

Commodore's Log

By Jan Earle, SCOW 2006 Commodore

Forty years ago this month – July 12, 1966, to be exact – the Sailing Club of Washington (SCOW) was incorporated in the District of Columbia as a not-for-profit organization. As stated in the Club's Bylaws, the purpose of the club is to "provide its membership with opportunities to sail, to exchange information about sailing, to learn safe boating procedures, and to meet others in the Potomac River/Chesapeake Bay area with similar interests." Club programs are designed to provide member activities for both novice and experienced sailors.

SCOW actually started before 1966 as an informal group of sailors who loved sailing and "hanging out" together. They rented boats from the marina or sailed on boats owned by members of the group.



SCOW Trainers

After examining the cost of regularly renting boats, the founders decided that incorporating and buying a few boats for all to share would be more economical. Each member in the new club would become "a shareholder, without financial interest in the Club," like a co-op but without ownership.

SCOW bought its very first boat in 1966 and began a training program that same year. The 1966 newsletter reported that 21 members signed up for the "Learn to Sail" course. For twenty dollars, members received two land classes and six water lessons – similar to what we offer today in Basic Sailing. Check-outs for skippers using club boats began that same year.

In 1982, Elli Abramson (our Flying Scot *Ms Elli* is named in her memory) worked to expand the training program to include instructor training, intermediate sailing and capsizing response. The training materials we use today are based on her revision of SCOW's original course materials. Skipper check-outs also became more formalized in 1982 and the written Skipper Agreements were instituted in 1984.

Thursday evening Social Sails are SCOW's signature event. The first was held on May 2, 1979. SCOW furnished a grill and members brought their own food and drink. In 1992, the program took on a new format when Lillian Steele, an avid cook, decided to feed the whole club herself every Thursday. She whipped up meals featuring things like entire hams and brought them to the marina to serve to our members! While she initially refused donations, she later reluctantly put out a donation jar but insisted that nobody give more than a dollar.

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Commodore's Log (Continued)

After a few years, Lillian eventually moved on to other involvements, but SCOW kept the idea she started by asking members to take turns volunteering each week to be the Social Sail host and asking the attendees to make donations to cover the host's food costs. In 2000, Kelly Bowers volunteered to coordinate Social Sails, wrote a "how to" manual, and developed the "Chef1/Chef2" buddy system.

Over the past few years, we've also started some new menu traditions such as "Paella Night," "Vegetarian Night," "Carnivore Night," and Leukemia Cup fund-raiser nights. The first SCOW Bay Raft-Up was held in 1977, with 16 boats and over 80 people attending. The first Re-Up Brunch was held in March 1979. The first Holiday Raft-Up (now the Afterglow Party) was held in 1977.

Watch for historical information on SCOW boats in the August Commodore's Log, and many thanks to an anonymous former Commodore for providing this information in the Commodore pass-down materials.



Correlation between "Heave To", "Reefing" and Your Boat's Running Rig

By Henry Cheng, SCOW Vice Commodore 2006

You know, when you do something long enough, there comes an "Ah ha" moment. All of a sudden you feel wonderful and have a sense of accomplishment. All those frustrating hours of trying to understand something finally pays off because you see the connections. Here is one of my recent "Ah ha" moments.

I have heard quite a few skippers say that the main halyard should be located on the starboard side of the mast but without much explanation of why. Some say it's convention; others say it's tradition; while still others just say that it is the correct way. I have attended training provided by US Sailing as well as the American Sailing Association. Both organizations taught me the same method to reef underway for inclement weather and the logic behind rigging your main halyard on the starboard side of the mast.

First you "Heave To." Then you go to the mast and reef the main sail. Note that if you do have a furling jib, furl in the jib first. With regards to the "Heave To" operation, mechanically speaking, it really does not matter which tack you use. However under the conventional rule of the road, you are still sailing when you "Heave To", you are just going very slowly through the water. Now if we take that into account, then a skipper would favor "Heave To" on a starboard tack and enjoy the right-of-way.

When one steps on the top side to reef the main, it will be much easier to step on the high side or windward side of the boat with the boom on the low or leeward side of the boat. If the main halyard also happens to be located on the high side or windward side of the boat, that's even better and makes it so much easier for our reefing operation. So putting these two facts together, we want to "Heave To" on starboard tack and have the main halyard located on the high side or starboard side of the boat. There you have it; the reason to have the main halyard rigged on the starboard side!



Lew Miller



Karen Denholm



Dale Eager and Crew

Riverside Chat and Activities

It's been a busy spring out there on the river with many interesting day sails and the overnight to Mattewoman Creek.

The Old Town raft-up on June 17th turned out to be a fun-filled evening with a fantastic sail under light winds, followed by gourmet delights, and spectacular fireworks. The SCOW cruisers, *Rebecca* and *Psycho*, were joined in their raft-up by *Timeless* skippered by Steve Riker out of the Washington Sailing Marina.

Club members Dale Eager with *Coup de Vent*, and Eric Hanger with *Bee Bop* enjoyed a pleasant evening under sail.



