

ChaNels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington
May 2003

Commodore's Log

Well, skippers and crew; though you may have worried that the ice and snow would never let up this year, it has indeed departed for a time, and we have now posted our first official club sail of the season (though I'm sure that Skipper Steve would argue that his cold weather cruise in March should get the honors). Four boats and over 20 participants kicked off the first River Cruise on Sunday April 13 in fluky air, sunny skies and a strong Potomac current.

Our first two Social Sails have had good attendance and sumptuous picnics, thanks to chefs Susan and Steve and Jan, but due to unfortunate weather, have ended up as Social No Sails at the Marina. As you read this, I'm hoping that our late April and early May Social Sails will have seen boats on the water with sails billowing, as well as fine fare from the Chow Dhow. New chefs are always invited to try out new recipes for our enjoyment. Our new grill successfully passed its inaugural test on April 17, and Social Director Rob is still seeking your support to fill out the roster of chefs, dockmasters and other helpers. Please be in touch with him.

Our Training classes are now well underway with Intermediate Sailing and the first sessions of both Basic Sailing and Cruising started. Thanks to Training Director Kris for her coordination and to a dedicated group of land and water trainers for their experience and commitment to helping

develop the skills of both beginning and more advanced sailors. We still have opportunities open to assist in training and to increase the number of trainers. A good way to do that is to sit in on some of the classes and learn about our programs. Also please come out and offer your experience when Tutoring nights start up; every third Monday eve at the docks from May through September.

Also by the time you read this, the DISC first series of Cruising boat races on Tuesday evenings should be underway. Volunteer as crew or learn racing rules and techniques on the Flying Scots each Tuesday evening starting on May 13. Additional racing opportunities on the Bay may present themselves once you get to know some of the active racers.

And if that's not enough to start off the sailing season, investigate the possibility of a crew position on the upper Bay cruise aboard Mike Geissinger's "Euphoria" or a longer distance ocean voyage to Maine aboard Len Zuza's "Dulcinea".

And last but not least, participate in the Upper Potomac River "Blessing of the Fleet" on Sunday May 18. More news about this event should be forthcoming from Director Jeff, Coordinator Jay and Social Chair Rob. Watch for it in the near future. Meanwhile, take a new sailor out to enjoy what we most get our kicks from.

Fair winds,
Commodore George

May Membership Meeting
Monday, May 12

"Sailing to Fiji"

Our May program will be a slide presentation by Richard Boe about his experiences single-handing from Los Angeles to Fiji in a 31-foot ketch. Mr. Boe took about a year to complete his journey and absorb the local culture. This is a great opportunity for the "arm-chair adventurers" in the group to do a little vicarious living in the South Seas for an evening.

The meeting will be at the usual time and place - the American Legion Hall in Old Town Alexandria, 400 Cameron Street (check out www.scow.org for directions). Socializing starts at 6:30 PM, with the meeting at 7:30 and the presentation at 8:00.

Down By The River . . .

River Coordinator Jay Weitzel

Twenty-one SCOW members set sail on April 13th for the first River Cruise of the season. Three skippers -- Dale Eager, Jason Stevens and Commodore George Umberger -- brought their own boats, with Bill Bernhards skippering our own Rebecca. The weather cooperated by bringing a picture-perfect sunny day. The winds were variable, with some good breezes at times but, at other times, barely enough wind to keep the boats moving against the strong tide. But, after a long winter of sailing deprivation, it was great to be on the water, even if we did have to cheat by using the "iron genoa" every so often.

Missed the fun? Don't worry, there are plenty of activities ahead and our next River event will be on Friday, May 16th, when we'll set off on an evening sail. This is a really great way to wind down after the hectic work week! The sun will be setting at 8:13 PM and we'll be departing on a rising tide (low tide predicted at 3:43 PM, high tide at 9:14 PM). We will meet at F Dock at 6:30 PM (where we keep Rebecca and Psycho) for a skipper's meeting and will plan to cast off at 7:00 PM.

If you'd like to attend as a skipper or as crew, we will have a sign-up sheet at the Monday, May 12th membership meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting, email me at river@scow.org if you would like to skipper or crew. If you're skippering your own boat, let me know how many members you can take with you. Crew will be "first come, first served," but it would be great (as we did in April) to have enough crew slots for every member who wants to sail.

