
ChaNNels -- The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington

June 1999

June Speaker:

Ed Martin, NOAA's supervisor for cartography will give a presentation on charts both paper and electronic as well as NOAA's numerous functions.

Commodore's Log

Thom Unger

Summer is officially here! After Memorial Day, nothing but summer sailing is ahead! The winds have been great lately. If you haven't yet gotten out on a boat, or made it to a Thursday social sail, what are you waiting for? The marina is once again a busy place, with boats everywhere in use. But with the strong Spring winds comes another responsibility for skippers: safety! There's a simple rule to go by when trying to decide if the wind is too strong for your own level of comfort and/or ability. When in doubt, don't go out! If you find yourself contemplating the weather conditions for more than 15 seconds, having trouble deciding, it's best to play it safe and stay in. With that cautionary note, a new column starts up this month in *Channels,* written by Denise Malueg, with the focus on safety and skipper tips. Having served as Skipper Director for the past two years, she has many good safety tips & tales to pass along. Please check it out each month.

I'm happy to report that *Psycho* is once again back in the water. She looks quite good in her fresh new coat of topside paint (Kelly green of course), new bottom paint, and with a new engine mount fiberglassed in to replace the old leaking board. Through a combination of scheduling mishaps and poor weather, the entire job ended up taking longer than expected, but such are the joys and tribulations of working on boats. Many, many thanks to our Vice-Commodore, Monica Maynard, for all her hard work. Many thanks as well to all the other volunteers: Tom LeBrun, Jason Stevens & his dog Sailor, Stuart & Barbara Ullman, Bill Bernhards, anyone else that I've forgotten, and the Marina staff who were very generous with advice, materials, and time, much of it free.

Speaking of volunteering, the 18th annual Red Cross Waterfront Festival is coming up June 11-13. Every year SCOW sponsors a booth at the festival to inform people about our club and to recruit new members. This year we have a prime location right near the main gate. As always, we're looking for volunteers to staff the booth. This is a great opportunity to help out the club, get free passes to the Festival, and talk to lots of friendly people. We're looking to get at least 3 volunteers for each shift of 3 hours. Times will be Saturday the 12th & Sunday the 13th, with shifts at 10:00am, 1:00pm, & 4:00pm. Please give me a call or email if you're interested. No experience/knowledge needed, just a willingness to show up and help the club!

Fair Winds, Thom

SkipperTips

Compiled by Denise Malueg (with inputs from any club member who offers!)

Skippers have lots of resources at their disposal, including this new column in SCOW's favorite newsletter! Here we hope to inform club members of various sailing-related tips & techniques used by other members, as well as remind everyone of SCOW's policies & procedures which skippers read and promise to follow every year when renewing their skipper'ship. As a club member, you have part ownership of 5 great boats whether you are a skipper, crew or Thursday evening burger-flipper. It's everyone's responsibility to see that they are sailed safely.

I notice my skills are a little rusty this Spring, and frankly, while at the marina I've noticed your skills are rusty too. Without being on the water much in the past several winter months, we need to think farther ahead when at the helm of a boat. Our sailing doesn't have to look pretty, but it does have to be safe & sound.

Tip #1: Break it to Me Gently! Winch handles are designed of lightweight materials so that they will break under too much strain. To avoid too much strain when raising the main, raise the sail until tight then release the gooseneck. Now the sail is free of strain and can be winched up a few more clicks. Remember to lock the gooseneck again! Similar concept applies on the cruisers - release that downhaul!

Tip #2: Dock Dock, Who's There? Boats stop when the sails are luffed and the bow is pointed directly into the wind. Easy concept, true, but at this time of year, skippers aren't as adept at finding the wind as they were at the end of last fall. When docking, the bow of the boat must be pointed **directly** into the wind, not just a little bit into the wind. "A little bit into the wind" means you're probably close-hauled and now careening into the dock at great speed and horror to your crew. Also, the position of the dock does not matter one whit! The boat is not a car, and the dock is not a curb you must park alongside. You can plant that bow diagonally at the middle of the end of the dock if that's what's necessary. The main thing is that you coast from at least two boat lengths away, with the sails luffing while pointing directly into the wind, so that you gently stop just before touching the wood of the dock. Slower is always better!

