
CHANNELS -- The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington

March 2000

March Meeting Program

The program for the March 13, 2000 members' meeting will feature Charlie Day, a volunteer at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, who will speak to us about the state of the Bay. The presentation includes a newly-released slide show, and he will field questions about our bay watershed. Mr. Day was one of the planners of the original Earth Day in 1970, while he was with the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce. Having recently acquired a 1977 Pearson 35 sloop, he pursues his hobbies of fishing and sailing from his new home port in Oxford, Maryland.

Commodore's Log

For the first time since 1851, America is not racing for the America's Cup. Maybe that is not surprising. Did you know that Bill Koch spent \$70 million on the 1992 America's Cup campaign? Racing in the America's Cup, or the Whitbread, or any similar race, has become a year-round money-raising event that nearly puts Presidential campaigning to shame.

Well, if you have a yearning to race -- but not \$70 million -- SCOW has a great deal for you. We have five boats -- three Flying Scots, and two cruising boats -- and this year we have inaugurated a club program to allow members to race in all five of them. Ruth Connolly has volunteered to serve as SCOW's first Race Captain to implement it. The details are in a separate article in this edition of Channels.

Besides the opportunity to socialize with a great group of people, one of the best benefits of SCOW is access to the club boats and the opportunity to meet boat-owning members willing to take you out for a sail on their boats. On the other hand, it is sometimes difficult for new members to make those contacts, so the Board has planned several other programs to increase the opportunities for members to get out on the River or the Bay.

For example, on the River, there are two "new member cruises" scheduled on Friday nights during the summer to allow new members (or those who have only sailed on the Flying Scots) to enjoy a sail on Rebecca and Psycho. (If the demand is there, we will schedule more.) There also will be a River Raft-Up at Smoots Cove. We will take all five boats and tow the Scots under

the Wilson Bridge to allow members to sail in an area of the River where the Scots usually cannot go. Of course, those with their own boats are invited to come along. And, at least one Social Sail will be designated as "River Fleet Night" -- a night when instead of sailing the Flying Scots, those members like me who keep boats at the Marina or on the Potomac can take members out for a sail. In addition, as you will see from his article, Bay Director Mike Geissinger has an active set of Bay activities planned to allow the members the chance to experience sailing in an environment where, unlike the river, you don't have to tack every few minutes.

OK, now it is time for the shameless plug and the plea. (You knew I was leading up to something, didn't you?) The plug is that it is "Re-Up Time." Renew yourself and tell a friend! Come to the Re-Up brunch and renew your membership there, or do it by mail. Mail is OK, but the brunch is a better idea because not only can you socialize, but you can eat something to restore the energy consumed by writing that check. And, besides, if there is one thing this club stands for besides sailing, it is eating!

The plea is for you to volunteer just a bit of your time this year to help the Board make the year a success. In your renewal package there is a list of the various Board committees and the work that they do. The Board will be at the Re-Up brunch signing up volunteers, but I must warn you that we also have been carefully studying the techniques used by British Navy press gangs to fill out ship crews in the eighteenth century. Please do not make us kidnap you in the dead of night from the Marina bar -- volunteer!

Marina Dredging Update

The dredging at the Marina is now complete. There is a chart taped to the window at the Marina chandlery showing the new channel. It is visible from outside. There are some significant differences from the old channel - for example, the dredged channel passes between the sunken barge and the shore line. Note that the channel markers have not yet been moved to reflect the new channel and that there is not currently an obstruction marker at the barge. If you sail a boat with any draft out onto the river, you will want to study the chart before setting sail.

Hexagon Live Theater and Satire

As in many past years, SCOW members have gotten a small block of tickets to the HEXAGON revue for Thursday, March 23, 2000 at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, 3500 R St. N.W. Hexagon is a musical, satirical revue of politics and other memorable events in Washington. The proceeds benefit a different local charity each year, and occasionally a Washington

political notable or two will make a cameo appearance on stage. The ticket price is only \$15.00. If interested, please call Sharon Schoumacher at (703)522-9014 to confirm your ticket.

Help Wanted

Channels Editor - Larry Gemoets has done a great job for a long while as editor but would like to turn it over to a new person. If you have been envious of Rupert Murdoch, this could be the first step to your own media empire. Contact Commodore Jay Weitzel.

Post Office Buddy - SCOW has a postal box at the Ben Franklin Station D.C. Post Office, next to the Federal Triangle Metro Station and we need a volunteer to pick up our mail weekly. If you live or work in DC, this is an easy way to help your club. Contact Secretary Amy Plett.

