

# Chanels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington  
March 2005

## Commodore's Log

SCOW left Belize in late February to see the Mayan ruins, enjoy marvelous snorkeling, and, of course, enjoy great winter sailing on the catamarans. Ask the 24 SCOW members who participated for details of the trip, and plan your escape for next year.

March is here and things are starting to pop everywhere. Below are some March hi-lights.

### Renewals

Membership renewal forms and skipper renewals went in the mail last month. The skipper renewal and membership renewal are two separate forms, for skippers. For those of you who didn't know, membership runs April 1 to April 1. Please mail your forms in, or bring them to the Re-Up Brunch. The cost is still dirt cheap, even compared with all the free stuff in Washington DC.

### Maintenance

Our maintenance crew is led this year by the able Lynne Russillo. She will have all boat overhauls completed, to include installing brand new sails for the Flying Scot fleet, by the time we start sailing activities in early April. Well done, Lynne and Bosuns!

### Cruising

The first river cruise of 2005 is on April 2, the

Flying Scot trip to Atlantis on the Potomac. We are day sailing our Flying Scots across the Potomac down to a corner of the river area marked with archeological puzzles. Come on a club boat or bring your own--if it has a shallow draft. Picnic lunch on the ruins.

### Training

A new training facility is coming to Washington Sailing Marina (WSM.) The National Park Service is exploring an idea proposed by WSM Guest Services to build a dedicated training facility. The specific location at Dangerfield Island is still being determined. The required environmental impact assessment is now ongoing.

Training classes for cruisers and Flying Scots begin in April. Sign up at the Re-Up Brunch. If you compare prices, these are the very best. And after you complete the course, you can then sail the same boats you trained on—if you become a skipper and pay a very small skipper fee.

### Boating Safely Class

SCOW's policy requires skippers to have a certificate of Boating Education/Safety. One of the ways to get the certificate is to attend the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's Boating Safety class at the Washington Sailing Marina. The class will meet

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## Next Membership Meeting: Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005

The March membership meeting will be on Monday, March 14th, at the American Legion, 400 Cameron Street, Old Town Alexandria (around the corner from Gadsby's Tavern). Socializing begins at 6:30 pm and the meeting at 7:30 pm.

## Table of Contents

Commodore's Log	1	Editor's Thanks	2	Racing Rules Class	2
Tucker Thompson Seminar	3	Skipper Renewals	3	Q & A on Racing	4
Talk Like a Sailor	6	Bay and River Fun and Frolic	7		

(Continued from Page 1)

every Wednesdays in March at the Afterdeck Café from 7:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. starting March 2. The cost is \$40. If you are interested in enrolling, please contact Ginny Ivin at (202) 547-8558 or [flotilla22@hotmail.com](mailto:flotilla22@hotmail.com).

### History of SCOW

Did you know this club began with a group called "Young Republicans," changed the name to "Three Mile Limit Club", and then settled on "Sailing Club of Washington"? What do Republicans have to do with sailing? What a strange conversion.

### Merchandise Available

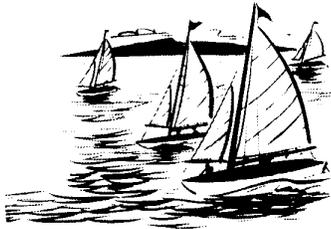
Need some new clothes? Get cool sailing shirts and hats, with SCOW logos for unbeatably low prices. Contact Bill Bernhards' SCOW Boatique for the latest in sailing fashion at the Re-Up Brunch, via email, or at SCOW membership meetings.

### Guest Speakers

The March 14th meeting will feature David Neff of the Selby Sailing Center. David sells and repairs Flying Scotts and has recently refurbished two of our own Scotts. David has been asked to discuss the basic construction of Flying Scotts and address what he has found during his work on the club's boats.

SCOW's own Hope Andruss has volunteered to address the April 11th meeting. Hope will discuss ideas for provisioning a boat whether it would be for a weekend or a week.

*Commodore Steve Linke*



### **RACING RULES CLASS**

*Michael Murphy, Racing Director*

Potomac River Sailing Association (PRSA) is once again offering a Racing Rules Class. This year, arrangements have been made to open the class to SCOW members. The class is scheduled for 7:00 PM, Tuesday, March 8 at the Washington Sailing Marina. The PRSA format includes breakout sections for Beginners and Advanced Rules. Please send an e-mail to [racing@scow.org](mailto:racing@scow.org) if you would like to attend this class.



