

# ChaNNels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington  
November 2006 – 40<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary

## Commodore's Log

By Jan Earle, SCOW 2006 Commodore

November is the month for Thanksgiving and, boy-oh-boy, am I ever thankful. My amazing and reliable Board members contributed hundreds of hours to keep things fun and running as smooth as silk this year. Although that was the job they volunteered for and committed to, they are no less worthy of our gratitude. However, there are other people in the SCOW administration who also do jobs that require lots of time dedicated to SCOW, week in and week out, month in and month out. Though they are listed in the membership directory, they are fairly invisible and don't receive the personal thanks from members that we on the Board do. So I'd like to dedicate this column to them.

Our ChaNNels staff, Editor Karen Denholm and Layout Specialist Wayne Williams, works for hours at the end of every month to bring you this column and the news of SCOW activities.



SCOW - Inspecting the Centerboard

The same is true of our Website staff. Guru Monika O'Connor set up our website and helps keep it running efficiently, while Webmaster Peg O'Laughlin works every week to keep it updated. Postmaster Jeff Teitel works weekly as well to make sure SCOW email is delivered and the distribution list is up-to-date with new members.

Monika O'Connor has maintained SCOW's membership database for several years now, in addition to compiling, formatting, editing, publishing and mailing the membership directory, and providing mailing labels for ballots and event invitations. This is a time-consuming job but she does it efficiently and cheerfully, all the while working at a regular job and going to school.

Ed Venere is one of our most active trainers and checkout skippers, but he also designed and runs SCOW's tutoring program, which connects skipper candidates with SCOW skippers willing to provide "tiller-time" practice. Although some months of the year are busier than others for him, he always responds quickly and he frequently tutors on the cruisers himself.

Mike Rothenberg had barely been a SCOW member for a year before volunteering to set up and maintain a Photo Site for pictures of SCOW events. He has saved a lot of us the expense of printing photos and the trouble of lugging around scrapbooks plus making our pictures available to all SCOW members.

Thanks to all these hard-working SCOW volunteers who contributed a lot of time this year so that SCOW information, memories, and sailing assistance were available to all SCOW members. And thanks to the Committee chairmen and members who look after all those necessary "little details" to keep SCOW on track. Make sure you add your personal "Thank You" next time you see them, or since they do their work mostly "behind the scenes," perhaps send them a brief email. Wouldn't a few words of thanks make YOU feel appreciated if you were doing the job?

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## ***And The Nominees Are ...***

Thanks to the Nominating Committee for their hard work on finding a great slate of candidates for 2007. The candidates and the offices for which they have agreed to stand are:

John Rogers, Commodore  
Tom Paquin, Vice Commodore  
Maggie Nelson, Secretary  
Lisa Mehlin, Secretary  
Jenn Kamm, Treasurer  
Dot Almassy, Director  
Susan Berman, Director  
Bill Davenport, Director  
Karen Denholm, Director  
Adam Pressman, Director  
Wayne Williams, Director

### [VIEW PROFILES](#)

Ballots have been sent by mail to all SCOW members. If you haven't received one yet, please email the Commodore at [commodore@scow.org](mailto:commodore@scow.org) or call at 202-249-0855. Be sure to mail your marked ballots in the pre-addressed envelope. Remember, Friday, November 10, is a Federal holiday with no mail pickup or delivery, so make sure you mail it soon! Alternatively, you can return your ballot in person at the Annual Membership Meeting before the polls close at 8:00 pm, Monday, November 13. Thanks again to the committee members for all their hard work – Kathy Kurtz, Steve Linke, Dorothy Stocks, and Chris von Guggenberg.



## ***Holiday Parade of Lights***

Alexandria's harbor lights up when more than 50 brightly lit sailing and power boats cruise along the Potomac River at the City's historic waterfront. The parade is scheduled for Saturday, December 2 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The Alexandria Marina at the foot of Cameron St., behind the Torpedo Factory. You can call 703-838-5005 for more information.

If you want to see even more lights, you can go to the Annapolis Christmas Lights Boat Parade at Annapolis City Harbor. It is scheduled for Saturday, December 9, 2006, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. More than 70 power and sailboats will show off their holiday decorations. You can call 410-267-9549 for more information.

## ***Annual Meeting of Members Monday, November 13, 2006***

The November Membership Meeting will be held on Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, at the American Legion, 400 Cameron Street, Old Town Alexandria, with socializing beginning at 6:30 pm and the meeting itself beginning at 7:30 pm. As required by our Bylaws, 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 do not return yours by mail, you can bring it to the meeting. Under the Bylaws, the polls will close at 8:00 pm, 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, 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. These comments can give the new board great program ideas for the following year, so please come prepared with your ideas to improve the club.

