
ChaNNels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington

November, 2001

**Hail and Farewell
Saturday, November 17, 2001
Fort Meyer Officers Club**

**Holiday Raftup
Sunday, December 16
The Colonies**

November Membership Meeting

Our November Membership Meeting will be held on Monday, November 12th, at the American Legion, 400 Cameron Street, Old Town Alexandria (around the corner from Gadsby's Tavern), with socializing beginning at 6:30 pm and the meeting itself beginning at 7:30 pm. As required by our by-laws, this will be the official Annual Membership Meeting of the organization, held for the purpose of electing officers and conducting any other formal club business. Ballots have been mailed out and if you did not return yours by mail you can bring it to the meeting. Under the by-laws, the polls close at 8:00 pm on the evening of the annual meeting, so ballots turned in after that time will not be counted. Ballots will be counted while we are meeting. While we anxiously await the election results, we will have our traditional November "open forum" at which all members can comment on what they feel is right about the club or make constructive suggestions for change. So, if you'd like to say "Thanks!" to someone for a job well done, or make a suggestion for improvements in the club program, be sure to attend.

Also, SCOW does NOT have a monthly meeting in December. So, if you go to the American Legion on the second Monday of December, you will NOT see the smiling faces of your fellow club members; and if you are not a member of the American Legion, you won't get in the door. SCOW's regular monthly meetings will resume at the American Legion on Monday, January 14, 2002.

Commodore's Log

Last month I told you about some members whose contributions over the years made SCOW the great club it is today. This month, I want to tell you about the work of some volunteers this past year. These are members who have "behind the scenes" jobs -- some jobs with official titles and

some more informal -- who contribute greatly to the club but rarely get any recognition. You may not even know that some of these jobs exist, much less the people who do them. So, let me introduce them to you.

Larry Gemoets is the Editor-in-Chief and Kelly Griffin is the Layout Editor for ChaNNels. Each month, they take articles from a lot of people, work some magic on them, and miraculously make them reappear in a coherent form as the electronic or paper copy of ChaNNels you enjoy every month. Declan Conroy then posts each edition of ChaNNels to our web page.

Kim Webb is our Database Coordinator. This is a very important job. She is responsible for maintaining the electronic database of all our membership records based on the information you put on your membership forms. From that database, she also prints out the labels used for mailings and generates the annual membership renewal forms.

Until early spring, Bev Ashcraft served as our New Member Coordinator; she then turned that job over to Dale Eager. The New Member Coordinator greets new members and answers questions about the club. Dale also served this year as our liaison to the Leukemia Society for the Leukemia Cup Regatta.

Jeff Teitel maintains our email system. He adds and deletes names from the email lists, screens out the inevitable ads that spammers try to send us and generally makes sure that this vital communications link is working all the time. Thom Unger has helped this year to update the SCOW web page that Mike Geissinger designed last year. Thom also organized our booth at the Alexandria Waterfront festival as he has done for several years now.

For quite some time, Bob Bruening has maintained our phone system. If you call 202/628-SAIL, you'll hear Bob in his long-running role as "The Voice of SCOW." While our web page is now our major face to the world, we still get calls from folks who have not joined us on the information highway. Bob updates the announcements and makes sure that the phone messages are checked and forwarded to the correct officers.

Ben Lesser and Erica Vey served as our Social Sail Coordinators this year. They were responsible for begging, pleading and threatening until you volunteered to host a Social Sail or to be a Dockmaster. And, when not enough of you stepped forward, they pitched in themselves. They did a great job -- we had an excellent Social Sail season.

Under the bylaws, there are also standing committees in the club and I especially want to focus on two. The first is the Training and Skipper Certification Committee. Barby Ullman has chaired this committee for several years and members this year have been Mike Geissinger, Dan McClafferty, Jeff Teitel and Liz Bruening, along with Skipper Coordinator Joan O'Kane and Training Director Judi Campbell. The members of this committee have experience as trainers and several have been Training Directors. The committee ensures continuity in the quality and content of our training from year to year, since Board membership and trainers change. They also write and revise the training materials. This year, the committee completed a major revision of the curriculum for the cruising boat class, with substantial help from Don Deese, Declan Conroy, Thom Unger, Joe DePoorter and Stuart Ullman.

The second is the Boat Asset Committee which monitors the condition of our boats and makes recommendations to the Board for upgrades or replacements. Stuart Ullman is the chair, and the members are Thom Unger, Jeff Teitel, Monica Maynard, Stu Robinson, Sergey Tagashov and me. The members of this committee have experience as boat owners and/or in maintaining SCOW's boats. The Board recently asked the Committee to review the condition of Psycho and make recommendations for repairing or replacing the boat. That review is ongoing as this edition of ChaNNels goes to print and the results will be announced to the entire membership. Under the bylaws, the club maintains a special "Boat Asset Fund" and seven percent of the total income of the club must be put into that fund each year. At the end of this year, we project the balance will be slightly over \$14,000. Under the bylaws, the Boat Asset Committee makes recommendations to the Board regarding upgrading or replacing boats. The Board can then approve use of Boat Asset funds to buy new boats or to make capital improvements to existing boats.

