
CHANNELS -- The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington

February 2001

February Membership Meeting

Focus on Alexandria Seaport Foundation

The winds may blow cold and there's ice on the Potomac, but the company is always warm at our monthly meetings. Join us for an interesting evening at our regular membership meeting on Monday, February 12th when we'll hear from Bert Printz about the many fascinating activities of the Alexandria Seaport Foundation. You may have sailed or walked by the Alexandria waterfront and noticed the foundation's building on the dock. Maybe you've admired their handmade boats. Now's your chance to learn what it takes to build a seaworthy vessel, or to become involved in helping protect the environment or work with disadvantaged young people.

Every month you'll learn something new and have a great time visiting with all your friends at SCOW. If you missed last month's meeting be sure to ask SCOW members Jack and Nikki Goodman for some sailing tips. They were kind enough to share with us their experiences on an eight-month cruise to the Bahamas. And if you'd like to share some of your sailing knowledge with us at a monthly meeting, or have a suggestion for a program, give me a call at 703-683-3036 or email me at vice@scow.org. Our meetings are held on the second Monday of every 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 program begins at 7:30 p.m. upstairs. See you there!

Commodore's Log

Well, if you, like me, are a "millenium purist," then you know the real new millenium is here. The SCOW Board of Directors, Special 2001 Millenium Edition, has mapped out a schedule of activities to make this sailing season one to remember. You will find the entire season's schedule in this issue of Channels.

Cold weather may keep us from sailing, but nothing stops this club from eating, drinking and socializing. We're starting the social season on February 24th with a Caribbean-theme party. You do NOT have to show up in Jimmy Buffet attire to attend, although prizes may await some who do. We wanted, though, to start the year off with a theme that would help

all of us to shake off the cold-weather blues. If you can't sail in the tropics, Social Director Matt Gaston will bring the tropics to you.

In addition to our monthly membership meetings on the second Monday of every month (except December), our social no-sails at Clyde's in Alexandria continue through April 12th. Then, looking ahead to the day many of us cannot wait for, the first Social Sail of the season comes on April 19th; and our Social Sails continue every Thursday night until October 4th. We have designated three of those evenings as "River Fleet Nights," when our club members will be asked to put their Marina-based boats in and take members for rides.

River and Bay Director Jon Allen will run a full agenda of River activities. The "New Member Cruises" that we initiated last summer were so popular that they were over-subscribed. This year, we have renamed them "River Cruises" and scheduled one a month from April through September. Race Captain Bill Bernhards plans to build on the great success of our 2000 racing program. On April 21, SCOW will conduct a "Spring Tune-Up Race" to allow sailors to "shake down" their boats and crews before the sailing season begins. Then, on May 8, our informal Tuesday night racing program will begin and will run all summer. As we did last year, we also will be entering Rebecca and Psycho in the DICF series, and will be selecting skippers and crew for those and other big boat races. As announced last month in Channels, the Bay Activities Committee is working with our Bay skippers to develop this year's Bay schedule, which will be announced in Channels.

We have scheduled two sessions of Basic Sailing, two sessions of the Cruising Boat course, and two sessions of the always-popular Capsize course. In addition, we are planning to offer some more advanced training opportunities for members later in the season. If there is a class you'd like to see offered -- or if there is a skill you'd like to share -- contact Training Director Judi Campbell. And, while you can always contact Skipper Coordinator Joan O'Kane to get checked out, we have scheduled two check-out days during the summer.

And, of course, all of this activity means our boats need to be maintained in peak condition and Maintenance Director Sergey Tagashov cannot do it all himself. Please mark your calendar now for the first Maintenance Day and Picnic of the season, which will be on April 7.

A busy season? Absolutely! A fun season? Absolutely! A season that ten merely mortal Board members can carry off themselves without lots of volunteering by members of the club? Absolutely not! So, please, pitch in and do your part to make the year a success. When you are asked, volunteer. Even better, don't wait to be asked, just volunteer. If you don't know who to talk to, start with your friendly Commodore -- I'll get you in touch with the right person.

