



CHANNELS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
SAILING CLUB OF WASHINGTON

FEBRUARY 2020

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PLEASE SEND YOUR ARTICLES
FOR FUTURE CHANNELS
NEWSLETTERS TO:
EDITOR@SCOW.ORG

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COMMODORE'S LOG

BY RICHARD KAISER



Greetings,

You know how sometimes early in the morning you can tell what kind of a day you're going to have? It may be the weather or just the side of the bed where you woke. Well, by the looks of our two early year events, I'm getting that feeling again that SCOW's going to have a great 2020.

After Glow and our first sailing seminar have had record numbers of excited guests. After Glow, with its perfect weather (no ice storm this year!), Crockpot Regatta, musicians on the balcony and good cheer rang in SCOW's New Year in tremendous form - thanks to **Marie Brennan** and her volunteers for a fantastic time.

We had our first sailing seminar - Crew Development - this past Wednesday evening at West Marine, in Alexandria, and it was standing room only! **Dave Beckett** does a great job of sharing important skills for crew members and skippers alike, but his real-world anecdotes make the seminar truly valuable and fun. This is not only a great learning exercise, but a great way to see your friends and get ready for the soon-to-be sailing season. We have five more sailing seminars coming up each Wednesday through March 4th. Don't miss a single session.

It may be early in SCOW's season, but if these events are any indication of what's to come, we're in for a great year. I hope to see you at SCOW's Wednesday night seminars and at **Re-Up on March 8th** - Re-Up is always our largest SCOW event with 150+ members attending. Look for volunteer sign up lists soon.

See you on the water!

DISCOVERIES ON THE BAY

PART TWO OF A TWO PART SERIES

BY JOE WARREN

FOLLOWING THE "BEST DAY SAIL" HE EVER HAD, FIND OUT HOW JOE GOT HIS HANDS ON THE COVETED FLYING SCOT PRESIDENT'S CUP TROPHY!

The forecast on Sept 7 was only 5-6 mph from NE. Nonetheless, I set sail with **Robert Gregorits** (SCOW skipper), his son and Esther for Turkey Point. After rounding the point we enjoyed the breeze with Robert at the tiller for 20 minutes. But, I became anxious as the breeze eased, then died. We were in the worst spot--the strongest ebb tide was around the point. Would this be the first time I have to call Boat US for a tow at a cost of at least \$100? And, Esther had to leave the sailing center at about 5:30 for a later commitment. I promised to get her back, but even with a tow we would not make that time. We were in luck since another Scot with a 2 hp outboard motor was about 150 feet from us; no other powered sailboat around. We got back at 5:32!

Had time to discuss the SCOW organization, especially training new skippers, with Dave Neff. I encouraged him to hold another two day race. He mentioned he possessed the President's Cup for 31 years, since FS racing ended in 1988 on the Potomac. Neff was the last winner in 1988. What a discovery! I didn't know there was a cup for the Flying Scot fleet. Yes indeed! It is a beautiful silver, half-cup mounted on a mahogany plaque with engraved names of winners of the President's Cup since 1961. Wow! Names such as the boat designer, Gordon Douglas and FS builder Harry Carpenter. I brought it back--reluctantly giving it to **Dave Beckett**. He sent an email to all SCOW racers before the President's Cup Regatta which discussed this history. What's next for day sailing this year? A sail to Annapolis--and back, hopefully.



LOST WIND, GOOD COMPANY AND NO NEED FOR A TOW MADE FOR A HAPPY CREW
PHOTO CREDIT: ANDREW PRICE



IT'S BACK! THE INFAMOUS PRESIDENT'S CUP TROPHY
PHOTO CREDIT: GEORGE CLARK

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

BY TONI COLE, MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Ahoy!

It's time to renew!! Only a few flakes have fallen so far and I am hoping Punxsutawney Phil brings news of an early spring this year!

In preparation, the renewal area is open! I would like to be out on those first boats in April just as much as you!! Please help avoid hearing any sad sighs coming from the Membership Director by logging into the members area at <https://www.scow.org/>, getting your renewal taken care of, and coming out to Re-up Brunch, March 8th, just to enjoy the mimosas and talk boats and spring sailing with us!

