

ChanNels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington
May 2009

Commodore's Log

While the news reports are carrying stories of a down-turned economy, you would never know it by looking at SCOW. In the first two weeks of the new member year, SCOW welcomed over 100 new members. Perhaps it's because SCOW continues to be the best value around for your sailing money. Through the work of our dedicated volunteers, and the responsible stewardship of our skippers, we keep our fleet available for members' use without the expensive rental fees charged by other clubs in the area.

As the Spring weather continues to bring more sunshine and warm weather, SCOW sailors are beginning to spend more time on the water. In April, we began our Basic I and Cruiser I training courses. Land and water instructors volunteer their time each year to provide training to members who want the opportunity to learn to sail. These instructors are not compensated for their time and efforts. They give up their free time to provide this service to the Club, and I would like to express my sincere appreciation for all they do. Without them, we would not have a training program.

Social Sails began in April. These are one of our most popular activities, and they are one of the best ways to interact with new people and promote sailing. Our first Social Sails of the season were well attended, and the volunteers did a great job of providing food and acting as dock masters. Please contact our Social Director, Faith, to let her know when you can help out with one of these fun events.

SCOW is always looking for more volunteers to help out. If you would like to help out with the new website, or assist one of the board members with their program, please let me know or contact the board member directly. We can always use more help, and it's always more fun when the workload is shared. It won't be long before I start putting together the Nomination Committee for next year's board. If you think you might be interested in running for a SCOW board position, there is no better way to get familiar with what the board does than to volunteer to help a current board member with his or her duties. If you would just like to help with the Nomination Committee, let me know.

Before you get out on the water, be sure you've paid attention to the important details: sunscreen, protective clothing and hats, drinking water, PFDs, pre-sail checklists, and knowing the skill level of your crew. Review the rules of the road; they're easy to forget if it's been awhile since your boating safety class. Make sure the boat has all the proper safety equipment, and if you're sailing after dark, that the lights on the boat work. Taking a few minutes to check these sorts of details can prevent many unpleasant things from happening, and will make your sailing experience much more enjoyable.

Most importantly, get out there and have fun!

Fair winds,

Commodore Lisa

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Next Membership Meeting: Monday, May 11, 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.

Guest speaker: Bill Davenport will talk about racing, boat preparation, and sail trim.

General Meetings	2 nd 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 th of every month. Submit articles to: channels09@scow.org
2009 Calendar	http://www.scow.org/calendar.html
SCOW Pictures	http://picasaweb.google.com/Sailing.Club.of.Washington
SCOW Home Page	http://www.scow.org

Upcoming SCOW General Meetings

Monday, May 11 -- Bill Davenport will talk about racing, boat preparation, and sail trim.

Monday, June 8 -- Captain Hank Moseley will tell the history of the Schooner Virginia, and how the replica was made.

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.

Bay Raft-Up over Memorial Day Weekend (May 23-25)

SCOW members with boats on the Chesapeake Bay are planning a raft-up over Memorial Day weekend. Watch the SCOW email list for more details, including the location of the raft-up.

Several boat owners are willing to take on SCOW members as crew for this two-night sail. Most boats will be departing their home base on Saturday and returning on Monday. Some boats may alter these departure and return times to fit their schedules, so if you can't do two nights don't let that deter you.

Note that it's customary for crew to provide provisions -- food and beverages -- for the trip. The captain of the boat is providing you with a chance to sail on the Chesapeake Bay. If you are interested in crewing for a Bay Boat Captain, please email raft-master Marlan Green at marlangreen@hotmail.com with your name, phone number, and a description of your sailing experience. This information will be shared with Bay Boat Captains. Priority will be given to those responding first and those not having been on a bay raft-up in the past.



SCOW Sailing – A Friday afternoon and Saturday in mid-April found many SCOW sailors on the water, in the sun and the light breezes.

Tutoring of members, and many hours of practice, will lead some SCOW sailors to venture out for the long voyage down the river to Alexandria and back. Friday afternoon the tide peaked with steady winds that allowed for one of the Scots to successfully sail down and back on the Potomac River.



“A voyage is like a classical drama; it starts slowly and works up with many adventurous incidents to the finish.”

- Sir Francis Chichester
Round-the-world sailor and author
Gipsy Moth Circles the World

Mark your calendars...!

