

Chanels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington
April 2003

Commodore's Log

Putting in and launching. Docking and taking out. What happens between these chores? Safe and responsible boating; we always hope! Our SCOW policies and procedures, our training opportunities, our officers' responsibilities, and our maintenance procedures and actions are all directly geared toward supporting this philosophy.

The safe and responsible sailor exhibits 1) general knowledge and understanding of boating principles and rules, 2) good skills in boat handling and maintenance, and 3) good judgement. To varying degrees, many SCOW members are readily available to communicate these critical success factors and teach and learn from one another. You may well know some of the "senior" sailors in our Club, with no aspersion intended here toward age but rather toward experience and ability in helping beginning and novice sailors to acquire skills and knowledge on land and on the water. If you don't know these folks, you are encouraged to participate in SCOW events

and meet and learn from the many sailors, volunteers, officers and committee members who are there to graciously share with their fellow "raghaulers". I think you will find them most willing to answer a question, tutor, or practice with you.

To me, it seems that a healthy "fear" of the unknown or unforeseen on the water is sometimes as important as an appreciation of our own capabilities and limitations. It helps to keep us aware and focused. To anyone who has stood watch at the helm offshore and out of sight of land, this "fear" and "appreciation" become most paramount. Yet you may also find them evident only 100 yards from the shores of the Potomac in a fathom of water.

In my twelve years with SCOW and sixteen years sailing, I have witnessed several incidents and heard anecdotes of many more where these success factors (general knowledge, good skills, and good judgment) have not been ingrained and observed.

(Continued on page 2)

April Membership Meeting Monday, April 14 **"How to Be Crew"**

Our April presentation will be a performance by the SCOW Players of "How to Be Crew". This is a not to be missed! presentation for anyone and everyone who has ever crewed on someone else's boat, has thought about being crew on a boat, sat on the dock and wished they could be crew on a boat, or owns a boat and doesn't have the heart to tell his/her crew that they just don't cut the mustard crew-wise.

We took an informal poll of skippers during a break at the Re-Up Brunch and 4 out of 5 skippers said crew etiquette - or lack thereof - was the Number 1 deterrent to pleasurable and frequent sailing. As a public service, the SCOW Players agreed to put this encore performance together to save this year's skippers and crew the heartbreak of misadventures on the water.

The presentation will begin immediately after the business part of the meeting. See ya there, Matey!

The meeting will be at the usual time and place - the American Legion Hall in Old Town Alexandria, 400 Cameron Street (check out www.scow.org for directions). Socializing starts at 6:30 PM, with the meeting at 7:30 and the presentation at 8:00.

(Continued from page 1)

In all fairness, I will have to admit to a few temporary shortcomings of my own. But hopefully, we learn from these experiences and become better sailors as a result.

Particularly in the past six months since I agreed to run for the office of Commodore, I have become even more aware of safe and responsible boating issues and have seen or heard about:

- a couple of near collisions between boats,
- a failure to observe approaching darkness while sailing in the Flying Scots,
- a failure to adequately prepare for heavy wind conditions,
- an unauthorized single-handed sailing of a Flying Scot,
- instances of relatively novice sailors tutoring beginners and causing “discomfort”, and
- the apparent collision of Psycho with a boat and the subsequent non-reporting or reparation for this incident.

In this latter incident, Psycho incurred no observable damage but caused our insurance coverage to pay out over \$2300 for substantial damage to the gunwale of a fellow sailor’s docked wooden sloop. No one has stepped forward to assume responsibility.

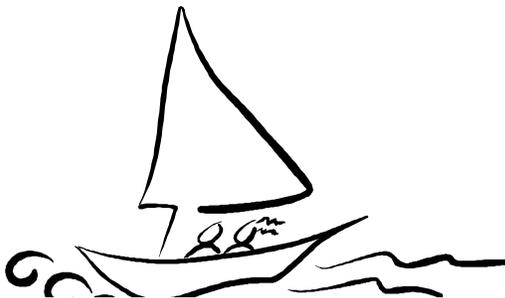
We will no doubt experience many accidental jibes, several groundings and numerous equipment failures in 2003, but we will hopefully become more aware and minimize or even eliminate during this season the avoidable incidents noted above.

Our Skipper Director Steve Linke is readily available to you for the reporting of any unsafe or irresponsible boating practice. And we can also do our part by coming to the aid of a sailor needing assistance or advice. If offered in a positive fashion, this advice will often be received in a most appreciative manner. Director Steve likewise will appreciate reports of safe and responsible boating so that recognition and examples may be established for future reference and communication. And perhaps as a result, we will recruit a new tutor or trainer to assist us all.

