

ChaNNels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington

March 2002

Commodore's Log

We're inching up little by little on sailing season, and I've even seen a sailboat out my office window today (a brisk President's Day) as I'm writing this. So I want to talk about a couple of things that are on my mind as we move ever so much closer to sailing season:

Maintenance

We've bitten off quite a bit during this off-season to get both of SCOW's big boats back in shape for another year of sailing and March is critical to getting it done so we can spend the springtime sailing and not working.

SCOW's stalwart maintenance director Gordon Cameron, along with a capable cadre of volunteers, has been working diligently every Saturday morning down at F Dock at the marina, getting Psycho back shipshape in time for the upcoming season. They've installed a stove, replaced the bilge pump, removed the rotting plywood under the battery and refinished the tiller. At this point, there's some doubt as to whether we'll be able to get to the leaky toe rail during this offseason due to time and equipment constraints, but if you'd like to help out and see this through, contact Gordon at maintenance@scow.org.

Stuart Ullman is leading a brigade of folks to fix SCOW's other big boat, Rebecca. Our Catalina 25 is currently out of the water at a marina in Ft. Washington, Maryland - just down Indiana Head Highway from DC. There's plenty to do on her, as well, and we have a hard stop of March 31 to get her finished and back up to her berth at WSM. If you'd like to help out on her, Stuart, Gordon and company will be there most Saturday mornings through March. For directions, go to <http://www.coastal-properties.com/ftwashington.htm>.

Even if you don't have any boat building skills, your help is welcome! I certainly don't have any such skills, but I was able to help out one Saturday morning by running to West Marine and picking up some parts for the folks who were doing the work. So no special skills (save possibly for the fine skill of being able to go into a marine supply store and spend large amounts of someone else's money) are required! Please drop an e-mail to Gordon if you can help.

SCOW Bay Program 2002

The other thing that I'd like to briefly cover is the Bay program, which has gotten off to a fine start this year. Len Zuza and Mike Geissinger kicked things off by stepping up to lead a truly

excellent adventure - a passage to Cape Cod from May 18-June 8. It's going to be a great opportunity for some truly exciting offshore sailing, with two boats and five legs worth of crewing opportunities. Be sure to check out the details in Len and Mike's article elsewhere in Channels.

And I'd also like to highlight the fine turnout of Bay skippers who attended the Bay Skippers Meeting on February 11. Together, they've created a menu of opportunities for sailing on the Bay that will hopefully give SCOW members chances to check out one of our area's greatest treasures. But if you're a Bay skipper (or someone who'd like to charter a boat and lead a Bay cruise), there's still plenty of room in the calendar for more fun. So get in touch with Jon Allen, River and Bay Director, at bay@scow.org if you're interested. Or you can always get in touch with me.

'Til next month, fair winds, following seas, smooth sailing and I'll see you 'round the club.

March Membership Meeting

"As You Lock It"

or

"Exploring Shakespeare Country by Canal"

In 1996, a SCOW member and two companions ventured across the Atlantic to spend a week touring the heart of England on a narrowboat. Seven days after the start, after 105 miles and 130 locks, the trio arrived back at their starting point unscathed. The March program will be a photo travelogue of this journey, along with some how-to's and savvy advice in case you want to try something like this on your own.

Re-up by March 11 at 2001 Rates!

This year, you have an extra incentive to get your membership and skipper renewals in early! As of March 12, 2002 - one week after the SCOW Re-Up Brunch and one DAY after the March membership meeting - dues and skipper fees will increase slightly. But if you re-up BEFORE March 12, you'll be able to renew one last time at the old rates.

Dues and Skipper Fees for 2002

If paid before March 12:

Membership Dues

Single \$40.00

Household \$60.00

Skipper Fees

Flying Scots Only \$80.00

Cruising Boats Only \$110.00
Both Scots and Cruisers \$140.00

If paid after March 12:

Membership Dues

Single \$45.00
Household \$70.00

Skipper Fees

Flying Scots Only \$90.00
Cruising Boats Only \$125.00
Both Scots and Cruisers \$160.00

In order to be eligible for the old rates, your re-up form and payment must be postmarked no later than Tuesday, March 12, 2002.

