

ChaNNels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington

September 2002

Commodore's Log

Well, here it is September. Only about a month of the "official" sailing season left (although we all know that good weather can persist quite a bit later around here). And it's too early to say goodbyes, certainly, but not too early to talk about next year. And how you can make it a great SCOW year.

Yep, it's time for board nominations. Joan O'Kane (your fabulous ChaNNels editor) has agreed to head up the nominating committee, and she's looking for a few good SCOW-ers to lead this club in 2003. I've had the privilege of serving on the SCOW board for two years now, and I'll be sailing off into the sunset after this year, but there's plenty of opportunity to take things to yet another level next year!

So what I thought I'd do with this month's column is go through the jobs that we're looking to fill for next year, and some of the qualities that, in my experience, are what you need to fill them. I've been spoiled by this year's board, but I'm sure there's some folks out there who can do a fantastic job of spoiling next year's Commodore!

Commodore - This job requires basically three things - the ability to communicate and lead (especially diplomatic skills), a love of being down at the marina, sometimes 3-4 nights a week or more during the "high" season, and above all, a love of SCOW. You'll be able to set the tone and get things done - if there's anything you think the club should be, you have the power to lead folks in that direction. You're at the center of the action! And more than that, you'll meet some really cool people.

Vice Commodore - This job takes creativity and organization - you're in charge of what happens at the monthly membership meetings - especially the meeting speaker. So you've got to have good ideas for what would make a good SCOW program, and how to make it happen. Plus, you need to back up the Commodore and be there to advise and fill in as necessary.

Secretary - One of the true "behind the scenes" positions, this person keeps track of the club's membership. Once again, being organized is key (a familiar theme here) and knowing how to manage a database is quite helpful. Whenever we need to know about a club member, whether he or she is paid up, skipper qualifications, or even where they'd like to volunteer, we turn to the secretary. And the secretary is key to our new member recruitment, as well.

Treasurer - The other "behind the scenes" position, this job is for someone who can do it "by the numbers." You don't have to be an accountant, but you do have to know how to keep track of money. We really can't run without a good treasurer. And unlike working for some of the corporations that have been in the news lately, being SCOW's treasurer is a much happier job. We're in pretty darn good shape money-wise.

Social - This is a job near and dear to my heart, as this was MY job last year. It takes creativity and a sense of fun, as well as organization. You're responsible for making SCOW fun for everyone! You're especially key during the non-sailing months (where socializing is the glue that holds SCOW together). And you have to be good at recruiting volunteers, and pulling off big events - from mainstays such as the Re-Up Brunch, Crab Feast and Hail & Farewell, to things that you come up with on your own.

Training - This takes a HUGE amount of organization - as you're in charge of one of the most popular elements of SCOW. You have to schedule classes, instructors, classrooms, boats, and students. And a little persistence doesn't hurt either, when it comes to making sure you've got a full roster of instructors for each water session.

Skipper - In addition to being organized and grading the tests, you have to be intimate with the SCOW boat and skipper procedures. You're in charge of making sure that everyone knows the rules, and often enforcing them. But it's not all about being a cop - you get to be the bearer of good tidings when you tell folks that they've passed their check-out!

Maintenance - Speaking of spending a lot of time down at the marina, the maintenance director probably does that the most as he or she gets to know all of SCOW's boats inside and out. Knowledge of boat maintenance is of course the most key, but the ability to tap into the knowledge of others, organize volunteer work parties and other such things comes into play, too.

Racing - This is a fun job, where you get to pull off one big regatta, plus a mini-regatta every Tuesday. But you've usually got a cadre of racing sailors you can count on to help make things happen. You also are responsible for doling out skipper assignments for the big boats, as well as Leukemia Cup slots. This is a great place to be if you're a racing addict!

River and Bay - Being a big boat skipper, or better yet a big boat owner, is key for this job. You're in charge of organizing cruises and activities on both the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay. But it's a lot of fun, and if you're into cruising anyway, then all you have to do is rustle up a group of like-minded friends who can take crews of industrious sailors for fun-filled cruises.

Remember, SCOW is a volunteer club, and it's important for volunteers like YOU to step up and fill these important jobs! For more information about how to nominate yourself or someone else, see the article later in this issue of ChaNNels.

See you 'round the docks!

September Membership Meeting

Monday, September 9

"Pathways to Broaden Your Sailing Experience"

Our September membership meeting speaker will be Jahn Tihansky from J/World Annapolis. Jahn is the Director of the J/World sailing school in Eastport and will present ideas on how to maximize your sailing experience.

