

ChanNels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington
August 2005

Commodore's Log

From the Commodore

In July we finished more training, graduated more skippers, maintained the boats very well, and had great raftups on the Potomac and Bay.

The Board members and many, many others have worked very hard this year to keep the club activities rolling and the newsletters and website looking good. You can thank them when you see them. And you can do something more.

You can sail for almost nothing, because the SCOW is run by volunteers. So there is no "fee" for the work SCOW leaders do.



SCOW - Sunset

Ready to Sail? Just Attend Thursday Picnics!

The club is only as good as the continuing string of volunteers who come along to keep it rolling. I encourage each of you to step up, volunteer, do a little or a lot, as your schedule permits. Head up a Social Sail, help anywhere.

If you want social activities and sailing--there is a lot of that to participate in. If you would like to see another activity, then step up and lead it! You will probably get full Board support.. August is normally hot and humid in DC so we ought to have a Waterfront Festival, and sail only if the weather is great.

Come to the Washington Sailing Marina on August 13th, when there will be activities all day long; ranging from a National Park Service presentation in the morning, to music in the evening. The National Maritime Heritage Foundation will bring in their 65 foot 'American Spirit' to display during the day and take SCOW volunteers out later in the afternoon on a sail. Contact Event Coordinator Rob Langford to volunteer to help at robl@ix.netcom.com. More details coming!

Through August and September, SCOW river cruises and Bay activities will continue at a brisk pace. Racing continues on Tuesday nights, Social Sails continue on Thursday nights, and training picks up again in mid-September with another basic sailing class. Skim this newsletter, watch your email, and check the website. Stay informed!

And the grand finale: watch for the coming SCOW Charter as well. Joe Cianfrani enjoyed last year's trip to Belize so much he is getting this next year's trip rolling. Watch for details.

Steve Linke
Commodore

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RACING

Skippers and Crew Needed for September Regattas

CRUISERS

Skippers and Crew are needed to sail the SCOW cruisers in the 2005 Leukemia Cup on Saturday September 10th. This is an annual race to raise money for the local Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Members are encouraged to form fund-raising teams and solicit donations from friends, co-workers, family, and other SCOW members. This is a SCOW sponsored event which means that you can raise money at SCOW meetings and events such as Social Sails. However, SCOW policy does not allow use of the “all-SCOW” e-mail list to solicit donations.

The boats are reserved and will be assigned to the skipper and team that raise the largest amount of money for the Leukemia Society. Teams must have a racing-qualified cruiser skipper for the boat during the race. The skipper and team that raise the most donations will get first choice of boats for the Leukemia Cup. Fund raising can continue until Thursday, September 8. At the Social Sail on that date, we will announce the fund raising results and will allow the winning team to select their preferred boat. (Continued on pg 3)



SCOW Picnics

Laser Sailors at WSM boat ramp

Summer weather is hard to predict, but the hour from 7 to 8 pm is usually graced with a nice sunset and either a light breeze or a torrential thunderstorm!

It's worth driving down after work just to see what happens!

Bay Activities

Jack Schwartz

Still cruising aboard Odyssey, a Seafarer 37, out of Holiday Hill marina. Feel free to email me at bay@scow.org with questions, to volunteer as crew, to offer berths for raftups or to take on crew for day sails.

(continued on Page 9)

BAY CALENDAR

July 17	Progressive Dinner raftup-Rhode River, Raftmaster, Jack Schwartz
August 20	Moonlight Cruise-Dividing Creek, Wye, River, Eastern Bay, raftmaster TBD Labor Day Cruise (split fleets first night)
September 3	Lower Bay-behind Casson Point, Hudson Creek, off Little Choptank
September 4	Both fleets-Dunn Cove, Harris Creek, off Choptank River
October ?	Fowl Weather Cruise-location tbd, Raftmaster Alan Lewis
November 11	Veteran's Day Cruise Dunn Cove
November 12	Solomon's Island area

**Next Membership Meeting:
Monday, August 8th, 2005**

The August meeting will be on the second Monday of the month, is August 8th. Location is at the American Legion, 400 Cameron Street, in Old Town Alexandria (around the corner from Gadsby's Tavern). Socializing downstairs is at 6:30 pm and the meeting begins upstairs at 7:30 pm.

