

Commodore's Log

Happy New Year and it looks like 2005 will be a *really* happy year for SCOW.

First, THANKS to the 2004 SCOW Board, who passed like Old Man Time (and Len Zuza) into history. If you see someone from last year's board, please say thanks. It means a lot to those folks who spent so much of their own time working so you can enjoy club activities, whether sailing, social, or just getting this innocent looking newsletter published. They have even gotten us good weather so folks were out sailing until mid-December. Those guys did it right. Their influence continues into 2005. A lot of stuff is hidden to most, but the obvious things are out in the open.

I continue to be impressed with the quality and enthusiasm of the SCOW membership and I take pride in being part of a club with an excellent place to sail on the Potomac River, right here in the middle of the city, and we are a short hop to the Bay for more advanced sailing. And the entire Atlantic Ocean is just down the river. How far down can we go this year?

Upcoming events:

January 10 General Membership Meeting — Mike Geissenger will speak on his trip down the Intercoastal Waterway. Our membership meetings are always held the second Monday each month in Old Town. See the SCOW website for specifics on this and much, much more at <http://www.scow.org/>.

January 9 Holiday Party: This is a very nice Holiday raft-up, which is really an eating raft-up party at the Colonies in McLean on Sunday afternoon, January 9. Cost a Dish to share or \$10 at the door. Thanks to Gerri Hanna for keeping this on track while the Margaret gets the new Social committee organized.

February Charter Sail: The biggest event of the Year 2005 is the winter raft up in Belize, where about 24 SCOW members in four huge live-aboard catamarans will dominate the Belizean coral reefs from Feb 12-19. This is probably the best start to the sailing year SCOW has ever had. Thanks to Len Zuza for heading this event up and also for being Commodore for our fine club this past year.

Looking Ahead

While last year's Board is a tough act to follow, we will try to maintain or exceed their accomplishments in all categories--except for rewriting the by-laws. I hope to leave that alone unless I get an equally superb (and equally free) lawyer on the board. Thank you, Jay Weitzel.

One thing I would like to do is get the word out on SCOW. So we have added a Director for Advertising. Ideas? Send them to Rhonda at advertising@scow.org.

The New Board has been reshuffled a bit

To meet the personal needs of a few of our board members, the 2005 board slate is being reorganized as follows, subject to membership discussion and a

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Next Membership Meeting: Monday, January 10, 2005

The November membership meeting will be on Monday, January 10th, 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. Mike Geissenger will speak on his trip down the Intercoastal Waterway.

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confirmation board vote at the January 15th meeting, in accordance with SCOW by-laws,.

Commodore: Steve Linke
Vice: Bill Patton
Secretary: Rod Pharness
Treasurer: Dorothy Stocks
Directors:
Skippers: Karyl Owings
Training: Doug Kelch
Racing: Mike Murphy
Maintenance: Lynne Russillo
Social: Margaret Monsour
River and Bay: Robert Werlas
Advertising: Rhonda Glasmann

As you read this, we have not yet met as a board but already we have the essentials of the 2005 calendar laid out. (No, not the drinking and partying--that will happen, I know--we already ran across the SCOW reserve of rum rations in the SCOW equipment locker.) Instead, I am talking about the major, training and racing activities. Margaret Monsour stepped up to be Social Director for the Club when we were in a pinch so when she calls please don't say you gave at the office. Doug Kelch is our new Training Director and he is rolling. I think he is going to have new, trained and ready skippers for both the Flying Scots and cruisers for checkouts in abundance this year. I know his years of sailing experience will influence a lot of the club's activities.

On volunteers

The Board for 2005 will continue the tradition of SCOW in leading by example. We are the first line of SCOW volunteers. You will see us at the various activities, which we organized, extending the glad hand, and talking up SCOW. We will take our turn at hosting the social sails. Since we are a club, we need you to come out and help a little, play a little, or help from home.

You can help. For example, sign up to host a Thursday social sail at the WSM - it is only one activity for the year and it really makes recruiting new members to SCOW so much easier. We have about 20 of these from mid April to mid-September. Do it as a group with your friends or do it by yourself and order pizza. And don't tell me you can't at least order pizza. Look for the sign up sheet at SCOW social and business events. SCOW needs a Social Sail coordinator.

Thanks to new volunteers who have already stepped up.

Thanks, of course to our new Board members and to others coming forward to help.

