
CHANNELS -- SPECIAL E-MAIL EDITION

October 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. Channels issues, current and past, may be viewed on the SCOW's Homepage: scow.org on the internet.

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

October Program

This month SCOW meets on Columbus Day, Oct. 13th, a holiday that sets the tone for a distinctive program of literary treats. Homage will be paid to select sailors throughout history as distinguished club members read excerpts from hand-picked nautical tales and share favorite poems and prose flavored with a salty tang. We'll get a bird eye's view of Christopher Columbus' trials and tribulations, and much much more. Please join us that evening for SCOW's first literary evening -- an event to whet our appetite and provide food for thought for the lengthening fall and winter nights ahead.

Commodore's Log

Crisp October! Full sails, frosty air, but not too frosty -- Sailing is still good, in fact some people say it's prime. Autumn is a wonderful sailing season but for some of us, summer is over too soon.

Our association, at least our in-person association with Elaine Emling and Mike Jenner is also over too soon. After 3 years in the States, and most of that a loyal SCOW member, Mike returns to England this month, and he's taking fair Elaine with him, which, since they're newlyweds is understandable. Anyway, they've invited all of us to visit. Mike's promised to give us the royal treatment, so to speak. You and Betsy Troeder in Edinburgh can start *SCOUK.* H-m-m-m, the name needs work but it's a good idea. Farewell. We wish you the best.

Fall finds us settling down to business once again. We are dutiful, committed to action and focused once more, and rightfully so. SCOW has four very important activities this month: River raft-up Oct. 4 (contact Declan Conroy), Nominations for the 1998 Board of Directors are due by the close of the Oct. 13th membership meeting; *End-of-summer* clean-up for

our boats and last but far from least, spirited ghouls and goblins await us at our Oct. 25th Halloween party.

The nominating committee consists of Nikki Goodman, Declan Conroy, George Umberger and me. We are canvassing the membership for the best blend of the club's unique personalities, skills and talents to be candidates for the board. SCOW has a treasure of talent. Unfortunately, this treasure of talent also has a tyranny of other responsibilities. But remember as we ask you to consider serving, the time commitment associated with a board position is a small investment for a great return of fun, new friends and challenges -- and the opportunity to imprint your own distinctive style on our very special club. Term of office runs from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. Start the new year off with an exciting new endeavor!

As you know, there are four officer positions: Commodore, Vice-Commodore, Secretary and Treasurer. People are elected to those specific offices, unlike the directorships, which are made by appointments by the commodore after election to the board. There are 6 director positions, currently one each in the areas of : training, skipper coordination, maintenance, social, bay and river activity. It is up to the new commodore to assign positions to individuals. No guarantees may be given to candidates for directorships that they will get their preferred assignment. It is the practice, however, that commodores, to the extent possible, try to match individuals and their interests.

Bear in mind also that when the nominating committee contacts you, it is because you are valued -- your talents and skills are recognized, appreciated and sought after. We are not looking for bodies to fill the board. We seek the best and that's you.

If you really can't find the time to accept a nomination, so be it. You are still asked to contribute your abilities on an ad hoc basis as projects and events come up. The 1998 board deserves all our active support and hands-on efforts. There's a lot of work to be done in arranging social events, river and bay raft-ups, social sails, skipper testing and tutoring, boat maintenance, training and the myriad other endeavors SCOW undertakes. No board can or should try to do it alone. SCOW's board of directors is probably the only board in the world where the board members do a heck of a lot of the work. They're not managers directing from afar. They need you.

The more you, each one of you, do for the club, the more each one of you gets out of the club. At the same time, the club overall is enriched. So com'on, be selfish, get more out of the club by giving more of yourself.

On another front, social sail ends Oct. 16th, though by that date it's a very brief social sail. Don't forget to join us at the marina bar for social no-sail. You'll find it's comforting to see friendly faces during the work week in the chilly months ahead. Our hat's off to Lee Spain for all he's done as river director. By the time this reaches you in hard copy Lee will have concluded a successful Also-Ran Regatta Sept. 27, followed by a fun picnic. Details on both in a later issue.

Do come to our Oct. 13th meeting, and hear rousing nautical readings and recitations by talented SCOW members. Our very own Melissa Ennis is one of several stars shining that evening. Then, scrub-a-dub dub our boats Oct. 18th. A week later, bob for apples or haunt the SCOW member of your dreams or nightmares as the case may be at our Oct. 25th Halloween costume party. I'm sure you'll look bewitching.

Have fun as always SCOW, but cast your spells wisely. --*Anne La Lena*

SCOW Welcomes our newest members:

Beverly Ashcraft,
Diane Munro,
George d'Angelo

Bay Activities

(Larry Gemoets) Ted Schad will host a Fall Cruise from Oct 11-19 that sounds like it will give us an opportunity to venture a bit further than we normally do. Several Boats have signed on to join him along the way for 2-4 days. I hope you can join him and his fleet of explorers for at least part of this cruise. Call either of us to sign on. Here's the plan again:

Ted's Great Adventure October 11-19, 1997

Saturday 11...Hudson Cr. off Little Choptank R.

