
CHANNELS -- The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington

October 2000

Commodore's Log

Those who attended the September membership meeting heard former Commodore and a founding member of SCOW, Robert "Woodie" Woodside, talk about the origins of the club. Three things that Woodie said during his very informative and entertaining discussion prompted this month's column. The first showed how different we are today, perhaps, than the original members of the club. The other two show the truth of that old adage, "the more things change, the more they remain the same."

Woodie disclosed that the club was first known as the "Young Republicans' Sailing Club." Apparently, some members of that political party formed a group in order to learn to sail. Well, the club expanded; and, as Woodie related, after some creative thinking, the Sailing Club of Washington (or SCOW) became our club's name.

Now, the reason that this struck me is that I honestly can say that I do not know the political affiliation of a single member of the club. In fact, I don't know where more than a handful of the members work or what their professions are. This is remarkable in a city in which "What do you do?" is normally the first question at a cocktail party. Not that I'm complaining, mind you! At some clubs, they actually have to fine people to stop them from discussing business. We don't. What makes our club so great and different from a lot of groups is that what brings us together is our love of sailing and our enjoyment of each others' company -- and the fact that our club events are mercifully free of people frantically passing out business cards.

The second thing that Woodie discussed was the long history of club members teaching others to sail. Well, that tradition is still going strong today. In fact, some of the classes that Woodie taught in the earliest days of the club are still offered. This past summer, our volunteer trainers taught three classes of basic sailing and two sessions of the cruising boat class, all of which were totally filled. Even more members take others out on their own boats or the club's boats for informal practice sessions. That certainly is a tradition that we need to keep a central focus of the club.

The third thing Woodie said was that "SCOW members are DOERS!" I think we've shown year after year that this is another tradition that is alive and well. It takes the contributions of many members in many ways to make the club a success.

SCOW hosts an annual event -- the Hail and Farewell -- where, in addition to the food and fun that are always a part of a SCOW event, we recognize the "Doers" in the club during the past year. This year's Hail and Farewell will be on November 17th. As Commodore, this will be my chance to say "thanks" not just to my incredible Board of Directors, but also to the other members who have contributed this year. And, as Commodore, I am asking YOU to make a special effort to attend and help me say thanks. The Hail and Farewell is always a fun event and Social Director Kathryn Scott and her committee have come up with some ideas to make it even better this year. So mark your calendar, dust off the tux or suit, clean up those dress deck shoes, and help me thank the folks who made this a great year for all of us in the club.

May those fair winds and following seas carry you directly to the Hail and Farewell on November 17th!

Social

Kathryn Scott

Hail an exciting new millennium of sailing while bidding farewell to the decades of fun we've already enjoyed (thanks to the great volunteers at the helm of SCOW) by attending the fabulous Hail and Farewell 2000.

This once-in-a-millennium event will celebrate the many decades and deeds of SCOW membership with great food, drinks, dancing and an amazing amount of heartfelt hoopla. Help honor each decade of SCOW's existence, and the men and women who have provided such smooth sailing for us all.

We want all of our members, from the most experienced to our very newest, to join in this celebration of each and every one of you who make SCOW the great club that it is. Our new members, even the most inexperienced sailors, have an important role to play as we head into next year's uncharted waters.

Set the course for a new millennium! We'll eat, drink, dance and laugh the night away at the biggest bash SCOW puts on all year. We're planning an exciting evening you won't want to miss. Part dinner-dance, part installation of officers, it's an all-SCOW celebration! Join us at the Hail and Farewell on Friday, November 17th for a magical evening of memories at the Fort Myer Officers' Club in Arlington, Virginia. (An earlier edition of ChaNNels has the wrong date, my fault, not your great editorsí!)

Reserve your place of honor for only \$30/person with Reservations Coordinator Mary Bashore. Make checks payable to SCOW but mail them to Mary Bashore, 12498 Sweet Leaf Terrace, Fairfax, VA 22033, by November 6th to ensure a good time. Let's blow out this century as only SCOW sailors can!

To make Hail & Farewell truly memorable, we could use your help locating photographs and information from the club's early years. If you've squirreled away some great snaps of

events from years gone by, or have any knowledge of early members, officers or doings, please contact volunteer Kelly Bowers, who is helping pull together some great historical (and perhaps hysterical) photos for the H & F. You can reach her via email at documama@yahoo.com or by phone at 202-332-4160.