Many of the people I've listed above have volunteered their time in other areas of the club as well. As you can see, it takes the efforts of many more people than just the Board of Directors to make this club run. Join me in saying "Thanks" to these members for volunteering their time and for working so hard for you all year.

Fair Winds and Following Seas!

Holiday Raft-Up

The annual SCOW Holiday Raft-up will be Sunday, December 16th from 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Colonies Condominium clubhouse in McLean. Attire is "Holiday Festive Casual". Families and friends are welcome.

Admission is a dish for the holiday potluck or \$10.00 per person. Please let the coordinator, Susan Batchelder (703-519-9844), know in advance whether you will be bringing a potluck dish or paying at the door. Potluck dishes should feed approximately 6-8 people. We will need: desserts, salads, casseroles, hors d'oeuvres, and bread/rolls. SCOW will provide the drinks (including non-alcoholic). I'll also be looking for help with set-up and clean-up.

Directions to the Colonies: From the Capital Beltway (I-495), take the exit for route 123 North (towards McLean). At the first light, turn right onto Old Meadow Road. Go approximately ¼ mile and the entrance to the Colonies will be on your left. Tell the Guard you are attending the SCOW party. The Clubhouse is the first building on the left after the guardhouse. You may park in any space that is not marked "Reserved."

Looking forward to seeing lots of holiday faces at this annual gathering!

Skipper Coordinator
Joan O'Kane

New Skippers

Congratulations to Kathy Murhpy, our newest Cruising Boat skipper! Kathy volunteered to

skipper Psycho during the October River Cruise just two weeks after obtaining her skipper privileges. She is exactly the kind of skipper SCOW needs!

New Cruising Boat Test

For those of you interested in becoming Cruising Boat skippers, the Training Committee has updated and revised the Cruising Boat test. Please email me at skipper@scow.org if you would like to receive either the revised test or the full cruising boat test packet.

**River
Jon Allen**

We rescheduled the river cruise on Sunday, Oct. 14th. Unfortunately, it was rather rough with winds in excess of 20 knots. There was a limited sail for about 2 hours with reefed sails. This was really the only cancellation this year due to weather.

I would like to thank all the skippers that participated in the river cruises and raft-ups:

Graham Leadbetter
Dale Eager
Bill Bernhards
Jay Weitzel
Henry Yung
George Umberger
Kathy Murphy
Stu Robinson

Looking forward to more fun next year!

**Racing News
Bill Bernhards**

With the cold weather setting in and the racing season over, there is little to do but wait and plan for next year's racing season. What?! Plan NOW?? Yup, a lot of people new to racing have their first year in and if you, or they, want to have a chance to skipper one of SCOW's big boats next season, start planning now.

To be included in the SCOW Skipper lottery that is held every spring, you must first be a cruising boat skipper in good standing, and pass the written racing test. For more info on this process, e-mail me at race@scow.org. Take the test as soon as possible; don't wait until the last minute!

If you want to crew for some big boats on the Chesapeake Bay, begin working on a racing resume now. If you submit a short resume of your racing/sailing skills to Spinsheet Magazine, they will add your name to their crew list. This is usually done in early spring. Go to www.spinsheet.com and click on "crew listings" to get the full story.

If racing the Flying Scots is your passion, get your crew together for the Spring Tune Up Regatta. This will take place in mid April of 2002. We hope to involve other local racing clubs next year to make small boat racing more exciting. And it's never too late to begin planning for next year's Leukemia Cup.

So start planning NOW for a quick start next year!

Cruising Boat Maintenance Alert

We try to keep our boats available year-round, but especially during prime sailing season -- that is when most of you want to sail them yourselves and that is when the club's training, social sails and racing events occur. So, maintenance projects that would take boats out of service in the spring, summer or fall are routinely delayed until the "off-season," that is, the period from late November until March. Of course, our work is done by volunteers and winter is not the most pleasant time to be working outdoors on boats, so some projects get delayed further -- and many get put off year after year. That is the case with both of our cruising boats. The 2001 Board decided that we have to address a number of maintenance issues this off-season on both cruising boats to ensure that these valuable assets will continue to serve us into the future.

When Rebecca was hauled last spring, we discovered that her hull had blisters, meaning that water has gotten into the fiberglass. This is a common problem with fiberglass hulls and can be repaired. But, it means that we will have to take Rebecca out of the water late this fall, open up the blisters by either "bead-blasting" or grinding the hull, then leave the boat out of the water all winter so the fiberglass dries fully. In spring, we will reglass those holes, and prime and repaint the entire bottom. There are some other projects on Rebecca that also need to be done while she is out of the water. This means, though, that Rebecca will be out of service from mid-November until early next spring.

