

ChaNNels

**The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington
June, 2000**

June Program:

The Ships Company Shanteymen

For the Monday, June 12th monthly membership meeting, we have arranged a very special program. When is the last time you spontaneously began singing a sea shantey while hoisting a mainsail at Social Sail? Probably never. So, the Ships Company Shanteymen will appear at the meeting in historical 1812 era costumes to present a program of authentic sea shanteys, an aspect of sailing that seems to be lacking in our club. They will be singing without amplification and generally without instrumental accompaniment, just like the sailors did 200 years ago. This group specializes in recreating the sounds of sea shanteys from the 1600's through the modern era. We also have arranged with Gadsby's Tavern, weather permitting, to use the outdoor courtyard for the show, which will make it an even more enjoyable evening. So, please join us for this special event and to kick off the summer sailing season! As usual, socializing begins at 6:30, with the program starting at 7:30.

Commodore's Log

Well, we really whupped 'em good. Well, not exactly whupped. More like squeaked over the finish line just ahead of them thanks to a brief and favorable puff of wind. And, I guess we did get a bit of an advantage when they set off from the starting line and initially rounded the wrong mark. Hmmm, I wonder how they made up all that time? But, hey, a win is a win and I'm bragging it up for all it is worth.

"We" were your Commodore at the helm of Suzy Q, with Skipper Coordinator Liz Bruening as crew. (Liz had skippered us to an equally stunning victory in the first race.) "Them" were Dale Eager and Larry Pfeifle in Danshweida; and just behind "them" was Tom Flesher at the helm of Miss Ellie. And the place was the first Tuesday Evening Flying Scott Races at the Marina.

Need something to brag about? Want to spend more time in the Flying Scots? Want to meet more of your fellow SCOW members? Want to be immortalized as a champion racer in songs and epic poetry by your fellow SCOW members? Then come on down and join us Tuesdays throughout the summer for our informal races. We race for fun and to develop our sailing skills. EVERY MEMBER OF SCOW IS WELCOME. NO sailing or racing experience is necessary. You do NOT have to be invited or sign up in advance. You do NOT have to come every week. You only have to satisfy one rigorous requirement, set forth below in its entirety:

Rigorous Requirement: Show up Tuesday night around 6:30.

Sorry, we don't offer free shuttle service to the Marina, but if you get there, we will have free rides on the boats. We'd especially like to encourage SCOW Flying Scot skippers to attend so we have enough skippers to put in all three boats. You skippers do not need any racing experience. And you non-skippers can handle those jib sheets, just be "rail meat," or perhaps even take the helm yourself. If too many folks come, we'll bring the boats in between races and swap places. So come on down!

The SCOW teams that will be racing the cruising boats in the Daingerfield Island Cruising Fleet series have been chosen through the new lottery system, implemented by SCOW Race Captain Ruth Connolly, and the DICF races are underway. Best of luck to the club's representatives in those races. We will be keeping everyone posted on the results of the Scot and DICF races in Channels.

In addition to racing, our seasonal activities are now in full swing. The Frost-Bite, er, I mean, April Bay raft-up was a big success despite the chilly and ominous weather. Special thanks to all those Bay skippers who invited the common folk like me who own little day sailors instead of really nice, big, bay boats to cruise with them. Your gracious hospitality was greatly appreciated and you've really given the club a boost by sharing the Bay sailing experience with more members. Bay Coordinator Mike Geissinger has more Bay activities in the works for those who missed the first one.

Social Sails are under way as well every Thursday around 6:30 at the Marina. Stop by, make some friends, eat some food, catch a ride on a Scot, eat some more food, make some more friends, eat some more...well you get the idea. The only question for me is which number will be larger by the end of the season: the number of boat rides, new friends, or new pounds? (By the way, have you contacted Social Sail Coordinator Kelly Bowers to host a social sail yet? I warn you, Kelly knows where you live and she can be very persuasive!)

Never had a ride on one of our cruising boats? River Director John Rogers has scheduled some Friday night cruises especially for you. Details on that and other river events are elsewhere in this issue. The training program also is underway, thanks to Training Coordinator Heather Spurlock and her armada of volunteer trainers. Want to get checked out as a skipper on the Scots? Several check-out days are scheduled. For details on becoming a Scot or big boat skipper, contact Liz Bruening or reread last month's Channels. And if you have always yearned to do boat maintenance but have been too smart to buy a boat of your own, contact Maintenance Director Jason Stevens, who will be happy to give you a real taste of the joys of boat ownership.