Melissa Ennis has volunteered to conduct the search for the evening's musical entertainment, and needs your input regarding musical tastes. We will showcase tunes from every decade to ensure that all generations will enjoy the music whether you like to get out and twirl on the dance floor or just tap your toes in appreciation. Send your suggestions to Melissa via email at scribble@starpower.net or call her at 703-845-5764.

A seasonal reminder: Although it's getting darker sooner, it doesn't mean we won't continue being social on Thursday nights, we're just moving it indoors. Starting October 12th, we will hold Thursday Night "Social No-Sails" at Clyde's of Alexandria, at 1700 Beauregard Street, starting at 7 PM. Their phone number is (703)820-8300.

Skipper Coordinotes

Elizabeth Bruening

We welcome Judith Campbell, Mick Campbell, Kelly Griffin, Deo Pachas, Karen Plett, David Richter and Rebecca Roper as Flying Scot skippers and Larry McAndrews and Arthur Von Pieschel as Cruising Boat skippers. This brings our total number to 109. As the scheduler at the marina said, "You're getting your own nation."

Even though we have many SCOW skippers, don't let those numbers keep you from calling the marina (703-548-9027) to make reservations. Even at prime reservation time - after work and on weekends - there are usually boats available. Now that Training Classes are over for the season, except for Tuesday night Racing and Thursday night Social Sail all the boats are available all the time. So, reserve a boat and check out those great new battenless sails on the Scots, revel in Rebecca's functioning stern light, and enjoy fall's lovely sailing weather.

SCOW Says Thanks!

SCOW says thanks to Phil Geishert, manager of the Washington Sailing Marina and Jane Garvey, for their very lively and informative talk at the August membership meeting on the history of the marina and current marina operations; to former Commodore Woodie Woodside, for speaking at the September membership meeting on the history of SCOW; to Jason Stevens, Maintenance Director, and Stu Robinson, for doing the analysis of our Flying Scot sail needs and to Vice Commodore Joe DePoorter for picking up the new sails so that they would be available for Social Sail.

New Flying Scot Sails!

After reviewing the alternatives, the Board of Directors authorized the purchase of new sails for all three Flying Scots from Potomac Sailmakers, and they were unveiled at Social Sail on September 14. Since our boats receive heavy use by people with various skill levels, we bought sails with slightly heavier and more durable cloth. Given the club's history of losing battens as quickly as they are purchased (and because using sails without battens causes flogging that drastically diminishes the sail life), we chose battenless sails. The sails are in green bags in the sail locker and each bag and sail is marked with the respective boat's name. In addition to the boat's hull number, each sail has the SCOW name on it -- now it will be easy to spot our boats on the river.

New sails are a large investment. To keep these sails in good condition, please follow a few simple rules. First, the sails should be folded and not stuffed or rolled. Never stuff the sails, it will prematurely wear out the cloth. If you are the skipper, make sure your crew knows how to flake a sail. If not, supervise them. Try not to fold along the exact line every time but folding in the general area is alright. When you are hoisting the sail, support the boom and feed the sail into the track on the mast. Do not allow the sail to pull the extra weight of the boom as you hoist because this will stretch the sail. Also, don't allow the sails to flog at the dock -- if you dock the boat and will be away for more than a few minutes, douse the sails. Similarly, don't allow them to flog when you are sailing. There are telltales on the leech of the sail and these should be flying.

With a bit of care, these new sails will perform well and look great for many seasons.

SCOW Leukemia Cup Participants Win Big!

As the American Olympic competitors were departing for Sydney to "bring home the gold" for the US, SCOW members were busy "bringing home the gold" at the annual Leukemia Cup Regatta at the Washington Sailing Marina on September 9th, with a large number of members skippering or crewing club boats or their own boats. Rebecca, skippered by Dale Eager, with Barry Dunsmoore, Erica Vey and Gaile Swider as crew, won the 2nd Place for most money raised by a boat crew. Susi Q, skippered by Stu Robinson with Denise Derry and Amy Plett as crew, took 1st Place in the Flying Scot class. Psycho, skippered by Thom Unger, with Ruth Connolly and Jay Weitzel as crew, took 1st Place in the PHRF 255 and below class. Bill Davenport, skippering his own boat, Moderation, with Nate Harris as crew, took 1st Place in the PHRF 255 and above class -- this was Bill's seventh consecutive 1st Place finish in the annual regatta. Don Deese, skippering his own boat, TNT, with Nancy Roth, Ann Titus and Karen Plett as crew, took 2nd Place in the PHRF 255 and below class. Heather Spurlock, skippering her own boat with Kathryn Scott as crew, took 3rd place in the Interlake class. Although they did not place, John Allen skippered his own boat, Christy D, with Betsy Troeder as crew; and Bill Bernhards and "Roz" Roszkowski crewed on Op Four. Monica Maynard and Stuart Ullman served on the committee boat. Congratulations to all!

