
CHANNELS -- The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington

March 2001

Commodore's Log

A member of the staff of the Washington Sailing Marina recently told me that last summer, a couple of folks identifying themselves as members of our club brought back a club boat through some rather bad weather conditions. Their interest in sailing apparently fulfilled for the day by that adventure, they went to the Marina ships' chandlery and asked the Marina staff to put the boat away for them.

No, I don't know who it was, and I don't really care because I sincerely hope that this story has gotten confused somewhere in the telling. However, because we have new members joining all of the time, I thought it was a good time to remind everyone what SCOW is and what our relationship is with the Marina and with the George Washington Memorial Parkway National Park.

SCOW is a "not-for-profit" corporation organized in the District of Columbia. The club's purpose, as set forth in its bylaws, is to give its members opportunities to sail, to exchange information about sailing, to learn safe boating, and to meet others in the area with the same interests.

The Washington Sailing Marina is part of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, administered by the National Park Service ("NPS"). As in most national parks, the NPS has contracted with a commercial company or "concessionaire" to furnish services to the general public. The concessionaire at the Marina is Guest Services, Inc. ("GSI"). GSI operates the Potowmack Landing Restaurant, the Afterdeck Cafe, and the entire Marina operation. Under NPS regulations, the NPS receives a percentage of the income from concessions operated in national parks, including the Marina.

SCOW is not connected with the National Park Service. We keep our boats in the Park and we often meet in the Park, but SCOW is not overseen by, licensed by, or affiliated with the NPS in any way.

SCOW also is not affiliated in any way with GSI. SCOW rents slips for its five boats from GSI, just like any other boat owner would. The Marina staff maintains the boat sign-out logs for our club but we pay them a small fee to do that. I should emphasize that GSI and the Marina staff have been extremely supportive of SCOW over the years and have done many favors for the club. However, you are not entitled any special services because you are a SCOW member. For example, if you are aground, you cannot call the Marina on your cell phone and demand that the Marina send its boat out to get you off. And -- setting

aside the club rules that make this the responsibility of the skipper -- it is not the Marina's responsibility to put your boat away for you.

Well, I've told you what we aren't, now let me tell you what we are. We are a club of volunteers. With a handful of exceptions (such as repairing sails), nothing gets done in this club unless you or another member (or, preferably both!) volunteer to do it. I'm not referring only to flipping burgers at social sails. I'm going to be brutally frank here -- if that is your only contribution to your club, you are not getting everything out of SCOW you could and you are not contributing everything you should. Within the past few years, for example, volunteer members have entirely repainted Psycho and repaired a major leak in her bottom, repainted Rebecca's bottom and installed a new electrical panel on that boat. Another group built the SCOW Chow Dhow. We all benefit from those efforts.

Have you noticed how many people have been volunteering already this year for things? They know something you should: volunteering is a great way to meet new friends, spend time with old friends and learn new skills. The club benefits and so do you. Over the next few months, members of the SCOW Board (Special Millennium Edition) will be calling on you to give some of your time to the club. We have an ambitious program of training, social events, and essential maintenance. It will not happen without your help, so please pitch in and do your part.

Fair winds and following seas!

SCOW Says Thanks!

SCOW says "Thanks" to Dick Dyer, for spotting a hidden but potentially serious maintenance problem on Danschweida and then quickly repairing it.

Special Committee Activity

The bylaws establish several special committees in the club. Barbara Ullman has agreed to chair the Training and Skipper Certification Committee and met on February 6th with Training Director Judi Campbell and Commodore Jay Weitzel to get the training program off and running. Stuart Ullman has agreed to chair the Boat Asset Committee and met on February 11th with Maintenance Director Sergey Tagashov and Commodore Jay Weitzel to develop the year's maintenance plan. Thanks to the Ullmans for volunteering to chair these committees.

Tired of the Grind?

If the DICF Tuesday Night races are becoming old hat to you, you yearn for sea-going adventure, and you have a lot of accumulated leave, you could join a round-the-world race on 60-foot yachts in 2002, regardless of your age, background or sailing experience. A British Company called Clipper Ventures PLC is recruiting for the race. Information is at www.clipper-ventures.com. While SCOW can provide no financial support for members who go, we will promise a slot as speaker at a membership meeting.

Bay Activities

Jonathan Allen

I would like to thank Jack Schwartz, Stuart Robinson and Mike Geissinger for helping with the Bay schedule. We have completed a preliminary raft-up schedule. At the next membership meeting I would like to invite all Bay skippers to come upstairs at 7:00. We will discuss any suggestions to the Bay schedule at this time. The objective is to bring as many participants as possible, so that we can have the best possible Bay program. The proposed schedule will be passed out before the membership meeting.