Our Maintenance Director Tom Hannan and his crew of able Bos’ns, our Safety Committee (Stuart Ullman - Chair), our Training and Skipper Certification Committee (Mike Geissinger – Chair), and our Boat Asset Committee (Jay Weitzel – Chair) also play a large role in assuring that our fleet and our skippers and crew are well prepared for the coming sailing season. Get to know them, report your ideas and observations, and personally help to assure a safe and responsible 2003 on the water.

And come to our April 14 meeting, now back at the American Legion Hall after its renovations, to learn about “How to be a Good Crew Member” from our own panel of SCOW experts.

Fair winds,
Commodore George



ChaNels

can also be read at:

www.scow.org

Submit articles to

channels@scow.org

by one week after the monthly meeting. Use any means, but email is preferred.

Joan O’Kane, Editor

Chris Chubb, Layout Editor

Declan Conroy, Web Publisher

Monika O’Connor, Mailing Lists

Update Your Spring Wardrobe!

Spring is almost here and so is our first sale of SCOW embroidered hats and polo shirts, along with a screenprinted long sleeve t-shirts.

If you want to show your "SCOW Colors", complete the order form included in this issue of ChaNNels and bring it with you to the membership meeting on April 14th. If you can't make it to the meeting, mail the form by April 14th, along with a check payable to SCOW, to Bill Bernhards, 7437 Mahaska Drive, Rockville, MD 20855

Items will be available starting at the May membership meeting. If you have any questions, email Bill Bernhards at billb53@hotmail.com.

Changing ChaNNels

Joan O'Kane, Channels Editor

Have you noticed what a great job Chris Chubb has been doing since he became the ChaNNels Layout Editor in January?

If not, you are not alone. Although many volunteer hours are spent each month designing, producing and distributing the print version of ChaNNels, two-thirds of SCOW's members never see it because they receive ChaNNels by email only.

Don't get me wrong. I LOVE email! But the print version looks a whole lot better. We're able to include photos and graphics that would probably make the HTML version of ChaNNels way too big for your inbox to handle if we tried to use them. And if you are able to read only the plain text email, you are really missing out!

But, thanks to ever-increasing printing and postage costs, producing and mailing the print version of ChaNNels to every SCOW member is not a good option either. Unless we want SCOW membership fees to be ever-increasing as well. The Board has done a great job of keeping membership costs low and I for one would like that to continue.

But there is a solution!

Beginning with this issue (and the new SCOW membership year), we are changing the way ChaNNels is distributed. Whereas in the past, SCOW members could elect to receive both the print and email versions of ChaNNels, this year when you renew your membership you will only receive ChaNNels in print if you don't have access to email.

Instead of separate emails for the HTML and text versions of ChaNNels, there will be only one email. It will include a link to a PDF file of the print version of

ChaNNels stored on the SCOW web site. For those who do not have Internet access or Adobe Acrobat Reader, the plain text of the articles will be included in the body of the email.

For the few SCOW members who don't have email, we will continue to produce hard copies and send ChaNNels through the mail. These changes will have no impact on you.

We think this is a win-win situation for everyone! Club members win because they can choose to read the text version of ChaNNels or to access the PDF version - in which many of the graphics and photos are in color. The ChaNNels volunteers win because more people will actually see the results of our monthly "labor of love". The Club as a whole wins because we will be reducing the costs associated with producing and distributing the print version.

With this new change, it is really important to make sure we have your correct email address or you may not receive ChaNNels. If you are a paid-up SCOW member and haven't been receiving ChaNNels by email, please contact Jeff Teitel at postmaster@scow.org.

If you don't already have Adobe Acrobat Reader, you can download it for free at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

Over time, we hope to build an online archive of past print issues of ChaNNels by converting them to PDF. If you've been holding on to your old copies, KEEP THEM! We may need to borrow them.

I hope you will all enjoy having access to the new and improved print version of ChaNNels. If you have any comments or questions, please email me at channels@scow.org.

Down By The River . . .
River Coordinator Jay Weitzel

Come and join SCOW on Sunday, April 13th, when we take the River Fleet on the season's first River Fleet outing. We will have a skippers' meeting on April 13th at 11 a.m. at the gate to "F" Dock (where we keep Rebecca and Psycho), and then we'll set off for a downriver sail. I will be contacting River Skippers by phone and email. We plan to return between 5 and 6 PM.

