

# ChaNels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington  
August 2003

## Commodore's Log

Dispatch from Tortola, British Virgin Islands: The preparations were on target, the flight down a bit delayed but successful, the boat briefing and checkout from our British steward Tony informative and also quite a hoot, our boat 'Holiday' (a 42' Beneteau sloop) luxurious and well equipped, and we are delighted to be experiencing some long awaited summertime and 15-25 knot breezes as we sip our 'Painkillers' at anchor in Cane Garden Bay (see skipper Declan Conroy for the recipe to this enticing run concoction). Perhaps we can share some of our pictures at a Club meeting later this Fall. We recommend this adventure highly and commend Moorings for a well-organized bareboat charter.

Dispatch from Washington Sailing Marina and other points north: Summertime has finally caught up with us in Northern Virginia. The rains have abated somewhat and a full schedule of SCOW activities is in swing. Preparations are gearing up for the Annual Crab Feast, coming up later this week as you read this. We are having a bumper crop of new checked out skippers on both the Flying Scots and the cruisers, and big thanks go to Skipper Director Steve Linke for his organization and coordination. He predicts a record number of skippers for 2003 and also extends thanks to the many trainers and checkout skippers who have given of their time to make this possible.

Training Director Jan Earle has been busy coordinating three upcoming courses; Capsize on August 16, Spinnaker on August 23, and the third

Basic Sailing Class starting on September 10. Sign up and pay your fees to reserve a spot now. And Training and Skipper Certification Chair Mike Geissinger is working with his committee to update rules for use of spinnakers on the Scots as well as the possibility of later offering a Navigation course this season.

Cruising on the Bay, a Baltimore Orioles game on August 17, and River Fleet activities on August 21 and 22 are also in the works. And we've had a most successful Special Olympics Sailing session this past June, thanks to the efforts of organizers Kathi Trepper and Ben Ackerman.

Many of you were able to attend the Leukemia Cup Regatta Kickoff Reception on July 27 to start the fundraising for this premier River event to be held on September 5 and 6. It is not at all unreasonable to expect 20 or more SCOW and members' boats to take to the water on race day. This year's 10th Anniversary Regatta will honor our friend Gary Jobson, who was diagnosed with lymphoma back in May. I hope that most all of you will be able to participate in some way this year, as a fundraising skipper or crew member, as a volunteer, or as a contributor. Thanks in advance for your support of this worthy cause.

And just to let you know, we are thinking ahead in planning another stellar event for the Hail and Farewell banquet on November 15. Based on comments from many members, we are researching an alternate venue for this event, a river cruise on the replica stern-wheeler 'Cherry Blossom', which hails from the Alexandria

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*August Membership Meeting*  
Monday, August 11

### "SCOW Fleet Maintenance Update"

Our August speaker will be SCOW's Maintenance Director Tom Hannan bringing us up to date on current maintenance projects with our fleet. Tom and his crew of bosuns and other volunteers have been working overtime this year to keep our boats ship shape. He should have lots to tell us.

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

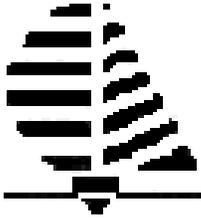
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docks. The location and river cruise would be quite unique, and we think most appropriate for such a band of water lovers as SCOW represents. The cost would also be higher than in the past, in the neighborhood of \$50+ per person, so that has been a concern in our planning. Your feedback and comments, pro or con, and celebration ideas to either Social Director Rob Langford (social@scow.org) or me will be appreciated.

Meanwhile, I hope you are fully enjoying sailing all 5 of our boats. That's right. Psycho is back! Thanks to the efforts of many maintenance volunteers over the past many months. (I say this with some anticipation as I write the week before her planned return to her home port.)

Fair winds and following seas,

*Commodore George*



(Photo by George Umberger)

#### Four of the "Six Skippers" in the BVI

### Social Activities

Rob Langford

August is here, and we are on the downhill side of the season for Social Sails. With the cold Spring and early Summer, the Social Sails got off the ground with a bump. However, the most recent Social Sails have been very successful.

