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# ChaNNels

## The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington

January, 2002

### Gary Jobson to Speak at January Membership Meeting

The Volvo Ocean Race is an intense around-the-world grand prix sailing competition that has been taking place every four years since 1973. The race, formerly known as the Whitbread Around the World Race, departed Southampton, England on September 23, 2001. It consists of nine legs of varying length and stopovers in Cape Town, South Africa; Sydney, Australia; Auckland, New Zealand; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Miami, Florida, USA; Baltimore and Annapolis, Maryland, USA; LaRochele, France; Goteborg, Sweden; and Kiel, Germany. Currently, they're in the fourth leg, from Auckland to Rio de Janeiro.

SCOW is privileged to have renowned sailor Gary Jobson come speak about this international event, and the various activities surrounding the Baltimore-Annapolis stopover. Jobson, 51, is a world-class sailor, television commentator, author and corporate advisor based in Annapolis. Gary covered America's Cup 2000 for ESPN and Sailing World and covered the 2000 Olympics in Sydney for NBC.

Gary has won many championships in one-design classes, the America's Cup with Ted Turner in 1977, the infamous Fastnet Race and many of the world's ocean races. In college he was an All-American sailor three times and was twice College Sailor of the Year (1972, 1973).

Jobson has been ESPN's sailing commentator since 1985 and produces over 30 shows per year. In 1988, Jobson won an Emmy for his coverage of yachting at the Olympic Games in South Korea. Gary has authored 12 sailing books and is Editor at Large of Sailing World and Cruising World magazines. His newest book is titled **An America's Cup Treasury**.

Gary is the National Regatta Chairman of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's sailing program. He has led ambitious sailing expeditions to Antarctica and Cape Horn.

The meeting will be held Monday, January 14, 2002 at the American Legion Hall, 400 Cameron Street, (around the corner from Gadsby's Tavern), in Old Town Alexandria. Socializing begins at 6:30 p.m.; The meeting will be at 7:30 p.m.

### Commodore's Log

As I sit and write this very first Commodore's Log of my tenure, it's the holiday season and this column is for January. That's when sailing season seems the farthest away and all you can do is dream about being on the water. Or, if you're on the water, you probably had to take an airplane to get there. But this is kind of a weird year - as I look out my office window onto the Potomac River, it looks like a great day for sailing. Sure, it's a tad brisk and the sun is down before happy hour, but I see breeze and sun - and boy do I wish I wasn't in this darn office!

But while I'm not out in a sailboat right now, I'm very much in a sailing state of mind, and very excited for the upcoming year. One of the main reasons is our January program - The Volvo Ocean Race (formerly known as The Whitbread Round the World Race). At that meeting, renowned sailor, author, broadcaster and America's Cup winner, Gary Jobson, will be speaking to SCOW about the Volvo Ocean Race and more specifically the upcoming race stopover in Baltimore and Annapolis.

This is quite near and dear to my heart, as four years ago when I'd just moved to DC from Indiana, I had a chance to go to Annapolis and see the racers during their stopover in the last Whitbread. Something about the boats, the crews and what they were doing really captured my interest. And seeing how sailing crazed Annapolis was made me realize that I had moved to a hotbed of watersports after a long sojourn in the landlocked Midwest. Suddenly, I was inspired to learn to sail and become a part of the sailing community here in the Chesapeake Bay area. This resulted in my finding SCOW, and eventually in the column you're now reading.

The Volvo Ocean Race is one of the best-known sailing competitions in the world and it's coming right through our back yard. That's why we're excited to bring this program to you. In addition, we're working on more opportunities for you to experience the Volvo Ocean Race, including possible volunteer opportunities, and a possible outing to "The Party to Beat All Parties" - The Annapolis Salute to the Volvo Ocean Race. Further reports as events warrant. And be sure to come to the meeting on January 14. It'll be a great way to kick off the year and put yourself in a sailing state of mind. I can't wait!