DICF Race News

In other racing news, both SCOW boats turned in outstanding performances in the Dangerfield Island Cruising Fleet ("DICF") race series (sometimes called the Tuesday Night Big Boat Races). Rebecca, skippered by Monica Maynard, took 2nd place overall in her class and Psycho, skippered by Dave Scheuermann, took 3rd place overall in her class. Crewing with Monica were Amy Plett, Dale Eager and Jeff Teitel, and crewing with Dave at various times were Bill Bernhards, Mona Hahn, Chuck Hollister, Gene Jacob and Andrew Scheuermann. Congratulations!

Maintenance

Jason Stevens

SCOW's Fall Maintenance Day is Saturday, October 14, down at the Washington Sailing Marina. Things will kick off around 9:00am and continue into mid afternoon. We'll spend the time cleaning, taking inventory and working on various repairs and upgrades to the club's cruising boats and Flying Scots.

No specials skills are required! Every club member is encouraged to attend, especially skippers. This is a great way to become more familiar with the boats, meet other members and help out with upkeep of the boats.

If you have any questions at all please contact Jason Stevens at maintenance@scow.org or by phone at 703-628-6618.

Bay

Mike Geissinger

It takes a true sailor to endure this Labor Day weekend on the water. Three intrepid Scow skippers chose to do just that. Stu Robinson on Gamgee, Jack Schwartz on Odyssey, and Jeff Teitel on Sea Frog rafted and motored around the Eastern Shore for the weekend. Stu reports that a lot of rum and cokes made the weekend tolerable.

Will take this opportunity to hype the Fowl Weather Raft Up, hosted by Allan Lewis... SCOW will once again hold its annual Fowl Weather Raft-Up on the weekend of November 4 & 5. This event has become a great way to wind down the sailing season. The past two years we have chosen Leadenham Creek off the Choptank River because it enables boats from both the north and south fleets to raft up. I thought we would meet there again this year, but I'm open to suggestions from skippers, just as long as long as boats from both ends of the bay can participate. Sign up sheets for skippers and prospective crew will be

available at the September and October meetings, or just call me at (301)-445-3397(H). Come on out and enjoy the migrating water fowl, fall colors, and your sometimes foul but always colorful sailing friends. Hope to see you there!

New Members

SCOW welcomes our newest members: David Carstens, Barbara Holt, Brian Alves, Dan Marquis, David Johnson, Fred Gillis, Larry and Kathryn Rogers, Lisa Samans, Victoria Decker, Aileen Cooney, and Yvonne Kimberly Gellar

River Activities

John Rogers

Well, the scheduled river activities are almost over for the year. The September 15 Meet-New-Member Sail was cancelled due to small craft warning. I scheduled a final sail for September 29 and am still hoping for good weather. The Social Sails end on Thursday October 5. Although this is the season finale for organized sails, the boats will be available all winter (assuming no ice on the river) for the skippers, and Social No-Sail will attract members all winter.

This year we had Meet-New-Member sails in June and July for over 30 new members. In June we also had a successful weekend Raft-Up with the SCOW big boats. In July we had the one-day Smootís Cove raft-up. I would like to thank everyone who helped make these a success, as well as those who were so understanding when they could not get on the boats due to either bad weather or long waiting lists. I would particularly like to thank the SCOW skippers who sailed their own boats: Don Deese, Jonathan Allen, and Bill Davenport. I would also like to thank skippers who sailed the SCOW big boats: Graham Leadbetter, Bob Bruening, Dale Eager, Chuck Hollister, David Sheuermann, Ed Venere, Arthur von Pieschel, and Jay Weitzel.

Thanks for a good season. See you on the river, at Social-No-Sail, or at the Hail & Farewell.

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 (That's 628.SAIL) Visit us at: www.scow.org Write us: info@scow.org

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 suffer greatly. Blame yourself if this happens!

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 by one week after the monthly meeting. Use any means, but email is preferred.

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That's all, folks.....