I am really looking forward to all of these chances to get out on the water and to socialize with the members of our club. I know you are too. So, while this schedule is in your hands, get out that calendar or electronic organizer and start making entries. You won't want to miss a single thing.

Fair winds and following seas!

SCOW Says Thanks

SCOW says "Thanks!" to Nikki and Jack Goodman, for sharing the story of their 1998-99 sailing trip to the Caribbean and back at our January meeting. In addition to the wonderful stories they told, they gave members many tips and "lessons learned" from their trip.

Let's Share Sailing Information

Commodore Jay Weitzel would like to start a club data base of sailing resources that members have used and could tell their fellow members about. For example, several of our members have taken classes at J-World in Annapolis. If another member was thinking of taking a course, it would be nice to have a contact in the club to talk to first. Resources could include boat charters, sail makers, classes, equipment vendors, engine shops, marinas, etc., that members have used and could recommend to others. The resulting list could be posted on our web page or distributed at meetings. (A web posting would only list names, so that only members with our directory could contact people.) If you have information that you'd like to share or ideas on how to make this exchange more helpful, please contact Commodore Jay Weitzel.

Training Program 2001

The Club has a great year ahead with lots of opportunities to increase your sailing prowess. The following courses are planned thus far:

Basic Sailing (Two offerings--beginning on the dates indicated) April 25, 2001

May 30, 2001

Cruising (Two offerings--beginning on the dates indicated) April 30, 2001

August 1, 2001

In addition, a number of classes are being planned that focus on a specific skill or technique such as Spinnaker, Man Overboard and Capsize for example. This part of the schedule has not been finalized so if you have ideas regarding other classes that you would like to have offered, please let me hear from you at training@scow.org.

The first opportunity to enroll in any of the 2001 classes will be at the Re-up Brunch on March 11 at The Colonies. Hope to see you there!

DC in February: A Warm Tropical Vibe...Cool Carribean Drinks...

Sailing Within Sight...

Surely, we've gone nuts! We haven't. Believe it or not, this can all come true if you come to the 2001 SCOW Cool Carribean Kickoff. On Saturday, February 24, from 7-10:00 pm, we'll be gathering in our own special party room at Mango Mike's in Alexandria for some hors d'oeuvres, sailing videos, tropical drinks and hi-jinks. Wear the coolest Hawaiian shirt and you might win a gift certificate from West Marine! But even if you show up dressed for the local weather rather than the weather we wish we had, this is bound to be a good chance to catch up with your SCOW sailing pals during the off season.

So mark your calendars now and prepare for some cool Carribean fun. An "official" invitation will be forthcoming with details on cost, signup, etc. In the meantime, for more information, contact your swingin' SCOW Social Chair, Matt Gaston at (703) 838-0645 or social@scow.org.

And while you're marking your calendar, don't forget the SCOW re-up brunch coming your way on Sunday, March 11. Details to follow. In addition, we can't make that work without volunteers, so PLEASE call me if you can help.

And finally, these fine people have agreed to become charter members of the 2001 SCOW Social Committee.

**Donna Knapton
Betty Garrand
Cathy Chapman
Susan Batchelder
Janet Howard**

Remember, we can always use more fun, creative folks, so if you'd like to get involved please don't hesitate. Just call me at the number listed above and I'll let you know when the meeting is.

That's all for now, but get ready to have some fun!!!

From the Skipper Coordinator

Being a skipper on either the Flying Scots or the cruising boats (or both) is probably one of the biggest benefits of membership in SCOW!

Those of you who are already qualified skippers will receive your renewal packets in late February. I'll be at the Skipper Renewal Table at the Re-Up Brunch on Sunday, March 11 to accept completed forms and checks. If you won't be able to make the Re-Up Brunch, you can mail them to me.

Anyone who is interested in becoming a SCOW skipper this year can email me at skipper@scow.org for more information. Whether you renew your membership by mail or in person at the Re-up Brunch on March 11, 2001, there is a host of activities planned for newer as well as veteran members this year that you will want to take advantage of. Speaking of membership, did you know most of the income that supports our club comes from membership dues? Your dues and fees support fleet operations (boats and their maintenance), and communications like this newsletter. We can keep the dues so low (despite the increase in postage) because of the many volunteers who organize training, cruising, racing, and social activities. It's not too early to mark your calendar to join us for the Re-Up Brunch on March 11. See you there!...and the real Millennium!

