

ChaNNels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington

August 2002

Commodore's Log

Well, we're about halfway through the sailing season - maybe a little more - and I hope you've gotten a chance to get out and enjoy yourself on the water. After all, if you're in a sailing club, that's kinda the point. I'm actually pretty excited now because finally, after two years of dithering around, I got off my lazy behind and passed my skipper checkout on the Flying Scots.

What an eye opener! By being a skipper and taking boats out on my own, I've learned a couple of major things:

* Your true sailing education begins NOW! You've taken the class. You've passed the test. You've crewed for people. You've learned, right? Wrong!

Up to this point, I'd always gone out with someone more experienced than I. And it was that person's responsibility to take care of the boat - I was just there to crew. I'd been out hundreds of times on dozens of different boats. I thought I knew a fair amount about sailing.

But it's totally different when it's YOU in charge of the boat. If a situation arises, the crew will be looking to YOU to determine how you want to get out of it.

For example, when we dropped Ms. Elli in the water with me skippering for the first time, we sailed gloriously off the dock in a 4-6 knot wind. And promptly ran aground. The channel is narrow through there, and I'd underestimated how much water I had. Everything became counterintuitive. When I pushed the rudder the way I thought I needed to in order to get us out, we ended up getting deeper in. Not a very auspicious beginning. And it was up to ME to solve it. There I was, having talked my wife Patti into going sailing with me and now I'd landed us in the muck almost immediately. She was being very kind, and patient, but I could tell that was coming to an end. This was not what she'd bargained for. But, I calmed down, tried to relax and started thinking about what I'd learned from before. After getting the centerboard up, I finally was able to solve it by backwinding the jib and getting that to push us out of there.

After that, it was smooth sailing. Literally. But I'd learned how different it is when you're in charge and it's up to you to deal with whatever comes up. There was nobody on the boat who I could ask about how to get the boat out of the hydrilla. I had to figure it out myself. And I just got a lot more respect for every captain I'd ever sailed for.

* I've also learned how dependent we are on each other here in SCOW. You're not just part of a sailing club, you're part of a boat-owning cooperative. As a group, we depend on each other

when it comes to keeping the boats up and running (or keeping folks informed when they aren't) and making sure that the boats are there for the folks who sign them out.

So be smart when it comes to maintenance. If you see something wrong with a boat, you need to take responsibility.

First, note the problem in the log for that boat. That way, if someone comes to take the boat out after you, they can look at your log entry and see that there was a problem. You can save someone's life that way.

Second, let the maintenance director know. Even if it's a problem that you were able to fix. Gordon has to deal with these boats all the time, and if the problem you're reporting is a chronic one, then he'll know and maybe be able to take more drastic measures. All you need to do is to drop him a line at maintenance@scow.org. Or call him at the number listed at the end of ChaNNels.

Third, be sure to know and adhere to the policies governing how and when you can sign out boats. Remember things like the fact that you cannot sign out a Flying Scot for two consecutive slots, unless you're sailing with another qualified SCOW skipper. There's nothing more maddening than reserving a boat, coming down to the docks and finding it not there.

And finally, leave the boat the way you'd like to find it when you get there. Make the sheets up neatly. Fold the sails properly. Make sure she's clean and make sure you've taken the drain plug out. Do unto others...

Most of this comes naturally to SCOW-ers, but I figure it never hurts to review and remind folks. Remember we're all counting on you. And you're counting on us.

See you 'round the docks!

SCOW Crab Feast 2002!

Shonika Proctor

It's that time of year again!

The SCOW Crab Feast will held on Saturday, August 10th from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the Washington Sailing Marina. The cost is \$25 per per person for crab eaters and \$15 per person for non-crab eaters. **IMPORTANT** - You **MUST PREPAY** by August 6th. No walk-ups will be accepted.

Make your check payable to Shonika Proctor (and indicate the number of crab & non-crab eaters) and mail it to Shonika Proctor, 2122 Massachusetts Ave., NW, #237, Washington, DC 20008.

For more information, email me at social@scow.org or call me at 202-530-0477. Hope to see you there!

August Membership Meeting

Monday, August 12

"Len and Mike's Excellent Adventure"

You've heard about it through the SCOW grapevine...some of you have lived it...the rest of you want to hear about it...you know you do. Well, wait no more!

The August program is the dynamic duo of Mike Geissinger and Len Zuza discussing and recapping their recent sailing trip to Cape Cod and back. I'm sure they'll cover what went right and what went wrong, highlights and lowlights, and those of use who couldn't make the trip can relive it vicariously.

