

Chanels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington
November 2003

Commodore's Log

I am experiencing withdrawal symptoms. For the first time in several years, and in particular during the year of my SCOW Commodoreship, I was unable to attend the Annapolis Sailboat Show in mid-October. Unable to inspect big boats and small boats, learn more about sailboat design and efficiency, search around for novel tools and appliances, try on assorted sailing apparel, kibitz with sailors young and old to live vicariously through their adventures and even mishaps, and to even make a few small purchases. But there will no doubt be many opportunities ahead to return and even to explore other shows at more distant ports. For those of you who did attend, please share your experiences and show me your

new gear that I may whet my appetite for the future. Even consider submitting a write-up to channels@scow.org for publication in the winter months so that we all may learn.

We have had several larger purchases and additions among our ranks this year with new captains adding to our SCOW fleets. Barry Dunmoor's new (to him) vessel on the bay and Thom Unger's "Baggywrinkle", which was featured and pictured in a recent "Sailing" magazine article; Dorothy Stock's aptly named "A-Dory-Ble" and Jack Weaver's "Valhalla" on the River. We continue to find new ways to pour big money into a small hole in the water, don't we? If there are others, please bring us up-to-date so that other SCOW crew may

(Continued on Page 2)

November Membership Meeting
Monday, November 10

Official Annual Membership Meeting

The November Membership Meeting will be held on Monday, November 10th, 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. 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!

Just a reminder - 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 12, 2004. See you then!

(Continued from Page 1)

be aware when maintenance or, better yet, sailing duties present themselves. Fair sailing, new captains. We'll look forward to joining you on the water in the months ahead.

And speaking of the months ahead, have you submitted your reservation and check to Director Rob to hold your place at the upcoming "Hail and Farewell" banquet to be held at Fort Myer on November 15? If not, please do so soon. Rob and crew promise to have an entertaining and lively experience for us with fine dining, dancing, awards, a sea story or two, an auction for sailing items you just must have, scrapbooks of the past two years' events, a couple surprises, and best of all, the opportunity to relax and unwind ashore with your fellow sailing comrades.

Director John's Fall Maintenance Day and pizza fest proceeded under fair skies with a helpful band of mates working hard to keep your fleet in fine condition. Thanks to John and crew for their tireless efforts (more about this elsewhere in this edition).

And thanks to our stars that SCOW boats and members' boats all seemed to weather the recent travails of Hurricane Isabel fairly well. It could have been worse, and we are all glad that is wasn't. Preparation paid off. On the eve of Isabel's arrival, while at the Marina to make a final check on the SCOW fleet and my boat "Tamarisk", I was briefly interviewed by a newspaper reporter checking on the local scene. The outcome was that SCOW made the news, in an article featuring President Bush and the King of Jordan no less, in the Sacramento Bee. Please let us know if we start to get an influx of membership applications from California, Madam Secretary.

We are now over 400 strong, the highest membership of which I am aware in recent years. That puts us in fine stead to undertake a worthwhile and appetizing task that I propose for the coming months, particularly when we can't be out there sailing. All members may participate. The quest for the perfect crabcake was proposed to me several years ago by Director Tom. It can be a waistline enhancing and cholesterol inducing experience, but nevertheless quite enjoyable. I solicit your nominations, and even recipes, as you come upon them. Skippers from ports afar (Miami, Boston, Atlanta, the west coast, etc.) are even invited to participate. Submit your recommendations to channels@scow.org so that we all may share. Fair winds,

Commodore George

Social No-Sails

As ChaNNels goes to press, Social Director Rob Langford is scouting locations for the Thursday Night Social No-Sails. For those of you who may be new members, Social No-Sails are a way to stay in touch with SCOW friends and talk about sailing during the cold winter months. On Thursday nights when we would normally have Social Sail, we meet at a local restaurant for drinks, munchies (dinner if you feel like it), and socializing.

Prior years' locations have included Crystal City Sports Pub, Chadwick's in Old Town and Clyde's at Mark Center. The restaurant should be located in the Washington DC Metropolitan area, preferably near water or with a nautical theme. Parking availability is a plus and convenience to Metro would be a bonus.

If you have any suggestions, please email Rob at social@scow.org.

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

Monika O'Connor, Mailing Lists

And the Nominees Are...
Bill Bernhards

Thanks to everyone for all of their great candidate suggestions for the 2004 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:

Len Zuza, Commodore
Jay Weitzel, Vice Commodore
Marie Rutledge, Secretary
Dorothy Stocks, Treasurer

Gerri Hanna, Director
Jan Earle, Director
John Roland, Director
Evie Banda, Director
Genie Williford, Director
Karyl Owings, Director

Ballots have been sent by mail to all SCOW members. If you haven't received yours yet, please email me at billb53@hotmail.com or call me at 301-937-4843 ext. 113. Be sure to mail it back to me in the pre-addressed envelope. 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, Donna Cohen and Matt Gaston!