This year we will have a new member cruise each month. This is the SCOW way for members to get out on the water and meet new and current members. We cast off around 7:00PM and go until the skipper can't stand it or the crew jumps off. (Please no jumping off until the water gets warm.) Both Psycho and Rebecca will participate and any SCOW member with a boat is welcome. The first new member cruise will be on April 27th. I will have some sign-up sheets at the next meeting - we need both skippers and crew.

Social Sail starts on April 19th. Naturally we will need the following positions to be filled:

Social Sail Coordinator - The Big Chief, The Big Kahuna. The one who makes it all happen. Finds people to help with each social sail. The help we need each week follows:

Dockmaster - Has the sign-up sheets and coordinates crew and skippers for the SCOW boats.

Chef I - The IRON CHEF of the evening. Has to have done it before and knows the ropes.

Chef II - Someone to help the IRON CHEF.

These positions of skill and culinary mastery will be a great way to meet SCOW members. After all, we're coming straight from work ready to chow down. (near the SCOW Chow Dhow, of course!)

So mark down April 19th and April 27th on your calendar as important dates for River Activities. And expect a call from me in the near future regarding Social Sail because I need to know which position you would like and your choice of date(s)! Of course, you don't need to wait for me to call you if you already know which position and date you want, and want to secure it before anyone else takes it. My email address and phone number are correct in the directory and listed here in Channels.

Racing News

Would you like a fun way to improve your sailing skills and get some experience on SCOW's cruising boats? NOW is the time to register for the cruising boat racing season.

If you want to skipper or crew on the cruising boats this season, submit your name before the April 9th General Membership meeting. Register by signing up at the regular monthly meetings or contact the Racing Director, Bill Bernhards. All skippers will be selected at the April 9th general Membership meeting. Skippers will choose their crew shortly after the meeting.

To be a racing skipper, the first step is to pass SCOW's written test for racing. Contact the Skipper Coordinator, Joan O'Kane, to request a written test. To crew on the cruising boats, just sign up at the General Membership meetings or contact the racing director.

For club members who are interested in a more casual form of racing, plan on racing in one our "Flying Scott" boats on Tuesday evenings. Everyone who shows gets a chance to sail. No experience required; simply learn as you go. After a few races you'll find your sailing knowledge and skills greatly improved and- it's free! "Scott" racing begins May 8th and continues until September 11th. On your mark, get set, Go!

[We've Signed On for Another Big Year with BoatU.S.!](#)

We have renewed our BoatU.S. Cooperating Group Program for another year! Because of this special arrangement, you get 50% off when you join the nation's largest Association of recreational boat owners. You pay half of the regular BoatU.S. dues of \$19 dollars. that's only \$9.50 a year!

If you are already a BoatU.S. Member, you can now renew your membership at the low \$9.50 rate.

BoatU.S. Membership benefits include:

An effective lobby that fights unfair taxes, fees, and government regulations that single out boat owners.

A 704 page Discount Equipment catalog, plus special discounts and member reward with purchases.

Discounts on fuel, overnight slips or repairs at more than 500 marinas.

Low cost, high protection boat insurance, including special programs for trailerable boats and PWC's.

On the water towing, with your choice of service levels- from \$50 per incident(free to members) up to unlimited service- provided by the nation's largest towing network, TowBoatU.S.

BOAT/U.S. Magazine

Contact Larry Gemoets for information or an application. When renewing membership this year, be sure to mention Co-op group #GA80156S to get the special \$9.50 rate.

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

For information about club activities Call: 202.628.7245 (That's 628.SAIL) Visit us at: www.scow.org Write us: info@scow.org

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 suffer greatly. Blame yourself if this happens!

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 by one week after the monthly meeting. Use any means, but email is preferred.

Kelly E. Griffin, Layout Editor

Declan Conroy, Web Publisher

Sam Schaen, Mailing lists

Larry Gemoets, Chief Go'fer

That's all, folks.....