Also, if you'd like to follow the progress of the race, check out [www.volvooceanrace.com](http://www.volvooceanrace.com). It's a terrific site, full of dispatches from the eight challengers, downloads of videos and photos from onboard the boats as they sail around the world in extreme conditions at speeds that reach 30 knots. In addition, you can find out about the various VOR-oriented activities associated with the stopover. And of course, buy all of the Volvo Ocean Race sailing gear.

Finally on another note, I'd like to second the Boat Asset Committee's plea elsewhere in this issue. This offseason, we have one HUGE maintenance agenda. Right now both big boats, Psycho and Rebecca, are set for major repairs - things that have accumulated over the years and now it's time to bite the bullet and get it done. The good news is that, when these repairs are done, both boats should be able to serve the club for another 5-10 years in great shape! But in order to meet our goal of having both boats back in fighting trim by the first of April, we need your help. Whether you're a skilled boat builder, or like me, you just want to learn, please help out by contacting the new SCOW Maintenance Director, Gordon Cameron at [maintenance@scow.org](mailto:maintenance@scow.org).

'Til next time, fair winds and following seas! If anyone has a suggestion, comment or compliment (especially those!) drop me a line at [commodore@scow.org](mailto:commodore@scow.org).

### **SCOW Sportswear Sale**

Are you looking for a way to spend some of that leftover Christmas cash? Or maybe you suddenly have the sudden urge to festoon yourself in the SCOW logo. Have we got a deal for you! At the January member meeting, SCOW Racing Director Bill Bernhards will be taking orders for hats, denim shirts and golf shirts - all tastefully embroidered with the SCOW logo. They come in all kinds of colors (except the denim shirt, which is, um, denim blue) and they're priced to satisfy even the tightest budget:

Hats -- \$10.00

Golf Shirts -- \$20.00 (S-XL); \$23.00 (XXL)

Denim Shirts -- \$25.00 (S-XL); \$28.00 (XXL)

We're only printing what we sell, so bring your checkbook and place your order at the January member meeting. Your SCOW sportswear will be ready for pick-up at the February meeting. If demand is high enough, we may do another run later in the year.

Can't wait to order? Contact Bill Bernhards at [racing@scow.org](mailto:racing@scow.org).

## **Big Boat Maintenance Update (And Plea For YOUR Help!)**

In the December Channels, we reported on the survey of Psycho and mentioned that a survey was also going to be done on Rebecca. That survey has been completed. The surveyor concluded that Rebecca is structurally sound and should give the club many more years of service. However, as with Psycho, there are many important maintenance tasks that need to be done on Rebecca.

The best news is that Rebecca's blistering is not as severe as we had feared and will not require that the hull be bead-blasted. We will have to strip off the old paint, open up the blisters to dry over the winter, then fill all the blisters and repaint the boat in the spring. Rebecca has been hauled at Fort Washington Marina, the closest marina with storage space available for the winter, and we will be working on the boat there.

Among the other projects that we need to complete on Rebecca over the winter are: installing a new gas tank so that fumes cannot vent into the cabin area; repairing cracks in several fiberglass bulkheads, rebedding the shroud chain plates and stern pulpit, repairing the hatch cover, anchor well cover and rudder; repairing several leaking windows; and repairing and replacing the bow pulpit.

On Psycho, over the winter, we have to: repair the leaking toe rail by replacing pieces that have deteriorated and then rebedding the entire toe rail; repair the forward hatch cover, install new winches; install a new bilge pump; install a stove and fresh water system; repair the cabin sole and battery shelf; restore the v-berth and missing interior panels; repair several portions of the electrical system; paint the deck; and install a v-berth vent fan.

This is an incredibly ambitious set of tasks, but all of them must be completed if both boats are to continue to serve the club as popular, comfortable and safe cruisers. More importantly, nearly all of these tasks must be accomplished before spring so that we can return the boats to service before the sailing season begins.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO DO THIS! A small group of members cannot do this alone! For example, we estimate that it will take at least three weekends early this spring to fill, sand and fair Rebecca's hull, and to paint with barrier coat and bottom paint. At the same time, work will be happening on Psycho. We are asking all members who have any skills to volunteer some time to help over the winter. Hey, you will not be sailing, so you may as well experience the "dark side" of boating -- maintenance. We especially want to appeal to those of you who use the big boats, be it as skippers, participants in the big boat races, or attendees at the river cruises. Please help us get the boats ready to be used in all of those events next season! To volunteer, just send an email to [maintenance@scow.org](mailto:maintenance@scow.org). Thanks!

