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

**April 2001**

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### **Commodore's Log**

**Jay Weitzel**

**Spring has sprung/ The grass is riz/ I wonder where dem/ flowers is? For some reason, that piece of doggerel has stuck in my mind since about second grade. Who says public schools don't work?**

**After an unrelenting winter, spring is here at last. You can feel it in the air and see it all around. Birds are singing. Leaves are filling the trees. Flowers are blooming. Spring breezes are finally blowing without producing a wind chill that forces you to stay indoors. Soon, that grass that has riz will need mowing. (My advice is to hire a lawn service, you'll be too busy with club events to mow that lawn, as you will see by reading this issue of Channels.)**

**As a member of SCOW, you can feel something else in the air. It was in the air with the 70-plus members and guests at our February Caribbean Party. It was in the air with the 116 people who attended the Re-Up Brunch. It was in the air with the standing-room-only crowd at our March membership meeting. It is the pent-up energy of SCOW members who have been indoors too long and who cannot wait to put those spring breezes to good use by getting out for some sailing! April kicks off SCOW's official sailing season, and the SCOW Board, Special Millennium Edition, has been busy during those cold winter months planning a full schedule of events.**

**April 19th is our first social sail. For those of you new to the club, every Thursday night from April 19th through October 4th, we will meet at the Marina at around 6:30 pm, put the club's boats in the water and take them out for short sails on the lagoon. We take out as many people (members, guests or prospective new members) as we can until dusk. Rides are normally about 20 minutes in length. Volunteers provide a picnic dinner and we ask everyone who eats to make a donation that is consistent with the actual cost of food and the amount they ate -- something in the \$5.00 range is usually appropriate.**

**Ben Lesser and Erica Vey have agreed to be the Social Sail Coordinators this season. They will be looking for volunteers to host the Social Sails as either Chef I (you've hosted a social sail before) or Chef II (you haven't). Don't be shy, others are feeding you each week, take your turn! Hosting a picnic isn't brain surgery; and we even have a manual that tells you, step by step, what to do. By the way, the**

donations are used to reimburse the chefs so you are NOT responsible for paying for the picnic you host! Ben and Erica also will be recruiting a volunteer each week to be "dockmaster," the person responsible for signing up skippers and crew for boat rides.

In addition, April kicks off the racing season. Look in this issue of Channels for Race Captain Bill Bernhards' announcements of the April 16th Race Seminar, featuring nationally-known racing expert Tucker Thompson; the Spring Tune-Up Race on Saturday, April 21st; the selection of skippers and crew for the DICF Tuesday Night "Big Boat" races, which start on April 24th and run for 24 weeks; and SCOW's own informal Tuesday Night Flying Scot races which start on May 8th and run throughout the summer.

River and Bay Director Jon Allen also has lots of activities in the works. Last year's "New Member Cruises" were such a hit with everyone -- including veteran members -- that we've scheduled one a month, renamed them River Cruises, and opened them up to the entire club. The first is scheduled for April 27th. Also, the Bay Skippers' meeting at our March membership meeting was extremely well-attended. We finalized a very active Bay Program for the season and we are looking forward to many well-attended events. We are even investigating chartering opportunities for members who might want to participate in a Bay raft-up but do not own a Bay boat. Jon will be providing details.

Want to sail our boats yourself as a skipper? Our sailing classes filled up fast at the Re-Up Brunch, but you can still contact Training Director Judi Campbell to be put on the waiting list. There are still slots in the capsized courses, and Judi is planning other special training events. And, if you need to get checked out as a skipper, contact Skipper Coordinator Joan O'Kane.

So . . . Let's Go Sailing! (I've been waiting all winter to type that!)

Fair winds and following seas!

### **April Membership Meeting**

Join us for sailing lore with a Russian flare at the monthly membership meeting Monday, April 9th when our own Sergey Tagashov will talk about the Russian maritime tradition. If you've ever had the pleasure of sailing with Sergey, you probably already know something of his Russian heritage. On Monday night you'll have the chance to learn even more about the great sailing stories from his homeland. The program begins at 7:30 PM but come early for some food and fun starting at 6:30 PM at the American Legion Hall, 400 Cameron Street, (around the corner from Gadsby's Tavern), in Old Town Alexandria.

Thank you to everyone who made last month's meeting such a success. Our guest Charlie Thompson, author of "A Glimpse of Hell," led a spirited talk about the

devastating accident aboard the USS Iowa and its subsequent cover-up. I hope you all enjoyed this unique opportunity, and then had a chance to tune in to the TV movie made from his book on the FX Network on March 18th. Stay tuned here for information about more great monthly SCOW programs, and email me at [vice@scow.org](mailto:vice@scow.org) with your programming ideas.