The trickiest winds for docking are on-shore breezes. SCOW does not want its boats sailed between docks because the small space is tough for maneuvering. WSM's Scots land between docks and are in much worse shape and have much higher maintenance bills than ours. SCOW dockings are done at the ends of the piers or on the outside edges of the right-most and left-most docks (but be careful to not get too close to the shallows!). Landing at the ends or outermost sides allows an exit if a skipper finds themselves coming in too fast; they can easily tack away to try again. Another option for **experienced** skippers is to sail in reverse to the end of the dock, while still not sailing between the docks. Perhaps Joe DePoorter would be so kind as to demonstrate this again at a Thursday Social Sail?

Make sure your crew knows exactly where and how you'll be docking, and what is expected of them. Someone needs to handle the jib sheet to luff it at your command. Someone else needs to have the painter in hand, ready to step on the bow and then off onto the dock to walk the boat

down the leeward side of the dock to cleat off. The skipper must have the mainsheet in hand, gently luffing enough to slowly coast to the dock, while not stopping short, either.

Dockings are the last impression you can make on your crew, make it a good one!

River Activities

Tina Daberkow

Come on down to Washington Sailing Marina for the Tuesday night races and Thursday night Social Sails. Both activities meet at the small boat docks from 6:00 to dark. Now that the sailing season is in full swing, I would like to thank everyone who has been so kind to volunteer by running the races, bringing food and serving as dockmaster for the evenings. If you have questions or would like to volunteer to help, contact me!

Maintenance

Tom LeBrun

Remember these names: Beverly Ashcraft, Robert & Elizabeth Bruening, Tina Daberkow, John Dickinson, Dick Dyer, Jack Hayes, Heidi Heller, John Kauffman, Richard Kowalczyk, Brian Lee, Monica Maynard, Bob McMichael, Jim Devon & Logan Metcalf, Kim Ockene, Kathleen O'Keeffe, Cindy Peters, George Petersen, Stu Robinson, Tom S., Heather Spurlock, Carol Ann & Larry Stern, Sergey Tagashov, Donna Thurber, Stuart & Barbara Ullman, Thom Unger, Annie Wu.

On spring maintenance day these folks (and others undoubtedly omitted here) cheerfully inspected and sorted, cleaned and repaired, and where necessary replaced, almost all of the equipment we use each season. These folks accomplished a lot, everything from inspecting the boats to fortifying the sheds, and they (you) have our thanks for keeping our boats safe and in good condition. You hear this often in SCOW, but it bears repeating -- remember that these boats belong to you. To those whose names I missed (or could not make out -- sorry Tom S.!), my apologies. And to the kind soul who lent me the pink tape measure: how do I return it?

There have been some other maintenance standouts lately that deserve recognition as well. Monica and Thom have led the efforts on Psycho while she has been out of the water, and she looks great. Stu Robinson organized a nice mini-workshop to repair the Scot centerboards and teach the West Epoxy Systems. And though it's not strictly maintenance, thanks to Bill Clark for organizing the Maintenance Day picnic.

Even with all the great work at maintenance day there is always plenty to do. Aside from upkeep and repairs, our goals for the season include improving Psycho for cruising and upgrading Rebecca's instruments. We would also like to do a better job of getting people involved who have expressed an interest in maintenance. So if you checked maintenance on your application, expect a message. In the meantime, may providence grant us more of this glorious spring.

Skipper Director

Shelby Shoop

April Showers Bring May Flowers May Winds Bring June Skippers!

Everyone please give a big round of applause to our nine new Skippers who checked out on Sunday, May 23: Kathryn Scott, Heather Spurlock, Cathy Chapman, Jan Jamerog, Debbie Garretson, Sergey Tagashov, Paul Ross, Giovanni Giovanelli, and Adam Duncan!

A nice NW breeze made the new sandbar (mudbar?) in the lagoon the perfect area to demonstrate how to sail off after grounding. Students and their checkout partners were tacking and jibing in balletic spirals and figure-eights. The Scots were hove-to, the throwable cushions were heaved over the side, jibs were backwinded through countless COB (Crew or Cushion Overboard) Drills. Sails were hanked on, raised, lowered, flaked, and hanked on, raised, lowered, flaked again and again in effortless precision. Lines were cleated, tied in bowlines, and wrapped (actually clove-hitched) around other student's arms, in masterful marlinspike demonstrations.

