

# ChaN<sup>W</sup>Nels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington  
October 2003

## Commodore's Log

As I pen this, I am hoping for the best as Hurricane Isabel approaches from the southeast. Skippers and crew are now battening the hatches, extending and strengthening dock lines, in some cases moving to hurricane hole anchorages and sheltered moorings, removing unnecessary rigging, sails and sail covers to reduce windage, and otherwise preparing for strong blows and high, rough waters. Our own SCOW boats are being tended by caring bosuns and crew. May we be spared serious damage to our ships and injury to our families and friends throughout the eastern seaboard.

On a lighter note, it is with pleasure that I report a grand success for the Tenth Annual National Capital Area Volvo Leukemia Cup Regatta. Approximately \$180,000 was raised for the research and educational programs of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. That's 144% of this year's goal of \$125,000, high enough to top our neighboring Annapolis Regatta's \$150,000, and currently placing us in third place in fundraising among over 40 regattas nationwide. Four of SCOW's boats competed in both PHRF and one-design classes under sunny skies and winds gusting

to 5 knots. Next year let us have both sun AND wind please. Our own "Five Skippers" crew retained the Leukemia Cup for the third year in a row. And a great many SCOW members participated as skippers, crew, volunteers and contributors to this special event.

As you read this, I hope you filled up on crabs at our annual feast or else enjoyed a refreshing weekend Bay cruise to Dun Cove on the September 27 weekend. Thanks to Chefs Matt Gaston and Rob Langford and to Raftmaster Tom Beacham for leading these events.

Upcoming we have planned an overnight River cruise on the October 11 weekend, our annual Fowl Weather Raft-up on the October 25 weekend, and our last Skipper Checkout Day on October 5, held concurrently with the Skipper Trainer Appreciation Day and Picnic. Thanks respectively to Jay Weitzel, Allan Lewis, Steve Linke and Karyl Owings for organizing these sailing and social events.

If you would like to take part in organizing events in 2004, or otherwise lend your talents and ideas to SCOW activities, please take this opportunity to speak to a member of the 2004 Nominations Committee and learn how you might be able to

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*October Membership Meeting  
Monday, October 13*

### "He Said/She Said at Sea"

This month's program will be a multi-media presentation by Len and Karen Zusa on their trip to Maine, a male/female perspective, sort of "he said/she said". You may not have considered that two people can be on the same boat and experience two completely cruises. Come hear Len and Karen give us a perspective of sailing to Maine and back from different spots on the boat.

The meeting will be held at the usual time and place - the American Legion Hall in Old Town Alexandria, 400 Cameron Street (check out <http://www.scow.org> for directions). Socializing starts at 6:30 p.m., with the meeting at 7:30 and the presentation at 8:00.

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contribute. Committee members include Bill Bernhards (Chair), Mary Bashore, Susan Batchelder, Donna Cohen and Matt Gaston. They are busy now seeking volunteers for the 10 elected SCOW positions and numerous additional appointed positions for the coming year. And a special thank you to those who do speak up and volunteer for these important tasks.

See you on the water as the Fall breezes begin to blow.

Fair winds,

**Commodore George**

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**Nominating Committee**  
Bill Bernhards

Yes, it's that time of year when we are looking for candidates for the 2004 SCOW Board or Directors.

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. They don't do all the work themselves, but they get things organized and get everyone motivated to keep SCOW running smoothly.

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 Bill Bernhards at [billb53@hotmail.com](mailto:billb53@hotmail.com) or call him at 301-937-4843 ext. 113 (w) or 301-590-0522 (h). You may also contact any of the other members of the nominating committee: Matt Gaston, Donna Cohen, Mary Bashore, or Susan Batchelder.

Candidates for the 2004 Board of Directors will be announced at the Membership Meeting on Monday, October 13. Additional nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the meeting.

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**Skipper Director News**  
Steve Linke

Every year, skipper fees drop to half price as of October 1. This means that for Flying Scots, you can sail from now until next March 31 for \$45. Such a deal. Fees are similarly halved for cruisers.

The next -- and last -- Flying Scot checkout day for this year is 5 October. Contact me at [skipper@scow.org](mailto:skipper@scow.org) if you have passed your written exam and want to get the on-water checkout completed. The sailing weather is great in the fall and early spring. What are you waiting for?

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**Down By The River . . .**  
Jay Weitzel, River Director

Well, our planned schedule of summer activities is over. I want to especially thank the skippers who brought their own boats to our activities, or took the tiller of Rebecca, so that we could take so many members out on river events. With Psycho out of commission all summer, we couldn't have done it without you. Watch your email this fall. If weather permits, I will try to do a few "impromptu" river sails, probably day sails on weekends.

**ChanNels**

can also be read at:

[www.scow.org](http://www.scow.org)

Submit articles to

[channels@scow.org](mailto:channels@scow.org)

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

*Joan O'Kane, Editor*

*Chris Chubb, Layout Editor*

*Monika O'Connor, Mailing Lists*

**LAST CALL: Fowl Weather Raft-Up**  
**October 25 & 26**  
Allan Lewis

SCOW will once again hold its annual Fowl Weather Raft-Up on the weekend of October 25 & 26.

