

# Chanels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington

July 2009

## Commodore's Log

What can I say about June? First off, it was rainy! While I used to not mind a little rain, for those of us who have been trying to get work done on boats, the rain was particularly bothersome! In spite of the uncooperative attitude of Ms. Nature, we managed to get through the second Basic Sailing course. Once again, the incomparable George Umberger has managed to navigate 12 students safely through a sailing course, while still chairing the Boat Asset Committee and doing much of the maintenance and repairs to the Cruisers himself. Please buy George a beer when you see him, or at least thank him profusely. Huge thanks also go out to the water instructors, check-out skippers, and the maintenance teams (especially Tom Kelly and Ron Sheldon!). I appreciate all of you more than you know, and SCOW could not function without all you have contributed.

June also hosted the Alexandria Waterfront Festival, thanks to Karyl Owings and her crew for organizing this event. Our ever-patient River Director and her irrepressible party-dude assistant organized a trip to Tim's Rivershore in June. Thanks to Terri and Jack for all your hard work!

As many people are aware, we had an extended period of time with both Cruisers out of service, and two Scots also spent some time "in the shop." While there is nothing any of us can do about Ms. Nature's meddling in our attempts, there is something that can be done about the amount of work that is required to keep all our boats available for use. Frankly, we need more skippers to do their part. Those who have been volunteering have worked countless hours and have done a fantastic job -- mostly without even complaining. Unfortunately, it is only a small number of members who have been doing an enormous amount of work. All SCOW skippers sign an agreement which states: "By becoming a SCOW paid-up skipper, I agree to adhere to and abide by SCOW policies and procedures including but not limited to the SCOW Boat Use Policy and share in the responsibility and contribute my time for the care and the upkeep of the SCOW boats, as well as for SCOW activities, required for SCOW to function fully." If SCOW is to have boats available for skippers to use, we need all skippers to participate in the care and upkeep of the boats. Right now, that is not happening. Many maintenance tasks require no specialized skills or talent, only the willingness to do your part to help out. Please contact the Maintenance Director ([maintenance@scow.org](mailto:maintenance@scow.org)) and let him know what you will do to help out this year.

While I am on my soapbox about volunteers, the small number of SCOW instructors, particularly water instructors for the Basic and Cruiser courses, needs to be expanded. We have had an exceptionally difficult time filling all the water slots this year, and a small number of trainers are doing a lot of the work. Most of our trainers have been trainers for a long time, and have served the club well in previous years. In order for the club to continue to offer a training program, we need to develop more water instructors immediately. If you are an experienced SCOW sailor, please consider becoming a water instructor for SCOW. The requirements are outlined in the SCOW Training Policy which is available on our website. Many current SCOW skippers would meet these requirements right now, so please, please, pretty please, contact the Board and let us know if you would be willing to be a water instructor.

Three months from now, the Nominating Committee will reveal the candidates for the 2010 Board of Directors. Oh wait, we don't yet have a Nominating Committee! So here is my plea: Will you serve on the Nominating Committee? It counts as service to the club, in case you can't help with maintenance or social events! Not to sound fatalistic, but without a Board and Officers, the club just doesn't operate.

From the Bylaws: Not less than sixty (60) days prior to each Annual Meeting, the Board will appoint a Nominating Committee to prepare a list of nominees for election to the positions that will be open for election at the Annual Meeting .... The Nominating Committee report will be presented at the regular Board Meeting and the regular General Meeting for the month preceding the Annual Meeting at which the election is to take place.

I'd like to be able to announce the members of the Nominating Committee in next month's issue of Channels. Please contact me ([commodore@scow.org](mailto:commodore@scow.org)) if you can help out!

Now stop reading and get out there and sail!

Lisa

## Next Membership Meeting: Monday, July 13, 2009

**Location:** American Legion Post, 400 Cameron Street, in Old Town Alexandria  
**Time:** Socializing downstairs begins at 6:30 pm and the meeting begins upstairs at 7:30 pm.

**Monday, July 13** – Join us for a viewing of “Live to Tell,” in which a family’s decision to sail the world takes a life-threatening turn when their boat hits a reef. Afterwards, Bill Swanson will facilitate a discussion of SCOW panelists on handling emergency situations on a sailboat.

