

ChaN_SNels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington

April 2004

Commodore's Log

Happy New Year! New Year? Yes. April marks the beginning of SCOW's membership year and the beginning of the next sailing season. By the time of the April membership meeting, we will have had the Re-Up Brunch, the Train the Trainers session, the Rub Off the Rust Day, and Spring Maintenance Day. In a word, we are ready to start sailing!

This should be an exceptionally good year for the club. Membership interest remains high; we have a dynamic Board committed to making this a terrific year; the management of Daingerfield Island Marina is upgrading the docks and ramps; we are lining up interesting and informative speakers for our monthly programs; and there is a resurgence of interest in Bay activities. But none of this means anything, if we do not attract *your* interest and inspire *you* to become involved in SCOW.

So, look to the calendar on the SCOW website and make room in your personal calendars for the events that appeal to you. Also, keep in mind that all members of the Board are open to your suggestions for making our activities more enjoyable. We are eager for your feedback.

One thing that you can do to enable us to get off to an even faster start than usual is to send in your membership renewals as soon as possible. In the past, the factor that prevented the printing of the membership directory before early summer has been the absence of renewals by many members whom we knew would renew, but had not yet done so. This directory is very important to our event planners. The sooner you get your renewal forms in, the sooner we will be able to insure that you will be included in club activities.

And remember, as you find yourself split between thinking about the upcoming sailing season and the frustrations of finalizing your taxes, that "there is *nothing* -- absolutely nothing -- half so much worth doing as simply messing around in boats."

Len Zuza



(Photo courtesy of Karyl Owings)

Jan, Phil, Len, Karyl and Jay at the Re-Up

Next Membership Meeting: Monday, April 12, 2004

The recent tragedy involving the water shuttle in Baltimore reminds us that sailors need an accurate weather forecast before we set sail and must keep an eye on the weather while on the water. With its proximity to mountains, the Bay and rivers, the Washington area presents unique challenges for weather forecasting. The speaker at our monthly membership meeting on Monday, April 12th will be Chris Strong, from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He will talk to us about local weather patterns and seasonal trends in Washington and the Chesapeake region. He'll also provide tips on weather warning signs to keep you safe on the water.

Our meeting will be at the American Legion at 400 Cameron Street in Old Town Alexandria (around the corner from and underneath Gadsby's Tavern). Socializing begins at 6:30 PM and the program begins at 7:30 PM. Join us for this timely and important program!

SCOW Re-up Brunch a Success!

While the flapjacks were flipped and the Mimosas and Bloody Mary's were served up once again, the Re-Up Brunch was a huge success. A heartfelt thanks goes out from SCOW Social Director Gerri Hanson to the shoppers, volunteer bartenders, set-up and clean up crews, and to Kathryn Arnold's daughter, Stephanie (who manned the door), and to all who brought our "brunch." To all of the new members, welcome, and to the renewal members that attended, welcome back! It was wonderful to see so many new sailors interested in the club's activities, as well as to gather with members who have supported the club for many years. As you can see, a great time was had by all. (All pics courtesy of Michael McKenney)



Would counsel please approach the bench and pick out a name tag?



Salt pork on the left, hardtack on the right...



Standing (and sitting) room only...



"Back in the day the boats were smaller, the waves were bigger and engines were on trains"



Serious noshing going on in the back room!

ChaNNels

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. If you would like a copy of the 2004 ChaNNels editorial calendar, please request via email to channels@scow.org or in-person at the January meeting.

Lisbeth Lyons, Editor

Chris Chubb, Layout Editor

Monika O'Connor, Mailing Lists

Social News

Gerri Hanna

Now that the winter (hold your breath) is over, and the dust is off of our sails, let's plan on getting together for our Social Sails held each Thursday night at the Marina at Potowmack Landing in Alexandria, Virginia. We start about 6:00 p.m., and dinner is always provided (a small donation from attendees is requested). Skippers are available to take you on the Scots to practice skills that may be rusty after the winter months, or to just relax and enjoy the sail. It is a great way to meet new club members and gain sailing experience.

As always, this is a volunteer club and I am looking for the following volunteers: Chef One, Chef Two and Dockmasters. If you have just joined the club and are unsure of the duties, I will pair you with an already seasoned member to show you the ropes. To sign up for the following dates, please email social@scow.org. A big thanks to those who have already volunteered to ensure a fantastic Social Sails season.

April 15th: Chef Two

April 22nd: Chef One, Dockmaster

April 29th: Chef One, Chef Two

May 13th: Dockmaster

May 20th: Chef One, Chef Two, Dockmaster

Please save the date for the following upcoming SCOW Social events:

?? Join Scow Members to attend the Olney Theatre on Saturday May 15th.