We will meet in Dividing Creek, off the Wye East River and adjacent to the Wye Island Natural Resource Area. (Granary Creek, just up the river, will be our back-up if Dividing Creek is full.) This is an excellent place to watch the migrating geese and is one of the best gunkholes on the bay.

I'd appreciate it if those skippers planning to attend would touch base beforehand so we have some idea of how many boats to expect. Also, for those who would like to crew, let me know and I will make your names available to those skippers who might be looking for crew. If you haven't already done so, please complete a crew registration form, which can be downloaded from the SCOW website (<http://www.scow.org/CrewingReg.pdf>), and mail to Hope Andruss (her address is on the form).

My phone numbers are (301) 445-3397(H) and (202) 385-7297(O), and my e-mail is [allan.lewis@faa.gov](mailto:allan.lewis@faa.gov) if you have any questions.

For more information about the natural resource area, go to <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/eastern/wyeisland.html>

Hope to see you on the bay



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**Storm Preparation for Boats**

As ChaNNels goes to press, Hurricane Isabel is bearing down on the Mid-Atlantic. By the time you read this, she should have worn herself out and hopefully left the area with minimal damage to life and property.

Thanks to Thom Unger and Mike Geissinger for this list of suggestions for securing boats. Hopefully we won't need it again this year or for a long time to come.

Caveat: These are suggestions only. Final responsibility rests with YOU, as to which make sense or not for your individual case.

Boats at docks:

- Remove main sails, roller-furled headsails, sail covers, lifelines, and anything else that you can remove from above deck to reduce windage.
- If your boat is small enough, drop the mast and tie it down very securely to reduce windage.
- Double all lines. Triple won't hurt...

- Re-tie all dock lines that currently use eye splices with cleat hitches, both on the boat and on the dock. This will allow marina staff to more easily adjust your lines if needed.
- Add chafe protection to all lines at any point where they rub against anything. Simple chafe protection: old garden hose sections, split down the middle, then duct tape them on with lots of tape.
- Double check that all seacocks are closed, except for cockpit scuppers.
- Make sure batteries are charged and bilge pump (with float) is cleared of blockage.
- Make sure all fuel tanks are full, so if boats must be moved quickly, fuel is available.
- If your engine is on a lifting mount, drop it down into the water. This will reduce windage a little bit, make it quickly available if needed, and won't hurt the engine for a couple of days.
- Use all available fenders to add additional protection between boats and docks.

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- Check that all anchors are readily available, with lines free to run.
- See <http://www.boatus.com/news/hurricane/dock.htm> for more info regarding boats at docks.

Small boats on land:

- Remove boat cover and make sure drain holes are open, and free and clear of debris.
- If possible, drop the mast and tie it down tightly, to reduce windage.
- Adjust the front wheel height on the trailer to tip boats back so they can drain. Boat U.S. suggests leaving the drain plug in, and filling the boat partially with water to help weight it down. This also sounds good, decide for yourself which makes more sense for you. See the link below for more details.
- Remove all light gear from within the boats, eg. lifejackets. Make sure everything else is stowed far

forward under the bow.

- Buy large tent stakes, and run ropes over the top of the boat, eg. tie 'em down. I would suggest at least 5 stakes per boat. 2 on either side, and 1 up forward to help hold down the trailer tongue.
- Double lines and add chafe protection.
- If possible, position the boats so they're not close enough to either each other, or any other boats, such that if a boat tips over, it would hit another boat.
- If any private boats are next to yours, but aren't staked down, consider staking them down as both a favor to the owner, as well as to protect yours. (Caveat: I'm not a lawyer, and as such have no idea regarding possible legal consequences of doing this)
- Along related lines, if possible, position your boat away from any trees that might fall or lose branches.
- See <http://www.boatus.com/news/hurricane/trailer.htm> for more info on boats on trailers.

### **Ici et Maintenant**

Tom Hannan

Not “Ice and Maintenance”, but “Here and Now”; which happens to be mid-September. The news today is hurricane “Isabel”, poised to strike three or four days hence. Here’s hoping our loyal readership weathered the storm, and our fleet is none the worse for wear, and is transporting club members physically and aesthetically through the first blushes of fall foliage.

It’s come to the fall of my stewardship as well, and time to wrap up all the joys of summer and plant some seeds of things to come when spring arrives next year. Joan and I have sold our house in Rockville, and are free of jobs and mortgage until early next summer when our condominium (also in Rockville) will be completed. We’ve decided to use this time to leisurely explore some of our most favorite cities; Boston, San Francisco, New Orleans among them.