- + Walter Peterson has agreed to chair the audit committee this coming year to review our financial records and ensure we stay afloat and out of jail.
- + Welcome to Jan Earle as new Chairwoman of the Training and Skipper Certification Committee.
- + Jay Weitzel has agreed to continue chairing the Bylaws Committee and with the Boat Asset Committee until midyear 2005.
- + Melissa Ennis will stay on as New Members Coordinator.
- + Bill Bernhards continues the Boatique, where we get good, inexpensive shirts, hats and so on with SCOW logos. *Come to re-up brunch in March and order some new togs for spring. Or send him an email at boutique@scow.org to learn more.*
- + Margaret (Peg) O'Laughlin has joined the website team as web editor. Remember to check out the website regularly for upcoming event (www.scow.org) and see Peg's hard work.
- + Monika O'Connor and Jeff Teitel continue to work behind the scenes with the website and our email server.
- + Kathy Martin and Julia Clones have volunteered to help co-chair the annual social events.

(New) Commodore Steve Linke

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 2004 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

MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CLUB VOLUNTEERS

It's time for some New Year Resolutions. Pick one, any one. Just (don't) say no...to all of them.

SCOW has some traditional community involvement events and some standing committees. A few require a bit of liaison and publicity work. We are calling on all of you, the 400+ members of SCOW, to step forward to head up or help. The folks that did these activities last year deserve a rest and unless someone steps forward to lead, these activities may not get done, or may not get done very well. If you know something about them, or have interest and would like to know more, send an email to Steve Linke (commodore@scow.org) and ask for details. Or maybe you have another activity you'd like to see your club take on. Contact Steve with the ideas (and a willingness to get it going).

Alexandria Red Cross Weekend Festival – June, Old Town Alexandria. We take a Flying Scot to Old Town and set up an information exhibit on SCOW, manned throughout the weekend days and evenings -- by SCOW members. We draw in lots of new members this way. Good way to meet folks, both in the club and at the festival. Good way to learn what it takes to trailer a boat with a mast down the parkway, a-la Smokey and the bandit...Check with Thom Unger for details.

Leukemia Cup Regatta – The object of this race is to raise as much cash as we can for the Leukemia Society. This is now a SCOW tradition and famously dominated by The Five Skippers, who set a tough standard in fund-raising for this event. But your fund-raising problems are already largely solved. What we need most for SCOW is a point of contact to get and distribute information and help allocate the club boats, based on who raises the most money, for this mid-September race. This is an excellent charity and great PR for SCOW. George Umberger and Dale Eager are good people to talk with for more details. Phil Barbara will help.

National Maritime Heritage Foundation – SCOW tries to help with their need for trainers on the Anacostia River one night a week. We need a person to help identify SCOW volunteers who have been doing this and continue the tradition. Again, the need is for a contact person. Len Zuza will help a lot with this and has more details.

Special Olympics – SCOW has participated for several years in this very worthwhile event where we take part in sail training of individuals with development disabilities. For four weeks each June, we train and mentor these athletes on our Flying Scots and participate in specially planned races. Many of our athlete friends continue on to the Special Olympics held at St. Mary's at the end of July. If interested, contact Monika O'Connor at members@scow.org for details

Standing SCOW Committees – We need members for *Training Committee, Boat Asset Committee, and Racing Committee*. If interested in these activities, contact: commodore@scow.org or see the front of the membership directory for a list of committee heads and call someone. Usually these committees meet once or twice a year.

Some other standing committees are:

Social – We always need help with social events, ideally taking the lead or just helping to set up or tear down one of the annual events. This could be taking it and planning it from now through completion, or might be just coming early or staying around a little later on the day of the event. Email our Social Director Margaret Monsour at social@scow.org.

Maintenance – We certainly need folks who can help our maintenance director. This is a perfect way to learn how to maintain boats, sails, hulls, rigging, and even some of the systems on the cruisers. Take on a little or a lot. Lynne is our new Maintenance Director and is organizing with maintenance chiefs for each of the boats and even the maintenance lockers as WSM where we store lots of our tools, parts, etc. Email her at maintenance@scow.org. If you are a skipper on one of the boats, you know that we especially need your help to help maintain what are essentially your boats.

