
CHANNELS -- SPECIAL E-MAIL EDITION

January 1999

Commodore's Log

Thom Unger

Alright, it's 1999... You say it, 1999... 1999... 1999 don't stop, don't stop, say it 1 more time. --
1999 Album, Prince

Yes Folks, believe it or not, the end of the 20th century has arrived. Well, okay, technically one can argue the end is the year 2000, but hey, most folks, and a few computers, will be treating Dec. 31, 1999 as the end of the 20th century. In sailing though, much of what we do rests on methods and traditions dating back many centuries. So while we can always drool over the latest hi-tech sails, the fundamentals remain the same. Working with computers every day as I do, it's nice to get out on the waters and practice skills and crafts that date back more than a year or two. It offers me a chance to reflect on what is enduring and important to me: My friendships with fellow sailors; My quiet enjoyment of a peaceful night sail, gently gliding along the river; The challenge of a sudden summer storm; The joy I get messin' around with boats, fixing and upgrading.

As a club, we offer all this and more, as we share adventure, responsibility, and our love of sailing with one another. Adventure is clearly a part of sailing, whether it be the round the world racer, or the novice making their first docking. Adventure for me comes as a welcome respite from the day to day life working. With adventure though comes responsibility. Responsibility to keep yourself and others safe while sailing, responsibility to the club, an all-volunteer organization, to help with all the myriad details involved. Speaking of volunteers, let me introduce the Officers and Directors of SCOW this year:

Monica Maynard - Vice-Commodore

Sandy Clover - Secretary

Bob Bruening - Treasurer

Bill Clark - Social Director

Tina Daberkow - River Director

Tom Lebrun - Maintenance Director

Jack Schwartz - Bay Director

Shelby Shoop - Skipper Director

Jason Stevens - Training Director

These folks have graciously agreed to help us steer SCOW through the year to come, but neither I nor they can do it alone. SCOW has always depended upon YOUR help to make this club the

wonderful institution that it is. So as we go through this year, volunteer! Have a particular interest? Check with the Director for that area, I can guarantee they will be grateful for your help.

A quick administrative note: Most board meetings are held the first Monday evening of every month at 7:30 pm in Potomac Landings Chart Room. SCOW members are always welcome to attend. One exception to the meeting date: the January board meeting will be a general planning meeting for the entire year. As such, it will be held on Saturday, Jan. 9th at 10:00 am at my house (call for directions if interested in attending).

In closing, we have all been brought together by our common love of sailing, whether it be a small dinghy on the river or a blue-water cruiser, we are fortunate people indeed. Fair winds to all.

Boating Safety Certificate Required!

If you operate a D.C. registered boat (SCOW boats are) in D.C. waters, you must have passed a nationally recognized boating safety course. Also, in Maryland if you were born on or after 1972, then before operating a boat in Maryland waters you must have passed a nationally recognized boating safety course.

You should carry a copy of the boating safety wallet size card of certificate with you when operating a SCOW boat in the river.

You can take a boating safety course or test from a number of sources, including:

US Power Squadron http://www.usps.org/nf_usps.html

USCG Auxiliary <http://www.uscgboating.org/course.html>

BOAT/US <http://www.boatus.com/onlinecourse>

Pentagon Sailing Club <http://www.pentagonsailing.org>

Editor's note: The above info is a revised version of an article in Lubber's Line, The Pentagon Sailing Club's Monthly Newsletter. Thanks to your alert incoming Secretary, Sandy Clover for noting this important issue.

Social Activities

Bill Clark

It is always a pleasure to see your goals for a new year begin to take shape even before that new year begins. My number one goal is to more members participate as volunteers at all of our events. There is an air of enthusiasm among SCOW members this year that is calling people to volunteer and participate in impressive numbers. I was thrilled by the number of members who

quickly, volunteered their time and talents to create a very enjoyable Holiday Raft-Up. We had plenty of volunteers and a visit from a certain jolly old elf. Unfortunately (or fortunately depending on your point of view.), I was unable to attend because I was in a class learning how to build teams that can produce events and projects. One measure of success is that the people organizing the event don't even have to be there and a successful event occurs anyway. Coincidence? I think not. Of course, when you have Stuart Ullman and a great team of SCOW volunteers, why worry. Fun and ease are my are my goals for this years' events and with the help of volunteers this will be easily achieved.

Our first fun event of 1999 will be an ice skating party at the Fairfax Ice Arena, on Saturday, January 23rd. We will begin skating at 8:45 pm and end at 10:30 pm. We will have some snacks available from 9-10 pm. You may arrive a little earlier to purchase your tickets which are \$5.00 per person. Skate rental is \$2.50 for Figure skates and \$3.25 for hockey skates. Last year we had a ball and I know that we will have a groovilicious time this year too.

To ensure a truly groovilicious time I am asking for volunteers to help me organize this event. I'm looking for someone to help set up the "party room" and I'm asking people to bring food to snack on. I'm also asking for people to help with clean up, to be certain we are out of the way when the hockey players arrive. Please call me at 202-965-7302 or even better send e-mail at bcproductions@hotmail.com.