General Meetings	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month, American Legion Post, 400 Cameron Street, Alexandria -- Social hour at 6:30 pm; program at 7:30 pm
Social Sail	Every Thursday, Washington Sailing Marina, April - October, 6:00 pm
Social No-Sail	Events and locations vary, December - April, 6:00 pm
Board Meetings	1st Monday of every month, 7:00 pm (open to members)
Channels Deadline	15 <sup>th</sup> of every month. Submit articles to: <a href="mailto:channels09@scow.org">channels09@scow.org</a>
2009 Calendar	<a href="http://www.scow.org/calendar.html">http://www.scow.org/calendar.html</a>
SCOW Pictures	<a href="http://picasaweb.google.com/Sailing.Club.of.Washington">http://picasaweb.google.com/Sailing.Club.of.Washington</a>
SCOW Web Site	<a href="http://www.scow.org">http://www.scow.org</a>



**Rebecca on the hard – and looking great!**  
**Both Rebecca and Topaz are back in service after many, many hours of work by a dedicated group of SCOW members.**



**Captain Jack Sparrow admires the new paint job on SusieQ at the Alexandria Waterfront Festival in June**



**The Vice Commodore's cat supervises the mailing of the 2009 directories**



**SCOW members enjoyed Tim's Rivershore Cruise in June**

## SCOW Spring 2009 Boating Survey – Executive Summary

Submitted by George Umberger, Chair, Boat Asset Committee

(See full report on SCOW website)

Seventy-four SCOW members, about 20% of the membership, responded with opinions and ideas on maintenance and enhancement of the SCOW fleet.

***Fleet Maintenance*** – About 70% of respondents rated maintenance and upkeep of our current fleet as a high or moderate priority; 30% expressed no opinion.

***Cruiser Fleet*** – Half of respondents showed high or moderate interest in increasing the fleet to three cruisers, while half expressed no interest or no opinion.

***Daysailer Fleet*** – Almost half of respondents showed high or moderate interest in increasing the daysailer fleet, but there was no consensus on boat types desired. More than half expressed no interest or no opinion.

***Bay-Sailing Enhancements*** – Almost half of respondents expressed high or moderate interest in enhancing Bay activities, but very few suggestions were offered on how to accomplish this.

***SCOW Activities*** – SCOW social activities ranked in order of popularity included Social Sails, River Cruises, and Bay Cruises. Sailing/non-racing activities ranked Scot daysailing highest, followed closely by cruiser daysailing and cruiser overnighting. Cruiser racing was very slightly more popular than Scot racing.

### **Recommendations from members:**

1. Develop an incentive plan for members who contribute significantly to Club activities.
2. Implement improved expectations for boat use analysis and skipper oversight.
3. Establish benchmark activities and annual timelines for certain Committee and Officer responsibilities.
4. Evaluate and report boat utilization on a quarterly basis.
5. Institute periodic bosun training and development workdays.
6. Schedule cruisers for early spring 2010 haul-out, evaluation, and cleaning -- with particular attention devoted to potential replacement of Rebecca with a newer cruiser.
7. Do not consider additional cruiser purchase at present.
8. Do not consider additional daysailer purchases at present.
9. Investigate Bay boat access and partnership opportunities.
10. Devote increased attention to appointing Bay Director position.
11. Encourage personal boat purchases and partnerships by members.
12. Investigate cruiser enhancements including furling jibs, spinnakers, and other options.



### 2009 Board of Directors

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>Alternate</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
Commodore	Lisa Eller	423.360.6899		commodore@scow.org
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Secretary	Lisa Carr	703.750.7851		secretary@scow.org
Treasurer	Chris VonGuggenberg	703.683.6649		treasurer@scow.org
Training Director	Chris McGraw			training@scow.org
Maintenance Director	Tom Kelly			maintenance@scow.org
Social Director	Faith Rodell		301.674.9324	social@scow.org
Skipper Director	Brett Astmann		202.360.0512	skipper@scow.org
River/Bay Activities Director	Terri Nachazel	703.328.0118	703.715.2407	river@scow.org
Racing Director	Donna Davis			race@scow.org
Director at Large	Kim Richards			

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### For information about club activities

Visit <http://www.scow.org> or email [info@scow.org](mailto:info@scow.org)