We hope to have a great turn-out for this event, but WE NEED BOATS!!! And not just cruising boats! This is an afternoon sail and it is a great chance for members with small boats to join the fun. The club will be taking Rebecca (which can carry a skipper and 5 members). Psycho may not be available. So, if we're going to get the season started right by getting as many members out on the water as possible, we'll need more boats to take them on. Please, if you are a skipper with a River Fleet Boat, come and join us and take a few members with you!

If you would like to sign up as either skipper or crew, contact me at river@scow.org. If you'll be bringing your boat, please let me know how many people you can take with you. I'll do my best to match up boats and crew. Crew slots will be "first come, first served" in terms of when I get your email.

If you are a guest on someone's boat, here's everything you need to know about being a good guest so you get invited along again: (1) Bring food or drink for the skipper. (2) Listen to what the skipper asks you to do and do it when you are told to. (3) Don't do things the skipper hasn't asked you to do -- like, don't start grabbing lines unless asked to. (3) Compliment the skipper frequently on the beauty of the vessel and his/her sailing abilities. (4) Don't leave until everything is cleaned up and stowed. (5) Say "Thanks" before you leave.

Our next River event will be an evening River Cruise on Friday May 16th. We will announce details by email and in the May edition of Channels and will have sign-up sheets at the May 12th membership meeting.



Photo courtesy of Joe DePoorter

Donna Cohen and Neil Shepherd on a Flying Scot

Racing News
Spring Tune Up Regatta

SCOW's third annual Spring Tune Up Regatta will be held on Saturday, April 19, 2003.

The details are still being worked out as ChaNNels goes to press, but we expect it to be similar to past years with both cruising boats and Flying Scots participating.

If you are interested in participating, either as a boat owner or as crew, email Racing Director Kara Wald at race@scow.org.

Watch your email for more information about what has quickly become a popular SCOW event!

Bay Activities

Jeff Teitel

The sailing season is upon us! Our first Bay event is just a few days away. A day-sail on April 13th. Contact me at jeff@teitel.net or 202-271-1238, if you're interested in attending (as skipper or crew).

Our first raft-up is the 4th annual Rhode River Raft-up (R3) over Memorial Day weekend, May 24-26, and it's already shaping up to be a great one! As I write this (early March) I've already heard from over a half-dozen boat owners who have said they're coming. We had 13 boats last year, help me top it this year!

Plus, once again, the club has chartered Seanchai for the R3 and is making berths available to members. See the separate article for details.

Mark your calendars, we've got lots of other great events coming up:

June 21 - Day sail

July 4-6 - Independence Day Raft-up, Solomon's Island (Help! I need a host for this.)

Aug 23-24 - Orioles Game & Raft-up, Inner Harbor, Baltimore (vs. Yankees)

Sept 14 - Day Sail

Sept 27-28 - Raft-up TBD (I need a raft-master for this one, too.)

October - Fowl Weather Cruise by Allan Lewis

SCOW Charters S/V Seanchai for Rhode River Raft-up Again

Jeff Teitel

Have you ever wanted to go to a SCOW Bay raft-up but don't have your own boat and don't know any of the members who do? Ever wanted to spend a weekend sailing the Chesapeake but can't afford the full charter cost? Well SCOW's got a deal for you!

SCOW has chartered the sailing vessel Seanchai (Shawn'-a-key) with Captain Pat Derry (a long-time member of SCOW) for the Rhode River Raft-up over Memorial weekend, May 24-26. Pat has given the club a 50% discount on the charter so SCOW can offer individual berths for \$209 per person (including tax) for the long weekend. This includes three full days of sailing and overnight accommodations on-board at the raft-up. It does not include food and drinks.

To sign up, send a check, payable to SCOW, to:

Jeff Teitel
1314 Rhode Island Ave NW
Washington, DC 20005-3710

Seanchai can carry six people plus her captain. The berths will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to SCOW members and their guests. Your space is not reserved until we receive your check. More information about Seanchai and Captain Pat can be found on-line at www.SailSeanchai.com or by e-mail at info@SailSeanchai.com.

If you are interested or would like more information about this event, please contact me, Jeff Teitel, at 202-271-1238 or jeff@teitel.net.

Maintenance

Tom Hannan

“Boat care is simple; rub gently with lighter fluid and ignite.”

Did you hear about the two powerboaters that walked into Boat/US? You’d think at least one of them would have seen it.

Now that I’ve got your attention, this month’s article...

