON