
ChaNNels -- The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington

December 1999

Commodore's Log

Thom Unger

'Tis the time of Holidays. In this day and age of consumer overhype, it's easy to lose sight of the true meanings of the holidays. As we all know, when we take a moment to think about it, the season is not about gift-giving or gift-receiving. Rather, it's a time to be thankful for all that we have. To help those less fortunate than ourselves. To praise the heavens for the gift of life that we each partake of. To count our blessings.

One blessing that I am grateful to count this year has been my Board. Without the hard work, dedication, and willingness of this year's Board to put up with the Commodore's foibles, my tour of duty as Commodore would have been a curse, rather than a blessing. Many, many thanks to Sandy Clover, Bob Bruening, Tom LeBrun, Jason Stevens, Tina Daberkow, Jack Schwartz, Shelby Shoop, & Bill Clark.

Another blessing, SCOW volunteers. Without the help of folks like Denise Malueg, Larry Gemoets, Pete Hirschman, Joe Depoorter, Stuart Ullman, Barbara Ullman, Heather Spurlock, Kathryn Scott, Jeff Teitel, Beverly Ashcraft, Sergei Tagashov, Len Zuza, Stu Robinson, and many, many others, this club would not be the wonderful institution that it is.

A special thanks to my Vice-Commodore, Monica Maynard. Without her catching my mistakes, or simply helping out where needed, the club would have been much the poorer this year.

SCOW is blessed for the New Year with a new Board. I am pleased to announce that Jay Weitzel has graciously accepted, and been duly elected, as SCOW's Commodore in 2000. Joe Depoorter will be serving as Jay's Vice-Commodore. Amy Plett will be the club's new Secretary and Cheryl Teninga the club's new Treasurer. On the board, we have Mike Geissinger, Heather Spurlock, Kathryn Scott, Jason Stevens, Liz Bruening, and Ruth Connolly. Please thank each and every one of these Board volunteers the next time you see them. More importantly, don't hesitate to offer your support and your own time as a volunteer the next time you speak with them. Believe me, it is most appreciated!

Finally, my own personal thanks for having been given the privilege of serving as SCOW's Commodore this past year. It has been an education and a pleasure.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, a Joyous Kwanzaa, and a Happy New Year to all, and to all, a good night!

A Hearty Hail & Fond Farewell

Denise Malueg

Dim lights, glittery gowns, soft music, clinking of wine glasses, sparkling conversation. By all appearances, SCOW members enjoyed themselves at the Hail & Farewell, on Saturday, November 13, at the Fort Myer Officers Club. (And might I add, you all looked maahhvelous!)

SCOW bid appreciation to the Board of 1999 and volunteers who generously contributed their time throughout the year. The Alan Blankfield award, given to a member who has worked particularly hard throughout the present year, was presented to Larry Gemoets. He quietly lends his skills to the training program (logged the most training hours of anyone this year! 60+ hours!), maintenance and occasional Social Sails, while also preparing the club newsletter every month. The Elie Abramson award, for prolonged service throughout her years of membership, was given to Monica Maynard. She has attended to crises big and small while serving as Vice Commodore this year and Maintenance Director last year. She fearlessly was hoisted up masts at a moment's notice, tirelessly trained students on the water, contributed her creative ideas (and tools!) to the maintenance efforts and still managed to be involved with every committee formed. SCOW appreciates the valuable efforts of both Monica and! Larry, and recognizes that the club wouldn't be vital and engaging without them.

Two special awards were given this year, the first SCOW Millennium Awards. These were given to Len Zuza and Ted Schad, to honor their many, many years of service to the Club. Both received engraved Ship's Bells, with which to ring in the New Year.

Other members recognized for their service this year include: Joe DePoorter, Sergey Tagashov, Stu Robinson, Heather Spurlock, Kathryn Scott, Jeff Teitel, Beverly Aschcraft, Pete Hirschman, Stuart Ullman, Barbara Ullman, Denise Malueg, and Sam Schaen. In thanks, the 1999 Board members presented their Commodore with a brass travel alarm clock engraved with thanks.

Commodore Thom Unger introduced the new board of directors, which will be steered by Jay Weitzel, and Vice Commodore, Joe DePoorter, along with Treasurer, Cheryl Teninga and Secretary, Amy Plett. Directors include: Liz Bruening, Mike Geissinger, Kathryn Scott, Jason Stevens, and Heather Spurlock. The officers and directors of the Board 2K plan to actively involve the membership in the tack SCOW will sail into the next millennium .

Traditionally, the outgoing commodore presents the incoming commodore with a Commodore's burgee. In a small break with tradition, to honor another tradition, Jay's steady date, Kim Rogan, arranged to have him present the flag she used as Commodore of the Old Dominion Boat Club, handed down to her by her father, also a past Commodore of the Old Dominion Boat Club. Kim hinted that there was a bit of history behind the flag. It seems that the staff met with calamity while Jay was at the helm of Kim's boat! This has no bearing as to his future performance at the helm of SCOW, after all, ODBC is a powerboat club! (We like Kim anyway.) Jay then presented Thom with an IOU for a "former commodore" burgee. Apparently, there is a run on burgees at this time of year, and BOAT U/S has them on backorder!

As an added bonus to the evening, the Five Skippers donated five packs of their two new brews, Red Nun Extra Virgin Ale and Green Can Bitters. These were a hit of the party, once teamed with the can opener presented to Jeff Teitel during the awards ceremony. The five skippers who comprise McCDUG Brewers are long-time SCOW members, Dan McClafferty, Declan Conroy, Patrick Derry, George Umberger and Mike Geissinger.

Every SCOW event takes teamwork. Throwing together a party does not mean a simple phone call to the O Club catering staff. It means decisions, planning, advertising, tracking, and even some creativity. This year's H&F committee kept the process on schedule. Every member contributed their talents to make it a great party. Mary & Alain Bashore tracked all reservations, developing a list which was then used by Renee Boudreau to create the place cards. Beverly Ashcraft revised the "Where to Party After the Party" list of Rosslyn haunts open into the wee-hours, for those who just don't want the fun to end at midnight. Along with coordinating the catering services, Denise Malueg is to blame for all those annoying e-mails and reminders in Channels. Heather Spurlock, who knew she'd be unable to attend due to a conflict with work again this year, still contributed her wisdom gained from restaurant management, during the buffet selection meeting. Liz Bruening contributed her wisdom gained from frequent party attending (!) to the buffet planning meeting. An extra thanks to Renee, Bev, Liz and Sharon Schoumacher (willingly pressed into service that evening) for greeting all at the check-in table. The committee hopes that you enjoyed the evening, and welcomes any suggestions for making next year's party a success!

H&F Q&A

Attendees of the Hail & Farewell noticed questions printed on the reverse of their place cards. These served as interesting discussion points during dinner. Below are the questions along with their answers. These will look familiar to those who visit this web site:

<http://www.mailbag.com/users/stobo76/halfame.html>

This common nautical term is used to describe the body of water next to a pier or wharf where boats or ships float.

Answer: The area of water in which a vessel lies when made fast is called a "dock". Many people think they can stand on a dock... but it would be impossible to do so.

Another word for 'trench', this nautical term describes a characteristic of the ocean floor where the depth is exceptionally great in comparison to adjacent areas. The term is usually reserved for depths of over 3,000 fathoms (nearly 3½ statute miles).

Answer: The Deeps

This song of the sea is considered one of the oldest, best-known and best-loved. It is said to have been written in 1694-5 when the British fleet under Russell wintered at Cadiz, Spain. The first few lines were also sung by the fishing boat captain in the movie "Jaws". Name that tune.

Answer: "Spanish Ladies"

When a forecaster predicts seas of 5-7 feet, it means that a certain percentage of waves will be in that height range. What is the percentage used?

Answer: According to the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary "Boating Skills and Seamanship" course textbook, a prediction of "seas 3-5 feet" means that "70% of the waves are expected to be between three and five feet high." This is a different prediction than "significant wave height."

What name is given to the compass error caused by friction of the compass liquid during a turn?

Answer: Swirl Error

What was the original meaning of Scuttle Butt before it came to be slang for gossip or information?

Answer: The sailor's well, or source of fresh drinking water. This form of boat construction employs several layers of wire mesh and steel rods, and covered with a mortar made of concrete and sand or volcanic ash. What is this type of boat construction called?

Answer: Ferrocement

Why is the helm on most powerboats on the starboard side of the vessel?

Answer: As the water resists the clockwise motion of a turning right-hand propeller, it causes the boat to roll slightly in a counterclockwise direction, or up on the starboard side. Placing the driver's seat on the starboard side helps offset this slight imbalance. Of course, boats differ significantly in the degree of their reaction to this paddlewheel affect.

What do you do with a drunken sailor?

Answer: Vote him/her commodore before he's sober!

Bay Activities Jack Schwartz Not many activities anymore, but I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the bay skippers who have generously offered to take SCOW members out for day sails and/or on cruises. I also appreciate those who have been raftmasters and helped organize Raftups.

Odyssey is now awaiting haulout at Bert Jabin's yard in Annapolis. Apologies to SCOW members Chuck Hollister and Larry Gemoets, who volunteered to help with the delivery from Solomons next weekend. With an unbelievable forecast for this past weekend (Southerly winds and warm temperatures), Ellen and myself, with furry companions Tina and Casper in tow, decided to head up the bay. Saturday's Southwest 10-15 never materialized, so we motored for about 6 hours until a light Northeast wind came out of the Choptank, permitting us a couple of hours of close reaching to Tilghman Island. After a brief tour of the island (which is pretty brief itself), we had dinner at Bay Hundred and retired for the night. Sunday NOAA issued a Small

Craft Advisory and predicted Northwest 20-25, so we made a hasty departure to beat the storm. What we really had were Southerly 8-10, with a 1 foot following sea; which made for a delightful run all the way to the Severn River. We made 5 knots with the #1 genny alone. Turning into Back Creek, we reluctantly dropped sail and found our way into Jabin's, where we tied up and unrigged Odyssey for Winter storage. So ends another sailing season.

Correction: In the November issue, our editorial staff mistakenly transposed the McMillians with the Goodmans in the Bay article. The Bay Director had sent along the correct information. Knowing they are good sports, we hope that neither the McMillians nor Goodmans will flog us as much as the Bay Director has. If you have an opportunity at the Holiday Raftup, ask Bruce and BJ McMillian about their two-week, lower Bay cruise in October, aboard their mono-hull, At Last II. They'd love to tell you about it!

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

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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

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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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