
ChaNNels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington

December, 2001

Holiday Raftup Sunday, December 16 The Colonies

UnMeeting Reminder

There is no monthly membership meeting in December.

Our next monthly membership meeting will be on January 14, 2002, 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

Commodore's Log

Many years ago, a friend of mine who is a dedicated sailor did two things for which I am greatly in his debt. First, he helped me rig and launch my first boat, a 1974 Newport Holiday, which I bought used from a fellow who had it sitting in his yard (unsailed and covered with dead leaves for over six years) and which came without any information at all about rigging. Second, my friend told me about a club called "SCOW," which, he said was a good place to meet people in the DC area who liked to sail.

Well, the Newport was replaced by an American 14'6", which this year was replaced by a Precision 23, Needa Breeze. That "SCOW" thing he told me about, though, has not been replaced. When I joined the club, I immediately found it full of friendly people who shared my interest in sailing. Although I owned a boat when I joined, I learned a great deal about sailing from my fellow members. I took the cruising boat class and got checked out on Rebecca and Psycho, which served as my "big boats" until I bought my own cruising boat. I later got checked out on the Flying Scots, which serve as my day-sailors now that my American is gone. I enjoyed the Thursday Social Sails. I learned to race by crewing on the Flying Scots and the cruising boats at Tuesday night races, and now compete in the DICF races on Needa Breeze. My crew are members of the club. I enjoyed the social activities the club offers year-round. And, I made many new friends.

This is a great club, full of great people, dedicated to celebrating our love of sailing and sharing that love of sailing with others. It has been an honor to lead it as Commodore for the past two years. I have served with two outstanding Boards of Directors. In addition, many other members have given me their support by volunteering when asked, or by offering suggestions or criticisms to make the club better. The success of this club does not belong to one person or even to a few,

it is the accumulation of the efforts that we all make each year together. To all of you, I say thanks for what we have done together.

The 2001 Board has had a fun time together this year. Vice-Commodore Kathryn Scott was an unfailing source of enthusiasm and good humor and was always ready and willing to step in and help when I asked, as I often did. Secretary Gloria Spilker kept our minutes and carried out her other responsibilities with the occasional and able assistance of Special Assistant to the Secretary Jeremy Spilker. Treasurer Mary Bashore totally revamped the SCOW financial records, moving us from a Quicken-based program to a more streamlined Excel spreadsheet procedure and reorganizing the budget process.

Swingin' Social Chair Matt Gaston organized a top-notch season of social events, starting last February with the Caribbean Party, when he induced all of us to show up in the dead of winter wearing flip flops and Hawaiian shirts. Race Captain Bill Bernhards presented a full season of small and big-boat racing, starting with SCOW's first-ever Spring Tune-Up Regatta, which promises to be even bigger and better next year. Bill also organized last spring's Race Seminar, which brought nationally-known racer Tucker Thompson to the Marina in a session that solidified SCOW's reputation in the local racing community.

One of the least-recognized jobs in the club is that of Training Director, which often is an endless round of telephone calls to schedule, and reschedule trainers and students. Judi Campbell made those calls, kept her good humor, and made sure that our 2001 training program met the high standards for which the club is known. Another job that does not get enough recognition is that of Skipper Coordinator -- the person who mails the packets to prospective skippers, grades exams and schedules checkouts. Joan O'Kane did this job flawlessly and presided over a season that saw another bumper crop of new skippers.

River and Bay Director Jon Allen organized a full slate of river events and recruited the skippers to make them successful. Jon also worked hard to organize several Bay activities which, while not as well-attended as Jon had hoped, will serve as a good base for the 2002 Board to build on next year. And, last but not least, Maintenance Director Sergey Tagashov made sure that our SCOW fleet was in top condition. Segey's efforts showed his Russian heritage. He began the season with a Five Year Maintenance Plan, but then diligently attempted to do it all in his one-year term. He pretty much succeeded.

In the October Channels, I told you about some of the club's history and some of the people whose efforts over the years helped make this club what it is today. In the November Channels, I told you about some of the people whose work behind the scenes made the club a success this past year. In this issue, I've recognized the 2001 Board of Directors and their contributions. And, now, it is time to look forward to 2002. I have sailed and raced with Commodore-Elect Matt Gaston and his enthusiasm for SCOW is second to none. Serving with Matt next year will be a talented group of members, including two (!!!) former Commodores, some returning 2001 Board members, and many new faces as well. I hope that you will give Matt and his 2002 Board the same support that you have given to me and the 2000 and 2001 Boards.