SCOW does NOT have a monthly meeting in December. So, if you show up on December 11, you won't see other SCOW members and, unless you are an American Legion member, you won't get in the door. SCOW's regular monthly meetings will resume at the American Legion on Monday, January 8, 2007.



Lisa and Dogan  
Pic by Jessica Arnett

# SCOW

2006 RIVER ACTIVITIES

RIVER FLEET

Gunston Cove



Group Shot  
Pic by Jessica Arnett

## Gunston Cove – Fall Flotilla

By Mike Rothenberg

SCOW members who participated in the 2006 Fall Flotilla to Gunston Cove at Pohick Bay Regional Park Saturday and Sunday, October 14 and 15, had great weather and a great time. There was some really nice sailing, a bit of drink, hot beef stew, other great food, a crackling campfire, singing, fiddle playing, guitar picking, hot chocolate and s'mores.

It was a cold, sunny day when we left the Washington Sailing Marina Saturday morning. Winds were blustery with many a reefed mainsail on the way south down the Potomac River to this scenic area just beyond Mt. Vernon and Fort Belvoir in the Mason Neck area some 20 miles from the Washington Sailing Marina.

It was a fun and exciting sail for me, particularly at those times when we were standing nearly straight up looking down into the Potomac as we heeled quite a bit aboard *Liberty Belle*, Dorothy Stocks' Cape Dory 25. But thank goodness there was some excellent comfort food waiting for us and a campfire burning when we arrived at Gunston Cove -- thanks to Dot Almassy, Herb Ries and others who chose to drive to the park and help set-up instead of sail.

Dot was the head chef, overseeing the preparation and cooking of a great beef stew. SCOW provided the meat, broth and other ingredients and participants brought a variety of vegetables to throw in the pot as well as hors d'oeuvres to snack on. SCOW also provided breakfast and lots of fruit to accompany dinner and breakfast. Herb handled picking up the fruit and prepared a great fruit salad. Dorothy Stocks, Ron Sheldon, Dot and I picked up other SCOW provided food. Genie Williford made sure there were s'mores for all who wanted some.

After dinner and socializing at a park picnic shelter by the Cove, some headed back to their boats and others went up to our campsites where Mike and Patty Scriptor (Dot Almassy's daughter and son-in-law) had started another campfire and kept it stoked for the rest of the night as Lisa Mehlin played her fiddle, Dan Tuite played his guitar and others sang.  
(continued on next page)



Pic by Liz Greenbaum



Pic by Liz Greenbaum



Psycho Pic by Jessica Arnett

**Hail and Farewell Dinner/Dance  
Georgetown City Tavern Club  
Saturday, November 18**

Join us as we return to the elegant Georgetown City Tavern to hail our incoming 2007 officers and bid a grateful farewell to those who have had the helm in 2006.

Reception with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar (including special \$2 "mini-tinis"), 6 p.m. until 7 p.m.; Dinner (choice of entree and wine), 7 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.; Dance with a cash bar, 9:30 p.m. until 11:30 p.m. For details, information on dinner selection options and prices, or to make a reservation, contact Dot Almassy at [social@scow.org](mailto:social@scow.org). *Note that payment for dinner or dance-only reservations must be received by November 2, 2006!*

***Fall Flotilla (continued from previous page)***

Thirty-nine people participated in the Fall Flotilla, 27 of whom sailed. Others drove to the park and camped overnight with the rest of us. A few others joined us for the day. Some slept on Flotilla boats anchored in the Cove. Most of us pitched tents on shore. It was a cold night, but sweats, thermal underwear and sweatshirts took care of that.

In addition to *Liberty Belle*, other boats joining the Flotilla were Doug Kelch's *Seas the Day*, Mike Murphy's *Fionnula*, both Montgomery 15s; *Valhalla*, Jack Weaver's Hunter 31; *Timeless*, Steve Riker's 24' Laguna Balboa; *Rebecca*, skippered by Dogan Razon; and *Psycho*, skippered by John Jiang. *Timeless* had engine problems at the Wilson Bridge and returned to the Washington Sailing Marina, but skipper and crew then drove to the park to join the festivities.

Two of the club's Flying Scots were originally going to make the trip, but a couple of cancellations and a bit of rearranging enabled us to leave these boats at home, which was a good thing because of the winds on Saturday.

