



ChaNNels Monthly Newsletter - January 2018

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# Commodore's Log



by [Joe Leoncio](#)

I have to admit: those last few months of 2017 were some of the busiest. After Hail and Farewell, we jumped right into the holidays, work deadlines, and planning for the transition into 2018. With all that behind us now, I feel as if we're starting 2018 with renewed vigor and enthusiasm. What a blessing and an honor to serve our club and to join ranks with my leadership team and all of our SCOW friends!

The Board of Directors had such positive experience working together last year that most of us came back to do it again this year. We have the advantage of being able to draw upon last year's experience to improve club operations in 2018.

One of the changes you'll see is a move towards electronic forms for membership applications/renewals, skipper agreements, training classes, and skipper written tests. There's still much to be developed and there are a lot of kinks to be ironed out, but we've got our best people collaborating with one another on this goal. Special thanks to Bernadette and Richard Kaiser, Brian McPherson, Talya Mallin, and Luis Rivas for their work on this. If we can reduce the number of hours spent on administrative tasks, then we'll have more hours to spend sailing!

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## TOP STORIES



(2018 Board of Directors at Hail and Farewell. Nov. 18, 2017. Left to right: Joe Leoncio, Julie Pixler, Richard Kaiser, Dick Vida, Marie Brennan, Mike Hooban, Dave Beckett, Jyoti Wadhwa. Not pictured: Steve Youngblood, Brian McPherson, & Vince Penoso. Picture courtesy of Bernadette Kaiser.)

# Your 2018 Board of Directors

On Nov. 13, 2017, SCOW elected the 2018 Board of Directors:

- Commodore - Joe Leoncio
- Vice-Commodore - Richard Kaiser
- Treasurer - Mike Hooban
- Secretary - Steve Youngblood
- Training Director - Jyoti Wadhwa
- Membership Director - Talya Mallin
- Racing Director - Dave Beckett
- River and Bay Director - Marie Brennan
- Social Director - Julie Pixler
- Cruiser Maintenance Director - Vince Penoso
- Scot Maintenance Director - Dick Vida
- Skipper Director - Brian McPherson

Big thanks to Alice Starcke for serving as the club Secretary for 2017. It was great working with you, and you will be missed, Alice!

Welcome to Jyoti, our newest member on the Board! Having a brand new, fresh perspective is healthy for our organization.

I encourage all members to consider serving on the Board at least once. It's a great way to make a meaningful impact and to affect positive change in the club.

## Upcoming Events

Our Racing Director extraordinaire, Dave Beckett, brings another series of seminars to keep your sailing skills sharp through the winter starting on Jan. 31st. West Marine at 601 S. Patrick Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 has graciously offered to host us from 7 pm to 9 pm. Here's the list of events:

- Jan. 31 - Crew Development
- Feb. 7 - Sailing Fast Techniques
- Feb. 21 - Racing Rules
- Feb. 28 - Racing Tactics and Strategy
- March 7 - Racing Tactics

These are all excellent seminars which will improve your sailing skills regardless of whether you intend to race this year. I've seen many novice sailors become extremely competent just by hanging out with the veteran racers. If you're new to sailing, try not to miss these seminars!

# River & Bay

by [Marie Brennan](#)

It will be spring before we know it! With that, means the start of our wonderful sailing season. I am looking forward to another year serving as your River & Bay Director. Hopefully this year we have better weather leading to more events! Last year we had fun checking out the new DC Wharf, National Harbor, and Yards Park as well as other events. As always, one of the first events will be our participation in the annual Potomac River shed Clean Up! Look for emails to start in March announcing the date and information, but this is a great activity to get the whole family involved and clean our marina and park- and a fun way to socialize and start the season off with a meaningful volunteering event.

If you have interest in skippering for future Raft Ups or other R&B events, please email me so I can add you to my list! If you have any ideas for events, please feel free to email me. Remember, as a skipper you have the ability to create your own events as well and invite others.

Another event to start of the sailing season is the Spring Annapolis Boat Show! This is a fun event, (smaller than the fall one) to check out boats and new sailing gear. Often many of us go as a group or meet up for dinner afterwards so look forward to emails once it gets closer. The boat show is April 20-22. They also offer a Cruisers University with classes, but you must sign up ahead of time.

Fingers crossed for pleasant weather and a great start to the sailing season! I look forward to seeing you all soon.

# After Glow 2018

by [Julie Ann Pixler](#)

Picture this, crock pots bubbling with red beans and rice on low, the aroma of chili and fresh red peppers wafting throughout a room with a fireplace crackling in the background, the lights are dimmed, tall white candles are lit on every table, and party - goers are starting to arrive with Frank Sinatra playing in the background. This was the scene at SCOW's Annual After Glow party that featured a Crock Pot Regatta complete with 9 participants, three winners, and lots of scrumptious comfort food to go around.

We were very lucky this year to welcome new members Delores and George Ward who took over the bartending management duties for 2018. Drinks were slightly spiked, cold beer was served, every volunteer behind the bar took on extra shifts, told jokes, served up cheer, and welcomed new faces. Crock-pot favorites included; SCOW Members Sandy Daniels with First Place, Elaine Shall, Second Place, and Liz Talley got Third Place.

Thank you to every member who made it a fun watering hole all night! We had a whopping 33 volunteers who set up food, cleaned, vacuumed, decorated, brought dishes, manned the front door, set up tables, and poured drinks - this is the beauty of The Sailing Club of Washington.

Throughout the night 78 members were treated to music humming from the back room, Jim Klein on the guitar, Alice Starcke with music, and an energetic pool game that closed down the joint! The spirit of friendship and volunteerism were alight as friends put on their coats, carried out empty crock pots to their car, hugged one-another, and wished everyone well.

The SCOW 2018 season starts with the winter series lectures at West Marine in Alexandria (this Wednesday to start), maintenance days, Burning of the Socks, social sails, racing on Wednesdays, sailing courses, raft-ups, and hopefully breathtaking sunsets to calm a sailor's soul. Till we meet again, everyone stay safe and we'll see you soon.

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