Psycho Gets a Spray Wash



Skipper D. Stocks
Racing *Psycho*

We look forward to many more sailing activities throughout the summer. Coming right up is the "Sailabration" on July 1st; another fireworks raft-up on July 4th and our first Friday night Summertime Sail, July 14th. Interested crew and cruising skippers are encouraged to check the events calendar and contact river@scow.org.

Happy sails to you all!

River Director, Dorothy Stocks

RIVER RALLY
Scow Anniversary Event
Saturday, July 1

INDEPENDENCE DAY
Riverside Fireworks
Tuesday, July 4

SUMMERTIME SAIL
Potluck Raft-up
Friday, July 14

SUMMERTIME SAIL
Let's Just Sail!
Friday, July 28

FULL MOON
Full Moon Cruising
Wednesday, August 9

JAZZ JUBILEE
Smoot's Cove Raft-up
Friday, August 25

MOONLIGHT SAIL
Classical Sonata Serenade
Friday, September 8

FT. WASHINGTON
Moonlight Sail
Friday, October 6

GUNSTON COVE CAMPOUT
Drive or Float to Park
October 14-15

HOT TODDY SAIL
Friday, October 27

PARADE OF LIGHTS
Saturday, December 2

Smith Island Trip

On September 16 and 17, you are invited to take a step into the past with us to Smith Island which is accessible by boat/ferry. SCOW Skippers are encouraged to take crew and six slips (\$1 per foot) are available with varying depths of 4-8 feet with escort service through the channel. There is a dock house with air conditioning and a restroom with shower for your use. It's also our gathering spot!

You may make this a day trip if your schedule doesn't permit an overnight; but the overnight is lots of fun and gives you a better taste of living on a secluded island.

Package Deals:

Package 1: Day trip – no overnight or crab feast.

Ferry only: \$35 R/T (from Point Lookout, MD and return) About 2 hours' drive from Alexandria.

Package 2: (for two) \$260

B&B (Double Bed) \$100

Crab Feast \$40

Sunset Cruise \$50

Ferry \$70 (R/T)

Package 3: (for one - share room w/2 others) \$113

B&B \$33 p/p

Crab Feast \$20 p/p

Sunset Cruise \$25 p/p

Ferry \$35 R/T p/p

Skippers: Pay as you go

\$1 per foot for mooring boat at Smith Island

Crab Feast \$20 p/p

Sunset Cruise \$25 p/p

Less expensive ferries are also available from Crisfield, MD.

Agenda:

Saturday, September 16th

- Meet at Point Lookout Ferry no later than 10:15 am on Saturday morning. (I believe parking costs about \$5.) The boat leaves promptly.
- 1.5 hour ferry ride to Smith Island. We'll carpool wherever possible.
- Arrive at Smith Island about noon...have lunch at one of the two restaurants on the island
- Get settled in at the B&B, ride bikes, rent golf cart, kayak, walk, tour the island, etc.
- 5:00 pm Crab Feast with all the fixings including 5 layer Smith Island Cake (chicken for non-believers)
- Note that Smith Island is a "dry" island so if you want something like beer or wine, you need to bring it.
- 7:00 pm Sunset Cruise to Tylerton is an option. \$25 p/p

Sunday, September 17

- Explore the waterways via kayak...ride bikes on the island...etc.
- Breakfast at the B&B
- 2:30 pm Return via ferry to Point Lookout State Park

Please make checks payable to Dot Almassy and mail them to her at: 3402 Hemlock Dr., Falls Church, VA 22042. If you have questions, please give Dot a call at 703-560-0367.



Smith Island Harbor

Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival Success

SCOW had yet another successful year at the Alexandria Waterfront Festival. I'd like to thank John Roland for providing the vehicle to haul *Susie Q* down to the Festival Pier area on Friday, and Rob Langford for hauling her back home to the Washington Sailing Marina on Sunday. I'd also like to thank the following volunteers for manning the SCOW booth, and/or helping to unstep and restep *Susie Q's* mast:

Mary Bashore

Brigitte Conway

Bill Davenport

Karen Denholm

Jan Earle

Jordana Fenik

Milyn Jordan

Rob Langford

Tim McNelis

Tina Perez

Dave Reed

Randy Rosenfeld

Mike Rothenberg

Sadie Quarrier

Alice Starcke

Chip Turner

Chris von Guggenberg



SCOW crew in the chase!
Later seen sailing just
under the flag – (below!)



Westerlies to DC

Special thanks to SCOW member Thom Unger, who acts as our club's Red Cross Point of Contact for the Waterfront Festival each year, making it very easy for us to participate. If I've neglected to name anyone who helped out, I apologize for the oversight!

We had dozens of people visit our booth over the two day Festival, and at least a 100 brochures about the club were distributed.

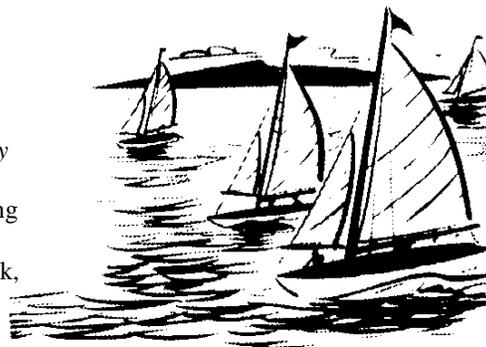
We encouraged everyone who stopped at our booth to come to the marina on a Thursday night for a social sail, and more than a few people asked about our race program, so we should be seeing some new people at these events. We hope to bring these folks on board as new members! And of course, it's a great feeling to support the local Red Cross as well as spread the word about SCOW.

