

ChaNNels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington

December 2002

Reminder: No Members Meeting in December

SCOW's regular monthly meetings will resume on Monday, January 13, 2003. 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.

Stay tuned to the January issue of ChaNNels to find out who our first speaker of the new year will be!

Commodore's Log

Wow! Has it really been a year since Jay gave me that hat?!?!

And what a year it's been! The board retreat; social no-sails at Chadwick's; Gary Jobson; working on Rebecca; Stu's racing seminar (at my office - how cool is that?); re-upping; training the trainers; maintenance day; sailing the Spring Tune-Up on Needa Breeze (and discovering how much tuning up was really required); Tucker Thompson; the Volvo Ocean Race; picnicking at Len and Karen's house in Solomons; offshore passages in bouncy seas; Tuesday night racing; social sails where the weather didn't quite cooperate; five (five!) Bay raftups; cruising on the river; watching a boat lose its mast during one of the windiest nights I've ever sailed; crab feasting; Thom Unger, fashion model; cooking brats on a hot summer night; lots and lots of sailing classes; racing on Rebecca; learning about Olympic catamaran racing; and finally a fabulous Hail and Farewell! Can all this have happened in ONE year?

Some of those things I had a hand in - but most of them were thanks to the great volunteers that work their tails off for SCOW. I'm probably not going to remember everyone, in fact, I'm sure as soon as I send this I'll forget about someone - so I'm asking in advance for forgiveness. But I'd like to thank the following folks:

Our board - Susan, Betsy, Pat, Donna, Barry, Bill, Jon, Gordon and Shonika - all of you deserve credit for making this a memorable year. Thanks for coming through!

Joan - thanks for all your work on Channels (and thanks for kicking us in the you-know-what when we didn't get our articles in on time).

Len and Mike - it was indeed an Excellent Adventure. I'll always remember my first offshore passage. And thanks to Rob, Sergey and Liz for being such fun shipmates.

Phil and Amy - thanks for riding herd over Social Sail.

Jay - thanks for being there with sage advice, or sometimes just the patience to sit through my ventilating. Plus, lots and lots of racing.

Stuart - thanks to your leadership and elbow grease, Rebecca's in great shape.

Barby - once again, you were a bastion of institutional knowledge about the training program.

Thom - thanks for being patient when I had to say "no." And thanks for sailing with us that day anyway.

Dale - thanks for being our "rush chairman" - I'm sure you had something to do with our membership numbers being up this year.

Jeff - your enthusiasm proved to be the tide that lifted our Bay program back to prominence! That was one of the things I really wanted to see happen on my watch and you helped make it happen!

Melissa and Seth - we had quite a few laughs racing, didn't we?

Patti - thanks for putting up with me slipping off to the marina all those days and nights.

And George - thanks for taking over. You even seem to like the hat!

This year was indeed an experience! I learned a lot - some of it about sailing, boat maintenance and racing; some of it about diplomacy, friendship and fun!

*****NEW DATE / SAME LOCATION*****

Holiday Raft-Up **Sunday, January 5**

Because the original date for the Holdiday Raft-Up fell over Thanksgiving weekend, the board decided to re-schedule to a more convenient date. And since the new date is before Twelfth Night, it's STILL part of the holidays!

SCOW's annual Holiday Raft-up will now be held on Sunday, January 5th from 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Colonies Condominium clubhouse in McLean (Provincial Drive, off Old Meadow Road, off Route 123 - just inside the Beltway.).

The exact address (for you MapQuest people) is 7700 Provincial Drive, McLean, VA 22102. The phone number is 703-821-9391.

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

Admission is a dish for the holiday potluck. Please let the coordinator, Susan Batchelder (703-519-9844), know in advance what sort of dish you are bringing. If you absolutely DO NOT know how to cook and DO NOT even have time to pick up chips & salsa at Giant, we will still let you in - for \$10.00 per person.

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 TO THE COLONIES: 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 Susan know what you are bringing or if you're going to pay at the door.

Call for Speakers and Programs

Susan Batchelder

As we get into the 2003 season, it is my pleasure again to put together the monthly membership meeting programs.

I want to take this opportunity to put out a general request to the membership for ideas on what programs or speakers you would like to hear in 2003. Plus, if you've taken an interesting sailing trip (recently or a while ago) and have slides of your adventures, why don't you share them with the group?! We love living vicariously all sorts of sailing adventures.

I really welcome your input and suggestions. If you know someone who you think would make a good speaker, please let me know, or have him or her contact me. I can be reached at 703.919.8359 (cell/voice mail) or by email at vice@scow.org.

SCOW Says Congratulations!

...to Blankfield Award Recipient Neil Shepherd

The Al Blankfield Award is given annually to recognize a SCOW member who has given outstanding service to the club during the past year.

This year's recipient is Neil Shepherd, who was selected by the Board of Directors for his many hours of service this year to our training program, including serving as an instructor for both the land and water classes.

This 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.