Trainers for the Basic Sailing Classes - If interested, please contact Training Director Heather Spurlock.

Female Racers/Sailors - if you are interested in racing, the West River Sailing Club is trying to bolster their women's racing program. They race 470's and larger boats. Contact Training Director Heather Spurlock.

Monthly Meeting Speakers - Have you seen a topic or a speaker that you think would be of interest for our monthly membership meetings? Or, even better, maybe you have personally sailed to some exotic location, took some great pictures along the way and would like to share them (along with an interesting narrative) with SCOW! Contact Commodore Jay Weitzel or Vice Commodore Joe DePoorter.

SCOW Says Thanks

to Andrew Scott of Scott Sailmakers (410/268-2268) in Annapolis, MD for speaking at the SCOW February membership meeting on sail design and sail trim; and Former Commodore Thom Unger, for helping to update the SCOW web site (www.scow.org) with this year's information and schedules. If you know of someone who should be thanked for a special contribution to the club, contact Commodore Jay Weitzel.

Training Heather Spurlock

Spring is here! (well almost) It is time for training to begin. Please contact me if you are interested in any of the classes that are being offered. We will be accepting sign-ups and checks at the Re-Up Brunch on March 12. If there is a subject you are interested in but you don't see it

on our schedule, please contact me.

We are looking for a few club members to serve as trainers this year. Please contact me if you are interested. It doesn't take a hotshot sailor to be a trainer just someone who is willing to share their knowledge and love of sailing. We will be having a "Train the Trainers " day on April 15. You can reach me at training@scow.org or (410) 990-0944.

Outside Training Opportunities

There is always something going on! So it goes for training opportunities in our area. I would like to encourage our club members, if they are interested, to take part in some of these great opportunities. There will be a Safety At Sea Seminar at the Naval Academy on March 25 & 26. In the past, this has been a really informative and excellent seminar. I have heard that it also lowers the entry fee for the Governors Cup. I have also heard that CBYRA is planning another crew seminar. I attended last year and this was an excellent way to get ready for the coming season. This is open to anyone who wishes to sign up and there is a fee that also includes an associate membership in CBYRA. I will forward details as soon as I get them. Some web sites that list training opportunities are: www.cbyra.org and www.spinsheet.com. Also check the local Boat US and West Marine stores for any seminars they might offer.

Maintenance Jason Stevens

Our Spring Maintenance Day will be held Saturday, April 8th at 9:00AM at the marina. We will be working on the Flying Scots and on the cruising boats to get them ready for the upcoming season. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend, no experience required. This is a great way not just to donate some time to the club but to learn more about the boats we sail on. Food and refreshments will be provided. If you have any questions please contact Jason Stevens at 703-628-6618.

In other news, we've been working to repair the leaky windows on Rebecca, our Catalina 25. This hasn't been an easy task due to the difficulty in getting replacement gaskets for windows this old. After some experimentation, it looks like a good cleaning of the existing gaskets, frames and windows along with a liberal helping of silicone will do the trick. Many thanks to Monica Maynard, Tom LeBrun, Stuart Ullman, Barb Ullman and Bill Bernhards for the work they put into this!

Bay Activities

Mike Geissinger

Gearing up are the operative words for the sailing season. Recent warming temps have the reclusive tars struggling to throw off the winter shrouds, or shawls depending on age. Bay activities are progressing to the first scheduled event.

The weekend of April 22nd and 23rd will be the first Photo Raft-Up. Boats will assemble in the Rhode River (Lat 38 53', Lon 76 32') near Galesville, MD and sail past Seanchai, that wonderful 50 foot Gulfstar owned by Capt. Pat Derry. Your intrepid Bay Activities Coordinator will be perched on the mast to record your vessel and crew on film as you pass. We will make 8x10 color prints available at cost to you following the event, around \$15.00 each. Now you can't beat that for an incentive.

There is an opportunity for members in the trailer fleet from the Marina and other points to be involved. Blue Water (1024 Carrs Wharf Road) , Holiday Point (3774 Beach Drive Blvd.), Rhode River (3932 Germantown Road), and Cadle Creek Marinas (4159 Cadle Creek Road) have boat ramps. There is also a ramp at Contees Wharf on Contees Wharf Road in Edgewater, MD. Now you can run your boat to the nearest water by the raft-up, launch, and join the party. You'll get a nice 8x10 of your boat to boot. (Hey, I'm on deadline, OK?)