This program really will be a "once in a lifetime" chance to hear how the trip went. It may give you some valuable information should you plan or participate in a trip like this next season. Be sure not to miss the August program!

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, with the meeting at 7:30 and the presentation at 8:00.

River Activities

Jon Allen

We had a great time at the Smoots Cove Raft-Up on July 6th! Seven boats showed up and the police were not on any of them. I would like to thank the following skippers for participating:

Phil Bender - *Danschweida*

Donna Cohen - *Psycho*

Dale Eager - *Coup de Vent*

Murat Erol - *On the Edge*

Aaron Laufer - *Rebecca*

John Rogers - *Trinket*

Jon Allen - *Christy D*

There was not a lot of watergun action, but we all had fun. There was some really great wind to sail and it made a hot day more bearable.

The August river cruise will be on Friday, August 9th, from 7:00 pm to around 10:00 pm. There will also be one during the day on Sunday, September 15th, so mark your calendars!

If you would like to sign up for one or both of the river cruises, or you need more information, email me at river@scow.org or call me at 703-379-9869.

Baltimore Orioles Raft-Up

Friday, August 24 & Saturday, August 25
Len Zuza

Hot Dogs! Get Yer Fresh Hot Dogs! Cold Beer! Cold Beer! Peanuts!!

SCOW, in its never-ending quest for creative new activities, has come up with another fun event: an Orioles game that members can get to by boat, car or train. Skippers plan to raft up in Baltimore's Inner Harbor between the submarine USS Torsk and the National Aquarium. This is close enough to Camden Yards for crew to be able to walk to the stadium. Everyone who comes, regardless of how they get there, will be able to enjoy:

Friday:

- Interesting/historically significant sites and sights: Baltimore Marine Museum; National Aquarium; American Visionary Art Museum; Ft. McHenry; Maryland Science Center; Baltimore Brewing Company - since this is a SCOW activity we can slip quickly from "high brow" to brew.
- A group dinner either at a restaurant (Rusty Scupper; Bertha's; Hull Street Blues Cafe) or on the SCOW raft-up - to be decided by skippers and crew.
- Fireworks at Camden Yards.

Saturday:

- A morning group tour of a museum or other interesting sight (USS Constellation or National Aquarium or ???)
- An afternoon party on boats anchored in the Inner Harbor. We will try to make arrangements to ferry members who arrive by car/train to the raft-up.
- The O's game against the Toronto Blue Jays. Our seats are in the outfield bleachers near Boog Powell's BBQ and rib stand - inexpensive, fun seats (bring your mitts to catch home runs!). Game time is 7:05 p.m.

At this time, we have definite commitments from three skippers (Me on *Dulcinea*; Mike Geissinger on *Euphoria*; and Barb Berman on *Sabbatical*). Jack Schwartz is also considering bringing *Odyssey*. In addition, SCOW has chartered Pat Derry's boat *Seanchai*, which you can read more about elsewhere in this issue of ChaNNels.

All SCOW skippers with boats are welcome! Skippers who bring a boat with crew get a free ticket to the game.

Game tickets are \$15 each. SCOW has purchased 50 tickets and they are selling faster than cold beer and lemonade on an August afternoon! As Channels goes to press, only half of the tickets are still available. Get your order - and payment - in early if you want to come. Reservations will be held only for those who have paid.

Checks made payable to SCOW should be sent to Len Zuza, 522 5th Street, SE, Washington, D.C. 20003. For additional information, contact me a 202-543-5443 or lbzuza@attglobal.net.

Bay Activities

Jon Allen

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?

SCOW has chartered the sailing vessel *Seanchai* (pronounced Shawn'-a-key) with Captain Pat Derry, a long-time member of SCOW, for the Baltimore Orioles Raft-Up on August 24-25. Pat has given the club a 50% discount on the charter so SCOW can offer individual berths for \$150 per person (+10% tax) for the weekend. This includes two full days of sailing and overnight accommodations on board at the raft-up. It does not include food, drinks or your game tickets. (See Len Zuza's article elsewhere in ChaNNels for ticket info.) Information about *Seanchai* can be found at <http://www.sailseanchai.com/>.

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.

To sign up, send a check payable to SCOW (and a note saying what it's for) to Jon Allen, 2920 S. Buchanan St., #C-1, Arlington, VA 22206. [This is a new address, so don't use the one in the membership directory.]

Contact bay@scow.org or call 703-379-9869 for more information.

