

ChaNNels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington

November 2002

Commodore's Log

The time for sailing has past, but the time to party is upon us!

That's right - November is the month where we hail, farewell, dance and generally have a good time. Saturday, November 16 is the date of the 2002 SCOW Hail and Farewell. And if you're reading this and you haven't made your reservation, you'd better get cracking. Last year, this event sold out.

Once again, Betsy Troeder and crew have put together a fabulous event! The menu looks fantastic - where else do you have a choice of filet mignon or flounder stuffed with crab and sauteed in capers? Plus pecan pie for dessert! We'll also have a DJ spinning tunes all night long, and lots of mixing and mingling.

And yes, I WILL wear the hat! This is your one and only chance to see me in the "official" SCOW Commodore's hat that Jay Weitzel bestowed on the future Commodores of the club last year. Even better, you'll get to see next year's Commodore wear it too. You won't want to miss that!

In addition, we'll be having a silent auction. Rob Langford is chairing it with the help of Melissa Ennis. You'll have a chance to bid for all kinds of nautical goodies! And if you have something to donate - a good or a service - we can use your help. Be creative - maybe donate a moonlight cruise on your boat. Don't have a boat? Maybe you can donate some time to work on someone's boat. Or fix a gourmet meal. Or just about anything. Last year, we had everything from vintage Girl Scout uniforms to condos in Greece to some of Mike Geissinger's sailing photos (which adorn my office wall as I write this). Your donation will help the club, both in defraying costs for this fine event and for raising funds for other things.

Also, the November meeting is SCOW's Annual Meeting. Elections will be held (ballots should be in your hands shortly if they're not already), and it'll be our chance to talk as a club about what went right this year and what we can do better next year. I hope you'll come and give your input. This is your chance to have a hand in running the club.

For those of you who are still doing a little frostbite sailing, fair winds! And for the rest of you, I hope your autumn is going well!

Annual Meeting of Members

Monday, November 11

The November Membership Meeting will be held on Monday, November 11th, 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 conduct the meeting. Because of the voting, we will not have a speaker program. Instead, the evening has traditionally been used as a

forum for members to make suggestions or comments for the good of the club. These comments can give the new board great program ideas for the following year, so please come prepared not only with your ballots but also with your ideas to improve the club!

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 won't see the familiar 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 13, 2003.

And the Nominees Are...

Joan O'Kane

Thanks to everyone for all of their great candidate suggestions for the 2003 board! The Nominating Committee worked very hard to come up with what we think is a great slate of candidates.

The candidates and the offices for which they have agreed to stand are:

George Umberger, Commodore
Susan Batchelder, Vice Commodore
Monika O'Connor, Secretary
Graham Leadbetter, Treasurer
Kris Bieg, Director
Tom Hannan, Director
Rob Langford, Director
Steve Linke, Director
Jeff Teitel, Director
Kara Wald, Director

Ballots have been sent by mail to all SCOW members. If you haven't received yours yet, please email me at okanejm@yahoo.com or call me at 703-379-9869. Be sure to mail it back to me in the pre-addressed envelope. Remember Monday, November 11 is a federal holiday with no mail delivery, so make sure you mail it soon! Alternatively, you can return it in person at the Annual Meeting before the polls close at 8:00 p.m.

Thanks again to my fellow committee members - Mary Bashore, Susan Batchelder, Dale Eager, Larry Gemoets, and Jay Weitzel!

Social No-Sails

We've had a few weeks delay while scouting locations, but the SCOW social-ites have decided on the Crystal City Sports Pub as the site of our Social No-Sails. Every Thursday evening from now until Social Sail resumes in the spring, SCOW members will gather to eat, drink and be merry - especially about sailing. No-Sailors usually begin gathering around 6:30 p.m unless otherwise notified.

The Crystal City Sports Pub is located at 529 S. 23rd Street in Arlington, VA (in Crystal City, as you probably guessed). It has parking available and is also convenient to Metro. Information on directions and parking is available at <http://www.crystalcitysportspub.com> or you can call them at 703-521-8215.