Looking ahead, we will have two June events. The first will be a "River Fleet Night" at the Thursday, June 19th Social Sail. That night, instead of putting in the Flying Scots, we'd like to have our members with trailer or river boats bring them to the floating docks to show them off and take members for a sail. This is a great chance for our skippers to show off your "pride and joy" and for members to get a look at other boat designs. Then, on Friday evening, June 27th, we will have our second evening River Cruise of the season. Details on all of this in the June Channels.

See you on the River!

Volunteers Needed: Thursday Night Social Sails

We need volunteers from April to October! Please look at your schedules and let Social Director Rob Langford know when you would like to help.

The Positions at Social Sails are as follows:

Chef One & Chef Two: The Culinary Crew who plan, gather and prepare the food for the Social Sails. A Grill and condiments are provided. The Chefs should arrive around 5:30 PM to begin preparing the food - or whenever is necessary.

Dockmaster: Is needed to coordinate persons wishing to sail. Each sailing excursion lasts between 20 and 30 minutes. The dockmaster coordinates passengers, recruits skippers and makes sure waivers are signed by non-members.

The volunteers who have helped so far this year have been fantastic! But we would like to have more, so as not to impose on anyone too much.

And if Social Sail is not your thing, SCOW has lots of other volunteer opportunities throughout the year. If you would like to be put on the list of volunteers, the club can always use the help!

If you would like to volunteer for anything, contact Social Director Rob Langford at social@scow.org or (703) 383-1530.

ChanNels

can also be read at:

www.scow.org.

Submit articles to
channels@scow.org

by one week after the monthly meeting. Use any means, but email is preferred.

Joan O'Kane, Editor

Chris Chubb, Layout Editor

Declan Conroy, Web Publisher

Monika O'Connor, Mailing Lists

Maintenance Tom Hannan

"It Was a Day Like All Days; a Day For Maintenance—and You (well, some of you, anyway) Were There."

The passing of this Spring's Maintenance Day found all the SCOW vessels spic-and-span and showing off a lot of new equipment. The Flying Scots all sported new cockpit covers, mainsheets, mainsheet sleeves, painters, life-jackets in assorted sizes, and throw-cushions. Various of them were outfitted with new boom-vangs, control lines, blocks, shackles and assorted hardware. Some of the trailers got tires that actually stay inflated, new bow rollers and couplers. Along with the Flying Scots, Rebecca got a good scrub-down, a renovated bilge pump and an identifiable mainsail so she can be spotted crossing the finish line. (Work continues on Psycho down at the Fort Washington marina.)

Lending a hand on April 5th were 38 dedicated boat folk: Susan Batchelder, Phil Bender, Bill Bernhards, Nancy Christin, Mike Clifford, Julia Clones, Declan Conroy, Dennis Detlef, Barry Dunsmoor, Jan Earle, Mike Geissing, Christine Gill, Larry Glenn, Mona Hahn, Joan Hannan, Tom Hannan, Howard Hime, David Johnson, Milyn Jordan, Dan Keagle, Rob Langford, Steve Linke, B. Michael McLaughlin, Daniel Mullin, Walter Peterson, Kathy Reilly, David Richter, Matt Rock, John Roland, Kevin Traver, Ollie Russell, David Scheuermann, Brad Taylor, George Umberger, Kara Wald, Jack Wells, Eugenia Williford and Cathy Zeigler. (Apologies to anyone whose name I've missed—or misspelled.)

Attendant to Maintenance Day, the Raffle of the Century was held, with SCOW's own money-man Graham Leadbetter drawing the winning numbers from a hat. The first winner was 6 7/8. Seriously; First Prize, a stunning Cher-designed cerulean blue shell, embroidered with the world-famous SCOW logo, was won by Mona Hahn. Second and Third Prizes, eye-catching T's designed by Oprah and Doctor Phil, and emblazoned with the immortal words of Winston



Churchill, "The Proud, the Few, the SCOW Maintenance Crew," were won by Kara Wald and Kevin Traver.