ADIEU FROM THE OUTGOING BAY AND RIVER ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

Evie Banda

2004 Outgoing Bay and River Activities Director

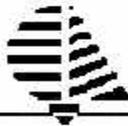
To each and every one of you who participated in big and small ways to make the River and Bay sailing opportunities successful, thank you for your participation and assistance. I wish to extend special thanks to those who made 2004 such a great year, including:

- + Donna Cohen for coordinating Potomac River sails throughout the year: from member sails to moonlight sails and raft-ups
- + Monica O'Connor for the outstanding Book of Details that became my Bible, and for updating the website
- + Larry Gemoets and Sandy Glover for being such a great help to so many SCOW boaters
- + Jack Schwartz for hosting Chesapeake Bay Progressive Dinner sails...including scheduled and spontaneous ones...
- + Jeff Teitel for the Rhode River Raft-up--we can always count on you in more ways than one
- + Mike Geisinger for sharing tall tells from his long journey south, and other tall tells
- + Don Deese for his great passion for sailing on both the Bay and the River
- + Phil Bender for organizing a Full Moon Frolic on the Bay
- + All those who invited SCOW members aboard their boats for moonlight sails and day sails on the bay and the river
- + Bill Patton and Gerri Hanna for being such cool heads in a hot situation--you set exemplary examples for all
- + Jay Weitzel for leading the final Potomac River on-the water raft-up of the season, and for your support and contagious enthusiasm
- + Allen Lewis for the excellent Fowl Weather Bay Raft-up one more time...what a way to end the season!

All those who participated in River and Bay activities...for your good cheer, your good (bad) jokes, and just for being there.

Last, but not least, Len Zuza for organizing the exceptionally successful Memorial Day weekend and subsequent weeklong cruise, and for his wise leadership throughout the year, and to Karen for supporting him.

To each and every one whose name I forgot to mention--there were so many great volunteers involved in a multitude of events--if your name or event does not appear here, you can either keelhaul me or let me buy you a hot-buttered rum on a cold winter night. Regardless, I raise a toast (SKOAL!--clink go the brimming glasses; wink go the long eye lashes) to all the new and longstanding SCOW friends and acquaintances that enrich this club, and to those yet to discover this friendly harbor.



FROM THE VICE COMMODORE

Bill Patton

SCOW January Membership Meeting Speaker: *Travel South on the Atlantic Inter-coastal Waterway* with club members Mike Geissinger and Barb Brecher.

When: Monday January 10th, 2005 at 7:30 PM. Social Hour starts at 6:30 PM in the pub.

Where: American Legion Hall, 400 Cameron Street, Old Town Alexandria

If you have thought about taking your boat south for the winter, come hear Mike and Barb talk about their experience on the Atlantic Intra-coastal Waterway. The Atlantic Intra-coastal Waterway (ICW) facilitates navigation along the southeastern seaboard of the United States. Its 1,200 mile course includes manmade canals, bays protected by barrier islands, natural river channels, and estuaries. Mike and Barb made new friends, overcame a few challenges, and will no doubt offer a few suggestions to others planning a similar journey. And, perhaps they will share some of their plans for moving Euphoria back her home port in the spring.

AND NOW, A WORD FROM THE AMAZED TRAINING DIRECTOR...

Doug Kelch

AMAZING! Here I sit writing an article for Channels as the new Training Director for SCOW when I had not even heard of SCOW a year ago.

Speaking of AMAZING, SCOW itself is amazing! This club provides a sail training program for its members that is as good or better than the commercial training I have seen. Even more AMAZING is the fact that all of the training is done by very accomplished group of sailors who are all volunteers and very good at transferring their knowledge to enthusiastic beginners. It is AMAZING that this training continues into intermediate technique, racing and cruising skills. It's AMAZING that the boats are perfectly suited to the complex trade offs of this multipurpose task. The Flying Scot is an AMAZING day sailor/racer/trainer while the cruising boats are well suited and equipped to guide your skills up to becoming a competent coastal cruiser and PHRF racer.

What makes SCOW so AMAZING? People like Jan Earle, the 2004 and 2003 Training director. Jan jumped into the position when the 2003 director had to resign just as the crunch came. She was able to get on top of things quickly and rally the training volunteers to another good year. In 2004 she created the tutoring role, led by Ed Venere, for the purpose of fine-tuning the student's skills before they went to the actual check out. As a result the vast majority of students in the basic training program successfully checked out. AMAZING – Thanks to Ed Venere as well!

Jan also partnered with Karyl Owings who was the 2004 skipper director to improve the overall process of skipper certification and testing. Thankfully Karyl has retained the position of skipper director for 2005. An AMAZING amount of productive work was by done by Jan and Karyl so thanks to you both for making SCOW a more effective organization for us all.

