

ChaNNels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington

April 2002

Commodore's Log

It's April! It's sailing season! Praise almighty Neptune!

Well, so it begins. It's the month where we dust off the Chow Dhow and say "Come on down to Social Sail." And we'll even have the Spring Tune Up Regatta.

What more could you ask for? April is the month when it all starts happening.

And as you'll see elsewhere in this newsletter, we had a bang-up Re-Up Brunch that shattered the attendance record like a supertanker running over a Flying Scot (not that I ever want to see that happen, mind you). But that means we've picked up a lot of new members. And while some of you might know the SCOW calendar by heart (and might be as excited as I am that April is finally here), this column is dedicated to the new members who need to know what they've gotten into.

Training

SCOW's training program is so popular that every open slot in every class we offer was filled within the first hour of the Re-Up Brunch. However, there's a slight chance we may offer a third Basic Sailing class (depending on instructor availability), so stay tuned, and contact Donna Cohen at training@scow.org to get on the waiting list. Also, if you've ever thought about actually being a trainer, Saturday April 13th is SCOW's Train the Trainers Day. We're always looking for new, knowledgeable, enthusiastic trainers, so share your knowledge and love of sailing by becoming a SCOW trainer. For details, e-mail Donna Cohen at training@scow.org.

Maintenance

Not the sexiest subject, but one that's been very active in the offseason and will continue to be that way into April. Kudos to Maintenance Director Gordon Cameron, Stuart Ullman, and a cast of dozens, who have been working away on both our big boats, getting ready for this very time of the year. And while it seems to the big boat crew that EVERY Saturday this spring has been maintenance day, this Saturday is the official SCOW Spring Maintenance Day. We'll be down at the marina working and scrubbing to get the boats shipshape. If you haven't had a chance to help out on the big boat toil, there's still a chance. As Gordon is fond of pointing out, the boats don't maintain themselves. So come on down this Saturday, April 6, and help us get all of the boats ready for the Spring Tune Up Regatta and another exciting season on the Potomac River. E-mail Gordon at maintenance@scow.org to find out how to help.

Social

Our most social Shonika Procter (or S2, as she likes to be known) has a couple of events on tap for you this month, including the First Annual Spring Tune-Up Picnic (to go with our Second Annual Spring Tune Up Regatta). In addition, it's time to start beating the drum and signing up Chef I's, Chef II's and Dockmasters to cover all of our Social Sails. For those of you who don't know about our most popular activity, we have Social Sails every Thursday starting April 18. It's essentially a cookout down at the marina starting around 6:00, where we put the boats in the water and take people for a boat ride. So if you've always dreamed of cooking for a hoard of hungry sailors (and who HASN'T), contact Shonika today to sign up. We've got slots every Thursday from now 'til October. Shonika can be reached at social@scow.org.

River

April is also the month in which SCOW's river program kicks off. Jon Allen will lead the first River Cruise of the year on Sunday afternoon, April 28. As of this writing, he's still looking for skippers for Psycho and Rebecca for the cruise, so if you're up for that, contact him at river@scow.org. And if you just want to crew, I've never known Jon to leave anyone on shore.

Racing

Saving the best for last! SCOW Race Captain Bill Bernhards has a top-notch racing program going, both from an educational standpoint and from a sailing standpoint. This year, we've been able to offer not one, but two racing seminars. The second one is this month on Monday, April 15, and features America's Cup racer and SpinSheet columnist Tucker Thompson. Look for more details in this issue of Channels. In addition, thanks go out to our first racing seminar "professor" Stu Robinson who used his array of models to demonstrate the evils of dirty air (and other fun racing stuff) back on March 9. And on Saturday, April 20, it's our Second Annual Spring Tune Up Regatta. Come on down to the docks and join in the fun. The skippers' meeting is at 10:00 am, with racing until around 3:00 (depending on the wind, of course). And just a note - last year, nobody who came to crew got left at the dock.