Also, for the first time ever, we'll be purging the SCOW e-mail lists. So if you haven't renewed in a few years and you still want to hear about the fabulous SCOW events we've got planned for 2002, you should renew by March 12 as well.

Social Activities

Shonika Proctor "S2"

Good Day, Good People!

Re-Up:

Eggs & Bacon, Hexagon, Good Friends, or just to renew
Just make sure you show up, it can't happen without you!

Re-Up Brunch is coming March 3rd!!!! We are still in need of volunteers. If you can help in any way at all, please send an email to vice@scow.org. Come and you will see my 'secret squirrel' outfit!!!

Hexagon:

For those of you who have not yet purchased your tickets for Hexagon, Sharon will be at the Re-Up Brunch selling tickets. So don't forget your checkbooks! Hexagon is a political satirical musical revue. This year's Hexagon performance will be held on Thursday, March 14th at 8pm. The cost is \$20 per ticket and the performance is at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, 35th Street between Reservoir Road and R Street, NW, in Georgetown.

If you would like to pre-order your tickets, please mail your check to Sharon Schoumacher, 3800 N. Fairfax Dr. #1006, Arlington, VA 22203, along with a stamped self-addressed envelope. Checks should be made out to SCOW. Act quickly as these tickets usually go pretty fast!

Volvo Ocean Race:

The Party to Beat all Parties...except the H&F!

Friday, April 26, 6:00 pm - 10:45 pm - Annapolis Salutes the Volvo Ocean Race: THE official Annapolis/Eastport Party (Note: crews are expected to arrive at the party once the welcoming ceremony is concluded.) Tickets are going on sale for this event on Saturday, March 16th. The ticket prices have not yet been announced. However, if you think that you may be interested in attending this event, please email me at social@scow.org so that I can look into purchasing a block of tickets for the event. Also, if you would be interested in volunteering at VOR with a SCOW group let me know as well.

See You All at the Re-Up!

Racing News

Bill Bernhards

This year SCOW will present two racing clinics. The first is in March and the second in April.

SCOW's own Stu Robinson will present the March clinic, using about a dozen hand built sailboat models to show racing tactics with practical techniques to win races. Items to be covered are pre-start techniques, windward, reach and downwind racing, wind shadow, rounding marks and finishing.

Stu has raced Lasers to J-22's and larger. His experience includes District Champion Laser class, Midwest District, District Champion Flying Scot Gulf Coast, Frostbite Champion Chicago Yacht Club in Laser and O'Donnell, as well as many other trophies and offshore racing. Stu's experience also includes four years of sailing the Caribbean.

This clinic will be held on Saturday March 9, 2002 at the United Way building, 701 North Fairfax Street in Old Town Alexandria, on the corner of Fairfax and Madison. Free parking is available in the visitor's lot that's to the right as you enter the driveway. Start time is 1:00pm. Free to members, or \$3.00 for non-members.

Tucker Thompson will give our April clinic. If you missed Tucker last year or if you enjoyed his presentation as much as I did, then don't miss this one! This is a must for everyone who races, has thought about racing, or just wants to know more about sailing.

Tucker is a Professional Sailor, Performance Racing Coach, Sailing Consultant, and author. He has been a Junior North American Champion, Collegiate Sloop National Champion, 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.

This year Tucker will cover in depth the topic of sail trim. If you race or just want to know how to adjust those sails to get more speed and efficiency, then plan on hearing about it from one of the best.

This exceptional event will take place at the Washington Sailing Marina in the Chart Room, Monday April 15 starting at 7:00pm, for a \$10.00 donation at the door. This is one event you don't want to miss!

TRAINING

Donna Cohen

An Ode to SCOW Trainers

by Donna

When I think back on my beginning as a skipper,
I reflect fondly on those who have trained me.
I have been very lucky,
My trainers have come from a plethora of backgrounds,
They have appeared with different experience levels, philosophies, manners,
And as different genders (no, not the same person!).
Before they came,
I was unable to sail.
Before they came I was all land no sail.