But we need volunteers! There are plenty of slots open for Chef Ones and Twos, Dockmasters and Greeters. If you haven't volunteered already then now is your chance! Precious culinary moments are slipping away! One moment you're sweating in August, and before you know it, you're stuck in traffic behind a school bus.

Don't let this moment pass you by! Volunteer as a Chef One, Two or Dockmaster for Social Sail today!

Also for August Social Sails, there is the Carnivore Challenge. The date has yet to be set, so please keep an eye open for announcements.

Speaking of the Carnivore Challenge, which started in response to a day featuring vegetarian cuisine, I think we need a response from the other side of the dietary debate. Where are you vegetarians? I know you're out there! (Boy do I know you're there.) Does the Atkins Diet win by default? Has a low protein diet left you listless? Now is the time to throw down the gauntlet, put on your war-sandals and fighting beads, and answer this day of carnage with a fabulous vegetarian meal. The "animale" side of the phylum awaits a champion(s).

The final issue relating to Social Sails is finding a new location for Social No-Sails. All suggestions are welcome, and will be

thoroughly researched by brave and willing volunteers of SCOW. Please e-mail me your suggestions.

Another food related event is the Traditional Crab Feast scheduled for August 9th. Details to follow.

Finally, it's time to begin thinking about the Hail and Farewell event in November. I am seeking volunteers to help produce this event. Volunteers are needed to prepare and put on the event. Most of the prep work has to deal with the Silent Auction, mailings and promotion. Anyone who is interested, please contact me. I will send out an announcement for a happy-hour type meeting for the middle of August.

Well that's it!  
Socially Yours,  
Rob

**ChaN Nels**

can also be read at:

[www.scow.org](http://www.scow.org)

Submit articles to

[channels@scow.org](mailto: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*

*Monika O'Connor, Mailing Lists*

## Help Wanted: ChaNNels Editor/Publisher

Joan O'Kane

Here's a way to be an active member of SCOW without leaving your desk! You don't even have to be a good sailor!

After two fun and exciting years as ChaNNels Editor/Publisher, I've decided to focus on other priorities (new husband, new kitten, etc.). I'll still be a part of SCOW, but will be getting my club news when everyone else does instead of a few weeks ahead (one of the perks of the job). But in order for the latest SCOW news to keep getting out, someone will else will have to take over. I may be unique, but I'm not irreplaceable.

So what does the ChaNNels Editor/Publisher do?

Well, not much. Most of the work is done by other people. Think of this as a "management position".

In a nutshell, the Editor/Publisher is responsible for forwarding ChaNNels submissions to the Layout Editor, reviewing the final copy for the print version, getting it reproduced and mailed, and notifying the club via email when the online version is available on the SCOW web site. For a more detailed description, see "The Story of ChaNNels" in the August 2002 issue at <http://www.scow.org/chan/chanaug02.htm>. Some of the actors and roles have changed since then, but it's basically the same script.

One of the best things about being ChaNNels Editor/Publisher is that you get to know a lot of different people in SCOW. And you get to see the result of your efforts every single month.

The job doesn't even require any special skills or experience! I knew nothing about editing or publishing when I took over from the incomparable Larry Gemoets. Okay, sometimes my inexperience showed, but I was able to work with great people and I learned a lot from them. Chris Chubb, the Layout Editor, is staying on next year and he is incredibly talented and fun to work with.

Being ChaNNels Editor/Publisher takes only one to two hours a month. The only thing you might need is a large email box. Some of the submissions (especially the photos) can be pretty big.

It would be great if we have someone in place no later than November or December so that you can get some experience working with the current board before the new board comes on in January.

If you are an enthusiastic, detail-oriented person who wants to make an important contribution to SCOW, please email me at [channels@scow.org](mailto:channels@scow.org). December will be my last issue, so if you want to keep ChaNNels going, volunteer now! If you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer them.