There's a whole big sailing world out there beyond Daingerfield Island and the Washington Sailing Marina.....crewing, chartering, being a rock star, cruising, live-aboards, bare-boat charters, paid crew experiences, campaigning a boat in one-design, PHRF, or MORC races, teaching, navigation, licenses. I could go on and on..... But better you should here it from an expert. So come out on September 9th and expand your horizons.

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

Nominating Committee News

Joan O'Kane

Ask not what SCOW can do for you, ask what you can do for SCOW!

In case you haven't noticed, election season is underway, and SCOW is no exception. This year's Nominating Committee – Mary Bashore, Dale Eager, Susan Batchelder, Larry Gemoets, Joan O'Kane and Jay Weitzel – has begun scouring the hedges for potential candidates for next year's board. So if one of these people heads towards you with a determined look on his or her face, you'll know why.

Do you have ideas about how to make the club better? Would you like to see some new faces running things? Don't be shy, nominate yourself. Or your friends. Or even your enemies. We get all nominees to agree before putting them on the ballot and we won't tell who the suggestion came from.

And if you're not even sure what the board does, a list of job descriptions is available upon request. Just ask any of the committee members to email it to you. And just because you ask to see the job descriptions, that doesn't mean you're obligated to run. (Although it would be great if you did!)

The Nominating Committee will present its list of nominees at the October 14th membership meeting and nominations will also be accepted from the floor. Voting will take place at the November 11th membership meeting.

Joan O'Kane is chairing the nominating committee. Please email your suggestions or questions to her at okanejm@yahoo.com or call her at 703-379-9869.

River Activities

Jon Allen

The August 9th river cruise was almost the perfect night sail on the Potomac. Everyone had a great time. Special thanks to Dale Eager, Jay Weitzel, Steve Linke, and Donna Cohen who skippered boats.

The last river cruise will be Sunday, September 15th. It will be an afternoon event from 1 to around 6 in the afternoon. If you want to crew or skipper a boat, please email me at river@scow.org.

Happy cruising!

Dunn Cove Raft-Up

Raftmaster: Norm Lerner

Come one, come all! The most beautiful Maryland Eastern Shore location for the Saturday - Sunday, September 21-22 raftup - Dunn Cove. A chance to practice all points of sail! From the Western Shore, sail past Bloody Point and past Jefferson and Poplar Islands - just written-up in the Washington Post - through Poplar Island Narrows and then on through the always-interesting Knapps Narrows at Tilghman Island (the bridge will always open for you, if necessary). Then hang a left up Harris Creek to Dunn Cove on your portside, just above Windmill Point. We have 5 boats already signed up, so come join the fun. Norm Lerner is Raftmaster (with Doris Price) on "Summer's Day" and can be reached at NCLerner@aol.com.

Training

Donna Cohen

A big huge enormous thank you to all the sailing trainers and mentors who are fostering growth amongst our club. Wow, we really have encouraged new and regular skippers to come out and sail. Congratulations to all the skippers who have rediscovered the sailing bug and Congratulations to all the new skippers who have recently passed their exams. Continue to practice...practice..practice and don't forget to help another skipper along the way.

Furthermore.....don't forget our "Mondays Are for Mentoring" program during the week. Informal training happens Monday nights. Mentors and those who need help are encouraged to show up on Monday nights (except for the 2nd Monday of the month when you should be at the membership meeting) at the small boat docks after 6:00pm.

Can you believe this year will be coming to an end soon and a new training director will reign? I encourage many of you to think of taking the lead next year. Training is a very vital part of SCOW's existence, not only does it build confidence and advance sailing skill, it raises needed funds to keep our club kicking.

More Events Coming:

-- A docking and crew overboard exercise on the Flying Scots is currently being planned for September or October, I hope to announce shortly.

-- The Women's Sail night went very well in August and we will be scheduling more in September and October. Watch your email announcements.

-- The third Basic Sailing class will start in September. As always, at least one Flying Scot will be left free for members during the entire day during the Saturday and Sunday on-the-water classes. The other Scot(s) will be released after 5:00pm both days.

Thanks again for your support, see you on the water!

Fowl Weather Raft-Up

Raftmaster: Allan Lewis

Come on out and enjoy the migrating geese and fall colors, and end the season with some of the best sailing of the year!