So as you can see, we've got a lot going on. And a lot of volunteers who are putting it together for you.

I hope to see you 'round the docks this month.

Spring Maintenance Day

Saturday, April 6

When Kenneth Grahame was referring to the fun of "messaging about in boats" in *The Wind in the Willows*, we KNOW he was talking about boat maintenance, right? Well, maybe not, but we do need your help on Saturday, April 6 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm to get our boats ready for the sailing season. As they always say "Many hands make light work", so come help us out and stay as long as you like. We also usually manage to throw in some fun and maybe even a little food,

as well. Boatbuilding skills not required. Desire to have fun a must. For more information, contact SCOW's stalwart Maintenance Director, Gordon Cameron, at maintenance@scow.org.

April Membership Meeting

Monday, April 8

"Preparing for Passage"

How do you get yourself, your boat and your crew ready for a passage to, say, Cape Cod? What should you check on your boat? What are the "must haves" in terms of equipment? How do you choose your crew? And how do you provision for the voyage?

As many of you know, SCOW members Len Zuza and Mike Geissinger are in the throes of answering these and many other questions as they plan their passage to Cape Cod, MA. They'll be coming to the April membership meeting to tell you about all of the considerations, and what they're preparing for. It will provide a great "before" picture of their passage, which starts in mid-May (see related article elsewhere in this issue).

And rumor has it they just might have a few more crew slots open...come to the meeting and find out!

It'll be the usual time and the usual place. For new members that's the American Legion Hall in Old Town Alexandria, 400 Cameron Street (check out www.scow.org for directions). Socializing starts at 6:30, with the meeting at 7:30 and the presentation at 8:00.

April Racing Clinic: Tucker Thompson

Monday, April 15

SCOW is proud to present Tucker Thompson for our April racing clinic. If you missed Tucker last year or if you enjoyed his presentation as much as I did, then don't miss this one! This is a must for everyone who races, has thought about racing, or just wants to know more about sailing.

Tucker is a Professional Sailor, Performance Racing Coach, Sailing Consultant, and author. He has been a Junior North American Champion, Collegiate Sloop National Champion, 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.

This year Tucker will cover in depth the topic of sail trim and how to make the boat go fast. If you race or just want to know how to adjust those sails to get more speed and efficiency, then plan on hearing about it from one of the best.

This exceptional event will take place at the Washington Sailing Marina in the Chart Room, Monday April 15 starting at 7:00pm, for a \$10.00 donation at the door.

This is one event you don't want to miss!

Skipper Coordinator News

Barry Dunsmoor

Ahoy SCOW members!

Last month we spent an exhausting evening listening to Matt drone on at the board meeting. Just kidding! Matt did no such thing. I, on the other hand, kept saying "I have another issue!!".

I do have some skipper news to make sure everyone is informed about:

Test Packets

If you wish to receive a test packet for the boats, you must submit a \$5 materials fee to pay for photocopying, supplies, etc. before receiving the test packet. This was recommended by the previous board because many people request the packet (where all the copying is done) and then never return the tests with a \$5 test fee.

Boating Safety Certificates

In 2001, the board made it a requirement that all people who certify as new skippers must have a Boating Safety Education Certificate (which is required for boaters on the river by DC law) on file with the Skipper Coordinator. THIS year, a motion was passed that requires ALL skippers to have a certificate on file before being allowed to renew their skipper'ship next year (March 2003). Once I have most of the renewals done this year, I will start reminding those skippers that do not have one on file, to please provide one by the end of the year. The certificate can be obtained online at the BoatUS website for NO COST!!

Skipper Fees (part 1)

Half price skipper fees were approved by the board for those members who certify for the first time after October 1 AND members who RENEW their skipper'ship after Oct 1.

