

# ChaNNels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington  
December 2006 – 40<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary

## Commodore's Log

By Jan Earle, SCOW 2006 Commodore

This month's column is the last opportunity I will have as Commodore to promote stronger member volunteerism in SCOW. As you have heard me say many times in this column, our viability and continuity as an organization is founded principally on the voluntary contributions of time, skill, and enthusiasm provided by our members.

Many long-time and new members are still uncertain about what volunteer opportunities are available to them in SCOW, so I hope the information in this column will lead to more of you "finding a niche" in the administration and activities of the club. Most of these committees and teams require experienced members with knowledge of the club's rules, programs and resources, but they all also need new members to gain experience and become the experienced members of the future. We all check those boxes on our annual membership application but don't wait from someone to call you! Pursue your own interests by contacting the program or persons discussed below.

On page 3 of your 2006 Membership Directory, you will find a list of committees and volunteer teams that present a wide variety of opportunities to serve the club. Members who serve on these committees and teams are appointed by the Board. But don't wait for the Officers or Directors to ask you to serve; contact them and offer to help! "New blood" is needed to relieve members who have served for multiple administrations.

The **ChaNNels Team** needs not only an editor and a computer layout person, it needs people willing to submit pictures, information, articles, and reports to keep the membership informed. So those of you who always wanted to try your hand as a journalist or gossip columnist, this is your big chance!

This team, along with the Email and Web Team (below), is critical to the timely exchange of information within the Club. Contact Karen Szymczak (2006 editor) or Wayne Williams (2006 layout guru).

The **New Member Coordinators** are generally people who understand what it feels like to be new to a group and are willing to help make that experience less difficult for others. They are willing to answer email inquiries about SCOW, greet visitors at Social Sail, and help with orientation for new members at monthly meetings. If you don't know much about SCOW programs and activities when you start, you certainly will "know it all" by the end of the year! Contact Jan Earle, Melissa Ennis, or former Commodores.

The **Email and Web Team** is generally handled by members who have done this job year after year. But they also welcome assistance because it's a big job and because we frequently need to update our services. Those of you with website and email design and troubleshooting skills are especially encouraged to step forward and help out here. Contact Jeff Teitel (Postmaster), Peg O'Laughlin (Webmaster), or Monika O'Connor (Website guru).

The **Boatique program** is the source of our t-shirts, golf shirts, jackets, and hats with SCOW insignia. Bill Bernhards works for a company that specialized in these items and has handled the orders for several years now. However, he can always use a helper to answer inquiries, promote the items, collect orders, and deliver the items. Contact Bill if you wish to assist him.

The **Boat Asset Committee**, as defined in the Bylaws, consists of a minimum of six club members, including the Maintenance Director, one other Board member, and two club members who own their own boats.  
(continued on page 2)

## Table of Contents

|                      |   |                            |   |                    |   |
|----------------------|---|----------------------------|---|--------------------|---|
| Commodore's Log      | 1 | Election Results           | 3 | Editor Needed      | 3 |
| Social Events        | 4 | Sailing Terminology        | 4 | January Meeting    | 4 |
| Hail and Farewell    | 5 | Fall Maintenance Day       | 6 | Anniversary Poster | 6 |
| Parade of Lights     | 7 | Maintenance Report         | 7 | Racing Report      | 7 |
| Racing Schooner Ride | 8 | Sailing Terminology Review | 8 | Help the Editor    | 8 |

## **Commodore's Log** *(continued from page 1)*

Committee members meet three to four times a year or as needed, submit a year-end report to the Board, and may spend time evaluating club boats or boats considered for purchase. Contact Jay Weitzel (2006 Chairman), John Roland, or Barry Dunsmoor.

The **Training and Skipper Certification Committee**, as defined in the Bylaws, consists of a minimum of five club members, including at least one past Training Director. It advises and assists the Training and Skipper Directors in establishing the standards and procedures for training and skipper certification, for appointment and removal of trainers and checkout skippers, and for the review of accidents or violations of boat use privileges. The committee meets as needed – usually about three to four times a year. Members with experience or knowledge of teaching or training, water safety, sailing curriculum, or human resources issues are encouraged to volunteer. Contact Joe DePoorter (2006 Chairman), Mike Geissinger, Jan Earle, or Mary Bashore.