At the ensuing members' meeting, special honors were conferred on John Roland, whose name received the most unsolicited compliments for his unstinting, knowledgeable help over the course of the day. John was inducted into the ranks of the Order of the Golden Winch Handle, and presented with the mounted eponymous tool. Thanks, John, for the mechanical advantage!

In conclusion, a short, but maybe apocryphal, story. An able-bodied seaman meets a pirate in a bar, and they take turns recounting their adventures at sea. Noting the pirate's peg-leg, hook, and eye patch, the seaman asks "So, how did you end up with the peg-leg?" The pirate replies "We was caught in a monster storm off the cape and a giant wave swept me overboard. Just as they were pullin' me out a school of sharks appeared and one of 'em bit me leg off".

"Blimey!" said the seaman. "What about the hook?" "Ahhhh..." mused the pirate, "We were boardin' a trader ship, pistols blatin' and swords swingin' this way and that. In the fracas me hand got chopped off." "Zounds!" remarked the seaman. "And how came ye by the eye patch?" "A seagull droppin' fell into me eye", answered the pirate. "You lost your eye to a seagull dropping?" the sailor asked incredulously. "Well..." said the pirate, "...it was me first day with the hook." (Be careful with those tools...)



Courtesy of G. Umberger

A Busy Day at the WSM Cranes

Skippers! Crew! Want to Sail Memorial Day Weekend?

Hope Andruss

Over the years getting Skippers and Crew together to sail on the Chesapeake Bay has been a hit or miss situation with lots of frustration on both sides. In a trial program, SCOW will try to match crew for several of the scheduled cruises this season.

The rules are simple: Skippers are asked to hold one berth for a crew member that has signed up for matching and to call the suggested crew member no later than the Monday evening prior to the cruise. Skippers can e-mail <BayCrew@scow.org> or call Hope at 703-920-0186 for a list of available crew.

Crew are asked to submit a form (see page ???) with some basic questions on skills and to not make another commitment for the cruise dates until after the Monday evening prior to the cruise. For the Memorial Day Weekend your form must be received by me no later than Thursday, May 15. Copies of the form are also available on the SCOW website and may be e-mailed to BayCrew@scow.org.

Please mail the completed form to: Hope Andruss, 1111 Army Navy Dr. #1129, Arlington, VA 22202

See ya on the water!



Photo Courtesy of G. Umberger

Lunch on the First River Cruise of 2003

Bay Activities

Jeff Teitel

Well, the Rhode River Raft-up is coming together. It will be held on Memorial Weekend, May 24-26. As I write this, there are 12 boats signed up! Just a couple more and we'll beat last year's record. If you are a skipper interested in joining us, please contact me at 202-271-1238 or <bay@scow.org>. If you would like to be crew, we have a new Crew Co-ordinator, Hope Andruss. Please see Hope's article elsewhere in this issue for more information.

On June 21st we will be having another Bay Day-sail. Hopefully we'll get better turn out than the one in April. (I think a lot of people we're still getting their boats together after the long winter.) Again, skippers contact me, crew contact Hope.

Don Deese has graciously offered to be Raft Master for our 4th of July Raft-up in Solomon's this year. More details will be forthcoming.

I do need someone to help organize the Baltimore Orioles Raft-up on August 16-17. I already have a bunch of information from Len Zuza who did a fantastic job last year. Please let me know if you can help out.

Skipper Checkouts

Kris Bieg

Are you almost ready to take the skipper check out exam, but just need a little more time on the water? Or are you a past sailor from another time or place who just is a little rusty and wants some practice time before taking the water exam?

Let me know you're interested in going out on the water and we'll find a tutor to take you out.

Remember - BEFORE you take the water exam, you need to have passed the written exam. If you haven't taken it yet, contact Steve Linke and he'll send one your way. He can be reached at skipper@scow.org.

Becoming a SCOW skipper gets you more access to the boats and that's what it's all about!!

SCOW Northern Bay Spring Cruise

From Sunday, May 23 to Sunday, June 1, Mike Geissinger will be leading the Northern Bay Cruise aboard Euphoria, a Columbia 8.3 meter sailing vessel. This year Euphoria has a new suit of sails including an asymmetrical gennaker for those light air days.

