

ChanNels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington
September 2006 – 40th Year Anniversary

Commodore's Log

By Jan Earle, SCOW 2006 Commodore

Recently a SCOW colleague told me about a scary sailing event on the Bay that she experienced, involving strong winds, heavy seas, an accidental gybe, a broach, two crew overboard and one crew hit in the head by a swinging boom. Fortunately, there were no serious injuries or deaths. It reminded me that all of us, even the most experienced sailors, are only a moment away from potential danger when we are on and around boats. A slip on the dock, an unexpected gust of wind, a rogue wake or wave, a line underfoot or around an ankle, a momentary loss of balance, or a slight distraction can all lead to an injury, a crew overboard, and even death.



Heron Waiting to Crew
Picture by Kelly

I myself am frequently guilty of failing to think “**Safety First**” before I perform a needed sailing duty such as “going forward” to secure a line or adjust a sail.

Racing on boats is a particularly dangerous activity because of the focus on speed and sail-set and the proximity of many other boats. When racing, crew safety is often pushed from the “top of the list” by the entire crew’s commitment to win.

Recently I have tried to increase my safety awareness and preparedness by making sure that PFD’s are readily accessible – that means **nearby and ready to use**, NOT pushed forward under the foredeck on a Scot or inside a zipped-up PFD bag on the cruisers. I also frequently prepare a spare line with a bowline loop to aid in the recovery of an overboard crew. I keep my own reefing lines for the Scots in my sail bag. I keep tools to open shackles, loosen knots, and cut fouled lines on my person. I also make sure I know the sailing and swimming abilities of all the people who are sailing on the boat.

SCOW has an amazingly good safety record and we want to keep it that way, not just for SCOW but for your health and the health of those sailing with you.

Be prepared. Be aware. Be safe.

And wear PFDs!

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SCOW
Member-Sponsored Events
are
Extra Sailing Opportunities

Everyone enjoys the Club sponsored sailing activities provided by our River and Bay programs, but sometimes a “special” environment can be an exciting and refreshing change.

Thirteen men and 15 women made new friends and enjoyed an evening on the Potomac during the Men-Only and Women-Only events in August. Because these cruises promoted an opportunity to sail for a limited portion of the Club’s membership, they were not “Club sponsored” events but were sponsored and run by a group of skippers who collaborated to encourage closer friendships within SCOW.

Both events enjoyed perfect sailing conditions, although the women had to delay a short time for a storm front to pass, and all appreciated the tasty snacks provided by crew members.

Special thanks go to SCOW skippers Mike Fransella, Joe Cianfrani, Fritz Fischer, Bill Davenport, Sheila Conlin, Kathy Kurtz, Karen Moreno, Rhonda Glasmann, Mary Bashore, and Jan Earle, and to boat owner Dorothy Stocks for providing this special fun for SCOW members.

If you have an idea for a special, friendship-promoting event for SCOW members, please contact:

Commodore Jan Earle at commodore@scow.org

or

River Director Dorothy Stocks at river@scow.org

***No amount of skill, no equipment,
and no boat will keep you from
disaster if you don’t develop the
most important seagoing skill of all,
a complete fear of falling
overboard.***

Lin and Larry Pardey



Broach – Sonata.org.uk

Broaching (sailing) is a sudden change in heading angle of a sailboat, caused by a number of wind/sail interactions, and often leads to capsize. Sailing in variable, gusty winds is a common cause of broaching. When running on a broad reach, the helmsman must be careful to make sure that the wind is not allowed to cross the stern. If this happens, the sails may fill from the leeward side, resulting in a sudden reversal of the direction of lift as the mainsail moves from one side of the boat to the other. This is called a gybe (or jibe), and it is a dangerous maneuver even when performed under controlled circumstances. When it happens unexpectedly, the boom may live up to its name, as it crosses the boat under full load and sweeps unwary crew members overboard. Another cause of broaching is encountered in heavy seas and high winds. If the bow of the boat is not kept pointed into the waves, then the waves will push the bow aside, turning the boat side-on to the waves. Once broached and side-on to the waves, the waves will roll the boat side-to-side violently, causing severe discomfort to the crew, and may even capsize the ship. From Wikipedia.com



Broach – Swiss-laser.org



Danschweida

Skippers Needed To Race Flying Scots In Leukemia Cup

This year the Leukemia Cup Regatta on Saturday, September 9th, sponsored by The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS), will include a one-design small boat regatta in addition to the keelboat race. SCOW has entered its Flying Scots in this regatta and welcomes skippers and crew to race the boats as representatives of SCOW. Skippers should know (or learn) the rules of racing and skippers and crew members are required to be SCOW members. Teams should work to help raise awareness and contributions for LLS as a part of participating in the regatta. Two skippers have already expressed interest in leading a team for this exciting event.