Skipper Fees (part 2)

If you pay for skippering one class of boat (Scots or Cruisers) and you then CERTIFY after March 12, 2002 on the other class, throughout the 2002-2003 sailing season you will be eligible to pay the rest of the "BOTH" rate at the 2001-2002 fee schedule. This DOES NOT mean if you are already certified on both classes you can pay for only one class of skipper'ship and then anytime later in the year RENEW at the previous year's fee schedule for the "BOTH" fee. In that case, you will have to pay the difference to the new "BOTH" rate. This motion affects "new certifiers" only, who are already certified on one class of boat and are waiting for the sailing season to certify on the other (especially since the cruisers have been out of commission).

Cruising Boat Exams

Cruising boat written exams that were taken and passed last summer expire at the end of this sailing season (March 2003). Written exams are to expire when the test is revised, as it was last August for the new engines. Those people who passed the exam last summer prior to August have this sailing season to complete their on-the-water checkout or they will have to take the new written exam.

Renewals

All skipper renewal forms have been sent out. If you did not receive one (I had to go off an old database of addresses and names), please let me know so that I can send you the forms.

Any wonder why the board meetings go so long???

Any questions on the above subjects, please forward them to Matt Gaston. No!! Send them to me at skipper@SCOW.ORG. I will do whatever I can to clear your mind, and help out.

NEW DATE: Train the Trainers Day

Saturday, April 13

Train the Trainers Day has been changed to Saturday April 13!

Have you longed to share your love of sailing with someone else? Being a SCOW trainer is one of the most gratifying ways to do that. And you help our club out to boot.

Come to Train the Trainers Day on Saturday, April 13 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and find out more. We'll provide coffee and doughnuts in the morning, and you'll get a chance to go over the curriculum with our skilled and patient training committee. Then, we just ask for a few Saturday and Sundays (full- or half- days) this year when you can take our students out and teach them the basic sailing maneuvers, or the SCOW way to handle a cruising boat.

For more information on Train the Trainers Day, contact SCOW's Training Director and budding poet, Donna Cohen, at training@scow.org.

Racing News - Spring Tune Up Regatta

Bill Bernhards

SCOW's second annual Spring Tune Up Regatta will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2002. SCOW's two cruising boats will participate in this race as well as our Flying Scots. All other boat owners who wish to race are also invited.

SCOW's cruising boats and Flying Scots for the regatta will be awarded by lottery at the April 8th members meeting. To qualify for the cruising boats you must be a cruising boat skipper and already have passed SCOW's racing test. To qualify for the Scots you must be a Scot skipper. Skippers will choose their own crews.

The first step to race is to sign up. To do this just e-mail the racing director at race@scow.org before April 8th, or be at the members meeting on April 8th. There will be a \$10.00 skippers fee for this regatta.

Skippers will get a free Tune Up Regatta T-shirt. If your crew wants to buy a shirt, the cost is \$10.00 per shirt. Even if you don't race, you can still purchase a SCOW Regatta T-shirt. E-mail race@scow.org for purchasing information.

All race skippers will have a chance to win a special prize from Sailnet.com. Sailnet is providing two gift certificates, one for \$100.00 toward purchasing merchandise on their web site, and the second certificate for \$50.00 is for someone 15 years old or younger who participates in the race. The race skippers' names will be put in one (SCOW) hat, and the names of those 15 and younger will be put in another hat to select the winners of the Sailnet certificates.

A picnic for all participants, and any SCOW member who wants to join the party, will be held at the marina (around 4:00pm) after the race. So even if you don't race, come to the picnic and party with us.

Social Activities

Shonika Proctor

Good Day, Good People!

Thank you to all of you who attended the Re-Up Brunch. We had an amazing turnout and the SCOW Board sincerely appreciates the efforts of all of you who volunteered with the event, signed up to volunteer for upcoming events, and of course renewed your membership!

Also, Ms. Sharon Schoumaker would like to thank all of you who attended the Hexagon event on March 14th. All the money raised this year through ticket sales will go to the charity organization 'The Hospices of the National Capital Region'.

