

"I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving - we must sail sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it - but we must sail, and not drift, nor lie at anchor." - Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.



ChaNNels Monthly Newsletter – December, 2018

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Season's Greetings



Commodore's Log

By Joe Leoncio



Lucia 40 catamaran charter in Annapolis, MD. Memorial Day 2018

My dear friends,

What we do for one another in SCOW makes a difference in people's lives and it affects future generations. I've seen friendships and families blossom and grow. I've witnessed the energy and excitement of new members and sailors when they discover our club. I've proudly observed the selflessness of so many who have earned my admiration. I am humbled by the limitless potential that the SCOW experience has to offer for someone willing to see how far they can go.

It has been an honor to serve you all as Commodore for the last two years, but I didn't do it alone. I give much praise and thanks to the Boards of Directors with whom I served in both 2017 and 2018. Without them, the bills don't get paid, the fleet doesn't stay afloat, and our entire operation falls apart. I commend them for their leadership, their selfless service, and their creativity.

I also want to say thanks to all of our volunteers. I know all of you, and I look forward to seeing you all and sailing with you again in the near future. There are three volunteers in particular whom I would like to highlight as they were given SCOW's biggest honors at Hail and Farewell:

- Luis Rivas
 - For his close collaboration with the Directors to improve SCOW's website capabilities and his service as a tutor and checkout skipper. He has even taken the time to attend a Wild Apricot conference to improve his website management skill set. Winner of the Alan Blankenfield Award for outstanding service to the club in 2018.

- Dave Beckett
 - Traditionally, we do not consider members of the Board for this, but the racing program has really blossomed this year and it has been incredibly helpful in developing our new and inexperienced sailors. Dave's work this year has been truly exceptional and exemplary of SCOW's values of community, service, and integrity. Winner of the Woodie Woodside Award for doing the most to promote sailing in 2018.

- Bill Gillespie
 - For his consistency and service in the FS training program. He has spent consecutive weekends over many years devoted to training new sailors. He contributed to the alternative reefing method on the Scots. He consistently volunteers on FS maintenance day. He is also recognized for his work as the boson for Lion's Paw. Winner of the Ellie Abramson award for outstanding service over a period of time.

I've fortunately had the visibility to see the remarkable contributions of Luis, Dave, and Bill. All of our volunteers make a difference, but these guys in particular deserve special recognition.

While this is my last Commodore's log, I will remain a devoted volunteer to our community. I came to a social sail 5 years ago, and it set me on a trajectory to make tons of friends, sail bigger boats, and even travel abroad to sail! I'll be forever indebted to SCOW so you can expect to see me rolling up my sleeves (or taking off my shirt) to volunteer at future events.

Thanks for everything, SCOW!

See you on the water!

Joe Leoncio
Commodore
Sailing Club of Washington
703-314-7583

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After Glow 2019 Party – Save the Date

Saturday, January 12th, 7-11 PM

The Colonies of McLean

...more details to come soon!

7681 Provincial Drive, McLean, VA 22102

Parking located around the building and anywhere down the lane. This is a gated community, so just tell the gate attendant you are attending The Sailing Club of Washington event. See you there!

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20 Ways to Volunteer with SCOW in 2019

By Julie Pixler

As an outgoing Social Director, I have spent a lot of time looking for volunteers, begging for volunteers, trying to inspire volunteers, even bribing volunteers.

So, it got me thinking - maybe it would be helpful if I listed some of the unique ways you can get involved with **The Sailing Club of Washington** - that maybe don't seem like the obvious routes to meeting other members, and dipping your toe into being involved in this great club.

So, here are 20 unique ways YOU can volunteer too!

In January we have our annual After Glow Party, which happens after the holidays. It's one of my favorites because there's little pressure, everyone is happy to have the holidays behind them and we all get together for a crock-pot cook off, there is a bar set up, a little music, I usually pull out something sparkly - yet understated, and we kick off the year.

#20: After Glow in January: you can show up early and decorate a little, light the fireplace (if we have the same venue), set up the bar (that's fun!), bring extra electrical strips for the crock-pot Regatta (yes, we made a contest out of it) set up the desserts, or even be a bartender for about an hour that night (free shots!) this is a great event to volunteer at, it's easy, you'll meet people, AND you will be helping the Social Director out a lot.

#19: Our Big Re-Up Brunch every March - this event is probably the most work for the social director, it involves securing the venue, finding bartenders, buying supplies, coordinating the Membership Director, Skipper Director, the Treasurer, a full menu of brunch items, decorations, and the list goes on and on, but - this is a great event to be an ambassador for the club, bartend for a shift, offer to take money at the door, come a little early and help set up, hang out in the dining area and keep the area tidy, help the membership director with new memberships (this is a big job!) - so consider Re-Up Brunch as your foray into volunteering.