So, I will be taking my leave of Washington and SCOW until next summer. I thank my able crew; Bill Bernhards, Declan Conroy, Barry Dunsmoor, Kathy Reilly, Dave Scheuermann and Cathy Zeigler for keeping me sane this year. Also to John Roland, Thom Unger, Michael McLaughlin, and all the other kind folks who pitched in and kept the fleet afloat this challenging season. I know they’ll continue their fine effort in my absence.

John Roland has kindly agreed to accept my frayed mantle and bent sceptre, and has been initiated into the board of directors, where I’m sure he’ll serve with elan and eclat. (And the occasional éclair.) I know I’ll miss you all at Fall Maintenance Day on the 18th; it was a fun time this spring and is stacking up to be a great time this month—don’t miss it (and “The Raffle of the Century”).

“May the wind always be at your back...until we meet again.”

## Caring For Our Club's Sails

Jay Weitzel

New sails are a big investment. A set of sails for one of our Scots runs about \$1600. The worst enemy of a sail is the sun -- it breaks down the material. But here is a quiz: Do you know what the second-worst enemy of a sail is? The answer is YOU, the sailor using it! Properly using and storing sails will prolong their life. This summer we've had a few rips and tears in our club's sails, so here are some tips on caring for sails.

The worst thing you can do is to crumple a sail up on the boat or by stuffing it in a sailbag (with the exception of some spinnakers which are meant to be stuffed). Sure, you know to carefully fold or "flake" a sail before you stow it. But, that isn't the only time you need to treat a sail carefully. How often do you see someone douse a sail on deck, then crumple it up on the bow, or shove it through a companionway in a heap below, or even walk on it as they get on or off a boat? How often do you see them drag sails down the dock or pile sails in a mess on the grass before they get ready to fold them? As you crumple a sail repeatedly -- whether in a sail bag, on deck or on the grass -- the coating on the sail breaks down, the fibers break down, and soon that crisp sail is a distant memory. The sail starts to stretch and tear.

Another way to damage a sail is to let it "luff," or flap wildly in the breeze. How often have you seen someone dock a boat, get off for a brief period and leave the sails flapping in the wind? Like crumpling,

luffing breaks down the fibers and coating, all of which causes the sail to lose its shape and shortens its life. The jib or headsail is most prone to damage from luffing because it tends to beat against the mast or other deck fixtures. But, luffing doesn't happen only at the dock. It happens when you are sailing, too. If the wind picks up, don't let the sails luff constantly to "depower." Instead, you should reef. Also, when hoisting a sail, you should do it quickly. A sail that is being raised slowly is flogging longer.

Don't flake a sail on a wooden dock or on concrete or asphalt. Before you use a grassy area, look for sticks or stones. When flaking the jib or the main from a Scot, stretch the foot out all of the way. One person should be at the luff and the other at the leech. Use gentle folds. Flake the sail neatly with even folds as you by grabbing equal parts of the luff and the leech and pulling them toward the foot.. After flaking the sail, fold it so it fits in the bag. Some people prefer to have the tack on the outside, so that it is readily available when you are doing foredeck work -- you can quickly attach the tack so the sail doesn't blow away. If the sheets are wet, keep them out of the bag. If you are flaking a sail on one of the cruisers, where it remains on the boom, you should fold the sail where it naturally folds. Be careful that you keep the battens straight. After tying the sail with sail ties to the boom, put on the cover, so that the sail is protected from UV rays of the sun.



*(Photo courtesy of Joe Cianfrani)*

**Ms. Elli Leads the Pack at the Leukemia Cup**



*(Photo courtesy of Joe Cianfrani)*

**Towboat Jeff and His Minions**

### 2003 Board of Directors

Position	Name	Home	Work	E-mail
Commodore	George Umberger	703.323.9358		commodore@scow.org
Vice Commodore	Susan Batchelder	703.519.9844	703.548.3700 x112	vice@scow.org
Secretary	Monika O'Connor	703.921.9262		secretary@scow.org
Treasurer	Graham Leadbetter	301.474.7270	703.325.4429	treasurer@scow.org
Training Director	Jan Earle	202.249.0855		training@scow.org
Maintenance Director	John Roland	703.368.9792	703.321.4614	maintenance@scow.org
Social Director	Rob Langford	703.383.1530	703.934.7015	social@scow.org
Skipper Director	Steve Linke	703.684.5266	703.604.7113	skipper@scow.org
River & Bay Director	Jeff Teitel	202.332.4160	202.271.1238	bay@scow.org
Racing Director	Kara Wald	703.824.1776	301.657.3077	race@scow.org
<b>Other Key People</b>				
New Members	Melissa Ennis	703.845.5764		info@scow.org
	Jeremy Spilker	703.494.7237		info@scow.org
Historian	Jane Farthing	301.972.2636		historian@scow.org
River Coordinator	Jay Weitzel	703.866.9190	703.205.3320	river@scow.org
Database Administrator	Monika O'Connor	703.921.9262		dba@scow.org
Email Administrator	Jeff Teitel			postmaster@scow.org

### 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 (202.628.SAIL) or email [info@scow.org](mailto:info@scow.org) or visit <http://www.scow.org>