Nope, I'm not trying out for a literary prize or hoping to be added in the Post's poet's column...Simply put, I'm pointing out what a trainer means to me, be they Larry, Thom, Jim, Stu, Neil, Dale, Randy, Declan, Denise, Liz, and several others; I wouldn't be where I am today without them. A trainer is a special volunteer who surely becomes a legend in the student's mind.

Are you now or have you ever been a Trainer? Please come to Train the Trainers Day, March 23 at 10:00am at the Marina.

Do you want to be a Trainer? If you haven't trained before and would like to, let me hear from you (training@scow.org). There are certain requirements you must meet and if you qualify I'd love to have you join the team. If anyone cannot make it to Train the Trainers Day, just let me know, we'll figure out a makeup.

So, past and future Trainers, please come forth. What a great way to serve your club! Step up and become a legend!!

River Activities

Jon Allen

The first River Cruise is on Sunday, April 28th in the afternoon. I need skipper volunteers for Psycho and Rebecca for this river cruise and all of the other scheduled river cruises. I will have

crew and skipper sign-ups at the membership meeting. If you can't make it to the meeting, please contact email me at river@scow.org or call me at the numbers listed on the back of Channels. Available spaces on the river cruises are assigned on a first come, first served basis.

Happy Cruising!

Watch the Volvo Ocean Racers - From a Boat!

SCOW racing ace Don Deese will be organizing a Bay cruise on Sunday, April 28 to watch the Volvo Ocean Racers start their Sandy Point, Maryland to La Rochelle, France leg of the around the world race! SCOW's fleet will be meeting near Solomons Island, so hopefully the spectator traffic will have thinned out a bit.

Don will be bringing along Carpe Diem and he's looking for more boats, skippers and crew for the sail. Don will be at the March membership meeting, and he'll be looking to get YOU involved! So be sure to come and sign up for this kickoff to the SCOW Bay season!

SCOW Bay Program 2002 - Tentative Schedule

THANKS to all of the interested Bay participants who came to Pat Troy's Pub and Restaurant on Monday, February 11 to help map out SCOW's 2002 Bay program. This issue of Channels has some announcements from some of the Bay skippers who are putting together programs, and we'd like to thank the following folks for throwing in to make the 2002 SCOW Bay program a success:

BJ & Bruce McMillan
Mike Geissinger
Len Zuza
Allan Lewis
Jeff Teitel
Monica Maynard
Norm Lerner
Don Deese

As you can see from the schedule below, together these folks have planned a plethora of activities, from daysails to month-long expeditions, northern raftups and southern cruises. And there's plenty of room for more if the folks who weren't at the meeting want to lead a cruise. Some of the organizers already have issued announcements in this issue of Channels, but just so you have everything in one place, here's the tentative schedule for the 2002 SCOW Bay Program. [Remember, all of these dates and events are subject to change.]

Date - Sunday, April 28

Event - Volvo Ocean Race Restart - See announcement elsewhere in this issue of Channels.

Organizer(s) - Don Deese

Date - May 18-June 8 (roughly)

Event - Passage to Cape Cod - Read about Len and Mike's Excellent Adventure elsewhere in this issue.

Organizer(s) - Mike Geissinger and Len Zuza

Date - May 25-27 (Memorial Day Weekend) - tentative

Event - Great Wiccomico Cruise - Mostly for southern Bay boaters, along with a few industrious north Bay types who can take the three-day weekend to get down there.

Organizer(s) - BJ and Bruce McMillan

Date - June 1-2

Event - Rhode River Raftup - See Jeff's announcement elsewhere in Channels.

Organizer(s) - Jeff Teitel

Date - mid-June - tentative

Event - Crisfield Cruise - This one will also be mostly southern Bay.

Organizer(s) - BJ and Bruce McMillan

Date - August 24

Event - Sail to the O's vs. the Blue Jays - A combined land-shore event with a block of tickets for SCOW members who can come by land, as well.

