
CHANNELS -- SPECIAL E-MAIL EDITION

November 1997

Channels is the newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington. The E-mail edition is an edited text-only version of our hard copy monthly publication, and is normally available 15 days before the printed version.

Articles for Channels should be submitted via email to to the editor at sanlar@mnsinc.com. Please paste the text of your article directly into the body of the message, and be sure thatword wrap is off.

Commodore's Log

SCOW has a lot to be thankful this month. Our stalwart volunteers scrubbed the summer's grime and algae off our boats last month thanks to Maintenance Director Dick Dyer and others. Our boats gleam as they wait for that occasional late fall or winter respite when temperatures rise and SCOW ventures out for a quick sail. Thank you Dick and everyone who participated in SCOW's second maintenance day this year and who gave so much throughout the year. Our boats are in great shape as a result of the year-long efforts of many people. Many thanks to all of you for your constant effort.

This month we have two big events: Election Night November 10th at our regular monthly Monday meeting and the Hail & Farewell, November 14th, Friday. SCOW greets the 1998 Board-Elect at this big bash where men don tuxedos and look dashing and all the women look smashing. The Hail & Farewell is being orchestrated by Meri Ash, Tina Daberkow, Denise Derry and Francie Stephens. Make sure you buy your tickets early for an evening full of culinary delights and dancing extravaganzas. SCOW also presents awards and special thanks to notable volunteers at this dinner so be sure you show up to get your due. Tickets are a modest \$35 each. More details are available in a separate article. I look forward to seeing you there.

Not only do we elect the new board at the November meeting, we also share our views on the club. I look forward to hearing your views, gripes and ideas on how SCOW can be improved. The Board-Elect will be there too listening to you.

Whatever your view is, air it. We want to hear your comments and concerns. We also want to hear your complaints and compliments. Complaints, however, should be accompanied by a suggested remedy as well as an offer to act. We are a volunteer club. There's a lot to do. It's easy to sit on one's haunches and point out deficiencies. There's an appropriate place for that, but not in SCOW. Point out the areas needing improvement and pitch in.

So many of you give so much. I have seen such unselfish and generous gifts of time and energy from both established and new members. SCOW is really blessed. I do wish SCOW could be even more blessed for there's many more members than doers, and burn-out is an ongoing concern.

I thank all of you for enhancing SCOW this year. You've made the club a better place. Please accept my sincere appreciation and deep gratitude for your work.

As Commodore I've had the need and the good fortune to work with many of you. At the risk of being incomplete, I must single out the following for their generosity, good will and very effective work:

Barbara Ullman, Victoria Hampton, Dan McClafferty, Joe DePoorter, George Umberger, Lee Spain, Meri Ash, Nikki Goodman, Declan Conroy, Denise Derry, Monica Maynard, Allan Lewis, Francie Stephens, Sam Schaen, Mike Geissing, Larry Gemoets, Pat Derry, Liz Bruening and Stuart Ullman.

I have worked with an extraordinary Board of Directors. SCOW members, please join me in thanking: Stuart Ullman, Victoria Hampton, Paul Carrow, Lee Spain, Denise Derry, Larry Gemoets, Mike Geissing, Dick Dyer and Jim Metcalf for all their work on the club's behalf.

Before we hunker down to winter, we have a few more club events. Again, please make sure to join us Nov. 10 (Monthly meeting/Election Night), Nov. 14 (Hail & Farewell) and last but not least, Dec. 7 (Holiday Raft-Up), our wintry big bash at the Colonies. More details to follow on that last hurrah.

In the meanwhile, I will be thankful for SCOW this Turkey day. Happy Thanksgiving SCOW. (--Anne La Lena)

Elections

for SCOW's 1998 Board of Directors takes place Nov. 10. Polls close at 8:00 p.m. that evening. Watch your mail for ballots and candidate statements. The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following SCOW members are standing for election:

**Commodore: Stuart Ullman
Vice Commodore: Thom Unger
Secretary: Cathy Hess
Treasurer: Angela Burnett**

Directors: Meri Ash, Toni Boyd, Bill Davenport, Denise Derry, Scot Getzow, Clay Kilgore, Monica Maynard, and Alice Starcke.

The Nominating Committee deeply appreciates your willingness to serve and stand for election. We wish you good luck in all your endeavors.

