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## ChaNNels -- The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington

September 1999

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### Commodore's Log

It was a crabby ol' time down at the Marina this past August 7th. Many folks enjoyed a fine repast of crabs during SCOW's annual Crab Fest. Organized this year by Heather Spurlock, who did an excellent job making sure everyone was well-fed! Many thanks as well to Jason Stevens, our Training Director, who helped moi out in teaching the 2nd Capsize course of the year. With a large turn-out of 12 students, many good safety lessons were learned, along with much joking and splashing.

Speaking of volunteers, as with any non-profit club, SCOW lives or dies through the efforts of its members. Interested in helping out the club? Here's your chance! It's once again that time of the year, when members of the Nominating Committee begin soliciting members interested in serving on SCOW's Board of Directors. No experience? No problem! Enthusiasm and a willingness to serve is all that is required. George Umberger has kindly agreed to serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee this year. If you're interested, please give him a call at 703.323.9358. Not sure if you have the right talents? Feel free to talk with any of the current Board members; they'll be more than happy to brief you on what is required for any particular Board position.

September will be a busy month for SCOW. Labor Day weekend will find Bay skippers on the annual Labor Day Cruise. The weekend of the 18th-19th we once again go to Camp Letts. On September 25th, we have our annual Also-Ran Regatta. See elsewhere in Channels for details on these events.

As Autumn begins to peek around the corner, may we all have a chance to get out sailing, fair winds to all.

September Speaker The next presentation will be given by Barry Holliday from the US Army Corps of Engineers Navigation Division. Their navigation web site is <http://www.usace.army.mil/whatwedo/page1in.ter/>. This will be a good lead in for the dredging of the channel into WSM.

### Social Sail Activities

We have had beautiful, 3-hour Social Sails this summer on Rebecca and Psycho, SCOW's cruising boats. Some of the people on board have been visitors or new to SCOW, and were eager to learn how to serve as crew on the boat. We have enjoyed comfortable evening weather, in spite of hot 90+ degree daytime temperatures. With good evening winds, we enjoyed sailing up

and down the Potomac with the lights of the city in the background, and the orange moon rising over the distant Maryland shore. It sure is a treat to have the resources of SCOW and the river as an evening change to workday life!

## **Bay Activities**

### **Jack Schwartz**

The weather was fine as I began my journey at 6:00 pm Monday night. By 7:00 I was becalmed or maybe aground, still not past the Connecticut Avenue exit off the Beltway. There was no way I was going to make it to the SCOW meeting in time to be of any use. What I would have done was try to drum up more interest in the St. Michaels raftup. Due to the vagaries of engine mounts and drive shafts, neither Odyssey nor Euphoria would be able to go. Current information had Cat Morgan and Bob Beckman's 32-footer sailing out of the Solomons area to wherever their skippers decide to go. Perhaps we'll get them to update us on their trip in the next issue?

The next raftup is scheduled for Labor Day weekend, destination as yet undetermined. Any interested skippers should contact me (please?) to let me know their interest, and we'll try to plan from there. I'd like to say that Odyssey will be using the opportunity to begin a week-long cruise--but I am learning (remembering) that there are always things to work out on a new (used) boat and one can never be sure...

Final note to Bay skippers: The Rhode River is a neat place to visit, and the Camp Letts rendezvous (September 17-19) would be a great opportunity to do so and party with other SCOW members. There is plenty of space to anchor off the camp, and a dock where dinghies may be landed. Other than the dumpster serenade and reveille at 7:00am, it's a pretty peaceful anchorage. Look for flyers (and an ad in this issue of ChaNNels) for more information. Hope to see you there!

SCOW will once again hold its annual Fowl Weather Raft-Up on the weekend of October 23 & 24. This event has become a great way to wind down the sailing season. Last year we chose Leadentham Creek off the Choptank River because it enabled boats from both the north and south fleets to raft up. I thought we would meet there again this year, but I'm open to suggestions from skippers, just as long as boats from both ends of the Bay can participate. Sign up sheets for skippers and prospective crew will be available at the September and October meetings, or just call me at (301)-445-3397(H). Come on out and enjoy the migrating water fowl, fall colors, and your sometimes foul but always colorful sailing friends. Hope to see you there!