For some time Psycho also has needed several critical repairs, including a badly leaking toe rail. The Boat Asset Committee is currently assessing the work that must be done and how best to accomplish it. However, it is possible that Psycho will be removed from service for periods over the winter at the same time Rebecca is unavailable.

We wanted to give all club members, and especially cruising boat skippers, advance notice that Rebecca will be out of service all winter and that Psycho also may be out of service for one or more periods over the winter. The repairs to these boats cannot be delayed any longer and doing the work over the winter is better than taking either boat out of service during next year's sailing season. We will be looking for volunteers to help with all of these projects. If you'd like to see the boats back in service sooner, please lend your hands to help get the work done faster.

Parade of Lights

The annual Parade of Lights -- the parade of decorated and illuminated sail and power boats -- will be on Saturday, December 8th. The parade will be led by the former Presidential yacht, the Sequoia, and there are prizes for various categories. At 3:30, there will be a captain and crew

reception at the Old Dominion Boat Club, which is at the foot of King Street in Old Town.

>From 5 pm - 6 pm the parade will go past the Alexandria Waterfront and then proceed upriver to the Washington Channel, where they will parade for another hour. Then there will be a closing reception on the "Celebrity" which is docked at the Capitol Yacht Club. If you would like more information, or would like to participate in your own boat, you should call Lorraine LLOYD, Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association, 703/838-4200 x209 or email Lorraine at lloyd@funsided.com.

SCOW Says Thanks!

SCOW says "Thanks!" to: Sergey Tagashov, for delivering Part II of his incredibly researched presentation on the Russian Maritime Tradition at our October meeting; to Patty Epler, for providing an LCD projector at the last minute to make Sergey's talk possible; to Stu Robinson for wiring the alternator on Rebecca; to Ben Lesser and Erica Vey, who organized the wonderful season of social sails that has just ended; to the members who turned out on our Fall Maintenance Day to clean and polish the boats; to the Nominating Committee, for their hard work in presenting an outstanding slate of candidates for the 2002 Board; to the candidates who answered the call and volunteered to run for office; and to the members who declined to run for office but said they would help in other areas next year (yes, we've carefully recorded your names and numbers and the 2002 Board soon will be in touch with you!).

A SCOW Financial Primer

Unlike the pirates of old, SCOW does not have a buried stash of plundered booty to fund its activities and maintain its fleet. Here is a primer on SCOW finances. Our income comes from three main sources: (1) thirty-five percent of our income is member dues -- the annual charge of \$40 that you pay to belong; (2) thirty percent is from the annual skipper fees paid by checked-out skippers to use the Flying Scots and/or cruising boats; and, (3) twenty percent is from the fees charged for training. The remaining fifteen percent comes from various sources, such as interest income, and payments for social events. With social events, however, the "income" from fees for those events is normally reflected by an off-setting expense line for the cost of the event itself. We budget social events to be self-supporting. The club does not subsidize them and does not make a profit from them.

So, how do we spend your money? Well, keeping our five boats in operation -- insurance, slip fees to keep the boats at the marina and routine maintenance -- consumes about half of our annual income. That is appropriate, since these boats are the primary focus of so much of our club program -- training, social sails, racing and individual member use. In addition, the bylaws require SCOW to put seven percent of its annual income into the Boat Asset Fund, which is used to purchase new boats and to fund capital improvements (such as new sails or engines) for our existing fleet. So, the combined costs of operating our fleet and the Boat Asset fund contribution takes nearly sixty percent of our annual income. The next largest expense in the club is Communications -- postage and printing for ChaNNels and the member directory, the cost of our meeting room, member mailings and other similar costs. This consumes twenty percent of our income. The remaining twenty percent goes for the rest of the club's programs, including training, skipper checkout costs, social (offset by fees as discussed above), river and racing, as well as miscellaneous expenses.

SCOW is the best bargain in town. For a basic membership of \$40 per year, you enjoy a year-round program of sailing and social events. Even if you don't know how to sail yourself, our program offers you plenty of chances to get out on the water on our boats. A member who becomes a checked-out skipper pays an additional skipper fee of \$80 for the Flying Scots, \$110 for the cruising boats, or \$140 for all boats, and can use the boats for an entire year without spending another dime. A boat owner probably spends more in one weekend maintaining his or her boat than a year of sailing costs you in SCOW.

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 us at: www.scow.org

Write us: info@scow.org

Call: 202.628.7245 (That's 628.SAIL)

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 it's assigned place.

Submit articles to

channels@scow.org

within one week after the monthly meeting.

Kelly E. Griffin, Layout Editor (the hard part)

Declan Conroy, Web Publisher

Kim Webb, Labels

Larry Gemoets, Chief Go'fer

(I dress up the electronic edition too)

That's all, folks.....