

ChanNels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington
September 2007

Commodore's Log



It is now election season! It is not ours to wonder at the year long tussle between Hillary and Barack or wonder if Fred Thompson will run. It **is** ours to wonder who will run for the 2008 SCOW Board and it is **your** chance to volunteer! The elections are in November 2007, a full year before the Presidential elections, so act fast!

The Board is an exemplary group of SCOW members distinguished by their willingness to contribute to SCOW. The Commodore (head of the Board) serves two functions, first, boldly lead the club into the future and, second, fill in on the smaller tasks when needed (including respond to emails and finding volunteers). The Vice-Commodore is responsible for the programs at the general meetings, filling in where needed, and serving as a ex-officio member of various committees. Ex-officio means having a say just because of the title (sort of).

The Treasurer does all things money-wise and a few other things (big checks need a second signature, so this position is not all-powerful, just all-important). The Treasurer also gets to be custodian of the SCOW Incorporation Seal. The Secretary takes minutes at the Board meetings and is officially responsible for the

membership list. However, much of the membership list maintenance has been handled by the Membership Coordinator (Henry Cheng this year). So the Secretary also helps out with other things (you are probably getting the idea by now).

So the Officers of the club are the Commodore, Vice-Commodore, Secretary, and Treasurer. These are the Board members who run for specific Board positions (according to the By-Laws). The other six-to-eight members of the Board are called Directors. Traditionally, the Directors are responsible for the following functions: Training, Skipper Certification, Social Activities, Maintenance, Racing, River Activities, and Bay Activities. In return they get the title of Training Director, Social Director, ... you get the idea.

Officially the Directors do not run for specific Director positions; they run for the position of Director. Officially, the Commodore assigns the functions above to the Directors "in any manner and combination that the Commodore

Table of Contents

Commodore's Log.....	1	Smith Island Crab Feast.....	3	Tuesday Night Race Photos.....	5
Night Race Photos.....	6	Board Notices.....	7	Danschweida Survey.....	8
Fowl Raft-Up	9	Rules for a Happy Skipper	9	No Guarantees	10

deems most effective.” In addition, “the Commodore may also assign Directors to perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the affairs and program of the club” (that is a legalistic way of saying the Directors also help out with other things). This approach allows flexibility in case the needs of the club change.

For the past few years, candidates for the Director positions specify, before the election, what functions they would like to perform. Then the electorate knows what function the Director is expected to perform and the candidates can clarify their interest and expectations. The six-to-eight candidates with the largest number of votes get to be Directors. This has worked in the past and we will use it again this year. However, two candidates with different approaches cannot compete directly for the same function. (We may amend the By-Laws on this point, stay tuned!)

The election process is organized by the Nominating Committee which recruits one or more candidates for each position, accepts nominations from the membership, prepares the ballot, and runs the election. This year the Nominating Committee is Veri Crain, Jan Earle, Rhonda Glassman, Karen Szymczak, Mike Rothenberg, and George Umberger, .

So what is this “six-to-eight” thing? Each year the Board picks a number between 6 and 8 (sounds easy doesn't it). This is the number of Directors to be elected. This year the number is 7.

So, if you are interested in running for one of the 7 Director positions on the ballot and serving any of the following functions:

- Training Director: working with SCOW trainers organizing the SCOW classes,
- Skipper Director, keeping track of who is a qualified skipper, helping to grade written tests, and working with check-out skippers,
- Social Director: organizing social activities and associated volunteers
- Maintenance Director: managing maintenance of the boats and recruiting help to keep the boats ship-shape,
- Racing Director: organizing the SCOW racing activities, both Flying Scot races and SCOW participation in other races,
- River Director: directing the daily tide in the river (just seeing if you were paying attention) and organizing river events, sails, raft-ups, etc.,
- Bay Director: organizing various activities and raft-ups on the Chesapeake Bay.

Then

- Contact the Nominating Committee
- Make it clear what Director position you are interested in, and
- Complete a candidate's statement for the ballot.

If you are not sure if you want to run, talk to a member of the Nominating Committee, the current Board, or a past Board.

Finally, if a member of the nominating Committee contacts you about possibly running, please give the request a positive consideration.

I will not claim that serving on the Board is not time consuming. However, it can be rewarding and the tasks can be managed. It is a chance to shape the future of SCOW. What is your vision of what SCOW can become? How would you like to help?