The **Audit Committee** is defined by the Bylaws and conducts a once-per-year audit of the club's financial records. It is usually composed of the Chairman (Auditor) and one or two assistants. The annual audit is usually conducted no later than February or March (for the previous year) and takes the committee about a day. A written report is presented to the Board, with a summary published in ChaNNels. Members with bookkeeping or other financial skills and experience are encouraged to serve on this committee. Contact Jack Weaver (2006 Chairman), Dorothy Stocks, or Mary Bashore.

The **Bylaws Committee**, headed by former Commodore Jay Weitzel, updated our Bylaws during the past few years so that there was very little to do during 2006 other than advise the Board. However, there appears to be one or two issues to be considered during 2007 that will require the work of a Bylaws Committee. Those of you with previous club administration experience or legal knowledge would be valuable here. Contact Jay Weitzel.

The **Maintenance Bosuns Team** assists the Maintenance Director and provides timely, personalized care for each of SCOW's boats and the storage lockers. Each boat has a Chief Bosun who leads a Bosun Team, evaluating maintenance needs and conducting repairs and upkeep between the regular maintenance days in April, July and October.

In addition, there are usually two or three "floating bosuns" who do as-needed maintenance on any of the boats, as well as a "locker bosun." This is a wonderful opportunity to learn to do simple boat repairs, but members with specialized skills (motors, woodworking, and painting) are needed, too. Contact Wayne Williams (2006 Maintenance Director), John Roland, Lynne Russillo, or Alice Starcke (locker bosun).

The **Racing Committee** advises and assists the Racing Director and the Training and Skipper Directors in establishing the standards and procedures for skippers and crew who race on SCOW boats, and for the review of accidents or violations of racing rules. Committee members meet to discuss issues and make decisions as well as planning racing crew hands-on training workshops for club members. Members with experience or knowledge of racing are encouraged to volunteer but racing experience is not required. Contact Bill Bernhards or Barry Dunsmoor.

The **Membership Directory Team** assists the Membership Coordinator to compile, format, print, and mail the club membership directory. Current practice involves mailing a new directory in June and providing a New Members and Update supplement in the fall. Most assistance involves proofreading, contacting members to verify questionable information, and mailing preparation. Contact Monika O'Connor.

The **Nominating Committee**, as defined by the Bylaws, consists of at least five club members, including at least one past Commodore, one member of the Board, and one non-Board Club member. Beginning in August, the committee members begin scouting the membership for candidates for the next year's Board, and after confirming the candidates, the team prepares and mails the ballots. The committee counts the ballots at the November Annual Membership Meeting and announces the elected Officers and Directors. The team also prepares ballot initiatives for changes to the Bylaws. This is a great opportunity to get to know other members and to participate in the electoral process. Contact Jan Earle, Steve Linke, Barb Ullman, or Bill Bernhards.

The **Tutoring Coordinator** assists the Training and Skipper Directors by administrating a program that links members who have passed their written skipper exam (skipper candidates) with skippers who are willing to take them out in the boats to practice for their water exam. (continued on page 3)

## **Commodore's Log** *(continued from page 2)*

It primarily involves email messaging. Contact Ed Venere (2006 Tutoring Coordinator).

The **Photo Site Coordinator** collects members' electronic pictures of club events and posts them on the SCOW Photo Site. Both website maintenance and photo collection and identification assistance are needed. Contact Mike Rothenberg (2006 Photo Site Coordinator).

Finally, each of the Directors – Training, Skipper, Social, Maintenance, Racing, and River/Bay – also needs assistants to help carry their heavy workloads. Sometimes they need help only for a special event, such as a party, a training course, a checkout day, a maintenance day, race registration or committee boat, or a raft-up. But each also has work that you could help with on a regular basis throughout the year, like records update, inventory, skippering, and teaching or tutoring. Even picking up the club's mail at the post office box (in DC) or updating the marina bulletin board on a regular basis would be very helpful. As with any job, reliability and follow-through are more important than skills and experience. Contact the officers or the directors if you have time you would like to contribute to SCOW.

I have really enjoyed my year as Commodore of SCOW and I feel highly honored to have been chosen to serve during this 40th Anniversary year. I wish to thank sincerely all those members who contributed their time and skills to make this year so successful and so memorable. I look forward to sharing with all of you the beginning of SCOW's 5th decade of fun on the water and on the land.