## **River Activities**

### **Tina Daberkow**

We have a couple of river events coming up within the next month or so. The big event for September will be the SCOW-sponsored Also-Ran Regatta, to be held on Saturday, Sept 25. The regatta is open to all who have not won a race in the last year. Details are still being worked out

and I will have more information for everyone at the monthly meeting and the upcoming social sails.

We will also be organizing a River Raft up for Oct 2 & 3. Anyone interested in the raft-up should please contact me at river@scow.org or call me at 703/534-0742.

And just a reminder that both the Tuesday night racing and the Thursday night social sails will continue through the first week of October. See you there!

USCG Auxiliary Boating Safety Course SCOW members asked for a short class that covers boating regulations to satisfy skipper certification requirements. Member, Ginny Ivin, who is also Commander of USCG Auxiliary Flotilla-22, has arranged one for you. The Boating Safety class starts October 7 at the Washington Sailing Marina. The cost to cover materials is \$25. For enrollment information, contact flotilla22@hotmail.com or 703-671-7276.

Results of the Membership Survey Sandy Clover As you may recall, along with your membership renewal form this year, you received a membership survey. Have you been wondering what happened to them? The data has been entered into a database and the summary statistics appear later in this article. I want to say thanks to all of you who took the time to provide us with this valuable information. The Board is using this information to guide planning for future activities.

If you're a new member this year, don't worry, we haven't left you out. Membership surveys and return envelopes will be in your mailbox soon!

Here are the stats on forms returned as of June 30:

Questionnaire Total: 165

How you heard about SCOW: Friends: 59 Web Site: 31 Other: 29 Newspapers: 15 Word of Mouth: 15 Public Demos: 8

Years of Sailing Experience: Less than 1: 6 1 to 3: 30 3 to 6: 28 6 to 10: 17 More than 10: 83

Note: More than one option could be checked in the following sections.

Type of Sailing you are interested in: Dingy Day Sailing: 102 Dingy Racing: 59 Big Boat Day Sailing: 119 Big Boat Racing: 57 Big Boat Cruising: 101 Charter: 40 Live Aboard: 39

Instructional Sailing Courses you are interested in: Basic Sailing: 36 Advanced Sailing: 60 Spinnaker Sailing: 49 Basic Racing: 51 Advanced Racing: 23 Cruising: 55 Sailing for Children: 21

Sailing Related Topics you are interested in: Rules: 51 Navigation: 86 Weather: 74 First Aid: 47 Marlinespike: 47

Other Topics you are interested in: Fiberglass repair: 34 Engine Maintenance: 38 General Maintenance: 65 Spring Commissioning: 27 Winterizing: 31 Paint & Varnish: 31 Outfitting: 43

I would like to give a special thank you to Stu Robinson who volunteered to manage this data for us. He has also brought in speakers for our membership meetings to cover a number of the topics already.

## **Hail! Hail!**

If you have comments regarding things you liked (or didn't) about past Hail & Farewell parties, or suggestions you'd like us to consider this year, please send your comments to Denise Malueg: dderry@jil.com. Also, anyone interested in working on the committee for this year's event, scheduled for Saturday, November 13, is asked to contact Denise at 703-683-2088. We need people with interests or talents (both are not required) in menu selecting, advertising, decorating, attendee tracking, and music programming (suggestions for the DJ to play). Everyone else is just asked to mark your calendars for Nov 13, and start shopping for your dress, cumberbund or ruffled shirt.

## **SkipperTips**

**Compiled by Denise Malueg, (with your help)**

Three tips for Scots and other small boats this month. Thanks for your contributions!

1. In this era of hyper hydrilla, try lowering the centerboard only halfway. The grassy fronds tend to glance off the board (set at a 45 degree angle) as you sail through, rather than wrap around the board and clog the centerboard housing when the board is raised later.
2. After a capsize or COB, climbing back into the boat can still be difficult even with those nifty swim ladders SCOW installed on the stern of its Scots. The deep fantail (can we call that a fantail?) of the Scots is longer than many club member's arms, which makes it difficult to grab ahold while lumbering up that short ladder. One member told me her technique of using a line with a loop in the end, long enough to lay on the stern, secured in the aft cockpit of the boat. She said it gives those of us with diminished upper body strength (we know who we are!) something to grab with which to pull ourselves up.
3. Hint for the locks on SCOW boats and storage sheds: Once the locks are opened, they can be set to 0000 in the dark without looking at the dials. When holding the lock with the attached side of the hasp on the right side of the lock, push the dials upward. They will stop when they reach zero.