Wanted: Social Sail Volunteers

Looking for something to do on Thursday nights? There are still plenty of opportunities to volunteer for Social Sail between now and mid-October.

If you're new to SCOW and unfamiliar with Social Sail - or if you just haven't been paying attention - here's the deal:

Every Thursday from mid-April to mid-October (weather permitting, of course), we gather at the launching cranes at Washington Sailing Marina around 6:30 p.m. For a small contribution of about \$5, you can enjoy an evening of food, friendship and sailing (in any order you prefer).

Each Social Sail is organized by a crew of three volunteers. Chef I is the lead organizer and ideally is someone who has volunteered for Social Sail before or is undaunted by the idea of supplying food for a crowd of 30 or 40 people. Chef II is someone who may not have prior Social Sail experience, but is willing to help. The Dockmaster is the person who makes sure everyone who wants to sail gets a ride on one of the club boats.

Sound difficult? Well, it's not. In the words of our Commodore, "It's not brain surgery. It's a picnic." The selection of food to be provided is entirely up to the Chefs. And the operative word is "provide", not "cook". We've had everything from burgers and dogs to cold cut platters to pizza to KFC. OK - we've even had paella, but nobody expects to eat like that every week!

For those of you who like a bit more guidance, we have a "Social Sail for Dummies" handbook that walks you through the Social Sail program. It's even available in electronic format!

Please email Social Sail Coordinator Amy Plett at Amy_Plett@yahoo.com if you are interested in volunteering.

And even if you can't volunteer, be sure to come down to the marina on Thursday nights. It's a great way to meet other club members, learn about SCOW, talk about sailing, find crew, or find a skipper looking for crew!

Racing News

Bill Bernhards

Now is the time to be pounding the pavement seeking donations for the Volvo Leukemia Cup Regatta!

In order to raise money for this cause, and to secure the use of a SCOW boat in the process, here are some guidelines:

- * Start first with your friends and co-workers. Let them know you are participating in a sailing regatta (you may have to explain what a "sailing regatta" is) and that it is important to raise money for this cause.
- * Point out that the money they contribute goes directly to finding a cure. Almost all of the costs of the event are taken care of by the marina in advance. And all donations are tax deductible.
- * You might try going door to door in your neighborhood. Ask a few relatives too, and in no time you should have enough to get a bid in by the deadline - Thursday, September 5th at Social Sail.

The person who raises the most money gets first choice of our fleet. The second highest gets second choice, and so on.

Last year's highest bid of \$3,785 raised by a group of SCOW skippers: George Umberger, Declan Conroy, Mike Geissinger, Dan McClafferty and Tom Hannan. But let this amount intimidate you. Other SCOW boats went for just a few hundred dollars.

Forty-one Leukemia Cup Regattas are held through out the United States every year. Last year our area regatta was number eight in raising the most money. So if you are a Scot Skipper, or a big boat skipper who has passed the racing test, think about getting a crew together and organizing now to get those donations together. Maybe we can move up to number seven - or better- this year!

If you want more information about this important event, email me at race@scow.org or visit <http://www.volvoleukemiacup.com/home.html>.

If you are interested in taking the racing test for the big boats, Contact Skipper Coordinator Barry Dunsmoor at skipper@scow.org.

And if you need more ideas on how to raise money, ask one of those five skippers listed above!

Skipper Coordinator News

Barry Dunsmoor

Surprise, surprise... I actually have a few things to say this month. First I want to offer congratulations to all the new skippers in the club:

Flying Scots: Phil Bender, Kris Bieg, Sean Elkin, Matt Gaston, Matt Gillman, Tom Holmes, Rob Langford, and Max Williamson.

As for the cruisers, that has been more difficult as we have been revising the P&P, SIF and the test. However, a couple people who had already taken the test got their water checkout: Donna Cohen and Steve Linke.

A few reminders that should be noted for all skippers: You may only have two non-consecutive reservations on the scheduling book at any one time. If you check the book before leaving and notice that there is no one signed up for the slot after yours, you **MUST** return to the dock, re-check the scheduling book, and then sign up for the slot. Once that is completed, only then may you keep sailing. People can sign up for a boat while you are out and the schedulers may read the log wrong if you call to see if someone has signed up. Please be courteous, return to the dock, and check to see if someone is waiting for the boat. If someone is, remember we are fellow club members and graciously turn over the boat for their turn.

