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# ChaNNels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington

October, 2001

**Hail and Farewell**  
**Saturday, November 17, 2001**  
**Fort Myer Officers Club**

**Holiday Raftup**  
**Sunday, December 16**  
**The Colonies**

## Commodore's Log

Did you know that the club we now call SCOW was incorporated on July 12, 1966? With all that history, I started to wonder about when some of the events that we enjoy so much were started - the things that make SCOW, well, SCOW. Thanks to Don Deese, who has a cache of ChaNNels dating from 1984, I now have a bit of club history to share with you.

Thursday evening Social Sails are SCOW's signature event. The first was held on May 2, 1979. SCOW furnished a grill and members brought their own food and drink. In 1992, Social Sails took on a different look -- er, taste -- when Lillian Steele, an avid cook, decided to feed the whole club herself every Thursday. She whipped up meals featuring things like entire hams and brought them to the Marina to serve to our members! While she initially refused donations, she later reluctantly put out a donation jar but insisted that nobody give more than a dollar. After a few years, Lillian found a "significant other" and ended her cooking duties, but SCOW kept the idea she started by asking members to take turns volunteering each week to be the Social Sail host and asking the Social Sail attendees to make donations to cover the host's food costs. In 2000, Kelly Bowers volunteered to coordinate Social Sails, wrote a "how to" manual, and developed the "Chef 1/Chef 2" buddy system. Over the past few years, we've also started some new menu traditions such as "Paella Night," and "Vegetarian Night" (the latter quickly countered by "Red Meat Night").

Another SCOW tradition is our member training. When he spoke to the club last year, former Commodore Woodie Woodside told us that training was part of the club's program from the very start. Indeed, in 1966, SCOW's newsletter reported that 21 members had signed up for the "Learn to Sail" course. For twenty dollars, members received two land classes and six water lessons -- similar to what we offer today in Basic Sailing. In 1982, Elli Abramson (our Flying Scot Ms Elli is named in her memory) worked to expand the training program to include instructor training, intermediate sailing and capsized response. She also revised the course materials and the materials we use today are based on her work. By the way, check-outs for skippers using club boats apparently were when SCOW bought its very first boat in 1966. They were made more formal in 1982 and the written Skipper Agreements were instituted in 1984.

The SCOW publication you are reading was renamed "ChaNNels" effective with the May 1978 issue. Before that, it was called the club "bulletin" or "newsletter." Over the years, many things have been featured in ChaNNels, from tide tables to jokes to recipes to the current "Sailor's Bookshelf" series. A few years ago, Jeff Teitel and Declan

Conroy brought SCOW into the on-line age, with the SCOW website and the now-vital email list.

The first SCOW Bay Raft-Up was held in 1977, with 16 boats and over 80 people attending. The first Re-Up Brunch was held in March 1979. The first Holiday Raft-Up was held in 1977 (previously the event had been called the Christmas Party). If, like me, you proudly fly the SCOW burgee, you'll be happy to know that it is listed with Lloyd's Register.

As for the current cruising boats, we bought Psycho in June 1989 for about \$7500 and bought Rebecca in 1995 for \$5750. At first, there was little interest within the club in racing the cruising boats. Thom Unger and Tom Beacham began racing Psycho in the Tuesday night DICF series in 1991. The August 1992 ChaNNels featured an important "news flash." Psycho had taken a first place in the DICF series -- the first time Psycho had won a DICF race. Don Deese raced Rebecca in 1995 to a number of wins, including First Place in the Leukemia Cup and in the Frostbite Series (if you look at the trophy in the Marina restaurant, you'll see Rebecca's name engraved there). Over the years, various members raced the cruising boats in the DICF races by signing the boats out using their skipper reservations -- there was no formal SCOW program or policy on big boat racing. In 1999, a larger number of members expressed interest in racing as skippers or crew on the cruising boats and then-Commodore Thom Unger appointed a committee, led by former Commodore Stuart Ullman, to find a way to broaden participation as part of the club's annual program. What emerged after several public meetings was a plan to totally revamp the small and large boat racing program. The committee's recommendations were adopted in 2000 and have worked well in giving many members the experience of racing the cruising boats and the small boats on Tuesday evenings. The 2000 year also saw Ruth Connolly appointed as SCOW's first Race Captain and she did a great job implementing the new race program.