RACING (Continued from pg 2)

FLYING SCOTTS

Skippers and Crew are also needed to race the Flying Scotts in the Leukemia Cup. In addition to winning the right to race a Flying Scott in the September 10, 2005 regatta, fund raisers can also race in the President's Cup held on the Potomac River on Sunday, September 11th.

Like the cruisers, teams that raise the most donations get to choose their boats for the regattas. It is not necessary to be a racing qualified skipper to race the Flying Scotts. If you want to raise funds and compete for a boat in the Leukemia Cup and President's Cup, information on race procedures will be available at the Tuesday Night Flying Scott Races, as well as on weekends.

If interested in raising donations for this charitable event, please contact Mike Murphy (racing@scow.org). As soon as you notify Mike that you are interested in fund raising, you can begin soliciting funds at SCOW events such as Social Sails, check-outs, membership meetings and other events. Combine a chance for exciting sailing with helping this worthy charity. Sign up NOW!

Social Events

Join us next Thursday at 6:30 or any Thursday through October 6. We meet at the Washington Marina, just south of National Airport on the George Washington Parkway.

Donation for dinner is only \$5.00. There are still slots open to host a Social Sail so contact me at social@scow.org and we'll find a date that works for you. This is really a great way to meet club members and get more time on the water.

Be sure to check out the website www.scow.org for a complete calendar of racing, sailing and social activities!



SCOW - Social Event

River Director Henry skippers a Scott

“Do business with men when the wind is in the northwest”, Benjamin Franklin

The Value of Volunteering

What is the value of volunteering? Is it about money, and should we measure it that way? Most people would say no. Volunteering is not about money. It is about giving, contributing, and helping other individuals and the community at large. It is working with others to make a meaningful contribution to a better community.

People volunteer for an endless variety of reasons. Many people want to gain experience, acquire new skills, meet new people or expand their network of contacts as a way to get a new job or start a career. Others just want to give back to the community to help a friend or promote a worthwhile activity. They do it because it makes them feel good.

And yet there are many organizations and even government agencies who would like to put a dollar value on volunteering. Independent Sector's *Giving and Volunteering in the United States* Signature Series gives a picture of the giving and volunteering habits of Americans. Based on a national survey of 4,000 adults, this series reports on the why, how, and who is behind the extraordinary everyday generosity- both in time and money- of American households. Here are a few key findings: **44%** of adult volunteer; **83.9 million American adults** volunteer, representing the equivalent of over **9 million** full-time employees at a value of **\$239 billion**. These are impressive numbers that truly demonstrate a commitment across a wide spectrum of causes.

Now, I'd like to ask each of *you* to reflect for a moment on the volunteer work *you* do and have done.

What are the benefits you gained from doing the work? Has it changed the way you think about issues? Has it changed the choices you've made in life? For each of us the answers will be different, and that is typical of volunteering. The opportunities are wide and the choices are many. Any particular role may bring different benefits to different people depending on their own life experiences and their needs at the time. Volunteering makes a difference, and it can be whatever you the volunteer want it to be, for it is all about ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

As a final thought, here is a story about a fire company in a small town that was having trouble raising funds and finding volunteers to help. Everybody was asked to give. Everybody was sure somebody would give. Anybody could have and should have given but nobody did. Somebody got angry about it because it was everybody's job. Everybody thought anybody would help but nobody realized that everybody wouldn't do it. And then it happened somebody had an emergency but nobody came. I mean anybody could have helped but everybody thought somebody else would do it.

Since becoming the Social Director, I've thought about it many times, but haven't really said it out loud. So to the members and friends of the Sailing Club of Washington who volunteer your time, I say thank you for being ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

Help the Editor

To facilitate the production of SCOW, please follow the following "Keys to Article Submission."

