

Channels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington
July 2003

Commodore's Log

Now what should I take on this voyage? Umbrella, suit and ties, dress shirts and shoes, perhaps a raincoat what with this weather we've been having?

Wait a minute! I'm confused. I don't want to follow Skipper Melissa's "list of items and apparel to take on a week-long sailing trip".

Swim trunks, topsiders, shorts, a few tee-shirts (including a couple from the SCOW Boatique), a lightweight foul weather jacket, a sweater for the evening breezes, a camera and a pint or so of rum should just about do it for this, my first, cruise in the Caribbean.

May I dare wish for a brief respite from the mid-Atlantic monsoons by chancing a sojourn far south? Or will the storm clouds follow me?

Not to worry. At least we'll see a bit more springtime and experience new cruising grounds. The May Rhode River Raft-up should serve as a good shake down to assure preparedness for varying conditions.

And speaking of the recent Raft-up. Can anyone identify the proud new skipper of a sturdy older vessel sporting "wrinkled baggies" flying from her spreaders and shrouds? And do you new sailors and crew know what function a "baggywrinkle" serves or the origin of the term?

Ask proud Skipper Thom Unger, but be prepared for an invitation to come join him for maintenance duties in the near future.

And can anyone identify the gracious and thoughtful (but unknowing) skipper and his vessel which was towing a heavily laden "trash tender" at the end of the recent raft-up?

I hear rumor that as an initiation of sorts for new member and active Bay skipper of *Coracle II*, Mitch Koppleman, crew from several adjoining raft boats stealthily deposited their trash bags into *Coracle's* dinghy when the skipper wasn't looking. And I further hear that he was quite surprised to discover what he was towing when he got underway and looked astern. Did anyone get a picture?

Perhaps you have some tales of your cruising experiences, your mishaps and lessons learned that you would like to share with fellow SCOW members. Report these anecdotes in a future Channels issue if you will, by sending to channels@scow.org.

And also prepare your slides and snapshots for a Club meeting program later in the season. Contact Vice Commodore Susan if you would like to participate in such a group program.

And keep those photos and related tales coming to Historian Jane. I look forward to learning of your adventures and sharing a few of my own.

Fair winds,

Commodore George

July Membership Meeting
Monday, July 14

"What's New at Washington Sailing Marina?"

Our July speaker will be Phil Geishert from Washington Sailing Marina to update us on the latest goings-on at the Marina and to answer questions. Phil has been a great friend to SCOW over the years and we look forward to having him join us. Come to the meeting prepared for an interesting and informative evening!

The meeting will be held at the usual time and place - the American Legion Hall in Old Town Alexandria, 400 Cameron Street (check out www.scow.org for directions). Socializing starts at 6:30 p.m., with the meeting at 7:30 and the presentations at 8:00.

Annual Canoe & Kayak Trip with Options

Friday, July 25 - Sunday, July 27, 2003

Phil Bender

This year's annual canoe & kayak trip offers more options to participate than any other paddling trip the Sailing Club of Washington (SCOW) has ever offered, bar none! The on-water portion of the 2003 adventure will take place on Saturday, July 26, on an 8-mile flat-water stretch of the Potomac River that starts near historic Shepherdstown, WV and finishes just above Harpers Ferry, WV. Paddlers will be able to select from one of three different primary modes of water transportation: 2 person 16' long canoe, Double Duckie (2 person inflatable craft), or touring/sit-on-top single kayak. These lightweight quiet crafts are ideal vessels for discovering the abundant wildlife that flourishes in these amazing riverine ecosystems. Paddlers often see: swimming Turtles, cavity nesting Wood Ducks, elegant Egrets, Belted Kingfishers, fishing Osprey, and stately Great Blue Herons. You may even witness the majesty of our nation's bird-the Bald Eagle!