The tentative schedule is as follows:

Leg #1:

5/23, Friday - Solomons to Little Choptank - 25 miles

5/24, Saturday - Little Choptank to Rhode River (SCOW raft up) - 35 miles

5/25, Sunday - Rhode River to "where ever" - short passage (crew change)

Leg #2:

5/26, Monday - "where ever" sail around- another short passage

5/27, Tuesday - "where ever" to Baltimore harbor - 30 miles

5/28, Wednesday - Baltimore to Sassafras River - 40 miles

5/29, Thursday - Sassafras to Gibson Island (crew change) - 40 miles

Leg #3:

5/30, Friday - Gibson to St. Michaels - 40 miles

5/31, Saturday - St. Michaels to Oxford - 40 miles

6/1, Sunday - Oxford to Solomons - 35 miles

The schedule will allow time for some sightseeing and exploration. There is a Tuesday evening "on the town" in Baltimore. The Orioles will be playing the Anaheim Angels at 7:05 p.m The Inner Harbor should be wonderful.

Mike is putting together a crew of two or three on each passage. As with the cruise to Cape Cod last year each crew will be responsible for transportation and provisions for their respective leg of the passage.

Want to go? Email Mike at mikeg@mikegphotos.com, with your sailing resume, passage leg you wish to sail, and contact information (phone, email, etc.).

Skippers who want to make this a bigger party on any or all of the legs can also email Mike to coordinate the details

SCOW Says Welcome!
to the following new members:

Ravi Achrol
Anna Baraniecki
Kathy Belyeu
Marilyn Bienduga
Richard V. Bienduga
Julie Biggs
Kathryn Bird
Nancy Christin
Nicole Cleaveland
Matt Clouse
Anne Dilallo
Heather Feaster
Anthony David Freeman
Dave Gruntfest
Gerri Hanna
Jamie Harrell
Heidi Hartman
Josephine W. Hearn

David Hoffman
Julia Hunt
Benoit Jacqmotte
Padraic Keane
Mark Kennedy
Juanita Linero-Vilbmizar
Jean M. Maria
Judi Moss
Belinda Reutter
Laura Riccio
Matthew Rock
Adele (Elly) Roland
Thalia Roland
Henry Romberg III
Virginia Rosenberger
Nancy Roth
Bettye Samuels
Jim Samuels

Pam Sidel
Cressida Slotte
Dario Soto-Abril
Scott Stewart
Dorothy A. Stocks
Wenoka (Wendy) Thompson
Katherine Ullman
Curt Vonder Reith
Colette Wachtel
Anne Wallin
Leah Werchick
Josh White
Jennifer Wood
Allison Wymore
Noe Yamaguchi
Jon Zeidler

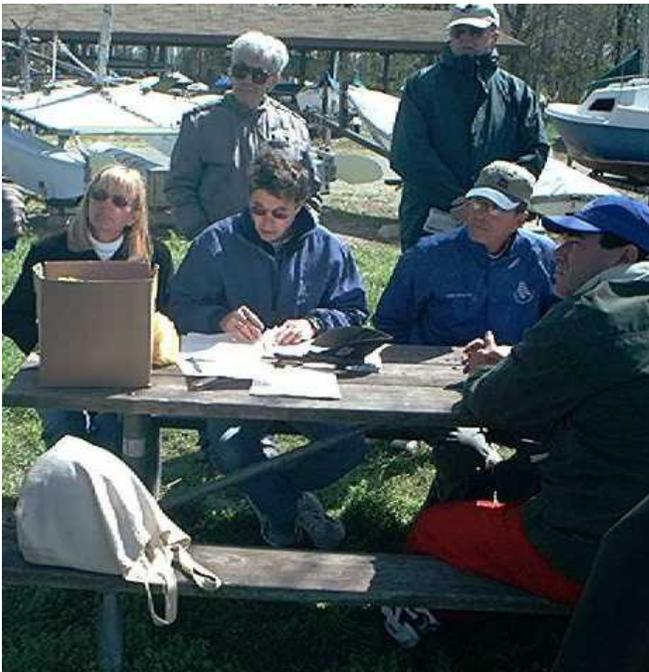


Photo Courtesy of G. Umberger

Train the Trainers Day 2003

The Little Theatre of Alexandria
Sharon Schoumacher

Season tickets to The Little Theatre of Alexandria will soon be available. A group from SCOW has been attending for many years and invite you to join us. In June, we will purchase a block of tickets for Thursday night performances in the upcoming series of shows.