### **EDITOR'S THANKS**

*Diana Combs*

The Editor would like to thank the following Board members for submitting their ChaNNels articles before the deadline.

Steve Linke, Commodore  
Bill Patton, Vice Commodore  
Michael Murphy, Racing Director  
Lynne Russillo, Maintenance Director  
Karyl Owings, Skipper Director

In submitting their articles early, these Board members facilitated the on-time production of the newsletter and an earlier print newsletter delivery. As a reminder, the article submission deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month. That means that articles should be received before or on the 15<sup>th</sup>, not later.

**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 2005

ChaNNels editorial calendar, please

request via email to [channels@scow.org](mailto:channels@scow.org)

or in-person at the next meeting.

*Diana Combs, Editor*

*Chris Chubb, Layout Editor*

## TUCKER THOMPSON TO SPEAK AT SCOW RACING SEMINAR

**Where:** Chart Room, Washington Sailing Marina  
(One mile south of Reagan National Airport  
on the George Washington Parkway)

**When:** Wednesday, March 16, 2005

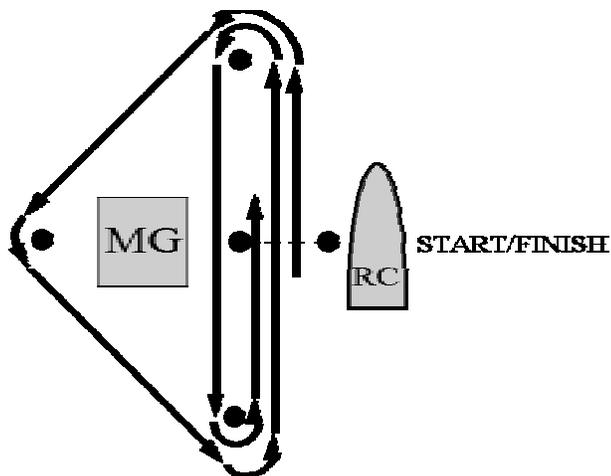
**Time:** 7:00 pm

This year, SCOW will be hosting a racing seminar that is a must for everyone who races, has thought about racing, or wants to know how to be a better sailor.

Tucker Thompson, from West Marine, will be our featured speaker. Tucker is a Professional Sailor, Performance Racing Coach, Sailing Consultant, and author. He has a long sailing history, including being a Junior North American, a Collegiate Sloop National Champion, and a New Zealand National Match Champion. He also sailed in the Smythe and O'Day Single-handed Nationals, the US Match Racing Nationals, J 22, Mumm 30, and Farr 40 Worlds. He sailed aboard the *America True* for the American Cup trials.

Tucker will present an informative and insightful program on racing strategy, consideration of tides and currents, and tactics designed to help sailors of all skill levels sail faster and better.

Get an early start for the sailing season and sharpen your skills by planning to attend this event. Invite your friends. The seminar is open to all interested people willing to pay a \$15.00 donation at the door. This is an event you don't want to miss.



### SKIPPERS, IT'S TIME TO RENEW!

*Karyl Owings, Skipper Director*

Skipper Renewal Packets were mailed on February 14, 2005. That's my Valentine to all SCOW Skippers! If you have not yet received your Skipper Renewal Packet, send me an email at [skipper@scow.org](mailto:skipper@scow.org); and I'll send you a packet immediately.

The Skipper Renewal Packets contain the 2005 Renewal Application and the 2005 Renewal Agreement, both of which you must sign and return to me (my address is in the packet), along with a check made out to SCOW for the appropriate fee. I'd prefer it if you would renew by mail, so please, mail your Skipper Renewal back to me right away!

Note that Skipper Fees remain the same for 2005!!!  
Where else can you get such a great bargain?

Flying Scots.....\$90 Cruisers.....\$120  
Both.....\$160

My goal is a 100% skipper renewal rate in 2005. SCOW is proud of all its skippers, and we want to see all of you out on the water this year. The new SCOW sailing season begins on April 1, 2005, and ends March 31, 2006. Renewing your SCOW skipper privileges gives you access to SCOW boats for the entire new season!

**BOAT LOCK COMBINATIONS WILL CHANGE AT THE END OF THE SECOND WEEK OF APRIL 2005.** I will send out the new combinations via email, so please ensure that your current email address is included on your Skipper Renewal Application. Don't delay, renew today!!!

See you on the water.

