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## CHANNELS -- SPECIAL ELECTRONIC EDITION

**April 1997**

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Channels is the newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington. The E-mail edition is an edited text-only version of our hard copy monthly publication.

### **Commodore's Log**

*(Anne La Lena)* April's here! Income tax forms are upon us, but that's not all. Warm weather, balmy breezes and filled sails are no longer just a yearning but fast becoming a reality. Our sail year is now upon us as we ready our Flying Scots and Cruisers for our best season yet on the water.

SCOW has set Saturday, April 26th, as our big clubwide maintenance day and I urge all of you to come join in the fun and the suds as we scrub, polish, repair and fix up our five prized possessions. SCOW needs all of you to make our many projects and events successes, from maintenance to training to social and more. Volunteering not only gives you something new to do, but the opportunity to make new friends, visit with old friends and enhance the club you chose to join -- remember, your efforts benefit yourself as well as others.

We saw the great SCOW volunteer spirit at our very successful Re-Up Brunch, held March 16th. Social Director Jim Metcalf and his cadre of trusty captains and lieutenants scrambled and cooked, bartended and cleaned up a very successful and well-attended brunch. Many thanks to all of the volunteers who shared their many varied talents with us.

Members also took the opportunity to pay their dues early and save some money, thereby helping the club's cash flow move that more smoothly. Remember, you have until the end of the April membership meeting to pay your dues and get the savings (See renewal note in this issue). The importance of volunteerism cannot be overstated. And we must not forget to thank, and thank loudly and frequently the people who do give their time selflessly. And some people do -- such as Melissa Ennis and Tom Durmick, our former Channels editor and art director.

Melissa and Tom edited and designed exciting issues that woke us up and arrested our attention. For more than two years these creative talents donated their time, energy, wit and inventiveness to delight us with dazzling displays of journalistic and artistic ability. Alas, demands took their toll and Melissa and Tom now need that time and creative energy for other efforts and have resigned their posts.

But we are enriched by their contributions, and very appreciative of all they did -- and they did a lot. Dealing with anything, including Channels, month after month becomes a chore. Chasing down copy and dealing with disgruntled club members is not always pleasant, but Melissa and

Tom carried it off with charm and aplomb. Thank you very, very much, Melissa and Tom. Good luck with all your activities in the months to come. Now you can rest up to volunteer for other activities.

In the meantime, we are very lucky to have Bay Director Larry Gemoets volunteer to be editor. The April issue is his first one. Please support his efforts with your text and visual contributions. Let's continue to have Channels be a must-read every month.

Other volunteer opportunities abound. SCOW needs a Boutique manager and a Safety Committee Chairman. Please feel free to call me if you're interested. In the meanwhile, we'll be actively canvassing for volunteers for those posts and more. You can have quite a lot of fun volunteering. Try it, you'll see.

Many of you have checked off specific categories of interests you'd like to help out with on the renewal and new member applications. Please don't wait to be asked. Your directors do want to reach out to you, but often they do not have the luxury of time to make calls or get acquainted on a leisurely basis. Introducing yourself if you're a new member and volunteering for a specific event or activity will get you noticed and remembered and involved in the club that much more quickly and enjoyably. Established members, many of you have given generously in the past of your time and effort, please continue to do so. You are our eyes and ears as well. Don't forget, let us know what you want, what your concerns and thoughts are.

### **Harold Phinney to Speak at April 14th Meeting**

Harold Phinney, the last crew member to be rescued from the clipper The Alexandria when she went down off of Cape Hatteras, will share his ordeal of endurance in the Atlantic Ocean with us at our April 14th membership meeting. Harold spent hours in the storm-tossed ocean, watching his fellow crew members get rescued and waiting, seemingly endlessly, before he too finally got rescued by the Coast Guard. He will discuss all aspects of his ordeal and welcomes all questions.

Note: the indefatigable Harold is scheduled to speak unless he snares a Caribbean cruise.

Membership Renewal-The boats are getting spiffed up for the '97 sailing season and the parties are being planned. Don't be left out -- RENEW YOUR SCOW MEMBERSHIP NOW!! By renewing ON or BEFORE the APRIL 14 MEETING, you can SAVE \$5 on a single membership and \$10 on a family membership -- \$35, single and \$50, family. Time is running out to take advantage of this great deal -- so get "on board" and send your application and check to Victoria Hampton at the address on the application or give them to her at the April 14 general membership meeting. SCOW is counting on everyone ship-shaping up for ANOTHER YEAR of SAILING and SOCIALIZING !! See you on the boat . . . .