ONLINE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AT WWW.SCOW.ORG

01

**RENEW YOUR INDIVIDUAL OR
HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIPS**

02

**RENEW YOUR SKIPPER
MEMBERSHIP**

03

**PAY ALL DUE\$ AND COMPLETE
THE PROCE\$S**

That said, members are able to renew their individual or household memberships in Step 1, and, if you are a Skipper, renew your Skipper Membership in Step 2, AND, then pay all dues and complete the process in Step 3. A lot of work, trial and error has gone into making renewal as quick and easy as possible online. We hope that you breeze through it without a hitch. If we have missed anything and you have any issues or observations please share those with me so we can address any glitches. If you need help, also reach out with any questions to membership@scow.org.

The information desk is happy to answer any and all questions, as long as it's not cutting into my time out on the water!

Lastly, let's welcome new members **Brian Nelson-Palmer** and **Steve Young** to the club. They have both expressed an interest in racing so who knows, maybe some fresh competition for **Dave Beckett**? I can't wait! **Greg Neissen** joins us as well, we hope to meet you at Re-Up Brunch in March.

Happy (almost) Spring Sailors!



PUNXSUTAWNEY PHIL

RACING NEWS

BY DAVE BECKETT, RACING DIRECTOR

The days are getting longer and it won't be long before we're on the water again.

Seminars

We had our first of six seminars. The real fun in our progressive series starts next week with Sailing Fast - all the secrets (Feb. 5). Then we hit Racing Rules and Sailing the Course in preparation for our guest speakers **Mike Callahan** and **Dave Neff**, who will culminate the series. Some news below.

SCOW Website

If you haven't seen the SCOW website lately, you need to check it out. **Luis Rivas** has done a marvelous job of modernizing it. It looks great. Racers check out the new racing page. It looks different but it has the same functionality as before. Navigate your way through it and let me know if you can find everything. It might take a couple visits to get comfortable with the new look but it's better now. I added a ridiculous number of action photos to the photo carousel on the Flying Scot page.

Racing Events/Registration

There is a button about half way down on the racing page that takes you to event registration and race results. The registration is loaded and open for the following racing events: SCOW Saint Brendan Regatta, PRSA Spring Regatta, Leukemia Cup Regatta, PRSA Presidents Cup Regatta, SCOW Directors Cup Regatta.

Crew List Sign Up

Flying Scot and PHRF (Cruiser) crew lists are open for anyone to sign up. This list will be provided to racing skippers looking for crew.

Cruiser Racing Skipper Mentoring Program Registration

Current cruiser skippers who are interested in becoming SCOW certified Cruiser Racing Skippers, can sign up to participate in our mentoring and certification program. Registration is open now.

Also in 2020

We plan to run the Magellan Race, a fun and not too serious distance race again this year. Date TBD. We never got around to doing any team racing last year because we just ran out of time. Still open to doing that. Will play it by ear.

Fleet 203 Status

We averaged ten Flying Scots at Wed Night Races (WNR) in 2019. Congratulations to **Dana Howe** and **Jim Schuster** who both took ownership of their own Flying Scots over the winter. We got rid of Susie Q and plan to replace her this spring. So we should have six club boats plus eleven privately owned Scots ready to rumble by April when the season begins. A lot of opportunities for people to get out on the water.



BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE SCOW WINTER SEMINAR SERIES OFFERINGS ON PAGE 6 OF THIS ISSUE

SKIPPER'S CORNER

BY CHIP LUBSEN, SKIPPER CERTIFICATION DIRECTOR

Skipper Prospects Update

Five skipper candidates (3 for the Scots, 2 for the Cruisers) are ready for checkout – Unless we have some unusually balmy weather these checkouts will probably occur in the spring. The Skipper Prospect List has been refreshed. Currently, including those ready for checkout, there are 21 Flying Scot skipper prospects and 12 cruiser skipper prospects. At this time last year those numbers were 9 and 8 respectively. Kudos to our stellar trainers and tutors who have helped considerably to help folks toward SCOW skipper certification. If you and I have not already communicated and you are planning to pursue certification in 2020, please send me an email so I can add you to the list and begin to support your effort. I look forward to helping you achieve your goal of becoming a SCOW certified skipper! Please write to skipper@scow.org and title your email Skipper Prospect.