#18: Come April, the Social Sail season starts, and the Social Director will need every week a dock master and assistant dockmaster - to those who are new to the club, don't worry - you don't need to be a skipper to perform either of these roles, and it's a lot of fun! Social Sail is a lot of work, it's coordinating food, supplies, volunteers - so if you are more of a SUMMER volunteer - be sure to reach out to social@scow.org -- and offer to join the crew at the marina - it would be a huge help, don't be intimidated - everyone is welcome!

#17: Boat Maintenance: You don't have to be a boat mechanic to get involved with repairing, cleaning, and maintaining our fleet - we have folks like Vincent Penoso and Dana Howe who are very knowledgeable that send out emails often looking for volunteers - so don't be shy - reply to those emails!

#16: Maintenance Days: These days will be outlined by the Maintenance Directors, they are volunteers who spend a lot of time on our fleet, and are often overworked, but if you come out on maintenance days - a big group can accomplish a lot on the list - come on out!

#15: Weekly Maintenance: Retired? Like to tinker with boats? So maybe you're retired and have a little extra time on your hands during the week - well, here's your chance to come out to the marina and tinker with our fleet and work side by side with our maintenance directors with various tasks. It's a big one, because without our boats - we don't have a club.

#14: You got time to lean, you got time to clean: This one goes back to Social Sail - it never fails at the end of the night on a Thursday when the sun has set, that's when the work begins, the bugs are biting and we have boats to put onto the cranes, and the DHOW (food cart) needs to be repacked and cleaned, and the garbage needs to be gathered and thrown out. I know personally, I always needed friends to help push the DHOW back to it's spot at the far end of the marina -- so, my advice (and plea) is this, if you came to Social Sail, and you got on a boat, and **filled a plate**, try to resist leaving when the sun sets - we really need you to stick around and help with all this stuff, because trust me - the main volunteers are anxious to get home too. If everyone lends a hand, we can all leave at a decent hour.

#13: Spring & Fall marina clean-up: The past two years our River & Bay director organized a weekend morning to pick up trash and plastics found around the water at the marina. This is an awesome event - and I know that it not only helps to make the marina nicer, it's just a feel good event - all around.

#12: Racing: We've had a growing racing program in recent years, and I can speak from experience, if you can volunteer on the race boat, take photos, put buoys in the water, or simply participate as a crew member, it can take a program from being loosely attended, to being one of the best ways to get experience on the water, I can't recommend this enough, so keep an eye on emails - and get out there on Wednesday nights!

#11: Write articles for Channels: Every month the club accepts articles about our club, sailing, racing, weather, technical advice, event info, etc. If you like to write and have something interesting to contribute -- don't be shy about sending your submissions in - new voices are always encouraged!

#10: Volunteer by being a trainer: I don't know a great deal about this area except that every year - we need trainers, or in general people willing to offer their knowledge and experience. If you think you might qualify to be a trainer - please consider being a trainer and pay it forward to the next generation.

#9: Special Olympics: Special Olympics and SCOW have partnered for a number of years, so if you are a skipper or would be interested in coordinating or bringing water every week, or assisting with getting boats in the water, this takes place in June and July every year. I am not a skipper, but I have gotten involved by bringing water and popsicles to the athletes, taking photos - I found just being on hand was a lot of fun and rewarding. The athletes will WOW you - and it's a great program.

#8: Winter Learning Series: In the winter, when there's snow and ice on the ground, in recent years we have organized a **Winter Learning Series** - everyone is welcome, but we often need speakers. We meet at West Marine in Old Town Alexandria (they graciously all us the space at night) and we set up a board or a projector - and folks like Dave Beckett and Jonathan Thron and others have given really interesting presentations on safety, racing, etc. Volunteer to give a presentation or help give one - it's fun!

#7: Membership: This one goes back to our Membership Re-Up Brunch that we have every year - this is the Membership Director's biggest event of the year - and they often need volunteers that day and sometimes after to sort papers, etc. If you enjoy this kind of organization - reach out to our membership director before March - they would love you for it!

#6: Like to work with your hands? So maybe you have a little extra time on your hands and want to learn more about our boats - well, here's your chance to come out to the marina and learn to maintain our fleet, side by side with our maintenance directors and bosons on all sorts of boat maintenance tasks. It's a big deal to the Club, because without our boats - we don't have a club.

