
ChaNNels -- The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington

July 1999

Commodore's Log

I love the long days, don't you? It's great seeing sunlight in the evening after work, with time left to play before the sun sets. Just the other evening after work, a friend of mine visiting from out of town and I went sailing on Psycho. A very pleasant sail down to Old Town, with her new 130% headsail flying. We docked there, had a fine dinner, and sailed back. Of such peaceful evenings are memories made. I encourage you, if you haven't already, to take the boats out on weekday evenings. Evening sailing on the Scots, or even night sailing on the two cruisers, Psycho and Rebecca, can be a wonderful way to relax and wind down from a busy work day.

Mark your calendars! Coming up on August 7th is SCOW's annual Crab Feast at the Marina. Time to get out those hammers, get messy, and enjoy good food with good friends! Heather Spurlock has been generous in volunteering to organize this year's feast, please look for the details here in Channels.

Nervous about capsizing in a Flying Scot? Here's a chance to conquer that fear and have some fun at the same time! On July 17th, and again on August 7th, we'll be holding 1 day courses in Capsizing. We sail down to Smoots Cove, just south of the Wilson Bridge, everyone receives instruction on how to safely right a Scot, then we take turns tipping 'em over! It's always great fun to splash around in the water during the hot summer months while learning how easy it can be to right a Flying Scot if it capsizes by accident. To sign-up, just contact our Training Director, Jason Stevens.

Finally, though not least, many SCOW volunteers helped out for the 18th annual Red Cross Waterfront Festival. Many thanks to Beverly Ashcraft, Bill Clark, Sandy Clover, Heather Callahan, Tina Daberkow, Dick Dyer, Jeff Elder, Anna Marie Jones, Denise Malueg, Monica Maynard, Tamara McCraw, Paul Ross, Dave Sherman, Shelby Shoop, Jason Stevens, George Umberger, and Jay Weitzel for taking time to talk to people about sailing and SCOW at the Festival. Special thanks to Joe Depoorter for the kind loan of his road-legal Flying Scot trailer and his assistance in getting Ms. Elli to and from the Festival.

Fair Winds and Following Seas

Come one, Come All to the Annual SCOW Crab Feast!

Heather Spurlock

It is August 7 starting at 4 PM at the Washington Sailing Marina. Besides crabs, we will have corn, potatoes, salads, and desserts. I could really use some help with set up, clean up and cooking. I need to know how much to buy so if you could, sign up by July 31. I will have a sign up sheet at the July meeting or you can e-mail me at hspurlock@afs.org or leave a message on my machine at 202-544-1389.

Bay Activities

Jack Schwartz

June 5 Day Sail (from Jack and Nikki Goodman) For day sailing, a crew of five plus ourselves on CAT MORGAN, our 35-foot catamaran, works out nicely. Everyone has "wheel time" and time to socialize and relax. By Thursday we had three sailors cancel due to last-minute Saturday work. However, with several phone calls, we found crew: Matt Gaston, Jeff Elder, Julian Madison (a friend from New Jersey), and Alain and Mary Bashore. They all arrived promptly at 10:00 am. It looked like a beautiful day: sunny with SE winds 6-13 knots. We motored out of Hellens Creek and hoisted the sails as we entered the Patuxent River. We tacked towards Point Patience at 6-7 knots, and all watched as the depth sounder went from 20 feet to 135 feet, one of the deepest spots on the Bay. Rounding the point, we sailed under the Gov. Thomas Johnson Bridge and headed easterly out to the Bay. Beam reaching at 7-8 knots to Hooper Island, we jibed when we got close to the pelicans perched on the fish traps. It was a reach back towards Solomons Island and after a few tacks we arrived back at the dock by 3:30 pm. Our first sail on the Bay since arriving home from our seven-month voyage, we had a very enjoyable time with Mary, Alan, Jeff, Julian, and Matt.

Bay Day Sail Sunday, July 18 has been scheduled as the next Bay Day Sail. Skippers, come on and take part! Don't Let Jack and Nikki have all the fun. Skippers and crew should call or email me and I'll try to get everyone together.