Keys to Article Submission

1. When you e-mail the article, entitle it: **article submission**
2. When you submit photos for the newsletter, always include the names of people in each photo.
3. Submit your article by the **15th of the month**
4. Submit a full, written-out article
5. Submit your articles to ChaNNels@scow.org

This applies not just to SCOW Board Members but also to SCOW freelance writer and photographers!

can also be read at:

www.scow.org.

Submit articles to
channels@scow.org

by the 15th of every month. Use any means, but email is preferred. If you would like a copy of the 2005 ChaNNels editorial calendar, please request via email to channels@scow.org or in-person at the next meeting. Thanks!

Diana Combs, Editor
Wayne Williams, Layout Editor

Downriver Overnight Cruise

Raftmaster George Umberger

Four boats enjoyed a relaxing weekend on the water as we sailed about 25 miles south on Saturday for a raft-up in the lower Occoquan Bay area and dinner ashore at Tims Rivershore Restaurant.

The following boats, captain, and crew enjoyed the evening:

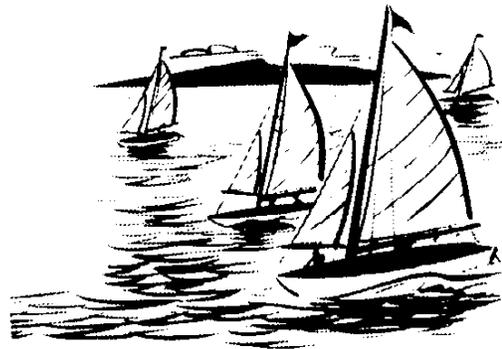
Tamarisk, with crew George Umberger, Sue Biersbach, Bill Patton and Gerri Hanna, led the trip and raftup.

Needa Breeze with crew Jay and Kim Weitzel and Riverdog Gadget.

Psycho with crew Dorothy Stocks, Mary Bashore, Henry Cheng, and Joe and Ginny Cianfrani.

Rebecca with crew Larry McAndrews, John Jiang, Alice Starcke, and Dot Almassy.

We were graced by two warm days, sunny skies and even some favorable winds at times on Saturday. Sunday saw us powering up the faithful iron gennys as we came back upriver. The premise that the winds (when they exist) are always on your nose when you want to go somewhere on the river held true to form. The river was a bit high after the recent rains, and "log dodging" tested our tacking skills at times, but all sailors reported a fine time on the water and ashore.



For those of you who have sailed mostly above the bridge, the river below the bridge offers some interesting gunkholes, historic and scenic spots, and sailing tracks. In the Occoquan Bay area, about 4 miles of water separates Maryland from Virginia and even if the winds are light a favorable tack may be found; the sailing is quite pleasant without the constant watch for various tour boats and traffic. **Needa Breeze** opted to head for the eastern shore when we arrived at our general destination (word has it that Gadget is not yet porta-potti trained) and docked overnight at Sweden Point Marina about a mile up Mattawoman Creek (where George Mason's father met his demise in a boating accident a couple centuries ago). **Tamarisk** stopped in at the Leesylvania Park Marina (site of the "Light Horse Harry" Lee Plantation, father of General Robert E. Lee) on the Virginia shore for a look around.

We then met up with **Rebecca**, anchored just north of Cockpit Point. **Psycho** soon joined us for a 3 boat raft-up and some well deserved libations and hors d'oeuvres. Appetites whetted, the local water taxi ferried us ashore for a seafood feast at Tims Rivershore Restaurant, where the food was good, the assorted patrons worth watching, and the drinks were cold and refreshing. Following the taxi ride back to the boats, **Rebecca** and **Psycho** remained at anchor while **Tamarisk** departed for an anchorage off Leesylvania Park.

An early departure on Sunday morn saw us on our way home to catch the favorable tide changes. Even an early morning bass fishing tournament out of Leesylvania Park, with about 50 high powered bass boats cruising around, did not disturb the pleasant and placid waters (read "no wind") since the cruising ground in that area is so large. We were surprised on our return above the bridge to be greeted by a tallship which had sailed north for an Alexandria anniversary celebration. And in the lagoon we found that Training Director Doug had been busy sending checkout skippers and new skippers-to-be out on the waters. Some of them may be joining us on future downriver cruises.

