

ChaNels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington
February 2004

Commodore's Log

There is probably no skill as important for sailors than the ability to cope with unanticipated emergencies. Sudden storms, uncharted shoals, breakdowns of critical gear, or sickness/injury all test the preparedness, ingenuity, and courage of skippers and crew. Spend enough time on the water and you'll encounter a fair share of all the above.

The beginning of 2004 has been a series of tests that tested SCOW's ability to cope with the unexpected – and you passed with flying colors. Despite scheduling snafu's, freezing pipes, ice storms and personal emergencies, SCOW has gotten off to a strong start. Rob Langford not only "coped with" the rescheduling of the Holiday Party, he and his crew succeeded in organizing a wonderful event for all who braved the nasty weather. Jay Weitzel took over club activities when I had to go home for my father's funeral with the aplomb and the calm reassurance that we need at such times. And my Board, what a truly extraordinary group of individuals is serving with me this year! Each is enthusiastic about the portion of SCOW activities for which s/he is responsible and each wants to make their

programs successful. The weekend after I got back into town, we rescheduled a Board meeting despite very short notice and had an exceptionally fine planning session. The excitement for the coming year is palpable.

So, at a time when we fear that this snow and ice will never end and it seems like SCOW has gotten off to a rocky start, we, the Board, look ahead to an exceptional year for our club. We have scheduled innovative water and land activities designed to generate more fun sailing on the Potomac and the Bay, and we also look forward to new activities on land that will provide opportunities for SCOW members to meet, work and party together. We will soon be publishing a preliminary calendar for the year that will outline all of our events.

In the meantime, stay warm, get your gear ready for the upcoming sailing season, and keep your calendars open for the Re-Up Brunch on March 21. This annual event has become one of SCOW's best attended social activities and gives members an opportunity to "get first dibs" on many club training and social activities.

Len Zuza

Next Membership Meeting: Monday, March 8, 2004

Since our January meeting was cancelled due to frozen pipes and water damage at the American Legion, we've rescheduled the "SCOW Home Movie Night" for February. The evening starred you, the SCOW membership, as we shared pictures from last year's great activities

In March, our featured speaker will be Maintenance Director John Roland. Over the last few years, we've noticed some patterns of maintenance on our Flying Scots, such as unusual shroud damage. After working on the boats, John has concluded that our members could use some tricks and tips on launching, rigging and stowing the boats to cut down on repairs.

Our membership meetings are held at the American Legion Hall, 400 Cameron Street, in Old Town, Alexandria (around the corner, and downstairs from, Gadsby's Tavern) on the second Monday of every month except December. Socializing begins at 6:30 PM downstairs and the program begins at 7:00 PM upstairs. If you know of a speaker who can talk on something of general interest to our membership, have a sailing adventure you'd like to share at a meeting, or have an idea for a topic or presentation, please contact Vice-Commodore Jay Weitzel.

SCOW Social News

Gerri Hanna

Holiday Raft-Up

The Holiday Raft-Up was a tremendous success and a great get-together for all SCOW members and their guests who braved the cold, cruel night on Sunday, January 18. But don't dismay, those sailors that missed this party will have another opportunity to mingle and socialize at our next event so:

SAVE THE DATE!

RE UP Brunch

Sunday, March 21, 2004

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

The Colonies

7700 Provincial Drive

McLean, VA 22102

This is the traditional event to renew old friendships and your SCOW membership, including the opportunity to register for a number of SCOW summer events and classes. Board members will be there to answer your questions about training classes, racing, and participating on a number of SCOW committees. Help increase our SCOW membership and bring along that friend who may be interested in sailing---we are always looking for new "crew."

Social No-Sails

Meet us at Mango Mike's (www.mangomikes.com), 4580 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA) every Thursday night "sometime" between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. either at the bar or the Banana Lounge for after-work Happy Hours and/or dinner.

Call for Volunteers

I am always looking for volunteers, so give me a call---it's a great way to meet new friends and attend SCOW events. (We don't work THAT hard!)