Organizer(s) - Len Zuza and Mike Geissinger

Date - September 21-22

Event - SCOWAPALOOZA -- Full fleet raftup in Dun Cove. If you can only make one raftup this year, this is the big one. We're going to try and get as many SCOW boats and crew as we can to this centrally located point in the Bay.

Organizer(s) - Norm Lerner

Date - October TBD

Event - Fowl Weather Raftup - The annual pilgrimage for the long underwear set to watch the fall migrations of Chesapeake waterfowl.

Organizer(s) - Allan Lewis

If you're a Bay skipper and you'd like to come on one of these outings, get in touch with the organizer. And while we encourage you to bring SCOW members on your boats, it's your boat, so bring whomever you want.

And if you're interested in crewing, be sure to get in touch with the organizers, as well. We don't guarantee that you'll get on a boat, but you'll never get invited if you don't ask!

Keep an eye on Channels for more updates as the Bay season unfolds...

Bay Raft-up June 1-2 in the Rhode River

Jeff Teitel

Well, I've had a boat on the bay for a couple of seasons now, so it's time for me to be raft-master. I've always enjoyed going to raft-ups both as crew and as skipper of my own boat. They're fun no matter how many boats attend, but more is always better!

So put it on your calendars; June 1st, 2002, I will be hosting a raft-up in my (new) home waters, the Rhode River. Details will follow shortly (which creek, Lat/Lon, etc.) Hope to see you there.

Cape Cod Cruise Is a GO!

Len Zuza

Mike and I are very excited about plans for our cruise to Cape Cod in late May/early June. This trip is what sailing is all about: making passage on well-found boats, enjoying the camaraderie of the crew, exploring interesting new areas, and honing of sailing skills (on several legs, we'll be sailing around the clock and relying on piloting skills). Needless to say, there will also be ample opportunities for enjoying good food and "splicing the mainbrace."

The outbound leg will go from Solomons to Cape May and then to Woods Hole. We plan to spend the Memorial Day weekend on Cape Cod with our wives on the boats (without other crew). The return will start at Cape Cod; go through Long Island Sound to New York City; run along the Atlantic coast to Cape May; and then return to the Bay either along the coast or through the Delaware Bay and C&D Canal. The latest version of the schedule is on the SCOW website at <http://www.scow.org/capecodcruise.htm>. We'll update it as plans become more firm. At this point several details have become "certain:"

-- The cruise will be broken down into five legs starting May 19 and returning to Solomons in early June. Each leg will probably last between 2 to 4 days -- weather permitting. (See the SCOW website for more details of the legs and the descriptions of the boats).

-- Crew will arrange their own transportation and bring provisions for the leg(s) of the cruise in which they will be onboard.

-- Skippers will pay for boat-related costs (slips, fuel, water).

-- Crew will pay the costs of provisioning.

This is an excellent opportunity for serious, offshore sailing with experienced skippers. Although 14 SCOW members have expressed an interest, Mike and I have not made any final decisions on crew assignments and welcome more crew. In total, there could be as many as 28 crew slots available (although many of those who have expressed an interest, so far, would like to sail for more than one leg, so two slots may be filled by one person). We are eager to have as many SCOW members as possible as crew. Those interested should contact me (preferably by e-mail: LBZUZA@ATTGLOBAL.NET) with the following information:

- * Name and home-contact information (including e-mail address).
- * Preferred leg of trip (and a secondary preference).
- * Sailing skills (in a short resume of your training and sailing experience).

Please be aware that Mike and I may need to allocate crew assignments based on our need to match crew skills with likely navigation and boat handling requirements. So we may not be able to put you in your preferred slot.

Please feel free to contact either Mike (703-548-1388) or me (202-543-5443) if you have any questions. We'll be available for Qs&As at the March meeting and will probably have more details on the trip by then.

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.

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 look kinda silly, or even totally unreadable.**

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 its assigned place.

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

ChaNNels

can also be read at:
<http://www.scow.org>

Kelly E. Griffin, Layout Editor (the hard part)
Declan Conroy, Web Publisher
Betsy Troeder, Labels
Joan O'Kane, Editor
(I dress up the electronic edition, too)

That's all folks...