

ChaNNels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington
June and July of 2008

Commodore's Log

Dear SCOW Members,

I am pleased to present yet another exciting edition of ChaNNels, the official club newsletter. If you see another SCOW newsletter out there, don't be fooled, there is only one. You can tell by the official looking photo of the Commodore on the front page. This edition is a special June and July double issue, packed with important information and updates on club events and other happenings.

A lot has happened since May – SCOW has graduated two more classes of skippers on both the Flying Scots and the cruisers. Tuesday night DISC-KISS races are in full swing, as are the Wednesday night Flying Scot races. The club participated in the Alexandria Waterfront Festival, thanks to the efforts of several volunteers and coordinated by Karyl Owings. SCOW members, lead by Rhonda Glasmann, volunteered their time and energy to participate in training with the Special Olympics athletes during Monday evenings in June. The Thursday night Social Sails have been well attended, at times with 60-70 people participating and providing opportunities for potential new members to visit our club, go sailing in our boats and consider joining.



Behind the scenes, SCOW has been busy as well:

- At the request of several skippers, a special meeting was held to consider changes and improvements to the club's boat use policy – a final decision on the policy changes is pending from the board.
- Preparations are under way for SCOW participation in this year's Leukemia Cup Regatta. A detailed announcement with information on the Regatta is included with this newsletter on [page 6](#).
- River events are in the making for raft-ups, cruises and overnight trips, including a July 18th moonlight cruise, July 19th raft-up in Smoots Cove, and overnight trips to Tim's Rivershore Restaurant at Mattawoman Creek during the weekends of August 2-3 and August 9-10. Contact river@scow.org for more information on these events.
- The board has made the decision to sell our Yankee Dolphin cruiser, Psycho, which has been with the club for nearly 25 years! (to put that into perspective, Psycho has been in the club since Michael Jackson was topping the charts with "Billie Jean" and "Beat It") Surely many tears will be shed! But the board feels strongly that it's the right thing to do. And not to fear -- SCOW members will have the first opportunity to bid on the boat. Please see the detailed announcement on [page 7](#).

I am so glad to see the boats on the water, classes full of students, new skippers checking out, members coming to social events, and so many new members continuing to sign up. SCOW is fast approaching the 400-member mark for the year – that's impressive! And it's also a tribute to the benefit and value that SCOW offers to the DC-area sailing community. May SCOW continue to provide benefits and opportunities for many years to come. □

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Next Membership Meeting: Monday, August 11th, 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.

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|-----------------------|---|
| Thursday Night | Social Sail, Washington Sailing Marina (WSM), April - October, 6:00PM |
| Social No-Sail | Events and locations will vary, December - April, 6:00PM |
| Wednesday Night Races | WSM with Flying Scotts, May - October 6:00PM |
| Board Meetings | 4th Monday of every month, 7:00PM (Open to Membership) |
| Channels Deadline | 15th of every month. Submit articles to: channels06@scow.org |
| 2008 Calendar | http://www.scow.org/calendar.html |
| SCOW Pictures | http://picasaweb.google.com/Sailing.Club.of.Washington |
| SCOW Homepage | http://www.scow.org/index.html |



SCOW Social Sail

The warm sailing season has started! On Thursdays enjoy food and sailing. Remember, we are a volunteer club, so there are opportunities to sign up to help with Thursday night social sail cooks & dock masters. To volunteer contact

SCOW Social Director,
Faith Rodell,
301-674-9324

social@scow.org

Crab Claw St Michaels Sail June 28

SCOW sailors proceeded to St. Mike's and checked out the Maritime Museum. Memberships could be obtained (\$100 tax deductible contribution) which included free dockage during the day while touring the museum, admission for members and their crew, and option of overnight dockage for \$1.50/foot (reservations suggested 2 weeks in advance). Scow members sailed on the Big Ease, toured the museum, and headed over to the Crab Claw for dinner. A fun time was had by all.

FROM THE RIVER

Dorothy Stocks

The Merry Month of May Raft-Up was a great success. All three SCOW cruisers participated – thank you skippers Mike Rothenberg, Bill Davenport and Henry Young. “Timeless” skippered by Steve Riker and “Liberty Belle” skippered by Dorothy Stocks joined the group as well. All boats were full and there were many new faces.

