

# ChaNels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington  
March 2004

## Commodore's Log

All the omens are good! The hours of daylight are noticeably longer than just a few weeks ago, buds are starting to swell on trees and shrubs, ice is melting from rivers and creeks, "snowbirds" are returning from Winter cruises in tropical waters, and everyone is beginning to get a bit "antsy" to get their boats either back in the water or in shape for the summer season. If March is here, can good sailing be far behind?

And so it is with SCOW. Despite a rocky start caused by bad weather, our club is off to a strong start in 2004. The best evidence is the detailed calendar on the SCOW website. These activities are the framework for social events, cruises, day sails, maintenance, and training designed to offer SCOW members a wide range of opportunities for fun on/near the water. So, my first suggestion is to encourage you to check our website, print the calendar, and mark your personal calendar for the events that appeal to you. But understand that this is not OUR schedule (the Board's), it's YOURS and is not "locked." If you know of an event that you think should be added, contact me, Jay Weitzel or any other member of the Board and we'll be glad to consider adding it.

Note that all our events are more successful (read: more fun) when large numbers of members participate in organizing events. Granted, prepping for a picnic, cleaning up

afterwards, or scrubbing-polishing-fixing a club boat are not as much fun as sailing or partying. But that argues all the more for not overloading those who are willing to do the "scud" work by your volunteering to help with club events. This applies particularly to maintenance of club boats. The vast majority of club members do not have their own boats. The better looking club boats are and the more quickly we repair damage and breakdowns, the more members will enjoy them.

Members who are new to SCOW (or are newly active) should also realize that volunteering is an excellent way to become known to skippers who have boats or organize events. A member who cheerfully helps prepare for club events is always more likely to be invited for a daysail or longer cruise than one who leaves the unpleasant work to others. The Lord loveth a cheerful volunteer – and so do Captains.

Finally, the real kickoffs for SCOW's annual activities are the Re-Up Brunch on Sunday, March 21 and Maintenance Day on Saturday, April 3. The Re-Up is one of the most enjoyable club events of the year. It's not only the time to renew your annual membership, it's also a great party with terrific food for every palate (high carb, low carb, Atkins, Weight Watchers, South Beach, North Beach, and Middle Beach) and the perfect opportunity to sign up for training classes or

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Next Membership Meeting: Monday, March 8, 2004

Our March Membership Meeting will be held on Monday, March 8 at the American Legion, 400 Cameron Street in Old Town Alexandria (around the corner from Gadby's Tavern). Our speaker will be SCOW's Maintenance Director, John Roland. John will present a program that the membership unanimously voted at our November general meeting that we should offer this spring. John noticed over the past season that some maintenance problems seem to happen over and over. John has fixed all of these things, and he is going to tell all of us what to do when using our boats to keep these problems from taking our boats out of service this year. This meeting should be a "must" for all skippers and non-skipper members who enjoy crewing.

*(Continued from page 1)*

schmooze with folks to begin planning your sailing activities for the season (I'll be "chatting folks up" to come on my boat for the Choptank cruise). Maintenance Day is the best way to insure that club boats are safe and reliable for use during the upcoming sailing season.

I look forward to seeing you at the Colonies and Dangerfield Island Marina – and working along with you as we both work to make these events more successful. Dig out your coolers and tool boxes, check your mains and jibs, and inspect your standing and running rigging. We're about to start another sailing season!!!

*Len Zuza*

### **Membership Applications**

Be on the look out for your 2004 Re-Up SCOW membership applications that are in the mail now! Please complete the application and return by postal mail to Monika O'Connor or, better yet, return in person at the Re-Up Brunch! If do not receive a membership application in the mail by March 15, please email Monika O'Connor at [dba@scow.org](mailto:dba@scow.org).



### **Coming Soon...2004 SCOW Membership Directory!**

The 2004 SCOW Membership Directory will soon be hot off the presses. Don't miss the opportunity to be listed in the directory! SCOW makes it easy to be included in this highly useful directory. Simply complete your 2004 membership application, and return it to Monika O'Connor by postal mail or at the upcoming Re-Up Brunch. That's it! Please note! You must complete your 2004 SCOW registration by March 31 in order to be included in the membership directory. Don't delay! Questions? Contact Monika O'Connor at [dba@scow.org](mailto:dba@scow.org).

## **SCOW Social News**

Gerri Hanna

### **It's Time to Re-Up! RE UP Brunch**

Sunday, March 21, 2004  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
The Colonies  
7700 Provincial Drive  
McLean, VA 22102

This is the traditional event to renew old friendships and your SCOW membership, including the opportunity to register for a number of SCOW summer events and classes. Board members will be there to answer your questions about training classes, racing, and participating on a number of SCOW committees. Help increase our SCOW membership and bring along that friend who may interested in sailing---we are always looking for new "crew."