If you are interested you can take a peak at the following web address:
http://patriot.net/~jallen/2001-raftup_3.html.

We are still looking into helping members organize charters for raft-ups. Please email bay@scow.org if interested or call.

I would also like to thank the Zuza's for hosting the July party. Since July 4th falls on a Wednesday, many people thought it would be better to have such a party on a weekend. It will be July 1st - details to come later.

Many thanks to Allan Lewis who will be organizing the fowl weather raft-up in the late fall.

Training

Judi Campbell

One of the things that enhances my job and one of the things that I admire about SCOW is that learning is inherent in almost all of our club events--social sail, racing, and river cruises to name a few. Our more experienced members are almost always ready and willing to offer guidance and advice to the less experienced. I encourage you to take advantage of those opportunities as well as the classes we have planned.

The class calendar is as follows:

Basic Sailing Series 1

Land Classes: April 25, May 2, May 9, May 16, 7 to 10 p.m.

Water Classes: April 28-29, May 5-6, May 12-13 Classes will be 4 hours each day--sign up for morning or afternoon each week at the land class immediately preceding the weekend.

Water Class Make-up Class: May 19, 8 a.m. to 12 Noon

Skipper Check-out: May 20, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Basic Sailing Series 2

Land Classes: May 30, June 6, June 13, June 20, 7 to 10 p.m.

Water Classes: June 2-3, June 9-10, June 16-17 Classes will be 4 hours each day--sign up for morning or afternoon each week at the land class immediately preceding the weekend.

Water Class Make-up Class: June 23, 8 a.m. to 12 Noon

Skipper Check-out: June 24, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Cruising Boat Series 1

Land Class: April 30, 7-10 p.m.

Water Classes: May 5 and May 12, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., May 18, 6 p.m.-10 p.m.

Cruising Boat Series II

Land Class: August 1, 7-10 p.m.

Water Classes: August 4 and August 11, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., August 17, 6 p.m.- 10 p.m.

Capsize Class

Offered twice, July 14 and August 18, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. each class

All land classes are offered at Potowmack Landing Chart Room, and all water classes are offered at the Washington Sailing Marina.

The first opportunity to enroll in these classes will be at the Re-up Brunch on March 11 at The Colonies.

Oh, and if this isn't enough to excite you about what you can learn through SCOW membership, ask Matt Gaston about the opportunities SCOW affords in picnic planning!!!!

Hail & Farewell Preview

Write this date down!

Saturday, November 17, 2001

The Sailing Club of Washington's Hail and Farewell

>From 7:00pm - Midnight

New Venue!

We've booked the Galaxy Ballroom at the Sheraton National in Arlington! It's an amazingly beautiful penthouse room with magnificent views of Washington, DC and really, anything else you might be looking for! An usher in the hotel lobby will be positioned to direct you to an express elevator reserved just for SCOW members. It will whisk you up to the 16th floor where a formal sit-down dinner and dance floor will be waiting for you!

Have I mentioned the food? Jon Allen (your River/Bay Director) and I did a banquet food tasting before booking the site and it was FABULOUS. We're planning a menu of Prime Rib, Salmon and a vegetarian dish. (You will be given a choice of what you would like for dinner when you make your reservation for the Hail and Farewell.)

So I know you all have a few more questions. Here goes with some answers: The Sheraton National is at the intersection of 395 and Washington/Columbia Pike in Arlington - great location! Parking in the hotel lot will be free to SCOW members. ALREADY I have volunteers for the Silent Auction, so if you'd like to get involved with that too, let me know! And how did I find the hotel? Hope Andruss and Carole Cotter remembered that SCOW had a fantastic Hail and Farewell at this hotel years ago and suggested I take a look at it. (New chef since then though. This guy is amazing!)

Bottom line: You've got to write the date down. Even though it's 8 months from now, you're going to have to arrange your schedules around Saturday, November 17th. This is going to be the best Hail and Farewell we've had in YEARS and it would be a shame to miss it due to a calendar mishap.

That's all for now. More details to come!

Racing News

Bill Bernhards

Spring is coming soon and so is SCOW racing. This year we hope to have something for everyone. If you want to race, be with friends, meet new people or just get out on the water to sail this program is just what you need.

First we have the big boat racing. This is geared toward the more serious competitor. Racing is every Tuesday starting on April 24. To be a skipper for these races you must be a big boat skipper and pass a written racing test, (See the skipper coordinator). In order to crew, you need only to sign up and be ready and willing to dedicate 6 Tuesdays for a race series. Skippers will be chosen by lottery at the April 9th meeting. These skippers will choose their crew from the crew list at a separate meeting. Second, for the not too serious racer, we have the Tuesday night Scott Races. These are informal pick-up races where you simply meet at the marina around 6:30pm, starting May 8. Everyone who shows up will get to sail. This is an excellent way to learn something about racing a sailboat as well as learning some of the finer points of sailing from some very knowledgeable skippers.