Fair winds and following seas!

An Unintentional Omission

The Commodore's Log for November failed to mention Amy Plett, who decorated the Marina Bulletin Board and updated it throughout the entire season, making sure that a new schedule of club events was posted every month. The Commodore denies any link between this omission and his age.

SCOW Holiday Raft-up

Sunday, December 16th

5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

at the

Colonies

Attire

is "Holiday Festive Casual". Families and friends are welcome.

Admission

is a dish for the holiday potluck or \$10.00 per person. Please let the coordinator, Susan Batchelder (703-519-9844), know in advance whether you are bringing a dish or paying at the door.

Potluck dishes should feed approximately 6-8 people. We need: desserts, salads, casseroles, hors d'oeuvres, and bread/rolls. SCOW will provide the drinks (including non-alcoholic). We also need help with set-up and clean-up (Set-up: 4-5 p.m.).

Directions:

From the Capital Beltway (I-495), take the exit for Route 123 North (towards McLean). At the first light, turn RIGHT onto Old Meadow Road. Go approximately ¼ mile and the entrance to the Colonies will be on your LEFT. Tell the Guard you are attending the SCOW party. The Clubhouse is the first building on the left after the guardhouse. You may park in any space that is not marked "Reserved."

Looking forward to seeing lots of holiday faces at this annual gathering! Please! Remember to RSVP (703-519-9844) and let me know what you are bringing or if you're going to pay at the door.

Election Results

The votes have been tallied and the following members will be leading our club next year:

**Commodore - Matt Gaston,
Vice Commodore - Susan Batchelder,
Secretary - Betsy Troeder,
Treasurer - Patricia Seaton,**

**Directors -
Jon Allen,
Bill Bernhards,
Gordon Cameron,
Donna Cohen,
Barry Dunsmoor and
Shonika Proctor.**

Congratulations and Fair Winds next year!

Dale Eager Awarded Blankfield Award

The Al Blankfield Award is given annually to recognize one member who has given outstanding service to the club during the past year. The award is named for the late Al Blankfield, who served the club in many capacities, including Commodore, and is recalled by his friends in the club as someone who was "always there" when something needed done. Former recipients of the award have been: Rick Peters ('94), Barbara Ullman ('95), George Umberger ('96), Thom Unger ('97), Denise Malueg ('98), Larry Gemoets ('99) and Kelly Bowers ('00). The 2001 recipient is Dale Eager, who was selected by the Board of Directors for his service this year as the "go to" person in a variety of ways, including serving as the New Member Coordinator and as SCOW's liaison to the Leukemia Cup Regatta. Congratulations and thanks to Dale for his contribution to the club this year.

Thom Unger Awarded Abramson Award

The Elli Abramson Award is given annually to recognize one member who has given outstanding service to the club for an extended period. The award is named for the late Elli Abramson (after whom our boat, Ms Elli is named), who, among other contributions, was Commodore twice and was active in the club's training program and wrote much of the training material we still use today. Past recipients have been: Marilyn Wilson ('92), Sam Schaen ('93), Al Blankfield ('94), Pat Derry ('95), Stuart Ullman ('96), Declan Conroy ('97), Joe DePoorter ('98), Monica Maynard ('99) and Larry Gemoets ('00). The 2001 recipient is Thom Unger, who was selected by the Board of Directors for his dedication and service to the club over an extended period. Thom has served as Training Director, Vice-Commodore and, in 1999, as

Commodore. In 1997, Thom received the Al Blankfield award. Thom has been active in training on both the Flying Scots and the cruising boats and has lent his hand in many maintenance projects. In addition, for the past several years, he has organized the club's Capsize Course and our participation in the Alexandria Waterfront Festival. Congratulations and thanks to Thom for his many years of dedicated service to the club.

