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## CHANNELS -- SPECIAL E-MAIL EDITION

March 1999

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### Commodore's Log

#### Thom Unger

The weather is rather chilly outside this Sunday afternoon as I write this column, but the unseasonably warm weather earlier in the week has turned my thoughts towards spring. Before we know it, the docks down at the marina will once again be bustling with activity, as boats get loaded into the water, sails get raised, and we once again set sail for parts unknown. Okay, perhaps a touch of poetic license with the latter, still, every sail has its opportunities for learning, no matter how familiar the waters may be.

As spring approaches, SCOW too begins to wake from its mid-winter slumber. It's that time of the year when re-up membership applications start appearing in mailboxes. Many thanks to our secretary, Sandy Clover, for organizing the membership renewal. This year we've added a short questionnaire as well, please take a moment to complete it. We're trying to get a better sense of just who belongs to SCOW, so that we might better serve the membership. As usual, the carrot to encourage you to re-up is the annual ReUp Brunch. You'll find details as to when and where elsewhere in Channels, but this always well-attended Brunch is a very pleasant way to start off a Sunday morning, eating good food, conversing with old friends, perhaps telling a tall tale or two, as sailors are wont to do. In addition, volunteers will be on hand to take your membership information (and of course money!). Save yourself the cost of a stamp, while saying hi to old friends and eating good food.

Speaking of mid-winter slumbering, if you haven't already, check out SCOW's Social No-Sail every Thursday evening around 7 or 8 at Café Marianna at 1201 North Royal Street in Old Town Alexandria. The food is excellent, the company of fellow sailors enjoyable, and the deserts quite delicious!

A side note: business will take me out of town for the March monthly meeting, so our very able Vice-Commodore, Monica Maynard, will lead the meeting in my absence (try not to cheer too loudly!).

Fair winds. Thom

#### March Speakers:

Introduction to the Penguin Class by Charles Krafft national class Treasurer

Maintenance products by Brian Simmions of BOAT US. If you do not know the difference between sealants, epoxies, tapes or lubricants this is a must meet before spring commissioning.

I will also have a video of last summer's Penguin National which was held on the Eastern shore. I will be playing it during social hour.

### **SCOW Welcomes Our Newest Members:**

**Kimberly Ockene, Sergey Tagashov**

### **From the Secretary 1999 Dues are Due**

It's time to renew your SCOW membership - your passport to sailing fun, educational meetings, informative newsletters, and great parties too! And such a bargain at the same rate as 1998 - just \$40 for a single membership and \$60 for a family membership.

Renewal applications are making their way to a mailbox near you as I write this. Please mark any changes to personal and boat information and check off the activities that interest you in the all important volunteer section. After you have read the waiver, don't forget to sign the form and write your checks to SCOW. You can bring your forms and checks to the Re-up Brunch on Sunday, March 14, turn them in at any monthly meeting, or mail them back to me at the address listed.

This year, you will also find a membership questionnaire enclosed with your application. Please take a few minutes to fill out the form and let us know what you'd like to see on the training and meeting program - SCOW is your club and we want your input.

I would like to thank those people who helped get the membership mailing together: Mary Bashore, Denise Derry, Larry Gemoets, Monica Maynard, and Shelby Shoop for helping to fold, stuff, and stamp; Sam Schaen for printing the forms from the database; Stu Robinson and all the Board members for their input on the questionnaire.

Don't be left on the Dock (or out of the directory!) - renew your membership now!

### **Skipper Coordinator Shelby Shoop**

Attention Skippers - Be on the lookout for your Skipper Renewal Packets. The regular sailing season is almost upon us, so start thinking Spring. The packets were mailed out at the end of February, including the Skipper Agreement, the Renewal Letter, and the Renewal Application. The Skipper Information File (SIF) and the Policies and Procedures have also been updated and sent. You can return those by mail or bring them to the Re-Up Brunch on March 14 at the Colonies Clubhouse.