For anyone that does not have an entire weekend, overnight, or even a full day to spend with us, no problem - the outfitter advertises this as a half-day adventure. On Saturday morning we will gather by 9:15 AM in Harpers Ferry at the outfitters where we will leave our vehicles parked - there is no secondary location to drive to like last years trip. We will take about 30 minutes to check-in and transport our personal belongings to a shuttle bus that will chauffeur us to the put-in location, we should enter the water at aprox. 10:30 AM. For the next 4-5 hours, which includes plenty of time to enjoy a delicious riverside lunch of your own making, we will travel down river on the Potomac that has never seen the sight of a Flying Scot sailboat. Upon reaching the take-out location, we will turn-in our equipment, be chauffeured back to our vehicles, leaving plenty of time for you to be home by dinner or join us for some additional socializing. .

For everyone else who is not in such a hurry to be home by dinner, here is where the choices of options really kick in. The first option as we exit the river at our take-out location is "Paddle and Peddle Package" where participants will exchange their paddling equipment for a state-of-the-art, aluminum frame Specialized™ mountain bike. You'll then journey down the Chesapeake and Ohio (C & O) Canal Towpath to Harpers Ferry where you can stop to enjoy the town, site of John Brown's famous slave revolt, and/or continue downstream before pick up. Either option is a perfect ending to a wonderful day along the Potomac River, which can add between 2-4 hours to your paddling trip adventure. An other option for the "Paddle and Peddle Package is to do the peddle portion on Sunday.

Once again, we are offering an opportunity for folks to enjoy camping both Friday and/or Saturday night. We will be staying at the Harpers Ferry KOA campground, located just 500 yards from our outfitter. KOA offers patrons and their guests a variety of camping experiences, and amenities. They have campsites with or without water & electric, cabins, and sites for campers. Some amenities they offer include: an Olympic size pool (open 10 AM - 10 PM), picnic tables at sites, sand volley court, indoor & outdoor basketball courts, movie theater, snack shop, grocery / camping store, modern restrooms, horseshoe pit, about 18 individual showers, and live musical entertainment Saturday night.

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ChaNels

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.

*Joan O'Kane, Editor
Chris Chubb, Layout Editor
Monika O'Connor, Mailing Lists*

Happy Independence Day!

July 4th, 2003



(continued from page 2)

Participants not camping, but who wish to join us for some socializing Saturday afternoon / evening at our special weekend Social No-Sail at KOA with full access to the campground facilities, can include the guest fee with their payment. Just being able to shower and change your cloths soon after getting off the water before heading home is worth the price of the guest fee alone. Not interested in staying at the KOA, but would like to stay at more comfortable lodging accommodations, there is a Comfort Inn just one mile away, with other hotels, Inns, Motels, and B&B's nearby.

After having some time to relax and unwind at the KOA after a day of paddling, we are going to want to eat dinner. Participants may choose to do so at KOA, or at one of the many nearby restaurants. After dinner, you may choose to remain at the KOA or venture out to visit one of the local establishments or attractions before turning in for bed or heading back home if you aren't spending the night with us. One place we went last year was Charles Town Races and Slots www.charlestownraces.com. They have live thoroughbred horse races here, post time is at 7:15 PM, and there are no parking or entrance fees.

On Sunday, I've arranged our group at the KOA to be granted a later than usual checkout time of 4 PM. There is almost an endless list of activities that can be enjoyed in and around Harpers Ferry, to many to list. One item I do wish to tell you more about is the bicycling portion of the "Paddle & Peddle Package" mentioned earlier. The time participants will need to meet at the outfitter is 9:15 AM. The main advantage of doing the peddle portion of the

trip on Sunday vs. Saturday is that you have more than just a few hours to enjoy biking, have a variety of points to start and stop you trip, with most being between 12-24 miles long.