### **Social No-Sails**

Meet us at Mango Mike's ([www.mangomikes.com](http://www.mangomikes.com), 4580 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA) every Thursday night "sometime" between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. through April 8<sup>th</sup> either at the bar or the Banana Lounge for after-work Happy Hours and/or dinner.

### **Call for Volunteers**

I am always looking for volunteers, so give me a call---it's a great way to meet new friends and attend SCOW events. (We don't work THAT hard!)

## **ChanNels**

can also be read at:

[www.scow.org](http://www.scow.org).

Submit articles to

[channels@scow.org](mailto:channels@scow.org)

by one week after the monthly meeting. Use any means, but email is preferred. If you would like a copy of the 2004 ChanNels editorial calendar, please request via email to [channels@scow.org](mailto:channels@scow.org) or in-person at the January meeting.

*Lisbeth Lyons, Editor*

*Chris Chubb, Layout Editor*

*Monika O'Connor, Mailing Lists*

## Skipper News

Karyl Owing

### Skipper Renewals

SCOW Skippers, it's time once again to renew your commitment to on-the-water fun with our great club! Skipper renewal packages (Skipper Renewal application and Skipper Agreement) were mailed out to all SCOW Skippers in mid-February. If you were a SCOW Skipper in 2003 and have not received your renewal package by March 7, let me know by sending me an email at [skipper@scow.org](mailto:skipper@scow.org). Were you a SCOW Skipper in years prior to 2003, and would like to reinstate? I'll be happy to help arrange a checkout for you - just let me know!

Keep your Skipper status current! Locker combinations will be changed by the end of the second week of April. You'll want to have your Skipper and membership fees paid, so that there's plenty of time to notify you of the new combinations. That way you won't miss a minute out on our Flying Scots or Cruisers!

To ensure that your Skippership doesn't lapse for even a moment, send your completed renewal application, Skipper agreement, and a check for your Skipper fees to me at the address specified in the renewal package by April 1. OR, bring your application and fees to the Re-Up Brunch on March 21! I'll be there all day, accepting Skipper renewals and visiting with all of you. Hope to see you there!

Trained Last Year, but Didn't Check Out? We Can Fix That....

Anyone who attended SCOW Flying Scot or Cruiser training last year but didn't check out, I'd like to hear from you! If there is enough interest, I can arrange an extra checkout day for a group. And tutoring can be arranged for those who want a refresher after our long, hard winter! Sending me email at [skipper@scow.org](mailto:skipper@scow.org) works wonders - you too will soon be a proud SCOW Skipper!

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### Talk Like A Sailor

*No, not those words! We mean the G-rated version: a vocabulary of sea terms! Each month, compliments of Vice Commodore Jay Weitzel, we'll share the origin and meaning of a nautical term taken from "Origins of Sea Terms," written by John G. Rogers and published by the Mystic Seaport Museum.*

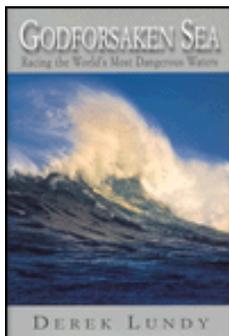
Talk Like a Sailor in...March

*"Port" and "Starboard"*

Of course, we know that when facing the bow of a vessel, the port is the left side of the boat and the starboard is the right. These terms actually originated as early as the twelfth century. In the days before stern rudders, the "steering oar" was on the right side of the vessel. The Anglo-Saxons called this side the "steorbord," and in Middle English it became "sterbord." To protect the steering oar, the side of the vessel away from the rudder had to be tied up to the dock. By the thirteenth century, in England the left side became the "laddebord" or loading side; this eventually became larboard. Larboard persisted into the nineteenth century. Well, there must have been a lot of confusion when officers yelled orders for men to go to "larboard" or "starboard," because in 1844, the British Navy officially changed the reference to the left side of the boat from larboard to "port"; the United States Navy followed suit in 1846. The term "port" was perhaps originally used by Captain John Smith, who sailed on our own Potomac River – there is a reference to the "port" side of a boat in a book he wrote in 1627.

## Sailor's Bookshelf

Thanks to Jay Weitzel for contributing this review!



*Godforsaken Sea*, by Derek Lundy  
(1999, Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill).