SCOW welcomes our newest members:

**Connie Angiuli
Peg Cusack
Pat Czikra
Mark Elbert
Mark Matarella
Lynne Moraghan
Philip Rappa
Tehseen Raza
Karl Rohrer
Neil Sheppard
Paul Zielie**

Submit articles by midnight after the monthly membership meeting by any means, email preferred.

**Larry Gemoets, Editor
Declan Conroy, Web Publisher
Cindy Peters, Publisher's Coordinator
Sam Schaen, Mailing lists**

Open Letter to Anne La Lena

Elaine and I greatly appreciated your kind words (not for the first time) in the Commodore's Log for October. This is not goodbye because we shall remain SCOW members, but we shall miss the 'in-person association' very much.

We both feel we owe a great debt to SCOW. As I told last month's meeting, I had never set foot in a sail boat until I came along to that Social Sail in April 1995. That summer I took every small boat course there was and I haven't looked back since. I have had three summers of pure pleasure and am set with an enjoyable pastime for life.

All this is because members of SCOW gave up their time (and usually a lot of it) to teach me. It's also due to many others who became friends and came sailing with me. I owe a great deal to many individuals and want to take this opportunity to thank them all again.

SCOW is a great treasure - look after it well. (Mike Jenner)

Channels Needs You!

If you are interested in helping to produce our newsletter, Call Larry Gemoets. He is looking for someone who can devote time each month to the DTP effort, and also wouldn't mind an assistant (and eventually replacement) editor. If you are a DTP capable person, or a good proofreader, and can meet our "demands" (it must be on time!), then please consider becoming a member of the Channels staff.

Special Thanks to Barbara Brecher for all your efforts in making Channels look good over the past months. Your efforts will be missed!

Bay -- Ted's Great Fall Cruise

(Notes by Robert and Elizabeth Bruening)

A. The Doldrums Days 1 and 2

Saturday, October 11, 1997 Annapolis to Hudson Creek

Ted Schad, organizer of the event, left Annapolis on Dulcinea with a crew made up of Bill Bernhards, Ruth Connolly and Bob and Elizabeth Bruening. We powered down the bay since we had little wind and a long way to go to reach the Little Choptank River in time to raft up with the other boats - Pat Derry's Seanchai, and Don Deese's Carpe Diem.

Sunday, October 12, 1997 Hudson Creek to Point Lookout, The Potomac

We motored out, guiding off the 3 parts of James Island. First, we could see across the bay through the gap in the islands. Later all three islands lined up behind one another. We traveled around Pt. Lookout, into the Potomac River, tying up for dinner at the Spinnaker restaurant at the Point Lookout Marina.

B. The Winds Day 3 and 4

Monday, October 13, 1997

In the Potomac-

We had light winds and the bored crew talked Ted into flying the red, white and blue spinnaker up the Potomac, set in cruising rig with one corner anchored to the deck. The winds were just right for a spinnaker reach up the river. We turned around for a hard, overpowered, bouncing beat to the Virginia (Northern Neck) side of the Potomac and the Yeocomico River.

Tuesday, October 14, 1997 Yeocomico River, the Potomac River, around Smith Point to the Great Wicomico.

Sea gulls covered a pier at the marina, all facing the same way, filling the walkway. Each piling also had its own king of the pole. A scare sent them flying, but they quickly came back. A funny game of hopscotch occurred as a bird would approach his first piling. The previous resident bird, forced off by the momentum of the approaching bird, would fly to the second piling, and that resident would fly to the third, and so on down the pier.

We sailed up the Great Wicomico within view of the bridge of route 200. A delicious dinner in the warm cozy cabin centered on a Turkish lamb dish. Wind whistled and hummed in the rigging during the night.

C. The Winds and the Rain. Days 5 - 9

Wednesday, October 15, 1997 Great Wicomico River to Dymer Creek. Lose the Jib Day.

This was to be a short cruise day so that Ruth and Bill could go back to the Washington area to be ready for work on Thursday. We found 20 knots and 3 - 4 foot waves, and had too much power on a broad reach using the single reefed main and working jib. We had been sailing for a long time, with Bill at the wheel, surfing down the waves. He reached 8.8 knots in a boat with a theoretical hull speed of 7.3 knots.

Halfway through a tack, Ruth noticed that the bowline knot was gone and only one jib sheet was attached - the second time this had happened. After much spray, bucking up and down, and then losing the jib tack's attachment to the foot of the forestay, the jib flew up the forestay. The skipper ordered the jib down, which the crew members managed without being thrown overboard. We sailed more comfortably under reefed main alone to Dymer Creek, and to Bob's surprise we lost only one knot in speed!