?? SCOW's Annual Canoe & Kayak Trip, hosted by Phil Bender, on July 25th. For more details, please contact Phil Bender directly at phil_bender1@yahoo.com.

Again, thanks to all whose efforts make SCOW social events successful.

Talk Like A Sailor

No, not those words! We mean the G-rated version: a vocabulary of sea terms! Each month, compliments of Vice Commodore Jay Weitzel, we'll share the origin and meaning of a nautical term taken from "Origins of Sea Terms," written by John G. Rogers and published by the Mystic Seaport Museum.

Talk Like a Sailor in...April

"The Head"

Once called "The Heads," the term originally meant the crews' shipboard latrine, but now refers to the toilet on any vessel. Traditionally, the crew was quartered in the forward area of the ship (the "forecastle") and immediately forward of that was the "beakhead" -- a small pointed platform on the bow of the vessel that got its name from the French word "bec," meaning "beak." The crew latrines were located here, where they (conveniently) overhung the water. Of course, the occasional passing wave would wash them down well. The term "The Heads" was eventually contracted to simply "head."

Skipper Director News

Karyl Owings

Ah, April! The spring symbols of cherry blossoms and SCOW's Re-Up Brunch are tell-tale signs that the upcoming sailing season is upon us...NOW!

Most SCOW Skippers have already submitted renewal fees by mail or in-person at Re-Up Brunch. The final count is not yet in, but I think that the vast majority of our Skippers have signed up for another wonderful year of sailing on the SCOW boats. Locker combinations will change on April 10th. All paid-up SCOW Skippers will be notified of the new combination(s) via email, so if you're paid up, you'll be able to keep sailing without even a moment's pause! (The combinations will of course be mailed to any Skipper who has not provided an email address.)

If you are a certified SCOW Skipper and have not yet renewed, there is still a little time left! I'll accept your renewal form and fees, as long as both are post-marked no later than April 10th, so please act today. I've heard from a number of folks who trained last year but didn't check out, and one or two who were Skippers in prior years and would like to check out again to renew their Skipper status. If possible, I'll arrange an extra checkout for these folks. If you fall into either of those two groups, send an email to me at skipper@scow.org.

Hope to see you all on the water soon!

Upcoming Racing Events

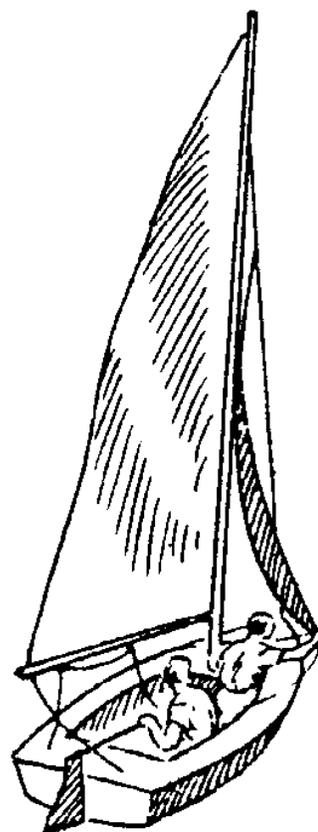
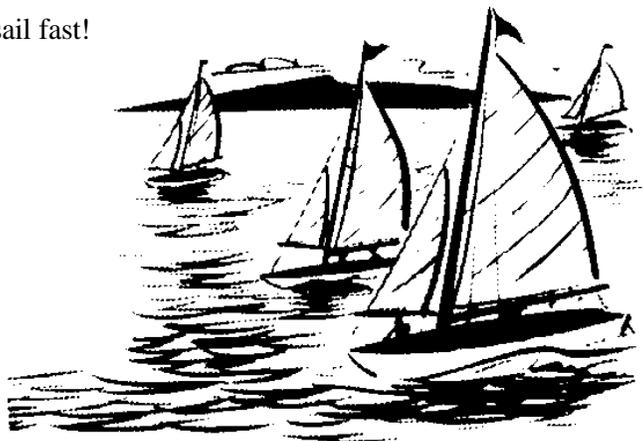
Genie Williford

A few reminders of upcoming racing related events:

- ?? Tucker Thompson Racing Seminar, April 19th, Potomack Landing Chart Room (donation of \$10 at the door please).
- ?? Spring Tune Up Regatta, April 24th. Registration information for this event will be sent via email soon. If you are not on SCOW's general email list, please feel free to contact me by phone or "snail mail" for registration information.
- ?? DI-SC races begin April 27th!

Thanks and Happy Sails!

Live slow, sail fast!



Notes From the Boat Yard

John Roland

Fleet Status

Except for Psycho, all boats are in service.