2009 River Events Schedule Is Set

The 2009 schedule for SCOW river events has been finalized. We worked with the Training, Racing, Social, and River/Bay Directors to avoid conflicts with other club activities and to ensure that the Club cruisers will be available for all events.

Friday night raft-ups – These events began in April and continue through October, usually on the fourth Friday of the month. The raft-ups are coordinated by Dorothy Stocks and her assistants. Email notices will be sent prior to each raft-up, asking who wants to participate, who needs crew, who wants to crew, who wants to skipper a Club cruiser, and so on. Contact Dorothy to inquire about skipping a Club cruiser. The next river raft-up will take place on Friday, May 29 ... stay tuned!

Other river events:

June 13-14 -- Overnight to Tim's Rivershore/Leesylvania State Park. Sail down to Tim's Rivershore (crab house in Dumfries), anchor out, ride their water taxi ashore for dinner and socializing. If you can't make it by boat, "land yachts" are also welcome. Because Sweden Point Marina was such a hydrilla farm last year, the Club is working on an arrangement for us to anchor inside or off the seawall at the Breakwater Marina at Leesylvania State Park (just a mile upriver from Tim's on the Virginia side). The marina has showers, and a store where we can pick up breakfast goodies. We scheduled this one earlier in the year to have the maximum amount of daylight, so boats can make it to their overnight anchorage before dark.

August 8 -- Raft-up in Smoot's Cove. Party hearty and dodge the water-taxis! This event generally runs from noon to four. Bring food, drink, and bathing suits. It was great fun last year (seven boats!), and we've moved it later in the year to be sure that the water is plenty warm for swimming.

September 19-20 -- SCOW Fall Flotilla and Rendezvous at Fort Washington Marina. Sail down on Saturday, arrive by 4 pm, prepared to hang out. You will be assigned slips at discounted rates. Cookout at 6 pm in the pavilion: You bring it, you burn it! Grills will be provided. Spend the night, enjoy breakfast courtesy of SCOW the next morning. Explore Fort Washington if you wish, then head back upriver. Last year was a great success, with nine boats and a bunch of fun.

To reserve a Club cruiser for any of these events: The Club cruisers have been reserved for the three big river events. Topaz has already been assigned to a skipper for all three river events; Rebecca is still available. To skipper Rebecca, email Jack Weaver: longweav@juno.com. He will assign you if she is still available. As a general rule, a skipper may only take out a Club cruiser for these events once a season, to give everyone a chance. Skippers are responsible for selecting their own crew, but I will have a list of names of people looking for a ride for each of the events. All boats, Club and private, are asked to take as many people as you can. (Last year, we had nine people on Valhalla for the Smoot's Cove raft-up...now that's a party!)

Watch for e-mail messages with more details as these events approach.

Submitted by Jack Weaver

SCOW Calendar -- May 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Basic I/ Cruiser I Water
3 Basic I/ Cruiser I Water	4 Board Meeting	5 Cruiser Racing	6 Basic I Scot Racing	7 Social Sail	8	9 Basic I/ Cruiser I Check-Out
10 Basic/Cruiser I Water Check- Out	11 General Meeting	12 Cruiser Racing	13 Scot Racing	14 Social Sail	15	16
17	18	19 Cruiser Racing	20 Scot Racing	21 Social Sail	22	23 Bay Event
24 Bay Event	25 Bay Event	26 Cruiser Racing	27 Scot Racing	28 Social Sail	29 River Raft-Up	30
31						

2009 Board of Directors

Position	Name	Home	Alternate	E-mail
Commodore	Lisa Eller	423.360.6899		commodore@scow.org
Vice-Commodore	Bekki Lasell			vice@scow.org
Secretary	Lisa Carr	703.750.7851		secretary@scow.org
Treasurer	Chris VonGuggenberg	703.683.6649		treasurer@scow.org
Training Director	John Eller			training@scow.org
Maintenance Director	Nancy Eikelmann			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	Mary-Sophia Smith		202.213.5325	race@scow.org

Other Key People

Channels Editor	Marty Taylor			channels09@scow.org
Advertising	Nick Gull			advertising@scow.org
Email Administrator	Jeff Teitel	202.271.1238		postmaster@scow.org
Membership Coordinator	Henry Chang			members@scow.org
Web Editor	Jan Iler/ Nick Gull			webmaster@scow.org
Photos on Web	Alice Starcke	703.971.7755	703.971.7773	pictures@scow.org

For information about club activities

Visit <http://www.scow.org> or email info@scow.org