The day was glorious, with just enough wind to sail, but not enough to overly complicate the checkout process. Big thanks go to our cadre of tough, but supportive, Checkout Skippers that day: Marty Crowson, Declan Conroy, Thom Unger and Joe DePoorter. Dick Dyer and Larry Gemoets, whom we all know and love as tutors and trainers, rode along as Checkout-Skippers-in-training. (We're getting ready for the next two Basic Sailing classes and lots of new members, so there's always room for more COS! Call me if interested.)

Sound like fun? Feel bad 'cause you missed this? Well, don't! You, too, can still check out, and you don't have to wait 'til the next Check Out Day in July. Step One: Get and complete a Flying Scot Exam. I bring them to Social Sails and Monthly Meetings - this is the easiest, quickest way to get them. Step Two: Give or mail it to me, and give me at least 7 to 10 days to grade it. (I already have a full-time job, like the rest of your hard-working Board members.) Meanwhile, make friends with some current skippers or tutors and spend some time practicing on the water. Step Three: After you pass the written exam, call up a Check Out Skipper and arrange a time to go out sailing and be evaluated on the water. Step Four: After you pass the Water Checkout, send the paperwork back to me along with your check for \$80, and I'll give you the sail locker combination. Step Five: Continue to ask the tutors you've met to go sailing with you, and ask their recommendations about who the better SCOW sailors are. To really hone your skills, go out on the water mostly with sailors at or above your own level. Remember, the Checkout is a starting point on your SCOW sailing adventure!

Bay Activities

Jack Schwartz

Day Sail & New Member Bay Cruise With the Memorial Day Cruise & Picnic a memory, it is time to look towards the next event, the Bay Day Sail on Saturday, June 5. This is an

unstructured event, where I try to get SCOW members out on a variety of boats, from differing ports, to sail.

BAY SKIPPERS: How about it? Volunteer to take some SCOW crew out for the day - you get to test out new crew and everyone has a great time sailing on the Bay.

INTERESTED CREW: Let me know that you are interested and I will do whatever I can to get you out on a boat (although there are no guarantees). Skippers & crew, please send an email to bay@scow.org or call me at 301-989-4664 (eves) to let me know if you can sail that day.

Finally, I would like to announce the New Member Bay Cruise, on Saturday and Sunday, June 19-20. Carrie Blankfield has volunteered to act as raftmaster. She can be reached at 202-244-5959 (eves) or 202-338-9790 (days). Her plan is to sail to Leadenham Creek, off the Choptank River. From the Choptank, go into Broad Creek, then Leadenham Creek, past Green #1, about 3/4 of a mile to a cove on the starboard side. "Spindrift" should be anchored there by 5:00 pm in about 10 feet of water. Channel 16 will be monitored on the quarter (before and after) hour.

Note that while billed as a "New Member" cruise, this is open to anyone to participate. Same deal as above for skippers and crew to contact me. Don't wait until the last minute!

Clear skies and fair winds!

Socially SCOW

Bill Clark, Jr.

Checkout Day Picnic The crowd for the Checkout Picnic was larger than expected. Many members enjoyed the food and warm weather, while watching boats in the lagoon. I want to thank Mike O'Hara and Cherie Doran for donating the breads and plates. Thanks also to Betty for a luscious salad and the Wild Peach bean dip. And a special thanks to Monica Maynard for her run to the store for more provisions! I also can't forget the refreshments brought by Kathryn Scott and all of those who helped drink it; I mean helped with clean-up.

New Member Picnic Those who can't make it to the June Bay Cruise can meet us at the marina for the New Member Picnic on June 19th, at 4:30. Contact Bill Clark (202-965-7302) by Thursday, June 17th, if you would like to attend or help with set-up & clean-up. We could help you spice it up a bit with a game of Pin the Rudder on the Flying Scot, run a treasure hunt, or sponsor SCOW Olympics! Let your creativity bubble with ideas!

July 4th in Solomons A SCOW Tradition! SCOW's Independence Day celebration will take place on Sunday, July 4th, 3:00, at Sea Aerie - Len & Karen Zusa's cottage, near Solomons, MD. Members arrive by boat and car for this combined Bay & Land social, now in it's fourth year - directions to Sea Aerie are below. The charge is \$8 per person, and your own "grillable" - an entrée for you such as a steak, veggie dog, or bird. SCOW will arrange the coleslaw, potato salad and barbeque sauces, as well as the port-a-potty, decorations, plates, utensils, wind & sunshine. The \$8 picnic fee will be waived if in addition to a grillable for yourself, you bring a

salad of greens or dessert for the group. Sign up/pay up with Len Zuza at June's member meeting, or phone him at 202-546-2632 to confirm your attendance. Let Jack Schwartz know if you plan to arrive by boat & what your crew requirements might be. Around 4:00 pm, Len will conduct a safety flare demonstration. Skippers are requested to bring along expired flares (both! hand-held and aerial) to demo. Later, we will drive into town to watch the fireworks. Last year the town had one of the most spectacular fireworks displays I have ever seen!

