
CHANNELS -- The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington

January 2001

Commodore's Log

It seems like only a few weeks ago that I was emailing and telephoning the Year 2000 Board (or, as we called ourselves, Board 2K), making plans for the year ahead; and now that year that we looked forward to with so much anticipation has gone.

The few words in this column are just not sufficient to adequately thank the member of Board 2K for their hard work this year. We began the year with enthusiasm, friendship and mutual respect, and I am proud to say that we finished the year with the same enthusiasm, deeper friendship and even greater respect for one another.

Joe DePoorter, our Vice Commodore, was my "strong right hand" and a reliable sounding board for ideas. I only regret that, despite our promises to each other last winter, Joe and I never got out once together on a boat this year. Amy Plett, our Secretary, displayed legendary efficiency at every turn. I believe she often had the minutes typed before the meetings were over. Of course, that kept the meetings short, since we then had to follow her script. Cheryl Teninga, our Treasurer, kept a tight rein on our finances all year; and we finish the year in excellent financial condition.

Mike Geissinger, our Bay Director, organized a series of great Bay activities. Mike's only regret is that he could not organize the weather that he wanted for those activities. Really, Mike, I wasn't THAT cold at the April raft-up. Kathryn Scott proved herself a social maven second to none and is responsible for coining the official mantra of the SCOW Social Director, the publishable version of which is: "Everybody gets a picnic."

Liz Bruening, our Skipper Coordinator, was responsible for what must be a club record in new skippers. I believe that this year, we passed the 100 mark in skippers qualified on the Scots, cruisers, or both. Jason Stevens, our Maintenance Director, dealt quickly and reliably with the various maintenance crises that erupt at inconvenient moments every year and was responsible for purchasing our new Flying Scot sails. Heather Spurlock, our Training Director put on a top-notch training program all summer, and successfully dealt with the demands of trying to juggle the ever-changing schedules and cancellations of students and instructors. John Rogers, our River Director, organized a full complement of river activities, including SCOW's first regular "New Member Sails." Ruth Connolly did an outstanding job as SCOW's first Race Captain . Ruth supervised the selection of the

skippers and crews for the Tuesday night DDCF series as well as organizing the Tuesday night Flying Scot races.

I want to thank each of the Board 2K members for what they did for the club this year. I also want to thank each of them for the loyalty and support that they gave to me. I will always look back proudly on what we accomplished together.

Fair winds and following seas!

January Membership Meeting

Our regular membership meetings resume on Monday, January 8th. SCOW members Jack and Nikki Goodman will talk about the eight months they spent sailing down to Florida and to the Bahamas in 1998 - 99. They will tell us about their adventures and share tips on how they planned for the trip. Believe it or not, they spent only \$4000 during their entire eight months on the water. Many members have spent that in one weekend on their boats. For most of us, such a sailing trip is the dream of a lifetime. Come out and hear from some fellow members who made the trip! 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

2001 Board Of Directors Election Results

Elections were held at the club's November annual membership meeting for the 2001 Board of Directors. Our club officers next year will be: Jay Weitzel, Commodore; Kathryn Scott, Vice Commodore; Gloria Spilker, Secretary; Mary Bashore, Treasurer; Bill Bernhards, Race Captain; Judi Campbell, Training Director; Matt Gaston, Social Director; Joan O'Kane, Skipper Coordinator; Jon Allen, River and Bay Director; and Sergey Tagashov, Maintenance Director.

Kelly Bowers Awarded Blankfield Award

SCOW annually gives the Al Blankfield Award to recognize one member who has given outstanding service to the club during the past year. The award is named for the late Al Blankfield, who served the club in many capacities, including Commodore. Former recipients of the award have been: Rick Peters ('94), Barbara Ullman ('95), George Umberger ('96), Thom Unger ('97), Denise Malueg ('98) and Larry Gemoets ('99). The 2000 recipient is Kelly Bowers, who was selected by the Board of Directors for her volunteer service this year in organizing the Thursday night Social Sail program. Kelly not only

recruited two chefs and a dockmaster for every Thursday evening, but also wrote a manual on how to host a social sail. Believe it or not, Kelly does not even know how to sail! Congratulations and thanks to Kelly for her contribution to the club this year!