There is also a small boat regatta on Sunday, September 10 – the 72nd President's Cup – sponsored by PRSA, with a boat entry fee of \$25. Skippers and teams are also welcome to participate in this event but will be required to pay their own entry fee. A brief workshop on racing rules and strategy will be provided for the participating teams. Contact the Commodore and visit the following website for more information.

Special Olympics Athletes Take Home the Gold!

This year, 11 of the Special Olympics athletes that participated in the 16 week sailing program at the Washington Sailing Marina competed in the Special Olympics of Maryland Annual Sailing Regatta at St. Mary's College the last weekend of July. Each year SCOW, along with Georgetown University Sailing Team and Hobie Fleets from PRSA, provide sailing instruction and mentoring as the athletes train for the Regatta along with their friends.

The athletes took gold metals in all of the Catamaran Sailing Levels and the Advanced Monohull Level. Congratulations to all the athletes and to the SCOW sailors who helped them reach these goals.

Special Olympics Sailing Facts

1. Sailing is one of Special Olympics' newer sports, having been included in the World Games for the first time in 1995.
2. The 1999 Special Olympics World Summer Games hosted 50 sailors from four Special Olympics Programs.
3. At the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Dublin, Ireland; 60 sailors from seven programs competed in sailing.

<http://www.potomacroversailing.org/PresidentsLeukemiaCups/index.htm>

Most of us have dreamed of sailing the St. Mary's College of Maryland Governor's Cup. This year, one of our Special Olympics Athletes, Ben Collins, got the opportunity to sail aboard *Donneybrook* as she sailed from Annapolis to St. Mary's College in the annual event. If you've been part of the annual Special Olympics Sailing you've probably met Ben. Legally blind, Ben readily takes the helm of any sailboat and with a bit of coaching from his crewmates he's off!

So, if Ben can make one of his dreams come true, why can't the rest of us?



Pictured above are Tim Shriver, Chairman of the Board of Special Olympics Inc. (SOI), Ben Collins, Special Olympics athlete and employee of SOI, and Bruce Pasternack, President/CEO of SOI

Crab Claw at St. Michaels

By Wayne Williams, Maintenance and ChaNNels Layout

A shore party traveled to St. Michaels and met with SCOW Bay Sailors at the Crab Claw. The weather was nice and it shaped up to be a great weekend! Jack Schwartz coordinated the raft-up of the Bay boats on Saturday afternoon, after they sailed across from Eastern Bay and down the Miles River to St. Michaels. They were met at their anchorage in the creek just to the north of the Maritime Museum by waves from SCOW sailors who had spent two hours on the *Sirius*, a Catamaran charter cruiser.

Once the boats were secured, all met at the Crab Claw. Five tables in a row filled with nearly 30 people enjoyed piles of crabs, corn on the cob and other entrees and libations. The only problem was the downtown stores closed at 9:00 pm so there was not much time for window shopping after dinner!

Participating boats included:

Adastra, a Morgan 40

Odyssey, a Seafarer 37

Sangria, a Soverel 30

Sea Frog, a Cal 27

Dionysos, a Pan Oceanic 46

St. Michaels is one of the landmarks on the Bay. Trading started here in the 1600s and later it became famous for building the fastest boats at the time the renowned "Baltimore Clippers."

Other popular attractions include the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, horse-drawn carriages, and trips aboard the skipjacks *Rebecca T. Ruark* and the *H.M. Krentz*.



David and Veri catching rays on a Cat at St. Michaels



Note SCOW members on Cat in background!



Fun was had by all!

SCOW Social News

By Dot Almassy, Social Director

Social Sails on Thursdays

Social Sail continues to grow!!! Dockmasters and co-chefs desperately needed for September. If you can help...particularly with movement of the DHOW.....and putting away the boats, please come early and stay late for Social Sail! Your volunteering for other duties would be so helpful! It's really a lot of fun and many hands make for light work. Please consider offering to support SCOW at Social Sails.

Save the Date – 18 November 2006 – Hail and Farewell Party

Saturday, November 18 is the date for the Hail and Farewell at the Georgetown City Tavern Club. More information will be provided soon!

