

Chanels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington
February 2005

Commodore's Log

Happy Valentines Day and best wishes to those folks heading for Belize this month!!

We are off to a good start with SCOW. We had a great speaker at the membership meeting, a fun January sailing party, and the Board even recovered in time to produce a calendar for what is shaping up to be a very adventurous 2005 on the Potomac, Bay, and elsewhere. This illustrious start occurred despite the January closing of our portion of the Potomac River for the inauguration.

The Sailing Dreams

Mike Geissinger and others gave a marvelous, picture-filled presentation of their fall trip down the intracoastal waterway at the January membership meeting.

The Holiday Afterglow Party

For those who did not come to the Holiday Afterglow Party at the Colonies in McLean, you missed excellent food and drink, superb company, and some very lively salsa dance music. Special thanks go to Gerri Hanna Social Director for 2004, Margaret Monsour, who stepped forward just in time to be Social Director for 2005, able assistants Julia Clones and Kathy Martin and many others.

The 2005 calendar

The all-new, jam packed calendar is available at www.scow.org. Check it out and see what the Board did to your favorite event. Pick your sailing and social activities and keep the all-important resolution to do more sailing this year! Treat yourself right.

Coming Events

Sailing in Belize, February 12-19

You can tell who is going by looking for the 25 folks already wearing sunscreen and snorkel gear, with about a week before we even fly over. March Reup Brunch.

Request for newsletter assistance

This coming spring, we will need someone to apprentice with Chris Chubb and then take-over newsletter lay-out. Please contact me if you'd like to help.

Important Reminder: Sail safe. If you sail this month, wear adequate winter clothing, and a PFD. The Potomac water is very cold right now and we want you at activities we have planned later in the year.

Commodore Steve Linke

Next Membership Meeting: Monday, February 14th, 2005

The November membership meeting will be on Monday, February 14th, at the American Legion, 400 Cameron Street, Old Town Alexandria (around the corner from Gadsby's Tavern). Socializing begins at 6:30 pm and the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Table of Contents

Commodore's Log	1	Social News	2	2005 Sailing Season	3
Training News	4	Race Committee Needed	5	Up-Coming Racing Events	6
Community Boating Events	6	Talk Like A Sailor	7		

Social News for February 2005
Margaret Monsour, Social Director

Thanks again to all the SCOW members who helped make the Afterglow Party on January 9th a success!

Gerri Hanna, Julia Clones, Kathy Martin, Bill Patton and many others very quickly helped to bring all the pieces together. The salsa music and dancing added to the always abundant food and the set-up crew and clean-up crews did a great job. Thanks to all.

We tried a few different things at this party. We had live music, a few door prizes, we offered after dinner drinks and we tried to get a pool tournament started. We'd like to get your feedback on these efforts so please share your thoughts with me at social@scow.org.

RE-UP Brunch

March brings-in the wind and that is always good news for sailors. Our annual Re-Up Brunch is on tap for March 13, 2005. During the Re-Up Brunch you'll have the opportunity to really get to know the many benefits of membership in SCOW. Board members will be behind the sign-up tables and we are eager to talk with you about making your SCOW membership a great experience both on and off the water.

It's a great time to:

- Renew membership
- Sign up for training classes
- Get involved with racing
- Find out about charters
- Become acquainted with maintenance
- Connect with the Thursday night Social Sails.

We are even giving prizes to members who visit all the tables. Get your name badge punched by board members at each table and you will be eligible to enter the contest for fabulous door prizes.

Our buffet will include mimosas, bloody Mary quiche, ham and breakfast muffins, juice, and coffee. As always, you are welcome to bring a dish for five people or contribute \$10.00 at the door.

The Re-Up Brunch will be held at the Colonies, Clubhouse Room, 7681 Provincial Drive, McLean, VA from 10am to 2pm. For directions go to the Colonies website at www.thecolonies.com See you there!

Social Sails Begin in April

The Washington Marina is the venue for fun on Thursday nights starting April 6th. It's the beginning of SCOW Social Sails, and a great way to get introduced into the club. We start at 6pm with a light supper and members and nonmembers can sign up for a free 20 minute ride down the Potomac.