Upcoming Social Events:

Volvo Ocean Race

Watch out cause' here they come...Volvo Ocean Race 2002 is coming soon! Limited tickets are still available for the Welcome Party on Friday, April 26, 2002 at the Eastport Yacht Club in Annapolis, MD. To order your tickets, download the form from the website www.eastportyc.org and fax it or mail it in with your credit card or check for \$23 per ticket. Hurry as this event will sell out!

Additionally, the VOR Volunteer Event has been set for Saturday April 27th. I will be volunteering at the event from sun-up to sun-down on April 27th and I will serve as the unofficially elected, official SCOW contact at the VOR. I will send out an email to all volunteers who have expressed interest in helping with the event stating the details of the event, preferred meeting time for the group event etc. For those of you who will not be able to come at the

'preferred time' but will be able to come on April 27th and volunteer for at least 1 hour, I will forward all my contact information so that we can connect once you arrive at the site. If you would like to get involved with VOR 2002, it's not too late. Send your name and email address to social@scow.org.

Social Sail

Thanks to those of you who responded to my 'all scow' email expressing your interest in Social Sail. Tentatively I have two people who want to coordinate Social Sail; however, what we really could use now is some volunteers to step up who want to be 'Chefs' and host a meal on Thursday evenings. Don't be shy, we need to fill up the month of April and May ASAP! Volunteer with your spouse, your neighbor, your sailing buddy or by yourself. It can't happen without you! Don't delay, we need you today!

Spring Tune Up Regatta PICNIC

Saturday, April 20th after the Spring Tune Up Regatta. New SCOW Members are you going to be there? This is your event!!! Come see what the Spring Tune Up Regatta is about, learn the SCOW way, learn about Social Sail and all the great events coming this season. By volunteering with the picnic you can also meet SCOW members, old and new alike! Email me: social@scow.org with 'New Member' in the subject line so that I can get you signed up for this fun event!

C U SOON!

River Activities

Jon Allen

We still have some room for the Sunday, April 28th river cruise at 1:00 pm. The next one is Friday, May 31 at 7:00 pm. Please email me at river@scow.org if you are interested in crewing or being a skipper for either of these events.

Items to bring to a river cruise:

1. Drinks (and plenty of them) - Beer and rum-runners are most welcome.
2. Snacks - Bring enough for yourself and some to share, but remember these are sailboats not cargo ships!
3. If it's a daytime event, don't forget the SCOW-recommended water, hat and sunscreen.

We meet at the Marina cranes about 15 minutes before the scheduled cast-off.

Hope to see y'all there.

Cape Cod Cruise

Len Zuza

Plans for the Cape Cod Cruise are beginning to shape up as Mike Geissinger and I continue to prepare our boats and start making more concrete plans. The logistical details of organizing such a trip can be daunting. Both Mike and I have lists, but we're reluctant to share them lest we feel either superior that we are so far ahead of the other, or depressed that we are so far behind. (Don't tell Mike, but I've got roughly 115 things to take care of and have already finished 32. Only 83 to go!)

As you'll see elsewhere in this newsletter, we'll be discussing our preparations at the April membership meeting. These efforts cover everything from planning routes and selecting marinas for drop-off points to checking anticipated weather (Mike found a website that reported that average temperature lows in Cape Cod will be around 50F and highs, around 70F), upgrading first aid kits, checking bilge pumps, getting emergency gear, rewiring electrical circuits, installing new ports, checking fire extinguishers, caulking everything that might leak, and upgrading ground tackle, extending insurance coverage, and setting up e-mail communications via cell phone to be able to provide you daily progress reports on the SCOW website. Of all the preparations we will be making, none will be as important as those relating to safety. Both Mike and I will be taking the Safety at Sea Seminar at Annapolis in early April. As with all boating operations there are no guarantees that nothing will go wrong. All we can do is prepare as thoroughly as possible and, if something does run afoul, be prepared to deal with it.