Several members have asked whether SCOW could offer some "refresher" or specialized courses on certain aspects of sailing. In response, Vice-Commodore Joe DePoorter has volunteered to organize a series of clinics on various sailing skills. Joe has more details in this Channels. I personally want Joe to show me how he sails backwards. Really, I have seen Joe do this and it is neat. I only wonder whether the Coast Guard will require us to fit the boats with back-up lights.

Finally, to start the summer off right, we've organized a special program for the June 12 general membership meeting. Details are in this Channels. We urge all of you to make a real effort to attend. If you've never attended a membership meeting, make this one your first. We guarantee you'll have a great time.

Fair winds to all.

The Sailor's Bookshelf

With the peak sailing and racing season upon us, Bill Davenport returns to recommend a few books to improve our technical skills. First, Bill suggests **THE ART AND SCIENCE OF SAILS**, by Tom Whidden & Michael Levitt (St. Martins Press). Whidden, a longtime America's Cup participant and sail maker, describes good sail shape and techniques for tuning sails. He is the author of the computer software program which drives most modern Cad-Cam cutter/plotter machines. The book gives an up-to-date view of materials, cloth weight, strength, and what sail shape under load should look like with modern materials. Bill also suggests **TUNING YACHTS AND SMALL KEEL BOATS**, by Lawrie Smith (Fernhurst Books), which Bill feels is the best book on small boat rig tuning he has found. Bill says, "Put this together with a good understanding of center of effort and center of lateral resistance and you can 'Make de boat walk, mon.'" Finally, Bill recommends **SEAWORTHINESS, THE FORGOTTEN FACTOR**, by C.A. Marchaj (International Marine). Although very technical, the book gives valuable insight into the origins of rating rules and their effect on yacht design and seaworthiness. It also dissects the reason for a boats motion and even the effects of motion on the crews performance. Bill was surprised to learn that while its important for a boat to have as little motion as possible, what designers strive for is not so much limiting the motion as limiting the acceleration at the ends of each arc of motion, whether it be yaw, pitch, or heave. Bill felt that the book also would be valuable in selecting a boat for different types of sailing, i.e., cruising, racing or passage-making.

SCOW Says Thanks (And Farewell)

SCOW says "Thanks" to Acting Sargent Joe Massey of the D.C. Harbor Police for giving a great talk on boating safety at our May membership meeting; and to all the members who have given their time and energy so far this season as volunteer trainers in SCOW's training courses. And, SCOW says farewell to long-time members Jerry Nothman and Carrie Blankfield- we wish you fair winds as you move, respectively, to Philadelphia and Hawaii. Come back and see us often.

A Sailor's Adieu

To those of you who may care to know, after 25+ years in Arlington I will be moving back to the suburban Philadelphia area at the end of May. From the time of my arrival in this area, SCOW has been an integral part of my very existence here and to say that I will miss it is the understatement of the century (20th & 21st). Due to my now limited eyesight I had to give up driving and consequently have not been able to participate in anything but a limited number of meetings and other functions. I do not intend to sever my relations with SCOW though. My memories are too numerous to mention but I got my greatest enjoyment from being deeply involved in the training program for about 20 years- from the little Rhoades Bantams to the very

tippy Albacors to the present Flying Scots. After June 1, my address will be: Rhydal Park, Apt. 661-B, 1515 The Fairway, Rydal, PA 190466-1448. Tel:215-885-8166. My email will continue to be: flyjerry@erols.com for the time. For those of you familiar with the Philadelphia area, Rydal is a small township between Jenkintown and Abington, about 5 miles north of the Philadelphia city limits. If you ever get up there I would surely love to get together. It's been great and I hope to return for some of the special SCOW events. Please keep in touch. Cheers, Jerry Nothman

SCOW Directory Correction

The new SCOW directories were recently distributed. However, the lists of names of Check-Out Skippers for both Flying Scots and Cruising Boats were incorrect. Please do not directly contact any of the members listed in your directory for a skipper check-out. Instead, if you want to take a water check-out test, you should contact Liz Bruening, the Skipper Coordinator. She will give you the name of a check-out skipper. This procedure also allows Liz to rotate the check-out work among our volunteer check-out skippers, so nobody is being called on too much.

SCOW Skipper Check-Out Day

The next scheduled SCOW Flying Scot skipper check-out day will be Sunday, June 25th, at the Marina. While this scheduled check-out day is planned to coincide with the completion of the second Basic Sailing course, participation in the check-out day is not limited to students. It is open to any SCOW member who need a water check-out to become a skipper on our Flying Scots. The only prerequisite is that you must have passed the written exam before June 25th. For more details on this check-out day, or on becoming a SCOW skipper, contact Skipper Coordinator Liz Bruening.