Outfitter fees per person (includes rental gear, round trip shuttle, map, river user fee, and tax): \$30.20 two person canoe or Double Duckie, \$43.45 single sit-on top kayak; \$51.94 Paddle and Peddle Package (canoe/duckie & mountain bike), \$65.18 Paddle and Peddle Package (kayak & mountain bike). Cancellation Policy: If a replacement is found - full, otherwise a credit voucher will only be issued for each full vessel cancelled

Campground fees per person: (Average price of a no hook-up two tent max site, actual price will vary depending on total number of individuals per site, misc community campsite supplies, snacks, beverages) \$15 campground pater per night, \$6 patron guest fee. Cancellation Policy: Full per site, not individual, must contact me by noon Thursday July 24

This trip is open to SCOW members and guests (friends, neighbors, family, co-workers, other sailing/social club members, etc) - same price for everyone! Sign-up now because space is strictly limited by available seats on the shuttle bus for all groups doing this trip the same day. No need to fill a canoe or Double Duckie with another individual before sending in your payment, just pay for yourself and you can pick your own initial paddling buddy before or on the day of the trip. Many folks will swap partners and vessels during trip - nobody will be "stuck" with same paddle buddy if they don't want to!

Make your check payable to SCOW and be sure to include a separate note or email Phil with your name, address, phone number(s), email address, primary choice of vessel (Canoe, Double Duckie, single sit-on-top Kayak). If you are camping: # of nights, tent/campsite mates if applicable, guest fee. If doing the paddle & peddle package, please indicate Saturday or Sunday.

You may choose to either mail your payment to Phil Bender, P.O. Box 2246, Rockville, MD 20847-2246 or make arrangements with him in advance to give it to him in person at a SCOW event. Please email Phil canoekayak@scow.org to let him know your joining the trip or if you have any questions. Further info will be provided to participants upon receipt of payment.



Name the Ark Contest!

Tom Hannan

It's rained for forty days and forty nights now. I have a sense of foreboding; it's time to build an ark. If we commence immediately we can have it finished by Spring.

We need to have a name for our home-to-be in the upcoming flood. I solicit your nominations, sent to me, thathome@comcast.net; I'll list the best of the lot in the next issue of ChaNNels.

To guide you in your task, I offer the following monograph on what names not to choose (from "Commissioning & Decommissioning"; Keith Lawrence, Ed.; Belvoir Publications, Riverside, CT; 1988; p. 128-130):

"1) There is no law requiring that boat names include some combination of "Sea," "See," or "C." Granted, there are times when the temptation is almost insurmountable. A Delaware optometrist who named his boat Sea Swell has not been ostracized by the local boating fraternity (and is even applauded by other optometrists).

The good Lord will surely forgive the person named Conrad or Childs, who having a wife and five children, can't resist painting The Seven C's on his stern. SEAduction and SEAducer are, however, indications of InSEapeant SEArebral SEAnility, and should be avoided.

2) Avoid names that can pique the curiosity of law enforcement officers. While Gin 'n Tonic, Pot Barge, or Coke Float might be reflections of your recreational proclivities, they do tend to create long afternoons of conversation with uniformed visitors. He whose natural tendency is to taunt (or flaunt), will find more SEArenity on the water if he exercises a little more discretion.

3) The use of the owner's name spelled backwards lost legitimacy when Harry Conover's Revenoc was lost at sea. Hopefully, this aberration will not be revived.

Senoj, Htims, or Grebnettug add little to the nautical scene, and can result in brain overload during the deciphering.

4) A boat's name need not make cryptic reference to its owner's occupation. There was a time when every dentist's boat was named Trident or Flossum, and every bookie's boat was named You Bet! Apparently, the sportfisherman's tendency to name his boat Hooker (or variations thereof) has lessened the sailor's compulsion to placard his (or his spouse's) occupation. Try to avoid this once-common error, unless you consider yourself some sort of SEAlebrity.

5) As a general rule, the owner's name is better left off the transom. This rule applies particularly to such miscarriages as Jim Dandy, Andy's Candy or OffSHOR. (One must, however, admit grudging admiration for the intrepid sailor with the temerity to name his sloop Bermuda Shwartz.)