Larry Gemoets Awarded Abramson Award

SCOW annually gives the Elli Abramson Award to recognize one member who has given outstanding service to the club for an extended period. The award is named for the late Elli Abramson (after whom our boat, Ms Elli is named), who, among other contributions, was active in the club's training program and wrote much of the training material we still use today. Past recipients have been: Marilyn Wilson ('92), Sam Schaen ('93), Al Blankfield ('94), Pat Derry ('95), Stuart Ullman ('96), Declan Conroy ('97), Joe DePoorter ('98) and Monica Maynard ('99). The 2000 recipient is Larry Gemoets, who was selected by the Board of Directors for his numerous dedication to the club. In addition to serving as the long-time editor of Channels, Larry routinely dedicates literally dozens of hours to the training program every summer. Congratulations and thanks to Larry for his many hours of dedicated service to the club!

Social Activities

Kathryn Scott

Thank you all for making our Holiday Potluck Raft-Up (on land) at the Colonies such

a heart-felt gathering. You are terrific chefs! I hope you enjoyed the food, seeing your friends, and seeing yourselves in the photographs we all shot at the Hail and Farewell. You looked great on the dance floor and all duded up as the many images attested. I hope you were able to snag a couple of pictures of the memorable night for yourselves. Some of them will be immortalized in the club's photo albums by our own photo archivist Tina Daberkow.

I want to thank you all for making the potluck so wonderful but offer special thanks to Dale Eager for his musical magic, Pete Hirshman for wrangling our honey baked

hams and turkeys, Sergey Tagashov for making it a bubbly evening with a last minute soda run, and Nelson and Betty Pacheco for keeping us cool with ice. Bravo!

I hope you all had fun this season, and were able to attend some of our many monthly events. Whether it was ice-skating, the America's Cup party, the Re-Up Brunch, the Crab Feast, the Also Ran, the Annapolis Boat Show, the Hail and Farewell or one of our many check-out or maintenance day picnics, I hope you took advantage of the fun social events that SCOW has to offer. Where else can you make a new friend, learn a new skill or trip

the light fantastic for only \$40 a year? If you didn't get a chance to participate as fully as you would have liked this year, don't worry. We'll have a great new season of fun coming up in 2001. Please accept my best wishes for a happy holiday season filled with laughter and joy. I hope you will be surrounded by people you love. Thanks for a great season!

Hail And Farewell A Smashing Success!

If you were not among the more than 80 members who were at the Fort Myers Officers' Club on November 17, 2000 for the Hail and Farewell, you missed a wonderful time. The baseball caps, shorts, deck shoes and t-shirts that we see each other in all year were nowhere to be found. In their places were evening gowns, suits and even tuxes! The faces we normally see slathered with sunscreen were freshly scrubbed. It is wonderful each year to see how well we clean up.

Commodore Jay Weitzel recognized several people for special contributions during the year. Larry Gemoets and Kelly Griffin were recognized for their work putting out Channels every month. Sam Schaen was recognized for his work maintaining the SCOW computerized data base. Kelly Bowers was recognized for organizing all of the Social Sails this year. Ruth Connolly was recognized for her service this year as SCOW's first Race Captain. Jeff Teitel was recognized for maintaining the SCOW email list. Jay also thanked the members of the Training Committee (Chair Barbara Ullman and members Dan McClafferty, Mike Geissinger, Jeff Teitel, Thom Unger, Joe DePoorter, Liz Bruening and Heather Spurlock) for their work this year in updating training materials.

Each member of the board recognized those members who had made special contributions during the year. In a highlight of the evening, Training Jackets were awarded to those members who had contributed more than 20 hours of training to the club in 1998, 1999 and 2000. Larry Gemoets received the Elli Abramson Award and Kelly Bowers received the Al Blankfield Award. (Details are in accompanying articles.)

A silent auction was conducted throughout the evening, with members outbidding one another for such goodies as a private yoga lesson, a massage, baby and pet sitting services, a Polartec vest and a gift certificate (both donated by West Marine) and a book "The Golden Age of Sailing" (donated by the Washington Sailing Marina ship's store). Following the presentations, members enjoyed dancing until midnight.

Thanks to those who helped organize the evening -- your efforts made the Hail and Farewell a night to remember.

Amateur Radio Classes Available

The club has been contacted by Rick Bunn, the President of the Alexandria Radio Club, to tell us that his club will be sponsoring a class on amateur or "ham" radio. The class will meet once a week starting in mid February and will run for approximately 12 weeks, with a

testing session at the end of the class. If you successfully pass the exam, the FCC will issue your license about three weeks thereafter. The cost is \$35, which includes books and the test session. If you are interested, contact Mr. Bunn at (703)317-9305 or Rich Adamy, the chief instructor, at (703)644-3920. If you have been intimidated by morse code, the FCC changed its rules last year, and morse code is not required for the "Technician Class" or entry level license, although this class may only operate on VHF frequencies. The higher "General Class" requires only 5 words per minute of code and provides operations on all amateur bands.