SCOW will once again hold its annual Fowl Weather Raft-Up on the weekend of October 19th & 20th. This event has become a great way to wind down the sailing season. For the first time in several years, we will be returning to Dividing Creek, off the Wye East River and adjacent to the Wye Island Natural Resource Area. This is an excellent place to watch the migrating geese and is one of the best gunkholes on the bay. If you guano know more about the waterfowl and natural resource area, check out this the website at <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/eastern/wyeisland.html>.

Sign up sheets for skippers and prospective crew will be available at the September and October membership meetings, or just call me at (301)-445-3397. 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.

Hope to see you there!

Maintenance

Gordon Cameron

It appears that everyone's been very good to the boats. The missing drain plug epidemic has subsided. But a new issue has taken its place...missing anchors. I replaced one on a Scot and might need to come up with the one on Rebecca which jumped ship. A boom crutch broke and was replaced. Got some complaints that the jib sheet on Ms. Elli was too short, so it's been replaced. I patched the small leak in Danschweida as well.

Still no resolution to the problem of the outboard on Rebecca being a huge hassle to lift out of the water. I had hoped to locate some sort of gas strut type of assist. Can't find one... does anyone have any ideas? If so, please email me at maintenance@scow.org.

I'm having trouble coming up with a practical solution to the toe rail issue for Psycho. I feel the best way to go will be to have new ones milled and we do the removal and replacement. Fall Maintenance Day is Saturday, October 19th, so that might be the best weekend to paint the decks and install the new rails.

Yup, Fall Maintenance Day is only a couple of months off! We had a terrific turnout in the spring, and I hope we get better weather for this important chance to give the boats some well deserved TLC.

Social Activities

Shonika Proctor

Good Day, Good People~

After 6 months of being the SCOW Social Director, I thought that I had the job down to both an art and a science. But as fate would have it, in the 7th month I took off a week for vacation and I returned to chaos. Needless to say, I was out of the loop and MIA for 3+ weeks. My social sail coordinator resigned, my Crab Feast invites didn't make it into the mail on time and I just felt overwhelmed in so many aspects of my personal and professional life.

So I would like to send out a special thanks to Commodore Matt Gaston, for stepping in, pulling me out of a near social catastrophe and making things happen for the Crab Feast. Without him, we might have been taking the Flying Scot's out trying to gather our own crabs. So once again I would like to thank Commodore Matt for taking a proactive role.

I serve on other Board of Directors and at times even when I plead that I am burned out, everyone continues to pile it on, chanting "Burn Baby Burn!". So a big "YEA KOOL AID!" goes out to all of my sugar-filled fellow Board Members who are constantly showing their support, whether it be their kind words or volunteering their personal time to make things happen in a good way for the club. Thank You, Thank You.

And many thanks to my die-hard Crab Feast volunteers: Jay Weitzel, Jeff Teitel, Chuck Hollister, Phil Bender, Milyn Jordan, Chris Farthing, Anne La Lena, Mary Gallivan, Alice Starcke, Brian Lee, Jonathan Allen and Donna Cohen. I couldn't have done it without you! Many thanks also to all of you who came out and showed your support, helping to create yet another successful SCOW social event.

Social Sail:

Amy Plett is unable to continue as our Social Sail Coordinator this year; however, Phil Bender has heroically volunteered to take on this very important job. A HUGE thank you to both Amy and Phil for all of their efforts to make sure that we all get fed on Thursday nights. A well-fed sailor is a happy sailor!

We only have a few more Social Sails left for this season. If you haven't volunteered yet, you can contact Phil at Phil_Bender1@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Events:

Stay Tuned Boys and Girls for yet another exciting episode of "How Many People Can We Jam in the Box?" at the next SCOW social event. Looking forward to trying to arrange an event at Mango Mike's at the end of the summer and perhaps a little gathering for the Louis Vuitton Races...Might even be a house party, at "YOUR" house, of course. Better make sure you volunteer at Social Sail or it will definitely be at 'Your' House...with or without your permission. A SCOW throwdown will be coming your way.

Don't Just Talk About It, Be About It~
S2

Racing News

Bill Bernhards

As I write this article for the September ChaNNels there are only four more Tuesday night Scot races left. But judging from the turnout we had on Tuesday nights, our small boat racing program has been successful. Almost every week, all three boats were out with plenty of eager crewmembers aboard. Everyone helped get the boats ready to sail and then put them away afterward. The skippers were great in giving everyone a chance to take the helm, giving many novice sailors their first opportunity to sail. Even people who are not club members have sailed with us and then asked to join SCOW.