Social Sails are managed by club members so we're looking for folks interested in sharing their enthusiasm for sailing and SCOW who will donate at least one Thursday night during the season which runs from April to October. You have choices and could volunteer to be the chief, the backup chef or the dockmaster. The chefs arrange for the food and the dockmaster schedules boats. For more info, please send an e-mail to the Social Director at social@scow.org and she can give you all the details.

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 2005 ChaNNels editorial calendar, please request via email to channels@scow.org or in-person at the next meeting.

Diana Combs, Editor

Chris Chubb, Layout Editor

2005 Sailing Season Gets Off to a Good Start!

John Roland

Well, we just couldn't wait any longer. With great weather predicted, SCOW went sailing on New Year's Day. Doug Kelch and Mike Murphy ('05 Racing Director) checked out Ms. Elli and Susie-Q to do a dry run of some of their plans for Tuesday Night Scot Races.

They are hoping to spice-up our somewhat lackluster Scot Racing activities by incorporating an intermediate level sailing clinic. If our experience was representative of their efforts, the Tuesday night clinics will quickly raise your sailing skills and will be in high demand. The general idea is to have one boat sail a steady course while the crews on the other boats experiment with sail and boat trim under the guidance of an experienced small-boat skipper and thus get instant feedback on the effectiveness of their actions.

New Year's Day sail crew lists were: on Ms Elli - Mike Murphy, Lynne Russillo and Ariel Cohen: on Susie-Q - John Roland, Melissa Ennis and Peg O'Laughlin with Doug aboard as coordinator.

Both cruise boats were out as well. Seth Allen took Psycho out and issued a general invitation for crew, and quickly got a full boat. Jan Earle checked out Rebecca and took a full boat as well. SCOW members weren't the only early season sailors, the PRSA Frostbite Regatta is held New Year's Day as well so both the docks and the river were busy.



Jan Earle, Dorothy Stocks, Michael Clifford, Liz Werlwas and Robert Werlwas (Clockwise)



Patrick Holian, Dorothy Stocks, Liz Werlwas, Robert Werlwas and Michael Clifford on the first sail of the New Year



Patrick Holian, Michael Clifford, Robert Werlwas, Dorothy Stocks, Liz Werlwas and Jan Earle enjoying the unseasonably warm weather from January 1st.

Training News

Doug Kelch, Training Director, Training@SCOW.org

The biggest training sign-up event of the year is coming up on Sunday, March 13th at the RE-UP Brunch, get there early, and get your class of choice.

Courses available:

BASIC sailing course in the Flying Scots

Cruising classes

Capsize classes

Intermediate classes for the Flying Scots

Spinnaker classes

Possibly a "Mystery Beginners class."

We may also have sign up sheets for the FREE the SCOTs event (you may guess what it is, but come and find out.)

Some rules have been established to try and keep an equitable sign up process.

- 1) You must be there in person or have some one there representing yourself.
- 2) You must be a paying member to sign up for the classes – so bring cash/check or money order for membership renewal
- 3) You must pay for the course at the time of registration so bring cash/check or money order for the classes of your choice.
- 4) If the classes are full you can be put on a waiting list but no payment will be taken
- 5) No refunds – If you cannot take the class for any reason then we will assist you in finding a replacement student but the monetary exchange is between you and the replacement student.

In the meantime there are two "winter classes" coming up that are not on the schedule which you may want to take advantage of. The first one is the Red Cross CPR/First Aid certification class. We hope to have this available in either February or March and are just waiting to get our confirmation from the Red Cross. The course will be taught by two of our members who are certified Red Cross trainers. The material required for certification takes about 6 hours so this will be split into two evening courses (most likely) or an all day Saturday class. I took this course myself earlier this year and felt that it was well worth my time. It covers the current best techniques for CPR (which have changed considerably since I was first exposed to it) and covers the best things to do as early responders to most medical emergencies.