Directions to Sea Aerie Homeport of Sea Frog (aka Froggy)

By Land: The fastest, most scenic route from Washington is Maryland Rt. #4 (that merges with Rt. #2 from Annapolis enroute to Solomons).

To get onto Rt. #4 from Downtown Washington:

Take Pennsylvania Avenue southeast away from the Capitol. It becomes Rt. #4 when it crosses into Maryland, OR get onto the Suitland Parkway after you cross the S. Capitol Street Bridge into Anacostia. When you reach the end, turn right onto Rt. #4, Pennsylvania Avenue.

To get onto Rt. #4 from Maryland or Virginia:

Take Beltway exit #11A (southeast toward Upper Marlboro) onto Rt. #4 (Pennsylvania Avenue).

Once you are on Rt. #4:

Follow Rt. #4 for about an hour (roughly 50 miles) from the Beltway/Suitland Parkway. About one mile after you see the sign "Solomons 5 miles," turn left onto Rousby Hall Rd. (Rt. #760)/Olivet Rd. Go straight about 2.2 miles (do not turn left at mile 1.4 when Rt. #760/Rousby Hall Rd. does so) and you will find yourself on Olivet Rd. At mile 2.2 turn right onto St. Johns Creek Rd. Go 0.2 miles and turn left onto a gravel road -- also named St. Johns Creek Rd. -- and follow it to the end. SEA AERIE is the cedar red A-frame on the right at the end of the road.

By Water: Within a couple hundred meters after you enter Solomons harbor, turn right into Mill Creek. Follow that about a quarter of a mile. At the junction marker (if you don't know what that is, please stay far away from FROGGY when you eventually find your way to SEA AERIE) GO STRAIGHT (leave the marker to starboard) and that will put you into St. Johns Creek. Honor the marks till you pass #4. Continue up the creek favoring the starboard shore. SEA AERIE is about a quarter of a mile beyond #4 on the eastern shore of the creek. It's the only boathouse (there will be a blue light on in the corner of the boathouse roof) on the creek built over the water.

Happy Birthday Alexandria! Don Deese is captaining a flotilla sailing to Jones Point, July 10, to watch the fireworks in celebration of Alexandria's 250th anniversary. Members with boats in the area who would like to join the group are requested to contact Don (703-971-4497). Let him know of your need for or interest in being crew, too.

Wanted: The VOICE of SCOW! RJ Bruening Do you have a pleasant telephone voice? Would you like to help the club without leaving your home? SCOW needs a "voice" to record new

messages on the hot line, check for new messages, and refer message contents to the proper persons in the club. To audition for this job (that's a fancy word for volunteer), please call 202-628-SAIL, and press 4 for the audition line. (There will be no prompt for this line, just press 4 before you hear the "tone to leave a message"). Call from the telephone you would use. There is a big difference in quality of the sound from telephones. Leave your name and phone number, and read a bit of ChaNNels into the telephone, or anything else you have on hand, so we can get a feel for how your telephone sounds. I'm sure we'll have lots of candidates, so be patient with us while we weed through the applicants!

From the Secretary -- Directories Are in the Mail!

The 1999 Membership Directories have been distributed & mailed. If you haven't already thumbed through this great resource, you really should. In addition to the all-important member contact info, the Directory contains a host of other valuable information. For members who want to sail but aren't skippers yet, there's a list of qualified skippers - look for someone you know and give them a call about getting out on the water. The list of checkout skippers is for your information. Curious about what kinds of boats SCOW members own and where they are - check out the listings for the bay, river, and trailer fleet. Last but not least, there is a copy of the club bylaws for your reference.

