

ChaNNels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington
January 2008

Commodore's Log

Dear SCOW Members,

Happy New Year!

It's January – time for the first presidential primaries, time for new year's resolutions, time to ponder the year past and plan for the year ahead – and that's what we're doing here at the Sailing Club of Washington!

To our new members who joined in recent months, welcome to SCOW! Whether you are completely new to sailing or have sailed for many years, you have come to the right place . . . and now is a great time to think about and plan for your involvement in the 2008 sailing season.

Interested in taking a class? Be sure to check out our February edition of ChaNNels with course offerings, fees and dates for 2008. Then mark your calendar for the Re-Up brunch on Sunday, March 16, when you can renew your membership and sign up early for a class before they fill. Want to meet some of your fellow members? Consider attending one or both of our January events. The Afterglow party on Saturday, January 12, is a great opportunity to unwind and discuss the upcoming year over some food and drinks. At the general membership meeting on Monday, January 14, we will hear from Julie Hewitt of the National Park Service on the NPS Clean Marina program on how we can participate to foster cleaner waters and a clean marina.

To our returning members, welcome back! The 2007 sailing season was marked with much success and improvement. Among the most noteworthy achievements:

1. We added 2 boats to our fleet, the Flying Scot "Selkie" and the 25-ft. Catalina, "Topaz", bringing our fleet up to 7 boats. Special thanks to Wayne Williams, John Roland, Ron Sheldon and countless others;
2. We transitioned to a web-based boat reservation system to rave reviews by the skippers. Thanks John Rogers;
3. We purchased new sails and made plans to outfit another Flying Scot for spinnaker use. Special thanks on this one to Doug Kelch;

4. We saw a renewed interest and invigoration to the FS racing program. Thanks to our racing director Adam Pressman, and the countless hours put in by "coach" Kristen Berry;

5. Our club helped to raise record amounts of funds for the 2007 Leukemia Cup Regatta, with several SCOW members racing to strong finishes, including SCOW Legend Bill Davenport;

6. We saw useful upgrades to our fleet, including a new easier-to-use motor mount on Rebecca and a new rigging on Danschweida - thanks Bill Davenport for heading up our maintenance;

7. Our classroom and water instructors certified many new skippers on both the Flying Scots and the Cruisers. Thank you instructors and check-out skippers, and training director. Karen Szymczak.

Among the challenges for the year ahead:

1. Review of our boat-use policy on small craft advisories;
2. Re-visiting the BAC recommendation to sell Psycho;
3. Considering upgrades to the SCOW website;
4. Designing and implementing a robust maintenance program, with a focus on getting many people involved and recruiting bosuns;
5. Maintaining strong club finances and allocating resources to ensure that our boats are kept in good condition for years to come; and
6. Most importantly, continued excellence in the class offerings, safety record, social opportunities and enrichment to the community that has made SCOW the premiere sailing club in the Washington, DC area.

I look forward to an exciting year as your Commodore, and hope to see you on the water!

-- Tom Paquin, Commodore

Table of Contents

Commodore's Log	1	Social - Afterglow Party	2	Lost one of the Good Guys	3
Potomac Sailmakers – Jack Wong	4	Sailing Pics and Paintings	5	Board Information	6

Our annual SCOW AFTERGLOW PARTY
January 12th 7-11pm

Where: The Colonies at McLean 7681 Provincial Drive - just inside the beltway, Rt 123 east to right on Provincial Drive. The Colonies is on the left. It is a gated community; just tell the guard you are going to the SCOW party at the clubhouse which is just inside the gate.

Event: A Potluck Dinner - Ham and Roast Beef will be provided - you bring something else delicious to share to go with them -- veggies, salads, desserts, casseroles, those great jello salad thingies, snacks, appetizers, etc. I know there are good SCOW cooks out there!!

Cost: One incredibly delicious dish or Empty Handers will be charged \$10.

Drinks: Each person will be given 2 free drink tickets at the door for beer or wine; additional drink tickets can be purchased at 2 for \$5.00. There will be a selection of sodas, beer and wine; but if you have a favorite, you can bring your own, if you prefer.

Music: We have some great musicians in SCOW -- Bring your instrument and let's have a great jam session like we have had in the past.

Dancing: Boom Box will be there -- bring some great dance CD's . Pool Tables available and the giant screen tv for your latest Sailing Video!

***Come for an evening of great fun
as only SCOW sailors know how to have.***

Volunteers: Please call if you can help.

Need: Set up helpers, Bartenders, Deck Swabbers, etc.
Please call me this week.

Faith Rodell
SCOW Social Director 2008
301-674-9324



Leadenham Creek – Watercolor by Lynne Russilo

Next Membership Meeting: Monday, January 14th, 2008

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

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

I do have this love affair going with the *Lido*... It has all the elements of a true love affair: the immunity to outside influences, the times of infatuation, the times of frustration, the reluctance to abuse, the strained patience towards others, the reassurances of a mast hanging along the garage ceiling as snow blows against the doors... Sometimes I just stand there in my city clothes at the end of the day for a long time with my hand on the deck. Sometimes, when I do that I can feel the burn of the mainsheet cinched around a wet hand, straining against the wind.

John Janvoy Jr.