Help Wanted

After nine years of service, Sam Schaen has asked us to find another volunteer to administer the SCOW computerized database. The person should be skilled in computers and database administration, have a Pentium PC with 30 MB hard disk space available, have access to a printer capable of printing labels, have access to database software (probably MicroSoft Access), have the ability to create queries and reports and have email access. The primary duties of the job are: updating the information in our member database when members join or change addresses, printing labels for Channels and other mailings, and preparing and printing our member directory booklet. If you would like more information on what the job entails, contact Sam Schaen at <schaen@mindspring.com> or contact Commodore Jay Weitzel.

Bay Activities 2001

Commodore Jay Weitzel has announced the formation of a Bay Activities Committee to draft a 2001 Bay Activities program. Jack Schwartz, Mike Geissinger and Stu Robinson, the three most active 2000 Bay skippers, have agreed to serve on the Committee. Patrick Derry has offered his assistance. The Committee will develop a draft Bay program for next season and then the program will be presented to the Bay Skippers early next year for their comments. Bay Skippers should watch their mailbox for information in the new year.

New Members

SCOW welcomes our newest members: Fritz Fisher, Karin Cratty, Hameed Faridani, William Harris, Virginia and Gordon Cameron, Stephen Mires, and James Campbell.

Many thanks this year to Bev Ashcraft, who as our New Member Coordinator, returned many phone calls from prospective members and assisted with Monday night meetings in sharing the many benefits of the club with new members.

River Activities

John Rogers

Scheduled river activities are over for the year but you may still get out for a sail on a cool peaceful day. The Hail & Farewell is over (it went very well) and the new board is poised for action. So I suspect this will be my last Channels article for a while.

When I grew up, my uncle had a tradition, everyone had to write poem to get Thanksgiving dinner. With thoughts of food in the air (Thanksgiving, Hail and Farewell) and wanting to recognize those who created the Chow Scow Dhow (food again), I remembered the tradition and set out to write a poem. After some frustration and much appreciated help from my wife, I presented at the following at the Hail & Farewell:

**The Captain and the Crew
(By Susan Berman, with apologies to Jimmy Buffet)**

I never used to miss the chance
To climb upon his knee
And listen to the many tales
Of social sail with glee
We'd go sailin' on the Flying Scots
And eat some food with brew
Thursday was a day to play
For the captain and the crew
Our food was served on folding tables
Martha Stewart would be shocked!
The cooks worked hard to feed the crowd
Were their dishes being mocked?
Some folk were growin' smarter then
Wiser with a thought
That's when they came to understand
A new course must be sought
Joe DePoorter had a good idea
George Umberger knew what to do
Scow members helped and soon was born
A place to serve some stew
Denise Mauleg was a big help
Declan and Shelby, too
Dan McClafferty and Mike Geissinger
Rounded out the crew
They worked about a month or so
When August filled the air
And though I cried, I was so proud
To see a thing so rare
The Scow Chow Dhow was launched this fall A lovely thing to see

With anchor lights and running lights
The ship could go to sea
The wheels would be its leeboard
No need for noble keel
The feasts upon its deck would serve
A multitude of meals
I now don't want to miss the chance
To thank those who deserve
Our gratitude and even more
Applause without reserve!

Thanks to everyone for a good year. Best wishes for the holiday and I will see you one the river next year.

P.S. Maybe we should start a literary corner in Channels? The following poem (or perhaps song?) was the inspiration for the poem above:

The Captain and the Kid

By Jimmy Buffett

I never used to miss the chance
To climb upon his knee
Listen to the many tales
Of life upon the sea
We'd go sailin' back on barkentines
An' talk of things he did
Tomorrow just a day away
For the captain and the kid
His world had gone from sailin' ships
To rakin' mom's backyard
He never could adjust to land
Although he tried so hard
We both were growin' older then
Wiser with our years
That's when I came to understand
The course his heart still steered
He died about a month ago
While winter filled the air
And though I cried I was so proud
To love a man so rare
He's somewhere on the ocean now
A place he oughta be
With one hand on the starboard rail
He's wavin' back at me
I never used to miss the chance
To climb upon his knee
Listen to his many tales
Of life upon the sea
We'd go sailin' back on barkentines
Talk of things he did

**The world was just a day away
For the captain and the kid
For the captain
And this kid**

New Skippers

A hearty welcome and fair winds to our newest SCOW skippers:

**Flying Scots - David Carstens, Karen Zuza
Cruisers - Francis Wu**

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.....