On shore, Bill and Ruth left and we picked up Ted's mountaineering friend, Jane. Jane invited the three remaining crew to stay in her house overnight. The only problem was how to get the last person back to Dulcinea after rowing the jon boat to shore. Bob volunteered to swim out from shore. It was actually colder rowing the jon boat to the dock than it was swimming in the 69 degree creek water. [See the October 1994 cruise report for previous swimming experiences.]

Thursday, October 16, 1997 Dymer Creek to the Great Wicomico River

Winds were out of the north at about 20 knots, with four foot and a few five foot waves. We beat into the waves, now with a double reefed main and working jib, which was about right. The itinerary was changed to compensate for winds forecast to be out of the north or northeast for the rest of the trip.

Friday, October 17, 1997 The Great Wicomico River to Solomons Island. A 51.0 mile day!

Starting with a double reefed main and working jib, we passed the Great Wicomico Light. It was a beautiful sight, decorated in a filigree produced by a flock of birds sitting on every cross brace and surface. As winds eased, reefs were taken out.

Drizzle continued during much of the day, as it had the day before, and would each day thereafter. But biting rain in the face accompanied by waves splashing into the cockpit is what Elizabeth craves, required to satisfy her Norwegian genes. A whole bunch of sailboats and one schooner were racing down the bay, strung out over several miles. We found a serene anchorage in St. John Creek, Solomons area.

Saturday, October 18, 1997 Solomons to West River. A 59 mile day!

A northeast wind allowed a long tack toward Annapolis. The rain turned to drizzle, then stopped after noon. But the wind also dropped, and if we were to get to shelter, we must motor sail. We turned toward the West River at dusk.

Sunday, October 19, 1997 West River to Annapolis

We ate breakfast with no rain, but as we started to sail, it began to rain heavily. The rest of the day was windy but rainy, as we dodged race traffic outside of Annapolis. Around 2 P.M. we reached the slip. At 4:30, as we were finished cleaning the boat, the sun appeared through the clouds.

Training

(Mike Geissinger) With the stowing of the lines and sheets and the final folding of the sails we have come to the sad end of another sailing season here in the mid-Atlantic region. This year has seen a combined effort on the part of the volunteers to make the SCOW training a roaring success. Without the indefatigable effort on the part of so many people the sailing courses would have been only a pipe dream in this director's mind. SCOW exists without "paid staff," as is not the case with a great number of organizations in the Washington, DC area.

As a volunteer club those who sit on the board must depend on those people who will devote their time and effort, without remuneration (or money). There is no why to adequately thank the folks who have been part of the training program this year. They have answered the call (usually from me in desperation) without hesitation and have performed excellently. The task of Training Director can seem overwhelming at times but, as I found out, the cadre of people who will give their time takes a lot of that feeling away. It makes the job much easier and I slept better knowing they were there.

As a public acknowledgment of their efforts I am listing below the names of the people who volunteered and assisted with the training program this year. Though I have explored every avenue available to identify everyone, my fear is that I will leave someone off the list. In advance, please accept my apology for any omission.

The first and foremost thank you must go to Barbara Ullman, chair of the Training Committee. Without her efforts at keeping me on track and alert to the next "pot hole" in the training path, the whole year would have been worse than the Redskins game against the Eagles. She and the Training Committee have been the guiding light that any Training Director needs for they provide the long view of the training program. The Vice Commodore, Stuart Ullman, has been the "silent partner" in the Training Program. Whenever my back was against the wall for something, Stuart was there to bail me out, either with suggestions or taking the time to accomplish the task.

The importance of the Training Committee to the Training Director cannot be overstated. By using the knowledge and expertise of the committee, the director can make the job much smoother. There are a group of people who have volunteered more than 20 hours of

their time to the Training Program this year. If you think about it that number becomes significant when put into the hectic pace of our lives today. The people listed below have gone above and beyond by putting in over 20 hours:

**Liz Bruening, Martin Crowson, Pat Derry, Mike Jenner, Dan McClafferty, Jeff Teitel
George Umberger, Thom Unger**

There is another group of people who have given time to the training program. The number of hours may not be the same but the importance of their time weighed heavily on the degree of success that the program had this year. They are: Water Teachers for Basic Sailing Classes

Hope Andrus, Declan Conroy, Joe DePoorter, John Dickinson, Bill Gold

A very special thanks goes to the following people for their special contributions to training this year. Don Deese and John Kauffman taught very special and popular Racing Seminars. With the revision to the racing rules this year the course proved very helpful to those of us who flail about on the water trying to get from here to there faster than the next boat.