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS FROM THE RACING DIRECTOR ON CRUISER RACING

*Michael Murphy, Racing Director*

This month I will try to answer some of the questions that members may have about the 2005 race season for the SCOW cruisers. If you have additional questions, please e-mail them to me at [racing@scow.org](mailto:racing@scow.org).

### Who Can Race the Scow Cruisers?

Qualified SCOW Racing Skippers can race the cruisers in authorized races. The cruisers will be reserved in advance by the Racing Director for these race events.

### Who Are the Qualified Cruiser Racing Skippers?

Seth Alen, Bill Bernhards, Donna Cohen, Declan Conroy, Barry Dunsmoor, Dale Eager, Jan Earle, Monica Maynard, Dave Scheurmann, Jeff Tietel, Stuart Ullman, Thom Unger, Kara Wald, Henry Yung

### Why Is There A Special List Of Qualified Cruiser Race Skippers?

SCOW guidance for approving the use of the SCOW cruisers in authorized races recognizes that racing has potential risks beyond those normally encountered in casual sailing. It is therefore essential for the safety of our members and for our boats that members racing the cruisers demonstrate that they have the knowledge to race safely. The requirements have been set at a minimal level to ensure safety, but also allow a maximum number of members to participate.

### If My Name Isn't On The Racing Skipper List, What Should I Do?

If you do not see your name on this list, but believe that it should be on the list, please contact me at [racing@scow.org](mailto:racing@scow.org). If you are a cruiser skipper in good standing, and you want to become a racing skipper, you must pass a written exam. Please contact the Skipper Director at [skipper@scow.org](mailto:skipper@scow.org) for information on taking the exam. To participate in the lottery for racing slots at the Re-Up Brunch, you should have passed the test before the brunch. Time is short so if interested you should do so immediately, if not sooner!

### How Will The Race Slots Be Assigned For The 2005 Race Season?

We plan to hold a lottery at the Re-Up Brunch to select Race Skippers for the Spring Tune-Up Regatta, the Daingerfield Island Sailing Club (DISC) 2005 Tuesday night race series, and the fall Frostbite Regatta. Currently there are fourteen members qualified as cruiser racing skippers. These members have passed a written racing exam that allows them to skipper the cruising boats in authorized races.

### What Time Will The Lottery Be?

Names can be put into the drawing box starting at 10:00 AM. We will have a short pre-lottery meeting of interested participants at 1:00 PM, and will hopefully start the drawing by 1:15. We will finish by 2:00 PM.

### How Will The Lottery Be Conducted?

The lottery will be conducted in five easy steps at the Re-Up Brunch:

1. Qualified Racing Skippers will place their name in a box for a drawing to award race dates.
2. The first name drawn will have the privilege of first selecting a boat and which race (Tune-Up or Fall

Frostbite) or which DISC Race Series (six races) they wish to race.

3. A second name will be drawn. This Racing Skipper will be able to select a boat and a race or DISC racing series that they wish to race.

4. Step three will be repeated until all the racing slots are selected, or until none of the Racing Skippers wish to select additional races.

5. After Race Skippers have been identified, assignments will be made for the Race Committee boat at the Spring Tune-Up Regatta. Racing Skippers that are not racing in the Spring Tune-Up Regatta will be expected to provide the Race Committee boat and organize the Race Committee for the regatta.

#### Do I Have To Be There Or Can I Send A Proxy?

It is always fun and enjoyable to attend the Re-Up Brunch. By being there for the lottery you can personally be involved in selecting a racing slot. However, if you make arrangements for a proxy, and let the Racing Director know, via e-mail at [racing@scow.org](mailto:racing@scow.org), we will allow a proxy. If you are a qualified racing skipper, the proxy must have the ability to make commitments for you on racing date selections. It would be unfair to other club members if the proxy selected race dates that you subsequently declined to use.

#### What Are The Dates Of The Races?

1. SCOW plans to hold a Tune-Up Regatta on Saturday, April 23.

2. Daingerfield Island Sailing Club (DISC) conducts four series of six races each throughout the summer. As of now, DISC has not put the race dates on their web-site. However, the races usually start the last Tuesday in April. The final race is usually in early October. You can check the Sailing Links webpage on the SCOW web-site for a link to DISC to see if they have posted the race dates by the time that you receive this edition of *Channels*. We should have the final dates available by the time of the Re-Up Brunch.