Wind Gods provided a brisk southeast breeze and we sailed down river to the National Harbor and rafted up in Smoot’s Cove. The energy from bright lights and colorful light shows kept spirits high. The crew provided a fabulous international feast ranging from all American heroes, kabobs, sushi to home made humus and more.

Good time had by all. Watch your email for the call for crew for upcoming river events! To schedule your own river event, please contact: river@scow.org



Dorothy Stocks sailing her boat - Liberty Belle
Sunset Sailing

Special Olympics Sailing

As I think of the wonderful opportunity in coordinating this year's Special Olympics Sailing, I reflect on the support of the club, magnanimous effort of the following volunteers, and the joyful expressions of the athletes. Aside from enjoying the sailing, the athletes demonstrated generous kindness and gratitude. I appreciate coordinating, sailing, and of course playing with each of you. I thank each of the following for making this event a success; Ben Ackerman - Special Events Contact, Benackerman@aol.com, Julia Clones, Alane Couch, John Curd, Carolyn Danckaert and Aaron Smith, Christine Doebel, Jan Earle, Jim Haynes, Bill Johnson, Jim Klein, Monica O'Connor-McKeeby, Tom Paquin, Tina Perez, Herb Ries, David Richter, Jill Roberts, Barb Selbst (in charge of athletes), Rob Van Tassel. There were several other SCOW members who offered their help but summer's thunderstorms precluded the last two weeks.

Thank you all again for a wonderful event.

Sincerely, Rhonda Glasmann

Brett Astmann Skipper Director

SCOW has a new
Skipper Certification Director,
Brett Astmann.

Welcome aboard, Brett!

If you have any skipper-related questions, please continue to submit your concerns to skipper@scow.org and your email will get to the right person.

Flying Scots Regatta Begins!

Adam Pressman, Race Director

Race Fans,

The Flying Scots program got an auspicious start despite variable winds. About 10 starts were done and several of our Scot skippers demonstrated their grasp of racing concepts recently reinforced at our seminar series in the weeks before racing began.

The importance of crew weight placement, rules of crossing and being on the line on time were shown time and again as all the racers traded good starts and bad and very close finishes. We had some groundings in the low water but all were able to quickly get back in the hunt and all had an enjoyable and educational time on the river.

Come out every Wednesday to join the fun! I need volunteers to help with race committee duties as well. We run our races the same way the America's Cup is managed so these are valuable skills to hone. If you're a SCOW member in good standing we'll rotate you across the boats so you can share and observe different perspectives in skippering our Flying Scot fleet and show some of the local, non-SCOW Flying Scots that join us how SCOW is a force to be reckoned with on the river. See you at the cranes at 6PM on Wednesdays.

Live slow, sail fast.



SCOW Flying Scots Racing – Pic by Adam Pressman



Pic #1 – Topaz Racing



Pic #2 - Bill Bernhards at the helm during a race with SCOW crew on the Potomac River.



Pic #3 - Sunset on the spinnakers
Thanks to Wolfgang for submitting these pics!

Nowhere else than upon the sea do the days, weeks and months fall away quicker into the past. They seem to be left astern as easily as the light air-bubbles in the swirls of the ships wake.

Joseph Conrad
Author
**Mirror of the Sea,
Lord Jim,
Typhoon**



Joseph Conrad
www.utm.edu/staff/lalexand/brnovel/Heart.htm

In 1891, Conrad stepped down in rank to sail as first mate on the *Torrens* quite possibly the finest ship ever launched from a Sunderland yard (James Laing's Deptford Yard, 1875). For fifteen years 1875-90, no ship approached her speed for the outward passage to Australia. In her record-breaking run to Adelaide, she covered 16,000 miles in 64 days. Conrad writes of her:

'A ship of brilliant qualities - the way the ship had of letting big seas slip under her did one's heart good to watch. It resembled so much an exhibition of intelligent grace and unerring skill that it could fascinate even the least seamanlike of our passengers. '

In London on 21 September 1881, Conrad set sail for Newcastle as second mate on the small vessel *Palestine* (13 hands) to pick up a cargo of 557 tons of 'West Hartley' coal bound for Bangkok. From the outset things went wrong. A gale hampered progress (sixteen days to the Tyne), then the *Palestine* had to wait a month for a berth - and was finally rammed by a steam vessel. The captain's wife, Mrs Beard, looked after Conrad and sewed his buttons on while he lived on board, moored in the Tyne not far from Percy Main.