Stay Tuned

All skippers please read emails from SCOW. We use email to pass on important information regarding events, maintenance, changes in policy and practices and more. When I send an email to all skippers, I often need to re-send the email several times to those that have not yet opened it. Please open SCOW emails as soon as you can. Your attention to new information sent is part of your duty as a SCOW skipper. Thanks for cooperating on this!



**CRUISER SKIPPER'S AND ALL
INTERESTED
PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

COMBINED CRUISER FLEET MAINTENANCE AND CRUISER RUB OFF THE RUST

**SATURDAY, MARCH 28
8:30AM TO 1:30PM**

- All club members are welcome to attend. Cruiser skipper and cruiser skipper prospect attendance is highly encouraged.
- Cruiser Maintenance Director **Wayne Williams** will organize the maintenance activities.
- Cruiser guru **John Kaufmann** and volunteers will present an informative 2020 Rub Off the Rust (ROTR) program. The 2019 program was fantastic – this one will be more fantastic.
- ROTR will begin by 11:00 and be followed by a Pizza lunch.
- Also, please mark your calendars for April 4 as a rain date.

2020 SCOW WINTER SEMINAR SERIES

FEBRUARY

- 05** **Sailing Fast**
- 12** **Racing Rules of Sailing**
- 19** **Sailing the Course**
- 26** **Mike Callahan,
Georgetown Coach**

MARCH

- 04** **Dave Neff, Selby Bay Sailing
Center, FS ACC Champ**

TIME

Seminars run from 7-9pm. Socializing/shopping from 6-7pm.

LOCATION

West Marine Store, 601 South Patrick St, Alexandria, VA 22314

These seminars have been instrumental in expanding and improving our fleet. Don't miss the opportunity to acquire knowledge gained over years of experience by investing just a few evenings this winter. The "Sailing Fast" seminar is for anyone who wants to learn to sail or learn to sail better. The other seminars are more focused on racing and our guest speakers, **Mike Callahan** and **Dave Neff**, are top level competitors in the sport of sailing.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

3 | SCOW BOD MEETING | 7-9PM
THE ROYAL | 730 N ST. ASAPH ST., ALEXANDRIA

5 | SCOW SEMINAR: SAILING FAST | 7PM
WEST MARINE | 601 S. PATRICK ST., ALEXANDRIA

12 | SCOW SEMINAR: RACING RULES OF SAILING | 7PM
WEST MARINE | 601 S. PATRICK ST., ALEXANDRIA

19 | SCOW SEMINAR: SAILING THE COURSE | 7PM
WEST MARINE | 601 S. PATRICK ST., ALEXANDRIA

26 | SCOW SEMINAR: GUEST SPEAKER MIKE CALLAHAN | 7PM
WEST MARINE | 601 S. PATRICK ST., ALEXANDRIA

ICYMI

(IN CASE YOU MISSED IT)



CHECK OUT THE SCOW WEBSITE FOR MORE PHOTOS OF AFTERGLOW AND OTHER EVENTS!



SOCIAL DIRECTOR EXTRAORDINAIRE, MARIE BRENNAN PICTURED WITH CROCKPOT REGATTA WINNER, JULIE PIXLER
PHOTO CREDIT: RICHARD KAISER



FUTURE SAILOR, TATE, PICTURED WITH JONATHAN AND KRISTINE FOUNTOS (AKA HIS PARENTS) AND STEPHEN BARKLEY
PHOTO CREDIT: RICHARD KAISER



ALL AGLOW AT AFTERGLOW: DICK VIDA, MIKE ROTHENBERG, AND RICHARD LAWRENCE
PHOTO CREDIT: RICHARD KAISER

WHO'S WHO IN SCOW

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Carlie Smith, River/Bay Director | river@scow.org

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