Psycho remains on the injured reserve; her steaming light still doesn't work. Danschweida has a defective port side ratchet block, but is serviceable. Susie-Q's rudder is especially difficult to adjust so that it stays up and is still able to be dropped and raised from inside the boat. She is serviceable, but please be careful with the rudder.

On-going and Upcoming Projects

This may be old news by the time you read this, but our plans for SCOW Maintenance Day - April 3 from 9:00 a.m. until we're finished - include all of the above and then some. As a bit of history, we attempted to fix Psycho's defective steaming light last November. It turned out that the wiring had separated from the light fixture and dropped down inside the mast. We dropped the mast, ran all new wiring and re-raised the mast. The light still didn't work. Lousy winter weather, marina reconstruction, and personal issues prevented work during the winter, so we're going to fix it on Maintenance Day. Some lucky soul will be hoisted up the mast to check the light bulb, make sure it's properly installed, and check the wiring by meter. Hopefully, this will identify the problem. We'll also be doing a trial fitting of her new toe-rail. It probably won't be installed on the same day, as we want to get several coats of Cetol on it first, but we are making progress.

I plan to replace the ratchet block and support pad on Danschweida. If the old unit is repairable, we'll keep it for a spare. For Susie-Q, we'll disassemble her rudder and try to see what the problem is. It may be just wear, but I suspect that something has been broken or bent or that there may be trash jammed up inside the mechanism. If the rudder is tightened, it binds and won't go all the way down. If it's loosened enough to get down, it slips too readily. Maintenance Day work should provide an answer.

We'll also check standing rigging tension on the Scots, as there have been a number of complaints about too-tight rigging. Finally, all the boats will receive their usual good cleaning and gear check to get them in shape for a great sailing season in 2004.

Topic of the Month - Tapping the Corporate Wisdom

Note: This started as February's article, but due to a technical screw-up it didn't make it (I sent it in the wrong format). A senior moment on my part caused me to miss the March issue (forgot the deadline). So, just in time for spring...

One of my responsibilities as outgoing Maintenance Director is preparation of a pass-down book for my successor, a sort of "Maintenance Directorship for Dummies." As incoming Maintenance Director, I sorely need this book. Since all my previous and current boats are small enough to live under my porch and my maintenance experience consists of chasing out the spiders and hosing them off (the boats, not the spiders) in the spring, I am singularly ill-qualified to prepare this opus. So... since many of you own and care for real boats, some of which even reside and sail on our beloved Potomac, I'd like to request your assistance. For you skippers of local boats, here's a chance to pass along some of your hard-earned wisdom to future generations. For you Monday morning quarterbacks, here's your chance to tell "management" how it oughtta be done. Seriously, any and all input will be welcomed.

I've put together a broad topic list of what I think should be included. If you think I've missed something, feel free to add a topic. I'm primarily interested in identifying routine and scheduled maintenance activities so that I can develop a realistic schedule of activities for the coming year. In addition to the three

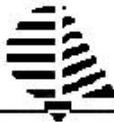
scheduled Maintenance Days, I'm looking for other activities, such as hauling the cruisers for possible cleaning and bottom treatment, routine maintenance of motors, trailers, batteries, exterior woodwork, and the like. In addition, I'd like to input on procedures for anything not likely to be covered in boat or motor manuals. My topic list follows ...

Flying Scots - Rigging and sail inspection and maintenance; Hull, centerboard, rudder and deck inspection and maintenance; Interior gear inspection and maintenance.

Flying Scot Trailers - Inspection and maintenance

Cruisers - Everything on the Scot list; Motor care and maintenance (I suspect this is all in the owners' manuals, but any tips are welcome); Battery care, charging and maintenance; Interior care, cleaning and maintenance (this would include all interior equipment, such as sink, stove, head, radio, and more. Again, this is probably covered in the owners' manuals, but tips are welcome); Electrical system inspection and maintenance; Exterior trim and woodwork care and maintenance.

While I've got you thinking about maintenance, I'd also like to get your suggestions for improvements you would like to see in our boats or maintenance policies. I'd like input from all members on this subject, as I'll be using feedback as informal poll data to plan maintenance projects in the coming year. I'll accept your input in whatever form you offer it, but my preference is email (roland.john@ensco.com). Please DO NOT send them to maintenance@scow.org, as I don't want to fill everyone's mailbox with this material.