*Fair Winds!*

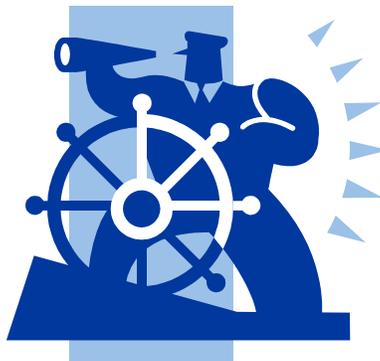
*Commodore Jan Earle*

## **Election Results**

The results of the Board Election were announced at the November Annual Meeting by SCOW Auditor Jack Weaver, who headed up the ballot counting with the assistance of Director Dorothy Stocks, and Brigitte Conway. Our 2007 Board members are:

Commodore John Rogers  
Vice Commodore Tom Paquin  
Secretary Lisa Mehlin  
Treasurer Jenn Kamm  
Director Dot Almassy (Social)  
Director – Karen Szymczak (Training)  
Director – Susan Berman (Skipper)  
Director – Bill Davenport (Maintenance)  
Director – Wayne Williams (River/Bay)  
Director – Adam Pressman (Racing)

Thanks to Maggie Nelson for standing for election as Secretary; it was nice to have two candidates for at least one office this year. Kudos also go to the Nominating Committee: Chris von Guggenberg, Kathy Kurtz, Director Dorothy Stocks, and former Commodore Steve Linke.



### **EDITOR NEEDED**

Want to be the first to know everything that is happening in SCOW? Good at English? Hate meetings? Then work at home and be our next ChaNNels newsletter editor! Two weeks off every month! Knowledge of MS Word and e-mail access required.

Contact Adam Pressman, the current editor at [channels06@scow.org](mailto:channels06@scow.org) for further information.

## **Winter Social Events**

**What: Desert Navigation & the Star of Bethlehem**

**When: Saturday, December 16, noon to 4:00 pm**

**Where: Constellation in Baltimore**

Explore the impact desert travelers had on maritime navigation. Join LCDR Rick Gay, USCG, as he explains the contributions made by desert navigators to their oceanic cousins, including various instruments used to obtain the height of the sun or stars when determining a ship's position. Included in this engaging conversation is an exploration of the Star of Bethlehem – fact or fiction – and who the Wise Men were.

RSVP to Wayne Williams if interested in attending and then dining in the Baltimore Inner Harbor as a SCOW River event!

**What: After Glow Party**

**When: Saturday, January 6, 2007, 7 pm**

**Where: The Colonies of McLean**

Come and enjoy an evening with your fellow SCOW members after the holidays. This is a great way to kick off the new year. The party was changed to Saturday night, so we don't have the pressures of Monday work. This will be a true potluck...even the music is potluck ....Dan Tuite(Guitar) and Lisa Mehlin (violin) welcome additional musicians to join them. We'll also have a boom box available for dancing. The Afterglow will be at the Colonies at McLean (just inside the beltway from Tysons (off Route123) on January 6th, 2007. This is a Saturday night...so let's have a great time and chase away the winter winds.

SCOW Members and guests \$10.00 each (includes 2 drink tickets). SCOW Members and guests \$0 with significant potluck contribution. (includes 2 drink tickets) Additional drink tickets will be available 2 for \$5.00.

There will be beer, wine and soft drinks provided but no guarantee on having your favorite...which you may bring. We'll have lots of good food, music and cheer.

Save March 11 for the Re-Up Brunch!!!

**Social No-Sails on Thursdays, 7 pm**, starting November 30 at the Irish Pub in Pentagon City (Row) ... Al Burt has found this location with happy hour prices until 7:00. We'll meet in the fireplace room to socialize. The Irish Pub is accessible underground from Metro and there is parking on the street. Phone at the Pub is 703-415-4420. PAYG (Pay as you go). Their food specialties are fish and chips and shepherd's pie.

**Bridge games** continue (both duplicate and party) so if you have an interest in playing or getting back into the game, there are workshops for rusty folks on the third Monday of each month. Just let Dot know and you will be put on a separate e-mail roster. (703-560-0367)

--Dot Almassy, Social Director

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Nothing seems really to matter, that's the charm of it. Whether you get away or whether you don't, whether you arrive at your destination or whether you reach somewhere else, or whether you never get anywhere at all, you're always busy, and you never do anything in particular; and when you're done there's always something else to do, and you can do it if you like, but you'd much better not.

