

Commodore's Log

Greetings, Fellow Sailors:

I'd like to catch you up on the progress the new board has been making. First, I'd like to introduce the newest board members. Both vacant positions have been filled with highly qualified people -- who happen to have both received write-in votes in the November election.

- Nancy Eikermann has been appointed to be the Maintenance Director. Nancy bravely volunteered to take on this daunting task and we are thrilled to have her aboard. Make sure you contact Nancy at maintenance@scow.org to help her with the many maintenance tasks she will be managing. Our annual spring Maintenance Day will be coming up soon, so watch for details.
- The Training Director position has been filled by John Eller. John is currently working with the instructors and the marina to get a class schedule set for the year. This is a huge task, and John appreciates all the help and advice he has been getting from the trainers. We hope to get the schedule out to the members very soon!

Last year's board approved the development of a new, more informative website. 2008 Commodore Tom Paquin has been working on this site for many months, and it is nearly ready to unveil. Tom has done a terrific job, and the current board is tweaking the final details so we can make the move. The new website will have a public access area that is very similar to the current website. This area will include public information that anyone with internet access can view. One of the best features of this new website is the inclusion of discussion threads, where members can post discussion topics, and subscribe to only the discussions they wish to receive. This should drastically decrease the amount of unwanted email members get. Additionally, club activities, events, and meeting speakers can be posted and updated more easily, and members can easily share pictures and stories of their activities. The most exciting part of this new website will be the inclusion of a Members' Only area. Paid, verified SCOW members will be allowed to log into this Members' Only section and access areas of the site not viewable by the public. The Membership Directory will be available in this secure area, and members will have the ability to control what information is viewable to other members. There is even the capability for members to post their picture and biography in the directory if they choose. Another feature is the ability to renew and pay for membership online, although mail-in memberships will remain an option. People wishing to join the club can apply for membership online, but the membership is not activated and they will not have access to the Members' Only area until their membership and payment are reviewed and approved by the website administrators. There are many more fabulous features on this site, and we hope to launch it within the next month or so. If all goes well, members will be able to view it before Re-Up, and we might be able to have the website available at Re-Up for members to use. Many thanks go to Tom for all the hours of work he put into this website. I'm sure you will like it when you see it!

Finally, I'd like to thank Jan Earle for taking on the task of publishing a printed Membership Directory. While the new website will make it much easier to keep membership information current, we know many members prefer a written directory they can keep in their sail bag. We hope to get this out in February. I'd also like to thank all the people who have been cooperating with and assisting Jan with this huge task. When you see Jan, let her know how much her service to the club is appreciated.

Fair Winds,
Lisa Eller

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Save the Dates for These Upcoming SCOW Events

Next Membership Meeting -- Monday, February 9

Location: American Legion Post, 400 Cameron Street, in Old Town Alexandria

Time: Socializing downstairs begins at 6:30 pm and the meeting begins upstairs at 7:30 pm.

Have you been dreaming of warmer weather . . . and chartering a boat for a dream adventure? Join Patrick Derry of Seanchai Charters for a discussion on the types of charter boats available and the types of charters!

Re-Up Brunch -- Sunday, March 15, at The Colonies, McLean, Va

This event marks SCOW's official kick-off for the 2009 sailing season and is your opportunity to sign up for sailing classes and other upcoming events. More details will follow!

Monday, March 9 -- John Marshall, Manager of Guest Services at Mount Vernon, is our featured guest speaker for the March Membership Meeting. He will tell us how women sailors saved Mount Vernon and why that portion of the Potomac River still looks the way it did during George Washington's residence at Mount Vernon.

Monday, April 13 -- Rico Newman, from the National Museum of the American Indian, will talk about pre- and post-tribal lifeways on the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay. Do YOU know a story about Native Americans on the river that you've always wondered whether it's fact or folklore? Briefly summarize the story and send it to vice@scow.org at least two weeks before the April Membership Meeting, and after his talk, Mr. Newman will lead a short game of Fact or Crap!

Let's Race Into 2009

Happy 2009 to all from your new Racing Director, Mary-Sophia Smith,

For those of you interested in racing, it's time to start planning our season. All members are welcome to participate in racing, both on the Flying Scots and the Cruisers. Experience is not necessary to be crew.