The second training opportunity that hasn't quite gelled yet is a very basic introductory racing course. This is intended to cover much of the mystery of the course layouts, sorting out the class starting sequence on the water and timing sequences as well as a couple of basic rules. The course is intended to take some of the mystery out of what you are seeing as you cruise through the middle of the starting line while everyone is yelling at you. In other words, this should teach you how to recognize just where that large group of sailboats milling around is about to head so you can avoid them. (I couldn't help the humor!)

When we have more details about these courses, we will send out an all-SCOW e-mail so that you can jump onto the sign-up list. For now I would like some feed back as to an interest level in both classes so drop me a note NOW if you are interested.

We had a very interesting board meeting in January with a lot of interesting events coming up this year. The names may change to protect the innocent but you might try and guess what the following events might be:

FREE the SCOTS!

FFF (Fall Fowl Flotilla)

Blast the Bridges

Eagle Watch (helmets required)

FFF (Fun Filled Festival) otherwise known as the WWW (Wacky Waterfront Wingding).

I have some nice titles, I just need you to tell me what they mean so drop me a note if you have an idea or guess.

Race Committee Needed

The Racing Director

We are getting organized for the 2005 racing season. SCOW policy is to maintain a balance in the use of SCOW boats between those who wish to use them for racing and those who use them for other purposes such as general use, training, and maintenance. Our policy is also to ensure that SCOW members have the requisite skills to participate in authorized races.

One of our first priorities is to get members appointed to the Race Committee. The Race Committee is the backbone of the racing program. We count on an active Race Committee to organize races, identify and then help members develop the sailing skills needed to participate in races, and coordinate with the Maintenance Director on necessary repairs so that the boats are in-service at the time of authorized races. Some members might think that being on the Race Committee is a big job. Well, it is an important job, but with help from others in the club, no one piece of it has to be too big for a member to participate in.

The club needs volunteers to help with several important tasks to get our racing program going this year. First, we need a volunteer for Race Captain. The major task for the Race Captain is to organize, publicize, and run the annual SCOW- sponsored spring regatta in mid-April. An experienced cruiser racer (skipper or crew) or boat owner would be a good match for this task.

We need committee volunteers to ensure that someone is available to run the Tuesday night Flying Scott races. The Tuesday night races are casual and social. Besides fun sailing and a chance for the always desirable tiller time, they are intended to teach members to sail better. The Tuesday races are pick-up games, available to anyone who shows-up and wants to participate in matching their sailing knowledge with other members, as well as learning new sailing skills. Volunteers to help organize the Flying Scott races mostly need to know that sailing is fun, and make it fun for the members that show-up.

We also need a Leukemia Cup Captain who will help organize SCOW participation in the event on September 10, 2005. To serve in this position you do not need to be a qualified Racing Skipper. All you need is a desire to help organize this worthy event, and be able to coordinate participation by other SCOW members, the Leukemia Society and other sailing clubs in the area. The main work for this usually starts in June, but there will be some planning meetings throughout the year.

The current SCOW racing policy needs to be revised. A volunteer for this task is needed. Like our old Sailor's Information Files (SIF) for Flying Scott and Cruising Boats, our club policy as currently written can be made more readable and organized. A volunteer with an analytical mind, good writing skills, and some club history is needed for this task. The first part is to clean-up the current text, and perhaps reformat it. A follow-up task would be to work with other club members in identifying necessary policy changes for the club's racing rules. These tasks could be the work of one individual or they could be accomplished sequentially by different volunteers.

Lastly, we need racing committee volunteers to help evaluate requests to use club boats in other local races, to maintain a list of SCOW members who are interested in participating in races, to coordinating with the Training Director to ensure that members are offered necessary training in racing rules, skills, and tactics, and assist the Maintenance Director on accomplishing scheduled maintenance to minimize down-time of the boats during racing events.

Please contact me at race@scow.org or our Commodore at commodore@scow.org if you have interests or skills to help with any of these tasks.



Frostbite Regatta

Up-Coming Racing Events

March 13, 2005 Re-up Brunch

Racing Skippers or their proxy should plan to attend for selection of boats and race series in the Daingerfield Island Sailing Club (DISC) Tuesday night cruiser racing series.