## Take Me To The River . . .

River Coordinator Jay Weitzel

SCOW had a great turnout for our July 20th River Raftup! We set off from the Marina at noon with five boats: two of our Flying Scots, Danschweida and Ms Elli, and three cruising boats, Rebecca, Needa Breeze and A-Dory-Able -- along with about 20 skippers and crew. We started with a sail on the Potomac, and found the wind cooperatively picking up for us as the afternoon progressed -- always a pleasant surprise in July. While on the river, we received a radio hail from SCOW member Jason Stevens, in his ComPac, informing us that he planned to join our raft-up. When we returned to the lagoon to raft, we found Commodore Umberger in Tamarisk already anchored and waiting. All seven boats rafted together and the assembled gang had a great time chatting. Then Bill Davenport in his Cal 21, We Few, sailed up to join us. So, by the end of the day, our raftup numbered 8 boats. An excellent day of fun, food, fellowship and sailing for all! Thanks to all the skippers who made it possible and thanks to all the members who turned out to crew and share the fun.

Betcha you're sorry you missed it, huh? Well, there's plenty of summer fun left. August brings two River events. On Thursday, August 21st, we will have our second River Fleet Night of the season -- a chance for our members to bring their boats out and take members for a sail (or just show off your pride and joy) at Social Sail.

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Then, on Friday, August 22nd, we will have an evening River Cruise. As usual for evening sails, we plan to meet at the Marina for a skippers' meeting at 6:30. Depending on the interest of the skippers, we may just sail or we may raft up for a late evening (this being SCOW) "pot luck" meal. We will announce details at the membership meeting and also have a sign-up sheet there. If you've got ideas for a River event, please email me at river@scow.org.

### **Skipper Director News** Steve Linke

Is this sailing club a good deal? You know it is. And we are rolling, to make it bigger, better, safely. The early snow and extensive rains slowed skipper checkout a bit but we are starting to make up for it.

On July 13, we checked out 9 more skippers, bringing the total for the year to over 30 new skippers for SCOW. That pretty much offsets the 30 or so SCOW skippers who did not renew last year so from here on we are in a net building mode--over 100 SCOW skippers and climbing.

#### **New Skippers**

Congratulations to new cruising boat skippers Chris Chubb, Mike McLaughlin and Kara Wald! And to new Flying Scot skippers Nate Bokil, Amy Beale, Jan Earle, Kivanc Kirgiz, Lynn Kosty, Jan Earle, Bill Patton, Dave Razon, Curt Vondereith, Jack Wells, Allison Wymore, Jenny Wood and John Yuan. Welcome back to returning Flying Scot Skipper Jason Stevens!

Congratulations (and thank you) to new Club Skipper who will now skipper the Flying Scots only during club events.

#### **Upcoming Checkout Days**

Due the continuing demand created by more classes and more graduates, the recently-added water checkout on 10 August is now FULL. Please be advised that all three Flying Scots are reserved for checkouts from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on that day.

If you want to be ready for the next checkout now scheduled for 5 October - right after the end of the last basic sailing class - get your exam completed, sent in and graded. If we get enough candidates - and willing checkout skippers - we will try to run another checkout day before 5 October.

#### **Thank You**

I would like to thank the many tutors who augment the training class and also the checkout skippers who make it possible to get these folks safely checked out.

Our "Tireless Tutors" include John Roland who is heading up our tutoring program this year. Nice job, John. Other tutors are Mary Bashore, Ginny Ivin, John Rogers, Dave Scheuermann, Wilson Varga, Ed Venere, and any others I may have missed.

Checkout Skippers who worked around the weather were: Liz Bruening, Marty Crowson, Barry Dunsmoor, Dick Dyer, Larry Gemoets, Randy Glantz, Jim Metcalf, Jeff Teitel and Jay Weitzel.

If you see these volunteers, thank them for making SCOW work so well. It is truly a great deal only because so many give of their own time to make it work for all the rest.

**RECAP: Washington Sailing Marina Renovations**

Susan Batchelder

Our July speaker, Phil Geishert of the Washington Sailing Marina, gave an informative talk on updates to the Marina.

The floating docks will be replaced and significantly improved. Individual slip spaces will be expanded, electrical mounts and, hopefully, storage boxes will be at each berth. A breakwater - Phil called this something like a "wave wash" will be built between "A" Dock and the day marker to protect moored boats from jostling in their berths.

