

---

## CHANNELS -- SPECIAL E-MAIL EDITION

September 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](http://scow.org) on the internet.

Articles for Channels should be submitted via email to to the editor at [sanlar@mnsinc.com](mailto: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.

### Commodore's Log

Languid summer days and nights fade into fall as September glides into focus. Resistance remains to the purposeful bent of the coming season but autumn abounds with charms enough to make the transition from lazy summer to crisp fall not too painful. But I still wish summer didn't have to end yet.

And our summer was good, wasn't it? Not too long a bout of humidity for those of you who don't like sweating, plenty of sun (and sunscreen) on weekends, enough breeze to set sail and new and old friends to meet. More fun will follow even as the days get shorter.

SCOW's first scavenger/treasure hunt this past August, dreamt up by Secretary Victoria Hampton intrigued all and confounded some. Victoria deserves all the credit and acclaim -- she devised the clues, plotted the locales, designed the symbols, coordinated the teams and did all the 101 details behind such a successful undertaking. SCOW members certainly got a mental and physical workout crisscrossing every yard of the marina searching for clues. Many thanks Victoria, for suggesting, developing and executing such a creative and fun outing -- How about doing one next year too? Thanks also go to Victoria for the detailed minutes she painstakingly records every month for the board as well as her coordination of our Buddy System and all the other administrative behind-the-scenes and oh-so-needed efforts she expends on behalf of the club.

After Victoria mentally and physically exhausted us, we turned to Allan Lewis to recover. Allan revived us with a sumptuous crabfeast of succulent corn, spicy crustaceans and side dishes galore. Cold beer, tangy crabs, salads and sweets were enjoyed by all. Funny how cheerfully and energetically we swung those mallets crushing those shells... Many thanks, Allan, for doing all the planning and running around to present to SCOW a truly royal, in fact might I call it an "imperial" crabfeast... Allan also served as SCOW secretary in 1991, has coordinated the crabfeast quite a few times now and arranged other outings for

**SCOW. Thank you for all your contributions and may we count on them to keep on coming? Perhaps we should crown you King Crab, at the very least.**

**You and I are indeed blessed to be in a club with such creative, energetic and generous people. And honest too I might add. One evening, I left my fanny pack at the small boat crane with about \$10 in bills, several dollars' worth of coins, one winch handle and other sailing gear -- gloves, marlinspike bandanna. I didn't miss it for quite awhile, thought I packed it away in my apartment somewhere. The following summer -- last summer -- I found it hanging safely in the SCOW Flying Scot Locker, cash and coin and everything thing else intact. That's the caliber of our membership, high energy, honest and trustworthy. And busy too. But not too busy to give -- and now here's the pitch --**

**Sign up for fun and work on our Also-Ran Regatta, set for Sept. 27, or our picnic that day. Please see Lee Spain (Regatta) or Jim Metcalf (Social) to volunteer. Your talents, energy, and enthusiasm are needed.**

**September signals it's time to get serious, back to school so to speak. See Training Director Mike Geissinger for details on another Basic Sailing Class. He's got the dates and times. He's put in the effort, as has the Training Committee, chaired by tireless Barbara Ullman, and SCOW instructors to give you more than your money's worth. You get the benefit of the expertise and experience of accomplished sailors such as Pat Derry, George Umberger, Liz Bruening, Joe DePoorter, Jack Sherman and many more who generously share their knowledge, time and talent with you.**

**Then, upon your successful course completion, don't forget to check out with Skipper Coordinator Denise Derry. She carefully grades your test, arranges on-the-water testing for you, explains the fine points of boat-scheduling and is a remarkable resource for you. If you want tutoring, Denise will make that happen. Remember, you don't need to take a course to check-out on the SCOW boats. Many thanks to Denise and all SCOW instructors for the dedication and care they bring to their responsibilities.**

**Having use of our 5 boats is a marvelous resource and a big responsibility. Make sure you know our rules and restrictions. We don't limit Flying Scot crew to 6 people to limit the fun, but because of safety concerns. When you're a Cruising Boat Skipper you have even more responsibilities. Never ever pour fuel into the gas tank on the boat. Fumes get trapped and explosions are all too likely to happen. Don't think fumes dissipate over night. Review SCOW policy. Fill tanks on land -- preferably at the gas station. Err on the side of caution, whether you're sailing or racing. You're not a weenie if you exercise caution. That's exercising judgment -- interpret that as saving yourself -- and the club headaches of one kind or another.**

**And now, the biggest pitch of all -- SCOW WANTS YOU!!! We need your talent and imagination, your commitment and energy. Your 1998 Board will be elected November 10 to take office January 1 and what better way to start the New Year but as one of the leaders of the grandest club around? Think about what area you'd like to leave your mark on and say "yes" when you're asked to serve. Better yet, see me or any Board member to**

let us know what roles you're interested in. Yes, it's a responsibility but it comes with rewards -- intangible ones that last. Note: Aside from the four officers, it's up to the Commodore-elect to designate directors.

