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## CHANNELS -- SPECIAL E-MAIL EDITION

February 1999

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### Commodore's Log

#### Thom Unger

The new calendar is out! The new calendar is out! Okay, so perhaps I'm being somewhat redundant and repetitive. But I am happy to announce that in Channels this month you'll find a calendar of events for the upcoming year, so start reserving those dates now! We've worked out what we think will be a fun schedule of social events, classes, bay sails, racing, etc. Just tear off the page now while you're thinking about it and stick it on the refrigerator.

On another note, I am proud to announce that SCOW, 10 months ahead of schedule, is now officially Y2K compliant! What's that you say? Our sailboats don't have any computers on-board? Well, yes, that did make it rather easy for us to reach Y2K compliance....

But all kidding aside, did you know that SCOW does make use of computers? If you haven't already, check out SCOW's web site at <http://www.scow.org>. You can always find the latest copy of Channels as well as the calendar of upcoming events there.

Just as important, if you have an email address, we have a member's only email subscription list. We use this list to send out email versions of Channels, as well as reminders or late-breaking news on club events. Additionally, any club member may send notes related to upcoming sailing or club activities to this list. If you're not already subscribed, it's easy to join, just send a note from your email account to "majordomo@shirenet.com" and put the words "subscribe scow" in the body of the message. Additionally, once you're subscribed, if you wish to send a note to everyone, just email <u>scow@Shirenet.com</u> and everyone subscribed will receive a copy. Caveat: please send email that is related to sailing or club activities only. While we might all appreciate the latest Internet joke, that's not the purpose for this list, though if the joke happens to involve sailing... Well, use your best judgment. By the way, for those of you who receive large amounts of email already, never fear, this list will not be folded, spindled, mutilated, OR sold/given to anyone outside the club, nor does it generate heavy email traffic.

Fair winds to all.

## **Bay Activities**

### **Jack Schwartz**

Bay Day sails are scheduled for: May 8, June 5, July 18, and September 25.

Bay Raftups include:

Early Bird Cruise-April 17-18 to the Little Choptank River

New Member Cruise-June 19-20 to location TBD

Upper Bay Trip-August 14-15 to St. Michaels

Labor Day Cruise-September 4-6 to location TBD

Columbus Day Cruise-October 9-11 to location TBD.

Mike Geissinger has again volunteered his place on the lower Potomac as a raft-up site for Memorial Day Weekend. Last year's participants reported a good time and hopefully this year will follow suit. (After rafting with Mike and crew up in Fox Creek, Melody opted out of the trip down the Bay as we had NO WIND and NO ENGINE.)

Len Zuza has also agreed to host a July 4th Party at Sea Aerie, his place in Solomons. This has always been a great time for all, with good food, drink, socializing, and of course--fireworks. Last year's event also included flare and life vest demonstrations.

We are trying to revive the Camp Letts trip for this year (tentatively scheduled for September 18-19). This camp on the Rhode River offers cabins that can be rented for the weekend, hiking, picnicing, and hopefully a launching ramp. Bay boats can make it a weekend of sailing. Landlubbers can make it a camping weekend. Day trippers can arrive for the day and socialize. We may even trailer a Scott over for day sailing on the Rhode River.

If Alan Lewis is willing to organize another Fowl Weather Cruise, it may be held October 30-31 (Note that is foWl as in geese, that should be migrating around then.)

Also, if there is interest, we could extend one the cruises into a week-long trip.

I am looking forward to plenty of opportunities for Scow members to get together on and around the Bay.

### **Skipper Coordinator**

#### **Shelby Shoop**

With all the recent snow and ice, probably the last thing you've been thinking of is sailing on the Potomac. (Skating, maybe; sailing,- probably not.) However, now is the perfect time to think about it! Using the SCOW boats (3 Flying Scot daysailers & 2 Cruising sloops) is one of the biggest benefits to being a member, and now is the best time to be studying up for the Skipper Checkout Exams. There are separate requirements for the exams for the daysailers vs. the cruising boats. Call or email me for more information or to get an exam sent to you. In case you

need lots of encouragement to dig yourself out of the snow, here are the Top Ten Reasons to get going on that checkout exam :

10. You'll be able to pass the time in those boring business meetings by reviewing Quick-stop Crew Overboard scenarios in your head.

9. It helps you decide whether you want to take the Basic Sailing or Cruising Boat course as a refresher, and lets you know what's on the test before you even take the course. Classes fill up fast once the season is here, so get your reservation in early.

8. If you're new to SCOW and feel shy at Social No-Sail, you can memorize questions & pick the brains of the "Old Salts" (and you'll sound "Salty" too.)

7. As of February 1, you only have 111 days before the first Skipper Checkout Day on May 23! Remember, the written test must be submitted, graded (give me a week), and passed (80% correct or better) before you can schedule the water test.