#5: Volunteer to help out at our membership meetings! Reach out to our Vice Commodore, they will be the director setting the dates and finding speakers for our membership meetings, reach out to our Vice and see how you can help make it fun!

#4: Offer to bring food to Social Sail! Even if you can bring a bag of ice - it helps!

#3: **Volunteer to store things in your basement:** Every year the Social Director and others on the board have a few Rubbermaid bins of things that need to be stored. I personally struggled with the vast amount of odds and ends we need to put on great events - if you have a dry basement or attic that can hold some stuff -- that is always a big help!

#2. **Hail & Farewell in November:** Offer to help plan for Hail & Farewell: HF is a huge event, and the work for the event starts in January. The venue needs to be found and booked, the menu chosen, parking details, awards printed, swag purchased, wrapped, addressed, and organized. There is a large amount of administrative work that comes with this event, it is unfortunately not just decorating the day of - it's finding a cake maker, paying all the vendors, keeping the budget, organizing receipts, communicating with the membership, and working with Luis Rivas and the board to get the ticket sales set up online, etc. Much to do -- if you are open to getting involved, reach out to social@scow.org and offer to help maybe with just one of these areas, it can help a lot, AND it is a really special evening.

#1: **Be an ambassador for SCOW** -- tell your friends and neighbors about SCOW, invite co-workers, be sure to tell people that you can be as involved as much or as little as you like, but there are some really fun and interesting ways to get involved in this unique, special club and point out that this is the **best deal in all of the DMV, for \$50.00** you have access to our fleet, training, events, and gaining experience.

This list is really for all of the new people that come to Social Sail or have chosen to just participate during the summer season. I want to personally invite **YOU** to get involved a little bit more - because in short, **we need you.**

Sincerely,

Julie Pixler - Out-going Social Director

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SCOW Racing Program

By David Beckett

2018 PHRF Keel Boat Skipper Apprenticeship Program

This past spring, Henry Cheng volunteered to take the lead in mentoring SCOW cruiser skippers aspiring to become certified as keel boat racing skippers. Henry took a small group of certified cruiser skippers and crew out to race Rebecca in the DISC KISS Spring Series as a training ground. The skippers got to helm the boat under supervision during actual races. Henry provided me with assessments of prospective skippers' performance. Then we conducted a comprehensive oral review panel covering racing rules, risk management, and safety. The program was very successful. Luis Rivas and Greg Prather became certified SCOW racing skippers in 2018 and Henry and his crew brought home some hardware for SCOW. Congratulations to Henry and the following SCOW crew members who took second place in the 2018 DISC KISS Spring Series:

Luis Rivers*
Greg Prather*
Don Ho
Don Anderson
Ram Ramalingam
*skippers certified through apprenticeship program

I'm hoping to have the trophy displayed in the WSM office.



2nd Place - Non-Spinnaker B Fleet went to SCOW cruiser, Rebecca

A very special thank you to Henry for his initiative and integrity in leading this successful program this year. This was a great boost to our keel boat PHRF racing program. Henry has volunteered to do it again next year so look for Racing Director announcements in 2019. To be eligible for this racing skipper apprenticeship program, prospective keel boat racing skippers must already be certified cruiser and Flying Scot skippers, have participated in multiple formal Flying Scot races and be recommended by the Racing Director.

Also, special thanks to Mike Rothenberg for taking care of the PHRF certification paperwork for Rebecca in 2017 and 2018.

Other Racing News

The SCOW Board of Directors unanimously approved the Racing Director's request to upgrade and standardize our spinnaker pole inventory. We'll have six identical Forespar spinnaker poles from Flying Scot Inc. for the 2019 sailing season. Whether you're racing or day sailing, you'll appreciate this cost effective, light weight, highly durable and easy to operate spinnaker pole. *Treat them right and enjoy.*



Forespar spinnaker pole in action at the 2018 Capital District Championships. Heavy duty metal Forespar end fittings and easy action on/off the mast ring. Handsome, rugged, reliable.

Winter Seminars – Location is West Marine Store, Route 1, Alexandria

30 Jan	Crew Development
06 Feb	Sailing Fast Techniques
13 Feb	Racing Rules
20 Feb	Tactics & Strategy: Starts and getting around the course
27 Feb	Tactics and Team Racing – Mike Callahan

Stay tuned for confirming announcements.



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Close Call: Boats Collide

By Mark Corke

The skipper of a 35-foot sailboat is lucky to be alive after a 37-foot charter fishing boat struck his boat at speed.



