

ChaNNels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington

October 2002

Commodore's Log

"If you're thinking about it, you should probably do it."

These aren't words to live by everywhere. At the office, for instance, if you acted on every thought that came into your head, you might find yourself fired or sued for harassment. Or...um...maybe that's just me.

But when it comes to boating safety, the adage above represents words to live by. Literally.

As I continue to be sucked into the vortex of this all-consuming hobby (this being the end of my fifth sailing season), I add to my list of experiences - the variety of conditions encountered, sail trim, tactics, etc. I have become more and more aware of the dangerous side of sailing, and how conservative thinking (at least when it comes to water safety - your politics are your own business) is the way to go.

This was never more true than during one Tuesday night race in August. The winds were incredible! They were blowing steadily over 20. There was a small craft advisory out. Sailing nirvana. I'd spent the day rubbing my hands together in anticipation of my race on Needa Breeze (a Precision 23 with a swing keel) that night. I watched the whitecaps rage on the Potomac from my office window. We were going to sail fast. This was going to be cool.

Down at the dock I couldn't wait to get out. Jay Weitzel, our skipper (and my illustrious predecessor as Commodore) wasn't so sure. I'd briefly thought about whether we should reef the main, but naaaah - let's go with a full main, maybe even throw up the 155! Jay was more conservative. Occasionally, that has frustrated me - we've scuttled trips based on dicey forecasts that turned out to be wrong, and he's got this aversion to going into the shallows to avoid current, even WITH the centerboard up. But since he's paying for the boat, it's his call. I'm just the guy who hauls the sheets.

After some debate (complete with good-natured ribbing) we decided to go - under reefed main and a small 110 jib. I was a little disappointed - this was a chance to go FAST! If we pushed it just a bit, maybe we could actually get a win. Were we wimping out here?

By the time we reached the first weather mark, I realized that "pushing it" wasn't the way to go that night. We had a so-so start (as usual this year it seems) but a decent first leg. Quick, but still stable. We rounded the mark and WHAM! I looked off to starboard to see one of our

competitors, Yee-Ha, with her mast broken at the spreaders. We quickly radioed for help and made sure she had the situation under control before we resumed racing.

But that was the end of Yee-Ha's season. And in fact, at the time of this writing her mast is still not repaired. Score one for Mother Nature.

It got wackier from there. We still hung in, but while we were sailing our race, I noticed harbor patrol boats whizzing up the Potomac, along with a tow boat. That can't be good.

Sure enough, as we finished our race, we saw the tow boat going into the marina - with passengers. People I recognized from one of the boats in the spinnaker fleet. That REALLY can't be good. Any time you leave the marina on a sailboat and return on a power boat, something's gotta be wrong.

As it turns out, Anna, a US-21 in the spinnaker fleet had broached under spinnaker and flipped completely over - "gone turtle" as they call it. The crew couldn't right her in the high winds and lumpy (for the Potomac) seas. They had to abandon her. Score two for Mother Nature.

We went into the bar and heard all kinds of tales of nautical woe. In addition to the stories I just recounted, there were several other near misses and boats who just plain dropped out because they felt overpowered.

We, on the other hand, never felt in danger at all thanks to Jay's conservative call on the sails. It was still fun and fast, but it was safe. And for you hyper-competitive racers out there, I'd like to point out that we got one of our best results of the year. All because we didn't overpower our boat.

So, the next time you're licking your chops on a windy day and thinking about whether to reef, remember - if you're thinking about it, you should probably do it. I've heard this adage from many of the sailors who taught me how to sail and that's the philosophy we teach in our training classes at SCOW.

Now, I'd like to add my voice to that chorus.

Sail safely, and I'll see you 'round the docks!

October Membership Meeting

Monday, October 14

Olympic Hopefuls Greg and Casey Scace

Columbus Day is the perfect day to listen to great sailors! Come to the Membership Meeting on October 14th and meet Caroline (Casey) and Greg Scace, two Maryland sailors who are committed to winning a gold medal in the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens.

Team Scace is among the top five sailing teams in the United States in the International Tornado class, the fastest of the 11 sailing classes in the Olympic Games. In recognition of their potential

to win a medal for the United States, they have been selected to the United States Sailing Team. They are unique members of the team. Casey is the only woman on the team who is sailing in a class open to both men and women. They are also the only married couple on the team. Team Scace's motto: "Sail together! Win a medal together! Live happily ever after together!"

The boat on which they compete is not what most people envision when they think of sailing. Their Tornado catamaran is a 20-foot long, twin-hulled, built-for-speed rocket. The boat is designed like a fighter plane and can reach speeds of over 30 mph, while routinely launching us into the air off of ocean waves. To learn more about Tornado sailing, check out the International Tornado Association website at <http://www.tornado.tc/>.

Learn about Tornado racing and the challenges of fine-tuning a boat for world-class competition. Also learn about the challenges of preparing for and financing an Olympic campaign including the search for sponsors and the first annual Ben Hurl Challenge that featured Volvo Ocean Race competitors.