CITY TAVERN CLUB



THE SIGN OF THE INDIAN KING

SCOW and Other Sailboat Types

By Henry Cheng, Vice Commodore

Flipping through the pages of *The Pocket Oxford Guide to Sailing Terms*. I came across two pages, side by side, which contained a number of sailing vessel descriptions. One of the terms listed was SCOW, which, of course, is the acronym for our club. So, I felt compelled to share the information with you.



Modern Class A SCOW

SCOW, a large boat has a flat bottom and very full bilges, are used as light ferry to transport men a short distance at sea. Nowadays, SCOW describes a small flat bottomed racing yacht fitted with bilge boards or retractable bilge keels



Older Class A SCOW



Schokker, flat bottom, curved sides, a straight stem raking at about 45 degree, with narrow leeboards fishing vessel. They are usually from Enkhuisen, middle part of the Zuiderzee, a shallow inlet of the North Sea in the northwest of the Netherlands.



Schooner, the term possibly derived from Scottish verb “to scon or scoon,” to skip over water like a flat stone. An alternate source is said to have been a chance remark “there she scoons” from a spectator at the launch of the first vessel of this type. Whatever the name is, schooner is a vessel rigged with fore-and-aft sails on her two or more masts. Older design carries square topsails while newer ones, with the advance in rig design, carries Bermuda sails.



Profile and Sail of Model

Sampan is a small light boat of the waters and rivers in Orient. The harbor sampan has an awning over the centre and after part propelled by a single scull over the stern while the coastal sampan is fitted with a single mast and junk-type sail. The name came from Chinese san, thin, and ban, board, but some hold it to have a Malaysian origin.

**SCOW
Welcomes
Its New Members**

*Peter Allen
Bruce K. Britton
Kelly Brotton
Angela Chasteen
David Chasteen
David Dabney
John Eller
Lisa Eller
J. Tom Hornsby
Veronica S. Jung
Padraic Keane
Althea King
Carole M. Lieber
Kristie McComb
Kevin Mullane
Eileen Murphy
Michael M. Murphy
Maggie Nelson
Loie Randall
Audrey Roh
Craig Sager
Trent Schindler
Mary B. Thibault
Michelle Thibault
Zlatan Tsvetanov
Aaron J. Vigil-Martinez
Joshua N. Williams
Matt Younger*

*The sail, the play of its pulse so like
our own lives: so thin and yet so full
of life, so noiseless when it labors
hardest, so noisy and impatient when
least effective.*

Henry David Thoreau

2006 River Activities

MOONLIGHT SAIL

Classical Sonata Serenade
Friday, September 8

FT. WASHINGTON

Moonlight Sail
Friday, October 6

GUNSTON COVE CAMPOUT

Drive or Float to Park
October 14-15

HOT TODDY SAIL

Friday, October 27

PARADE OF LIGHTS

Saturday, December 2



SCOW River Director
Dorothy Shows Ron
the Ropes

or, is it...

the Light?



SCOW Bay Activities

By Jack Schwartz, Bay Director

Music Cruise

The weather forecast was pretty dismal for this weekend, and a number of boats were scared off by the 70% chance of showers-many accompanied by severe weather. *Odyssey* went out with four members onboard. The winds were brisk, and we made great time under just the #2 genoa, beating out of the Rhode River. We poked out into the Bay and, after heading out towards "big green" we turned and headed into the West River, pulling up to the West River Sailing Club dock in Galesville. Once the boat was tied up, we relaxed with our favorite beverages and some music. One or two members came by land to join us briefly. The folks at West River put out barbecue, which we shared, and then retired to the gazebo for more "picking and grinning." The rains held off until just before dark, when some pretty heavy downpours made for a mad dash back to the boat and a restful night. Sunday brought an uneventful return to home port and a day sail with friends.

Labor Day Cruise

September 2, we will sail to the Choptank River, and select from one of the many beautiful anchorages there. Sunday could be spent in one of the coves off Hudson Creek, in the Little Choptank, or at Oxford, if folks desire. On Monday, *Odyssey* will continue down the Bay for our annual vacation cruise. Others are welcome to join us or head back to their home ports. I am open to suggestions from SCOW Bay skippers who want to participate. Our plan is to head down as far as the Rappahanock River, where we will head into Carter Creek for a couple days stay at the Tides Lodge (great dining!) before heading back up the Bay, probably with a stop at Tangier Island.