For the cruising skippers:

- Please note the new logs onboard. One of the last questions for closing out the boat is "Head Holding Tank Empty?" Now normally, I would expect this to be a yes or no question. I keep getting responses like "didn't use it, etc." Now, I know it takes about an HOUR to lift the lid, open the slide, and look in to see if it is empty... What I have been noting from those entries is that a lot of US have a deficiency and need to go to NOVA and brush up on READING 101. However, if your crew did not use it and you find it with contents (other than a small amount of chemicals), it should either get emptied, by a good responsible SCOW member, or you should call the maintenance director and note the deficiency. No...no problems with people not emptying, but I thought the log entries were amusing!! :-)) - Speaking of the head holding tanks, I have been assured that posted procedures would get put up to guide us through operation and emptying. That should make it easier than looking for a manual or reading the chemical bottles.

For all those prospective cruiser skippers out there, by the time you read this, we should have the new cruising test completed. If you took the cruising classes, please contact Donna Cohen at

training@scow.org to get a copy of the test packet (I will get one to her). If you didn't take the class, send me an email at skipper@scow.org, and I will let you know where to send the test fee to get a packet.

That's all for now. Thanks for reading!

Maintenance

Gordon Cameron

The Scots have suffered a few minor problems... tillers not staying in place, centerboard winch line breaking, drain plugs going missing, etc. But mostly things have been running smoothly.

One of the Scots needs minor canvas work on the cover at the boom end. Anyone know how to sew canvas? Please let me know.

I tidied the maintenance locker. Threw out some old junk and evicted a mouse. Found lots of spares I didn't know we had. You should find it easier to find what you need. I will revisit the project at a later date and do some carpentry and label containers, etc. The park is considering building new lockers closer to the storage racks. If this happens, it won't be for a while, and they won't let us install new lockers, so we're stuck with what we have.

The Story of ChaNNels

Joan O'Kane

Where does ChaNNels come from?

It shows up in your mailbox every month - whether by email or snail mail or both - but have you ever thought about how ChaNNels gets created?

Publishing ChaNNels is an almost continuous process. Planning for the next issue begins just days after the current issue is distributed. There are articles to be written and deadlines to be met. And like everything in SCOW, it is an all-volunteer effort.

Layout Editor Kelly Griffin takes all of the articles submitted each month and turns them into the print version of ChaNNels which is always a work of art. Once Kelly has worked her magic, Editor Joan O'Kane is responsible for getting it printed and mailed. Joan also creates and distributes the email version of ChaNNels (both in HTML and plain text). None of this would be possible without SCOW Secretary Betsy Troeder who updates the mailing labels for the print version with new additions every month and Jeff Teitel who maintains the email distribution list. Once ChaNNels is distributed by email, Declan Conroy posts it to the SCOW website at <http://www.scow.org/news.htm> and moves the prior month's issue to the online archives at <http://www.scow.org/chanlist.htm>.

So who writes the articles?

Commodore Matt Gaston lets his creative juices flow every month in the Commodore's Log. Vice Commodore Susan Batchelder lures us to the monthly membership meetings with her exciting program descriptions. Other directors submit articles to promote upcoming events, recap recent events, or to update the club on others news of note. Ideally, we would have an article from each director in every issue of ChaNNels, but that isn't always possible.

If an event is being run by a SCOW member who isn't a director, the event organizer usually submits an article to spread the news about the event. Experienced organizers know that ChaNNels is a great way to promote their event - especially to the people who prefer to get their SCOW news only through ChaNNels (yes, there are a few!). And a follow-up article afterwards is a great way to recognize volunteers by name and to let other club members know what they missed by not being there.

Is there a way for me to be part of ChaNNels?

Even with all of the events SCOW has going on every month, sometimes there aren't enough articles to make a full printed issue of ChaNNels. In that case, we start flogging the board to write more (and longer) articles. If that doesn't work, we look for information from other sources. This is where the rest of SCOW plays a part.

SCOW members are encouraged to submit articles or ideas for articles. Museum exhibits, interesting web sites, reviews of new books (or old favorites), anything sailing-related is fair game for a ChaNNels article. This year we've been especially lucky to be able to use photos submitted by the incomparable Mike Geissinger.

So if you want to see your name in a byline or just want to get credit for an article suggestion, send your articles and ideas to channels@scow.org. If you're one of the Luddites who doesn't have email, you can call Editor Joan O'Kane at 703-379-9869 to make other arrangements. The deadline for submissions to ChaNNels is one week after the monthly membership meeting.

2002 Board of Directors

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Email List

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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.

Joan O'Kane, Editor
Kelly E. Griffin, Layout Editor
Declan Conroy, Web Publisher
Betsy Troeder, Mailing Labels

That's all folks...