I'm gonna have a bunch of film so you don't have to worry about that. We'd really like to have a big bunch of boats for this kick off raft-up for the year 2000. So everyone who is not gonna be looking for Easter eggs on someone's lawn, get your boat shoes dusted off and launch that vessel for the first raft-up of the season. There will be another memory jogger in the April issue of Channels. In the meantime let me know via email if your boat will be the first in my frame at bay@scow.org. We need to have a good idea of who will be sailing in to know how big the space for boats needs to be. Be the first in your marina to have that color 8x10 on your bulkhead.

Discussions have begun on the Memorial Day Raft-up. Tentative plans are for a raft-up somewhere around the mouth of the Potomac or that area of the bay then move to Cralle Cove for the Memorial Day picnic. More details in April Channels.

River Activities

John Rogers

This year the race activities will be coordinated by Ruth Connolly as Race Captain, a new position created this year. Kelly Bowers will be coordinating the Social Sails, and I will be coordinating other activities

and be the general point of contact.

This year we are planning two Friday evening new member social sails on the big boats (June 9 and July 7, 7 to 11 PM). There will also be a one-day Smoots Cove Raft-Up and picnic with the big boats and the Flying Scots. We are planning plenty of racing activities, and, of course, Social Sails on Thursdays starting April 20th. There will be more information at the Re-Up Brunch.

If you can help with any of these events or have suggestions, contact us (see the back of ChaNNels), or catch me at a meeting.

New Members

SCOW welcomes our first new members for 2000.

**Susan Austin
Lauren Clear
Michael Clear
Ethel Coon
Janet Howard
Helene Poirson
Amy Rossetti
Lionel Smith
Adrian White**

Skipper Coordinator Liz Bruening

At the February meeting of SCOW the question of the validity of the BoatUS safety certificate was raised. I am happy to report that the BoatUS safety certificate resulting from passing the on-line exam is valid. I called DC Harbor Police and was told that they will accept any certificate issued upon the satisfactory completion of a course in boating safety approved by the NASBLA (National Association of Safe Boating Law Administrators). This is, I was told, so that just any marina or sailing club doesn't issue a safety certificate.

The next step was to check the BoatUs web site (www.boatus.com). I went to The BOAT/US Foundation's Online Boating Safety Course. White on a blue background were the words "USCG & NASBLA Approved". So there we are. The BoatUs boating safety certificate is valid.

Boaters may complete either non-proctored or proctored boating safety courses for certification - state requirements for boater education are fulfilled by either proctored or non-proctored programs - it is at the

boater's discretion to avail themselves of either option.
Skipper's Note:

If you sent in a photocopy of your boating safety certificate last year, you do not have to do this again.

**Let's Meet For Brunch!
Re-UP & Enjoy Good Company!**

Kick off another exciting sailing season at SCOW's annual Re-Up Brunch from 10 AM-2 PM on Sunday, March 12th at the Colonies, 7681 Provincial Drive in McLean, Virginia. Enjoy a delicious brunch buffet, complete with drinks and desserts for only \$10 per person. Register your membership in the area's best and most reasonably priced sailing club. Meet and mingle with new and long-time members to discover all the great programs SCOW has to offer. Please call Social Director Kathryn Scott at 703-683-3036 or 202-289-2201 to reserve your seat.

Directions to the Colonies:

Take the Beltway to Tyson's Corners, Exit 11A. Take Route 123/Chain Bridge Road to McLean. Turn right at the first light onto Old Meadow Road. Go 1/4 mile, turn left onto Provincial Drive: the gatehouse entrance to the Colonies. Tell the guard you're headed for the SCOW party at the Clubhouse, (ahead on the left). Park where you can.

For Sale:

1994 Flying Scot, excellent condition, sailed less than 20 times, white with red stripe, one new set of Schurr sails, one old set of sails, blue cover, Trailmaster custom trailer, 1994 Johnson 2HP outboard, \$7500. Located in Richmond, Virginia. maryjoandgary@hotmail.com or phone Gary Lee at 804.360.7750.

SCOW Race Program Announced

SCOW has traditionally been a recreational sailing club. However, one of SCOW's purposes is to provide opportunities for members to learn about sailing; and, over the past few years, an increasing number of members have expressed an interest in racing. The Board of Directors has adopted the 1999 Racing Committee Report with amendments that resulted from the public meeting in January. The program addresses both racing the cruising boats and the Flying Scots and strikes a balance between use of the club's boats for racing and the many other member needs that the club must serve.

The entire report is quite lengthy and is available from the SCOW web page. What follows is a brief synopsis. If you are interested in becoming a

qualified skipper or in serving as crew, you should read the report and then address any questions to Race Captain Ruth Connolly.