Smith Island Crab Feast

Bay skippers, especially those from the lower Bay, consider taking your own boat to the Smith Island Crab Feast. The facilities are quite nice and also inexpensive (\$1/foot), the food is great, company likewise. On top of that, you get personal pilotage into Smith Island, one of the Bay's most interesting destinations, but one which I was nervous about visiting before. I managed to get *Odyssey's* five-and-a-half-foot draft in without incident (out is another story, but I digress), with most of the channel at 10 feet or better.



SCOW – Bay Activity

For more pictures see...<http://scow.photosite.com>

Fowl Weather Cruise

By Allan Lewis, Raft Captain

SCOW will once again hold its annual Fowl Weather Cruise on the weekend of October 21 & 22.

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 a great place to watch the migrating geese and enjoy the fall colors, 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 have any questions, give me a call at 301-445-3397(H) or 301-466-7737(cell). You can also reach me by e-mail at allan.lewis@faa.gov

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!



Bay Cruiser "Tina"

St. Michaels Raft-up and Crab Feast

By Tina

Where are they taking my bed? I don't recognize this car, but Ellen appears to want me to get in. I am introduced to Sunita, who is driving...Sniff, sniff: oh, that smells like Maggie, and duck poop, and dead fish and boat smells...we're at Holiday Hill marina; another weekend sailing aboard *Odyssey*!

Motoring out the Rhode River, heron, osprey, gulls; all the usual suspects. Rounding the duck blind into the West River, the crew start raising the sails. I hope there's wind.

Woaahh, sliding down to the port side of the cockpit. Yeah, good wind, and a nice close reach; this is sailing! Holding starboard tack for a long time; the wind smells a little moist; must be southerly. Wonder where we're going. Tacking, could this mean we are headed down the Bay. Sniff: engine exhaust, sweaty deckhands, strange foreign odors. That freighter is passing pretty close behind us. Tacking back again—wish they'd make up their mind; I need to keep crossing the cockpit to find a comfortable spot to lie down.

Strange combination of the Baltimore channel and bird smells; might be the land fill at Coaches/Poplar Islands. Oh, there's that big lighthouse off Bloody Point. Looks like we're heading into Eastern Bay. As we bear off to more of a reach, things settle down a bit. Lunch time; hey, what about me?

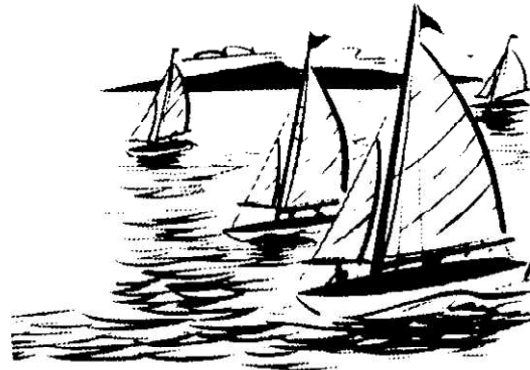
Back to close-hauled. Tacking down the Miles River, I guess we're not going to the Wye, or we'd have borne off by now. A few more short tacks, then the motor starting. We must be getting close. I smell steamed crabs, gulls, and tourists!

We're dropping an anchor right beside the channel at St. Michaels; are we planning to stay here? Pretty convenient to shore, but a bit rocky as boats pass by. The folks on that catamaran are waving and shouting at us; they must know some of our crew. Jack is doing a lot of talking on the radio and cell phone; maybe we are meeting some other folks.

Engine starting again; looks like Chip is heading to the bow to pick up the anchor. Appears we are docking at this restaurant. Oops—guess not! Now what? Where are we going? You'll never get us to fit in THAT narrow slip. What are you thinking? Back, forth, back forth. Watch out for the dinghy! (You may not care, but it's MY only way to terra firma.) Finally! Now, get this thing tied up and let me pee!

Aaahh, that feels better. Now for some dinner and a quiet break in the cabin as my people are off to dinner with a couple dozen of their friends from the SCOW. Cooling off nicely as the sun goes down, nice breeze.

(continued on next page)



Participate in Bay Activities!

Please contact bay@scow.org with boat information and home port, as well as if you would be able to take on crew. Members interested in participating as crew, provide a brief description of your experience and contact information.