Palestine sailed from the Tyne at the turn of the year. Then the ship sprang a leak in the Channel and was stuck in Falmouth for a further nine months. After all these misfortunes, Conrad writes: 'Poor old Captain Beard looked like a ghost of a Geordie skipper.' The ship set sail from Falmouth on 17 September 1882 and reached the Sunda Strait in March 1883. Finally, off Java Head, the cargo ignited and fire engulfed the ship. The crew, including Conrad, reached shore safely in open boats. The ship is re-named *Judaea* in Conrad's famous story 'Youth', which covers all these events. This voyage from the Tyne was Conrad's first fateful contact with the exotic East, the setting for many of his later works.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Conrad

UPDATE FROM SCOW/DISC RACING

By: Henry Yung, Racing Skipper

With 2 races to go in DISC Summer-1 series, Rebecca is in second place. In the eight years I have been a SCOW member I think this is one of the better results Rebecca has had.

In this series Rebecca has been driven by Bill Davenport (Race 1) and Henry Yung, (Races 3 and 4). SCOW members Nate Bokil, Jan Earle, Bob Soule, Chris McGraw, Mary Siverson, and Dave Campbell have crewed for Rebecca so far.

If anyone has any doubts about how competitive DISC racing is, in the last Race 4 Rebecca finished 9 seconds in front on an identical Catalina 25, Yee Ha (Driven by SCOW member Bruce Baker), after a 3.08 mile course. 9 seconds represents about 2 boat lengths. The race was held near Haines point on the "North Course", in good weather and around 13 knots of wind.

In Race 1 Rebecca finished, after corrections, just 3 seconds in front of Yee Ha.

Topaz is currently in 14th place, while Psycho has struggled with engine problems and is in 18th place.

Racing is enjoyed by many SCOW members and is an integral part of the SCOW training mission. Once SCOW members become proficient sailors, the next logical step in order to become excellent sailors is to learn to race, and participate frequently in racing on the river.

SCOW Skipper Update

By Brett Astmann, Skipper Director

As a relatively new SCOW member and skipper, I still vividly remember the exhilaration walking away from my Flying Scot checkout. The culmination of hard work, excellent instructors, dedicated volunteers and great boats meant new, endless sailing possibilities. I am privileged, as the new Skipper Director, to help give others the same exciting experience that so many gave to me.

So... with the first Basic and Cruiser classes finished and the second wave of checkouts completed, I want to first congratulate all of our new skippers so far this season!

Flying Scots: Michael Flanigon, Carolyn Danckaert, Silvia De Amieva, Mary Jo Cittadino, Gus Biggio, Ken Giberson, Sarah Jones, Gilbert Wright, Alexandra Hay, Jay Van Der Wall, Rob Van Tassell, Dana Marie Dunne, Caron Ward, Brendan Merchant.

Cruisers: Barry Creech, Peter Feldman, Mike Trueheart, Lisa Eller.

Congratulations to the new skippers and a big thank you to the instructors, tutors and checkout skippers that made it possible.

For the new skippers, the seasoned skippers and future skippers I'd also like to throw out a friendly reminder that according to our boat use policy, a skipper may only have 2 personal future reservations in the Faces system at any give time - regardless of boat type. The Faces system makes it immensely easier to reserve boats and also gives us data to better understand boat use. Some tips to ensure you haven't "overbooked":

- 1) Be sure to remove any reservations you may not need before you add another.
- 2) Make sure you've selected the type of use correctly (racing, personal, etc) and followed all the proper procedures for that type of reservation.
- 3) A reservation for a boat undergoing repair still counts towards your 2 personal reservations.

Questions, please contact me at skipper@scow.org.

SCOW Thanks Our Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival Volunteers

By: Karyl Owings

SCOW was once again at the Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival this year, recruiting new members and spreading the word about our great club. As always, we set up a Flying Scot on the Pier; our newest boat, Selkie, joined us again this year. We were also joined by a special celebrity guest this year as well...club founding father Woody Woodside was in the SCOW booth during the final Sunday shift, greeting our guests and encouraging them to sail with us!