Maintenance News
John Roland

Fall Maintenance Day on Saturday October 18 was a great success. In all 20 people showed up to repair and clean up boats, lockers, gear and eat pizza.

Cathy Zeigler repaired the door to the sail locker and straightened the mess inside. George Umberger cleared the old motors out of the maintenance locker and checked on our progress. Declan Conroy more or less rebuilt Susie-Q and her trailer. Bill Bernhards got Rebecca back in shape. Bob Lucas, Joe Depoorter and Thom Unger pitched in to get Psycho cleaned up. Special thanks to Thom who came to meet with George about Psycho's toe rail and ended up climbing her mast to replace the steaming light (we have the pictures to prove it). Paul Cuddihy, Gene Jacob, Jim Metcalf,

Dorothy Stocks, Melissa Ennis, David Richter, Nancy Christin, Kathy Reilly and David Razon helped out wherever possible. If I've missed anyone, my apologies but I think I've gotten you all. Finally, two prospective members, Elizabeth Gaudior and her daughter Marie came out, hoping for a boat ride and stayed on to work on Rebecca and Psycho.

At the end of the day Rebecca, Psycho and Ms Elli were ready to go. We found some minor damage to the sails for Danschweida and Susie-Q and I've taken them to Potomac Sailmakers for repair. They should be back in service in a few days.

Prizes for the raffle of the century will be announced at the next club meeting. Thanks again to everyone for a job well done!

Last Call: Hail & Farewell

Saturday, November 15th

The Sailing Club of Washington cordially invites you to join us as we say "Farewell" to the current Board of Directors and "Hail" to the new. Dinner, Dancing, and a Silent Auction will also be featured.

Date: Saturday, November 15, 2003

Time: 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm

Place: Fort Myer Officers' Club, Bruckner Hall - Abrams and Chaffee Rooms, Arlington, Virginia

Choice of Entrée: Prime Rib, Salmon or Pasta with Vegetables

Also includes salad, rice & vegetables and choice of dessert

Cost: \$45 per person

Dress: Evening or Business

RSVP by November 11th to:

Rob Langford
3102 Borge Street
Oakton, VA 22124

BE SURE TO INDICATE WHICH ENTREE YOU (and your guest) WOULD LIKE FOR DINNER AND INCLUDE A CHECK PAYABLE TO SCOW FOR \$45 PER PERSON

If you have any questions, please email Rob Langford at social@scow.org or call him at 703-383-1530.

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 I-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.

Skipper Director News

Steve Linke

We had the last formal checkout of the year for new skippers on October 12. Ten rookies passed and are now eligible for skipper ship. So far, only three actually paid their dues, apparently some are daunted by cold weather sailing on the Potomac. Thanks to Dick Dyer, Jan Mette Van der Meer, Jeff Teitel, and Jay Weitzel for doing the check outs.

Lots of sailing time remains and skipper fees are only \$45 from now until April 1. Skippers should sail and Skipper wannabees who passed all testing requirements should sign up now and get on the water.

Sailing (and SCOW) in the News

Joan O'Kane

In my other life as a corporate librarian, one of my jobs is "current awareness and news dissemination". So in case you missed them, here are the highlights of a few recent sailing-related articles:

SCOW's own Commodore, George Umberger, was interviewed by two reporters at Washington Sailing Marina as he prepared his boat Tamarisk for Hurricane Isabel. The article appeared in both the Sacramento Bee and the Raleigh News & Observer on September 19.

SpinSheet, the only magazine specifically devoted to Chesapeake Bay sailing, now includes SCOW in its Club Notes column beginning with the October issue. Thanks to George Umberger and Jay Weitzel for their outstanding PR work with the SpinSheet editor at the Leukemia Cup party!

The Sports section of the Washington Post ran a profile of Gary Jobson on Thursday, October 16, including his activities with the Leukemia Cup regatta and his own recent battle with lymphoma. Thanks to SCOW member Allan Lewis for bringing this to our attention!

And finally, The Wall Street Journal on Thursday, October 9, featured Hong Kong billionaire Bob Miller and his quest to build the world's fastest sailboat. Information about the boat is also available at <http://www.mari-cha4.com>. I don't have the email anymore and I can't remember who gets credit for this one.



(Photos by George Umberger)

Hurricane Isabel stirred things up a little at the marina.