\*\*\* Don't forget the new SCOW requirement, in keeping with the new Washington DC regulation, that all SCOW skippers have a Boating Safety Certificate and carry it with them while operating the boats. You must send a photocopy of the certificate with your skipper

renewal application in order to remain a SCOW skipper. Luckily, it's easy to get the certificate by taking a quick quiz over the internet or taking a safety class through the US Power Squadron or Coast Guard Auxiliary (See the January issue of chaNNels, Page 7 for more info on this -Ed.)

I'll also have the renewal forms at the Re-Up Brunch on March 14th. Bring your checkbook! If you're like me, you can't wait to get on the water. See you dockside!

### **Bay Activities Jack Schwartz**

It's still winter (no matter what Phil said) and Bay Activities haven't really started yet. Meanwhile, I am still waiting for return of the Skipper Information forms I sent out last month. This will give me some idea of what activities SCOW skippers are interested in participating in and helping with. Please help me out by filling these out and returning them soon. (I have received 3 so far out of 20.) Thanks. As we get closer to actually Sailing, I will try to get information from potential crew members. Meanwhile, any interested members can email me a fax number so I can fax them a Crew Information form. There will also be crew lists the month before each raft-up. Dreaming of Summer and Sailing, Jack

### **Social Director Bill Clark, Jr.**

It's about time to spring forward into the sailing season by renewing your membership in SCOW.

There is no better way to do that than by attending the annual Re-up brunch, to be held on Sunday, March 14, at the Colonies Clubhouse, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. This yearly potluck feast is a fun way to reunite with the other members of the club to swap stories of winter voyages and to share sailing plans for the coming season. Admission is \$10.00 or a food item. Please send your checks (payable to SCOW) to me at 3064 M. St. NW, Washington, DC 20007, or bring your check to the monthly meeting. As always, payment at the door is also gladly accepted.

In order for this to be successful we will also need lots of volunteers. I am particularly looking for some to help coordinate this event and be there on the day of the brunch. We also will need cooks and a griddle for making pancakes. Of course there will be a need for set-up and clean-up crews.

So, come eat and be merry!

Directions to the Colonies Clubhouse: Take the Beltway to Tyson's Corner, 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 to the SCOW party at the Clubhouse (ahead on the left). Park where you can.

### **Calendar**

**March 14 Re-Up Brunch, The Colonies of McLean, 10AM-2 PM**

**April 4 Daylight Savings Begins - 2 AM**

**17 Train The Trainers, Washington Sailing Marina, 1 - 5 PM**

**17-18 Early Bird Cruise to the Little Choptank River**

**22 Social Sail Begins!!!, Washington Sailing Marina, 6 PM - dark**

**24 Maintenance Day and Picnic, Washington Sailing Marina, 9 AM**

**26 Racing Seminar, Potowmack Landing Chart Room, 7 PM - 10 PM**

**27 Flying Scot Races Begin!!!, Washington Sailing Marina, 6 PM - dark**

**28 Basic Sailing Class Series I Land Classes: Potowmack Landing Chart Room, Wednesday at 7:30 4 Sessions: April 28, May 5, May 15, and May 19th Water Sessions: Washington Sailing Marina, Saturday & Sunday 4-hour sessions at either 8:30 AM or 1 PM each day. 6 Sessions: May 1,2; May 8,9; May 15,16 (Make-up water day: May 22)**

**Submit articles to <mailto:channels@scow.org> by one week after the monthly meeting, Use any means, but email is preferred.**

**Larry Gemoets, Editor Declan Conroy, Web Publisher Sam Schaen, Mailing lists Sandy Clover, Layout Denise Derry, Proofing**

**Submissions to Channels: Please! Just type or paste your articles into the body of an email message. We will format it for you. No Multiple tabs, No indents, No attachments, NO Kidding. Pony express, mail, etc are acceptable, but get it here (not just in the box) by deadline -ed.**

**Note: Stuff below only has one tab between (except for blank columns!), so you can paste it into your favorite wp or ss. Death to multiple tabs! -ed.**

**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 if you dial with letters!) Visit us at: <http://www.scow.org> Write us: <mailto:info@scow.org>**

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