(Photo courtesy of www.shellmuseum.org)

Sailing Legend & Lore: Sailors' Valentines

Sailors' Valentines, a shell art form originating in the early 19th century, are characterized by wooden shadowbox frames – always octagonal – in which seashells of varying shapes, sizes and colors are used to create works of art. Romantic phrases,



A Sailor's Valentine
(www.seashell.com)

such as "Forget Me Not" and "Remember Me" are often included in the artwork. Two legends are associated with Sailors' Valentines. The first proposes that the pieces were first created by sailors who collected shells during their voyages and crafted the valentines to pass away the time at sea. The second theory (and one held by museums and antiquarians) is that Sailors' Valentines were first seen on the ports of Barbados and other Caribbean areas, as enterprising island women sold to New England whalers, who would then present the works of art to loved ones upon their return home. This shell art form disappeared in the late 19th century when the Caribbean islands ceased to be ports of call for the once hundreds of whaling ships who anchored there. Today, shell crafters believe that the art form has undergone a recent revival; original antique Sailors' Valentines found today are considered highly valuable. For more information visit

<http://www.shellmuseum.org/>

Thank you to Genie Williford for contributing to this article.

ChaNNels

can also be read at:

www.scow.org.

Submit articles to

channels@scow.org

by one week after the monthly meeting. Use any means, but email is preferred. If you would like a copy of the 2004 ChaNNels editorial calendar, please request via email to channels@scow.org or in-person at the January meeting.

Lisbeth Lyons, Editor

Chris Chubb, Layout Editor

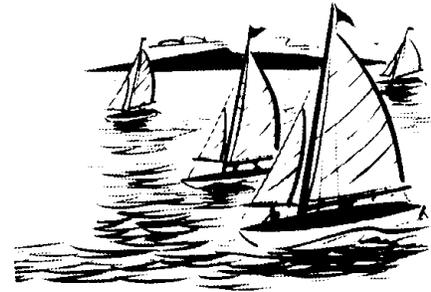
Monika O'Connor, Mailing Lists

Racing News Genie Williford

As I write this, I am in the midst of recruiting SCOW members and friends to take part in a Caribbean regatta, the Heineken in Sint Maarten (www.heinekenregatta.com), during the first week of March. If you are not able to come on board this "Escape the DC - Dreaded Cold" racing activity for 2004, perhaps you will consider it for next year.

I am very interested in hearing from you about your interests in SCOW racing activities for this year. We really want to winch things up a little in 2004!

Some suggestions heard thus far involve preparing one of our Flying Scots for interested members to take to the West River Flying Scot Fleet 97 races. Also, there is an idea brewing in this coordinator's head for attempting, if there is interest among you, to host a PFD (Pure Fun Dinghy) Regatta for those who own dinghies but don't have a fleet to race with, or who want to join in a race just for the fun of it in addition to their usual sailing activities. Offering just one start for all classes equals pandemonium, but so much fun!



We plan to have more racing seminars this year and continue our Tuesday night participation in DI-SC races for the cruisers, as well as our own Flying Scot races in the lagoon. For those of you interested in racing the cruisers, there will again be a lottery this year for those slots. We will also go back to an old tradition of asking skippers and crew who race Rebecca and Psycho to commit to doing an RC for the Flying Scot races at least once during the season. Other racing regatta activities planned include our Spring Tune-Up Regatta, as well as our long standing participation in the Leukemia and President's Cup regattas.

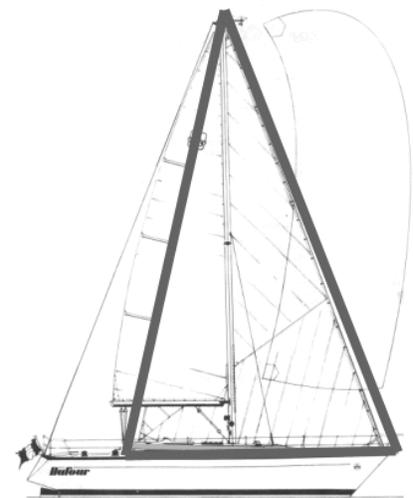
Spring is coming sooner than you think, and we want to get out there to have some competitive fun as soon as the weather makes it possible. If you are willing to serve on a committee to help plan and execute race activities and racing seminars, please email race@scow.org. I believe that we can do a lot to make our racing activities more exciting and fun for all who are interested, but I need your help to make these things happen. Let's make 2004 the year to remember for SCOW racing and club fun!

Talk Like A Sailor

No, not *those* words! We mean the G-rated version: a vocabulary of sea terms. Each month, compliments of Vice Commodore Jay Weitzel, we'll share the origin and meaning of a nautical term taken from "Origins of Sea Terms," written by John G. Rogers and published by the Mystic Seaport Museum.

Talk Like a Sailor in...February
"Genoa"

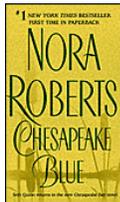
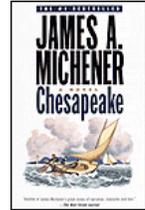
A genoa is a large, overlapping jib on a sail boat, originally popularized by a Swedish racing skipper, Sven Salen. The genoa (also known by the nickname "jennie") made its first appearance in the United States in 1927. The name was inspired by the large jibs used in the region of Genoa, Italy. So, the next time you're on a boat and the skipper tells you to go below and get the jennie, you'll know that he means to grab the large jib.