3. A fall Frostbite Regatta is also held in the fall, usually in early October.

#### What Are My Responsibilities If I Skipper A Scow Cruiser In Races?

In addition to being a qualified SCOW Racing Skipper, you have several other obligations to the Club and to your crew. You have an obligation to:

- Only race SCOW boats in recognized races authorized by the Sailing Club of Washington Board
- Have knowledge of the river in the area in which races are held, including a general familiarity with the channel, the bottom conditions, current and tide factors, and traffic conditions.
- Have a demonstrable knowledge of the racing rules. (See [www.sailing.org](http://www.sailing.org) which has a drop-down menu for the 2005 rules). Also see my other article in this newsletter.
- Know the SCOW rules pertaining to racing and crew selection.
- Use only SCOW members as crew.
- Select crew members from the list drafted at the Re-Up Brunch.
- If participating in DISC events, provide a Race Committee boat when requested.
- Assist in other SCOW racing events as needed to make club events successful.
- Carry insurance to cover legal obligations from racing accidents.

#### Can I Race On The Cruisers If I Am Not A Qualified Racing Skipper?

SCOW policy is that only members will be recruited as racing crew on the cruisers. Our policy is to give all

SCOW members who wish to participate in racing the cruising boats an opportunity to have that experience. *Rebecca* requires a Skipper, a First Mate, and a minimum of two crew members. *Psycho* requires a Skipper, a First Mate, and at least one Crew person. Racing skippers may elect to carry additional crew. Contact the skippers and let them know of your interest.

#### How Can I Become A Crew Member?

First, come to the Re-Up Brunch. There will be a sign-up sheet for crews. This crew sign-up sheet is only for current SCOW members so be sure to bring your 2005 membership application and your membership check. SCOW racing skippers will have access to this list and will use it to fill out their crew slots.

Second, introduce yourself to the racing skippers. They will want to put a name with a face and learn a little about your sailing experience. For the six race DISC series, remember that a skipper will be looking for crew that will support them in the whole racing series. Make your level of commitment known to the skippers.

#### What If I Can't Be At Every Race, But Would Still Like To Crew?

Come to the Tuesday night DISC racing skipper meetings. They are held near the small boat docks at the Washington Sailing Marina. Boats without full crews will often select pick-up crews from the people that come to the pre-race meetings. If SCOW boats are fully crewed, other DISC skippers sometimes use pick-up crews from the dock side meetings.

#### If I Make A Race Selection, But Find That I Can't Race For An Evening, What Are My Responsibilities?

If you do not plan to use the boat that you selected for a particular race event, it is your responsibility to notify the Racing Director so that an alternate skipper can be found, or the boat is made available to the general membership. Don't wait until the last moment. Making the boats available for racing is a significant investment of club assets. Be considerate of other members who would like to use the boats also.

#### If I Make A Selection For A Race Series But Can't Race For The Series, What Are My Responsibilities?

Notify the Racing Director immediately so the race series can be assigned to another interested Racing Skipper.

#### Where Can I Find More Information On Scow Racing?

Look at the SCOW web-pages at [www.scow.org](http://www.scow.org). Under the Administrative Stuff page is a copy of club policies and suggested guidance approved by past Boards.

### **Talk Like A Sailor** *Bill Patton, Vice Commodore*

In honor of St. Patrick's Day on March 17th, let's look at three Sea Terms that use the word "Irish." The first is "Irish Hurricane," which is a flat calm. Another term for this typical mid summer Potomac River condition is a "Paddy's Gale." An "Irish Pennant" refers to any loose or unsecured line, or a frayed line or cloth. Finally, an "Irish Reef" is a method of shortening the sail (sometimes in a hurry) on a gaff-rigged fore and after, by lowering the peak; a skill we all learned in the SCOW basic sailing course.

Happy St. Patrick's day which this year is on a Thursday the same night as the SCOW Social No-Sail at the Rhodesside Grill on Wilson Boulevard in Rosslyn. Hope to see a good turnout.