### **SCOW Says Thanks**

SCOW says "Thanks!" to Susan Batchelder for heading up the Re-Up Brunch committee and to everyone who helped Susan make the Re-Up such a great success; to Bob Bruening, who has been maintaining the SCOW phone hot-line for a long time; to Bev Ashcraft, who has given up the job of New Member Coordinator after long service in that role; to Dale Eager, who volunteered to take over the New Member Coordinator duties; to former Commodore Sam Schaen, who has given up the job of Database Coordinator after nine (!!!!) years of service to the club in that job; to Kim Webb, who volunteered to take over the Database Coordinator position (special thanks to Kim for getting the renewal forms ready on schedule with short notice); and to Ben Lesser and Erica Vey for volunteering to serve as Social Sail Coordinators.

### **Washington Sailing Marina News**

Phil Geishert, the Marina Manager of the Washington Sailing Marina for the last nine years, announced a few weeks ago that he would be leaving to explore some opportunities for career growth. Phil has been a good friend of SCOW; and we were pleased, therefore, to learn that he changed his mind and elected to remain with GSI. Phil has a new title, General Manager, and new duties within GSI, but his office will remain at the Marina. Fred Razafindraining, who had been Phil's assistant, has been appointed to the job of Marina Manager. Congratulations to both Phil and Fred.

### **Training**

#### **Judi Campbell**

Well, it's almost time to be back on the boats. There's a touch of spring in the air as I'm writing this so I'm getting anxious—hope you are, too.

I really enjoyed meeting many members that I have been exchanging e-mails with at the Re-Up Brunch. Training enrollment went so well that we filled both offerings of Basic Sailing and both offerings of the Cruising Boat class with the exception of one space which is now filled. Spaces are still available for both Capsize classes which are scheduled for July 14 and August 18. I am maintaining a waiting list for all the fully enrolled classes. I want to thank the members who assisted me in preparing for enrollment, Barbara Ullman, Stuart Ullman, Thom Unger, Heather Spurlock, Larry Gemoets, and, of course, our Commodore, Jay Weitzel. I also want to thank my

**fellow board members, Joan O'Kane, Gloria Spilker, and Mary Bashore, who formed a great team to get all the re-up tasks done and still have a good time. Thanks especially to my husband, Mick Campbell, who saw that Joan and I did get food!!**

**Train the Trainer Day is scheduled for March 31 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Washington Sailing Marina. This is a chance for our instructors to sharpen their skills in preparation for classes. Many people have asked how you get to be a SCOW instructor. SCOW instructors are chosen by the Training Committee which is chaired by Barbara Ullman based on their ability, which includes sailing ability and interpersonal skills, as observed by Training Committee members at club events.**

**As a final note, I know several members didn't make it into the class they wanted. As I said, I am maintaining a waiting list. Additionally, we will be evaluating the demand on an ongoing basis as we get into the season; and based on that and instructor availability, there is a possibility additional classes will be offered.**

### **Skipper Coordinator**

**Joan O'Kane**

**As Channels goes to press, 48 skippers have renewed their boating privileges.**

**Many thanks to everyone for being so conscientious about getting their forms and fees in early! The new lock combinations will be mailed to you in early April and the locks will be changed during the second week of April. If you haven't yet renewed your skipper privileges, please do it soon so I have enough time to send you the new combinations. If you haven't received your 2001 renewal forms, please call or email me.**

**Just a quick reminder to both new and long-time members. You don't need to take SCOW's training classes to qualify as a skipper. If you've taken a class somewhere else or have prior sailing experience, you can quickly learn "The SCOW Way" of rigging, launching and sailing club boats by having a tutoring session with one of SCOW's volunteer tutors. If you would like to learn more about becoming a skipper, call or send me an email indicating whether you want to qualify for the Flying Scots or the cruising boats (or both). I will send you a Skipper Packet that includes all the information you need to get started. Qualifying as a skipper isn't as daunting as many members seem to think. There's lots of help available. You just have to ask.**

## **Bay Activities**

**Jon Allen**

Many of the Bay Skippers came and discussed the Bay Raftup schedule. Most the changes were to the south bay fleet. Here is an overview of the bay Schedule:

[http://patriot.net/~jallen/2001-raftup\\_3.html](http://patriot.net/~jallen/2001-raftup_3.html)

The first one is coming soon. The May raft-up we hope will be a good one for a photo-op like last year. If there are 2 lines of locations it means that it is a 2 night raft-up. Feel free to contact me for more details on each of these events.

## **River Activities**

**Jon Allen**

The first river cruise is on April, 27th. New members are especially welcome. I will have sign-up sheets at the next meeting. We hope to get things moving by 6:30 to 7:00. We should have some assorted beverages.

The next river cruise will be May 11th.

## **Re-Up Wrap-Up**

**Susan Batchelder**

The SCOW 2001 Re-Up Brunch held March 11, at the Colonies in Mclean was another rousing success. Over 100 people attended; many newer members, along with the "old salts."