Amazingly, no one was seriously injured in this collision. (Photo: Maryland Department of Natural Resources)

If you subscribe to any online boating forums or social media, there's a good chance you came across a startling photograph of a powerboat sitting atop a sailboat. According to reports, a J/105 sailboat was involved in a collision with fishing boat on the Chesapeake Bay on August 17, 2018.

The sailboat *Levitation*, with skipper Michael Andorsky, a 74-year-old retired pediatrician, and a friend, were struck by *The Hunter*, a charter fishing vessel with seven people aboard. Somehow, no one was seriously hurt in the collision.

Andorsky told the local newspaper, the *Capital Gazette*, that even when the powerboat was "way off in the distance," he could see that they were probably on a collision course. "I'm waving at the guy, yelling, and all of a sudden, his boat was sitting on top of our boat," Andorsky **told the newspaper**. He believes that luck played a part, and surmised that had the powerboat stuck closer to the stern of the sailboat, where he and his friend were sitting, they would have most likely been killed.

The U.S. Coast Guard has taken over the investigation from the state marine police and has not determined which boat was at fault or whether alcohol or excessive speed were factors in the collision.

Weather reports indicated about 12 knots of breeze with conditions clear with approximately 10 miles of visibility at the time of the collision.

According to statements made by Andorsky, had the *Levitation* not been heeling to starboard when the powerboat stuck, the sailboat could have been cut in half. After the seven people were evacuated from the fishing boat, it reportedly slid back into the water. Both boats remained afloat after the incident and were towed back to port.

This collision, one of many that happen each year, is another stark reminder that keeping a proper lookout and understanding the rules of the road are important for all boaters.

[Here's a quick refresher on the right of way rules.](#)

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Night Passage Through the Strait

By Bill Davenport

One of my favorite sailing memories is of a night passage from the south coast of Spain across to the Moroccan coast. The shipping traffic was bumper to bumper as we passed astern of one ship and dodged the bow of another to gain the Moroccan coast. It was a beautiful night as we sailed along with the Atlas Mountains to the left. The moon was full and bright as the Rock of Gibraltar loomed large, glistening in the distance, the moon light dancing off its surface. It was the same view as that seen on the Prudential Insurance logo. I thought to myself *what a sight, this is surreal, somebody pinch me.*



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Skippers' Corner

By **Chip Lubsen**

Congratulations to these recently certified SCOW skippers:

Flying Scots: **Howard Hammermann and Joel Hough**

Cruisers: **Lynn Durbin and Wayne K. Williams**

As Skipper Director in training for 2019 I look forward to being of service to the skipper community within SCOW. I count over a dozen aspiring skippers in various stages of progress toward certification. That number will surely grow as our excellent training program encourages more candidates to pursue skipper certification.

If any club member has an interest in becoming a SCOW skipper, please reach out to me at skipper@scow.org.

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Your Article Goes Here

By Any SCOW member willing to share content of interest to our community.

[At any time, please submit articles, or links to articles that you think would be meaningful to other SCOW members. Photos are always welcome – preferably with captions. Word format preferred but not necessary. Be informative! Be creative! Unleash your inner-writer (in a super safe forum). Be serious or funny! Please submit to editor@scow.org]



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Upcoming SCOW Events – January 2019

January 7	Monday	7:00 pm	SCOW BOD Meeting
January 12	Saturday	7-11 pm	After Glow Party - The Colonies, McLean, VA
January 30	Wednesday	7:00 pm	Crew Development Seminar - Location TBA

Check SCOW.ORG for all membership events and details.

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2018-2019 SCOW Board of Directors

Thank You for Your Service to SCOW

	2018	2019	
Commodore	Joe Leoncio	Richard Kaiser	commodore@scow.org
Vice Commodore	Richard Kaiser	Brian McPherson	vice@scow.org
Secretary	Steve Youngblood	Wayne K. Williams	secretary@scow.org
Treasurer	Mike Hooban	Mike Hooban	treasurer@scow.org
Training Director	Jyoti Wadhwa	Steve Youngblood	training@scow.org
Skipper Director	Brian McPherson	Chip Lubsen	skipper@scow.org
Social Director	Julie Pixler	Marie Brennan	social@scow.org
River/Bay Director	Marie Brennan	Carlie Smith	river@scow.org
FS Maintenance Director	Dick Vida	Dana Howe	scotmaint@scow.org
CR Maintenance Director	Vincent Penoso	Vincent Penoso	cruisermaint@scow.org
Racing Director	Dave Beckett	Dave Beckett	racing@scow.org
Membership Director	Talya Mallin	Barry Yatt	membership@scow.org
Full Board	All Board Members		board@scow.org

All SCOW board members welcome your questions, comments and input.

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