The 2003-2004 season will begin in August with "The Music Man" and will include seven shows for only \$70.00. If you choose the six-show series, it begins in September with "Teahouse of the August Moon" and the price is just \$60.00. A full description of the season is available at www.thelittletheatre.com.

To be included in this theatre group, send your check, made out to SCOW, along with a stamped (two stamps, please), self-addressed envelope to: Sharon Schoumacher, 3800 N. Fairfax Drive, #1006, Arlington, VA 22203

If you have any questions, please contact me at sgschoumacher@aol.com

RECAP: How to Be Crew

Susan Batchelder

The SCOW Players (a.k.a. Melissa Ennis, Len Zuza, and Pat Derry) gave a vivid, humorous and timely performance at the April Membership Meeting of what does and does not make a good crew-person or skipper. We learned by demonstration - especially the "don'ts".

Foremost was communication - from the Skipper to the Crew and from the Crew to the Skipper. The SCOW Players emphasized that often simple terms and words have multiple meanings, so something like "wear comfortable shoes" must be specified if this is a "first sail together" and/or the crew is new to sailing.

Right behind communication is safety. Here, the emphasis falls particularly hard upon the crew to ensure that they know where the safety equipment is and how to use it, should the unthinkable happen and an emergency arises

and the skipper is out of commission (or overboard).

Number three might be mastering expectations. Again, each party comes to the sail with expectations in hand. Talking about them ahead of time is more likely to get everyone on the same page and make for a more copacetic sailing adventure.

Last, but not least, is common sense. We're all adults here and we should think and act like adults. Remember, we're guests on someone's boat and act in such a manner that we're likely to be invited back. Conversely, if you're a skipper, unless your last name really is "Bligh", don't act like that infamous Captain. Crew gossip gets around as quickly as skipper scuttlebutt and some skippers never can understand why they "just can't find good crew." Go figure.

Sunscreen: Eye Eye

Melissa Ennis

According to RealAge Tip of the Day, you can protect the rods and cones of your eyes from sun damage by eating corn and leafy greens such as romaine lettuce, collard greens, and spinach. They're packed with the nutrient zeaxanthin (hey, I don't make this stuff up) which previous research has linked to a reduced risk of the eye disease macular degeneration.

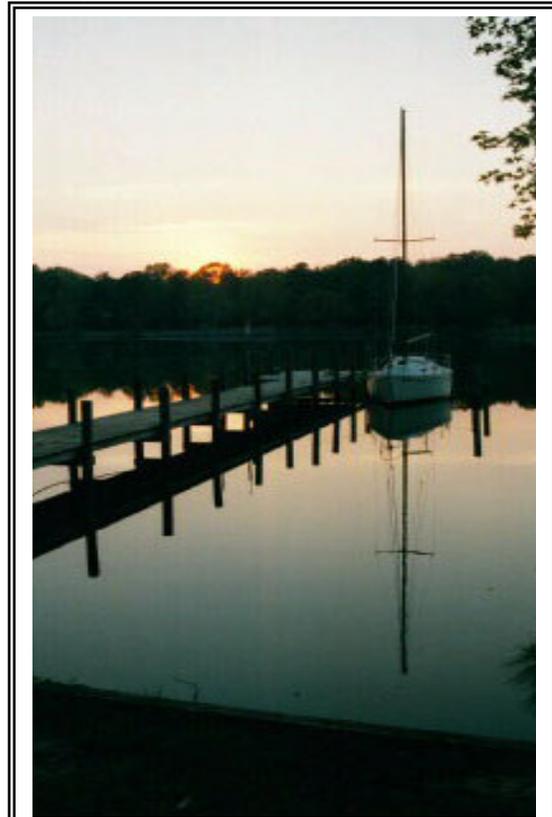
So maybe Popeye the Sailor Man was on to something...