Everyone involved in this year's Waterfront Festival had a marvelous time. My thanks and the thanks of all SCOW members go to the following participating volunteers, without whom this event could not happen:

Wayne Wisniewski and his truck
Adam Pressman and his van
Steve Linke
Jim Harbuck
Mary Jo Cittadino
Elizabeth Crompton
Chris von Guggenberg
Stan Misiuk
Bill Patton
Glenn Willis
Richard Chan
Silvia Amieva
Jorge Amieva
Mary Smith
Herb Ries
Kristie McComb
Randy Rosenfeld
Marlan Green
George Umberger
Wendy Woodside
Woody Woodside



Bill Patton and SCOW founding father Woody Woodside prepare to man the booth



Members John Drye, Adam Pressman, George Umberger, Thom Unger and Marlan Green assist with preparation to display Selkie at the festival

Leukemia Cup Regatta Fundraising Begins

By: Dorothy Stocks, Chair, SCOW Leukemia Cup Planning Committee

Hi there skippers! The Board is looking for skippers for the three cruisers and four Flying Scots to participate in the Leukemia Cup Regatta and the PRSA Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Benefit races.

If you are a qualified racing skipper for cruisers and willing to commit to fund raise for the cause, interested in racing one of the SCOW cruisers on Saturday, September 6th; OR If you are a qualified Flying Scot skipper, interested in participating in the PRSA races Saturday and/or Sunday and also committed to fund raising, contact **BOARD@SCOW.org** no later than Friday, July 25th so that you can be considered for the Boat Lottery.

SCOW pays a \$100 entrance fee for the Cruisers which, when paid by August 16th, gets the name of the Boat on the Regatta T-Shirt. SCOW pays the PRSA entrance fees for the Flying Scots. In order to get the name of the boat on the Regatta T-Shirt, you need to pledge a minimum of \$100 and register with the Leukemia Society by the deadline, August 16th. After it is determined by the Board how many fund raiser skippers are interested, there may be a fund raiser period of at least two weeks for skippers to raise money, and then boats will be awarded to the highest bidders. Once boats are committed, the skipper and crew can continue to raise money and increase their incentive rewards from the Leukemia Society. Visit www.leukemicup.org/nca for more information.

Raise a sail and help fight leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma!

Psycho is For Sale!!

By: Tom Paquin, Commodore

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! The Sailing Club of Washington is selling our 1971 Yankee Dolphin, "Psycho"!

The first round of bids will be considered from SCOW members, before the sale goes public. Any and all bids will be considered, although the suggested starting bid is \$3,480.00. She is currently docked at WSM on F-dock, the slip transfers with the boat, and slip fees are paid through 3/31/09 (valued at \$1,480). The boat is equipped with a 2-cycle outboard motor, full set of sails, VHF, depth finder, porta-potti head, and un-pressurized alcohol stove. Four years ago, the boat was hauled and club members faired and repainted the bottom, repainted the deck, upgraded the electrical system, and installed a new toe rail. The boat has a genoa track on the toe rail, improving sail trim. The boat is rigged with all lines leading aft to the cockpit. With this recent overhaul, the boat is in better than average condition, although a bit of the deck paint is peeling. A couple spots of rain penetration may need attention as well.

The boat has been kept in fresh water on the Potomac River near DC since we bought it in the early 80's. We had the boat surveyed in 2001, and the survey said the boat was in good shape with plenty of life in her. To our knowledge, Psycho remains sound.

Psycho is very popular with many of our members and has a great history of successful racing on the Potomac (much better with the engine pulled). We're selling the boat because we try to take six members on training and other club events and, unfortunately, the cockpit and cabin are a bit small for that size group. If you are looking for a Dolphin that is ready to sail, contact me at commodore@scow.org and/or our Vice-Commodore, Lisa Eller at vice@scow.org.



Jeanne Vermilyea Ackerman, wife of SCOW member Ben Ackerman, died on June 16, 2008

at age 80 after a brief illness of vasculitis and kidney failure. A strong and vibrant woman, her husband of 56 years called her "Super Woman". There was nothing she couldn't do if she set her mind to it. Until February of this year, she continued to downhill and cross country ski, sailboard, swim laps regularly, sail and coach Special Olympics.

Born in 1927 in Troy, New York, she graduated from Russell Sage College. After meeting Ben, a young Navy Officer, they married at the Naval Chapel in Philadelphia shortly before Ben shipped out to the Korean War. During their early married years, they resided in Japan, Norfolk and Alexandria, VA, and Endicott, NY before settling in Montgomery County, Maryland where they resided in Bethesda and Rockville for 49 years.