Hope to see you there!

Last Call: Hail & Farewell **Saturday, November 16th**

Just a reminder to make your reservation NOW for the 2002 Hail and Farewell, SCOW's annual awards dinner and dance. **Tickets are going fast and walk-ups are NOT ALLOWED!**

When: Saturday, November 16, 2002
Time: 7pm - Midnight

Where: Ft. Myer Officers Club, Adams and Chaffee Room
Choice of Entree (with pecan pie for dessert):
Filet Mignon
Atlantic Flounder stuffed with Deviled Maryland Crab served with lemon capers
Vegetarian Meal
Cost: \$42 per person
Attire: Favorite khakis or skirt, tuxedo or gown!

RSVP no later than November 11th to:
Betsy Troeder
3423 S. Wakefield Street
Arlington, VA 22206

BE SURE TO INDICATE WHICH ENTRE YOU (and your guest) WOULD LIKE FOR DINNER AND INCLUDE
A CHECK PAYABLE TO SCOW FOR \$42 PER PERSON

Directions to the Hail and Farewell at Fort Myer in Arlington, Virginia:

Traveling South on I-495 towards Virginia:

Exit at Arlington Blvd./Route 50 going east towards Arlington (Exit 8 East).
Continue on Route 50 for several miles.
Finally you will see a sign that says "N. Rhodes Street/N. Rolfe Street/N. Queen Street".
Bear right to take that exit off of Route 50 and go straight for a few blocks.
At the stop sign, make a right onto N. Meade Street.
At the end of N. Meade St, make a right onto Marshall Drive and enter the base at the Wright Gate.
Ask the Gate Sentry for directions to the Officer's Club.

Traveling East on 1-66:

Proceed until you pass the Key Bridge exit.
Shortly thereafter you will go through a well-lighted tunnel for approximately 500 feet.
After the tunnel bear right and take the next exit Pentagon/Hwy 110.
Once on Hwy 110 make the first right exit, Marshall Drive (approximately 1000 ft.).
Be cautious: it comes up quickly and it is sharp!
Follow Marshall Drive up the hill (approximately 750 feet) to the Wright Gate of Ft. Myer.
Ask the Gate Sentry for directions to the Officer's Club.

NOTE: Everyone in the vehicle will be required to show a current government-issued form of identification (such as a drivers license, passport, or the like). Also be prepared to show the vehicle registration.

If you have any questions, please contact Betsy Troeder at secretary@scow.org or call her at 703-933-1638..

Holiday Raft-Up
Sunday, December 1

The annual SCOW Holiday Raft-up is Sunday, December 1st from 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the Colonies Condominium clubhouse in McLean (Provincial Drive, off Old Meadow Road, off Route 123 - just inside the Beltway.).

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 are bringing a dish or paying at the door.

Potluck dishes should feed approximately 6-8 people. We need: desserts, salads, casseroles, hors d'oeuvres, and bread/rolls. SCOW will provide the drinks (including non-alcoholic). We also need help with set-up and clean-up (Set-up: 4-5 p.m.).

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 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! Please! Remember to RSVP (703-519-9844) and let Susan know what you are bringing or if you're going to pay at the door.

Help Wanted: Channels Layout Editor

Joan O'Kane

It is with great regret that we announce the resignation of Kelly Griffin as the Layout Editor of Channels. Although many of you may not have met Kelly, she has made a tremendous behind-the-scenes contribution to the club every month for the past three years. If you receive the paper version of Channels, you are the direct beneficiary of Kelly's skill and professionalism. But after three years, she would like to help the club in other ways. And hopefully get to attend more SCOW events!

While she will be a hard act to follow, we do need a replacement. If you like to edit and desktop publish, have good attention to detail, and can spend 1 to 2 hours per month editing and laying out the paper version of Channels, you may be the person we need. It would also be helpful to have a paid email account (i.e. not freebies like Hotmail, Yahoo, etc.), because the free services don't handle large files well. The paper version of Channels is produced in Microsoft Word and there is a template available that already has the headers, footers, and logos in it.