Tuesday Night Races

If you are interested in participating with the Tuesday night races, please contact Mike Murphy at racing@scow.org.

We need skippers, crew, race officials, and members who can share their knowledge of sailing, rigging, boat trim, boat handling, and race tactics with other members on Tuesday nights.

Talk Like A Sailor

On the windward leg we hit the lay line, had a perfect set of the spinnaker, blanketed the leader and took the lead by the time we reached the leeward mark. That's not just talking like a sailor, it's talking like a sailor who races. Racing changes sailing and requires you to learn another set of vocabulary terms. That's the conclusion I reached when I started to participate in the Saturday races in my early days of sailing with the Moraine Sailing Club in Western Pennsylvania. The Tuesday night DISC races involve cruising boats on the Potomac. SCOW organizes Tuesday night races in the lagoon. The river races are regarded as "beer can" or casual races but there are some tough competitors out there. This month we will look at some of the basic terms that are part of sailboat racing.

The first leg of a race is always the upwind or windward leg. The goal of the race committee is to set a course so the first mark (buoys on the river) involves sailing directly up wind. Getting to that first buoy or mark is referred to as "fetching the mark" i.e. getting to the buoy as quickly as possible. By knowing that your tacks are at right angles to each other, you should be able to sight across the middle of your boat and tell exactly when you can "lay the mark". Ideally you will accurately determine the "lay line", the course that will take you directly to the mark without additional and unwanted tacks.

After making the windward mark it is time to hoist the spinnaker for maximum speed on the downwind run.

Talk Like A Sailor (Continued)

The Tuesday night cruiser races are divided into two classes, spinnaker and non spinnaker. The spinnaker is a sail that resembles a parachute that pulls the boat down wind. A boat sailing with a spinnaker usually will sail faster than a boat without a spinnaker that is sailing a jib or genoa; there is simply much more sail area to catch the wind. A spinnaker can be set with the true wind direction anywhere from dead astern to about abeam. The "Spin" start is usually first and covers a longer distance as the boats will sail faster on the downwind legs of the race.



SCOW - Tuesday Night Races

If you are flying a spinnaker but are not leading the race, strategy may call for you to "blanket" the boat(s) in front of you. Blanketing refers to stealing the wind of another boat that is down to leeward. On the lee side of each boat will be an area where the wind is lighter, simply because the sail has stopped much of it temporarily. This wind shadow, or blanket zone, extends out about three mast lengths (depending on the strength of the wind) and seems to trail the boat in the direction of the apparent wind.

Racing adds another dimension to sailing, requiring one to learn to maximize speed and understand the intricacies of strategy. While it's not for everyone, it can open up new opportunities to get out and sail. The SCOW Tuesday night races are a good way to try racing and learn some of the basics of this exciting dimension of sailing.

Reference: "Invitation to Sailing" by Alan Brown

Marina Days

By Bill Patton, Vice Commodore

The Washington Sailing Marina is participating in nationwide Marina Day activities on Saturday August 13th. There will be a number of activities at the Washington Sailing Marina that day including opportunities to sail, tour large sailboats, listen to music, and of course eat.

Leukemia Cup

By Bill Patton, Vice Commodore

There are two goals of the annual Leukemia Cup that will be held the weekend of September 10th. One is to raise money, and the other is to get out on the river and race.

The cup is one of the largest of its kind in the country with a 2005 fund raising goal of \$200,000. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved by raising money, skippering or crewing on one of the SCOW boats, or participating in the events of the day. For more information contact Bill Patton at vice@scow.org or Genie Williford.

Here is your chance to make a donation to a wonderful cause. It is not too late to start raising funds for the races on September 10th. All of the SCOW boats will be entered in the races so watch for opportunities to skipper in one of the races. Earlier this summer, a Thursday night social was dedicated to the Leukemia cup with all proceeds collected that evening going to the Cup fund raising efforts. There are still opportunities for others to host a social sail and donate the evening's collections to the Society. You can contact Social Director, Margaret Monsour through social@scow.org.