Past recipients have been:

Rick Peters ('94)
Barbara Ullman ('95)
George Umberger ('96)
Thom Unger ('97)
Denise Malueg ('98)
Larry Gemoets ('99)
Kelly Bowers ('00)
Dale Eager ('01)

Thanks for all your hard work, Neil!

...to Abramson Award Recipient Jay Weitzel

The Elli Abramson Award is given annually to recognize a SCOW member who has given outstanding service to the club over an extended period of time.

The 2002 recipient is Jay Weitzel. He has served two terms as Commodore, is now serving on the Boat Asset Committee and as a trainer, and has been a long-term fixture at Maintenance Days, Social Sails and river cruises.

This award is named for the late Elli Abramson (for whom our boat Ms Elli is named). Like Jay, she served as Commodore twice, was active in the training program, and also 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)
Larry Gemoets ('00)
Thom Unger ('01)

Thanks for everything you do, Jay!

...to the 2003 Board of Directors

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

Officers

Commodore – George Umberger
Vice Commodore - Susan Batchelder
Secretary – Monika O'Connor
Treasurer – Graham Leadbetter

Directors

Kris Bieg - Training
Tom Hannan – Maintenance
Rob Langford – Social Activities
Steve Linke – Skippers
Jeff Teitel – Bay & River Activities
Kara Wald - Racing

SCOW Says Thanks!

...to the outgoing Board of Directors for another fun and successful year. SCOW gets better every year!

...to Kelly Griffin for three years of dedicated service as the Layout Editor of ChaNNels. We wish Kelly the best of luck as she pursues other interests and hopefully gets to attend more SCOW events.

...to Chris Chubb for volunteering to serve as the new Layout Editor. Starting with the January issue, we will all be the beneficiaries of Chris' enthusiasm and talent.

Another Outstanding Hail & Farewell!

Over 90 SCOW members and guests dressed up in their finest and gathered at the Fort Myer Officers' Club on November 16, 2002 to say "Hail" to next year's board and "Farewell" to this year's board. Attendees included a mix of Hail & Farewell regulars as well as first time attendees. As usual, a good time was had by all.

The evening began with drinks and socializing. (What SCOW event doesn't?) Next came a sit-down dinner, followed by awards and the presentation of the 2003 Board. Then attendees found their land legs and hit the dance floor until midnight. A silent auction was conducted throughout the evening, with participants outbidding one another for a number of nautical goodies.

During the program, Commodore Matt Gaston thanked the members of his 2002 Board and recognized several other people for their contributions during the year. Training Director Donna Cohen (with musical accompaniment from the DJ) awarded pullovers to trainers who gave over 20 hours of service for the first time this year and t-shirts to other significant contributors. River and Bay Director Jon Allen presented SCOW burgees to skippers who made special contributions to this year's river and Bay activities. Hail & Farewell Chair, assisted by Social Director Shonika Proctor, recognized the volunteers who helped organize the Hail & Farewell as well as other SCOW events.

Jay Weitzel received the Elli Abramson Award and Neil Shepherd received the Al Blankfield Award. (See articles elsewhere in this issue.) Commodore-elect George Umberger introduced the members of next year's board. In addition to passing on the traditional Commodore's barge, Matt gleefully presented George with the soon-to-be-traditional Commodore's Hat, which he has been waiting an entire year to pass on.

Thanks for this successful event go to Betsy Troeder and her committee – Donna Cohen and Melissa Ennis (Decorations), Rob Langford (Silent Auction), Patti Gaston (Printed Materials), Alice Starcke (Scrapbooks) and Shonika Proctor (Phone Tree). Thanks also to Shonika's phone tree volunteers: Susan Batchelder, Bill Bernhards, Liz Bruening, Matt Gaston, Tom Hannan, Joan O'Kane, George Umberger and Thom Unger.

If you missed this great event, what were you thinking?? Be sure and be there next year!

Fowl-Weather Raft-Up Wrap-Up

Allan Lewis, Raftmaster

SCOW celebrated the end of the sailing season with its traditional Fowl Weather Raft-Up on October 19th & 20th. The weather cooperated, with 20+ knot winds out of the southwest on Saturday, which gave several of us a great ride across the bay!

Five boats joined the raft-up in Granary Creek, off the Wye East River. "Sea Frog" was skippered by Monica Maynard (thanks, Jeff!), "Odyssey" by Jack Schwartz, "Breakaway" by Sharon Smith, "Seanchai" by Pat Derry with Geoffrey Byrd & family, and I skippered "Lady-in-Red".

All boats arrived safely, but not all under their own power. "Breakaway" had some battery problems and could not start her engine, but this gave Sharon an excellent opportunity to show off her sailing skills by navigating all the way up the narrow Wye East River under sail.

No small feat. Some skippers, who shall go nameless, have been known to run aground in these waters even with the propeller turning, in raft-ups long, long ago.