Small boat racing on the club's boats evidently started as a regular activity in 1992. Dave Glick, then Skipper Coordinator, sponsored a two-day Beginner's Race Clinic, with a land session followed by a water session. SCOW then had small boat races every Tuesday night at 6 PM that year. A number of SCOW members volunteered over the years to run those races. My first Flying Scot race came during the year in which Alice Starke ran the races every Tuesday by herself. When the club instituted the new race program in 2000, we decided that the members who race the cruising boats on Tuesday evenings also would be required to take turns running small boat races. This has meant that one volunteer is no longer required to be at the Marina every Tuesday night and has really improved the club's ability to sustain a small boat race program throughout the summer.

In naming just a few persons above, I did not intend to slight anyone - I simply could not name everyone in one column or even one issue of ChaNNels. Every year, SCOW welcomes new members and new officers with new ideas. It is easy to forget that what we enjoy today in the club rests on the foundations laid by the scores of dedicated club members who came before us. I hope that this bit of history will inspire each of you to contribute your own enthusiasm, energy and ideas to the club so that we can make it even better for those who will follow us. If you'd like to contribute by running for club office, see the column this month about upcoming elections. And, if you have some club history you'd like to share, please let me know about it. We can feature it in another issue of ChaNNels.

Fair winds and following seas!

## **SCOW Says Thanks!**

SCOW says thanks: to Allan Lewis, for again volunteering to organize SCOW's Fowl Weather Bay Raft-Up (details in this ChaNNels); to Amy Plett for volunteering to chair the Nominating Committee and to Betty Pacheco, Jon Allen, Erica Vey, Karen Plett, and Susan Batchelder for volunteering to serve on that committee; to Steve Linke, for volunteering to clean and wax Susie Q and Ms Elli; to Barry Dunsmoor, for volunteering to lead the work crew to sand, prime and repaint Danschweida; and to everyone who joined Barry in that work effort.

## **Seeking Club-wide Nominations for SCOW 2002 Board of Directors**

**Amy Plett and Susan Batchelder**

The election results for the 2002 Board will be tallied and announced at the November meeting (11/12). Nominations for the Board must be made by the October meeting (10/08) so we can get a ballot together and mailed to your home during October.

"How do I get nominated?" you may ask..... There are two (2) ways to get nominated.

1) YOU or SOMEONE YOU KNOW can get your name(s) on the ballot by contacting one of the Nominating Committee members (Betty Pacheco, Jon Allen, Erica Vey, Karen Plett, Amy Plett, Susan Batchelder - our phone numbers are in the SCOW directory or you can e-mail Amy at Amy\_Plett@yahoo.com ) prior to October 8th. Let us know that YOU or SOMEONE YOU KNOW is interested in running for an Officer position or a Director position.

If you are nominating someone else, please check with them first to be sure that he/she wants to do this and, if elected, will serve. If you're nominating yourself, we'll assume that you've already had this heart to heart talk.

2) At the October 8th SCOW meeting, we will take nominations from the floor until 8:00 p.m. You can nominate YOURSELF or SOMEONE YOU KNOW.

If you are nominating someone else at the General Meeting and they are not there, please be sure to clear this with them ahead of time.

The four (4) Officer positions: Secretary, Treasurer, Vice Commodore and Commodore have candidates each running specifically for that position. A minimum of one candidate is needed for each Officer position.

The six (6) Director positions: Social, Maintenance, Skipper, Race, River/Bay and Training have candidates running at large for the Board. The specific positions are decided after the election, although candidates may state a preference (and usually do). We need a minimum of six at-large candidates to fill these Director positions.

The SCOW Board of Directors is a time commitment (but not huge). As former Board members, we can assure you that the rewards and benefits FAR OUTWEIGH the time and effort you put in.

### **Racing News** **Bill Bernhards**

2001 LUEKEMIA CUP REGATTA IS A HUGE SUCCESS! On September 8th over 125 boats raised a total of approximately \$90,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. This was an increase from last year's total of \$75,000 and 1999's total of \$36,000. I was very impressed by the spirit and efforts of so many club members to participate and raise so much money for this worthy cause. All of our club boats were out in full force for the Regatta as well as many SCOW members in their own boats. As of last count, the fundraising competition to race SCOW's five boats raised over \$8,385.00 - but note that some of the figures below could increase because all pledges and contributions were not collected or counted as ChaNNels went to print. Also, when the donations made or raised by club members who raced their own boats are added, we estimate that SCOW members tallied over \$10,000 in contributions for this great charity.