Breaking the Law

Gary Jobson

Sailing has more than its share of rules. Over the years I've found the willingness to break them from time to time has paid off.

- It's O.K. to have wrinkles in a sail if the shape is what you want.
- I find it acceptable to luff your sails a bit if you're being overpowered.
- Sailing downwind it often pays to sail be the lee for a short while rather than doing extra jibes.
- Overshoot the weather mark occasionally to arrive at the rounding with extra speed.
- No matter how right you are, I've found you only win 50 percent of your protests. Avoid the protest room at all costs.



SCOW – Maintenance Day
Training Director Doug lends a hand



Rigging a Racer

Quiz - Can you identify this world champion racer who competed at WSM on July 4th?
And the type of boat pictured? OK - How about the type of wood for the hull?

Note - In Britain wood construction is preferred for this style of boat.



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*“Dew almost always predicts a
southerly wind, but if the
decks have been dry, expect a
northerly through the day”*

- L Francis Herreshoff



Basic Sailing Checkout

For More Great Pics see the Photosite!
<http://www.scow.photosite.com/>

Bay Activities

Our next Bay adventure will be the Moonlight Cruise, scheduled for August 20. I have elected to visit a particularly beautiful spot in the Wye River. Frankly, I'm not sure whether it is Dividing Creek or Granary Creek that I am remembering. (My cruising guides are aboard Odyssey, not with me.) However, I have found the location on the chart, and would like for us to meet at 76 degrees 9.3 minutes West by 38 degrees, 53.2 minutes North, whichever creek that turns out to be. It is a natural setting with no development, and the Wye island wildlife refuge occupies the shoreline. There is a small piece of landable beach for Tina (our mascot) to take "shore leave" on.

Sharon Smith has agreed to be raftmaster. She can be reached at ssmith8523@aol.com. Someone should be there by 4pm, and will monitor channel 72 for hails from any SCOW members. Any skippers with room for crew could contact Sharon at ssmith8523@aol.com or me at bay@scow.org.

For Lower-Bay skippers who don't want to take the extra time to come all the way up to Eastern Bay, I would propose an alternate anchorage in Fox Creek, off the Honga River. 76 degrees, 7 minutes West by 38 degrees, 17 minutes North. Another option would be Rollins Cove, off St. Leonard's Creek. Lower Bay boats, let me know your preference and I will distribute updated info by email as the date approaches.

Members without Bay boats who would like to participate can do so as crew (if there is space) or by chartering a boat on the Bay. Ports within easy reach of this anchorage include Herrington Harbor, West River, Rhode River, South River, and Annapolis on the Western shore. Of course, Kent Narrows, St. Michael's, Tillghman, and Oxford are also within a nice day's sail.

Fair winds.
Jack

**2005 Board of
Directors**

Position	Name	Home	Work	E-mail
Commodore	Steve Linke	703.684.5266	703.604.7006	commodore@scow.org
Vice Commodore	Bill Patton	703.836.5617	703.527.6360	vice@scow.org
Secretary	Rod Pharness	202.641.3991		secretary@scow.org
Treasurer	Dorothy Stocks	703.521.0903	703.524.3147	treasurer@scow.org
Training Director	Doug Kelch	703.716.4959	703.346.7693	training@scow.org
Maintenance Director	Lynne Russillo	202.543.7080		maintenance@scow.org
Social Director	Margaret Monsour	703.379.8873	703.908.8868	social@scow.org
Skipper Director	David Simpson			skipper@scow.org
River & Bay Director	Robert Werlas	301.982.9543		bay@scow.org
Racing Director	Mike Murphy	703.820.1991		race@scow.org
Advertising	Rhonda Glasmann	703.813.6068		advertising@scow.org

Other Key People

New Members	Melissa Ennis	703.845.5764		info@scow.org
Members Coordinator	Monika O'Connor	703.921.9262	703.593.4380	members@scow.org
Email Administrator	Jeff Teitel	202.271.1238		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

Visit <http://www.scow.org> or email info@scow.org