A Sailor's Bookshelf

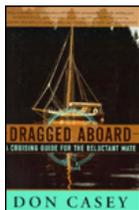
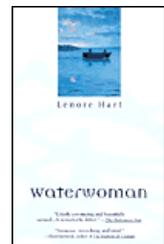
Valentine's Day is right around the corner, and romance is in the air! This month, "A Sailor's Bookshelf" features titles that explore in various ways our love affair with sailing, especially on our native Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River waters. So grab a heart-shaped box of chocolates and cuddle up with one of our great picks!

Chesapeake, by *James Michener*. This classic Michener novel in the historical fiction genre features Maryland's Eastern Shore as its central setting. Against this backdrop, stories surrounding a colorful host of founding Americans – blueblooded families, politicians, slaves, abolitionists, pirates, planters and others – are told. The 1000+ pages will help you wait out the end-of-winter freeze.



Chesapeake Blue, by *Nora Roberts*. The literary equivalent of a "chick flick," this novel did reach #1 on the New York Times bestsellers list. Released in paperback last month, the novel is the fourth in a series that follows the fictional Quinn family through its trials and tribulations of life on the Bay. "Mind candy" with no calories – enjoy!

Waterwoman, by *Lenore Hart*. Called "a beautiful debut" by the Baltimore Sun, this novel set in the early 1900s offers a fascinating glimpse into the lives of the "watermen" who lived on small, isolated islands along Virginia's southern coast. The story focuses on the lives of two unique sisters, one of whom follows in her father's footsteps to earn the family's living on the water. Read this book and you're guaranteed to want to chart a course to this scenic region.



Dragg'd Aboard, by *Don Casey*. Is your sweetie more "turf" than "surf"? If so, this work of non-fiction, aptly subtitled "A Guide for the Reluctant Mate," may be for you. The book discusses the joyful highs and realistic lows (realistic highs and joyful lows?!) of long-term cruising in a humorous yet sensitive way. Consider it Dr. Phil for the cruising couple!

"Meet Me in Margaritaville: The Ultimate Collection," by *Jimmy Buffet*. For those who prefer to celebrate their love of the sailing life by cranking up stereotypes rather than plowing through novels, this two-disc collection is an excellent choice. Released in April 2003, it includes the expected "greatest hits" – a few with new twists – as well as a couple of brand-new songs. It's sure to put both heart and mind in the sunny island spirit!



(Photos courtesy of www.barnesandnoble.com)

Prepping for the upcoming SCOW season by reading a good sailing-related book? Share your review in an upcoming "A Sailor's Bookshelf"! E-mail your review or recommendations to channels@scow.org.

SCOW Photo Gallery

At the Raft Up, a good time was had by all. We have the pictures to prove it!



Betsy, long-time SCOW member Jerry Nothman visiting from Philadelphia, and Sharon



Jan and Len



Jane Farthing and Dale Eager



Sometimes the discussions got a little "spirited."

The Sailing Gourmet

During this month of decadent desserts, The Sailing Gourmet offers an easy-to-prepare-on-board recipe for everyone's favorite Floridian sweet treat: (Easy) Key Lime Pie. Bon Appetit!

Easy Key Lime Pie *(Source: www.sailboatowners.com)*

It truly doesn't get any easier than this!

Ingredients:

- 1 cup Lime Juice
- 1 cup Eagle Brand condensed milk
- 12 ounces Cool Whip
- 1 Graham Cracker pie crust

Directions:

Blend first three ingredients and pour into pie crust. Chill. Garnish with slices of lime.



2004 Board of Directors

Position	Name	Home	Work	E-mail
Commodore	Leonard Zuza	202.543.5443	202.543.2330	commodore@scow.org
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Social Director	Gerri Hanna	703.216.3381		social@scow.org
Skipper Director	Karyl Owings	703.626.0823	703.234.0743	skipper@scow.org
River & Bay Director	Evie Banda	202.488.9649	202.862.5649	bay@scow.org
Racing Director	Genie Williford	703.765.4740	703.426.2172	race@scow.org
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Database Administrator	Monika O'Connor	703.921.9262		dba@scow.org
Email Administrator	Jeff Teitel			postmaster@scow.org

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 (202.628.SAIL) or email info@scow.org or visit <http://www.scow.org>