The top fundraising crew for SCOW goes to George Umberger, Declan Conroy, Mike Geissinger, Dan McClafferty, and Tom Hannan who contributed a total of \$3,785.00. As the highest contributor they were first to choose from our fleet and they selected "Rebecca" for the race. This crew also won the "Leukemia Cup" for raising the most money by a single crew. SCOW's name will be etched into this wonderful trophy as the 2001 winners. You can view this trophy in the display case at the entrance to the Potomac Landing restaurant. They also placed fourth in the Non Spinnaker 1 class.

Second were Alex Bromen and his crew, Aliza Seelig and Nate Bokill, who raised over \$2650.00. Alex chose to race "Miss Ellie" and took her to a first place finish in his division. Alex also won the Leukemia Cup's award for most money raised by an individual and second place for the most money raised by a small boat.

Third was "Psycho", led by Henry Yung and crew who raised a total of \$755.00. Racing with Henry were Kathi Trepper, Susan Swain and Julia Lee. At SCOW's collection meeting Henry had \$255.00 but collected an additional \$500.00 from promised pledges. They also took home a trophy by placing 3rd in the Non-Spinnaker 2 class.

In fourth place was the crew of "Susie Q" led by Donna Cohen. Her crew consisted of David Richter, Paul Miller and John Ortman. Together they raised \$610.00. Although they did not get a trophy, Donna told me they were the first in their class to get to the party and eat.

"Danschweida" raced by Stuart Ullman, Denise Malueg and Katie Ullman rounded out our SCOW boats by raising a total of \$585.00.

As of this writing I do not know all the other SCOW individuals who raced but here is a partial list. Jay Weitzel on his new boat "Needa Breeze" with Meggan Watt and Bill Bernhards; Jon Allen on "Christy D"; Dale Eager on his new boat "Coup de Vent" placed third in Spinnaker 2; another new boat "Shockwave" skippered by Don Deese placed third in Spinnaker 1; Bill Davenport sailing "We Few" placed first in Non-Spinnaker 2.

Every year there are 41 Leukemia Cup Regattas held throughout the United States. This year's Washington area Leukemia Cup makes us the 5th highest money raiser in the nation. Many thanks to all who participated in this year's race and for raising so much money for this worthy cause. Since this event is growing by leaps and bounds, you may want to start your planning now for next year.

### **From the Skipper Coordinator** **Joan O'Kane**

Did you know that a great deal just got better? On October 1, SCOW's skipper fees dropped to half price for the remaining six months of the 2001-02 season. If you were a paid up skipper in 2000-01, you have until March 31, 2002 to renew your boating privileges. If you allow your skipper privileges to lapse, you'll have to take the on-the-water checkout again to reinstate them. Why let that happen? Renew now! If you need renewal forms, please email me at skipper@scow.org.

If you're not yet a skipper, why not consider taking SCOW's written test? It's an open book test and you can take it at your own pace. What better way to stay involved in sailing during the long, cold winter months ahead? And once you pass the written test, you can look forward to taking the on-the-water checkout in the spring. If you have any questions or would like a test packet, please email me at skipper@scow.org. Be sure to include your mailing address and whether you want the Flying Scot test, the cruising boat test, or both.

### **Fowl Weather Bay Raft-Up** **Allan Lewis and Jon Allen**

SCOW will once again hold its annual Fowl Weather Raft-Up on the weekend of October 20 & 21. This event has become a great way to wind down the sailing season. The past few years we have chosen Leadenham Creek off the Choptank River because it enables boats from both the north and south fleets to raft up. We thought we would meet there again this year. We will still be on Daylight Savings Time both nights, and it is a couple of weeks earlier than last season, so the sail home will, hopefully, be a little less challenging than last year. We're open to suggestions from skippers, but would really prefer a central location so that boats from both ends of the bay can participate. Sign up sheets for skippers and prospective crew will be available at the October meeting, or just call Allan Lewis at (301)-445-3397(H). Come on out and enjoy the migrating water fowl and fall colors, and end the season with some of the best sailing of the year. Hope to see you there!