I have received numerous suggestions from members for activities in the coming year. Some are new ideas and some are traditional SCOW favorites such, as the canoe trip. I hereby invite you send suggestions for social activities and let me know which activities you would be willing to organize or host. The board will be meeting to make out the new calendar during the second weekend in January. Therefore I'm requesting that you send in your suggestions by January 7, 1999. Definition: Groovilicious;(adjective)1. Phat. 2. Righteous. 3. Neato. Bill Clark,Jr.

Maintenance

Tom LeBrun

As Monica mentioned in her last column, the screwdriver has been passed to a new maintenance director, but maintenance of the SCOW fleet goes on thanks mainly to a large group of dedicated volunteers, you the members. I know that maintenance days this last year were both fun and well attended; in fact, a maintenance day was my first exposure to SCOW (little did I know how much maintenance I was signing on for). The success of last year's maintenance days is due to your participation and to Monica's hard work and unwavering good cheer. We all owe her three cheers her efforts this past year. Fortunately, we can look forward to her continued involvement in maintenance projects this coming year (even though she's retiring to vice-Commodore). That brings me to the other people who have been closely involved with maintaining the boats for some time now, and will continue to be active this year. The cruisers will continue to be cared for by our past and present commodores: Stuart Ullman will be keeping an eye on Rebecca, and Thom Unger will again be our Psycho maintenance person. For the Flying Scots, Stuart Robinson has agreed to continue his active involvement caring for the fleet. (I don't know how many boats it takes to make a fleet, but it sounds good so I'm sticking to it.) I want to thank these

folks in advance for their efforts, not to mention publish their names in the newsletter before they change their minds. While I'm at it let me take this opportunity to remind you about some of the procedures related to maintenance.

Reporting problems:

When you notice a problem with any of the boats you need to do two things. First, note it in the boat's log book so that other skippers are aware of the problem. Second, notify me or one of the people listed above that the problem exists so that we can be sure to take care of it. Contact information for me and Thom is on the back of this issue of Channels. You can use the membership directory to reach anyone else.

Regarding future plans, our schedule for the coming year (including maintenance days) will be determined in January at the Winter retreat to Thom's house, and published soon thereafter. Aside from the traditional maintenance days, I'm still considering whether we might want to add any other maintenance activities to the mix. In any event, I'll use this column to share my unsolicited opinions on sailing, maintenance, information related to SCOW, nautical books -- whatever comes to mind. With any luck I'll make some people mad enough to write their own columns. Until then, I hope to see you on the docks.

River Activities

Tina Daberkow

Welcome to a brand new year. As a returning Board member I am looking forward to using the experience I received last year to make 1999 even better with regards to the various river activities, which include racing, social sail and overnight raft-ups. The new board will be holding an all purpose planning session in early January to come up with an exciting and eventful year. With the help and interest of all the members it will be a great year.

I would also like to remind everyone that I am also the SCOW scrapbooker. If you take pictures at any SCOW events please consider getting an extra copy and forwarding it onto me, to include in the SCOW Scrapbook/Photo Album. I will plan to bring the current scrapbook which includes both 1997 & 1998 to the Monthly meetings so that everyone will have a chance to see all of the great events that happened through out the year.

Bay Activities

Jack Schwartz

Greetings: As the new SCOW Bay Coordinator, I hope to use this opportunity to provide members with more opportunities to get out sailing on the Bay! I will begin by collecting information about members with boats on the Bay who are interested in participating in raftups, as well as those who might be willing to help organize a trip or be a raftmaster. Plan on receiving a Skipper Information Form in the mail, and return it to me as soon as possible. I will also have Crew Information Forms for members who want to gain Bay experience. Fill one out at a

meeting or call me to have one faxed/mailed to you. While no guarantee of getting out sailing, this will get your name on a crew list that Bay Skippers can consult. I hope to have a raftup each month during the season, with upper and/or lower Bay locations depending on participation. Since I no longer own a boat, I will be counting on participating skippers to help organize the events. Please let me know what dates and/or places you would like to help with. I would also like to encourage Bay day sails—opportunities for members and boat owners to get to sail together on the Bay. Bay Skippers, let me know when and where and how many people you could take. Hopefully this will be a great season for SCOW members to enjoy the Bay!

Hail & Farewell Pics are there

Denise Derry

Ahoy! Despite the U.S. Postal Service's best (or worst) efforts, RadioPro has posted the photos we sent them from SCOW's Hail & Farewell party. The photos arrived in plastic, with a note from the post office... that's always a bad sign.

RadioPro generously posted photos the week following our party, which DJ Dan took with his digital camera. SCOW had 6 disposable cameras in the room that night for anyone to take pics as well - which were then weeded out by "the photo team" of Tina Daberkow, Shelby Shoop and me... although my vote didn't count for much, as you'll see on the website.

So, if you've got a second or two, visit <http://www.radiopro.com/scow/index.htm> to see more of our fun. The site is also listed on the RadioPro homepage, in the "New at RP" box in the lower left so any of their visitors can also see how much fun we sailors can have on land! That site is: <http://www.radiopro.com/>

Happy holly-daze to all!

- Dee

Submissions to Channels:

Please! Just type or paste your articles into the body of an email message. We will format it for you.

No 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. Call 202.628.SAIL (202.628.7245) for information about club activities