Maintenance Reminders

Our five boats are our greatest assets, and a large number of our members take pride in helping to maintain them. These members volunteer a considerable amount of time doing the routine repairs that boats used as much as ours need to be safe and available.

If you observe something that needs repair on one of our boats, equipment that is missing, etc., you should contact Jason Stevens, the Maintenance Director, as soon as possible. Our rules place this responsibility on the skipper who last checked out the boat. Please let Jason know the name of the boat, when the problem was discovered, and, in as much detail as possible, the nature of the problem. This is especially important if a problem requires that a boat be taken out of service -- prompt notice will allow Jason to see that the needed repairs are made as quickly as possible.

In addition, before doing any maintenance work on a boat yourself, you should coordinate that work with Jason. That is especially true if the work requires you to spend money that you will expect to be reimbursed by the club. While we encourage as many members as possible to help with upkeep of the boats, the Maintenance Committee, like the rest of the club, operates within a budget. The only way to keep our maintenance expenses within budget is to have costs approved

before they are incurred. Upgrades and improvements to the boats also are budgeted items and must be approved before the costs are incurred.

Bay Activities

Mike Geissinger

Here comes the serious sailing season, both cruising and racing. SCOW members will be gathering around and on the water. The language will change from "virtual" to "nautical." The Bay Activities for July will center around the gathering at Karen and Len Zuza's place on the 4th of July. With the holiday falling on Tuesday there is a lot of time to gather at a number of places for cruising and partying.

Preliminary plans are in the works for a multi-day Raft-up over the long July 4th weekend. The plans are still in the formative stages as this is written but more information will be passed along at the June Meeting. Several people have put in suggestions for a week long tour of a portion of the Chesapeake Bay sometime in the early Fall, Sept. or Oct. Timing can be critical, considering the turbulent season.

Anyone who would like to talk about a week-long cruise, let me know and we'll get together for planning.

It's not too early to think about Labor Day and making plans for a really big raft-up over that long first weekend of September.

Watch this space for more good raft-up news.

River Activities

John Rogers

Keep your eye on the calendar, there are several activities coming up. On the weekend of June 3 and 4, there will be a river raft-up with the SCOW big boats and various member's boats, leaving the Washington Sailing Marina's (WSM) docks about 10 am on Saturday, sailing down the river, rafting-up for the night and sailing back on Sunday afternoon (back by about 4 PM).

On Friday June 9 we have our first New Member (i.e., meet-new-member's) sail, leaving the WSM dock at 7 PM and returning at 11 PM (after dark). Come and see the river at night, relax on the boats, and meet new members. This is for everyone, with a preference for new members and those who have never been on the big boats. If there is not enough space for all who are interested we will have another one in July.

On Friday July 7, we have our second meet-new-member's sail, 7 to 11PM. (See, I told you we would have another one). The details are the same as above except the individuals and sea stories may change.

On July 8 we have a Smoot's cove one-day raft-up. We will take the big boats AND the flying Scots below the bridge to Smoot's Cove for sailing, lunch, swimming, and enjoyment, leaving the WSM dock's at 9 AM and returning at 4 PM. Don't forget your sunscreen!

**If you are interested in any aspect of any of these activities (i.e., coming along, skippering, crewing, helping) call John Rogers at 202-244-5537 or send an E-mail to river@scow.org.

See you there.

Come Race

Our racing season has started. Skippers attended the Racing Rules Forum on April 10th and Get Acquainted Social on April 17th.

Real Racing started on April 25th as the DICF (Dangerfield Island Cruising Fleet) inaugurated its First Big Boat Series. First day Weather grounded the Flying Scots, but the Scots staged a comeback on May 2nd and May 9th as all boats charged into the fray.

Flying Scot results for the May 2nd races were as follows:

May 2nd

Race I: Susie Q (1st - L. Bruening/J. Weitzel), Miss Ellie (2nd T. Flesher/D. Pachas), Danschweida (3rd - Dale Eager/L. Pfeifle)

Race II: Susie Q (1st - Jay Weitzel/L. Bruening), Danschweida (2nd - Larry Pfeifle/D. Eager), Miss Ellie (3rd - Deo Pachas/T. Flesher/R.Connolly)

Race III: Susie Q (1st - L. Bruening/B. Lee), Danschweida (2nd - Dale Eager/), Miss Ellie (3rd - R. Connolly)

Race IV: Danschweida (1st - Dale Eager/L. Pfeifle), Miss Ellie (2nd - T. Flesher/D. Pachas/R. Connolly), Susie Q (3rd - L Bruening/B. Lee),

Back to the Big Boats. Skipper and crew selections for the DICF race series follow. Please note that all skippers must have passed the Skipper Exam and have provided an acceptable sailing résumé to the Race Captain before going aboard.