As a bonus this month, because you've been just swell, I've included some trivial tips of nautical knowledge for you to try when becalmed and your crew is mutinous from the same five jokes you've been telling all summer long.

Blazer - Way back when. uniforms were not common among crew. For ceremonies it was up to the captains to outfit their crew, and since he footed the bill, the captain of the H.M.S. Blazer selected those spiffy, dark blue jackets for everyone. Soon, the crew of his ship even became known as "the blazers" and the garment was known as that ever after.

Fly by night - This was a large, square sail used downwind or on a reach that could be used easily and quickly; especially useful for sailing at night. Scoundrels who dealt in contraband, who often employed these sails, became known as fly-by-night-ers. Ah-haaa.

Tidy - The word is derived from the tide, hence the meaning of being well arranged and methodical as associated with tides. Something of which I will never be accused!. but she's got a nice personality, is a good cook, sews all her own clothes..

Hijack - The harlot's call to the sailor "Hi, Jack!" took on its more sinister meaning when, after the first embrace, she hit him with a lead filled handbag and he was dragged off to be sold to a ship in need of crew. What meaning will, "buy me lady's drink," take on in 100 years?

Chew the fat - For preservation, brine was added to barrels of meat, although it had a hardening effect on the fat. While still edible, it took quite a bit of chewing. So, to "chew the fat" has come to mean to talk endlessly. This does not apply to written words, I don't think, but maybe I could check, or maybe you could, but then, does it really matter... Oh, sorry, just chewing the fat with you.

## **Calendar**

Board Meetings Open to all. Washington Sailing Marina (WSM) Chart Room, 1st Monday of every month, 7:30

Monthly Meeting American Legion Hall, Alexandria, 2nd Monday of every month(except December), Social Hour - 6:30, Program & Meeting - 7:30

Tuesday Night Flying Scot Races Washington Sailing Marina, 6PM - dark, April 27 - October 5th

Thursday Night Social Sail Washington Sailing Marina - 6:00, April 22nd - October 7th

Thursday Night Social No-Sail Location-TBA - 7:00, October 14th - April 2000

## September

1 Basic Sailing Series III, Land Class, 7:30-10:00, WSM Chart Room

4-6 Labor Day Cruise, Lower Bay location TBA

11-12 Leukemia Cup, Washington Sailing Marina

17-19 Camp Letts Bay Rendezvous, Rhode River

22 Navigation Class Land Session, 7:30-10:00PM, WSM

26 Navigation Class Water Session, location TBA

25 Also Ran Regatta

25 Bay Day Sail

October

2-3 2nd River Raft-up

5 Last Flying Scot Race!

7 Last Social Sail!

7 USCG Boating Safety Class Begins, WSM

9-11 Columbus Day Cruise-location TBA.

16 Fall Maintenance Day, WSM,

9 AM 23-24 Fowl Weather Raft-Up, Leadenham Creek off the Choptank River

24 Daylight Savings Time Ends, Sunday, 2AM

31 Halloween Party, location and time TBA

November

8 Elections

13 Hail & Farewell, Ft. Meyer Officers Club, 7-12

December

5 Holiday Raft-up, The Colonies of McLean, 5 PM

6 Joint Board Meeting, WSM Chart Room, 7:30 PM

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

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For information about club activities Call: 202.628.7245 (That's 628.SAIL) Visit us at: [www.scow.org](http://www.scow.org) Write us: [info@scow.org](mailto:info@scow.org)

Submissions to Channels: Submit articles to [channels@scow.org](mailto:channels@scow.org) by one week after the monthly meeting, Use any means, but email is preferred. Please! Just type or paste your articles into the body of an email message. We will format it for you. No Multiple tabs, No indents, No attachments, NO Kidding. Pony express, mail, etc are acceptable, but get it here (not just in the box) by deadline -ed.

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