So at the end of two years of hard work with AMAZING results does Jan take all the credit and quietly retire? No! As one of her last actions she promotes 4 of our most dedicated trainers to the status of Senior Instructor. Jan submitted their names to the 2004 board of directors and they were all approved. So my special thanks go to our latest additions to our Senior Instructor group (an AMAZING group of

dedicated sailors), Larry Gemoets, Larry McAndrews, Neil Shepherd, and Ed Venere. These four have excelled in the quality of their instruction and the quantity of their time committed to SCOW.

By the way, the AMAZING members of this elite Senior Instructor group forms the backbone of a number of efforts within SCOW so thanks to them as well. So thanks to Declan Conroy, Jeff Teitel, Stuart Ullman, Thom Unger and Len Zuza

So after that you would think that Jan would relax a bit but NO! She has volunteered to continue to work in the training organization and is working on some new course material to keep you thinking about sailing this winter! AMAZING.

Not only have Jan and Karyl have even mapped out the tasks that I have to do to continue the current quality program but they have an AMAZING list of new things that need to be done that will keep the SCOW membership coming back year after year. With Karyl Owings staying on as Skipper Director and Jan continuing in a strong support role I am sure we will have yet another AMAZING year with SCOW training in 2005.

I am extremely pleased to be able work with such an AMAZING group of trainers in such a friendly and cooperative SCOW organization.

The Post Holiday Raft Up (a euphemism for a land based party) is coming up soon and one of the things you can do is to tell us what you can do for SCOW and what SCOW can do for you. We will have a holiday gift box for you to give a gift to SCOW – your idea on what SCOW can do for you. I hope to see you there as it is an AMAZING party put on by an AMAZING club.

There are some good ideas floating around the board rooms these days and they should gel by the time the RE-UP party comes along in early spring. Jan, Karyl and others have some new training activities in mind that you will not want to miss next year. So plan on coming to the RE-UP party or you may miss it.

Thanks

BOAT YARD BLUES

Lynne Russillo, Maintenance Director

Greetings. I am taking over the position of Maintenance Director from John Roland, my mentor and hero. John has done a great job and has left me with well-organized records and information, and he continues to guide me. He also has assured me that if I can work on a bicycle, I can work on a Flying Scot. Thank you, John.

I am planning to add a few things to the maintenance program so that it is a little more manageable and also to offer more structured maintenance training to SCOW members.

Maintenance Teams

Cruiser maintenance will be separated from Scot maintenance in that each cruiser will have a maintenance team, lead by a bosun and a co-bosun who will be responsible for coordinating the cruiser's repairs and maintenance. The cruisers can have separate maintenance days, if the bosuns want to do that. We can still work on all five boats on maintenance days, but don't have to. Cruiser bosuns may want to have cruiser maintenance workshops for their teams. Cruiser skippers in particular, please consider joining one of the cruiser maintenance teams.

Scot bosuns and co-bosuns will form the core of the Scot Maintenance Team. I'd like to have a Scot bosun workshop so that bosuns and co-bosuns know how to strip down the Scots and put them back together, as well as what things to check—like rivets falling out of booms—(your maintenance director would like to know these things too).

SCOW offers a great opportunity to learn ALL about boats. All suggestions and volunteers are welcome. If you have expertise in boat maintenance and repair, we'd like to tap that. Please contact me at maintenance@scow.org to get involved.

Maintenance Expert Mentoring

At the joint board meeting in December, we talked about a maintenance expert mentoring program. We ask those of you who have your own boats and have expertise to ask for volunteers from the club when you need help with work on your boats so that we can develop more repair experts. Please contact me at maintenance@scow.org if you would like to be a mentor or would like to work with a mentor. I would like to develop a list of mentors and information on their boats (what and where) and a list of mentorees and their skills and interests in maintenance.

Bosun Status

“Rebecca”: Bill Bernhards will continue to be Rebecca's bosun, with John Roland as his partner in crime.

“Psycho”: Jan Earle will take over as bosun of Psycho as David Schuermann has been overwhelmed by the Sea Scouts (think Gulliver and the Lilliputians). Jan would like to share the honor with another person and so is looking for a co-bosun.