Tucker Thompson to Speak at SCOW Racing Seminar!

This year SCOW will be hosting a special racing seminar. This is a must for everyone who races, who has thought about racing or just wants to know more about sailing/racing rules of the road.

Tucker Thompson will be our racing instructor at this exceptional event. Tucker is a Professional Sailor, Performance Racing Coach, Sailing Consultant, and Author. He has been a Junior North American and a Collegiate Sloop National Champion, a New Zealand National Match Race Champion and has top finishes in the Smythe and O'Day Single-handed Nationals, US Match Racing Nationals, and J 22, Mumm 30, and Farr 40 Worlds. Most recently he sailed for America True in the America's Cup trials. With many new rules going into effect on April 1 this seminar will get you ready for the coming season. Some of the other topics include tactics, strategy, and sail trim.

All of this will take place at the Washington Sailing Marina in the Chart Room tentatively scheduled for April 18 starting at 6:30pm. All for only \$10.00. This is one event you don't want to miss.

Maintenance

Sergey Tagashov

All hands on deck!...

...of our five boats will be needed 9 A.M. on April 7th to prepare Scow's little flotilla for another season of fun racing and sailing. Those exhausted by backbreaking work on our boats will have their backs returned to life by SCOW member and massage-wizard Kelly Bowers. Kelly is donating her services to the club. She cannot accept direct payment (the marina being National Park land and all that). If you feel so moved, however, she will have a donation jar, which will work just like it does at social sail. You may drop something in it (or not) as you wish. Even if the jar stays empty, Kelly will still provide the massages. Kelly does have a foul weather clause: she doesn't massage in the rain. Another way of recuperation will be by consuming unlimited amounts of food (free for those who work on the boats!) at the usual picnic starting at 4 p.m. at the WSM. Several volunteers are needed to organize this picnic, so, if you are ready to do it, please, contact Sergey Tagashov a!

t his E-mail or identify yourselves at the next club meeting. Aside from the scheduled SCOW maintenance events a number of dedicated club members perform small-scale maintenance operations seemingly unnoticed. However, they do deserve to be noticed: this year started with repairs on Danschweida made by Dick Dyer, who identified the problem and then dedicated his time and experience to fix Dancshweida's mast stepping plate. We are very grateful to Dick as well to those members of the club who soon would start working on our two big boats so that all of us have a safe and pleasant time on the water.

Skipper Coordinator

Joan O'Kane

Be on the lookout for your Skipper Renewal Packets. The packets, including the Skipper Agreement, the Renewal Letter, and the Renewal Application, were mailed out at the end of February. The new sailing season starts April 1, so be sure to renew before the lock combinations are changed. You can return the forms to me by mail or bring them to the Re-Up Brunch on March 11 at the Colonies Clubhouse. I'll also have extra forms at the brunch, so don't forget your checkbook!

And for all you racing skippers (or wannabes), just another reminder that you must: 1) be a qualified SCOW cruising boat skipper for the boat you want to race, 2) successfully complete a written test, and 3) submit a written summary of racing experience. If you are interested in becoming a racing skipper, please email me.

SCOW Skating Party -- SCOW Takes to the Ice!

Some people can't stay off the water even when it's frozen solid! On Saturday, January 27th, a small group of SCOW members and friends gathered at the ice skating rink at the National Gallery of Art sculpture garden. Weather conditions were ideal. The sun was shining and winds were about 15 knots - just perfect for a downwind run. Everyone had a great time, but all agreed they are better sailors than skaters!

Visit A Tall Ship!

Kathy Murphy, a SCOW member who belongs to the National Maritime Heritage Foundation ("NMHF"), reports that the NMHF will host a reception and tour of a visting tall ship, S/V Denis Sullivan. The event will be on April 10, 2001 from 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., dockside on the Police pier, 600 Water St. SW, Washington, DC. The S/V Denis Sullivan is a 134-foot re-creation of a traditional Great Lakes schooner, launched last year by the Wisconsin Lake Schooner Education Association. A donation of \$25.00 per person (\$20.00 of which is tax deductible) is requested, which includes finger food and refreshments (wine and beer). Attire is casual, but if you want to tour the ship, wear boat shoes or rubber soled flat shoes. The Ship's Company (they sang for SCOW last summer) will entertain. Tickets may be purchased by calling the NMHF office at: 202-547-1250. They accept VISA, DISCOVER, and AMERICAN EXPRESS. The DENIS SULLIVAN has a website at www.wis-schooner.org.

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- 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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