John Rousmaniere, in The Annapolis Book of Seamanship, observes, “With repetition come good habits, with good habits comes good seamanship, with good seamanship comes security, and with security comes...enjoyment.” We all want the enjoyment of sailing on a safe and seaworthy vessel, and we all work to ensure these characteristics on SCOW’s boats by reviewing a boat’s condition and performance every time we take it out. And by taking what remedial steps we can; and if they don’t work, communicating additionally-required maintenance actions promptly. This year we’re trying to make that communication a simple and easy one.

While notations in the log books are important, especially for the next crew, this year we’re providing a “take away” half-page organizer in the log book that’ll let you submit your “trouble report” quickly with a minimum of inconvenience from the comfort of your own home or office. Simply provide the information requested (date/time, boat, submitter name/phone, problem observed, repairs needed, attempts to repair, and urgency) in an e-mail to maintenance@scow.org, or if e-mail is inaccessible, in a call to the maintenance box at (202) 628-7245 (SAIL). We monitor the hot-line periodically every day. Since we’ll be on a rotating schedule, if you need to speak to a real person immediately, the weekly contact number will be highlighted in the logbook.

That’s it. We’ll be on the lookout for your recommendations and suggestions for making the trouble-reporting procedure, or maintenance in general, better. And, by the way, thanks for all the folks who came out on Spring Maintenance Day and gave us a hand. Slainte!

SCOW Says Welcome!

to the following new members:

Bree Brostko
Michael McLaughlin
Eric Leboff
Kivanc Kirgiz

Training

Kris Bieg

Spring will soon be here. April brings many opportunities to get out and resume (or in some cases start) your sailing experiences. If you are interested in improving your skills and were not able to get into a SCOW course this year, there are still many ways in which to enhance your skill level and learn. Social events are especially important for you. They connect you with others that like to provide tutoring, are looking for crew members, and can provide you with time at the helm. Social Sails on Thursday nights begin on April 10th.

For those who have prior sailing experience and are close to being able to take the final steps to applying for skipper, we are offering a Refresher Course on April 12th from noon - 4 p.m. Please let me know if you are interested by contacting me at training@scow.org or calling me at 703-486-2652.

Tutors: let me know who you are. A list is being developed to provide help for club members who are interested in one-on-one assistance.

Psycho Repair Update Boat Asset Committee

You may recall that a year or so ago we had a surveyor look at our cruising boats. He determined that Psycho (a classic Sparkman & Stephens design) was structurally solid and had at least ten or more good years of life. But the boat, which was built in 1971, was starting to look her age. So we hauled Psycho last fall with an ambitious list of tasks intended to restore the boat to top shape and an aggressive schedule to get the work done by the end of March. Unfortunately, we didn't schedule the extremely cold weather, snow and rain that made it impossible to do many tasks (like fiberglass work). Some weekends, we couldn't even get to the boat.

The good news is that, despite the weather, we made a lot of progress. We were able to work inside the cabin, and the electrical system has been totally upgraded, including a new fuse panel, engine wiring and (yes, finally!!) cabin lights. We are in the process of installing a

new water system. We hired a professional to repair the toe rail that was allowing water to leak into the cabin and that is well underway. Once the toe rail is repaired, we can finish the interior cabin work without fear of damage from leaks. A new tiller is being installed. The foredeck hatch and the sail locker hatch were removed and are being repaired. The bottom was sanded in preparation for new bottom paint. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped on these projects.

The bad news is that the work is behind schedule. We expect that, through the month of April and perhaps even into May, we will be looking for volunteers to help with a variety of jobs, including sanding and painting the deck. It also is possible that Psycho will be taken out of service for some time during those months. However, when the work is complete, Psycho will look as good as she sails and will be a popular club boat again.



Photo courtesy of Joe DePoorter

Two Former Commodores at the Re-Up Brunch



Photo courtesy of George Umberger

Directors Man Their Stations at the Re-Up Brunch

Re-up Brunch a Fitting Kickoff to the Season

Chef Rob Langford and his able band of assistant chefs, porters, and other deckhands colluded on March 23 to bring us yet another fine example of gourmet fare and socialization among sailors anxious for the season to start. Well over one hundred old and new members plus guests and visitors joined to eat, drink, pay their fees and dues and sign up for training and other opportunities this year. Check out the pictures in this issue of ChaNNels to see who was there.

If the weather, food and attendance that Social Director Rob arranged for us are any indication, we are in for a great year of activity on the water and off!