SCOW MEMBERS WIN CHRISTMAS SAILING AWARD

We are pleased to announce that Psycho with Captain Dorothy Stocks, First Mate Jan Earle and Graham Leadbetter and Lynne Russillo as crew, participated in the Parade. The lighting theme was "Let it Snow - Let it Snow - Let it Snow"! Little did we know, as we were traveling across the Potomac back to the Sailing Marina reflecting on the fun-filled evening, the "Hardest Souls" award was being presented to "Psycho."



SOCIAL CALENDAR FOR 2005!

Margaret Monsour, Social Director

Hello. The first thing I want to do is to acknowledge and thank Gerri Hanna for the phenomenal job she did as Social Director during 2004 - Gerri, on behalf of all hands, "a million thanks."

The first major SCOW social activity coming up is the SCOW Holiday Party on Sunday, January 9th. This is a great opportunity to catch up with your sailing buddies, for new members to meet some of the club's old salts and for everyone to dream and put into place plans for some great sailing in 2005 - on the river, on the bay or elsewhere in the world! Come enjoy a delicious buffet, complete with drinks. Cost is \$10/per person or bring a dish to feed 7 to 10 people in lieu of the entrance fee. I'm also looking for members to volunteer to crew the party. If you can help with set-up, bartending, collecting money and the all important clean-up detail please let me know social@scow.org.

Here are the specifics for the Holiday Party:

When: Sunday, January 9, 2005

Where: The Colonies Clubhouse Room, 7681 Provincial Drive, McLean, VA

Time: 5 PM to 8 PM

Directions: Go to The Colonies website at www.thecolonies.com.

In the coming weeks, I'll be thinking a lot about planning the club's social activities for 2005, including the RE-UP and social sails on the river, among others. At the Holiday Party I plan to have a "gift box" where members can make a gift to SCOW. The kind of "gifts" I'm talking about is your ideas for what you'd like to see during 2005 in terms of social activities. I'll also use this to collect names of members willing to help out with one more of the club's social activities and to collect names of members willing to give me advance notice that they will volunteer to help out with Social Sails later in the year. If you are not able to attend the Holiday party please send your "gift" ideas directly to me via e-mail.

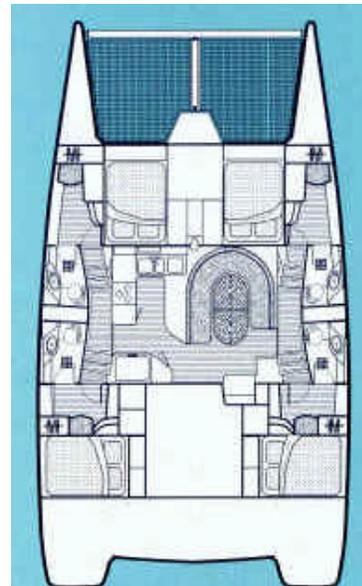
Also, MARK YOUR CALENDARS - the annual RE-UP Brunch will be held at The Colonies on Sunday, March 13, 2005. More info as we get closer to this event.

And don't forget our weekly Thursday night No-Sails at the Rhode Side Grill on Wilson Blvd. in Roslyn. There is plenty of parking and a good menu to choose from if you arrive hungry. Let the hostess know you are looking for the sailing club. We generally grab a few tables near the bar area.

For more info on any of the above, please send an e-mail to me at social@scow.org.



A Mooring's 4500, just like the ones that Len Zuza and company will be frolicking on in Belize in cold, icy February!



2004 Board of Directors

Position	Name	Home	Work	E-mail
Commodore	Steve Linke	703.684.5266	703.604.7006	commodore@scow.org
Vice Commodore	Bill Patton	703.836.5617	703.527.6360	vice@scow.org
Secretary	Rod Pharness	202.641.3991		secretary@scow.org
Treasurer	Dorothy Stocks	703.521.0903	703.524.3147	treasurer@scow.org
Training Director	Doug Kelch	703.716.4959	703.346.7693	training@scow.org
Maintenance Director	Lynne Russillo	202.543.7080	202.646.2395	maintenance@scow.org
Social Director	Margaret Monsour	202.387.3694		social@scow.org
Skipper Director	Karyl Owings			skipper@scow.org
River & Bay Director	Robert Werlas	301.982.9543		bay@scow.org
Racing Director	Mike Murphy	703.820.1991		race@scow.org
Advertising	Rhonda Glasmann	703.813.6068		advertising@scow.org
Other Key People				
New Members	Melissa Ennis	703.845.5764		info@scow.org
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