Construction is slated to begin sometime this fall and be finished by early spring 2004. Phil said the Marina (i.e., GSI the franchisee who manages the property for the National Park Service) is evaluating bids from several contractors. The goal is to have one company do all the work; at the same time jobs have to be individually priced out for budget and funding reasons.

There are planned changes for the boat ramp to improve water/land transition to make ingress and egress easier for boats on trailers.

Phil touched briefly on July 4th activities this current year. He said this year they had greater than expected law enforcement presence; he hopes to have security run more smoothly next year, so that Marina pass holders have an easier time getting to their boats on the 4th.

**Waterfront Festival Volunteers: Foul-Weather Friends**

Melissa Ennis

Many thanks to the SCOW volunteers who gave so generously of their time to help out at the 22nd annual Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival! The weather was so vile, we put a double reef in the SCOW Chow Dhow banner, but we know the people we talked to were truly gung-ho sailors.

Special thanks go to Thom Unger, who got us a gorgeous spot FACING the three Tall Ships. George Umberger was able to assist us even from the BVI. Phil Bender, Julia Hunt, Rob Langford, Steve Linke and Mike McLaughlin donated time and muscle to getting Susie Q and the SCOW Chow Dhow to the Festival on time Friday afternoon - and then returning them in time for the Special Olympics events - in addition to manning our booth.

Many thanks go to the following volunteers for staffing the SCOW booth: Mary Bashore, Tom Durmick, Chris Farthing, Jane Farthing, Cathy Hess, Mike McKenney, Leslie Michel, Walter Peterson, Sharon Schoumacher, Alice Starcke, Donna Thurber, and Genie Williford.

Many folks make helping at the Red Cross Festival a personal tradition - even without parking perks! Without the help of volunteers like those, SCOW could not, and would not, exist. My thanks to all.

**Bay Activities**

Jeff Teitel

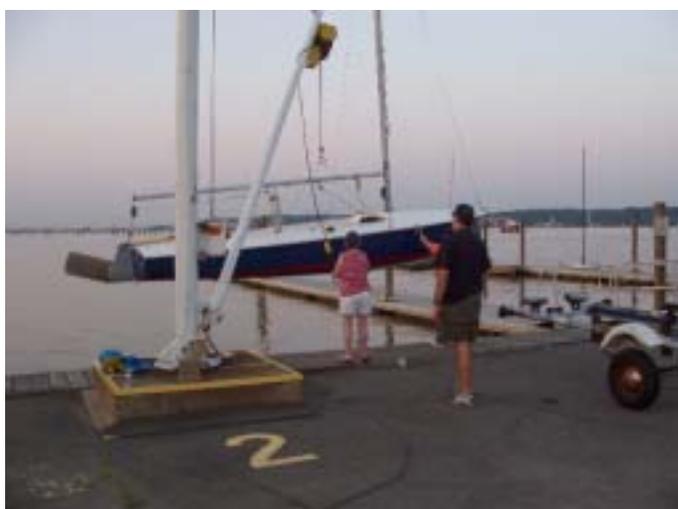
The Baltimore Orioles Raft-up will be held August 16-17 in the Inner Harbor. If you would like to join us, please email me at bay@scow.org. Tickets to the game are available, even if you're coming by land.

**SCOW Says Welcome!**

To the following new members who have joined since May 1st:

Nikki Clemente  
Martha M. Haines  
Bruce Alan Hasley  
Yuan John Jiang  
Dorothy J. Lewis  
Janet Macidull  
Manohar "Mano" Malayanur  
Keith P. Manchester  
Frances Martinez  
Michael E. McKenney

Marcin Miszczak  
Michael C. Morris  
Losang Namgyel  
Rod Pharness  
Ana Stoehr  
Leigh Sult  
Rob Sult  
Kevin J. Traver  
Christopher Wallace  
David Zimmer



(Photos by George Umberger)

**SCOW volunteers Phil Bender, Mike McLaughlin and John Roland.**



**Special Olympics**

**Special Olympics -Thank You!!!**

Kathi Trepper

*"Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."* - Special Olympics Athlete Oath

At this writing the Special Olympics World Summer Games -including SAILING-are taking place in Ireland. Sailing is a new sport for the Special Olympics- only the third time that this event has been included- and SCOW continues to be part of the successful training ground for the athletes.