## **River Activities**

**Jon Allen**

It has been a great season on the river. Lots of SCOW boat owners participated in the river cruises and the raft-up. We should have even more cruising boats in River activities next year. The September 14th river cruise was canceled due to the river closure after the terrible events of September 11th. We are monitoring changes to the river restrictions and we hope to reschedule the river cruise for a date in October. We will announce that decision at the October membership meeting and by email.

## **The Hail and Farewell Sure to be a Swingin' Time! Matt Gaston (aka Your Swingin' Social Chair)**

The social year is winding down in time, but not in spirit! Get ready to dance the night away with your fellow swingin' SCOW members at the Hail and Farewell on Saturday, November 17, 2001. This is our annual dinner dance, year-end blowout, where we hail next year's board, say our fond farewells to the 2001 board and honor some of our most dedicated volunteers. It'll be held at the Ft. Meyer Officer's Club, will start at 7:00 p.m. and go 'til the last sailor is standing (or until midnight -- whichever comes first). Black ties and dress deck shoes are optional.

This year, the cost of the event will be \$40 per person. That includes dinner and dessert, dancing until midnight with a DJ providing the tunes, and all the other happenings that'll make this year's event the most fun you've had on shore in a loooooong time! And remember, we can only accept 100 people, so be quick! Invitations will be going out during the first part of October, so be sure to be ready with your checkbook when you get the invitation. You don't want to be left out in the cold on this one.

Hail and Farewell Chair Extraordinaire Betsy Troeder has pulled together a stalwart committee to help her, so kudos in advance for the following: June Doezema - collecting o' the checks and tracking o' the attendance Catherine Sacra and Denise Derry - dynamite decorations Melissa Ennis - \$ilent auction  
Tina Daberkow - pfabulous photo albums  
Anne LaLena - gettin' the word out phone tree  
Other Hail and Farewell Crew include Joe DePoorter, George Umberger, Karen Plett, BJ McMillan, Mary Bashore, Julia Clones, Marjorie Varner, Ben Lesser and Bill Clark.

And there's still time for YOU to volunteer, too. Just drop a line to Betsy Troeder at [EGTroeder@aol.com](mailto:EGTroeder@aol.com) or call her at (703) 933-1638.

### **Silent Auction . . .**

We're looking for donations to SCOW's silent auction, to be held at the Hail and Farewell. It'll help defray costs of the event, as well as go toward other SCOW projects. So if you (or your company) have/has something you'd like to donate -- a product, a service, a daysail on your boat, or anything else you can think of (we're encouraging creativity here), please let Hail and Farewell Silent Auction Chair Melissa Ennis know. She can be reached at (703) 845-5764 or [scribble@starpower.net](mailto:scribble@starpower.net).

### **My Mistake...**

Last issue of Channels, I forgot to mention another volunteer who was a great help at the Crab Feast, despite the fact that she doesn't even eat crabs: Sara Slocum. So a belated thanks, Sara. And thanks to Joan O'Kane for giving me the proverbial "elbow in the ribs" to remind me... And finally, don't forget the Holliday Raft-Up on December 16! Susan Bachelder's going to be whipping up a dose of holiday fun! That's all for now!

## Sailor's Bookshelf

Let's be honest. Most stories about sailing until this century are about men. But women have been as influenced by the sea as men. "Women Sailors & Sailors' Women: An Untold Maritime History" by David Cordingly, looks at the role of women in the great age of sail. The author has worked at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, England. This is not a feminist or sociological appraisal of women and the sea. Instead, it is a collection of stories that explores a part of history that is largely overlooked. How did the wives of captains and sailors cope financially and emotionally while their husbands were away? Why did some women want to be sailors so much that they dressed like men, and how did they pull that trick off in the crowded quarters of a ship? Who were the women that were pirate captains? Who were the women who saved ships in distress by performing heroic acts? This book answers those questions and more.

## 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

Visit us at: [www.scow.org](http://www.scow.org)

Write us: [info@scow.org](mailto:info@scow.org)

Call: 202.628.7245 (That's 628.SAIL)

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## 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 it's assigned place.

Submit articles to

**channels@scow.org**

within one week after the monthly meeting.

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**Kelly E. Griffin, Layout Editor (the hard part)**

**Declan Conroy, Web Publisher**

**Kim Webb, Labels**

**Larry Gemoets, Chief Go'fer**

**(I dress up the electronic edition too)**

**That's all, folks.....**