Finding good crew is less of a problem because we have the highly talented and strongly motivated SCOW members as a resource. For example, Chris and Jane Farthing have already started to help me install new ports on DULCINEA. Later Mike and I will be sending out a general call for crew who will be coming on the cruise to scrub, sand, paint and polish. This will not only help us get the boats ready, it will also enable crew members to familiarize themselves with the boats on which they will be spending a lot of time (Chris and Jane will be the only crew lucky enough know that the thickness of the bulkhead in the V berth is 3/4", that in the main salon is 1", and that in the head is 1 1/2").

By the time that you receive this newsletter, Mike and I will have made our preliminary crew selection, but that does not mean that we will not have members drop out for personal reasons or that we are not interested in additional crew. Come to the April meeting to hear our talk and, if you're interested in crewing, it's not too late to send us your name, address, phone numbers, sailing experience, and choice of leg (see the SCOW calendar of activities in May for details) by e-mail.

Rhode River Raft-up Details

Jeff Teitel

I've consulted the charts. I've talked to the locals. I've formulated a plan. Well, actually I looked at a map, cornered Pat Derry in a bar, and now I'm winging it.

On Saturday, June 1, by 1400 hours (that's 2:00 pm for you civilian types), I will be anchored (weather permitting, but since all I have to do is motor about 1/4 mile, it shouldn't be a problem) at 76° 32.0' W x 38° 53.2' N. This is in the middle of the triangle formed by High Island and two others. I've been told that the way to get into the anchorage is to come into the Rhode River, pass south of High Island, and come around it into the protected area between the three islands.

Sea Frog is a white Cal 27 with a green stripe. I will be flying the largest SCOW burgee I can find. I will be monitoring channel 68 once I get the hook down. You can even call my cell phone (202-271-1238). (Unfortunately, I won't be able to receive e-mail on the boat.)

Now there's no excuse not to come.

Re-Up Wrap Up

Sunday, March 3rd saw a turnout like never before for the Annual SCOW Re-up Brunch at the Colonies Condominium in McLean, VA.

Our usual number of around 100 jumped to a total of 160 for this year's brunch. Many new members and prospective members came out to join. We didn't run out of drinks and had a variety of foods to eat.

This couldn't have been accomplished without the help of many, many volunteers. I want to say a special "thanks" to: Mary Abadessa, Jon Allen, Julio Barros, Alain & Mary Bashore, Bill Bernhards, Liz & Bob Bruening, Chris and Teresa Chubb, Julia Clones, Donna Cohen, Bill Davenport, Patrick Derry, Camden Hubbard, Anne LaLena, Brian Lee, Allan Lewis, Bruce & BJ McMillan, Joan O'Kane, Deo Pachas, Amy Plett, Shonika Proctor, Patricia Seaton, Sara Slocum, Alice Starcke, Mittie Snyder, Jeff Teitel, Doris and Bill Thomas, Ellen Thompson, George Umberger, Jay Weitzel, and YOU for coming!

Recap: March Racing Clinic

Bill Bernhards

The March racing clinic presented by Stu Robinson was a great success. Over 40 members from SCOW and other local sailing clubs attended. Stu presented an excellent clinic covering many racing and sailing topics by using a number of sailboat models that made for a clear and easy to understand explanation of many complex topics.

New SCOW Mailbox for Email Changes

If your email address changes, you can now send it to Jeff Teitel at postmaster@scow.org. Please be sure to include your name, the old email address (so Jeff knows what to drop from the email list), and the new email address.

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.

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 look kinda silly, or even totally unreadable.

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 its assigned place.

Submit articles to
channels@scow.org
within one week after the monthly membership meeting.

Kelly E. Griffin, Layout Editor (the hard part)
Declan Conroy, Web Publisher
Betsy Troeder, Labels
Joan O'Kane, Editor (I dress up the electronic edition, too)

That's all folks...