Team Scace's 2004 Tornado sailing campaign is all-consuming. Their sailing schedule for this year includes 11 national and international competitions, plus training camps prior to nearly every event. In addition, they are committed to hours in the gym improving their strength, speed, and agility as well as spending time developing and evaluating new equipment and techniques for going faster. And like most people, they also have jobs - Greg is a mechanical engineer for the Department of Commerce (and a former race car designer) and Casey is an electrical engineer for Network Associates.

Last Call for Nominations!

Joan O'Kane

Candidates for the 2003 Board of Directors will be announced at the Membership Meeting on Monday, October 14. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the meeting.

Everything that happens in SCOW - from membership meetings to social sails, the Re-Up Brunch to racing, training to raft-ups - results directly from the efforts of the dedicated volunteers who make up the Board of Directors. They don't do all the work themselves, but they get things organized and get everyone motivated to keep SCOW running smoothly. Without the Board, SCOW would be like a Flying Scot stuck in hydrilla in the middle of August. Get the picture?

You don't need a lot of experience to be on the board. You just need enthusiasm and a willingness to help the club. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else, email Nominating Committee Chair Joan O'Kane at okanejm@yahoo.com or call her at 703-379-9869.

Fowl Weather Raft-up

October 19th & 20th

The final raft-up of the season is just around the corner. Once again, Allan Lewis will be leading a raft-up to the Wye Island Natural Resource Area.

We've had a great series of raft-ups this year; let's go out with a bang! (Of excitement, not something breaking.)

Come to the Wye River on October 19th & 20th. We will be meeting in Dividing Creek, off the Wye East River and adjacent to the Wye Island Natural Resource Area. Contact Raft-Master Allan Lewis at Allan.Lewis@faa.gov for details.

Maintenance Day

Saturday, October 19th

If you can't make it to Fowl Weather Raft-Up, SCOW's Fall Maintenance Day is Saturday, October 19, 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 special 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, please contact Maintenance Director Gordon Cameron at maintenance@scow.org.

Sail on Seanchai to the Fowl Weather Raft-up!

Jeff Teitel

SCOW has chartered the sailing vessel Seanchai (Shawn'-a-key) with Captain Pat Derry (a long-time member of SCOW) for the Fowl-Weather Raft-Up. Pat has given the club a 50% discount on the charter so SCOW can offer individual berths for \$165 per person for the weekend. This includes two full days of sailing and overnight accommodations on-board at the raft-up. It does not include food and drinks. This is a great way to sail on the Bay without owning a boat!

You can find out more about Seanchai on the website - <http://www.sailseanchai.com>

To sign up, send a check, payable to SCOW (and a note telling him what it's for) to Bay Activities Director Jon Allen, 2920 S. Buchanan St. #C-1, Arlington, VA 22206.

Seanchai can carry six people plus her captain. The berths will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to SCOW members and their guests.

Contact bay@scow.org or call Jon at 703-379-9869 for more information.

Hail and Farewell
Saturday, November 16th
7:00 pm to Midnight

That's right...The Hail and Farewell is SOON! This is the biggest event of the year, our annual dinner dance, where we say farewell to the outgoing board, welcome the incoming board, distribute awards to our many outstanding SCOW volunteers, renew friendships with those we haven't seen since the summer, and as always, make new friends! And by the way...you do not need a date for this event. Only about half of the attendees will bring a date, so if you would like to bring someone, that's great. But coming alone may be even more fun!

The Hail and Farewell was great last year. We had a full house (we actually had to turn some folks away because we reached capacity), had dinner and danced until the DJ stopped the music (that was midnight, by the way!). And in case you were worried, the same DJ has been hired for this year just to make sure we have as much fun as last.

Watch your emails for information about making reservations. In the mean time, make SURE you mark your calendar to say HAIL & FAREWELL on Saturday, November 16th !

Anyone who wants to be on the Hail & Farewell Committee should get in touch with Committee Chair Betsy Troeder at 703-933-1638. Last year we had 16 volunteers which made it easy to plan and a lot of fun!

Social Activities
Shonika Proctor

Good Day, Good People~

The sailing season may be winding down, but the SCOW social calendar definitely ISN'T.

Social No-Sails:

I'm looking for suggestions for 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.

Last year, Social No-Sails were held at Chadwick's in Alexandria, VA. I am looking for places, preferably near water or with a nautical theme. The restaurant should be located in the Washington DC Metropolitan area. Parking availability is a plus! Convenience to Metro would be a bonus!

Hail and Farewell:

We need your help....and HOW?!? As you will read elsewhere in Channels, we are now recruiting volunteers for the Hail and Farewell, SCOW's end of the year blowout party. You only need one criteria to come out and help: You have to be willing to 'Rock the House!'

We are looking for people interested in helping to organize the event. All skills levels, ages, genders and experiences are welcome. We need people to help with the silent and live auction, marketing and ticketing, event planning & logistics, entertainment, food & beverage and the phone tree.