Author

Back in Keith County

We've lost one of the good guys

by Nelson Pacheco

For anyone who knew Mike McDonough and hasn't heard the sad news, he was lost overboard off his boat last Friday on the Chesapeake. Mike was a sailing instructor at the Chesapeake Sailing School in Annapolis and was also quite a competitor year in and year out in Bay races.

A few SCOW members had the privilege to know him, myself included. Mike typified what sailing and racing is all about. Whenever he met a sailor, especially a new one, he was eager to welcome them into the sport and help in whatever way he could. Excellent sailor, talented teacher, knowledgeable but non-pretentious, eager to help, that's how I remember Mike. The following link, "We've Lost one of the Good Guys" is a special tribute to him.

<http://www.floatline.com/floatline/2007/12/weve-lost-one-o.html>



Photo: Mike McDonough stars in one of the all-time great SpinSheet Magazine covers (June 2002). He was sailing aboard Tim Cutrona's Kittiwah for the Volvo Ocean Race's May 2002 Annapolis re-start when the boat had a close encounter with the DJuice Volvo Ocean 60 off the LNG Docks north of Solomons.



Jacson Wong

<http://www.yakimaherald.com/obit/show/5169>

Potomac Sailmakers

Jackson Wong

By Jay Weitzel

I dropped some canvas at Potomac Sailmakers today and got some terribly sad news. Jackson "Jack" Wong, the owner, died on Saturday, December 15. He went to winterize his boat and didn't come home. The authorities guess that he fell overboard at some point and couldn't get back on board. They recovered his body the next day.

Jack has been a member of SCOW over the years and a great supporter of the club. In particular, when one of our sails has needed repairs, he did the work for us immediately so that we could get our boats back into service. He did great canvas and sail work for the club and many members (including both me and my wife). The club, the sailing community and many of our members have lost a friend. I'm pasting below a portion of the obituary from the Yakima newspaper. The full obituary, with picture, is at the link below. – Jay Weitzel

ANNAPOLIS, MD - Jackson Wong, age 72, died Sunday, December 16, 2007 in Annapolis, MD while preparing his beloved sailboat the "Fy Shun", (meaning "Fast Ship"), for the winter season.

He was born in Yakima, Washington on February 7, 1935 to Wong You and Dong Shee and raised on the family farm in Union Gap. In 1954, Jackson graduated magna cum laude from Yakima High School. He went on to attend Yakima Junior College, Washington State University, then transferred to Oregon State University in Corvallis, OR where he was awarded his Bachelor's degree in mechanical and automotive engineering in 1958. He was awarded the Standard Oil Fellowship for graduate work and received his Master's degree in 1959. Early in his career he worked with Boeing, Bell Aero Systems, Gellcomm, and Atlantic Research on projects in advanced propulsion and control systems. As a contractor to NASA for lunar and planetary missions, he conducted advanced research in aerospace technology in metallurgy, propulsion, and control systems.

Mr. Wong was an avid sailboat racer who collected numerous trophies. He was a member of the Herrington Harbor Sailing Association and the Tartan 30 Association. He was also a partner in an Annapolis marina for many years. Mr. Wong's passion for sailboat racing led to a successful custom sail and canvas fabricating enterprise, Potomac Sailmakers, Inc. based in Alexandria, VA. Since starting the company in 1972, his aeronautical engineering skills served him well in designing highly efficient sails which gained him worldwide recognition. His company was responsible for engineering custom canvas work which included unique projects such as: electronic golf devices with time and distance sensors embedded in the fabric, the honor guard sentry shelter at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and curtains for the White House press room.

He is survived by his wife Joetta Miller of Annandale, Virginia, and his brother Joe Wong of Yakima. Visitation will be 10 A.M. to 11 A.M. Friday, December 28, 2007 at the Keith and Keith Funeral Home 9th Avenue Chapel, 902 W. Yakima Avenue, Yakima, WA. Funeral services will be at 11 A.M. in the 9th Avenue Chapel, followed by interment in Tahoma Cemetery. The family suggests memorial contributions be made to Oregon State University to establish an Engineering Scholarship in memory of Jackson Wong, OSU Foundation, 850 Southwest 35th Street, Corvallis, OR 97333.



Ahoy,

Check out photos of scenic Chesapeake Bay watercolors painted by SCOW member Lynne Russillo as well as photos she took on the SCOW Labor Day raft-up.



Dawn at Dunn Cove
Watercolor by Lynne Russillo



See the photo album titled Lynne Russillo Labor Day Sail.

We also have photos of the Frostbite Regatta. Bill Davenport, skippering Rebecca, took 2nd place in the non-spin class. See the photo album titled Frostbite Regatta.



SCOW Skipper Bill Davenport and the Boat Babes

Bay Sailing – New Years Day

Winds 25 to 30 kts, gale warning up. New Years Day Seaford Yacht Club Race with four boats. I crewed on a 25 foot Freedom. Attached are some of the pix before it really started to blow in the afternoon. On leg 4 of six we busted the car and had to sail with the sheet lashed between the blocks.

Submitted by Rick Gay

There are also some new photos of the Hail & Farewell taken by Dot Almassy's daughter. See the photo album titled Hail & Farewell 2.



To see these new SCOW photos visit:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/Sailing.Club.of.Washington>

or click on the SCOW Pictures link on the right-hand side of the SCOW home page at <http://www.scow.org>

Best Wishes for the New Year,
Mike Rothenberg
SCOW Training Director 2008

2008 Board of Directors

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For Information about Club Activities

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