Park rules and shallow water required that boats anchor overnight in the cove rather than use the park dock, although they did make an exception and allow one boat to dock to make it easier to provide ferry service, which was provided by unnamed club members rowing a jon boat the club rented at the park as well as Doug Kelch and Mike Murphy who used their Montgomery 15s.

Sunday morning brought another sunny, but much calmer day. Mike Murphy and Tina Perez left around 9:45 a.m. aboard Mike's Montgomery 15. The Cove was glassy, he said, but once getting into the river, they had "a great run/beam reach back" and made the trip in just a little over half the time it took to sail to the park. The rest of us left a bit later that morning and ended up motoring about a third of the way. Then the winds picked up making for a very easy-going and pleasant sail back.

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**To view the on-line photo albums see...**

Photos by Liz Greenbaum are at <http://picasaweb.google.com/jeffreyscherer>

Photos by Jessica Arnett are at <http://pg.photos.yahoo.com/ph/jdarnett816/album?.dir=f5b9re2&.src=ph&.tok=p>

## Smith Island Crab Feast

By Jack Schwartz, Bay Director

The weather was awful on Thursday, and my crew (Chris and Jane Farthing) were happy that I chose not to make an early start. We met at the boat in the afternoon and got our gear stowed without getting too soaked, then headed over to Edgewater Restaurant for the world's best crab cakes (still no argument). Friday, we made an early start and had a perfect run down to Solomons Island. We got in with enough daylight to take a short tour of the creek up to the museum docks, and then headed over to Mill Creek (one of many) to anchor in the glow of the Tugboat pier. Taking Larry's threats to heart, we moved further out of the channel before retiring for the night.



Smith Island Marina

Saturday was another great sailing day and, though under constant threat of rain, we headed to Smith Island. Upon viewing the business end of a freighter for too long, we hailed them and were assured that *Britannia* would indeed be turning to port at the next mark and that we could remain on our present heading and keep them to our starboard side. We passed east of the "ghost ship" and were just making our approach to Smith Island when the skies opened up. As if to add insult to injury, *Odyssey* promptly stopped in her tracks. Although we had been following the instructions we were given (to hug the greens) and were right on line between them, we learned that one needs to stay within 30 feet of 2A to remain in the channel. Being dead low tide, this was particularly important. However, it also meant that the tide was rising, so we managed to free ourselves an hour later, after valiant efforts by Mike Repass to tow us off with *Cassiopeia*. The remainder of the channel proved deep enough and we were soon tied up at Smith Island marina, joining *Cassiopeia* and another sailboat as well as a bunch of SCOW folks who had come over on the ferry.

There was apparently a shortage of crabs, but our hosts managed to locate a satisfactory supply for us to enjoy, with potato salad, as well as a trio of 12-layer cakes for dessert. The sky cleared for some beautiful sunset views.



Smith Island

Sunday morning we spent a little time touring around the island, and enjoying the scenery. We found our way out the channel without incident, getting as close as we could to 2A! Raising sails, we found ourselves on a close-hauled course, and took a few tacks towards Solomons. After a number of hours, the wind softened, and we ended up motoring the rest of the way back to our now-familiar anchorage in Mill Creek.

Monday brought good winds from the south, and we headed out of the Patuxent River on a reach, bearing off to a run up around Cove Point. As the wind lightened a bit and our speed fell below four knots, we decided to set the chute, which brought us up over five knots again. We enjoyed this six-hour spinnaker run up past Herring Bay, and managed to leave most of the fish traps to port. Then we saw one dead ahead, and were forced to gybe the main quickly (preventer still attached) and reach up to avoid it. On this rather exciting reach, we saw our speed top seven knots! Gybing back, we saw "Big Green" (the #1 mark off West River) up ahead, and dropped the spinnaker in preparation of reaching up into West River, getting some nice close-hauled sailing in before bearing off down the Rhode River to finish our trip.



Rukes - This place serves the best soft-shell crabs I have ever eaten.

## **Fowl Weather Cruise**

By Jack Schwartz, Bay Director

The weather was great on Saturday as we ducked out of Holiday Hill marina. With northwesterly winds, we raised sails just outside Bear Neck Creek and left Camp Letts astern; no need for that nasty, noisy motor. Rounding “Big Green, we gybed onto “wing-and-wing” and headed down the Bay. Appropriately enough, there was a whole flock of boats “flying South” behind us.