So SCOW, it's back to school, back to work, no more lazy days. Still there's fun and so much sailing to be had with September winds. Meet me on the water. -----Anne

### **New Members**

**SCOW welcomes our newest member, Robert Reynolds.**

### **We are a Nautical Organization**

**We are. From time to time you may see what has been known as "military" time. Ask any navigator and you'll find its also their form of notation. Ask any world traveler and you'll find that this succinct form of notation is in use in many places. Even though we are in the good old USA, where AM/PM notation persists, we are a nautical organization. The nautical/international time notation is part of nautical language just as Bow, Port, and Avast are. Channels accepts either form, but your editor uses the saltier form.**

### **River Activities**

**(Lee Spain) We have lots of fun activities this fall including two great regattas: the Leukemia Cup and the Also Ran Regatta. We will also be continuing social sail and Wednesday night racing into the fall. Most importantly, we still need you to volunteer! For social sail, we need more volunteers to serve as host or dockmaster this fall and see this season come to a successful close.**

**We also need big boat skippers to host raftups or cruises on the river. It would be nice to see Rebecca or Psycho cruise the river loaded with new members and prospective new members during Thursday night social sail. If you are an interested big boat skipper and can give a few weeks notice, we can plan a raftup or river expedition around your schedule. What weekend would you like to host a raftup or take members on an overnight cruise? Where would you like to go? We can check the training calender. If the boat is available, we can recruit crew using e-mail or at member meetings. All we need for successful raftups are enterprising skippers.**

**The SCOW Also Ran Regatta is scheduled for Saturday, September 27th. Registration will be held in the morning between 9:00 a.m. and 10 a.m. The first of three planned races will be held at 11:30 a.m. off of Hains Point. We expect that all participants will be back to the docks by 3:30 p.m. for a post-race cookout and picnic! The entry fee for the regatta will be \$15.00. This will include the picnic dinner for the skipper. Additional dinners will be \$5.00 for each participating crew member. Other SCOW members and guests are welcome to the picnic for an additional \$10.00 per person. The Also Ran Regatta is a great experience for both beginning and experienced racers. Racing on the river gives you a great chance to try all the things that you've read about in sailing magazines or seen on the racing videos. As I**

write this in August, the event is getting publicized, race committee volunteers are lining up, and the picnic organizers are starting their vital work. I'm sure we'll still need more volunteers for race committee, registration, and the picnic in September.

The Leukemia Cup will be held on Saturday, September 6th. Registration begins Friday night (September 5th) at 5 p.m. This is the premiere regatta on the Potomac. All SCOW boats will be involved! Best of all, this regatta is for a very good cause. I hope everyone can participate in some capacity as a skipper, crewmember, volunteer, or financial backer. If you know a participating skipper, please sign up to support his (or her) efforts by making a pledge to the Leukemia Society. Last year, the Leukemia Cup attracted over 80 boats and raised around \$12,000. This year, I hope that the Washington Sailing Marina community can do even better.

Wednesday Night Racing will continue in the fall. As the heat subsides and the winds come up to their full fall potential, I hope everyone can get out on the water and do some racing. On race nights, SCOW skippers should talk to the PRSA race committee person and ask about the course. Then ask for a Flying Scot start 3 minutes after the Albacore fleet. Stay clear of the Albacore start and then maneuver to get a jump on your fellow Flying Scots. As the winds pick up for the fall, please be careful and avoid collisions at all costs. There are no trophies for Wednesday night races and we hope there will be no fiberglass repairs either! Relax, compete, and have fun!

#### **Dredging (or not)The WSM Channel**

(Jay Weitzel) Even if you only sail at the Washington Sailing Marina during Thursday night Social Sails, you probably have noticed that the lagoon and the channel to the river have silted in considerably over the past few years. Slipholders at the Marina recently received a letter from the Superintendent of the National Park Service's George Washington Parkway Office informing us that the NPS is working with the Army Corps of Engineers on a plan to dredge the channels at the WSM and at Columbia Island Marina. I called the NPS office to find out more about this project, and I wanted to share what I was told with other SCOW members, since it affects nearly all of us. Unfortunately, the news is not very promising.

Under the prior NPS Director, a request for maintenance of what is essentially a recreational facility likely would never have come forward at all. However, the NPS now subjects such funding requests to a "beauty contest," in which factors such as the number of people using the resource, the criticality of the problem, etc., are weighed. These projects compete first at the regional level and then, if successful there, go on to compete at the national level.

This dredging project fared well at the regional level. Unfortunately, that's about all good news. The local NPS staff person to whom I spoke was very frank and did not hold out much hope that this project would be successful in the national competition in winning a share of scarce NPS dollars. There are simply too few dollars and too many other needs that serve far more people than the WSM. In addition, according to the NPS staffer, the

"beauty contest" is judged by a group of impartial officials who have no "pet projects" among the candidates. The process is thus supposed to be free from outside influence, like the hundreds of letters that you SCOW members undoubtedly are preparing to send even as you read this.