6. You can casually mention that you're planning to skipper your own boat, thus impressing your companion on a date, or in a job interview... "It's been such a pleasure, but I must go prepare for yachting season at the club..."

5) You can take the water test before May, if a)it's warm enough, b) your Checkout Skipper thinks it's warm enough, c) you've already completed and passed your test.

4) You'll have a perfect excuse to buy all those sailing manuals and magazines you've been thumbing through all winter at the West Marine. (Chapman Piloting; Seamanship & Small Boat Handling , known as Chapmans, is still the bible. The Basic Sailing course also uses Start Sailing Right, the American Red Cross /United States Sailing Association manual.)

3) You'll be ready for Tuesday night racing-- when the next boat is referred to as the "privileged vessel", you'll know it's not because it was more expensive than the one you're in.

2) Passing the test is proof to all and sundry that you know the difference between a winch and a wench, between rope and line, between nuns and cans, between a dolphin and Flipper, and that you have a clue as to the location of the clew.

1) Studying for the test helps you dream of the warm, sunny days ahead, while you're freezing in your house or apartment, eating untoasted pop-tarts with no power and no heat, and the forecaster is calling for more sleet and snow.

## **Boatique**

### **Marketing Opportunity!**

Ever wonder where you can get a SCOW t-shirt? sweatshirt? burgee? duffle? key chain? wine glass? mouse pad? Look no further - they're all at the Boatique! But, there's a catch.... the

Boatique is lacking a manager, so SCOW needs you to volunteer for the job. We're looking for a "professional consumer;" someone who spots trends ahead of the crowd, and is interested in swaying the public's purchasing habits. Someone who enjoys buying stuff!

This could be done by a team or a couple - one shops and the other accounts for it! The Boatique manager scans marketing catalogs and places orders for nifty stuff, with the SCOW logo emblazoned on it. Often vendors send free samples to entice you to place an order! Think of this as a way to restock your shelves (albeit with a bunch of mix & match paraphernalia from out of date conventions....OK, give them as door prizes at next year's Hail & Farewell)!

SCOW needs you!

Volunteer for the job.

Not only do you get to buy it, you get to sell it to more-than-eager customers! SCOW members are hungry for the stuff - they just need to know where to find it. The Boatique is open for business at SCOW meetings and the Re-Up Brunch, and an occasional Social Sail. Ads in the newsletter promote the Boatique wares.

So whadaya say? Are you up for the heady thrill of seeing your decisions on our backs, in our cupboards, and on our desks? Call or e-mail Monica Maynard today (202-219-2652, or [mmaynard@ferc.fed.us](mailto:mmaynard@ferc.fed.us)) to pick up the current stock and get vendor information!

### **West River Sailing Club's Winter Seminar Series**

Looking for a fun, educational and informative way to spend an afternoon by the West River? Then please come and join us in Galesville, Md. For the WRSC Winter Seminar Series.

The seminars will begin at 2:00 p.m., and are free and open to the public. Lunch will be available for a nominal charge at the clubhouse beginning at 1:00 p.m.

January 30 - Electrical

Floyd Hollister of Heron Integrated Marine Systems will discuss AC and DC circuits, fusing, grounding, and how to prevent fire and shock hazards.

February 13 - Cruising

Marilyn Sickles (sailing instructor, yacht skipper, and offshore sailor) will discuss cruising.

February 27 - Safety

Folks from the U.S. Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary will present a safety seminar with information on weather, safe children, medical aspects, knots, Maryland requirements,

For more information, check the web site at: <http://www.paw.com/sail/wrsc/> Or contact West River Sailing Club representative Monika Maison at 410-263-5655.

For directions and a map to the West River Sailing Club, check the web at: <http://www.paw.com/sail/wrsc/towrsc.html>