Racing skippers for the Cruisers, or those that wish to become racing skippers, please be in touch with me so I can get an idea of how many we will have this year, and which DISC races you are interested in skippering.

Also I am hoping that experienced skippers will enjoy racing the Scots this year and will mentor beginners as crew. At the January General Meeting, we spent a few minutes discussing ways of making the Scot racing more interesting for experienced sailors, including possibly racing the Scots on the river and trying to get other Scot owners to race with us.

I would like to get members who are interested in racing together to kick ideas around. How about at the next social non-sail? Let me know what you think.

Last, but certainly not least, I need volunteers to help with the racing program. Both skippers and crew will be expected to "pull their own weight" by helping out in some way during the racing season. As Grandma always said, "Many hands make light work." If you would like to be on the Steering Committee on Racing, to take charge of getting the PHRF rating certificates for the Catalinas, to coordinate SCOW participation in the Leukemia cup, to be a racing coach, or to help in another way, please be in touch.

Everyone participating in racing will serve as "Race Committee" at least once in the season for either Scot races or DISC races (for beginners, this means you will set the course and run the races) -- so we all need to be up-to-speed on the new racing rules. We will either have a SCOW session on this topic, or invite SCOW members to a session held by DISC or another organization. If anyone has experience in this area and wants to help organize and coordinate, please speak up.

Hoping to hear from SCOW race fans soon!

(Email: race@scow.org)

Boating Safety Classes at WSM

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will hold two boating safety classes in the Afterdeck Café at the Washington Sailing Marina in 2009. The Spring class starts on Wednesday, April 22, and the Fall class starts on Wednesday, September 30. Both classes will meet for five Wednesdays from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The cost is \$40.

Graduates receive a boating safety certificate. SCOW requires skippers to have a boating safety certificate to operate SCOW boats. For more information and to enroll, contact Ginny Ivin at flotilla22@hotmail.com or by phone at (202) 547-8558.



Afterglow '09

Keep in touch with 2008 SCOW Commodore Tom Paquin -- Tom and his wife Heather will be in South America for the next year and would like to share their adventures with club members. Check out their blog at <http://tomandheather.wordpress.com/>.

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Guest speaker: Patrick Derry of Seanchai Charters

Membership Meetings	2 nd Monday of every month, American Legion Post, 400 Cameron Street, Alexandria Social hour at 6:30 pm; program at 7:30 pm
Social Sail	Every Thursday, Washington Sailing Marina, April - October, 6:00 pm
Social No-Sail	Events and locations will vary, December - April, 6:00 pm
Board Meetings	4 th Monday of every month, 7:00 pm (open to members)
Channels Deadline	15 th of every month. Submit articles to: channels09@scow.org
2009 Calendar	http://www.scow.org/calendar.html
SCOW Pictures	http://picasaweb.google.com/Sailing.Club.of.Washington
SCOW Home Page	http://www.scow.org



Afterglow '09

2009 Board of Directors					
Position	Name	Home	Alternate	E-mail	
Commodore	Lisa Eller	423.360.6899	202.353.2755	commodore@scow.org	
Vice-Commodore	Bekki Lasell			vice@scow.org	
Secretary	Lisa Carr	703.750.7851		secretary@scow.org	
Treasurer	Chris VonGuggenberg	703.683.6649	703.622.9125	treasurer@scow.org	
Training Director	John Eller			training@scow.org	
Maintenance Director	Nancy Eikemann			maintenance@scow.org	
Social Director	Faith Rodell		301.674.9324	social@scow.org	
Skipper Director	Brett Astmann		202.360.0512	skipper@scow.org	
River Activities Director	Terri Nachazel	703.328.0118	703.715.2407	river@scow.org	
Racing Director	Mary-Sophia Smith		202.213.5325	race@scow.org	

Other Key People

Channels Editor	Marty Taylor			channels09@scow.org	
Advertising				advertising@scow.org	
Email Administrator	Jeff Teitel	202.271.1238		postmaster@scow.org	
Membership Coordinator				members@scow.org	
Web Editor	Peg O'Laughlin	703.207.0675	202.205.1819	webmaster@scow.org	
Photos on Web	Alice Starcke	703.971.7755	703.971.7773	pictures@scow.org	

For Information about Club Activities

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