I want to thank some of the skippers who were out almost every Tuesday to make the small boat racing program work: Phil Bender, Tom Flesher, Rob Langford, and Tom Holmes. Others like Kara Wald, Donna Cohen, Jim Metcalf, Seth Allen, and Denise Malueg also skippered boats in these races making it a great learning experience for all.

For everyone who came down and enjoyed the Tuesday night small boat races, I hope you learned more about racing and sailing in general. I know many of you SCOW members started your sailing experience in the small boat races and went on to sail with the big boats. I hope some of you small boat skippers return next year to help make this program a continuing success.

The Great Chesapeake Bay Schooner Race

Susan Batchelder

The 13th Annual Great Chesapeake Bay Schooner Race from Baltimore to Norfolk will be held October 17-20, 2002.

The biggest event of its kind in terms of participation, duration and challenging conditions, it demands superb seamanship and tactical skills for its unpredictable fall weather, navigational challenges, and stiff competition.

Thanks to its wide reputation for offering generous southern hospitality for the sailors, it always attracts yachts, training ships and passenger vessels from up and down the East Coast and beyond. However, participation in the actual race is strictly limited to schooner-rigged vessels.

The race is a benefit event, which generates a sizeable annual contribution to The Chesapeake Bay Foundation. The volunteers also arrange special educational opportunities for inner-city middle school children, to encourage responsible Bay stewardship in the next generation.

Schooners will be docked in Fells Point, Baltimore by Wednesday October 16th and many will be open for public visitation on that day. At 1700 hours on October 16th, there is a Parade of Sail through the Inner Harbor of Baltimore. On Thursday, October 17th, the Race officially starts at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge off Annapolis at 1300 hours. The finish line is either Thimble Shoal Light or Windmill Point (depending on class) and then schooners proceed to Norfolk. In Norfolk, they will be at the Nauticus dock in downtown Norfolk for public enjoyment on Saturday and Sunday, October 19 and 20.

A number of the larger boats take paying passengers for the race. A list of these vessels, with contact information, is available from the Race Office at 757.362.0001 or by email at race@schoonerrace.org.

Volunteer opportunities are available by going to the web-site www.schoonerrace.org or by calling the Race Office.

The Armchair Sailor

Joan O'Kane

Summer's almost over, but it's never too early to start thinking about your winter reading list. A recent issue of Time magazine described the following new books as "eight of the best and briniest sea books of the summer":

Mutiny on the Globe by Thomas Farel Heffernan
The Race by Tim Zimmerman
On the Water: Discovering America in a Rowboat by Nathaniel Stone
On a Wave by Thad Ziolkowski
The Pirate Hunter by Richard Zacks
Lusitania: An Epic Tragedy by Diana Preston
Shark Trouble by Peter Benchley
Eye of the Albatross by Carl Safina

And if reading is too strenuous for you, you can always watch sailing on TV! Outdoor Life Network is showing "Road to the Louis Vuitton Cup" about the challenger selection series for the America's Cup. The broadcast schedule is available at http://www.olntv.com/ASTV_1714.cfm. Check your local cable operator for availability. Thanks to SCOW member Mike Geissinger for letting us know about this one!

2002 Board of Directors

Commodore

Matt Gaston
H - 703.838.0645
W - 703.683.7855
commodore@scow.org

Vice Commodore

Susan Batchelder
H - 703.519.9844
703.548.3700 x112
vice@scow.org

Secretary

Betsy Troeder
H - 703.933.1638
secretary@scow.org

Treasurer

Pat Seaton
H - 703.391.1226
W - 703.747.6224
treasurer@scow.org

Skipper Coordinator

Barry Dunsmoor
H - 703.731.6654
skipper@scow.org

Training Coordinator

Donna Cohen
H - 202.965.1622
training@scow.org

Maintenance Director

Gordon Cameron
H - 703.379.8910
maintenance@scow.org

Bay Activities

Jon Allen
H - 703.921.3171
w - 703.824.3083
bay@scow.org

River Activities

Jon Allen
H - 703.921.3171
W - 703.824.3083
river@scow.org

Social Activities

Shonika Proctor
H - 202.429.0104
W - 202.530.0477
social@scow.org

Racing Director

Bill Bernhards
H - 301.590.0522
W - 301.937.4843 x113
race@scow.org

Other Key People

New Members

Dale Eager
H - 703.536.3083
info@scow.org

Database

Betsy Troeder
H - 703.933.1638
dba@scow.org

Email List

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.

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.

Joan O'Kane, Editor
Kelly E. Griffin, Layout Editor
Declan Conroy, Web Publisher

Betsy Troeder, Mailing Labels

That's all folks...

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