A real life acquaintance with the family name of Seaward showed admirable restraint when he refused to emblazon his signature across the stern, although he did fall short by using his grandchildren's names for sources. Fortunately, it was the dinghy that went through life with the lubberly NickGeorge on its nameboard, while his boat became WenSam. Certainly his restraint more than offsets this later fall from grace.

6) Multihulls do not require names that make reference to the fact that they have more than one hull. Names like Cheshire Cat, Banana Split, and College Tri are out. While Double Dribble may be appropriate for a leaky catamaran, it is a clear violation of rule number 4 if the owner plays for the NBA."

In closing, I'll submit my nomination of a name for our vaunted vessel: Hot Ruddered Bum. (Some would say this is a clear violation of rule number 4 as well, but, of course I think that's somewhat specious.)

Skipper News

Steve Linke

Congratulations to the following new Flying Scot Skippers:

Melissa Ennis
Tim Hanson
Chris Julius

Alan Leonardi
Amber Levofsky
Mike McLaughlin

Walter Peterson
Georg Schultz

If you are interested in having boating privileges on either the Flying Scots or the cruising boats, send an email to skipper@scow.org.

Social Activities

Rob Langford

Would you believe we are almost halfway through the Social Sails for the 2003 year? Doesn't time fly by when you are having fun? Yes! but it really flies with constant rain and lack of sailing!

Fortunately, it looks like the weather pattern we have been experiencing for the first half of the Social Sail season has broken, and it is now time for a typical Washington, D.C. summer. That means: warm nights, beautiful sunsets, and cicadas calling you home.

It is the perfect time to volunteer for a Social Sail. As always, we are looking for Chef Ones, Chef Twos, Dockmasters and Greeters. If you haven't volunteered yet, check your calendar and put your name on the list.

It's very easy, and is what the club is all about: sailing and socializing. Please contact me at social@scow.org to volunteer.

Also, for November's "Hail and Farewell" we are exploring a possibly of moving the event onto the Potomac Cruise ship the Cherry Blossom. I am exploring the final costs, but would like input and suggestions from any members. Chances are the cost per member for the Hail and Farewell may increase, how much will be determined by the July membership meeting.

See you at the Social Sails!

Training News

Jan Earle

Ahoy, from your new Training Director! Our thanks go out to the previous Training Director, Kris Bieg, for all her hard work resulting in the successful launch of our 2003 Training Season. The height of the summer sailing season is upon us and many of SCOW's 2003 sailing students are already beginning to enjoy the fun of being a SCOW skipper.

We have one more Basic Sailing course for 12 people, beginning September 10th, and about half of the openings are still available, so sign up today. Tuition is \$120 for 12 land hours and 24 water hours - without a doubt the best sailing bargain in the tri-state area.

We also have three "mini-courses" coming up in August. The Capsizing Course for July was cancelled but the one for August 16th is still scheduled and we have about 4 places open. Tuition for the Capsizing course is \$25 per person.

The Spinnaker workshop will be on August 23rd and you must be A SCOW skipper to take this course. If you are seriously interested in taking this course, contact the Training Director to get your name on the "early notification" list. We will officially announce the course open for registration as soon as the tuition fee is set.

The Navigation course will be offered in late August or early September - the official date has not yet been set. Tuition is \$50 per person and we are accepting registrations now. This is a land class, but may also include an optional (free) water class on a Bay-based cruiser offered by one of our members.

As always, SCOW training classes are limited to SCOW members, so join SCOW today and take advantage of these great learning opportunities! If you have any additional questions about the courses, want to put your name on a reservation list, or need registration details for sending in your tuition, email training@scow.org or call me at 202-249-0855.

Fair winds!

RECAP: May Membership Meeting
“South Pacific Single Handing”
Susan Batchelder

Once upon a time (like 1975), Richard Boe was a disgruntled employee at General Dynamics. What to do? What to do? So, he quit his job, bought a boat, learned how to sail. Two years later, sailed from California to the South Pacific. Many trips between L.A. and Catalina Island were his shakedown cruise. The actual voyage was in a 31-foot Grampian ketch from Los Angeles to Fiji and back. Richard still loves to talk about this and gave a fantastic presentation at a recent SCOW meeting.