SCOW members interested in crewing on Cruisers will have the chance to sign-up on a crew availability list. The list will be made available to SCOW racing Skippers and other club members looking for crew.

Late March (time and topic to be determined)

We are finalizing arrangements for the annual SCOW sponsored racing seminar again this March. We have some final negotiations to conclude with our presenter. However, the Potomack Landing has agreed to provide a room for the event in the last week of March. Enjoy an informative evening at the Chartroom and learn how to improve your sailing and racing skills. More details will follow in an e-mail to members as the date and topic are finalized.



Community Boating Events



As part of its Quasquicentennial Celebration (celebration of their 125th year), the Old Dominion Boat Club (ODBC) in Old Town is hosting a series of speakers on boating issues. The programs are free and open to the public and invitations were extended specifically to SCOW members. The programs are listed below:

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| Wednesday, February 16 , 7 pm | History of the Alexandria Seaport |
| Wednesday, March 16 , 7 pm | Program on safe boating presented by a Coast Guard auxiliary. |
| Saturday, March 26 , time to be announced | Children's program for kids age 4 to 9, called "Boating Is Fun." |

Later in the spring, they will have a speaker talking about care of fiberglass, gelcoat and other boat beautification issues. Stay tuned for more information.

You don't need to register for any of the programs, just show up. The ODBC is at the foot of King Street in Old Town Alexandria. To get in, go up the steps to the second floor door and ring the bell. The person tending bar will buzz you in.

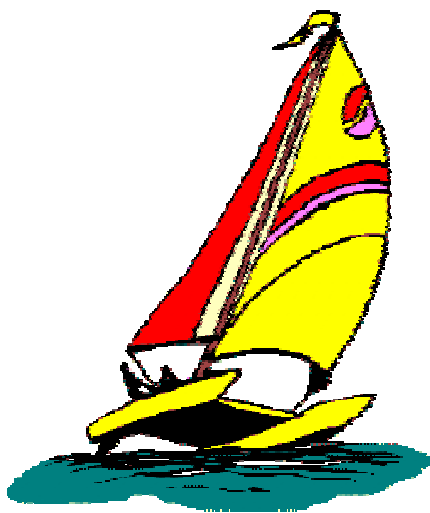


Psycho heads out to start the year off right.

Talk Like A Sailor
Bill Patton, Vice Commodore

I plan to continue with Jay Weitzel's nautical terms column he started during his time as Vice Commodore. I have ordered a copy of "Origins of Nautical Terms," the basis for the column, and will be ready for the next edition of Channels. For this month's Channels, I have turned to another excellent source of nautical information, Chapman, "Piloting Seamanship & Small Boat Handling." In the interest of the upcoming Belize trip let's look at a few terms that apply to the trip. The first is the term "charter." The Belize trip represents a "Bareboat Charter" meaning that the boats have been leased or chartered from the boat owners without the services of crew. SCOW members will serve as both skippers and crew for the week afloat. The other type of charter is a "Time Charter" meaning that the cost of the lease includes the services of a crew.

The boats being chartered are "multi-hull" craft and in this case are catamarans. Catamarans are boats with two hulls of equal size held apart by rigid structural members. The other popular multi-hull is a trimaran with a principal central hull flanked by smaller outboard hulls. Three of the four "Cats" are Moorings 3800s, which have an overall length of 37'. The fourth Cat is a Moorings 4500 with an overall length of 44'9". Layouts of the boats can be found at the Moorings website, <http://www.Moorings.com/fleet.asp>.



Catamaran (2 Hulls)



Trimaran (3 Hulls)

2004 Board of Directors

Position	Name	Home	Work	E-mail
Commodore	Steve Linke	703.684.5266	703.604.7006	commodore@scow.org
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Members Coordinator	Monika O'Connor	703.921.9262	703.593.4380	members@scow.org
Email Administrator	Jeff Teitel	202.271.1238		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

Visit <http://www.scow.org> or email info@scow.org