Tina's Crab Feast (continued)

Here they come now, smelling like steamed crabs. Did you bring anything back for me? Well, at least a walk will be nice. New people to meet, and some I remember from before. Boy, a bunch of them are coming onboard. Engine starting again, getting underway. Wonder where we are going at this late hour. Sure is dark out here...

We're heading for that group of boats there. *Adastra* (Morgan 41) is quite a boat...I know *Sea Frog* (Cal 27) and *Sangria* (Soverel 30)...we've visited with them before...and *Voyager* (Hunter 34) is new as well. We're trying to squeeze in there? Don't think so... Oh good, one is leaving so we can take their spot. That's better. *Sea Frog* is coming back; OK for them to tie alongside us, they're nice folks.

"Happy birthday to you, Happy birthday to Melanie..." What, no cake for me? Can I at least have some cookies? OK, bed time. What's that singing and laughing still going on for? Don't they realize I need my beauty sleep?

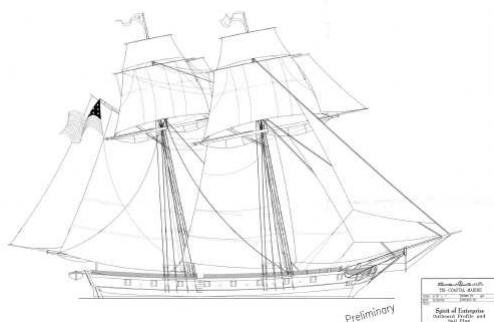
Morning shake, rattling the tags on my collar to wake Jack. It's time for my shore leave. Finally, land, here's a nice spot...The trip back was peaceful, with sunrise coming through the clouds like God in a Renaissance painting.

Back onboard for a peanut butter treat and breakfast, while the people went next door for Eggs Benedict. Got under way around 11:30am, and raised sails in the Mile River, for some nice close reaches. Unfortunately, this didn't last long before the engine was started. Boy, it's hot, let's try to find a shady spot to lie down. Jack keeps trying to catch some wind, raising sails again, we manage to sail for a while before starting the motor again. A bit of weather off to port doesn't amount to much. Reaching the West River, there is a bit of a breeze and the temperature cools off under some clouds, as we turn north and head back up the Rhode River and return to our slip.

All in all, a nice weekend spent with friends old and new.

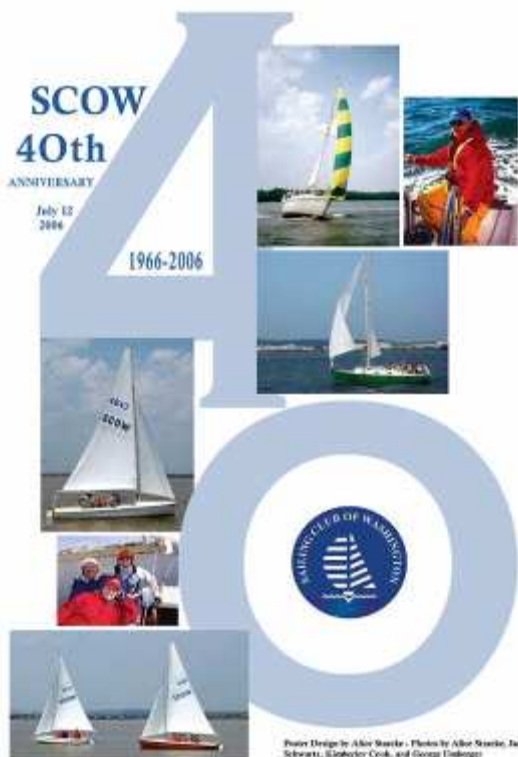
SCOW 40th Anniversary Posters for Sale

View a PDF at www.scow.org of the beautiful poster (shown below in reduced scale) especially designed to commemorate the club's 40th year. Download an order form and mail it to Alice Starcke with checks payable to SCOW. There are plenty of 11 x 17 sizes and a limited quantity of 16 x 20 sizes available.



NMHF – Spirit of Enterprise

NMHF generously provided the evening cruise for SCOW's 40th anniversary party aboard the schooner *American Spirit*. NMHF's plans include a sailing center on the SW waterfront to house its active programs, the national capital tall ship, *Spirit of Enterprise*, and, in partnership with the United States Navy Museum, a Washington Maritime Center to serve as cultural anchor for the new waterfront. For information about NMHF or to make a donation to support these projects please go to www.nmhf.org or call 202-547-1250.



2006 Board of Directors

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For Information about Club Activities

Visit <http://www.scow.org> or email info@scow.org