SCOW Says Thanks To Channels Editor Larry Gemoets Commodore Jay Weitzel

The December 2001 issue marks the final issue with Larry Gemoets as Editor. Larry took on the job of Editor early in 1997 on a "temporary" basis until a full-time editor could be found. Periodically, a request for a new volunteer went out, but nobody answered the call; so, for nearly five years, Larry continued doing this "temporary" job and did it wonderfully. In addition to normal editorial duties, Larry saved the club money by using bulk mail rates and developed the process in which the entire ChaNNels production effort is done electronically via email. Larry has also assisted in printing and mailing the annual membership directories. On behalf of the Boards of Directors of 1997 through 2001 with which he worked, and on behalf of the entire membership of the club, I want to extend grateful "Thanks!" to Larry for nearly five years of service in his "temporary" job. At sea, a flaghoist displaying "Bravo Zulu" signifies "Well Done" and that salute would be most fitting for Larry. Starting with the January 2002 issue, Joan O'Kane will take on the Editor duties. Kelly Griffin will continue to be the Layout Editor.

SCOW's Spectacular Hail And Farewell!

One hundred members dressed up in their finest and gathered at the Fort Myer Officers' Club on November 17, 2000 for the Hail and Farewell. This was a sell-out crowd for our annual gala event. Thanks go to Betsy Troeder and her committee -- Mary Bashore, Julia Clones, Tina Daberkow, June Doezema, Melissa Ennis, Anne LaLena, Rob Langford, Ben Lesser, Denise Malueg, BJ McMillan, Karen Plett, Cathryn Sacra, George Umberger and Kara Wald -- who made the evening one to remember. Thanks also to Anne LaLena's phone tree volunteers: Mary Bashore, Susan Batchelder, Bill Clark, Dale Eager, Cathy Hess, Brian Lee, Ben Lesser, Joan O'Kane, Amy Plett, Sharon Schoumacher and Alice Starke.

The evening began (appropriately for a SCOW function) with drinks and socializing. Next came a sit-down dinner, followed by awards and the ceremonial passing of the helm to the new Board. Then our members put on their "dancin' shoes" and hit the dance floor until midnight to music that spanned the decades from the '40's to today. A silent auction was conducted throughout the evening, with members outbidding one another for such goodies as an apartment in Athens, Greece, for a week, a massage, a vintage Girl Scout uniform, paintings and photographs. And, the "Five Skippers" gave every attendee a bottle of ale brewed especially for the occasion.

Commodore Jay Weitzel thanked the members of his 2001 Board and recognized several other people for their contributions during the year. Vice-Commodore Kathryn Scott recognized members who had made presentations at our monthly meetings. Skipper Coordinator Joan O'Kane recognized the check-out skippers and those who became skippers this year. Training Director Judi Campbell thanked the Training and Skipper Certification Committee and awarded training jackets to trainers who had given 20 hours for the first time this year. Bay Director Jon Allen awarded SCOW burgees to Bay Skippers who had attended at least one Bay Raft-Up this

year. Maintenance Director Sergey Tagashov awarded t-shirts emblazoned with "The Proud, The Few, The SCOW Maintenance Crew" to members who had made special contributions to the maintenance program.

Thom Unger received the Elli Abramson Award and Dale Eager received the Al Blankfield Award. (Details are in accompanying articles.) Commodore-elect Matt Gaston then introduced the members of his 2002 Board of Directors. In addition to presenting Matt with a traditional Commodore's burgee, Commodore Jay Weitzel presented Matt with a stunning new Commodore's Hat, sure to distinguish its wearer at any SCOW function as the leader of our great club. In his first public utterance to the club as Commodore-elect, Matt remarked that he was anxiously anticipating the 2002 Hail and Farewell when he could pass the Hat on to his successor.

If you missed this great event -- or if you were one of those who waited until the last minute and found the event sold out -- you will want to make sure you attend next year.

Psycho and Rebecca Maintenance Update

Our cruising boat, Psycho, is a 24-foot Yankee Dolphin. The October 2001 issue of Chesapeake Bay Magazine contained an article by Dick Rosse, entitled "Falling In Love Again (and Again)" recounting his love affair with his own 24-foot Yankee Dolphin sloop, Kalea, which he bought, sold, bought again, sold again, and then bought back a third time. The Yankee Dolphin was designed by Sparkman & Stevens, a famous yacht design group. It was first built by O'Day, then by Yankee Yachts and, finally, by the Pacific Yacht Company. The three companies produced 270 Yankee Dolphins. In addition to Psycho, there are two other Yankee Dolphins kept at the Marina. The following brief excerpt from his article will give you an idea of why the Yankee Dolphin is considered a classic design:

"[The Yankee Dolphin is] bulletproofed with the kind of piled-on fiberglass layers the better boatbuilders used back then. Below, the builder was improvident with his extravagant use of teak and cherry wood. Every inch of space was thoughtfully utilized, and the boat really did look roomier than her spec sheet indicated.