Reference: Origins of Sea Terms by John G. Rogers

## BAY AND RIVER FUN AND FROLIC

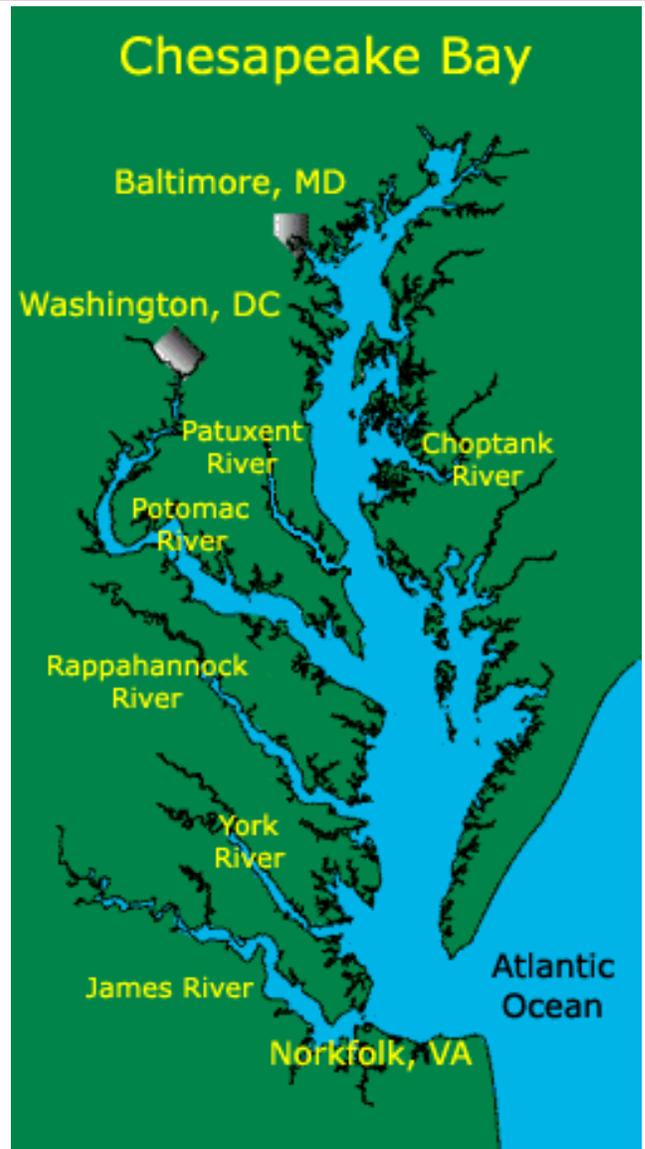
*Robert Werlwas*

It's time to shake the brain barnacles and get ready for some bay and river Activities. We start the season this April with the Atlantis Revisited excursion with your own honorable Commodore Steve Linke leading this adventure. We are not exactly sure what we will be getting into, however, Steve has assured us that we will see different sites on the river.

The season will conclude in October with Doug Kelch taking us on an overnight sailing/camping trip to Gunston Cove. This will be honest-to-goodness camping with tents, sleeping bags and hearty singing around the campfire. In between we will have several different adventures including a Rhode River Bay raft-up with Jeff Tietel at the forefront. Also, get ready for the Battle of Trafalgar on the River - complete with water cannons - where we do battle with the Pentagon Sailing Club. So practice your "Arrghhh" now. Other events will be detailed in future editions of Channels as well as emails to all members.

In the past two years, we have had two people chair the River/Bay activities, one for the River and the other for the Bay. It is becoming painfully apparent that this policy should be continued. So, if anyone is interested in either of these functions, please drop an email to: [river@scow.org](mailto:river@scow.org) or [bay@scow.org](mailto:bay@scow.org).

Remember, this is your club. So we welcome hearing from you about your experiences in the River and Bay. We also welcome any River/Bay excursion suggestions that you think would be fun.



### 2004 Board of Directors

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>Work</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
Commodore	Steve Linke	703.684.5266	703.604.7006	commodore@scow.org
Vice Commodore	Bill Patton	703.836.5617	703.527.6360	vice@scow.org
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Treasurer	Dorothy Stocks	703.521.0903	703.524.3147	treasurer@scow.org
Training Director	Doug Kelch	703.716.4959	703.346.7693	training@scow.org
Maintenance Director	Lynne Russillo	202.543.7080	202.646.2395	maintenance@scow.org
Social Director	Margaret Monsour	202.387.3694		social@scow.org
Skipper Director	Karyl Owings			skipper@scow.org
River & Bay Director	Robert Werlas	301.982.9543		bay@scow.org
Racing Director	Mike Murphy	703.820.1991		race@scow.org
Advertising	Rhonda Glasmann	703.813.6068		advertising@scow.org
<b>Other Key People</b>				
New Members	Melissa Ennis	703.845.5764		info@scow.org
Members Coordinator	Monika O'Connor	703.921.9262	703.593.4380	members@scow.org
Email Administrator	Jeff Teitel	202.271.1238		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

Visit <http://www.scow.org> or email [info@scow.org](mailto:info@scow.org)