Ever wondered what it is like to sail in the southern oceans? Wonder how the waves are? As this author describes, imagine a series of six-story buildings approaching you at about 35 miles per hour. For variety, every so often one is eight stories high. And, to add more fun, once in a while, the top two stories of one of the buildings falls off onto your boat. Toss in the periodic hurricane, ever-present icebergs and routine 50 knot winds and what would come to your mind? Why, of course, single handed racing! Or at least it would if you are one of the men or women who race in the Vendee Globe 'round-the-world race. These sailors single-hand sixty-foot vessels that leave France, sail south around Antarctica, passing through both capes, then return over 100 days later. This is the story of the 1996-97 Vendee Globe, during which many boats exhibited an unfortunate design tendency, once turned turtle, to be perfectly content to stay that way. Several boats were lost and their skippers rescued barely in the nick of time. One skipper disappeared entirely. If you have ever wondered about what it is like to sail in such a race or in such conditions, this is the book for you.

### "Hey, Baby...Want to Go Sailing?"

(...or, in other words, the definition of "Jack Lines")

As SCOW members prepare for the upcoming sailing season, SCOW Member Phil Bender submits this tongue-in-cheek terminology refresher. The author is unknown, but we certainly thank his or her creativity. Enjoy!

*Amidships* - condition of being surrounded by boats.

*Anchor* - a device designed to bring up mud samples from the bottom at inopportune or unexpected times.

*Anchor Light* - a small light used to discharge the battery before daylight.

*Bare Boat* - clothing Optional.

*Beam Sea* - a situation in which waves strike a boat from the side, causing it to roll unpleasantly. This is one of the four directions from which wave action tends to produce extreme physical discomfort. The other three are 'bow sea' (waves striking from the front), 'following sea' (waves striking from the rear), and 'quarter sea' (waves striking from any other direction).

*Berth* - a little addition to the crew.

*Boat ownership* - standing fully-clothed under a cold shower, tearing up 100-dollar bills

*Boom* - called boom for the sound that's made when it hits crew in the

head on its way across the boat. For slow crew, it's called 'boom, boom.'

*Bottom Paint* - what you get when the cockpit seats are freshly painted.

*Calm* - sea condition characterized by the simultaneous disappearance of the wind and the last cold beverage.

*Chart* - a type of map which tells you exactly where you are aground.

*Clew* - an indication from the skipper as to what he might do next.

*Companionway* - a double berth.

*Course* - the direction in which a skipper wishes to steer his boat and from which the wind is blowing. Also, the language that results by not being able to.

*Cruising* - fixing your boat in exotic locations.

*Crew* - heavy, stationary objects used on shipboard to hold down charts, anchor cushions in place and dampen sudden movements of the boom.

*Current* - tidal flow that carries a boat away from its desire destination, or towards a hazard

*Dead Reckoning* - a course leading directly to a reef.

*Deadrise* - getting up to check the anchor at 0300.

*Deviation* - any departure from the Captain's orders.

*Dinghy* - the sound of the ship's bell.

*Displacement* - when you dock your boat and can't find it later.

*Estimated Position* - a place you have marked on the chart where you are sure you are not.

*First Mate* - crew member necessary for skippers to practice shouting instructions to.

*Flashlight* - tubular metal container

used on shipboard for storing dead batteries prior to their disposal

*Fluke* - the portion of an anchor that digs securely into the bottom, holding the boat in place; also, any occasion when this occurs on the first try.

*Foul Wind* - breeze produced by flying turkey.

*Freeboard* - food and liquor supplied by the owner.

*Gybe* - a common way to get unruly guests off your boat.

*Headway* - what you are making if you can't get the toilet to work.

*Head up* - leaving the boat toilet seat up. When boat skipper is female, leaving the head up is a serious offense

*Heave-Ho* - what you do when you've eaten too much Ho.

*Jack Lines* - 'Hey Baby...Want to go sailing?'

*Jibe* - either you like it or you don't and it gets you.

*Keel* - term used by 1st mate after too much heel by skipper.

*Ketch* - a sailboat with good wine in the cabin

*Landlubber* - anyone on board who wishes he were not.

*Latitude* - the number of degrees off course allowed a guest.

*Mast* - religious ritual used before setting sail.

*Mizzen* - an object you can't find.

*Motor Sailor* - a sailboat that alternates between sail/rigging problems and engine problems, and with some booze in the cabin.

*Noserly* - what to call the wind direction when it comes from where you're going

*Ram* - an intricate docking maneuver sometimes used by experienced skippers.

*Rhumb Line* - two or more crew members waiting for a drink.

*Sailing* - the fine art of getting wet and becoming ill, while going nowhere slowly at great expense.