## **Holiday Raft Up Recap**

The Annual SCOW Holiday Raft-Up was held Sunday, December 16, 2001 at the Colonies Clubhouse in McLean. We had about 92 people and the consensus was a good time was had by all. The decorations were lovely, the fire was comforting, the white poinsettias with the embedded fiber optic lights were a new touch, the potluck was varied, the desserts were plentiful and the Yuengling beer was a favorite with many of the beer drinkers.

This event could never have happened without the help of many volunteers, including: George Umberger, Patti Gaston, Ellen Thompson, Matt Gaston, Dan McClafferty, Dale Eager, Brian Lee, June Doezema, Bob Bruening, Jeff Teitel, Bill Clark Jr., Jay Weitzel, Mona Hahn, Julia Clones, Che-Che Beima, Bill Bernhards, Donna Cohen, Sara Slocum and all those who brought food and beverages to share. If I've missed someone, my apologies for the oversight.

Special thanks go to Sal Lauricella, our "Godfather", who sponsors SCOW for the use of the clubhouse twice a year.

And very special thanks to everyone who came on Sunday and was part of the party. We wouldn't have had a party without you! This year's was especially nice because we had a real feeling of family; "family" in the sense of members attending with their spouses and children and "family" in the sense of renewing ties and friendships with members and friends you may not have seen in a while.

## **Racing News**

**Bill Bernhards**

Welcome to the New Year! Our racing program this year will be packed with all of last year's excitement, as well as some new ideas for 2002.

Many things begin in April. If you are a big-boat racing skipper, plan to attend the April Members Meeting where we will choose skippers for the DICK Tuesday night racing series. If you want to crew for the big boats, we will have sign up sheets at the February and March meetings.

The 2nd Annual SCOW "Spring Tune Up Regatta" will be held in late April. We hope to get more small boat participation this year, and I hope to have all of our Scots racing this time. We will have those special racing t-shirts that were in short supply last year. A few volunteers will be needed to help plan and execute this event. So if you would like to get more involved (and connected) with the local racing scene, get in contact with me at one of our meetings or e-mail me at [race@scow.org](mailto:race@scow.org).

Also in April we will have another racing seminar. Planning is under way for a well-known sailor to present this year's program. April also starts our Tuesday night Scot racing. This is a great way for all of those new and old Scot skippers to get in the groove again after getting rusty from the winter layover, as well as everyone else who wants to get out on the water, meet new people and learn more about sailing.

Plan to get more involved this year - there will be something for everyone.

## **Training**

**Donna Cohen**

Happy New Year to All! Hey now, what's that noise...do I hear a drum roll?...Give me a T..give me an R..give me an A..I..N..I..N..G!

Here I am, your brand new Training Director. As you read this section our Board will be working on the forthcoming training schedule and will be reporting the particulars as soon as possible. Send me your suggestions, pledges to volunteer and feedback at [training@scow.org](mailto:training@scow.org).

Let's stay in touch and please approach me when you spot me at meetings, events, on the dock, in the water (especially if I'm in the water, I'll probably need help if I'm in the water : ) )

I'm looking forward to an instructive and informative year!

## **River and Bay**

**Jon Allen**

We're already planning another year of great activities on both the river and the bay! And we're always looking for new ideas. If you have any suggestions for river or bay activities or are a skipper who wants to help out, please email me at either [river@scow.org](mailto:river@scow.org) or [bay@scow.org](mailto:bay@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.

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### 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 look kinda silly, or even totally unreadable.**

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**  
within one week after the monthly membership meeting.

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**Kelly E. Griffin, Layout Editor (the hard part)**  
**Declan Conroy, Web Publisher**  
**Kim Webb, Labels**  
**Joan O'Kane, Editor**  
**(I dress up the electronic edition too)**

**That's all, folks.....**