## **SCOW Calendar - 1999**

**Board Meetings Open to all. Potowmack Landing Chart Room, 1st Monday of every month, 7:30**

**Monthly Meeting American Legion Hall, Alexandria, 2nd Monday of every month(except December),**

**Social Hour - 6:30, Program & Meeting - 7:30**

**Thursday Night Social No-Sail, Cafe Marianna 1201 N. Royal St. Alexandria, VA, 7 PM, Through April 15th**

**Thursday Night Social Sail Washington Sailing Marina - 6:00, April 22nd - October 7th**

### **January**

**23 Ice Skating, Fairfax Ice Arena, 8 PM - 10 PM,**

### **February**

**20 Mardi Gras Party, location & time TBA**

### **March**

**14 Re-Up Brunch, The Colonies of McLean, 10AM-2 PM**

### **April**

**4 Daylight Savings Begins - 2 AM**

**17 Train The Trainers, Washington Sailing Marina,**

**1 - 5 PM**

**17-18 Early Bird Cruise to the Little Choptank River**

**22 Social Sail Begins!!!, Washington Sailing Marina,**

**6 PM - dark**

**24 Maintenance Day and Picnic, Washington Sailing**

**Marina, 9 AM**

**26 Racing Seminar, Potowmack Landing Chart Room,**

**7 PM - 10 PM**

**27 Flying Scot Races Begin!!!, Washington Sailing**

**Marina, 6 PM - dark**

**28 Basic Sailing Class Series I**

**Land Classes: Potowmack Landing Chart Room,**

**Wednesday at 7:30**

**4 Sessions: April 28, May 5, May 15, and May 19th**

**Water Sessions: Washington Sailing Marina,**

**Saturday & Sunday**

**4-hour sessions at either 8:30 AM or 1 PM each day.**

**6 Sessions: May 1,2; May 8,9; May 15,16**

**(Make-up water day: May 22)**

**May**

**8 Bay Day Sail**

**15-16 1st River Raft-up**

**23 Skipper Check-out Day, Washington Sailing Marina,**

**10 AM**

**Check-out Day Picnic, Washington Sailing Marina,**

**1 PM - 4 PM**

**29-31 Memorial Day Cruise to Mike Geisinger's Cottage, lower Potomac**

## **June**

### **2 Cruising Boat Class -**

**Land Classes: Potowmack Landing Chart Room, 7:30**

**3 Sessions: June 2, June 5, and June 11th**

**Water Sessions: Washington Sailing Marina**

**3 Sessions: Saturday the 5th, 8 AM,**

**Friday evening the 11th, 6 PM**

**Saturday the 12th, 8 AM.**

## **June (cont.)**

### **2 Basic Sailing Class Series II**

**Land Classes: Potowmack Landing Chart Room, 7:30**

**4 Sessions: June 2, June 9, June 16, June 23**

**Water Sessions: Washington Sailing Marina,**

**Saturday & Sunday**

**4 hour sessions at either 8:30 AM or 1 PM each day.**

**6 Sessions: June 5,6, June 19,20; June 26,27**

**(Make-up Water Day, July 10, if needed)**

### **5 Bay Day Sail**

**11-13 Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival**

**19-20 New Member Cruise, location TBA**

**19 New Member Picnic/ Summer Solstice Event - TBA, 4:30 PM**

## **July**

**3-5 Fourth of July Cruise**

**4 Land Party at Len Zuza's Sea Aerie, Solomons**

**11 2nd Skipper Check-out Day**

**17 Capsize Course Series I, Washington Sailing Marina, 9 AM**

**18 Bay Day Sail**

**TBA Canoe Trip**

**August**

**7 Capsize Course Series II, Washington Sailing Marina,**

**9 AM**

**7 Crab Feast, Washington Sailing Marina, 4 PM**

**11 Basic Sailing Class Series III**

**Land Classes: Potowmack Landing Chart Room, 7:30**

**4 Sessions: Aug 11, Aug 18, Aug 25, Sep 1**

**Water Sessions: Washington Sailing Marina,**

**Saturday & Sunday**

**4-hour sessions at either 8:30 AM or 1 PM each day.**

**6 Sessions: Aug 14,15; Aug 21,22; Aug 28,29**

**14-15 Upper Bay Trip to St. Michaels**

**TBA Intermediate Sailing Class,**

**Land Classes: Potowmack Landing Chart Room,**

**Monday at 7:30, 2 Sessions: TBA**

**Water Sessions: TBA**

**September**

**4-6 Labor Day Cruise-location TBA**

**11-12 Leukemia Cup, Washington Sailing Marina**

**TBA Camp Letts Bay Rendezvous, Rhode River**

**22 Navigation Class**

**Land Session: Washington Sailing Marina, 7:30 PM**

**Water Session: Sep 26**

**25 Also Ran Regatta**

**25 Bay Day Sail**

**October**

**2-3 2nd River Raft-up**

**5 Last Flying Scot Race!**

**7 Last Social Sail!**

**9-11 Columbus Day Cruise-location TBA.**

**16 Fall Maintenance Day, Washington Sailing Marina, 9 AM**

**23 Halloween Party, location and time TBA**

**24 Daylight Savings Time Ends, Sunday, 2AM**

**30-31 Fowl Weather Cruise**

**November**

**8 Elections**

**13 Hail & Farewell, Ft. Meyer Officers Club, 7-12**

**December**

**5 Holiday Raft-up, The Colonies of McLean, 5 PM**

**6 Joint Board Meeting, Potowmack Landing Chart Room, 7:30 PM**

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[Submit articles to channels@scow.org](mailto:channels@scow.org) by one week after the monthly meeting, Use any means, but email is preferred.

Larry Gemoets, Editor

Declan Conroy, Web Publisher

Sam Schaen, Mailing lists

Sandy Clover, Layout

Denise Derry, Proofing

Submissions to Channels:

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.

### **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 if you dial with letters!)**

**Write us: [info@scow.org](mailto:info@scow.org)**