Len Zuza again taught the Intermediate Sailing Class. Perhaps with Mike Jenner and Elaine Emling tying the permanent knot this year after meeting in the 1996 Intermediate Class we should call this the Intermediate Sailing and Social Class (O.K. maybe (k)not).

There were a group of folks who served as dock masters during the basic Sailing Classes that need to be given a big round of applause. They helped and (next page) guided the class members and instructors thorough those awkward times when we were just learning about boats, wind, and sails. They are:

Ruth Connolly, Mike Gordon, Graham Leadbetter, Mike Leary, Monica Maynard, Gayle Rubin, Dave Scheuermann, Ed Venere

A very special thank you goes out to Carrie Blankfield for not only donating her time but her boat for use with the Bay & Coastal Navigation Course. It's bad enough to run your own boat aground but risking to a group of folks who are just learning how to navigate is pure heart of gold.

In addition to the time that Pat Derry has given he has also been instrumental in guiding the Basic Sailing Class on track. Pat was one of the minds behind the evolution of the course as we know it today. His partner in crime (or basic sailing), George Umberger, went above and beyond by taking the third Basic Class members out on his boat, Tamarisk, when an water instructor could not be found.

On a very personal level this has been a most enlightening and gratifying year for me in the role of Training Director. The bottom line is that I also learned a great deal about sailing

and anytime that happens there has to be satisfaction, a lot of it. Everyone, students and instructors, have been patient and understanding to a fault and that made my job easier.

Thanks, thanks, and thank you all. (Mike Geissinger, Training Director)

River Activities

(Lee Spain) River activities have come to a close for the season. I'd like to thank the many people who helped contribute to social sails. I'd like to thank Nikki Goodman, Denise Derry, Monica Maynard, Kelly Bowers, Jeff Teitel, Bill Davenport, Don Deese, Tina Daberkow, and the many other people who have helped host or dockmaster social sail. Their efforts have been tremendous. As river director, I've done some things well, some things o.k., and some things poorly. I encourage everyone to support next years river director and volunteer to host social sail, organize a raftup, or help run a regatta. Your efforts can definitely make a difference.

Now, just because the daylight hours have grown short doesn't mean that you can't meet down by the river! SCOW has social NO-SAILS every Thursday night throughout the off season. SCOW members generally meet at the Marina's Potowmack Landing Restaurant around 6:30 to eat, drink, and be social. If the restaurant should close for the winter, then an alternative meeting place will be announced. At any rate, there is always a place to meet and talk sailing.

Finally, I'd like to recap a little bit about the Also Ran Regatta. We had a turnout of 9 boats. Liz Bruenig and Joe DePoorter tied for first place in the Flying Scots. Ross Warren won first place among the big boats aboard Moderation. Michael Antonovich won first place in the handicap class. Denise Derry came in second aboard her Point Jude, Tilly. The PRSA helped us out tremendously by renting us their committee boats. Ben Ackerman and Roger Scherr of the PRSA helped train the race committee and made sure that we could get the boats going. Roger even participated on the race committee. Angela Burnett, Stuart Ullman, Rob Reynolds, and Ruth Connally helped out on the race committee. Donna Thurber had volunteered but broke some ribs the previous week. We would have been totally lost without them.

This was my first time ever chairing a race committee and the day was pretty hectic, but I think most people had fun. With light winds and three committee boats, we were certainly safe out there. Trophy Mart in Annandale made some pretty decent trophies for us. That's all the news that's fit to print and I'll see you on the water next sailing season!

Crew Needed

I am looking for 1-2 crew to race in Solomons Sundays in November. I have a CAL 21 which I plan to store at the Navy Recreation Center. Also plan to go rockfishing during the weekends. Steve Deatherage, 703-658-5081

Socialy SCOW

(Jim Metcalf) Skippers and crews feasted on grilled sausages, sauerkraut, and potatoes following the Also Ran Regatta. Thanks to all who helped with set up and clean up. Special thanks to new member, Bill Riggs, who may be one of the greatest outdoor chefs in the East.

