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## **ChaNNels -- The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington**

**April 2000**

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SCOW is a BOAT/U.S. Cooperating Group. Contact Larry Gemoets for information about the benefits of BOAT/U.S. membership for SCOW members

### **April Speaker- You can make your own Bay weather forecast**

Have you ever received an updated weather radio forecast about approaching severe weather after a 'surprise' storm has just barreled through your anchorage? Learn more about our regional weather, and how you can anticipate those summer squalls, when Andrew Bass shares his forecasting expertise at the April members meeting. Mr Bass, who is on the staff of the George Mason University Computer Science Department, is responsible for navigational readiness for the US Naval Academy's Atlantic fleet. He will show us which weather information is really important and how to find it when you need it.

### **Commodore's Log**

I am unable to walk past a bookstore without going in; and, once inside, I am unable to leave without buying at least one book. I am worse in used bookstores - I can get so many more books for so much less money! And so it was last summer that I emerged from my favorite used bookstore with a copy of William F. Buckley, Jr.'s 1976 book Airborne. I decided this month, with a purpose, to combine "The Sailor's Bookshelf" column with the Commodore's Log. I have always enjoyed Buckley's command of the language and his incredible vocabulary. No politics in this book, it is Buckley's memoir of sailing his boat across the Atlantic with his son and some friends. (Here is the job I want - take a vacation and then make money selling a book describing it to others.) In between, he reminisces about his experiences sailing and racing boats.

Make no mistake, Buckley sails in style. I bring a water bottle . Buckley brings a wine cellar. He began sailing at age thirteen and has been sailing and racing all his life in a succession of ever-larger boats. So, it was amusing to read Buckley's frank account of his sailing mishaps. In one incident, he lost engine power in a narrow channel when the boat's electrical wires, which had not been properly secured, wrapped around the driveshaft. He immediately started the emergency outboard, only to find it had not been properly secured to the boat; it promptly fell off and sank to the bottom of the channel. Buckley's vessel was now totally out of control as a tour boat maneuvered closer to let passengers take photos of the famous writer. Buckley finally made anchor. Shortly after nightfall, a kerosene anchor light fell from its fitting and ignited a folded genoa. In another incident, his boat sank at his marina because the bilge pump malfunctioned. On

another occasion, certain! that he was on the correct compass heading, he ran aground because a battery stored in the binnacle box caused the compass to deviate. This evoked from Buckley one of my favorite sailing quotations: "There is nothing to match the motionlessness of running solidly aground. It is as if concrete had suddenly hardened around you." I said I had a purpose in reviewing this book. No, it is not to warn you to avoid at all costs sailing with William F. Buckley, Jr. The purpose is to remind everyone that, no matter how experienced a sailor might be, something unexpected and even embarrassing is bound to happen. Sometimes it results from a lack of skill, but, more often, it is merely a combination of circumstance and bad luck. Over the years, I have talked to a lot of members who felt they needed "more practice" before they could take the skippers' test, or that they needed "more confidence" before they would even think about taking a class. However, you cannot get more skilled and more confident as a skipper by reading books or watching others. While you always have to know and respect your own limits, you will only develop your skills and learn your limits by taking the helm yourself. As the season approaches, it is time for each of us to set our season's sailing goals. If you have wanted to take basic sailing, do it this year. If you have thought of taking the skipper exam, do it this year. If you have wanted to race, do it this year. If Buckley can tell the world about his sailing mishaps without embarrassment, why should you be embarrassed if a few of your friends in the club see you miss the pier on an attempted docking? Chances are, they've done the same or even worse. Besides, enough interesting mishaps and you might have material for your own book.

Fair winds to all. \*

## **Membership Report**

Boy you guys kept me hopping at the membership renewal table for the re-up brunch!! As of March 17th, 123 members have renewed their membership and 27 new members have joined. So if my math is somewhat accurate, there are about 225 of you that haven't renewed your membership yet. Hurry up and get that renewal mailed, time is running out for you to receive this VALUABLE newsletter, access 5 of the most FUN boats on the Potomac, receive invitations to GREAT social events, OPPORTUNITIES to learn more about boat maintenance, racing, and sailing in general. Most importantly, you won't have your information in the 2000 Directory and wouldn't that be a shame if you need crew or want to be crew on a boat and nobody can find you?!?! If you've lost your renewal application, your dog has eaten it, or as one member confessed, his dinner spilled all over it, let me know (301-897-0630 or Secretary@scow.org), I'll send you another one!