Please consider running for the Board and: May the best Sailor Win.



Bay Activities

SCOW is going to Smith Island for a Crab Feast!

Smith Island is out there—in the middle of the Chesapeake—and in other ways as well. Time has left this little island alone, although the land itself is changing (eroding away over the years), the friendly inhabitants are much as they were decades ago—making their living from the waters around home—crabbing, fishing, etc.

Steve and Pauli will be our hosts at the Chesapeake Sunrise Marina and Bed & Breakfast. On September 15th, there will be an all-you-can-eat crab feast (including crabs for picking and the famous 13-layer cakes among other things for \$25) along with other island entertainment. SCOW folks will be taking a charter boat over for the festivities, and others with boats on the Bay may sail in to join them.

Skippers, please let me know if you will be sailing over: boat name, type, home port, crew compliment, skipper's name and cell phone number. Let Dot know about slip requirements and how many persons will be eating crabs.

Potential crew, provide some information about your experience and contact information. There may be some boats leaving from Solomons and going just for the weekend. *Odyssey* will be looking for crew for a few more days. I plan to spend the week before cruising the Choptank, changing crew on Friday, September 14th at Solomons for the trip to Smith Island, and returning to the Rhode River by the evening of Tuesday, September 18th.

Interested skippers and crew can reach me at graphixand@netscape.net.

This has been a great event in the past and I, for one, am really looking forward to it this year.

Fair winds,
Jack Schwartz
s/v Odyssey



**THE
LEUKEMIA
CUP
REGATTA**

 **The Leukemia &
Lymphoma Society**

Set Sail for a Cure at the
**14th Annual
Leukemia Cup Regatta**

Saturday, September 8th, 2007
Washington Sailing Marina

DC Area sailors are invited to spend a day on the Potomac River as more than 100 colorful sailboats of all sizes and classes compete in the 2007 Leukemia Cup Regatta benefiting The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

**Post-Race Celebration with dinner,
live music, silent auction and awards.**

Spectator Boat passes available for \$10!

All proceeds benefit

 **The Leukemia &
Lymphoma Society**
Fighting Blood Cancers

MEET THE SAILORS

Friday September 7th

6:00 pm Sailor Registration for Saturday Races
& Dinner Sponsored by
Outback Steakhouse

7:00 pm Gary Jobson, National Chairman
and ESPN Broadcaster, speaks
about The Leukemia Cup Regatta

RACE DAY

Saturday, September 8th

8:15 am Boat/Sailor Registration
9:30 am First Boarding of Spectator Boats
Tickets: \$10 donation

10:30 am Races begin
3:30 pm Post-Race Celebration
Admission: \$10 donation

*For more information and to register contact
Loree Lipstein at 703-960-1100 x249 or loree.lipstein@lls.org
or visit www.leukemicup.org/nca*

Racing on Tuesday nights

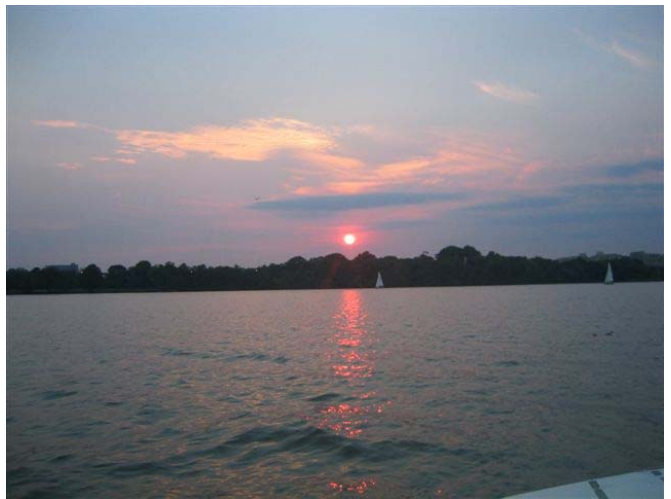


Nothing sweeter than seeing the bows of other boats behind you!



Wednesday Night at the Races!!!!

Photos by Chris McGraw



*** NOTICES ***

UPCOMING GUEST SPEAKERS – SCOW GENERAL MEETING

Tomas Paquin, Vice Commodore

All Monthly Meetings are at American Legion Hall, 400 Cameron Street, Alexandria, 2nd Monday of every month (except December), Social Hour - 6:30PM; New member Orientation 7:00PM; Program and Meeting - 7:30PM.