The Hail and Farewell Dinner takes place on November 14, 1997 at the Officer's Club at Fort Meyer in Arlington. This is a festive, formal occasion with lots of fun for all. Feel free to bring a guest. The cost for the event is \$35.00 and that includes dinner and DJ. (See the Ad in this issue for details-ed)

Holiday Raft Up

The Holiday Raft Up will be held at the Colonies in McLean on Sunday, December 7 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. SCOW will provide drinks and a yummy main dish with the rest being pot-luck. Bring your favorite dish and that will be the only charge. This event is being hosted by Nickki Horton and Pat Gerachis.

Directions to Fort Myer (located adjacent to Arlington Cemetery) From Washington, DC: Cross 14th Street Bridge and follow 1-395 south to the Washington Blvd/Rt. 27 exit (8B). Follow Washington Blvd. to exit sign to Fort Myer. Enter the fort (Hatfield Gate) and ask for Officer's Club. Or; take Rt. 50 West across Theodore Roosevelt Bridge and bear right immediately to exit at Rosslyn. Make first left on Fort Myer Drive, which turns to Mead after crossing Route 50, and proceed to stop sign, where a right (on Marshall) will lead to the entrance. Proceed 0.6 mile to Officer's Club and parking is on the right.

>From Northern Maryland Suburbs: Take 1-495 west to Washington Parkway south. Exit at Key Bridge and make a left at the traffic light (Fort Myer Drive). Proceed straight, where it turns into Mead after crossing over Route 50. A right at the stop sign (Marshall) will lead to the entrance. Drive straight ahead for 0.6 mile to Officer's Club and parking is on the right.

>From Alexandria and Southern Maryland Suburbs: Take George Washington Pkwy north to Route 50 exit by Memorial Bridge. Exit Route 50 at Rosslyn and make first left on Fort Myer Drive. Proceed as above.

>From South or West Suburbs in Virginia: Traveling north (or east) on 1-95/395, take exit 8A Washington BlvdFort Myer. Bear left onto Washington Blvd., and take the 3rd exit (1/2 mile) to Ft. Myer. Enter the fort at the Hatfield Gate and ask for Officer's Club. Traveling east on 1-66, take the Pentagon/Hwy 110 exit right after Key Bridge. Immediately watch for the first (sharp) exit, Marshall Drive. Go past entrance and to Officer's Club as above. Traveling east on Route 50, make a right at the light on Pershing Drive after passing Washington Blvd. Turn right at the Henry Gate and ask for Officer's Club.

Social No Sail

**Every Thursday Evening
in the Restaurant at the Marina**

Membership Meeting -- November 10th

Holiday Raft Up -- December 7th

SCOW Looks Pretty Good With Clothes on

Mark your calendars for SCOW's Hail & Farewell Celebration at the Fort Myer Officer's Club in central and safe Arlington, Virginia Friday, November 14, 1997 7:00 p.m. till midnight a mere \$35 per person.

Direct questions to Tina Daberkow at 703-534-0742

Receipt of \$35 will hold your reservation! Send checks now, while you're thinking of it!

The room accommodates 110 people, so sign up now!

Mail your checks (payable to SCOW) to Tina at: 200 North Maple Ave. Apt. 507 Falls Church, VA 22046

Dig Out Those cuff links and stillettos. As one Social Director once remarked, "SCOW cleans up pretty good!"

We're trying something different this year. Lots of changes, But still lots of food, dancing and fun!

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.

Call 202.628.SAIL (202.628.7245) for information about club activities

Need an Apartment?

Kelly Bowers has one to rent. Pets are welcome. Landmark area (Duke St.@395). Available December 1st. \$750/mo includes utilities! 3br, 1-1/2 ba, Partially furnished, Eat-in kitchen, Balcony (grilling allowed). Off-street parking. Wired for 3 phone lines (perfect for home office!). Quiet building with nice neighbors. 3 washers, 2 dryers. Cable incl. Gas heat (no heat pumps!). 20 minutes to marina, Old Town Alexandria or downtown DC. 50 feet to express bus to Pentagon metro (15-20 minute ride). 50 feet to Alexandria city bus line. Walk to grocery stores, restaurants, shopping. 2 minutes from I-395. 3 blocks to bike path. kelly_bowers@wyattconsult.com-301-581-5119 (day) 202 332-4160 (eve).