"I was shamed into campaigning her by the weekend beer-can racing guys at the local yacht club. 'She's a go-fast,' I was repeatedly told. So we raced, we went fast and collected a mess of tin cups. Over the years, I learned that the sisters of this mighty midget had cleaned clocks in many prestigious races, from Lake Michigan to New Zealand. But my greatest joy was taking her out on the river or Bay and letting her find the wind. . . . Back at the helm, you felt bonded to this little beauty. Everything seemed to fit, both on the boat and with the universe."

With those thoughts in mind, here is an update on our own Yankee Dolphin, Psycho, since the last edition of ChaNNels. The Board voted to have Psycho hauled and professionally surveyed and asked the Boat Asset Committee to make recommendations concerning repairing or replacing the boat. The surveyor advised the club that Psycho is structurally sound and should give the club good service for five to ten more years. The Boat Asset Committee also looked at the market value of Psycho and of possible replacement boats. Given the expected life of Psycho

and the cost of replacing the boat, the Board voted to adopt the Boat Asset Committee recommendation to spend up to \$4000 of Boat Asset Fund monies to repair and upgrade Psycho in several areas that will make her pleasant both to look at and to cruise on. These include: repairing the leaking toe rail, replacing the old non-standard winches, installing a one-burner stove and water tank, painting the deck, repairing various areas of the cabin trim, installing a vent fan, and installing a new four-stroke engine. Psycho received a new coat of bottom paint while she was out of the water and groups will be working on these other projects over the winter.

As described in November's ChaNNels, the club still intends to have Rebecca hauled and professionally surveyed this fall. If the survey concludes that the boat is structurally sound, the boat will be out of the water all winter for repair of blisters on her hull.

SCOW Says "Thanks!"

SCOW says "Thanks!" to: everyone who worked to make the Hail and Farewell such a rousing success; Stuart Ullman for preparing the report of the Boat Asset Committee; Monica Maynard, Stuart Ullman and Barby Ullman for painting the bottom and the trim work on Psycho; and Susan Batchelder for volunteering to plan the Holiday Raft-Up.

From the Skipper Coordinator Joan O'Kane

Congratulations to Jane Farthing for being the newest Flying Scot skipper! Thanks again to all of the checkout skippers, new skippers, potential skippers, and everyone else who made this such a special year! I hope my successor finds being the skipper coordinator as rewarding as I did.

Bay Jon Allen

The fowl-weather raftup in Leadenham was a great success with great weather. Three boats attended:

"Lady-in Red" with Allan Lewis as skipper. "Voyager" with Declan Conroy as skipper. "Helios" with Bob Beckman as skipper.

The return trip was marked by 18-20 knots of wind which made for a great sail home.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all who have participated with their boats:

Jack Schwartz Bob Beckman
Stu Robinson Jeff Teitel
Pat Derry Jack & Nikki Goodman
Len Zuza Don Deese

Monica Maynard Allen Lewis
Declan Conroy Bruce and BJ McMillan

Racing News Bill Bernhards

As racing and sailing in our area draws to a close I just wanted to thank the many skippers and crew who have made this past season so much fun. Special thanks go to all of the skippers who raced in the Tuesday night Scot races. Because of their efforts many SCOW members, old and new, got a chance to get out on the water and learn many new skills.

I also enjoyed the e-mails from SCOW members sent to me about their experiences. One new member wrote: "I have nothing but praise for the way the Scot races have been run. I think it's wonderful not to turn anyone away, even though having a crew of 5 on a Scot is clearly not what the boat really likes". I thought that this member summed up what SCOW is all about and that is people helping people becoming better sailors and friends and not turning anyone away.

Next season will bring many more opportunities for racing. SCOW will continue to encourage everyone to get out on the water and enjoy the club's resources. There isn't a better way to go sailing or racing for such an inexpensive price. I hope I see all of my old friends and make many more new ones next season.

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 it's assigned place.

Submit articles to

channels@scow.org

within one week after the monthly meeting.

ChaNNels

can also be read at:

<http://www.scow.org>

Kelly E. Griffin, Layout Editor (the hard part)

Declan Conroy, Web Publisher

Kim Webb, Labels

Larry Gemoets, Chief Executive Editor

(I dress up the electronic edition too)

That's all, folks.....