
ChaNNels -- The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington

August 1999

Commodore's Log

A fine time was had by all at SCOW's 4th of July bash at Sea Airie, Len Zuza's place down in Solomons. We had 6 Bay boats in attendance: Sea Frog (well, ok, it WAS her home port!), Euphoria, Niche, Bartz, Carpe Diem, and Seanchai. Skipper Director Shelby Shoop organized a great test of knowledge and fun with 4 teams of SCOW sailors competing to answer a list of sailing-related questions seriously, and not so seriously! See elsewhere in Channels for the questions to test your own knowledge. As with last year, Len also received permission from the Coast Guard to fire off old safety flares. It's quite an eye-opening experience to see just how short-lived the pistol-fired flares actually are when fired! Many, many thanks to Len for once again organizing and allowing use of his property for SCOW's 4th of July bash.

Well, it's true, the middle of Summer isn't always the windiest season around... And it's hot... Which means... It must be time once again for SCOW's annual Canoe trip! This is always a fun time, lazily paddling down one of the region's rivers, with an occasional water fight to ward off the heat! This year it will be held on Saturday, August 21, organized by Joe Depoorter. For details, see Joe's article here in Channels. The more the merrier!

Fair Winds Thom

Training

Jason Stevens

On July 17th we held the first Capsize course of the year. Both of the cruising boats and two of the Flying Scots headed to Smoots Cove for a day of swimming, water fights, cookie eating and, oh ya, ...capsizing! We had a beautiful day with moderate wind and enough sun and heat to make the water very inviting. The course will be held a second time on August 7th. New skippers or skippers who have never taken this course are especially encouraged to sign up, though all members are certainly welcome. The cost for the course is \$20 and more info is available on the SCOW web site.

SCOW's Intermediate Sailing class will be held in August. Intermediate Sailing concentrates on the theory and physics of sailing that are beyond the scope of the Beginning Sailing class. By the time you read this the SCOW web site should have more information regarding the dates, times and price for this course.

The third and final Basic Sailing course of the year starts in August. The class is full and there is already a lengthy waiting list, so no more applications are being accepted. If you missed the cutoff please remember to sign up early next Spring!

Bay Activities Jack Schwartz Well, it sounds like the folks who attended the July Fourth raftup at Sea Aerie had a hot time! (See reports elsewhere in this issue.) I am also pleased to report that Bay Day Sails are going on with some frequency, although not necessarily to a schedule. Members who wish to participate in Day Sails should contact me and I will try to get crew and skippers together.

The next Bay raftup is scheduled for August 14-15, with a visit to St. Michaels. Depending on people's moods, we could try to shuttle in for a dinner of crabs or maybe send someone to bring a bunch back to the raftup. (Let me know what you think.) This should be a fun trip, and I believe there are already a couple of boats planning to attend: Mike Geissinger is hoping to find crew for an overnight sail Friday evening with a return on Monday, and (sea gods willing) Odyssey will hopefully use this opportunity to move from her South River berth down to Solomons.

Annual SCOW Canoe Trip

Joe Depoorter

Weather too hot? Too windless? Have we got a deal for you! It's time once again for SCOW's annual Canoe Trip. The trip this year will be on Saturday, August 21st. This year we'll be taking a twelve mile excursion near Harper's Ferry. As a comparison, this is the same length we cruised on the Shenandoah last year. The folks at RiverTrails have assured me that there's plenty of water in the river for us. Please call me (Joe Depoorter) for the exact details and to RSVP at (703) 533-3795, or you can send email to jdepoorter@usa.net. The cost will be about \$24 for each person, and we'll need to be there by 9:30.

A new VOICE for the SCOW Telephone Information Line

Robert Bruening

Call (202) 628-SAIL (628-7245) during the next month, and you will hear a new voice on the recording, providing information about SCOW activities. The voice is that of Miky Johnston.

Miky is a native of Kalamazoo, MI who moved to Virginia in 1987. She joined SCOW this year, and took the basic training course. She is a former DJ and did free lance work doing radio commercials and audio and video training films for the government. She worked for Unisys for 13 years teaching computer classes to various agencies including the US Coast Guard and the National Archives. She now is a Training Specialist contracted to the US Customs Service. We are glad to have her contributing her talents to SCOW.

Another Successful Skipper Checkout Day!

Shelby Shoop

Congratulations to our newest Scot skippers:

Bill Carr Tracy Bridgham Larry Stern Elan Krueger Darlys Blomberg David Blomberg Dale Eager Amy Pletz

And please thank the marvelous, talented check-out skippers who made it all possible- Dick Dyer, Dan McClafferty, and Liz Bruening.

Just as exciting, Thom Unger graduated 3 new big boat skippers on Wednesday- Jim Metcalf, Jan Jamrog, and Chuck Hollister.