*Schooner* - a sailboat with a fully stocked liquor cabinet in the cabin

*Sheet* - cool, damp, salty night covering.

*Shroud* - equipment used in

connection with a wake.

*Starboard* - special board used by skippers for navigation (usually with "Port" on the opposite side.)

*Swell* - a wave that's just great.

*Square Rigger* - a rigger over 30.

*Sloop* - a sailboat with beer and/or wine in the cabin.

*Tack* - a maneuver the skipper uses when telling the crew what they did wrong without getting them mad.

*Yawl* - a sailboat from Texas, with some good bourbon stored down yonder in the cabin

*Zephyr* - warm, pleasant breeze. Named after the mythical Greek god of wishful thinking, false hopes, and unreliable forecasts.

### Help Wanted! Seasonal Job Opportunities: Deckhands

Captain Clayton Embly, who operates one of the BOAT/US Towboats on the Potomac and who has previously spoken to the club, asked that the following seasonal job opportunity be shared with SCOW members:

#### WANTED

Deckhands (more than one) for 33-passenger charter boat operating daily on the Potomac River. All candidates must have a basic knowledge of boats (that's why Clayton wants sailors). They are looking for people who (1) like to have a good time, (2) are willing to work, and (3) want to build their sea-time with an interest in getting their Captains licenses. The job description includes helping dock and un-dock the vessel, serving drinks (non-alcoholic), and keeping the vessel clean (including the head). The job pays \$8.00 an hour plus tips (Clayton says you will make tips) and an end of year bonus for those who qualify. All positions are part-time and the work is seasonal (April - October). If interested, contact Clayton directly at [captainmako@hotmail.com](mailto:captainmako@hotmail.com) or you may call (215-880-8413) and leave a message.



#### 9th Annual National Capital Boat Show

March 11-14  
Dulles Expo Center  
Chantilly, VA

Does the early Spring thaw have you energized for the upcoming sailing season? In addition to the SCOW kick-off events this month, the 9th Annual National Capital Boat Show returns...and coincides perfectly with that IRS tax refund!

<http://www.royalshows.com/Boat/DC/>

## Racing News

Genie Williford

Ahoy, sailors! I'm very sure all of you racing enthusiasts are more than ready for spring. I, myself, am enthusiastic about the things we have planned for you and I hope to see you at the March 21st Re-up Brunch to share information and to get you signed on. Whether you are interested in skippering a race or being a crewmember for racing, the Re-Up brunch is the place to be to get on board.

### Dinghies

For those of you who are dinghy racing enthusiasts, please drop by the Re-Up or email [race@scow.org](mailto:race@scow.org) to share your contact information with me. If you own a dinghy or are a qualified club Flying Scot skipper and if you have an interest in dinghy racing, I need to know who you are so that I may inform you of opportunities and events involving dinghy racing (and admittedly to recruit you to skipper for Tuesday night activities also!). Our Tuesday nights, Flying Scot races are open to club skippers and other members who wish to race and have a little fun in a competitive, yet low stress, environment either with your own dinghy or on one of our club's three Flying Scots. It is my goal that this year we continue our tradition of club members practicing and perfecting racing skills together while having fun!

### Cruising Boats

Cruising skippers who are interested in racing Rebecca or Psycho, please plan to attend or send a representative to the lottery that will be held the afternoon of the Re-Up brunch. The lottery is our selection process for participation in the Spring Tune Up Regatta, the 4 DI-SC racing series, and the Frostbite Regatta. You must be a SCOW racing skipper to take part. To become a SCOW racing skipper you must do the following:

- 1) Be a cruising boat skipper in good standing (pay your dues)
- 2) Be qualified as a cruising skipper on the boat you will be racing, Rebecca or Psycho, or both. (For more information on how to get checked out contact Karyl Owings at [skipper@scow.org](mailto:skipper@scow.org))
- 3) Have participated as skipper or as crew in no less than 6 races on a SCOW cruising boat OR similar vessel. (Provide a written summary of racing experience to the skipper coordinator for this)
- 4) Successfully pass the Racing skipper test. This situation analysis and decision making short answer/essay test is used to ascertain that the cruising skipper has knowledge of the following:

- a. River areas where local fleet racing activities are held
- b. A general familiarity with the channel and bottom conditions
- c. Current and tide factors
- d. Traffic conditions on the Potomac
- e. General rules of the road for sailboats
- f. Knowledge of the rules of racing (Racing rules may be found on line at <http://www.ussailing.org/rules/> or may be purchased at most boating stores)
- g. Knowledge of SCOW rules pertaining to racing club vessels (available from Karyl Owings, skipper coordinator, [skipper@scow.org](mailto:skipper@scow.org) or myself [race@scow.org](mailto:race@scow.org). Just ask for the Racing Skipper Information File.)