### **Treasurer's Report**

*(Paul Carrow)* Being the Treasurer of SCOW seems like having the job of a CFO in a small venture business or the budget person on the vestry of a church! You must have faith that the sources of your income will, indeed, support the operation. The last board left the Club in good

fiscal shape with enough funds in our regular account to see us through the bleak winter months, during which little or no income is to be found. In February, the 1997 Board of Directors passed a SCOW budget of \$3 4550. This means we have a target goal of raising \$34550 (mostly through membership dues, skipper fees, and training fees) while we try and spend \$34550 ( mostly on fleet operations for our boats, member activities such as meeting room rents, etc., news letters and so on ). These budgetary goals are in keeping with the history of the Club and what the 1997 Board believes will be a reasonably good membership renewal and new member year.

From Jan 1 through 28 Feb, the Club has had expenditures in the amount of \$2,459.15 and has taken in \$98.00 from the 50-50 lotto on membership nights and from membership renewals. We have reduced our regular checking account (used for Club operating exp enses) from \$4,916.20 on 1 Jan to \$2,555.05 on 28 Feb. Our other two accounts are: \$4,332.77-- a ready money market reserve account and \$11,605.68 our boat asset account. We expect to see ( the faith part of the job) a large infusion of income as a result of our Re-Up Brunch and Re-Up drive.

From time to time I will bring you up to date on our fiscal posture through the Newsletter and at Membership meetings. If you have any questions on our budget, expenditures, or Treasurer s activities give me a call or note or e-mail (carrow@erols.com). Please remember that as SCOW members you are BOAT OWNERS and stay involved with the business of the Club! Now lets get outside and do some sailing!

### **Training**

*(Mike Geissinger)* The time is ever so near and some of you who can't wait probably have already dipped your bow in the water. The sailing days will be coming more and more frequently.

With only several weeks until the first Basic Sailing Course launches time is running out for signing up. Get the information to me along with your check so that you don't miss out.

These days of sailing in the early spring can be somewhat deceiving when it comes to dressing for the water. The days are getting warmer but the evenings and nights still have that certain chill in the air. Average high temperature for April in the Washington area is 66 degrees, now that's very tolerable. The average low temperature is 46 degrees, that can be downright chilly when you put it together with the water temp. Make sure you check the evening weather forecast before heading out to find out how fast the temp is going to drop. The water is going to keep the temperature a few degrees colder than the land. Dressing for those evenings on the water can be important to your health, safety, and comfort. You may also be able to concentrate on the sailing a little bit better, too.

Let's start at the top and work our way down. What do you have on your head? Not just hair but let's put something else there. Most of the body heat loss comes through the top of the head. Yes, heat rises and there's no "R" rating for hair. Make sure the hat you wear is one that will hold in the heat well enough for the temperature outside. For the cold evenings, polyester-fleece ski hats are the best. They keep the heat in and dry out easily, if you get dunked or take a big one over the

bow. Whatever you do make sure you put some kind of cover on your pate, even on those mild evenings.

The torso is the core of your body and you don't want the "core" temp to drop. The rule applies as in any cold weather, layers. You don't need as many as the dead of Winter but you should at least have three layers on those chilly evenings. Turtlenecks are good for the first layer because they protect the neck. Everyone knows what a windbreaker is but how many of us consider wearing one in those 10-12 knot breezes. Isn't that why they were made? The thing is that you can always take off clothes but it's tough to shiver away the cold.

Boy, can your hands get cold out there on the water. For those evenings when it's more important to work the lines than be the fashion plate try some light-polypropylene or wool gloves under those cheap dishwashing gloves. They're waterproof, grip well, and can be replaced easily. They can also be color coordinated with your favorite spinnaker.

An emergency pair of sweat pants stashed in the trunk of your car can come in handy when you need one more layer for your legs. With just those two layers, your pants (or shorts for the macho) and the sweats, your legs will stay warm for the duration.

You can't show up with your boat shoes and no socks till it gets above 50 degrees. Try boat shoes with socks, you need the traction of the shoes and the warmth of the socks. I know it's not cool but you aren't Jimmy Buffett in the Keys, either. Sneakers are O.K. but make sure they have enough tread to grip. Without tread there is no traction and without traction you'll need to wear a dry suit because you're gonna' end up making someone perform the man overboard exercise.

There are the tips for the early spring sailing. Make sure you have the information to dress appropriately for the conditions. You need to know the difference between an evening on the Scots and two days on a cruise.