This brunch would not have been possible without the help of many volunteers including (in no particular order): Jay Weitzel, Kathryn Scott, Monica Maynard, Joan O'Kane, Judi Campbell, BJ McMillan, Bruce McMillan, George Umberger, Brian Lee, Gloria Spilker, Jeremy Spilker, Cathy Chapman, Anne La Lena, Kelly Bowers, Matt Gaston, Amy Plett, Roz Roznowski, Allan Lewis, Jonathan Allen, Betsy Troeder, Alain Bashore, Mary Bashore, Mona Hahn, Cathy Murphy, Dale Eager, Thom Unger, Stu Robinson, Ben Lesser, Lisa Carr, Kim Webb, Bev Ashcraft, Sergey Tagashov, Bill Bernhards.

A special thanks goes out to Sal Lauricella for being our sponsor (once again) at the Colonies.

Thanks also to all the attendees. We would have no reason to host a brunch if no one attended. Thank you everyone who came and/or helped out. See you on the water and at Re-up 2002!

## **Spring Tune Up Race**

**Bill Bernhards**

On Saturday April 21 SCOW will be starting the racing season with our new Spring Tune Up Race. If you wish to participate in this race then meet at the Washington Sailing Marina in front of the Afterdeck CafÈ at 10:00am for the skipper/crew meeting. For those of you who will be racing your own boats we will assign or pick crew that morning for you if you wish.

This one-day event will include all of our fleet and is open to all SCOW members. DDCF has also been invited to join in. Small boat racing will occur in the lagoon with rotating crews so that everyone will get to race. Skippers for the big boats will be chosen at the April 9 members meeting during our skipper's lottery.

This is a great opportunity to get out on the water early this season and warm up your sailing skills for the coming year.

## **Racing News**

**Bill Bernhards**

It's time to choose skippers and crew for the Tuesday night big boat races. For all skippers who have signed up for this event please come early to the next members meeting on Monday April 9, 2001 where we will be pulling names out of the hat to choose who will skipper our cruising boats in the DDCF races. I would like to have all skippers meet upstairs at 6:45pm for the drawing and to select your series, first mate and crew.

This edition of Channels will be the last call for anyone to sign up to be a skipper or crew for this exciting series of races. If you want your name included in the skipper drawing or on the crew list then e-mail me at [race@scow.org](mailto:race@scow.org) or call me at (w) 301-937-4843 ext.113 before April 9.

For everyone who wants to race in the Flying Scots then mark your calendars for May 8. Beginning that Tuesday evening we will be conducting informal races at the marina starting at 6:30pm and continuing until dusk. There is no need to sign up for these races all you need to do is show up. A dock/race master will be there to help set up and run the races. If you are a Flying Scot skipper with SCOW then you are eligible to skipper for these races. Every SCOW member who wishes to crew will be given a chance to do so. It's that easy and fun to get out on the water and learn some of the finer points of sailing.

## **Racing Seminar with Tucker Thompson.**

### **Bill Bernhards**

**On Monday April 16, 2001 SCOW will be hosting a racing seminar with Tucker Thompson. With many new rules going into effect on April 1 this seminar will get you ready for the coming season. This is a must for everyone who races, who has thought about racing or just wants to know more about sailing/racing rules of the road. Some of the other topics include tactics, strategy, and sail trim. Tucker will be speaking in the Chart Room at the Sailing Marina starting at 6:30pm.**

**Tucker is a Professional Sailor, Performance Racing Coach, Sailing Consultant, and Author. He has been a Junior North American and a Collegiate Sloop National Champion, a New Zealand National Match Race Champion and has top finishes in the Smythe and O'Day Single-handed Nationals, US Match Racing Nationals, and J 22, Mumm 30, and Farr 40 Worlds. Most recently he sailed for America True in the America's Cup trials.**

**Don't miss special event. A donation of \$10.00 will be collected at the door.**

### **ISAF Racing Rule News**

**The ISAF now requires any competitor (skipper or crew) in a race governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing to be a member of a national authority such as US Sailing or a club that is an affiliate of US Sailing. (SCOW is not a US Sailing affiliate.) This rule is extremely unpopular, and many sailing organizations are implementing procedures to discourage protests such as charging an extremely large and non-refundable protest fee if a racer wants to protest a violation of this rule. US Sailing has decreed that the penalty for violation will be a warning, so most racers will not lodge protests and pay a non-refundable fee merely to have the competition receive a warning. However, if you are concerned, you can join the Scuttlebutt Sailing Club for free (there is a word that is music to a sailor's ears!). The club is affiliated with US Sailing, so your free membership will qualify you under the ISAF edict. For more information on the ISAF rule and for your free membership card, point your web browser to <<http://sailingsource.com/scuttlebutt>> and click on the "Join" link.**

### **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:**

**Just type or paste your article into the body of an email message. Don't send your articles as (or with) attachments.**

**Put a title on the first line, your name only (not "by") on the second line, and launch right into the article. I know this is hard for you to resist doing, but- IF you include words in all caps, multiple tabs, indents, attachments, or extraneous notes, your article will suffer greatly. Blame yourself if this happens!**

**We will format (but not remove formatting, see above) your article, adding emphasis, aligning tabs, and doing all manner of things to present your article in it's assigned place.**

**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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