Historic Harbors Host Holiday Boat Parade of Lights Weekend

Saturday, December 7 & Sunday, December 8

The historic Potomac River lights up when the Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association, the Georgetown Business Improvement District, and the Southwest Waterfront Association jointly host the Washington area's annual 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 6, at Alexandria's waterfront and culminate Sunday evening, December 7, 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 music and refreshments at the marina behind the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Many of the Torpedo Factory artists will be holding special holiday shows with gift items. The parade begins at 5:30 p.m. and follows a route that will take it to Washington Channel by 7:00 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. 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@funsided.com for details.

The weekend calendar is as follows:

Saturday, December 6 - Alexandria Harbor

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Entertainment & refreshments at Alexandria Marina & Torpedo Factory Art Center
5:30 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 - Washington Harbour at Georgetown

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



(Photo courtesy of Joe DePoorter)

**Thom Unger goes up the mast at
Maintenance Day**

The Sailor's Bookshelf (Part I)

Melissa Ennis

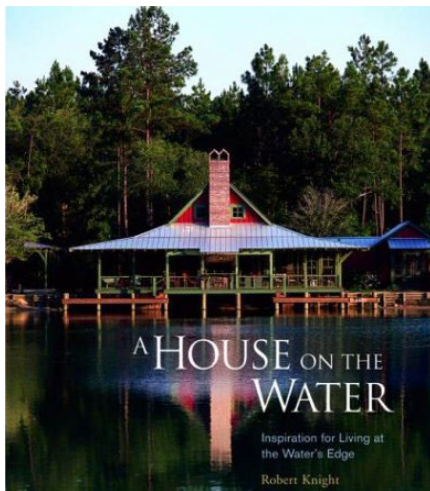
A House on the Water: Inspiration For Living at The Water's Edge

This book, just released by Taunton Press, does a lot to restore the luster of a dream that was severely drenched by Hurricane Isabel. In 218 gorgeous full-color pages, writer/architect/sailor Robert W. Knight lets us inside 23 terrific houses. Only one is near the Chesapeake, but it's great fun to visit Maine, California, South Carolina, Wisconsin, even Montana. (Yes, Virginia -- there IS navigable water without tide tables!)

Knight has studied how boats sit in the water -- it's reflected in his approach to homes and their design. (He also co-wrote *The Very Small House* -- which seems to take many ideas from *The Pretty Big Boat*.) Houses fit their sites beautifully; he admires a "quiet fit" into the landscape. Most plans are "traditional" but none are dull.

Décor ranges from Great-Grandma's antiques to Little Billy's bunk beds. These are dream houses, but they're all realistic. You can easily imagine moving in, because you can mentally walk around in every house.

A copy of *A House on the Water* WILL be featured in the Hail & Farewell's Silent Auction, if I can get over a severe case of House Lust by then. If you don't put in a winning bid, the book would make a dandy Christmas present at \$34.95 at your nearest bookstore.



The Sailor's Bookshelf (Part II)

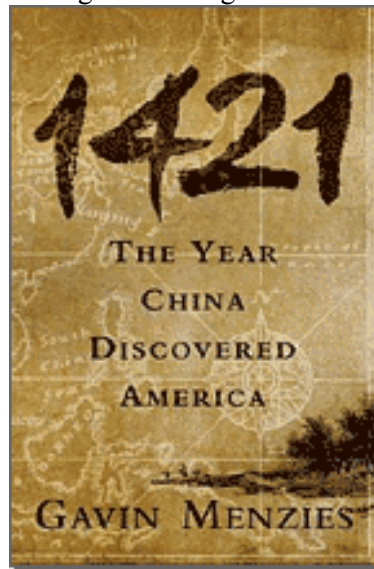
Lynne Russillo

1421: The Year the Chinese Discovered America

Gavin Menzies, a retired submarine commander with the British Royal Navy, has written a fascinating book on the history of navigation and charting.

In 1421 the third Ming Emperor sent out a huge fleet to colonize and chart the planet. The main vessels were "treasure ships," teak junks, 480 feet long by 250 feet wide, with compartmentalized hulls. By the time what remained of the fleet returned to China, they had charted the east and west coasts of Africa and the Americas, the facing coasts of Baffin Island and Greenland, the top of Russia, and the upper half of Australia.

I thought it was a great book!



SCOW Says Thanks!



to Lisbeth Lyons for agreeing to take over as ChaNNels Editor. Lisbeth will take over starting with the January 2004 issue.

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	Jan Earle	202.249.0855		training@scow.org
Maintenance Director	John Roland	703.368.9792	703.321.4614	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>