It's so great to see SCOW's enthusiasm going up, (even as the water level in the Potomac keeps going down, with all this hot weather!) If you're up to facing new challenges, get a test packet from me at Social Sail or a meeting, or call/email me with your address and I'll send one out to you.

In the meantime, for all those already checked out, page 4 has the questions from the Savvy Sailor Game Show that we played at Len Zuza's picnic on the Fourth of July. Test your nautical knowledge! (Answers next month).

Social Activities

Bill Clark

This month an amazing thing has happened. I thought that I had nothing to write about. But, then I realized that's because two club members have volunteered to organize the events taking place this month. By the time you read this you'll be remembering the fun you had at the crab feast. I'd like to thank Heather Spurlock for taking on that leadership role. I also want to thank each and every person who worked with her, to make it a fun evening. I also want to give kudos to Joe DePoorter for organizing the canoe trip to Harper's Ferry. Sounds like hot fun in the summer time. His article can be found elsewhere in this issue. Throughout this year people have been contributing in big ways. There is a spirit of fun and community flowing through this club that makes it feel like family. Please keep supporting those who have taken on the task of organizing our events. This will keep the club strong and vibrant for years to come.

A Tale of BoatJacking Thom Unger Picture this: Niche, a 46' Morgan, skippered by Larry Gemoets (U.S. Coast Guard, Ret. and Channels Editor), tied to the end of the dock at Sea Aerie, Len Zuza's place in the Solomons. Rafted up next to her is Bartz, a considerably smaller 30' Catalina that I, and two friends, Tom Beachem and Vice-Commodore Monica Maynard had chartered for the 4th of July weekend.

Now those of you who know Tom and I, know that we're not exactly the early morning types... Monica too is quite content to sleep in. Larry on the other hand... So Sunday night, Monday morning, we're sleeping peacefully on board, secure in the knowledge that we're rafted up in a well-protected anchorage, with no storms predicted.

Early Monday morning I half-awake to the sounds of Niche's engine. Groggily I think to myself that Larry must be trying to nudge us awake, in that subtle manner that he has. Groggily, I fall asleep again. Slowly I awake once more, still listening to the low rumble of the engine next door, only this time I feel the boat rocking gently... "No", I think to myself, "He wouldn't have...". But I know Larry. I climb up the stairs, poke my head out, and, as I suspected, discover to my amusement we're now an 1/8th of a mile down St. John's creek, still rafted up to Niche, but slowly motoring along! Larry standing in his cockpit, a large grin on his face. I look at my watch, 6 am in the morning. Last time I was up at 6 am, it was due to staying up the night before!

Boatjacked! And by a retired Coast Guardsman no less! It's gotten so you just can't trust anybody these days! But what the heck, Jack Goodman has been trying to get more members interested in multi-hulls. Here we have a new temporary catamaran for the SCOW Bay Fleet. So what if one hull is 46' feet long, and the other is only 30'? It's more stable than either of the skippers!

We stayed rafted up till we reached the entrance to the harbor at Solomon's. In hindsight, we were quite appreciative of Larry's boat-jacking. It got us going early enough to catch a very favorable tide that added almost a 1/2 knot to our speed for much of our return to the Choptank river. Not to mention getting many chuckles from myself and my crew that morning, as yet another amusing sea story was added to our growing collection.

Bay Day Sail

Jack Schwartz

Sunday, July 18: Crew assembled around at 10 am (as ordered) at the Roggio Estate, and helped shuttle gear down to Odyssey. We departed as scheduled by 11 am. While much is left to be repaired (VHF, Depth, Log, and Wind instruments, Autopilot, pressure water, etc.), engine and rigging seem to be in pretty good shape. Aboard were myself, Ellen, Scow member Elena, and her friend Jeff, as well as the little furry mascot, Casper. The first leg out the South River seems to always be motoring into the wind. Around Red #10 we raised sails and began beating out into a beautiful breeze (maybe 10 knots across the deck?). After a while, the tacks were even getting decent, except for one lapse of the skippers attention which resulted in a backed genoa. Out on the Bay, lunch was enjoyed in shifts, followed by turns at the wheel. Turning back toward Thomas Point Light on a broad reach, we were pleasantly surprised that there was still a bit of breeze, and we sailed up the South River until Red #14, reluctantly turning on the engine to drop sails for the dogleg back into Crab Creek. There were a few anxious moments when the roller furling gear jammed, but that was soon cleared and we made a slow but uneventful docking with Ellen at the wheel.

Shelby's 1999 SCOW Savvy Sailor Quiz

July 4, 1999

As they say on NPR, the questions have been painstakingly researched, but the answers have not.