NOTE: There may be an addition to the SCOW Bay fleet, a Seafarer 37 called Odyssey, if all goes well.

We Welcome Our New Members:

Phil Bender, Bill Carr, Mark Chaves, Leif Christoffersen, Cecily Crandall, Binaifer Davar, Jeremy Dott, Kathie Eastman, Diana Fierro, Anna Marie Jones, Mark Kielkucki, Donna Knapton, Leslie Korn, Karen Lee, Mark Matarella, Harry New, Margaret Peters, Erin Starzynski, Patricia Staub, Steve Toby, Kim Uttenweiler, Robert Uttenweiler

Sailing by the Tree?

You've all heard that "sailing by the lee" is not at all a recommended maneuver (unless you're an intrepid racer). Well, there's a new docking maneuver that also is not recommended; ask Skipper (and instructor) Dan about "sailing by the tree"; it's much more effective even than heaving-to (in bringing you to a dead standstill).

River Activities

Tina Daberkow

Are you feeling over worked and stressed out? SCOW invites you to come down to the marina and relax with food, fun and sailing. Join us each Thursday night for Social Sail starting at 6:00 or so at the small boat docks. And just as a reminder, we need volunteers to act as host and dockmaster each Thursday evening. Please contact me if you can help.

And of course for those of you with a competitive nature there is the Tuesday Night Racing. Please join us if you can.

Training

Jason Stevens

The first Capsize Course of the year will be held Saturday, July 17. This is a great opportunity for Flying Scot sailors to get a feel for what it takes to capsize one of these boats and to practice recovery techniques in a safe and fun setting. We'll be taking the Flying Scots out into the Potomac with one or both of the club's cruising boats along for support, coaching and encouragement. Space is limited, so please sign up now!

The final Basic Sailing course will begin August 11. If you've always wanted to learn to skipper the Flying Scots or if you just need a refresher, this is the course for you. Only a few spots remain so register soon if you are interested.

For further information on the training program check out the training section of our web site at <http://www.scow.org/training.htm>. If you would like to register for a class or if you have questions please contact the Training Director at training@scow.org or 703-548-8968.

Skipper Tips Compiled by Denise Malueg, with inputs from any & all who offer

As members of this fine volunteer organization, we have a responsibility to help out where our talents are of best service. For skippers, an obvious choice is skippering a boat during the popular Thursday evening Social Sails, held each & every week. This volunteer opportunity requires just 20 minutes of your time. Put that skipper'ship of yours to good use! Whether you are a dockmaster, food fairy, skipper or crew, SCOW wants everyone to know what is expected of skippers at Social Sail, because if you're not a skipper already, we hope you will be soon!

Tip #3: Social Sail Skippering The dockmaster will assign up to five crew to your boat. Please ensure that non-members have signed a waiver with the dockmaster.

Before getting underway, introduce yourself! Take a couple minutes to determine everyone's swimming ability. If someone is a sinker, ask them to wear a PFD (comfy, vest-style PFDs are on each boat). Offer a PFD to everyone. These save lives. Consider wearing one yourself!

When getting underway and docking, only the skipper of record is to be on the helm. It doesn't matter if there are five other SCOW paid-up skippers in the boat, the skipper listed on the dockmaster's log is to sail the boat to and from the dock during Social Sails & club-sponsored activities. Plenty of not-yet-a-member-sailors have "overstated" their abilities to skippers in the past, only to then plow the bow squarely into the dock or an unsuspecting stern.

Since enough of SCOW's skippers do that by accident anyway, the Board of Directors a few years ago decided to curb the occurrences by giving only current, paid-up skippers that honor on Thursday nights.

Determine the group's sailing experience. You may or may not need to explain sailing procedures throughout the sail, but if the crew has never been on a boat before, it will help them to know what you mean when you say, "Ready about?" It's best to err by giving more information than not enough.