## **New Members**

SCOW welcomes all our new members!!!

Steve Aune, Beth Bacheldor, John Bliss, Jeff Bowen, Heather Casavant, Shirley Castle, Maurice Crawford, Stephen Hartman, Robert Hassett, Camden Hubbard, Kwang Hyun Lee, Ben Lesser, Jason Mundy, Kathy Murphy, Joan O'Kane, Stefan Patejak, Jennifer Pauk, Susan Ragland, Elizabeth Sproul, Pamela Vargo, Ken Wyban

## **River Activities - John Rogers**

April! Time for the river activities to begin. Social Sails begin on Thursday, April 20th. Tuesday night racing begins the next week on the 25th.

To get ready, there will be a maintenance day on the 8th. If you are thinking about racing, consider the racing seminar on April 24th. See other articles for more details. We hope to see you there.

## **Feeding SCOW - Kelly Bowers**

There are hints of spring all over the place, making us think of picnics, cookouts and, of course, sailing!

You can enjoy all these lovely warm weather activities at SCOW's Thursday night social sails.

Outdoor social sail starts April 20. While we all love the sailing, we're all pretty fond of the food provided too. As with all other things

SCOW-wonderful, volunteers make both the sailing and the food happen.

Now is the time to look at your calendar and figure out when you can volunteer to be a SCOW Chef and a SCOW Dockmaster.

Note: we define "chef" very very loosely!

The food can be as elaborate as paella or as simple as carryout pizza. We're sailors--we'll eat almost anything but we definitely want to eat! This year we will be providing a social sail "user guide" with information about how to set up, break down, do the shopping, get reimbursed quickly and easily, and even some sample menus.

So lack of imagination is no longer an excuse!

If you've never done social sail before, just say so and we'll pair you with someone who has. If you have done social sail before, you have two options:

- pick your own partner - volunteer to be paired with a social sail novice. That way we'll have even more social sail pros next year!

Feeding SCOW isn't the only important activity that takes place on Thursday nights. The Dockmaster is vital to a pleasant evening. Dockmasters are primarily responsible for signing people up for the cruises around the lagoon and helping to ensure that everyone who wants to sail gets to. Getting people out on our boats is a very effective way to get them interested in sailing and excited about SCOW. So the work you do as dockmaster has a direct and significant effect on SCOW's growth and vibrancy.

Outdoor social sail starts on April 20.

The last outdoor social sail is October 5. If we get 50 volunteers, each one will only have to do it once. With our membership, that's not such a crazy thing to aim for.

Pick a Thursday that's good for you and call the Social Sail Mistress--Kelly Bowers (202-332-4160). You can also e-mail her at [documama@yahoo.com](mailto:documama@yahoo.com). And, of course, she'll be at as many SCOW activities as she can with list in hand!

### **Social Sail Volunteers - Kelly Bowers**

Thank you to all the people who have volunteered to make social sail happen this summer. Here's our list of volunteers so far.

Note that every week needs a Chef I (social sail 'pro'), Chef II (social sail 'novice') and a dockmaster or mistress. See those weeks that don't have all three of these? These would be a great week for you to volunteer! Contact me to volunteer (202-332-4160, [documama@yahoo.com](mailto:documama@yahoo.com)).

April 20

Jay Weitzel, Jeff Elder (Chef I, II) Tina Daberkow (dockmistress)

April 27

Shelby Shoop (Chef I) Jeff Teitel (dockmaster)

May 4

Tina Daberkow (Chef I) Liz Bruening (dockmistress)

May 11

Beverly Ashcraft (Chef I) Ruth Connolly (dockmistress)

May 18

Nelson Padeco (Chef I) Joe Deporter (dockmaster)

May 25

Pete Hirshman (Chef I)

June 1

Jason Mundy (Chef II) Bill Davenport (dockmaster)

June 8

Kathryn Scott, Heather Spurlock (Chef I, II)

June 15

Denise Malueg (Chef I) Kathryn Scott (dockmistress)

June 22

Larry Gemoets (Chef I) Sandy Clover (dockmistress)