"Lady-in-Red" was able to give "Breakaway" a tow into Granary Creek, where she joined the raft-up without a hiccup. Monica was gracious enough to let Jack remove the battery from "Sea Frog" and temporarily install it in "Breakaway" so that Sharon could fire-up her engine and

charge the one remaining good battery. The extra effort paid off. "Breakaway"'s engine started with ease Sunday morning and she was able to leave the raft-up under her own power.

The winds for the sail home were not so good, fading out completely after lunch, so we had to motor much of the way across the bay. Still, it was a very enjoyable weekend for all, and one more chance to sail on the bay before the really cold weather keeps us ashore until the spring.

Thanks to everyone who participated!

Bay Activities

Jon Allen

2002 has been a banner year for SCOW's Bay program, after a few years of decline. Several SCOW members made worked very hard to make the Bay program once again a part of SCOW life. I am sure this team of people (and anyone else who wants to help) will make next year a success as well.

The following skippers were honored with SCOW burgees at the Hail & Farewell for their contributions to the Bay program:

Jeff Teitel - Organized and promoted most of this year's Bay raft-ups.

Len Zuza - The organizer of the Baltimore trip and co-leader of the Cape Code trip.

Mike Geissinger – Co-leader of the Cape Cod trip. His presentations to the club have galvanized interest in Bay and blue water sailing.

Allan Lewis – Annually leads the Fowl Weather Raft-Up, a perennial favorite in the Bay program.

Pat Derry – Always a supporter of and contributor to any Bay event.

I would like to thank all of them for a job well done!

River Activities

Jon Allen

The main purpose of SCOW's river program is to take new members and others who might not have the opportunity out on SCOW's cruising boats. The fleet of boats owned by SCOW members has grown in recent years, so we've also been able to take advantage of their hospitality.

I didn't keep complete statistics, but we had a river cruise at least once every six weeks plus 2 raft-ups at Smoots Cove. On average we had 4 cruising boats go out per river cruise.

I want to thank all the skippers who volunteered to take Psycho and Rebecca out as well those skippers who took members out on their own boats. The following skippers received burgees at the Hail & Farewell for exceptional contributions to SCOW's river events: Bill Bernhards, Donna Cohen, Dale Eager, Graham Leadbetter and Jay Weitzel

I am sure that we will see many of the same faces next year as we look forward to more and better river events.

Skipper Coordinator News

Barry Dunsmoor

I would like to thank all those people who volunteered to checkout new skippers this year. They took time out of their weekends, their weeknights and sometimes even weekdays, to help other club members take the step to skippering their own boat. Our dedicated checkout skippers this year were: Elizabeth Bruening, Declan Conroy, Joe Depoorter, Larry Gemoetz, Jim Metcalf, Jeff Teitel and Stuart Ullman. I think that is everyone that actually checked people out this year. If I am wrong and I missed you, I sincerely apologize.

I also want to congratulate all the people that became new skippers this year. Just remember those Policies and Procedures they have YOUR safety in mind! New skippers this year were: Phil Bender, Donna Cohen (Cruisers), Sean Elkin, Diann Fishbein, Duke Gard, Matt Gaston, Matt Gillman, Paul Hahn, Tom Holmes, David Johnson, Robert Langford, Steve Linke (Cruisers), Catherine Marquette, Monika O'Connor, John Roland, Robert Spencer, Brad Taylor and Ellen Thompson

Farewell to all from the outgoing skipper coordinator. I thank you for an interesting year in which I learned to appreciate all that the board members go through during the year.

Good luck to the future board! Have a great year! Ciao!

Racing News

Bill Bernhards

As racing and sailing in our area draws to a close, I just want 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.

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.

Winter Boat Use

Steve Linke, the incoming Skipper Coordinator, would like to remind all SCOW skippers that SCOW's rules allow the boats to be taken out through the winter, if the weather permits and you are up for it.

Psycho has been hauled out for maintenance, but Rebecca and the three Flying Scots are ready and waiting for hardy souls.

So be safe but feel free to enjoy. Dress warmly, and on the Scots be prepared for some chilly spray over the bow.

Holiday Boat Parades

Annapolis

The Eastport Yacht Club will hold its annual Lights Parade on Saturday, December 14 at 6:00 p.m. 70 boats are expected to participate in this 20th anniversary event with the theme "A Traditional Christmas".

Share in the celebration as EYC gives this parade as a holiday gift to its neighbors and the city of Annapolis. For more information, including suggestions on parking and shuttle buses, visit the EYC's web site at <http://www.eastportyc.org/LightsParade/default.htm>

Washington, DC

Don't forget the Historic Harbors Holiday Parade of Boats Weekend on Saturday, December 7 and Sunday, December 8 in Old Town Alexandria and Georgetown. For more information, see the November issue of ChaNNels or visit the Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association web site at http://www.funside.com/news_releases.asp.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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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.

ChaNNels can also be read at: <http://www.scow.org>

Joan O'Kane, Editor

Kelly E. Griffin, Layout Editor

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That's all folks...