Exclusive Shackleton Exhibit at the Maryland Science Center

The Maryland Science Center in Baltimore is hosting "The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition" through May 4, 2003. Visitors will see some of the artifacts directly related to the grueling 22-month expedition.

The exhibit features more than 150 original photographs, many of which are on view for the first time. It also includes a replica of the James Caird, the lifeboat Shackleton used to ultimately save his men and an IMAX film about the expedition. Exhibit-goers will see props used in the making of the IMAX film, along with supplies and a tent used by Shackleton's crew.

In conjunction with the National Science Foundation, the Maryland Science Center has staged an exhibition which highlights the progress of polar exploration since the early part of the 20th century. Models of the new McMurdo Station (U.S.) and a modern polar exploration vessel are on display. The Endurance exhibit offers visitors a look at polar exploration from the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration to today's NSF U.S. Antarctic Research program.

Information about the exhibit and the Maryland Science Center is available on the web site at <http://www.mdsci.org/exhibits/endurance/index.cfm>

Thanks to SCOW member Allan Lewis for bringing this to our attention!

Help Wanted: SCOW Hotline

Robert J. Bruening

Here's a chance to help the club from the comfort of your home.

SCOW has a telephone "Hotline" that has recorded summaries of upcoming activities for the club. It allows people to leave messages to contact the club or its officers for more information. Assistance is needed to update the outgoing messages, and to respond to messages left in the voice mail boxes. You can check the hotline at any time of day or night, about once a week.

To volunteer, call the hotline at 202-628-7245 (628-SAIL) and press 4 before the end of the message to go to the audition line. There is no prompt for 4 in the message that answers the call, but it will work. Since the quality of telephones varies a lot, please call from the telephone that you would use to update the messages.



Photo courtesy of George Umberger

Danschweida at the March 15th Checkout Day

Sailing Club of Washington Embroidered and Screenprinted Sportswear.

Print clearly

Name _____

Address _____

Phone(_____) _____

E-mail _____

Garment Style	Color	Size	Price

Total



Mail your order by April 14 or drop it off at the Re-Up Brunch on March 23 or at the April members meeting and pick up your garments at the next members meeting in May.

Mail to: Bill Bernhards
7437 Mahaska Drive
Rockville, Maryland 20855

Make checks payable to: SCOW



Style 1998 Golf Shirt.

100% Cotton Pique Golf Shirt

Colors: Athletic Heather, White, Forest Green, Corel, Mocha, Teal, Basil, Wine, Black, Navy, Butter, and Maroon.

Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL

Price: **S-XL-\$20.00, XXL-\$23.00**



Style 156 Cap

6 panel twill cap.

Colors: Navy, Black, White, Stone, Mustard, Brick Red.

Sizes: One size fits all.

Price: **\$10.00**



Style 5186 Long Sleeve T-Shirt

100% Cotton Long Sleeve T-shirt.

Colors: Navy, White, Black, Ash Grey, Forest Green, Red, Royal.

Sizes: M, L, XL, XXL

Price: **S-XL-\$13.00, XXL-\$15.00**

2003 Board of Directors

Position	Name	Home	Work	E-mail
Commodore	George Umberger	703.323.9358		commodore@scow.org
Vice Commodore	Susan Batchelder	703.519.9844	703.548.3700 x112	vice@scow.org
Secretary	Monika O'Connor	703.921.9262		secretary@scow.org
Treasurer	Graham Leadbetter	301.474.7270	703.325.4429	treasurer@scow.org
Training Director	Kris Bieg	703.486.2652	301.897.2671	training@scow.org
Maintenance Director	Tom Hannan	301.424.6296		maintenance@scow.org
Social Director	Rob Langford	703.383.1530	703.934.7015	social@scow.org
Skipper Director	Steve Linke	703.684.5266	703.604.7113	skipper@scow.org
River & Bay Director	Jeff Teitel	202.332.4160	202.271.1238	bay@scow.org
Racing Director	Kara Wald	703.824.1776	301.657.3077	race@scow.org
Other Key People				
New Members	Melissa Ennis	703.845.5764		info@scow.org
	Jeremy Spilker	703.494.7237		info@scow.org
Historian	Jane Farthing	301.972.2636		historian@scow.org
River Coordinator	Jay Weitzel	703.866.9190	703.566.2002	river@scow.org
Database Administrator	Monika O'Connor	703.921.9262		dba@scow.org
Email Administrator	Jeff Teitel			postmaster@scow.org

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 (202.628.SAIL) or email info@scow.org or visit <http://www.scow.org>