**Kenneth Grahame, Author, *The Wind in the Willows***

The best noise in all the world is the rattle of the anchor chain when one comes into harbor at last and lets it go over the bows.

**Hillaire Belloc, Author, *On Sailing the Sea***

### **Next Membership Meeting: Monday, January 8, 2007**

Location: American Legion, 400 Cameron Street, in Old Town Alexandria

Time: Socializing downstairs begins at 6:30 pm and the meeting begins upstairs at 7:30 pm.

## **Hail and Farewell Dinner Dance**

*By Dot Almassy, Social Director*

SCOW's Hail and Farewell at the City Tavern Club was enjoyed by about 100 members. Kathy Martin was our hostess for this elegant affair, and our thanks go to her and Scott for allowing us to use this lovely facility. Kristin Stone persuaded many of our skippers to provide wonderful sailing opportunities to liven up the raffle and as a result, many folks will be on the water on special trips starting as early as New Year's Day.

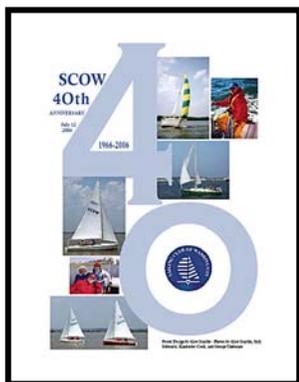
Our 2007 Board was introduced by Commodore Jan Earle and the 2006 board was warmly thanked. The two big awards of the evening went to Dorothy Stocks and Mike Rothenberg; very deserving recipients of the Ellie Abramson Award and the Al Blankfield Award. The DJ did a superb job of keeping folks dancing the night away. We thank Bonnie Dailey and Kathy Bateman for keeping track of the RSVP's, and to all the volunteers who helped at the dinner. Your support is vital; and we thank you.



## Fall Maintenance Day



Many thanks to all who helped with Fall Maintenance, getting our boats clean and shipshape for the winter. Volunteers included John Rogers, Wayne Williams, Peg O'Laughlin, Lauren Williams, Ludwig and Vincent Jablonski, John Roland, Bill Davenport, Mike Rothenberg, Doug Kelch, Walt Peterson, Chip Turner, Darren Durbin, Mike Murphy, David Reed, and Mike Trueheart.



## SCOW Anniversary Posters for Sale

Don't miss out on getting your very own poster commemorating SCOW's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Log on to [www.scow.org](http://www.scow.org) and view a larger version of this beautiful poster designed by members, featuring photos by members. This is a one-time opportunity to have a memento of a special year for your sailing club –don't miss out. An order form can be downloaded from the website.



## The 2006 Parade of Lights

*By Wayne Williams*

This year's parade had veteran skipper, Dorothy Stocks win again! She successfully decorated her boat with lights powered by a Generator (no inverter this year!). Her crew of 6 had fun and were last seen at the Gangplank Cantina Marina accepting the prize. Wayne Williams also participated and inflatable Santa was glowing and waving after being hoisted up the jib sheet. All of us at SCOW look forward to more Washington Sailing Marina boats participating next year.

## Maintenance: Repairs to Rebecca are on going

*By Bill Davenport*

A large access port was installed in Rebecca's stern cockpit liner to replace the loose upper rudder gudgeon. Thanks to Kevin Mulane. Also new markings were placed on the dock lines so that Rebecca's position at the dock can be duplicated after each outing. The upgrades to the "Turbo Scot" have begun with the hope of making it more accessible and easier to launch.

## Racing

*By Bill Davenport*

Rebecca was raced in the Three Bridges Regatta to a second place finish, by SCOW members Dorothy Stocks and Mike Fransella. Skipped by Bill Davenport Rebecca was also raced in the DISC Frostbite Regatta by SCOW members Steve Brody, Tom Paquin, Michael Scott, Dave Reed and Veri Crain, Veri served double duty as crew and steward serving up the crew with "Delisheious" homemade hot beef stew( while the crew murmured "Jeez Louise she can cook too") Good fun was had by all while the crew tolerated the skipper's impatience. Zingers were fired at the skipper (who had just run them aground) saying if he really wanted to lean the boat over HE should be on the rail. The skipper soon acquiesced. Veri pointed out that while they were aground they were only yards away from a bald eagle perched on a log in the middle of river...Cool! Well, we didn't finish as well as we would have liked, it was fun and the dock party after was loaded with comradery and sailing stories.