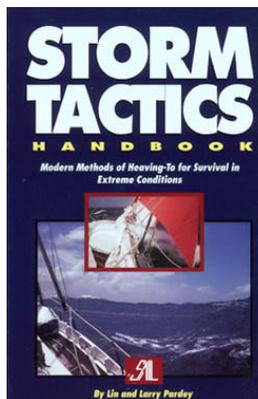


River News

Donna Cohen

We have a river and we have some boats...so let's go for a river cruise! What is a river cruise? It's the chance to get on a boat and sail; whether that be up to Haines Point, down to Alexandria's Old Town district, or under the bridge and beyond. The first SCOW river cruise will be held on Friday, April 23rd at 6:30 p.m. and will last until skipper & crew want to return to shore. The river cruise is for all members who have boats on the Potomac and for all crew who want to come for a sail. Cost is free, but all crew should bring snacks and non-alcoholic drink to share. It's a great chance to become more familiar with boat handling skills, to discover the river, and to meet other skippers and club members! On Saturday, May 8th, SCOW will hold a progressive dinner river raft-up. Sign-ups for this event will be circulated at the April members meeting and by email (all@scow). Each participating river boat and crew will be responsible for one of the following: entree, side dish, hors d'oeuvres, drinks or dessert. Come to the April monthly meeting for more information or stay tuned to the messages on all@scow. See you on the river!!

Sailors Bookshelf



Storm Tactics Handbook: Modern Methods of Heaving-to for Survival in Extreme Conditions

Lin Pardey and Larry Pardey

In the Washington, D.C. region, the old March-April adage, In like a lion, out like a lamb, doesn't always hold true. Weather and waters in our region are unpredictable. This month, A Sailors Bookshelf offers a reference guide for the serious sailor. (P.S., we hear there's a Storm Tactics DVD, too!)

Racing News
Genie Williford

I need volunteers to help with the Spring Tune Up Regatta on April 24th. There is much to be done. As a relatively new member, I don't know all of the racing enthusiasts, so I need your help to step forward, identify yourself and volunteer for this fun regatta! If you saw me at the Re-Up brunch, you know I was actively recruiting volunteers, skippers and crew from among those club members present, but more participation is needed. A variety of opportunities are available, including: holding the captain's meeting, sitting on the race committee, driving a race committee boat, helping with registration, refreshments, and awards. For those of you who want to crew this year, this is a great way to get to know those boat-owners who frequently participate in racing activities. Email me at race@scow.org if you wish to offer your services.

Also, a separate e-mail distribution list is being established for those who are interested in specifically receiving SCOW racing news and e-discussions. Those who wish to be included, but have not yet signed up, are asked to please send me the information requested below via e-mail (race@scow.org) or "snail mail."

SCOW RACING INFORMATION FORM (RIF)

Name: _____

Email address(s) where you wish to receive racing information: _____

Home mailing address: _____

Phone number(s) where you wish to be contacted if necessary: _____

Include you in the special SCOW racing email distribution list? _____

Interested in a Yahoo group dedicated to discussions of SCOW racing interest? _____

RACING SKIPPERS SECTION (check or complete all that apply to you below)

I am a:

1) Racing Skipper entering Lottery for SCOW cruisers today _____

2) Racing Skipper with my own boat _____

a. If you might need crew this season please check here so that I may include you in mailings to see our crew list _____

b. Type of boat you operate _____

3) Flying Scot Skipper interested in participating in Tuesday races _____

RACING CREW SECTION (check or complete all that apply you below):

1) Crew member interested in crewing for:

cruising boats _____ for owners of dinghies _____

for owners of cruising boats _____ for Flying Scots on Tuesdays _____

2) Level of racing experience:

novice __ intermediate __

experienced __ very experienced __

3) Preference(s) for particular type of boat to crew for? _____

VOLUNTEERS SECTION

I am willing to help with the following for the Spring Tune Up Regatta:

Registration __	Provide an RC boat __
Serve on RC committee __	Drive an RC boat __
Hold Captain's meeting (announce race course, etc.) __	Refreshments after the races __
Help to get awards for the winners __	Take orders/arrange for T-shirts for the regatta __

2004 Board of Directors

Position	Name	Home	Work	E-mail
Commodore	Leonard Zuza	202.543.5443	202.543.2330	commodore@scow.org
Vice Commodore	Jay Weitzel	703.866.9190	703.205.3320	vice@scow.org
Secretary	Marie Rutledge	703.845.9838	703.761.0584	secretary@scow.org
Treasurer	Dorothy Stocks	703.521.0903	703.524.3147	treasurer@scow.org
Training Director	Jan Earle	202.249.0855	202.513.7667	training@scow.org
Maintenance Director	John Roland	703.368.9792	703.321.4614	maintenance@scow.org
Social Director	Gerri Hanna	703.216.3381		social@scow.org
Skipper Director	Karyl Owings	703.626.0823	703.234.0743	skipper@scow.org
River & Bay Director	Evie Banda	410.507.0017	202.862.5649	bay@scow.org
Racing Director	Genie Williford	703.765.4740	703.426.2172	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	Donna Cohen	202.965.1622	301.897.2684	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>