For the cruising boats, the Board of Directors has identified a set of races -- at this point the Dangerfield Island Cruising Fleet ("DCIF") Tuesday Night "Big Boat" Races, the Leukemia Cup and the Also Ran Regatta -- in which the club's cruising boats may participate. Rebecca will race with four persons and Psycho with three. For safety and to protect the club's boats, skippers will have to have some racing experience and pass an examination demonstrating knowledge of the current racing rules. A different skipper will be selected at random for each of the four DICF race series for each boat (i.e., eight skipper slots in all). The skipper may designate a first mate from a "crew list" and the remaining crew will be selected from that list. Crew need not have any particular skills and may sign up for an entire series or as little as one race. This will create at least 28 skipper and crew slots for the DICF series. SCOW will pay the entry fee for the DICF series this year to help!

Let's get this new program off the ground. The Leukemia Cup slots will be allotted on the basis of fund-raising for that charity. A lottery will be used for the Also-Ran.

For the Flying Scots, the club intends to restart the Tuesday Night Scot Races that used to be conducted at the Marina. For those races, no particular level of skill will be required of either skippers or crew; the idea is that these races should introduce as many members as possible to racing. Of course, we will need personnel to run the races. Therefore, in return for the guaranteed use of the club cruising boats in the cruising boat races, those selected to skipper or crew for those races will have to commit a few nights to assist in running the Tuesday night Flying Scot races.

For liability reasons and to ensure a proper balance of racing and non-racing use, members will not be permitted to race either the Flying Scots or the cruising boats in any race not designated by the Board of Directors as a sanctioned race.

We owe Ruth Connolly a great deal of thanks for taking on the job as SCOW's first Race Captain. Undoubtedly, we will need to work out a few "kinks" during the first year of the program and we ask everyone to keep good spirits if problems do arise. However, this is an exciting new opportunity for members to enjoy and learn about another aspect of sailing.

The Sailor's Bookshelf

This month's book suggestions come from SCOW member Bill Davenport, who also commends the following quote from Lord Byron's "The Corsair." Several more recommendations from Bill's bookshelf will appear in future editions of Channels. If you would like to recommend a book yourself, send a brief write-up to Commodore Jay Weitzel.

Oh who can tell,
Save he whose heart hath tried
And danced in triumph o'er the waters wide,
The exulting sense - the pulse's maddening play
That thrills the wanderer of this trackless way?

Sailing Alone Around the World

By Capt. Joshua Slocum

First copyrighted in 1899. My copy published by Sheridan House. I've seen a newer edition which is richly illustrated and does justice to this timeless classic, hope you can find it.

Capt. Slocum's solo voyage around the world in a 37' sloop undoubtedly stands as one of the greatest sea adventures of all time. Whether being chased by pirates off the Moroccan coast, or thwarting hostile Indians in Terra Del Fuego, with carpet tacks strewn on deck. You are sure to be delighted with this story which has thrilled both sailors and non sailors for over a century.

The Saga of Cimba

By Richard Maury c 1971 LynnMaury Pub. John De Graff

This is one of my favorite novels of all time, and rates right up there with Slocum's Sailing Alone Around the World

A well written account of the 1939 outfitting and cruise of the 35' Nova Scotia built schooner Cimba and her voyage to Bermuda thru the Caribbean and on to the South Pacific. This book first published in 1939 was widely acclaimed. Rudder magazine's editor wrote: "If I were asked to pick the best book in recent years about deep water cruising in a small yacht I would unhesitatingly choose the Saga of Cimba."

Maury, born in Bermuda, had sailed since the age of eight. When he set off on this voyage at the age of twenty three he had already served two years on a full rigged ship, as well as several on tramp steamers of that era. He went on to become a commercial Captain / Master Mariner.

Maury's style gives the reader a peek into his romantic outlook of the sea and boats. His recount of finding the abandoned "Svaap" at anchor in the far off south pacific cove of Targus is insightful of how many sailors view boats as living entities. (Svaap was one of the small boats which circumnavigated the world in the 1920's and 30' and was made famous by Captain William Roberson's book 10,000 Leagues over the sea).

Maury's divergence from the tunnel vision of some first person narratives is refreshing and allows the reader to experience many of the subtle nuances of this type of voyaging. Truly a must read!

**SCOW's
Annual Re-Up Brunch
10 AM-2 PM
Sunday,
March 12th
The Colonies,
McLean**

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

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- Please don't make extra work for you and me by including tabs, indents, attachments, or extraneous notes. And hey- NO ALL CAPS! Your titles should have Leading Caps Only.

We will format 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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