How can you help? You can either you need to email me at social@scow.org or call Hail & Farewell Committee Chair Betsy Troeder at 703-933-1638. If you have not volunteered to help with any SCOW Event in the 2002 Season, now's your chance!

River & Bay Activities

Jon Allen

Despite some weather glitches we have had a great series of river cruises. We have had at least one a month. Many new members of SCOW have had a chance to go out on Psycho & Rebecca. Many thanks to all the club members who graciously took members on their own boats.

I would like to thank Donna Cohen, Jay Weitzel, Steve Linke, and George Umberger for helping out with the September 15th cruise. In spite of less than ideal weather, Steve Linke and George Umberger took a few hardy souls out for a somewhat damp cruise.

As you will read elsewhere in Channels, Allan Lewis is the raft master for the Fowl Weather raftup coming up on Oct 20-21st. This raftup has had great attendance in the past. Contact Allan Lewis for more information at 301-445-3397 or via email at Allan.Lewis@faa.gov.

Racing News

Bill Bernhards

This years' Leukemia Cup Regatta held on September 7th and was a huge success! Over \$115,000 was raised, far exceeding this area's \$100,000 goal set to help fight leukemia and lymphoma. Over 125 boats participated in the races; 31 in the PHRF cruising boat races and about 100 in the one-design dinghy races.

The "Five Skippers Crew" (George Umberger, Mike Geissinger, Dan McClafferty, Declan Conroy, Pat Derry and Tom Hannan; Yes, that's six skippers. Go figure.) was successful for the second year in a row in capturing the National Capital Area Leukemia Cup. The Cup is awarded annually to "The Crew That Cares" for raising the highest amount of all participating boat crews to support the efforts of the Lymphoma Society. \$11,450 was raised by this crew, more than triple the amount they raised in 2001 (\$3780). About 160 individual, family, and corporate contributors excelled in making this very significant contribution a reality.

While many SCOW members raised money and sailed, only two of the boats in SCOW's fleet went out. The five skippers chose to race Mike's boat "Euphoria" and let Stuart Ullman, Donna Cohen, Monica Maynard and Tom Beachem take "Rebecca". Phil Bender and Tom Flesher sailed "Susie Q" as our only one-design representative. Most members sailed with other SCOW skippers on private boats or with other boats from the marina.

The after-race party also saw record-breaking attendance, as over 500 sailors and others joined in to feast on a wonderful banquet provided by the Washington Sailing Marina.

As always, SCOW members had some results in the race. Dale Eager took First place in Spinnaker 1 on "Coup De Vent". Don Deese took Third Place in Non-Spinnaker 1 sailing "Shockwave". And for the 9th year in a row, Bill Davenport on "We Few" took first in Non-Spinnaker 2. Also taking a gold was Phil Bender in the Flying Scot division.

SCOW and all area sailors got together to make this year's Regatta one of the best in the nation. Many thanks go to all of you who donated money and time to make this the best Leukemia Cup Regatta ever.

Training News

Donna Cohen

Stay tuned to the all@scow email alerts for announcements of one day classes for "members only," which will review docking and crew overboard maneuvers on the Flying Scots and Cruisers.

Also, don't forget "Mondays are for Mentoring". Come on down to the small boat dock area around 6:00pm on every Monday except the 2nd Monday of the month. We should be able to continue through most of October.

[Why not the second Monday? Because we will all be at the Membership Meeting!]

Alas, the eve of my position is upon me.....as I prepare my exit, I do so with fond memories of all the SCOW members I came in contact with this year. Whether student, trainer, mentor, or friendly and helpful member, Scow would not be complete without you. Thank you for allowing me the excuse as training director to get into your faces. I have had the opportunity to meet and work with a great bunch of members. I look forward to helping out with our very important club as a volunteer next year. I again applaud those who gave their time and who shared their skills with the club. I am glad that while sharing with others our trainers and mentors are able to strengthen their skill levels as well.

With huge appreciation thank you to: Neil Shepherd, Larry Gemoets, Stuart Ullman, Jim Metcalf, Jay Weitzel, Declan Conroy, Dave Rabinowitz, Larry McAndrews, Barby Ullman, Joe Depoorter, Steve Toby, Ed Venere, Dan McClafferty, Len Zuza, Thom Unger, Kris Bieg, Susan Batchelder, Dale Eager, Jan Metten van der Meer, Sergey Tagaashov, Liz Bruening, Jeff Teitel, Ben Ackerman, Randy Glantz, Chuck Hollister, Marty Crowson, Steve Linke, and any one else I may be forgetting. You are all excellent volunteers!

And for those of you who are wondering, the village survives!

2002 Board of Directors

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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.

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 its assigned place.

Submit articles to channels@scow.org
within one week **after** the monthly membership meeting.

ChaNNels can also be read at: <http://www.scow.org>

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That's all folks...