June 29

Bill Davenport, Bath Bacheldor (Chef I, II)

July 6

Kelly Bowers, Kathi Trepper (Chef I, II)

September 28

Denise Malueg (Chef I)

October 5

Ruth Connolly (dockmistress)

### **Special Thanks - From Kathryn Scott**

Thank you all for making the Re-Up Brunch such a wonderful success. Without the help of so many talented and thoughtful volunteers, none of us would have had such delicious fun. So next time you see one of the following club members who contributed extra effort to make our get-together so special, please let them know how much you appreciate them. Thanks to: John Allen, Liz & Bob Bruening, Ruth Connolly, Tina Daberkow, Bill Davenport, Joe DePoorter, Judy Downey, Joni Dyer, Barbara Grewe, Victoria Hampton, Pete Hirshman, Sal Lauricella, Nancy Little, Denise Malueg, BJ & Bruce McMillan, Betty Pacheco, Stu Robinson, John & Susan Rogers, Roz Rozkowski, Sharon Schoumacher, Heather Spurlock, Sergey & Sveta Tagashov, Cheryl Teninga, Betsy Troeder, George Umberger, Jay Weitzel and Karen Zuza

### **RACING IS COMING**

Sharpen your helming and polish your trim. SCOW's racing program is ready to kick off with the following activities:

March 30- Big Boat Skippers Racing- Elizabeth Bruening mails out copies to all skippers on the Race Captain's

April 10 Test Debuts-sign up list. April 3 -Racing Forum Washington Sailing Marina Chart Room at 7:30 p.m.

April 10 Lottery for First Two SCOW Monthly Meeting (American Legion Hall - Alexandria) DICF Racing Series 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

April 9 Racing Tests Graded Elizabeth Bruening April 20

April 17 Skipper & Crew Get Acquainted Meeting Washington Sailing Marina Chart Room from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

April 25 RACING STARTS Washington Sailing Marina (F Dock for the Big Boats; the Cranes for the Flying Scots) at 6:00 p.m.

A large thank you to all who collaborated in developing and critiquing the skippers racing test, and particularly to Stuart and Barbara Ullman..

The Racing Forum - NOT to be confused with the Racing Seminar - will be an opportunity to discuss racing situations and agree/disagree about the racing rules. Jay Weitzel will moderate / referee. All racing devotees - crew and skippers - and anybody who enjoys a rollicking free for all are welcome.

For questions or more information about SCOW's Racing Program, please contact Race Captain Ruth Marie Connolly.

Calling All Women Sailors!

Have you taken the training and passed the check-out sail and been reluctant to take the Flying Scots out on your own? Do you think you don't have enough sailing skills to be responsible for a sailboat as skipper? Have you been sailing for years but never gotten around to taking the Scot check-out? Do you want to race but don't know how to get started? Do you want to develop the skills to be skipper of Psycho or Rebecca? Come to a panel discussion held by some of the experienced women skippers in SCOW.

Hope Andruss, Carrie Blankfield, Liz Bruening, and Monica Maynard will address "Successful Skippership for Women" and answer your questions. This stimulating panel, socializing and light supper will be on Sunday, May 7th at 5:00 PM at Carrie Blankfield's home. Cost: \$10.00 per person. Mail your checks to Hope Andruss. Reservations a must. No walk-ins. Attendance is limited, so sign up early.

Carrie's address is: 5008 Nebraska Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. Lots of parking available in front of her home or just around the corner on Fessenden Street. Directions: From Maryland: Go South on Connecticut Ave to Nebraska Ave. and turn right. House is

one block down. From Virginia or DC: Go north on Connecticut Ave and turn left at Nebraska Ave. House is one block down.