Thanks again to everyone - see you there next year!, Karyl Owings

Bay Activities

By Jack Schwartz, Bay Director

The Memorial Day Cruise proved to be a great success. We had a nice (although slow) run down the Bay, and *Odyssey* got a chance to air out her spinnaker. Rounding up into the Choptank brought a freshening breeze on the nose for a rousing beat into Broad Creek. We "ran out of chart" partway there and chose to motor the last leg. Turning into Ledenham Creek, we reached raftmaster Tom on the VHF radio and were told that the raft-up was in Grace Creek, the first branch to the north, between markers 4 and 5. We joined *Annabelle Lee* (Larry and Sandy) and *C'est la Vie* already rafted there. *Sangria* joined us a couple hours later, as Captain Jenny chose to "play around" in the Choptank River for a bit longer. Snacks and "Pain Killers" were shared by all, along with plenty of socializing.



Sunday's forecast didn't promise lots of wind, but a nice, long sail brought us all to Drum Point, on the Wye River, off the Miles River, in Eastern Bay. The original four boats were there, joined by *Sea Frog*, under Captain Jeff. More visiting and indulgence, until well into the night, including a 3am performance of "Y-M-C-A."

Monday's return trip appeared to be a motor, but enough breeze filled in to allow for some good sailing home. Now how did that Jolly Roger end up flying off *Sangria's* spreader?

Bay Raft-up Schedule

If you are interested in participating in bay activities, please send an email to bay@scow.org with boat information and home port, as well as if you would be able to take on crew. Members interested in participating as crew, provide a brief description of your experience and contact information.

July 1	Grenadines Reunion raft-up (details TBD)
July 22-23	Music Cruise (Galesville?) Bring an instrument, your voice, or come as audience to enjoy sharing music on the water.
August 19-20	Land/Sea/Crab Feast-St Michael's (members can drive in for the party!)
September 2-4	Labor Day Cruise (Choptank River, Little Choptank)
September 16-17	Smith Island Trip & Crab Feast (Land/Sea)-Ferry trip to island, B&B accommodations, or sail over for the fun. (Dot Almassey, organizer)
October 21-22	Fowl Weather Cruise (Alan Lewis, raftmaster)
November 10-11	Veteran's Day Cruise (TBD)

Next Membership Meeting: Monday, July 10, 2006

A bit of local history will be heard at the next SCOW membership meeting which will be held on Monday, July 10th. Bill Thomas and his wife Doris, long time members of SCOW, stood up for recreation boater's rights in the early 80's in reaction to an unreasonable DC ordinance which banned windsurfing on the Potomac. A protest was launched by Bill with our former commodore Ms. Ellie Abramson's aid. The event was televised by Channel 9 and now we have a chance to recapture the moment as Bill himself will talk about the event in person.

All meetings are on the second Monday of the month. Location is at the American Legion, 400 Cameron Street, in Old Town Alexandria (around the corner from Gadsby's Tavern). Socializing downstairs is at 6:30 pm and the meeting begins upstairs at 7:30 pm.

2006 Board of Directors

Position	Name	Home	Work	E-mail
Commodore	Jan Earle	202.249.0855	202.513.7667	commodore@scow.org
Vice Commodore	Henry Cheng	571.263.1501		vice@scow.org
Secretary	Bonnie C. Dailey			secretary@scow.org
Treasurer	Walter Peterson	703.960.3260	202.413.7570 (cell)	treasurer@scow.org
Training Director	Kristin Stone			training@scow.org
Maintenance	Wayne Williams	703.981.9320		maintenance@scow.org
Social Director	Dot Almassy	703.560.0367	703.681.7466	social@scow.org
Skipper Director	Karen Marino			skipper@scow.org
River Director	Dorothy Stocks	703.521.0903	703.524.3147	river@scow.org
Racing Director	Phil Segal			race@scow.org

Other Key People

Crew Liaison	Melissa Ennis	703.845.5764	301.279.4201 x2180	crew@scow.org
Bay Director	Jack Schwartz			bay@scow.org
Channels Editor	Karen Denholm	703.971.1388		channels06@scow.org
Channels Layout	Wayne Williams	703.981.9320		channels06@scow.org
Advertising	Milyn Jordan	703.820.2971		advertising@scow.org
Email Administrator	Jeff Teitel	202.271.1238		postmaster@scow.org
Membership Coordinator	Monika O'Connor	703.921.9262	703.593.4380 (cell)	members@scow.org
Web Editor	Peg O'Laughlin			webmaster@scow.org
Photos on Web	Mike Rothenberg	703.998.0692	703.820.1270	pictures@scow.org

For Information about Club Activities
 Visit <http://www.scow.org> or email info@scow.org