Remember the Fo'c's'l is th' c'b'n fr'th'st fr'd.

### **Maintenance: Springtime Means Housekeeping Time For SCOW**

*(Dick Dyer)* We've survived another winter and spring is here, with flowers and leaves and warm winds. Several SCOW members have been sailing throughout the winter, but most of us have been content with social no-sails and planning for return for more agreeable weather. Those better times are here now. But like any household, we have some spring housekeeping to do for our fleet of five boats.

SCOW has an annual tradition of holding a club-wide maintenance work day and picnic each spring to prepare the fleet for summer sailing. This year's maintenance day will be held on Saturday April 26. We kick-off at 9:30 in the morning at the Washington Sailing Marina launching docks, going until early afternoon. Following the work, we have planned a picnic -- free to workers and a nominal charge for those who were with us in spirit but not in person. Mark your calendars and join your fellow sailors at the marina.

Last winter was kind to SCOW and we got through without any serious damage to our fleet. But there are a lot of chores that need to be taken care of before we start another season. We'll have things to do for all skill levels -- from cleaning, waxing and sanding/painting; to semi-skilled mechanical repairs such as installation of new safety equipment or repairs to rigging. No one has to work very hard, newcomers meet the old-timers, and inexperienced hands will learn a lot about our boats and how to keep them shipshape. And of course the boats are tuned up for another great summer of sailing. To top it all off, the picnic kicks-off the outdoor social season!

Remember the SCOW Fleet is owned by the membership. These boats are your property -- and your responsibility. The Maintenance Director's job is to make sure the fleet is kept in good mechanical condition so the boats are safe and fun to sail. But the Maintenance Director can't do the work alone, and shouldn't be expected to. All hands are needed to assist in maintaining our fleet. Come on out to help and to learn. Keeping sailboats shipshape is as important as sailing them well, both for safety and for enjoyment.

We all look forward to a great year of safe and fun sailing and I am ready to take the lead in keeping the SCOW fleet in good shape. But I am counting on your help, both at the maintenance day and for the rest of the year. I would appreciate your comments and questions. Leave messages on the SCOW hot line or call me directly at my work. My daytime phone number is 703/841-3416. E-Mail is rdyer@wjasa.com.

### **Bay Sailing**

*(Larry Gemoets 703-823-2452, 703-855-7352, sanlar@mnsinc.com)*

#### Spring Schedule

Month	Dates	Place	Occasion
April	19-20	Harness Creek	Early Bird cruise
May	3-4	Upper Potomac	River Rendezvous
May	24-26	Rhode River/Duns Cove	Memorial Day

Let me know if you intend to be there- no penalty for cancellation!

The hurricane hole at harness creek is always a pleasure just to BE in. If you never have, you should give it a try. There is shoaling on the west side as you enter the creek, so favor the east a bit as you go in at a slow bell. As you enter Harness Cr. from South River, head up into the NE corner. Just when you are sure beyond all doubt that there is nothing there, you'll see the entrance to the hurricane hole.

Next we have the first "adventure" opportunity. Go up the Potomac and join the river fleet. I made that trip several years ago, and recall that it took about 18 hours from Quantico to Solomons. We did it nonstop, and it was all fun (and easy, except downstream of the 301 bridge).

More on Memorial Day in next month's Channels

Carrie Blankfield has offered to be the Day sail Coordinator for Galesville area. If you're headed out for the day, and would like to run in the company of another SCOW boat, give her a call.

If they aren't floating, put 'em in the water. If they they aren't ready, make 'em so. If they are ready, put 'em to work. See you out there...

### **Social: Maintenance Day**

*(Jim Metcalf, Social Director)* SCOW's Annual Maintenance Day and Picnic is Saturday, April 26, 1997. Wear your old clothes and report to the marina somewhere around 9:30 am. After scrubbing, waxing and readying our fleet for the season, you'll have a good appetite. Picnic starts around 1:00, and workers eat free. Others are welcome to join in for \$5.00. For more information or to volunteer to help, call Joni Dyer at (703) 277-7535.

### **RIVER ACTIVITIES**

*(Lee Spain, River Director)* Attention Race Fans! Starting this month, everyone can experience top-wind-powered Flying Scot racing excitement on Wednesday! Wednesday! Wednesday! April 16th in the lagoon at Washington Sailing Marina.