## **YEAR 2000 CALENDAR**

### April

Sat. 8th Maintenance Day and Picnic, WSM, 9:00 AM

Thu. 13th Last Social No-Sail, Clyde's, Clyde's of Alexandria, 1700 Beauregard St.  
(703)820-8300, 7:00 PM

Sat. 15th Train the Trainers, WSM, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Thu. 20th First Social Sail, WSM, 6:00 PM - dark Mon. 24th Racing Seminar,  
Potowmack Landing Chart Room, 7:00 PM-10:00 PM

Wed. 26th Basic Sailing Class Series I, Potowmack Landing Chart Room, 7:30 PM -  
10:00 PM; 4 Classroom sessions: April 26th, May 3rd , 10th , 17th ; 6 Water sessions,  
WSM, April 29-30th, May 6-7th , May 13-14th

### May

Sat. 6th Cruising Boat Classes, WSM, 3 Sessions: Sat 5/6 at 8:00 AM, Sat 5/13 at 8:00  
AM, Fri 5/19 at 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Sat. 20th Basic Sailing I Make-up Water Class, WSM, 8:00 AM, 12:30 PM

Sun. 21st Skipper Check-out, WSM, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Sun 21st Check-out Picnic, WSM, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Sat. 27th Memorial Day Bay Cruise to Mike Geisinger's Cottage, lower Potomac

Wed. 31st Basic Sailing Class Series II, Potowmack Landing Chart Room, 7:30 PM -  
10:00 PM; 4 Classroom sessions: May 31st, June 7th, 14th, 21st; 6 Water sessions,  
WSM, May 3-4, May 10-11 , May 17-18th

### June

Sat. 3rd River Raft Up #1, 10:00 AM - Sun 6/4 at 4:00 PM

Fri. 9th New Member Cruise, WSM, 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Sat. 17th Bay Navigation Class, Mike Geisinger's Cottage, lower Potomac, 10:00 AM-  
Sun 6/18 at 4:00 PM

Sat. 24th Basic Sailing II Make-up Water Class, WSM, 8:00 AM, 12:30 PM Sun 25th Skipper Check-out, WSM, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM Sun 25th Check-out Picnic, WSM, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

## July

Sat. 1st Bay Cruise, Sat 7/1/00 10:00 AM - Tue 7/4/00 4:00 PM

Fri. 7th New Member Cruise, WSM Dock F, 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Sat. 8th Smoot's Cove Raft-up, WSM, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Sat. 15th Capsize Course, WSM, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Sat. 22nd Canoe Trip, 9:00 AM

Wed. 26th Basic Sailing Class Series III, Potowmack Landing Chart Room, 7:30 PM - 10:00 PM; 4 Classroom sessions: July 26th, August 2nd, 9th, 16th; 6 Water sessions, WSM, July 29-30, August 5-6, 12-13

## August

Sat. 5th Crab Feast, WSM, 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Sat. 19th Basic Sailing Class III Water Make-up, WSM, 8:00 AM, 12:30 PM

Sun. 20th Skipper Check-out, WSM, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Sun. 20th Check-out Picnic, WSM, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

## September

Fri. 1st Labor Day Bay Raft-up, 9:00 AM - Tue 9/5 at 4:00 PM

Sat. 9th Leukemia Cup, WSM

Sat. 23rd 30th Annual Also-Ran Regatta, WSM, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

## October

Thu. 5th - Mon. 9th Annapolis Boat Show, Annapolis

. 5th Last Social Sail, WSM, 6:00 PM

Sat. 14th Maintenance Day, WSM, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Thu. 12th Social No-Sail begins, Location TBA

November

Mon. 13th Elections held at Monthly Meeting

Sat. 18th Hail & Farewell, Time and location TBA

December Sun. 3rd Holiday Raft-up, The Colonies of McLean, 5:00 PM

Mon. 4th Joint Board Meeting, Potowmack Landing Chart Room, 7:00 PM

### **Membership Meetings**

On the second Monday of each month (except December) at the American Legion Hall, 400 Cameron Street (around the corner from Gadsby's Tavern), Old Town Alexandria, Virginia. Socializing starts at 6:30 p.m. downstairs, and our meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. upstairs

For information about club activities Call: 202.628.7245 (That's 628.SAIL) Visit us at: [www.scow.org](http://www.scow.org) Write us: [info@scow.org](mailto:info@scow.org)

Submissions to Channels: Please! Just type or paste your articles into the body of an email message. We will format it for you. No tabs, no indents, no attachments, NO ALL CAPS! NO Kidding. Email us for details. Your editor doesn't take dictation or transcribe stone tablets. Pony express, snail mail, etc are acceptable, but get it here (not just in the box) by deadline -ed.

Submit articles to [channels@scow.org](mailto:channels@scow.org) by one week after the monthly meeting. Use any means, but email is preferred.

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