Series I: April 25 - May 30, 2000 Skipper: Stu Robinson Crew: Sergei Tagashov, Alice Starcke, Barbara Grewe, Brian Lee, Jon Allen, Mona Hahn, Judy Dowy

Series II: Summer I - June 6 - July 11,2000 Skipper: Jan Jamrog, Bill Bernhards Crew: Bill Davenport, Jay Weitzel, Cheryl Teninga, Matt Gaston, Debbie Garretson, Kathryn Scott

Series III: Summer II - July 18 - August 22, 2000 Skipper: Dave Scheuramann, Monica Maynard Crew: Charles Hollister, Jeff Teitel, Betsy Troeder, Amy Plett, Foster Stolte, Dale Eager

Series IV: Fall - August 29 - October 3, 2000 Skipper: Thom Unger, Stuart Ullman Crew: Ruth Marie Connolly, Elizabeth Bruening, John Rogers, Pete Hirshman, Julia Clones

PLEASE REMEMBER that the only criteria to race Tuesday evenings on the Flying Scots is your PRESENCE at the Washington Sailing Marina on Tuesday evenings from 18:00 hours until sunset. If you have your own boat and need crew, we will be glad to provide them.

We look forward to seeing you.

Kenneth Grahame's The Wind in the Willows

Jim Metcalf

It's hard to read the first chapter of Wind in the Willows "The River Bank" without thinking of the interactions among us scowsters; the parallels are striking. The principals, Mr. Mole and Mr. Water Rat, become friends through their mutual attraction to the river. For Mole, the river presents a frivolous departure from his chores, one of the "delights of spring without its cleaning." Water Rat's attraction is more profound, "It's brother and sister to me, and aunts and company, and food and drink, and (naturally) washing." Moreover, the Rat finds no frivolity in boating on the river; it is eminently worthwhile. "Believe me, my young friend," he tells the mole, "there is nothing -absolutely nothing- half so much worth doing as messing about in boats."

Ratty invites Mole to board his boat and then extends the invitation: "Look here! If you've really nothing else on hand this morning, supposing we drop down the river together, and have a long day of it?" How many times have you simply run into someone at the marina, talked briefly, and then decided to "drop down the river together"? It could happen anytime you stop by the marina!

Rat couples boating with eating and puts together a picnic lunch for his first cruise with Mr. Mole. Disappearing briefly into his riverside home, he returns to his small boat "staggering under a fat wicker luncheon-basket." Mole asks what is inside the basket. Ratty replies, "It's only what I always take on these little excursions; and the other animals are always telling me that I'm a mean beast and cut it very fine!"

Mole is obviously a new SCOW member, and Mr. Water Rat is our Social Director, or River Director, or Dockmaster, or Chef. It is obvious. Mole admires and envies the practiced hand of Mr. Water Rat maneuvering the boat "so strongly and so easily along," and determines to try it himself. Events go clumsily for Mr. Mole: "The Mole flung his sculls back with a flourish, and made a great dig at the water. He missed the surface altogether, his legs flew up above his head, and he found himself lying on the top of the prostrate Rat." Here, Mr. Rat reminds me of the seasoned members of SCOW who teach our rank beginners and stuff their laughter when some hapless helmsman (Mr. Mole) entertains us with a particularly comedic landing at Social Sail. Think of how Mr. Mole apologizes for his "foolish and ungrateful conduct...Will you overlook it this once...and let things go on as before?" Is there any among us who does not consider Mr. Mole's circumstance and say, "Been there. Done that?" It seems, almost, as if Mr. Grahame were writing of our River Bank.

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)

Write us: info@scow.org

Submissions to Channels:

Just type or paste your article into the body of an email message. Don't send your articles as (or with) attachments.

Put a **title** on the first line, **your name** only (not "by") on the second line, and launch right into the article. I know this is hard for you to resist doing, but-

IF you include words in all caps, multiple tabs, indents, attachments, or extraneous notes, your article will suffer greatly.

Blame yourself if this happens!

We will format (but not remove formatting, see above) your article, adding emphasis, aligning tabs, and doing all manner of things to present your article in it's assigned place.

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

Use any means, but email is preferred.

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