Sunday 12... Smith Cr. off Potomac R.

Monday 13... Tippity Wichity Is. off St. Marys R.

Tuesday 14...Yeocomoco R.

Wednesday 15...Mill Cr. off Great Yeocomoco R.

Thursday 16...Carter Cr. near Irvingtion

Friday 17...Tangier Island

Saturday 18...Solomons Is.

Sunday 19...Return to your Homeports

Fowl Weather Raft-Up

Bummed out now that sailing season is winding down? Well, stop your squawking and join SCOW for a Fowl Weather Raft-Up on October 25 & 26. We will be rafting-up in Granary Creek, along the north shore of the Wye East River (coordinates are 76 deg.,08',30" West and 38 deg., 53',00" North). Granary Creek is adjacent to a natural resource area and provides an excellent vantage point for enjoying the migrating geese and the fall foliage. Interested skippers and prospective crew should call raftmaster Allan Lewis at (202)-244-5516. Hope to see you there!

Dates to remember:

Every Month:

First Monday 7PM- Board Meeting in the chart room Not September though.

Second Monday 6:30PM Membership Meeting at the American Legion
Every Wednesday: SCOW races
Every Thursday : Social Sail/No Sail after 10/16

October:

2 Intermediate Sailing Begins
4 River Raft-Up
7 Basic Sail Course Begins
10,11 Annapolis Sailboat Show
11 Ted's Great Bay adventure begins
16 Final Social Sail of the season
18 Maintenance Day
25 Halloween Party
25,26 "Fowl Weather" Raft-Up, Wye River

November:

14 Hail & Farewell-Ft. Myer 1900-2300

December:

7 Holiday Raft-Up/Dinner 1700

Ads/announcements/pleas

Ski Trip to New Mexico

FEB. 14 - 21, 1998 Stay at a slopeside lodge in Red River, NM, with ski areas of Taos, Angel Fire, Sipapu and Santa Fe a short drive away. Added attractions are museums, art galleries, historic pueblos and even a western mardi gras! \$723 covers airfare, lodging (double occupancy), two lift tickets and a pre-trip party. If you'd like more information about this exciting ski trip opportunity, call Sharon Schoumacher at (703) 522-9014

For Sale:

Venerable old Ariel is looking for new owners to take her to SCOW Raft-ups. 1972 Irwin 32. Atomic 4 engine. Hull in good shape--no blister problems, but boat needs work. Asking \$7,500. Contact Sam Schaen, 703-560-8365.

Book Review:

**Sea Change: Alone Across the Atlantic in a Wooden Boat by Peter Nichols (Viking Press).
Review by SCOW member Melinda Miller**

The memoir Sea Change tells the story of Peter Nichols's single-handed voyage from England to Maine aboard a sturdy, lovable 27-foot wooden boat called Toad. This real journey across the water mirrors interior reflections about how the author's life journey led him to the challenge of the solitary crossing.

Peter Nichols and his wife bought Toad in the Virgin Islands for \$6,000, and together they sailed, worked, and lived aboard the boat for several years, until their marriage foundered. We learn gradually about their life together, through Nichols's recollections in his solitude. Nichols exhibits artistry in his restrained portrait of the break-up of his marriage. Clearly, his lonely voyage suggests a man setting a new course for himself.

But ultimately what makes this book enjoyable is that Nichols simply loves to sail, and he loves his vessel. These feelings shine through in his writing. He shares his experience in a clear and direct way about practical matters such as sleep, food, navigation, loneliness, falling overboard, sail trim, and how to ride rough seas.

Nichols studies sailing, and cites other authorities and sources freely. In the process, he provides a useful reference bibliography for a seaman. His book doesn't just describe pleasant ports-of-call, but attends to the excitements found in the journey itself. As you come to see toad through the sailor's eyes, as a refuge and a wooden magic carpet, you will appreciate the romance and rewards of the always labor-intensive wooden boat.

On June 25, Peter Nichols spoke at the Hirschorn Museum about the voyage described in the book. He is tall, lanky, sunburned, with a sailor's sun-lined face. He explained that the events described in the book occurred in the early 1980s. Nichols relates his story with dry, reserved amusement, although he still harbors strong feelings about the voyage and its outcome. He has truly taken time to fashion his memories into a meaningful story. He showed slides of Toad from the journey across the Atlantic. He plans another single-handed voyage to Antarctica.

When my friend Bill asked him what he would say to a person contemplating sailing a long distance alone, Peter replied, without hesitation or doubt, "Do it!"

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Every Wednesday: SCOW races

Every Thursday : Social Sail

Oct. 2 Intermediate Sailing Course

Oct. 7, 14 Basic Sail Course- Chart Room 7PM

Oct. 4,5,11,12,18,19 Basic Sail, water sessions

Oct. 10,11 Annapolis Sailboat Show

Oct. 16 Final Social Sail of the season

Oct. 18 Maintenance Day

Oct. 25 Halloween Party

Oct. 25,26 "Fowl Weather" RaftUp, Wye River

Nov. 14 Hail & Farewell-Ft. Myer 1900-2300

Dec. 7 Holiday Raft-Up/Dinner 1700