In 1977, Richard started from Long Beach for Fanning Island. He was 25 years old. He relied heavily on self-steering gear and about 800 books during his 300 days at sea. Richard says, “Open ocean sailing is a piece of cake, piloting is hard.”

His stop at Fanning Island brought him face to face with a third world culture. The remote island is home to about 400 Gilbertese people who are visited twice a year by a supply ship that comes to pick up copra and drop off supplies. The University of Hawaii maintains the colonial buildings of a 19th century copra plantation; only 900 miles from Hawaii, but a world away in terms of culture. This first leg of the trip – Long Beach to Fanning – was about 3200 miles and took 30 days.

Next stop was Pango-Pango in Samoa, about 1500 miles and 15 days from Fanning Island. Richard braved rough seas and slept two hours at a time to keep the boat going. The Samoan culture was entirely different from that of Fanning Island. Each village in Samoa has a large canoe which holds about 50 people and the villages have canoe races to see who has the best boat. After Pango-Pango, Richard visited Apia in Western Samoa which is a separate country.

His biggest challenge was mastering the confluence of the Northeast trades and Southeast trades. Where these two meet there is little wind, but a lot of angry waves and currents flowing in opposite directions. Richard says he learned to ‘go with the flow.’”

Next stop, Tonga, about 700 miles and 7 days from Apia. Richard describes Tonga as the closest to Paradise that he’s seen. All the buildings are from the 1880s and 1890s and are just the way the Colonials left them, one hundred years ago. In Tonga, he sat through a hurricane with 3 anchors out in 25 feet of water. His photos of the other yachties going through the ‘cane are awe inspiring.

After Tonga, Richard made his way to Fiji where he says he finally ran out of money and started sailing home on one tack for 6000 miles – actually about 3000 miles from Tonga to Hawaii and another 2800 miles from Hawaii to Long Beach.

If you’re planning a trip like this of your own, Richard advises you bring bullets, guitar strings and country & western CDs to trade with the natives. We hope he continues his adventures and returns to SCOW with more slides and more stories!

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From the Maine Cruise
Rob Langford



From the Memorial Day Raft-Up
Mike Geissinger



Mitch says, "You mean it's gonna rain?"



There's a mutiny in the galley aboard Euphoria
Who's in charge here, Commodore?



Aboard Baggywrinkle Stu and Jeff prepare to hoist the burgees



Phil whistles as Commodore George "drives" Euphoria



What to do on a rainy Saturday aboard Searchi?

Scow Says Thanks!

to

Kris Bieg

for her dedicated service
as Training Director
during the first half of 2003

and to

Jan Earle

for taking over as
Training Director
for the remainder of the year



Thom Unger tries his hand at photography using Mike's camera
Say "rain" Monica...

2003 Board of Directors

Position	Name	Home	Work	E-mail
Commodore	George Umberger	703.323.9358		commodore@scow.org
Vice Commodore	Susan Batchelder	703.519.9844	703.548.3700 x112	vice@scow.org
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Social Director	Rob Langford	703.383.1530	703.934.7015	social@scow.org
Skipper Director	Steve Linke	703.684.5266	703.604.7113	skipper@scow.org
River & Bay Director	Jeff Teitel	202.332.4160	202.271.1238	bay@scow.org
Racing Director	Kara Wald	703.824.1776	301.657.3077	race@scow.org
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	Jeremy Spilker	703.494.7237		info@scow.org
Historian	Jane Farthing	301.972.2636		historian@scow.org
River Coordinator	Jay Weitzel	703.866.9190	703.205.3320	river@scow.org
Database Administrator	Monika O'Connor	703.921.9262		dba@scow.org
Email Administrator	Jeff Teitel			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

Call 202.628.7245 (202.628.SAIL) or email info@scow.org or visit <http://www.scow.org>