Sept. 10 speaker: Brandon Peloquin, Marine Program Leader at the Baltimore/Washington DC National Weather Forecast Office is responsible for leading the Marine Program that issues forecasts across the Maryland Chesapeake Bay and the Tidal Potomac River. He will discuss the process for issuing marine forecasts, frequency of updates, sources of information, criteria for small craft advisories, and will field questions relating to marine forecasts. Those with an interest in our club's severe weather policies are especially encouraged to attend this event.

Oct. 8 Speaker: Len Zuza, SCOW member, will discuss the mission of the Southern Maryland Oyster Cultivation Society (SMOCS), "Cleaning Local Waters, One Oyster at a Time". The mission of SMOCS is to reduce water pollution in the creeks along the lower Patuxent River by raising a very large number of native oysters in selected locations. Goals of the organization are: to raise as many oysters as possible; help people who do not live near tidal water find waterfront owners willing to let others raise oysters on their docks; support the scientific study of oysters and their habitat to learn more about the relationship between oysters and their habitat; work with youth groups, school systems and community organizations to share information on the environmental benefits of growing oysters; work with local and state officials to enact programs that support oyster restoration; help members obtain oyster spat and the equipment needed to raise them from a variety of sources. Len will demonstrate the filtration power of these oysters right before your very eyes! Any sailor interested in clean, pollution-free water should not miss this presentation. For more information please visit www.smocs.org

Social Stuff ...ie...The SS Partytime...

by Dot Almassy, Social Director

Social Sails continue on Thursday nights at the marina. We've had wonderful evenings of sailing, eating and socializing.

Many thanks to all the Co-Chefs, Dockmasters and Skippers. YOU have made these Thursday evenings memorable for many. We continue to need more volunteers into October...so please sign up when you can with social@scow.org Your culinary experience as well as your schlepping stuff will be appreciated by all.

Coming Up: NOV 17....Watch for notices on the **Hail and Farewell** to be held at the Grand Atrium near Tysons (about a mile from the Dunn Loring Metro). We'll hopefully have shuttle service to the Metro stop...any volunteers?

Smith Island Trip is September 15-16 and please watch the e-mail notices as plans develop. Several skippers are taking their boats and looking for crew and we also will have a charter boat leaving from Point Lookout. Our weekend will include one night at a B&B and kayaking, Crabfeast, Island hopping, a look into the past and more. A trip to put in your memory books! For details e-mail social@scow.org or call Dot 703-560-0367.



Photo by Chris McGraw

Next Membership Meeting: Monday, September 10th, 2007

Location: American Legion, 400 Cameron Street, in Old Town Alexandria

Time: Socializing downstairs begins at 6:30 pm and the meeting begins upstairs at 7:30 pm.

RESULTS OF THE DANSCHWEIDA SKIPPER SURVEY

By: Tom Paquin, Vice Commodore

Recently a survey was administered to skippers and trainers of our Flying Scots, in order to assess the sentiments associated with Danschweida's new "Turbo-Scot" rigging. For those not familiar with the new rigging, the modifications include: rope halyards to replace the original wire winch system, new stowing methods for the sails that keep them stowed on the boat, a lower trailer, and a lock-box on the trailer to hold the sign-out book. The modifications were intended to make the boat quicker to launch and put away, and also to expose skippers to a new rigging system. The results are in! In total, 17 complete surveys were received, and 7 skippers opted not to complete a survey but did submit comments, for a total of 24 responses. Of the completed surveys, 14 respondents were skippers and 3 respondents were both skippers and trainers. Here are the results:

1. Do you find sending-off easier or more difficult with the new configuration?
Easier – 9
More Difficult – 6
No response – 2
2. Do you find putting the boat away easier or more difficult with the new configuration?
Easier – 10
More Difficult – 5
No response – 2
3. Do you feel that the new rigging serves the overall club uses of the boat better or worse than before?
Better – 8
Worse – 8
No response – 1
4. How would you like to see the Flying Scots rigged in the future?
Leave boats rigged as/is – 5
Repeat Turbo Rigging on other Scots – 4
Return Danschweida to original config. – 7
Undecided – 1

As one can glean from these results, there are mixed feelings about the new Turbo-Scot rigging on Danschweida. The Skipper and Training Committee met in July to discuss the survey results and make a recommendation to the board. Considering the fact that while many skippers prefer the new rigging, and a similar number of skippers prefer the original rigging, the recommendation was to leave the boats rigged as-is, i.e. maintain the new rigging on Danschweida and do not repeat this process on other boats, so as to serve the interests of both parties.

