
CHANNELS -- SPECIAL E-MAIL EDITION

December 1997

Channels is the newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington. The E-mail edition is an edited text-only version of our hard copy monthly publication, and is normally available 15 days before the printed version.

Articles for Channels should be submitted via email to to the editor at sanlar@erols.com. Please paste the text of your article directly into the body of the message, and be sure thatword wrap is off.

Commodore's Log

My last missive to you and the pressure is on to be stateswoman like, wise and quote worthy. I will at least try to be succinct.

It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve as Commodore of a very special club which I believe is truly unique. SCOW is one club where few barriers exist to fully engaged membership. The ones that do exist are self-made. You don't need a boat. You don't need exceptional sailing skills. You don't need a lot of money. All you need is commitment, a desire to become and the will to take action to be a part of SCOW.

You get out what you put into SCOW. We're all adults here -- most of the time anyway, and it is up to each of us to put ourselves forward as sailors, comrades and volunteers to enrich the club and ourselves. SCOW affords that opportunity to everyone. It is our own fears and insecurities that keep us from enjoying the banquet of SCOW.

For eleven monthly meetings I have watched your faces and seen concern, interest, commitment and unselfishness, and only a few yawns. (I've seen other things too, but that's for my novel.) It has been a pleasure. Thank you for your smiles, support and encouragement. Thank you for the opportunity to serve. It has been an honor.

After a year of sweat and hard work, we have much merrymaking to enjoy this month. For me, the Hail and Farewell signals the start of the season's merriment. Our annual and only dressy event was pure pleasure and a distinctive event. The locale was lovely, the food delicious and the men and women of SCOW breathtaking. A new micro brew even made its debut: Brewmasters George Umberger, Mike Geissinger, Patrick Derry, Declan Conroy and Dan McClafferty created the outstanding libation and distributed a bottle to all in attendance. A fun and tasty party favor.

Four people orchestrated this fine event: Denise Derry, Meri Ash, Francie Stephens and Tina Daberkow. Elegant name cards, a fun photo album with candid shots and more showed their thoughtfulness and creativity. Thank you for an enchanted evening.

Commodore-Elect Stuart Ullman at the dinner announced the assignment of responsibilities for the new board next year. Election results and assignments follow in a separate article. Please actively support the new board's efforts and voice early and often your appreciation and thanks for they do. SCOW board members do work hard on the club's behalf.

Please don't forget to reserve the afternoon and evening of Sunday, Dec. 7 for our annual holiday raft-up at the Colonies Clubhouse. Bring a dish to serve about 8 people or bring \$10.

We have quite a few occasions to celebrate: the Hail & Farewell, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas and New Year. I wish you much joy, good health and sufficient wealth, and plenty of time and energy to expend upon SCOW's behalf next year. I do ask this: in looking out for yourselves, as we all should, please look out for others. That does mean going the extra mile sometimes, or even just the extra two feet. *It's not my job, It's not my responsibility* is an attitude that diminishes all.

Happy happy holidays, and may the new year be your best year yet. Anne La Lena

******* Election News**

On November 14 SCOW elected a sterling board of directors for next year. The Board-Elect is a good mixture of new and established members, all with energy and enthusiasm, ideas and innovation. The Nomi