After raising her three children, Bruce of Boise, Idaho, Bonnie Lanton of West Hurley, NY and Laura Kennedy of Rixeyville, VA, Jeanne returned to college in the early 1970s to complete her Master's degree at George Washington University in Adaptive Physical Education. She taught in the Montgomery County Schools for 22 years as a special education PE teacher at Carl Sandburg Elementary School and Mark Twain High School and taught at the Lathrop Smith Environmental Center. Education was a strong value for Jeanne and she ensured that her children and grandchildren completed college.

After retiring, she devoted her energies to volunteering and her many hobbies. Jeanne was an avid skier. She and Ben took yearly trips to ski throughout the country and in Europe with friends and family. They sailed together for many years in races, regattas and with the Special Olympics. Swimming was her lifetime passion. For years she performed and competed in synchronized swimming, competing at the Masters Level, and coaching several top teams. She also swam for fitness at the local pools throughout her life.

Jeanne was voted Coach of the Year and in April 2008, Jeanne was awarded with an Inspiration Award from the Montgomery County Special Olympics. Awarded for untold hours of volunteer time and generosity she received, with Ben, this surprise tribute. It culminated Jeanne's forty-five year commitment to the organization beginning with the very first Special Olympics summer camp created by the founder, Eunice Kennedy Shriver in 1963. Her devotion expanded to include her grandson, Eric, and his Special Olympics ventures as well.

Ben and Jeanne spent many happy years at Deep Creek Lake in western Maryland. When the family was young, they camped every summer at the state park in an old canvas army tent. In the 1970s they bought a cabin and spent many weeks there over thirty years sailing, kayaking and sail boarding in the summer and skiing in the winter. It was a beautiful lake and they both loved the mountains, the moss draped waterfalls, the wintry views and the cool relief from the summer heat at home.

The memorial service will be private at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (www.cbf.org) one of Jeanne's favorite causes. She has also requested that friends and family make donations to their local blood bank as she benefited from their services in her final days. Jeanne is remembered with words such as remarkable, inspirational, generous, forward thinking and strong. Her spirit will live on in our memories and in all those whose lives she touched throughout her lifetime. For more information please see <http://www.potomacroversailing.org/JeanneAckerman.htm>

In Remembrance of Bill Thomas, SCOW Member

By: Tom Paquin, Commodore

Those of you who attended the membership meeting this past Monday heard a wonderful tribute to our recently deceased SCOW member, Bill Thomas, offered by Melissa Ennis. Bill died on Wednesday, June 25, 2008, at age 83. A memorial service was held on July 1st.

Bill was a long-time member of the club, although I never had the pleasure of meeting him. From the tribute offered by Melissa, Bill was a fun-loving person who was a very lively presence within the club, was full of stories, and brightened the lives of those around him.

Inurnment with honors will be held at Arlington National Cemetery Columbarium on Thursday, July 24 at 9 a.m. with friends and family assembling at the Administration Building at 8:30 a.m. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in his name to the charity of your choice or the American Red Cross.

An article is being prepared for the August issue of ChaNNels in remembrance of Bill. If you personally knew Bill and would like to contribute to the remembrance, please contact Allan Lewis at Allan.Lewis@faa.gov.

2008 Board of Directors

| Position | Name | Home | Work | E-mail |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Commodore | Tom Paquin | 202.281.8999 | 202.659.6500 | commodore@scow.org |
| Vice Commodore | Lisa Eller | 423.360.6899 | 202.353.2755 | vice@scow.org |
| Secretary | Maggie Nelson | 202.415.1983 | | secretary@scow.org |
| Treasurer | Chris Von Guggenberg | 703.683.6649 | 703.622.9125 | treasurer@scow.org |
| Training Director | Mike Rothenberg | 703.820.1270 | | training@scow.org |
| Maintenance | Fran Jezisek | 301.839.3351 | 202.721.4564 | maintenance@scow.org |
| Social Director | Faith Rodell | 301.474.2444 | 301.674.9324 | social@scow.org |
| Skipper Director | Bret Astmann | 202.360.0512 | | skipper@scow.org |
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| Racing Director | Adam Pressman | | 703.850.2072 cell | race@scow.org |
| Records Director | John Roland | 703.368.9792 | 703.321.4614 | records@scow.org |

Other Key People

| | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Crew Liaison | Melissa Ennis | 703.845.5764 | | crew@scow.org |
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| Email Administrator | Jeff Teitel | 202.271.1238 | | postmaster@scow.org |
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For Information about Club Activities

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