Some favorable comments for the Turbo-Scot configuration include: "I like the longer axle and larger tires – easier to get in boat when on trailer"; "new rigging can introduce Scot skippers to cruiser-type rigging"; "eliminates the need for a winch handle"; "easier to raise and lower sails"; "new rigging maximizes time on the water since you can launch and put away quicker".

Some unfavorable comments for the rigging include: "the mechanics of rigging ought to be standardized, stay with the factory setup"; "its more difficult to flake the main sail than removing and stowing it"; "new rigging is too hard on the hands and difficult to properly tension and raise sails"; "there is a lot of excess halyard that becomes tangled and messy"; "I don't see the benefits of most of the changes"; "this is not a club dedicated to racing, Scots should be rigged in a standard fashion to facilitate skills improvement in Scot sailing, the Scot is an excellent boat for club purposes with the factory rig".

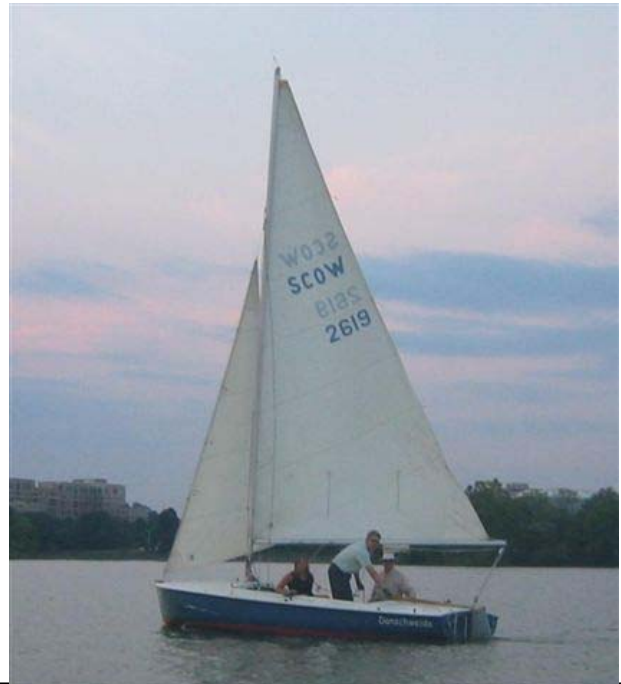


Photo by Chris McGraw

Fowl Weather Raft-Up -October 20 & 21

-Allan Lewis

SCOW will once again hold its annual Fowl Weather Raft-Up on the weekend of October 20 & 21.

We will meet on Saturday in Granary Creek, off the Wye East River and adjacent to the Wye Island Natural Resource Area. (Dividing Creek, just down the river, will be our back-up if Granary Creek is full.) For those who would like to explore Wye Island, you can dinghy ashore from Granary Creek. This area 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.