If the project is successful in that funding competition, NPS' letter says that the dredging would take place in the year 2000. One can only imagine the condition of the channel by then -- it may be impossible to get onto the river under sail, if at all. If, as is more likely, the proposal does not receive NPS funding, NPS will sit down with GSI, the concessionaire that runs WSM, to see whether GSI would pay for the dredging as a long-term capital investment. GSI would be the only alternative funding source, according to the NPS. On a related note, Phil, the fellow who manages WSM for GSI, told me that GSI already has committed to a \$100,000 capital expenditure for renovation of the docks, which are in extremely poor condition. I have no idea how much a dredging operation would cost, whether GSI would foot the bill and what that would do to slip fees at WSM. One bright note, however, is that GSI could "piggyback" on the environmental impact assessment being prepared by the NPS and the Army Corps of Engineers. In other words, if GSI agrees to pay to dredge the silt, there already will be an approved place to dump it.

#### Social Activities

*(Jim Metcalf)* SCOW hosts a post-race picnic following the Also-Ran Regatta. Talk directly with the skippers and crew for a "beat-by-beat" review of the race. Learning the winner's strategy.....and hear the losers' excuses. Sandwiches, chips, beer, soda, and other picnic fare all for just \$10.00. Saturday, September 20, at 3:00. To register, call Jim Metcalf at 703 978-9449.

Cathryn Sacra sent me the following thumbnail on the canoe trip. I hope she has time to give us a "story" later:

"FYI, we had 32 adults and 2 children on the canoe trip and 19 for dinner afterwards. Don't know what happened to the rest, but I can say there are some mighty big catfish in the river. We collected \$736 and the canoe company ended up charging us \$44 per canoe instead of the \$46 I was originally quoted so there is a whooping surplus of \$32 to go towards something else."

#### Bay Activities

*(Larry Gemoets)* The dog days of summer are about over. Time for some crisp fall sailing on the Bay. 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. 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 what he plans to do:

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 Approaches, Oct 25&26, 1997**

**A shorter and not-to be-missed event follows: Alan Lewis is hosting his annual "Fowl Weather" Cruise. This expedition will Raft up in the Wye River (tributaries) to experience the fall migration October 25th. Call either of us to sign on for this cruise.**

### **Training- Get Registered**

**(Mike Geissinger) We're out of the "dog days" and into the final slide of training for this sailing season. The club has had a good turnout for the classes offered so far. You still have a couple of opportunities to sharpen your skills and have something to digest during the long winter nights. There are a lot of warm, gusty nights for sailing in the Fall.**

**A big thanks goes out to John Kauffman for his successful teaching of the racing seminar in July. The "U" brothers, Stuart Ullman and Thom Unger (and others but their names didn't start with U) had folks intentionally tipping the Scots over and getting people wet. On a hot summer day that was something that everyone could go for at the Capsize Course. Everyone got wet and all the Scots were up righted.**

**There has been enough interest to schedule a third Basic Sailing Class. It will start in the Chart Room at the WSM on Tuesday, September 23rd at 7:00 pm. The classes will run on the three next Tuesday evenings. The water sessions are on the weekends, 9/27 & 28, 10/4 & 5, 10/11 & 12, 10/18 & 19. Get yourself ready for the first launch of the spring, 1998 (is it that time already?).**

**If you want a little more then the Intermediate Sailing Course is the place to plunk down your docksiders. It takes you from the basic level to a more complete understanding of the finer points of boat handling. The classroom sessions are on Thursday the 25th of September and the 2nd of October. Water sessions will be held on the following weekends.**

**For the serious cruisers or crewers the Bay & Coastal Navigation course gives you the headway for determining the direction of your way. The Chart Room hosts the classroom session on September 10th and the water session is scheduled for the 13th of the same month. Block out a whole day because to get the full course you have to be out after dark. You have to know how to aim the boat at night, ya' know.**

**That's the line up for the near future. Remember there are two definitions of a schooner: 1. Traditional sail vessel. 2. Traditional ale vessel.**

**Heave to.**

**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**

**Sept. 3 SCOW Board of Directors meeting 6PM**

**Sept. 6,7 Leukemia Cup Races**

**Sept. 10 Bay/Coastal Navigation Class- Chart Room**

**Sept. 12 Cruising Boat Course-Chart Room**

**Sept. 13 Bay/Coastal Navigation- water**

**Sept. 14,21 Cruising Boat Course- water sessions**

**Sept. 16 USCG Aux Boat Safety Class- Chart Room**

**Sept. 19,26 Cruising Boat Course-water evening sessions 6PM**

**Sept. 23,30 Basic Sailing Course- Chart Room 7PM**

**Sept. 25 Intermediate Sailing Course**

**Sept. 27,28 Basic Sail, water sessions**

**Sept. 25 Intermediate Sail Course 7-10:30PM-Chart Room**

**Sept. 27 Also Ran Regatta (0900)and Picnic (1530)**

**Sept. 28 Intermediate Sail Course- water**

**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**