1. What's a cringle?

2. Describe a Force Four on the Beaufort Scale (eg. Movement of branches, twigs, size of waves, amount of whitecaps, mph, knots.)
3. What is the difference between a cam cleat and a clam cleat?
4. What's the full name for the COLREGS and where do they apply?
5. Which shows more detail, a Large Scale chart or a Small Scale chart?
6. What approaching weather system is sometimes signaled by a halo or ring around the sun or moon?
7. "Red Sky in morning, Sailor take warning; Red Sky at night, Sailor's delight." Why?
8. To check speed of current, drop a floating object overboard and estimate the distance it travels in a set period of time relative to a stationary point like a buoy. How many feet per minute equals approx. 1 kn of current? [100] [75] [50] [25]
9. How do you extinguish a galley fire when you have an alcohol stove?
10. What's a yardarm? When is the sun over it? Why is that important to sailors?
11. Name three exceptions to the rule that sailboats have right of way over motorboats.
12. Sailing at night, you see a boat with three white masthead lights in a vertical line. It is far enough away to easily pass ahead or astern. Which of these two options should you choose? If you pick the wrong one, you will probably die.
13. What is Deviation? Why do you care if you're trying to get from Point A to Point B across the bay?
14. Annie and Brian each had identical daysailers and each were convinced that they were the fastest sailor. Because of conflicting work schedules, they were unable to have a match race. The Potomac river has a strong 5 knot current. They devised a challenge with the following provisions: A. The race is to be against time rather than against each other. B. Each person can choose his/her own time to sail. C. The distance is from the Wilson Bridge to abeam Mt. Vernon landing. D. It had to be completed within the next three days. Brian is self-employed and has a more flexible work schedule, so he waited until there was a nice 5 knot down river breeze, packed his cooler and set off on a lazy race. Annie, however, could not get away from her job until the third afternoon, and was confronted with, horrors, a dead calm. No quitter, she put her boat in the water, started her stop watch, and proceeded down current to the finish line. Who is the winner?
15. What do you do with a drunken sailor? Most creative answer wins the points.

New Members:

John Brennan, Leonard Collins, Tom Cummings, Neal Drobenare, Debbie Durbeck, Linda Haan, Janice Hohl, Ken Hohl, Andrew Maddox, Sara Maddox, Carlos Rodriguez, Lizzette Rodriguez, Sallie Schools, Judy Smith

Calendar

August

7 Capsize Course Series II, WSM, 9 AM

7 Crab Feast, WSM, 4 PM

11 Basic Sailing Session III, Land Class, 7:30-10:00, WSM Chart Room

14-15 Upper Bay Trip to St. Michaels

14 Basic Sailing Session III, Water Sessions, 8:00 -12:00 or 1:00-5:00, WSM

15 Basic Sailing Session III, Water Sessions, 8:00 -12:00 or 1:00-5:00, WSM

18 Basic Sailing Session III, Land Class, 8:00-10:30, WSM Afterdeck Café

21 Basic Sailing Session III, Water Sessions, 8:00 -12:00 or 1:00-5:00, WSM

21 Canoe Trip , Harper's Ferry, WV

22 Basic Sailing Session III, Water Sessions, 8:00 -12:00 or 1:00-5:00, WSM

25 Basic Sailing Session III, Land Class, 8:00-10:30, WSM Afterdeck Café

28 Basic Sailing Session III, Water Sessions, 8:00 -12:00 or 1:00-5:00, WSM

29 Basic Sailing Session III, Water Sessions, 8:00 -12:00 or 1:00-5:00, WSM TBA Intermediate Sailing Class, Land Classes: WSM Chart Room, Monday at 7:30, 2 Sessions: TBA Water Sessions: TBA

September

1 Basic Sailing Series III, Land Class, 7:30-10:00, WSM Chart Room

4-6 Labor Day Cruise, Lower Bay location TBA

11-12 Leukemia Cup, Washington Sailing Marina

18-19 Camp Letts Bay Rendezvous, Rhode River

22 Navigation Class Land Session, 7:30-10:00PM, WSM

26 Navigation Class Water Session, location TBA

25 Also Ran Regatta

25 Bay Day Sail

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

Board Meetings Open to all. Washington Sailing Marina (WSM) Chart Room, 1st Monday of every month, 7:30

Monthly Meeting American Legion Hall, Alexandria, 2nd Monday of every month (except December), Social Hour - 6:30, Program & Meeting - 7:30

Tuesday Night Flying Scot Races Washington Sailing Marina, 6PM - dark, April 27 - October 5th

Thursday Night Social Sail Washington Sailing Marina - 6:00, April 22nd - October 7th

Thursday Night Social No-Sail Location-TBA - 7:00, October 14th - April 2000

For information about club activities Call: 202.628.7245 (That's 628.SAIL) Visit us at: www.scow.org Write us: info@scow.org

Submissions to Channels: Submit articles to channels@scow.org by one week after the monthly meeting, Use any means, but email is preferred. Please! Just type or paste your articles into the body of an email message. We will format it for you. No Multiple tabs, No indents, No attachments, NO Kidding. Pony express, mail, etc are acceptable, but get it here (not just in the box) by deadline -ed.

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