I'd like to thank Sam Schaen for all his efforts in bringing the Directory to you - maintaining the database, preparing the copy, working with the printer, delivering and disseminating the Directories. (And keeping up with the corrections, too!) Thanks also to Marilyn Gaizband (Sam's wife) for her assistance in proofreading and working with the printer. And let me thank Kathryn Scott, Debbie Garretson, Larry Gemoets, Thom Unger, and Jay Weitzel for helping label and stuff envelopes at the Checkout Day picnic.

Now to answer those frequently asked questions about the Directory:

The membership cut-off date for the Directory printing was April 12th - if you joined or renewed after that date, your name probably didn't get included. If you have questions regarding when we received your applications, contact Sandy Clover, secretary@scow.org.

The Directory is only printed once each year but periodic updates will be published in the paper version of ChaNNels. Don't worry, we'll send Directory update issues to all members even if you don't normally get the printed copy.

The first update is scheduled for July and the cut-off date for membership and corrections will be June 14th (same as the monthly meeting date so it's easy to remember!).

Now for your task: please check your listing and send any corrections directly to Sam Schaen at dba@scow.org. It's your information - help us keep it current.

New Members as of May 23, 1999

David Addis Darlys Blomberg David Blomberg Ashley Callahan Jason Cameron Ryan
Carlstrom Barbara Grewe Jerome Hansen Nathan Harris Heather Heller Heidi Heller Geraldine
Hess Paul Hess Mark Holmes Elan Krueger Julie Lewis Akiva Liberman Colleen Malone
Darleen Nelson Rhon Nelson Laura Nicholson Mark Nicholson Lauren Stanley Arlene Starace
Ann Titus Amy Beggs Linda Cronin Jacqueline Dickerson Dale Eager Karin Giesecke Mutsuo
Ishijima Jan Jamrog Mark Lerner Ruby Lerner Leif Loheide Sandy Loheide Yari Miralao
Maureen Moran Larry Pfeifle Christine Robinson Ari Strauss Wilkie Woodard

Note: some information in the paper edition of this calendar is wrong. Below is as good as it gets
this month.

SCOW Calendar: June-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

June

2 Basic Sailing Series II, Land Class, 7:30-10:00, WSM Chart Room

2 Cruising Boat Class, Land Class, 7:30-10:00, WSM

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

5 Cruising Boat Class, Water Sessions, 8 AM, WSM

5 Bay Day Sail 6 Basic Sailing Series II, Water Sessions, 8:00 -12:00 or 1:00-5:00

9 Basic Sailing Series II, Land Class, 7:30-10:00, WSM Chart Room

11-13 Alexandria Red Cross Waterfront Festival TBA Cruising Boat Class, Water Sessions,
6PM, WSM TBA Cruising Boat Class, Water Sessions, 8AM, WSM

16 Basic Sailing Series II, Land Class, 8:00-10:30, WSM Afterdeck Café

19-20 New Member Cruise to Leadendam Creek off the Choptank River

19 New Member Picnic/ Summer Solstice Event, 4:30 PM, WSM

19 Basic Sailing Series II, Water Sessions, 8:00 -12:00 or 1:00-5:00, WSM

20 Basic Sailing Series II, Water Sessions, 8:00 -12:00 or 1:00-5:00, WSM

23 Basic Sailing Series II, Land Class,7:30-10:00, WSM Chart Room

26 Basic Sailing Series II, Water Sessions, 8:00 -12:00 or 1:00-5:00, WSM

27 Basic Sailing Series II, Water Sessions, 8:00 -12:00 or 1:00-5:00, WSM

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 TBA Canoe Trip

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 August (cont')

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

September

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

4-6 Labor Day Cruise, Lower Bay location TBA

11-12 Leukemia Cup, Washington Sailing Marina

18-19 Camp Letts Bay Rendezvous, Rhode River

22 Navigation Class Land Session, 7:30-10:00PM, WSM

26 Navigation Class Water Session, location TBA

25 Also Ran Regatta

25 Bay Day Sail

October

2-3 2nd River Raft-up

5 Last Flying Scot Race!

7 Last Social Sail!

9-11 Columbus Day Cruise-location TBA.

16 Fall Maintenance Day, WSM, 9 AM

23 Halloween Party, location and time TBA

24 Daylight Savings Time Ends, Sunday, 2AM

30-31 Fowl Weather Cruise

November

8 Elections

13 Hail & Farewell, Ft. Meyer Officers Club, 7-12

December

5 Holiday Raft-up, The Colonies of McLean, 5 PM

6 Joint Board Meeting, WSM Chart Room, 7:30 PM

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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