It didn't rain during the three Monday evenings in June when SCOW hosted DC area Special Olympics athletes for an evening of training and racing on Flying Scots (SCOW, Washington Sailing Marina and privately owned). Ben Ackerman and his wife, Jean, assembled an impressive number of eager athletes and SCOW members contributed their time, enthusiasm and mentoring skills to those who were excited to get time on the tiller, learn about the "joy of heeling" or just the thrill of the race!

Very special thanks to the following SCOW members who were skippers and crew as well as new friends to the Special Olympians:

- |              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Phil Bender  | Chris Julius       |
| Lisa Carr    | Michael McLaughlin |
| Donna Cohen  | Leslie Michel      |
| Jan Earle    | Seth Spergel       |
| Jim Haynes   | Susan Troccoli     |
| John Jiang   | George Umberger    |
| Bill Johnson |                    |

Stay tuned for details of next year's event!!

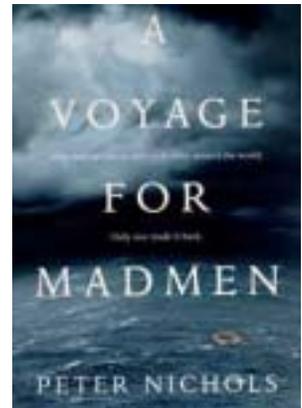
## **REVIEW: "A Voyage for Madmen"**

by *Peter Nichols*

Reviewed by Susan Batchelder

Ready for a great armchair-sailor adventure? Then check out this book!

It is 1968. There is no weather fax, no GPS, no Kevlar sails, no carbon masts. There is no email, no digital cameras, no microwaves no cell phones or satellite phones. There is no Whitbread, no Vendee Globe, no Volvo Ocean Race. America is still in control of The America's Cup. The Summer Olympics are being held in Mexico City. Sir Francis Chichester has recently circumnavigated the globe by himself in Gypsy Moth IV, stopping only briefly in Australia to make some repairs.



Someone has the brilliant idea to do Chichester one better and sail around the world, solo, non-stop. No one has ever done this. And it's 1968! No one has EVER sailed around the world alone, without stopping. But now, nine men will try it. A British newspaper decides to put up some prize money and it becomes a race. Nine men leave various points in England and Ireland between June 1 and October 31, 1968. Only one man completes the race. This is the story of what happened.

Amazingly, the book was only written in 2001 and the author does a fabulous job of re-creating the world of 35 years ago. Two of the names of the sailors may be familiar to you: Sir Robin Knox-Johnson and Bernard Moitessier.

Two sailors tried this race because they rowed across the Atlantic in a 20-foot open boat in 1967 and figured this would be a good challenge. One sailor entered thinking that, if he won, it would be fantastic publicity for his marine electronics. One sailor didn't know how to sail when he began; he thought it would be a good way to learn.

I've already told you how it ends, sort of. Nine start out, one finishes. But, it's what happens during the race that makes this book one you can't put down. Complete with illustrated maps and photos, easy to read and easy to put down and pick up again without getting lost, it's a book that sailors at all levels can enjoy.

In paperback, the book costs about \$13.95 at local bookstores.



### **Sailing Etiquette 101**

Captain Manners

At a recent Social Sail, a young man sauntered down the dock with his fellow passengers. Perhaps in an attempt to flirt with the curvaceous, wildly attractive Skipper trailing an irresistible perfume of sunscreen and bug repellent, he inquired, "So, will you be our Skipperette for the evening?"

Since he was SCOW's guest, she did not immediately run him through with her winch handle. She did not even "accidentally" jibe him into the Potomac. Dents in the boom are difficult to repair.

But she asked Captain Manners to remind Social Sailors that the correct modes of address are "Skipper", "Captain", or "Your Nauticalness" - all of which are gender-neutral.

### 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	Jan Earle	202.249.0855		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
<b>Other Key People</b>				
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	703.205.3320	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](mailto:info@scow.org) or visit <http://www.scow.org>