BoatU.S. License Plates

Do you live in Virginia? Are you looking for a new way to show your love for boating?

BoatU.S., Boat Owners Association of the United States, can help you show your pride in boating by offering a special BoatU.S. license plate.

For more information, go to www.boatus.com/licenseplate, where you can download the special DMV application, or call 1-800-395-2628.



Courtesy of G. Umberger
Mike Geissinger's Euphoria

2003 Board of Directors

Position	Name	Home	Work	E-mail
Commodore	George Umberger	703.323.9358		commodore@scow.org
Vice Commodore	Susan Batchelder	703.519.9844	703.548.3700 x112	vice@scow.org
Secretary	Monika O'Connor	703.921.9262		secretary@scow.org
Treasurer	Graham Leadbetter	301.474.7270	703.325.4429	treasurer@scow.org
Training Director	Kris Bieg	703.486.2652	301.897.2671	training@scow.org
Maintenance Director	Tom Hannan	301.424.6296		maintenance@scow.org
Social Director	Rob Langford	703.383.1530	703.934.7015	social@scow.org
Skipper Director	Steve Linke	703.684.5266	703.604.7113	skipper@scow.org
River & Bay Director	Jeff Teitel	202.332.4160	202.271.1238	bay@scow.org
Racing Director	Kara Wald	703.824.1776	301.657.3077	race@scow.org
Other Key People				
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	Jay Weitzel	703.866.9190	703.205.3320	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 or visit <http://www.scow.org>

SCOW Bay Cruising Registration

Registration form **must be received** no less than eight (8) days prior to the start of the cruise. Mail to Hope Andruss, 1111 Army Navy Dr, #1129, Arlington, VA 22202, or 703-920-0186, or baycrew@scow.org

I am available to crew on the dates specified and would like to participate in the following SCOW-sponsored cruise

Cruise Name: _____ Cruise Dates: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Please check the response that applies:

Female Male

Sailing Experience:

I am a Novice sailor

I have Low experience

I have Moderate experience

I am an Experienced sailor

Sailing Experience Levels and Definitions

Novice:

- Never sailed or sailed very little (10 days or fewer) over the past five years, as either crew or passenger.
- Little or no knowledge of sailboat and sailing terminology and clothing and equipment required for weekend sails.

Low Experience:

- Sailed occasionally (10-30 days) over the past five years, either as crew or passenger.
- Knowledge of proper clothing, personal items provisioning, and cooking required for day and weekend sails during the spring, summer, and fall.
- Reasonable knowledge of sailing terminology; boat safety procedures; line handling during rafting, docking and anchoring; tying of bowline, figure eight, and clove hitch; and cleating a line.
- Knowledge of basic navigation, man-overboard procedures, raising and lowering sails, sail trim, and steering.

Moderate Experience:

- Low experience knowledge, plus:
- Sailed between 20 and 100 days over the past five years as crew.
- Good knowledge of sailboat and sailing terminology; boat safety procedures; radio use; line handling during rafting, docking and anchoring; tying of required knots and hitches with speed and ease.
- Can assist skipper in all aspects of running boat, can steer under power or sail, raise and lower sails, and trim sails with some confidence and little supervision.
- Can navigate and keep DR plot and estimate location without assistance.
- Know the rules of the road.
- Know heavy weather sailing procedures, including reefing.

Experienced:

- Moderate experience knowledge, plus:
- Sailed more than 50 days over the past five years as crew or skipper. Able to handle all aspects of sailing with confidence and without supervision.
- Can handle boat under sail or power in tight areas, and dock or raft.
- Can ably manage or instruct in raising and lowering sails, trimming sails, docking, rafting, and anchoring.
- Can navigate well, properly keep DR plot and estimate location, and able to solve more complex navigation problems.
- Understand the effect of tides, currents, and weather.
- Ability to use electronic navigation instruments.
- Ability to run inboard and outboard gasoline and diesel engines, diagnose problems, and make simple repairs.
- Good knowledge of boat mechanical and electrical systems.
- Ability, with confidence, to manage crew in role of skipper, or single hand.