We soared down to Bloody Point lighthouse, and found the green mark at the entrance to Eastern Bay. Rounding up, we had a nice reach to Tilghman Point, where we bore off down the Miles River. Spotting the marks on the shoals between us and the Wye River, we carefully made our way in. Heading up the Wye, we enjoyed a close reach before turning at Shaw Bay. The wind was dying, so we motored the rest of the way to Dividing Creek, where we were planning to “feather our nest.” There were many boats in there, but no SCOW folks, so we continued upriver to Granary Creek. There was room enough for our entire rookery in there, and we dropped a claw. As I was backing down to set it, there was a clunk, and the engine died...bad news; I had managed to find the remains of an old trot line and my prop was “fowled.”

Deri, my faithful crew, is a diver who gives a hoot, so he went down to try to remove the line. After over a half dozen tries, he surfaced with some quarter-inch rope and a short length of chain. Not having a tank and regulator, he couldn't hold his breath long enough to accomplish anything more.

At this point, we heard from Don Deese, but never saw *Carpe Diem*. *Sea Frog* came alongside, then *Lady Sunshine*. Once *Adastra* flew in, we flocked around this new anchor boat. *Breakaway* circled as we added *Aurora Blew* and *Voyager*, then they joined the raft. Finally, *Sangria* perched, after running “afowl” on the way into the creek.

The migrating waterfowl for whom the raft-up was named made their presence known, with noisy flocks of geese flying over all day (and night). A few heron also made appearances throughout the afternoon. We enjoyed twittering over drinks and snacks, and met some new friends: Susan (on *Adastra*) and Robert and Carol (aboard *Lady Sunshine*) from the marina. At one point over 20 of us had come to roost in *Aurora Blew's* salon, with music, and dancing in the aisles. We enjoyed a dinner of chicken (of course) and wild mushroom risotto, with tiramisu for desert. Festivities were presided over by the turkey and his new friend porcupine. The “Galley Boys” cleaned up.

Sunday morning came on little fog feet, with more flocks of geese. I took an early morning swim to try to unwrap *Odyssey's* prop, but had little success before I became worn out and waddled back onboard. Early-bird (?) breakfasts were served and shared by hungry crew members all around. *Breakaway* was one of the first to “break away” from the raft. We heard from them shortly thereafter; they had run “afowl” of the shoal making out from the shore opposite Shaw Bay. *Carpe Diem*, the phantom member of our raft-up, flew to their rescue.

Tom gave a valiant effort to dive on my prop but, in keeping with the fowl theme “chickened out.” This meant that there would be no motoring today...after all, *Odyssey* IS a sailboat; *Lady Sunshine* towed us out to the Miles River, where we set the genny and had a great sail home, under the watchful eye of Jenny, aboard *Sangria*. Rounding Tilghman Point into Eastern Bay brought an invigorating beat. We passed *Breakaway*, doing fine under main and reefed jib; glad to see they took that extra tack to avoid the shoaling off Kent Point. Fetching the green brought the reward for the clawing our way upwind, letting us ease the sheets as we soared onto a nice reach. Back at “Big Green” the flock gathered in the West River. One more tack to fetch the red, before we bore off into the Rhode River. Reaching Camp Letts, we were taken once again under tow by *Lady Sunshine* for the short trip up the creek. As we were putting the boat away, we were treated to a rendition of “Cats in the Cradle” booming across the waters as *Adastra* made her return to Holiday Hill marina.

## **Veteran's Day Cruise**

By Jack Schwartz, Bay Director

Bay skippers, who haven't laid up their boat for the season: Weather permitting, we will again plan to have a late-season raft-up over Veteran's Day weekend, November 10-12. The days are getting shorter and the nights colder, so we will probably head somewhere close. The location will be determined after I see which boats are participating and where their home ports are. We will head out Friday and return Sunday, with Saturday's location to be discussed at Friday's raft-up. Last year we started out in Galesville, and headed over to Tilghman Creek, a lovely anchorage off the Miles River. Or, we may remain on the Western shore and head over to the Magothy, near Dobbins Island (I was mistaken when I listed Cackaway, which is actually in the Chester River) or Whitehall Creek.

Please reply to [bay@scow.org](mailto:bay@scow.org) with boat information and home port, as well as if you would be able to take on crew. Members interested in participating as crew, provide a brief description of your experience and contact information.

### 2006 Board of Directors

Position	Name	Home	Work	E-mail
Commodore	Jan Earle	202.249.0855	202.513.7667	commodore@scow.org
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### For Information about Club Activities

Visit <http://www.scow.org> or email [info@scow.org](mailto:info@scow.org)