The grand lagoon tour lasts no more than 20 minutes. While you tack & jibe your way around WSM's waters, the dockmaster is busy scheduling the next crew for the boats. By the time passengers de-boat, and the new crew boards, another 10 minutes is gobbled up. This means that each boat can make about 3 trips before dark. Seeing the dockmaster at the end of the pier waving her arms frantically to get you to return is not enjoyable for her, highlights your lack of awareness of your surroundings, and leads to much toe-tapping by waiting crew. If no one is scheduled for another sail, then you have the option of taking the boat out for another spin. Although it is nice to offer the tiller to others during the sail, not everyone aboard must have time on the helm. Thursdays are not a substitute training session. If it means the excursion will extend beyond 20 minutes, forget it. This sail whets prospective members' appetites and reminds current members of the reason they like this club.

Summing up Social Sail Skippering: as always, no more than 6 people in the boat; non-members must sign a waiver any & every time they are aboard; introduce yourself; ask about swimming & sailing skills; the skipper-of-record is at the helm when sailing away from & returning to the dock; the trip is just 20 minutes.

Volunteering twenty minutes of your time is really simple to score some brownie points with the dockmaster, skipper director and your adoring crew! See ya Thursday!

Calendar

July 3-5 Fourth of July Cruise 4th Land Party at Len Zuza's Sea Aerie, Solomons

11 2nd Skipper Check-out Day

17 Capsize Course Series I, WSM, 9 AM 18 Bay Day Sail

31 Canoe Trip, deferred till August TBA

August

7 Capsize Course Series II, WSM, 9 AM

7 Crab Feast, WSM, 4 PM

11 Basic Sailing Series III, Land Class, 7:30-10:00, WSM Chart Room

14-15 Upper Bay Trip to St. Michaels

14 Basic Sailing Series III, Water Sessions, 8:00 -12:00 or 1:00-5:00, WSM

15 Basic Sailing Series III, Water Sessions, 8:00 -12:00 or 1:00-5:00, WSM

18 Basic Sailing Series III, Land Class, 8:00-10:30, WSM Afterdeck Café

21 Basic Sailing Series III, Water Sessions, 8:00 -12:00 or 1:00-5:00, WSM

22 Basic Sailing Series III, Water Sessions, 8:00 -12:00 or 1:00-5:00, WSM

25 Basic Sailing Series III, Land Class, 8:00-10:30, WSM Afterdeck Café

28 Basic Sailing Series III, Water Sessions, 8:00 -12:00 or 1:00-5:00, WSM

29 Basic Sailing Series III, Water Sessions, 8:00 -12:00 or 1:00-5:00, WSM TBA Intermediate Sailing Class, Land Classes: WSM Chart Room, Monday at 7:30, 2 Sessions: TBA Water Sessions: TBA

Submissions to Channels: Submit articles to channels@scow.org by one week after the monthly meeting. Use any means, but email is preferred. Please! Just type or paste your articles into the body of an email message. We will format it for you. No Multiple 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.

SCOW Calendar: July-December 1999

Board Meetings Open to all. Washington Sailing Marina (WSM) Chart Room, 1st Monday of every month, 7:30

Monthly Meeting American Legion Hall, Alexandria, 2nd Monday of every month (except December), Social Hour - 6:30, Program & Meeting - 7:30

Tuesday Night Flying Scot Races Washington Sailing Marina, 6PM - dark, April 27 - October 5th

Thursday Night Social Sail Washington Sailing Marina - 6:00, April 22nd - October 7th

Thursday Night Social No-Sail Location-TBA - 7:00, October 14th - April 2000

=====

Larry Gemoets, Editor

Declan Conroy, Web Publisher

Sam Schaen, Mailing lists

Sandy Clover, Layout

Denise Derry, Proofing

Submit articles to channels@scow.org by one week after the monthly meeting.

Use any means, but email is preferred. Please! Just type or paste your articles into the body of an email message. We will format it for you. No Multiple 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

For information about club activities Call: 202.628.7245 (That's 628.SAIL) Visit us at: www.scow.org Write us: info@scow.org