Racing will start as close to 6:00 p.m. as possible and sunset will be at 7:46 p.m., so be there! For the races, I will definitely put my boat (FS#3995) in the water and I'll try to round up a couple more private Flying Scots to join us. Interested SCOW racers should arrive as early as possible, retrieve the marks from the sail locker, and help launch a Scot. All SCOW members are welcome to come down and crew aboard a club Scot. Racing in these early months (April and May) will provide a great informal environment for learning about racing. And, racing provides a great environment to hone your sail trimming skills.

To brush up on your rules, attend the race seminar on Wednesday, April 9th, buy a copy of the new racing rules for 1997, or check out the online rules at <http://www.sailing.org>.

Social Sails will resume on Thursday, April 17th. I urge everybody to come on down and use the excuse to get outdoors. Lets beat the heat and set a precedent for great social sail attendance in the cooler months of April and May.

Sign-up sheets will be available at the next member meeting for a wide range of river activities including overnight trips, and social sails. Please make the most of your club boats. Come on down and sign up early for the river activity of your choice.

### **Potomac River Sailing Association**

This month, I'd like to profile another local sailing club that we will be coordinating some of our river activities with this season. The Potomac River Sailing Association (PRSA) has been running competitive weekend racing on the river for many years. They maintain a small fleet of powerboats for race committee duty, keep up to date with the latest racing rules, and have a fairly organized system for sharing race committee duty between participating fleets. They have

an aggressive Spring and Fall schedule of Sunday racing, sponsor special olympian training at the Marina, host a two-day Spring Regatta on Memorial Day weekend, and finally- they are instrumental in helping run the Leukemia Cup regatta in September.

One of my goals this year is to improve cooperation between SCOW and the PRSA. Closer involvement with the PRSA will help SCOW members better learn racing rules, starting sequences, and other fundamentals that can be applied in racing activity throughout the country. It also allows SCOW members a chance to see the many active one-design fleets on the river and assess the performance of various boats before making any purchases of their own. After Memorial Day, we will be sharing the race course and starting with PRSA on Wednesday night races. In addition, SCOW expects to borrow a PRSA committee boat for our Also-Ran regatta in the fall.

There are several ways that SCOW members can become more involved with PRSA. PRSA always needs volunteers for race committee duty. This involves going out on the committee boats, setting up the race course, starting the races, and helping out in the event of a capsize. Committee duty generally turns out to be a fun day on the water and a sure-fire way to learn about racing. If you serve as race committee, you will become a much better racer.

If you'd like a chance to crew on a PRSA-member's boat, you can ask around by the cranes during the racing season around 9:30 on Sunday mornings. Perhaps the best way to get involved is to join the PRSA as an associate member. For only \$10, you can get the PRSA newsletter and sign up on the PRSA crew lists. I'll have sign up sheets for SCOW members to volunteer for PRSA race committee duty, membership applications, and I'll try to arrange some opportunities for SCOW boats to participate in Sunday series races. And, finally, if you d like to participate racing Flying Scots in the PRSA Spring Regatta on May 24th and 25th (Memorial Day Weekend), I ll also have sign up sheets for that at the membership meeting. There should be several Scots participating in that regatta.

**Monthly Stuff:  
Dates to Remember:  
Every Month:**

First Monday 7PM- Board Meeting in the chart room  
Second Monday 6:30PM Membership Meeting at the American Legion  
Every Wednesday: SCOW races (starts April 16)  
Every Thursday : Social- No Sail (last one April 10th)  
Every Thursday : Social Sail (starts April 17th)

April:

19 Bay Raft-Up in Harness Creek  
26 Maintenance Day followed by Picnic  
28 Racing Seminar in the Chart Room  
30 Basic Sail Course #1 in the Chart Room

May:

3,4 River Overnight- Bay boats welcome!  
7,14,21 Basic Sail Course #1 in the Chart Room

3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18            Basic Sail-Water Sessions 8-4  
24-26    Bay Raft-Ups: Rhode River and Duns Cove  
31            Basic Sail Course #1 Check-Out Day

## **New Members**

SCOW welcomes our newest members: Huw Andrews, Alain Bashore, Toni Boyd, Bruce Burkley, Peggy Burkley, Peter Cunniffe, Bill Davenport, Heidi Dietterich, Stacey Evers, Ann Ewell, Patricia Fenton, Susan Hughes, Richard Kische, Russell McFarlane, George Petersen, Robert Quinn, Brenda Rascona, William Riggs, Gayle Rubin, Susan Silveo, Foster Stolte, Wilson Varga, Whitney Witt.