According to Kelly, it's not a difficult job and it's a great way to make a contribution to the club!

If you're interested or have any questions, please contact me at channels@scow.org. I'll be staying on as the Editor next year.

Racing News

Bill Bernhards

It's hard to believe the racing season is over for this year. It was a fun time learning, watching, and participating in all things racing that took place this year. Stu Robinson began our season with a basic racing seminar in March, followed by a clinic on sail trim by Tucker Thompson in April. We kicked-off racing on the water with SCOW's second annual Spring Tune-Up, with all of our big boats and Flying Scots participating.

On April 23, the big boat racing started and continued for 24 consecutive Tuesdays until October 1. Although we had only six racing skippers this year (I hope more come out next year), the club did see many SCOW members get some experience at this highly competitive level.

Our Flying Scots began racing on May 5 and went until September 10 for a total of 19 race nights. The many Scot skippers who came down every week made this program successful, and helped others learn to race and sail too. Special thanks go to Phil Bender, Tom Flesher, Rob Langford, Tom Holmes and Kara Wald who contributed to and raced on many of these nights.

It was great to see dozens of SCOW members take part in the Leukemia Cup on September 7. George Umberger and the Five Skippers led the way in helping SCOW raise a

significant part of the \$115,000 contributed to this cause. The event continues to grow and should be even better next year.

While all of this was going on, more and more of our members have found their way into the Chesapeake Bay racing scene. At the Solomons, Screwpile, and Oxford races this year, I met and raced with many more SCOW members than ever before.

While the cold weather sets in, I want to thank all of you who helped make this year a fun and exciting season of racing.

River & Bay Activities

Jon Allen

This year's planned River & Bay activities are over for the season, but you can still sail on your own. Here in Washington, we often get unseasonably warm days when you'll find some hardy SCOW member down at the marina because he or she just can't wait for spring in order to sail again - even in December and January. Just wear the right clothes and keep thinking warm thoughts! And look forward to the December issue of Channels when Allan Lewis will give us a recap of the Fowl Weather Raft-Up.

SCOW Says Congratulations!

...to the counting-impaired "Five Skippers Crew". In case you missed it, SCOW's own Five Skippers (Declan Conroy, Patrick Derry, Mike Geissinger, Tom Hannan, Dan McClafferty and George Umberger) were named "Team of the Week" in the Washington Post's Sunday, October 20, 2002 edition. The write-up mentioned their Leukemia Cup victory, their sailing & brewing exploits, and even SCOW. Way to go, guys!

SCOW Says Thanks!

...to everyone who came down to the marina and helped out at our Fall Maintenance Day on Saturday, October 19. Many hands made light work as we got our Flying Scots and cruising boats ready for the cold winter months. As always, SCOW relies entirely on volunteers and we couldn't have done it without you!

We've Signed On for Another Big Year with BoatU.S.!

Larry Gemoets

I have just renewed our BoatU.S. Cooperating Group Program for another year. Because of this special arrangement, you get 50% off when you join the nation's largest association of recreational boat owners. You pay half of the regular BoatU.S. dues of \$19 dollars. That's only \$9.50 a year.

If you are already a BoatU.S. Member, you can renew your membership at the low \$9.50 rate.

BoatU.S. Membership benefits include:

**An effective lobby that fights unfair taxes, fees, and government regulations that single out boat owners.

**A 700 page Discount Equipment catalog, plus special discounts and Member Rewards with purchases.

**Discounts on fuel, overnight slips or repairs at more than 600 marinas.

**Low cost, high protection boat insurance, including special programs for trailerable boats and PWC's.

**On the water towing, with your choice of service levels- from \$50 per incident (free to members) up to unlimited service- provided by the nation's largest towing network, TowBoatU.S.

**BOAT/U.S. Magazine

If you have any questions about Boat US membership, contact me (larry.g@comcast.net). When renewing membership this year, be sure to mention Co-op group #GA80156S to get the special \$9.50 rate. You can join or renew online painlessly, but if you want to use paper, I'll get you an application.