## A Ride on a Racing Schooner

Ever wish you could drive a big racing yacht? I took advantage of an opportunity to do just that in September at the time of the Leukemia Cup Regatta. I was visiting Watkins Glen, New York, with my husband to share with him a weekend of vintage sports car races. Well, that was fun, but we found some sailing action, too, on Lake Seneca—which adjoins Watkins Glen. While exploring the city pier, we came upon a tour ship—the *Malabar X*, a restoration of the 75-foot schooner yacht that won the 1932 Bermuda Cup Race as well as others, such as the 2003 Great Chesapeake Bay Schooner Race. We signed on for the two-hour tour the next day, and I got to steer the boat for about 25 minutes. So very much fun, even though the wind was only about 8 knots! A couple of pictures are below. For more info, see [www.senecadaysails.com/](http://www.senecadaysails.com/)

--Alice Starcke



*Malabar X* heads downwind on Lake Seneca. I took this photo from a motel parking lot on a cliff above the lake.



Alice at the helm of *Malabar*, with Brian at left “coaching.” The skipper, here behind the camera, did the real coaching.

## Sailing Terminology Review

Just a few terms to review while you wait for warm weather and a chance to go sailing again.

Bitter End – End of a line away from the working end

Ebb tide – Outgoing tide

Flood tide – Incoming tide

Gunwale – Upper edge of a boat’s topsides

Ketch – A two-masted boat with the mainmast taller than the aft (mizzen) mast. On a ketch, the mizzen traditionally is located forward of the rudder post

Painter – A dinghy’s bow line

Pinching – Sailing too close to the wind so that the boat slows down

Sloop – boat with one mast setting a triangular main and jib

Definitions are from *The Sailing Doctor, The Essential Shipboard Companion* by Martin Luray.

### Help the Editor

To facilitate the production of ChaNNels, please do the following:

- ✓ When you submit photos, always include the names of people in each photo
- ✓ Submit your article by the 15th of the month
- ✓ Submit a full, written-out article
- ✓ Submit your article to [channels06@scow.org](mailto:channels06@scow.org)

Any SCOW member can submit articles; not just Board members!

### 2006 Board of Directors

| Position          | Name             | Home         | Work                | E-mail               |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Commodore         | Jan Earle        | 202.249.0855 | 202.513.7667        | commodore@scow.org   |
| Vice Commodore    | Henry Cheng      | 571.263.1501 |                     | vice@scow.org        |
| Secretary         | Bonnie C. Dailey |              |                     | secretary@scow.org   |
| Treasurer         | Walter Peterson  | 703.960.3260 | 202.413.7570 (cell) | treasurer@scow.org   |
| Training Director | Kristin Stone    |              |                     | training@scow.org    |
| Maintenance       | Wayne Williams   | 703.981.9320 |                     | maintenance@scow.org |
| Social Director   | Dot Almasy       | 703.560.0367 | 703.681.7466        | social@scow.org      |
| Skipper Director  | Karen Marino     |              |                     | skipper@scow.org     |
| River Director    | Dorothy Stocks   | 703.521.0903 | 703.524.3147        | river@scow.org       |
| Racing Director   | Bill Davenport   |              |                     | race@scow.org        |

### Other Key People

|                        |                                  |                              |                     |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Crew Liaison           | Melissa Ennis                    | 703.845.5764                 | 301.279.4201 x2180  | crew@scow.org        |
| Bay Director           | Jack Schwartz                    |                              |                     | bay@scow.org         |
| Channels Editor        | Adam Pressman                    | 703 850-2072                 |                     | channels06@scow.org  |
| Channels Layout        | Wayne Williams,<br>Alice Starcke | 703.981.9320<br>703.971.7755 |                     | channels06@scow.org  |
| Advertising            | Milyn Jordan                     | 703.820.2971                 |                     | advertising@scow.org |
| Email Administrator    | Jeff Teitel                      | 202.271.1238                 |                     | postmaster@scow.org  |
| Membership Coordinator | Monika O'Connor                  | 703.921.9262                 | 703.593.4380 (cell) | members@scow.org     |
| Web Editor             | Peg O'Laughlin                   |                              |                     | webmaster@scow.org   |
| Photos on Web          | Mike Rothenberg                  | 703.998.0692                 | 703.820.1270        | pictures@scow.org    |

### For Information about Club Activities

Visit <http://www.scow.org> or email [info@scow.org](mailto:info@scow.org)