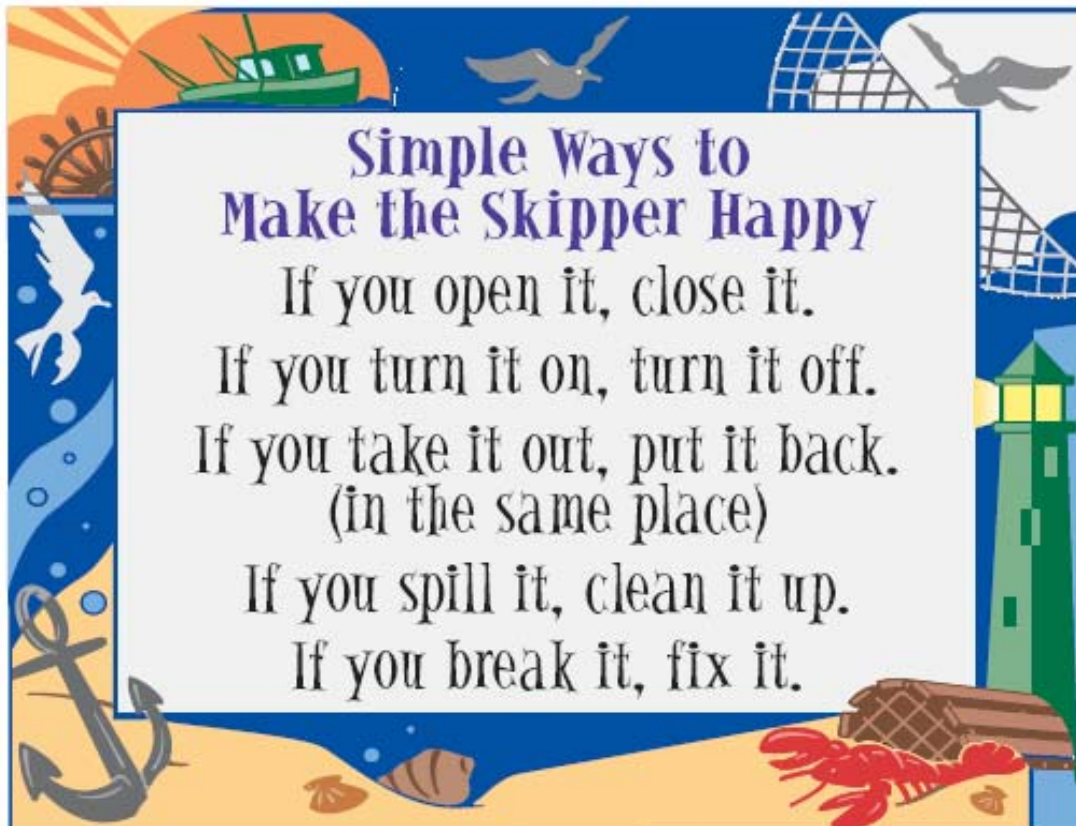
If you have any questions, give me a call at (301) 445-3397(H) or (301) 466-7737(cell). You can also reach me by e-mail at allan.lewis@faa.gov

By the way, Jack Schwartz is thinking about getting "Odyssey" underway a day early and anchoring Friday night in the vicinity of Tilghman Creek or Wye Narrows (TBD). If you'd like to raft-up with him, contact him directly for details (graphixand@netscape.net).

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!



There are no guarantees in Life...

By Jack Schwartz

I can't promise that the weather will be nice, that there will be wind, that you won't get seasick, that every piece of equipment will be functioning, or that the raftup won't be broken up due to approaching weather. I can't guarantee sailing all the way to the anchorage, that we won't run aground somewhere, or that the engine won't pick the worst possible time to die and then refuse to restart. I can't even be sure that raindrops won't choose the spot just above your berth to enter the boat. If certainties are important, sailboat cruising is probably not for you.

However, if you are willing to be flexible, and take whatever comes along, there are lots of benefits to Bay cruising: Leisurely sails drifting along without a care in the world, thrilling beats with the spray in your face, beautiful runs downwind behind a colorful, floating spinnaker. Happy hours spent enjoying drinks and snacks with friends. Gourmet meals prepared aboard. Peaceful mornings in a secluded wooded anchorage, waterfowl emerging from the rising mists. Afternoon swims or hikes through wildlife sanctuaries. Casting a line out to see if you can catch dinner. Musical interludes, interesting new places, exciting stories to share. Midnight conga lines to the tunes of Aba, impromptu maintenance sessions, helping someone repair their (fill in just about any piece of nautical equipment here) for the trip back...

These are just a few of the experiences from SCOW Bay raftups. All that is required is to answer an email, and you can be added to the crew list for one of our Bay events. Include a brief description of your sailing experience and interests as well as last-minute contact information (cell number) and you may be called if one of the Bay skippers has room for additional crew. There is no guarantee of getting a berth, but the chances are pretty good if you persist.

All we ask: If you offer to come along, take the commitment seriously. The skipper is counting on having a certain number of crew to help sail the boat. They are planning for the provisions you said you'd provide. They are trying to leave the dock on schedule so as to arrive on time (to set the anchor, avoid bad weather, arrive before dark, catch a tide, etc.)

Check your calendar in advance. Ask questions and decide if this is something you really want to do. Discuss health considerations, schedule, directions, etc. Sure, something important may come up at the last minute, but try to anticipate and provide as much advance notice as you can. Bay skippers spend a lot of time, money, and effort keeping their boats going, and want to enjoy them as much as possible. They may be disappointing others who were hoping for the spot that you got.