Joining for the first time? Mention my name and member number: Larry Gemoets, 838682

Historic Harbors Host Holiday Boat Parade of Lights Weekend **Saturday, December 7 & Sunday, December 8**

Donations for Toys for Tots Encouraged

The historic Potomac River lights up when the Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association, the Georgetown Bid, and the Southwest Waterfront Association jointly host the Washington area's first Holiday Boat Parade of Lights Weekend.

More than 50 brightly lit boats will stretch two miles along the Potomac River for the colorful parades. Events begin Saturday afternoon, December 7, 3:00 p.m., at Alexandria's waterfront and culminate Sunday evening, December 8, at Washington Harbour in Georgetown. There will be collection boxes for Toys for Tots at each location.

Alexandria's Saturday waterfront events begin at 3:00 p.m. with family activities at the marina behind the Torpedo Factory Art Center. The Torpedo Factory will host holiday music and refreshments inside the festively decorated art center. The parade begins at 5:00 p.m. and follows a route that will take it to Washington Channel by 7:00 p.m. Georgetown celebrates its annual Harbour Festival on Sunday afternoon prior to the Georgetown boat parade at 5:00 p.m.

Georgetown's Sunday festivities kick off with a Winterfest celebration at Washington Harbour, located at 3000 K Street, NW. Refreshments, caroling, a visit from Santa and other family activities will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the docks of the harbour, followed by viewing of the Holiday Boat Parade of Lights beginning at 5:00 p.m.

The ACVA is coordinating boat participation and representatives appointed by each of the three hosting organizations will judge their corresponding local parade. Participating businesses will offer prizes for winning light displays. Interested boaters can contact Lorraine Lloyd at 703-838-4200, ext. 209 or email Llloyd@funside.com for details.

The weekend calendar is as follows:

Saturday, December 7 -

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Entertainment & refreshments at Alexandria Marina & Torpedo Factory Art Center

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights at Alexandria Marina

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Washington Channel Holiday Boat Parade of Lights at Maine Avenue

Sunday, December 8 -

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Winterfest refreshments, caroling and family activities at Washington Harbour

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Georgetown Holiday Boat Parade of Lights at Washington Harbour

The Sailor's Bookshelf

Joan O'Kane

As you can see from the other articles in Channels, SCOW is already thinking ahead to the holidays. So have you started your gift shopping yet? If you're wondering what to

get the "old salts" on your list, here are just a few ideas I found while surfing the web. (These are suggestions only and are not intended to be recommendations or endorsements.)

Books:

Kitchen Afloat: Galley Management and Meal Preparation by Joy Smith - sounds perfect for the cooking sailor!

The Oceans are Waiting: Around the World on the Yacht Tigger by Sharon Reagle - a woman finds a new chance at love and at life because of her dream of a circumnavigation. Well, it has to be better than "Message in a Bottle"! And it's a true story.

Sailing Around the World: A Family Retraces Joshua Slocum's Voyage by Guy Bernardin (translated by Jeremy McGeary) - how come my dad never took our family on trips like this?? It would certainly give new meaning to the question "Are we there yet?!"

All of these books are available from Amazon.com or you can check your bookseller of choice.

Subscriptions:

Blue Water Sailing - the magazine of cruising and offshore sailing. We may not ever get to do it, but we can certainly read about it. Check out the web site at <http://www.bwsailing.com/>.

Good Old Boat - a magazine celebrating pride of ownership in older model sailboats. Maybe we should get this one for the new maintenance director! Information is available at <http://www.goodoldboat.com/>.

Small Craft Advisor - a magazine for the small-boat sailor. A friend gave me a subscription to this last year and I've really enjoyed it. Read all about it at <http://www.smallcraftadvisor.com/>

2002 Board of Directors

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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.

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 its assigned place.

Submit articles to
channels@scow.org

within one week **after** the monthly membership meeting.

Joan O'Kane, Editor
Kelly E. Griffin, Layout Editor
Declan Conroy, Web Publisher
Betsy Troeder, Mailing Labels
That's all folks...