### Crew

If you are interested in being a crewmember for SCOW skippers and boat owners please drop by the Re-Up brunch to get your name on a crew list or send contact information to [race@scow.org](mailto:race@scow.org). Many of our club members own their own vessels, both dinghies and cruisers, on the river and on the bay, and may have need of your services and experience.

Just a few last notes and reminders on upcoming race activities for the spring:

- Re-Up Brunch Lottery for Racing Skippers, March 21st
  - Sign up for crew and interest in dinghy racing activities, also at the Re-Up Brunch
  - Spring Sunday Series for SCOW dinghy owners in PRSA begins April 4th
  - Professional sailor and racing performance coach, Tucker Thompson, presents a seminar at Potomack Landing chart room, April 19th
  - Spring Tune Up Regatta, April 24th. SCOW, DI-SC and PRSA boats. Volunteers are needed to assist in running Race Committee boats, timekeeping, and awards. Contact [race@scow.org](mailto:race@scow.org)
  - DI-SC Tuesday Night cruiser races begin April 27th
  - SCOW Tuesday night races for Flying Scots and owners with dinghies begin mid-May
- I look forward to seeing many of you come through the starting "box" in a race very soon!



(Photo courtesy of Barry Dunsmoor)

**Barge crane installing new docks at the Washington Sailing Marina**



(Photo courtesy of Barry Dunsmoor)

**View from about where SCOW's old docks used to be.**

## The Sailing Gourmet

This month, the Sailing Gourmet stays ashore and does a good deed. Rather than sharing a "clip for your ship" on-board recipe, this month, the Sailing Gourmet encourages all to attend a worthy benefit, the Leukemia-Lymphoma Society's "Hall of Fame Toast & Tasting" honoring special SCOW friend Gary Jobson at the Baltimore Museum of Industry on Thursday, March 25. This event will feature wines and cuisine native to participating America's Cup countries. It's a great opportunity to enjoy an ethnically diverse array of gourmet treats while supporting a terrific cause. Bon Appetit!

### Leukemia-Lymphoma Society's "Hall of Fame Toast & Tasting"

Honoring Gary Jobson's 2004 induction into the America's Cup Hall of Fame

Featuring food and beverages from participating America's Cup countries & Silent Auction

Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Baltimore Museum of Industry

\$60 per individual; \$100 per couple

[http://www.leukemia-lymphoma.org/all\\_cal\\_detail.adp?item\\_id=104289](http://www.leukemia-lymphoma.org/all_cal_detail.adp?item_id=104289)



### SCOW Friends in the News!

Not only is Gary Jobson being honored this month at the Leukemia-Lymphoma Society's "Hall of Fame Toast & Tasting," he's making waves in the media, too. The March issue of *Washingtonian* features an interview with Jobson in the article "Weathering the Storm." The *Washingtonian* is available at various retail outlets in the Washington Metro area.



### 2004 Board of Directors

Position	Name	Home	Work	E-mail
Commodore	Leonard Zuza	202.543.5443	202.543.2330	commodore@scow.org
Vice Commodore	Jay Weitzel	703.866.9190	703.205.3320	vice@scow.org
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Treasurer	Dorothy Stocks	703.521.0903	703.524.3147	treasurer@scow.org
Training Director	Jan Earle	202.249.0855	202.513.7667	training@scow.org
Maintenance Director	John Roland	703.368.9792	703.321.4614	maintenance@scow.org
Social Director	Gerri Hanna	703.216.3381		social@scow.org
Skipper Director	Karyl Owings	703.626.0823	703.234.0743	skipper@scow.org
River & Bay Director	Evie Banda	410.507.0017	202.862.5649	bay@scow.org
Racing Director	Genie Williford	703.765.4740	703.426.2172	race@scow.org
<b>Other Key People</b>				
New Members	Melissa Ennis	703.845.5764		info@scow.org
	Jeremy Spilker	703.494.7237		info@scow.org
Historian	Jane Farthing	301.972.2636		historian@scow.org
River Coordinator	Donna Cohen	202.965.1622	301.897.2684	river@scow.org
Database Administrator	Monika O'Connor	703.921.9262		dba@scow.org
Email Administrator	Jeff Teitel			postmaster@scow.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 (202.628.SAIL) or email [info@scow.org](mailto:info@scow.org) or visit <http://www.scow.org>