## **Channels Info**

Channels is a monthly publication of the Sailing Club of Washington. Channels is also available on the World Wide Web at [www.sailing.org/scow](http://www.sailing.org/scow), and via email. Submit all articles not later than the close of the monthly membership meeting. Submit articles to the Editor by email, Larry Gemoets, Editor; Barbara Brecher, Layout and Design; Declan Conroy, web publisher; Cindy Peters, Publisher's Coordinator; Sam Schaen, Mailing lists.

## **Announcements/Pleas/Ads This month:**

SCOW BOATIQUE: Need to shop? Looking for a gift? In the mood for a pick-me-up for yourself? But, you hate the mall crowds? SCOW has just the answer for you -- look at SCOW's lovely array of customized sailing items for "sail" (sale) at the club's monthly meetings. If you miss a meeting or forget your shopping list, you can browse and make your purchases at Thursday's Social Sail once we get outdoors at the marina this month. The club is looking for a manager of the BOATIQUE to finish out the year, so if you're interested in retail as a way of socializing, in addition to sailing call Anne La Lena or Stu Ullman.

SCOW is a BOAT/U.S. Cooperating Group-What is a Cooperating Group? A boating organization of 10 or more members. What good is it? Members of the group get 50% off membership, and invitations to special private sales several times a year. I expect that many of our members are BOAT/US members, and could benefit from this discount of \$8.50 per year. Take advantage of this the next time you renew your BOAT/U.S. membership. Drop a note to [sanlar@mnsinc.com](mailto:sanlar@mnsinc.com), or call Larry Gemoets at 703.823.2452 for details.

## **SCOW On Wheels?**

A boat is not the only way to enjoy a pretty day (blasphemous as that might sound). You can also enjoy it on a bicycle. Test this hypothesis with other SCOWers on Sunday, April 13. You don't need to be a biking fiend or even a regular biker. Our goal is not speed but enjoyment.

We'll meet at the marina by the gift shop at 12:30 and bike for no more than 3 hours. The route hasn't quite been confirmed yet (we have so many options....) but we promise it won't be (1) in traffic or (2) up a mountain. It will be acceptable to the casual rider and it will be on a bike path.

We may even split up into several groups going in several different directions, if we have enough people.

If you don't have a bike, you can rent one at the following locations:

- The marina. 1-speed bikes are \$4/hour. 12-speed bikes are \$6/hour. (703-548-9027)
- Bicycle Exchange. \$15 for 4 hours or less. Call a few days ahead. 1506C Belle View Blvd., Alexandria (703-768-3444)
- Metropolis Bikes. \$21/day. Shirlington. (703-671-1700)

You are required to wear a helmet if you ride on the street. You are not required to wear one on the bike trails. Some of us, however, have found them to be very useful in both places. Bring a water bottle, if you have one. If you want more information, call Kelly Bowers (202-332-4160). If it rains, we will try again on the 20th.

### **Help The Sea Explorers**

Did you know that the Sea Scouts (now known as Sea Explorers) would inherit SCOW's assets if SCOW ever dissolved? It's in our charter!

So let's help these kids out now also, Donate usable junk for the Sea Explorers 19 April Yard sale (call Marilyn Wilson 979-0960 or Davis Jones 979-6578). If it takes a truck to haul it, the Sea Explorers can manage that.

Also, the Sea Explorers are looking for a few good leaders to work with these teenagers. They already have several sailboats but need some adults to "hang out" while they do their sailing, and maybe help teach them some sailing skills.

Finally, any good used sailing equipment you want to find a good home for, just call Marilyn Wilson and I'll get it to the Sea Explorers.

### **Classic Wooden Sloop Melody For Sale**

Many of you have seen Melody at SCOW raft-ups or out sailing on the bay. This 30-foot Sparkman and Stephens Sloop has Beautiful lines and great sailing qualities. The sleek hull shape and varnished mahogany brightwork make all who see her take notice. However, Melody's owner of 17 years is ready to move up to a larger vessel and so, reluctantly offers Melody for Sale.

Melody is located in Solomons, Maryland and prospective owners are Welcomed to come take a look, Or even to come out for a sail (weather permitting). Information is available by contacting Melody's owner, Jack Schwartz, at (301) 969-4664.

FOR SALE: 20' Ensenada, 3 sails, trailer, 6 HP Johnson. \$1500 or negotiable (help the Sea Explorers). Call Davis Jones 979-6578

(SCOW monthly meetings are held at the American Legion Post, 400 Cameron Street, Old Town Alexandria, VA. Use the downstairs door. Socializing: 6:30. Program: 7:30)