I'll close with a few reminders (thanks to Len Zuza) of how to be good crew. Please refer to the "Ways to make the Skipper Happy". (on the previous page) Hope to see you on the Bay.

Fair winds,
Jack Schwartz
s/v Odyssey

September to October Events

Saturday through Friday

Sat Sep 1	Sun Sep 2	Mon Sep 3	Tue Sep 4	Wed Sep 5	Thu Sep 6	Fri Sep 7
		Labor Day, Board Meeting?			Social Sail	
Bay Raft-up	Bay Raft-up	Bay Raft-up				
Sat Sep 8	Sun Sep 9	Mon Sep 10	Tue Sep 11	Wed Sep 12	Thu Sep 13	Fri Sep 14
		General Meeting		Basic III (Land)	Social Sail	
Leukemia Cup	Governor's Cup				Rosh Hashanah	Channels Deadline
Sat Sep 15	Sun Sep 16	Mon Sep 17	Tue Sep 18	Wed Sep 19	Thu Sep 20	Fri Sep 21
Basic III (Water)	Basic III (Water)			Basic III (Land)	Social Sail	
Smith Island Trip	Smith Island Trip					
Sat Sep 22	Sun Sep 23	Mon Sep 24	Tue Sep 25	Wed Sep 26	Thu Sep 27	Fri Sep 28
Basic III (Water)	Basic III (Water)			Basic III (Land)	Social Sail	
Yom Kippur						
Sat Sep 29	Sun Sep 30	Mon Oct 1	Tue Oct 2	Wed Oct 3	Thu Oct 4	Fri Oct 5
Basic III (Water)	Basic III (Water)	Board Meeting		Basic III (Land)	Social Sail	
						Annapolis Boat Show
Sat Oct 6	Sun Oct 7	Mon Oct 8	Tue Oct 9	Wed Oct 10	Thu Oct 11	Fri Oct 12
Basic III (Make-up)	Basic III (Checkout)	Columbus Day, General Meeting				
Annapolis Boat Show	Annapolis Boat Show	Annapolis Boat Show				
Sat Oct 13	Sun Oct 14	Mon Oct 15	Tue Oct 16	Wed Oct 17	Thu Oct 18	Fri Oct 19
		Channels Deadline				
Sat Oct 20	Sun Oct 21	Mon Oct 22	Tue Oct 23	Wed Oct 24	Thu Oct 25	Fri Oct 26
Fowl Weather Raft-up	Fowl Weather Raft-up					
Sat Oct 27	Sun Oct 28	Mon Oct 29	Tue Oct 30	Wed Oct 31	Thu Nov 1	Fri Nov 2
				Halloween		

The Sea Gypsy

I am fevered with the sunset,
 I am fretful with the bay,
 For the wander-thirst is on me
 And my soul is in Cathay.
 There's a schooner in the offing,
 With her topsails shot with fire,
 And my heart has gone aboard her
 For the Islands of Desire.
 I must forth again to-morrow!
 With the sunset I must be
 Hull down on the trail of rapture
 In the wonder of the sea.

Richard Hovey



2007 Board of Directors

Position	Name	Home	Work	E-mail
Commodore	John Rogers	202.244.5537	301.294.2804	commodore@scow.org
Vice Commodore	Tom Paquin	202.281.8999	202.659.6500	vice@scow.org
Secretary	Maggie Nelson			secretary@scow.org
Treasurer	Dorothy Stocks			treasurer@scow.org
Training Director	Karen Szymczak	703.971.1388		training@scow.org
Maintenance	Bill Davenport	301.598.7524	301.367.3301	maintenance@scow.org
Social Director	Dot Almasy	703.560.0367	703.681.5385	social@scow.org
Skipper Director	Melissa Ennis	703.845.5764	301.279.4201 x2108	skipper@scow.org
River Director	Wayne Williams	703.981.9320		river@scow.org
Racing Director	Adam Pressman		703.850.2073	race@scow.org

Other Key People

Bay Director	Could be You!			bay@scow.org
Channels Editor	Lisa Eller	423.360.6899	202.353.2755	channels06@scow.org
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Photos on Web	Mike Rothenberg	703.998.0692	703.820.1270	pictures@scow.org

For Information about Club Activities

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