

ChanNels

*A ship in harbor is safe,
but that is not what ships are built for.*
-- William Shedd

*The Newsletter of the
Sailing Club of Washington*

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Commodore's Log *Chris McGraw, Commodore*

What an amazing start! I'm impressed! We're bringing in new members by advertising more on SCOW's Meetup.com and Facebook pages (check 'em out!), we're starting to look at possible online sign up and at member retention. (Come out and sail! Or, come to a happy hour!) Our Training and Skipper Certification Committee is moving forward on recommendations for Flying Scot night sailing, single-handing certifications and updating our Sailor's Information File and Boat Use Policy. We're meeting with the authorities for our Wednesday race permits and working to get our PHRF racing ratings. The website is getting an overhaul and is easier to use with more photos and better navigation. We've gotten nearly all of our sailing and socializing dates up and in our Google calendar and boats are reserved for activities on Faces. We're getting ready for our Rub-off-the-Rust and Re-up Brunch

We're putting out a great new newsletter and an interim directory so you can reach key members and friends, and are tackling and knocking out maintenance. A great group of folks did repairs to Rebecca's gudgeon

that'll keep her air-tight and on top of the water. (The best place to be!) And we're putting a four-stroke motor and getting prepared on our new boat, Skirmish. Great job!

We are getting minutes out early and documents updated, we've trained lots of members in First Aid so we are better prepared for emergencies, and we had great nautical speakers for our February member meeting, we did an audit of the books and are getting a handle on our finances and budget that we're publishing, we got a laptop so we can track finances and teach classes concurrently, and we've gotten a fantastic start with our Boat Assets Committee on our Topaz cruiser swap-out. Really amazing stuff! That's just a wee bit of what we've accomplished. Thanks to our amazing board members, committee members and leaders, and fantastic volunteers.

Again, really amazing stuff! Kudos!

Chris
commodore@scow.org

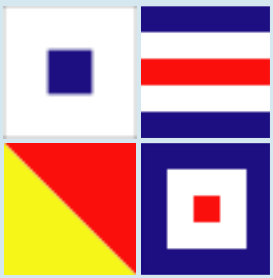


Chris McGraw. Photo by Chris McGraw (such a clever guy.)

**What's a pirate's favorite letter?
Arrrrrrrrrrr?
No. It be the C.**

Kudos to webmaster, Luis Rivas! In addition to numerous updates, you will notice that our website is easier to navigate and is getting new photos including a carousel on the front page. Great work!





February Membership Meeting Was A Huge Success

Kyoko Kawai, Vice Commodore

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60 people joined our inaugural membership meeting of 2012 Board at the Capitol City Brewery in Shirlington on February 13. It was a lively, interactive and somewhat challenging (learning the bowline) meeting. We rocked the Capitol City Brewery that night.

We had a great mix of 37 SCOW members and 23 prospective members. Surrounded by the new-comer friendly environment, the participants were getting to know each other and making connections for future sailing opportunities. After a brief self introduction by each participant, Commodore Chris McGraw provided the updates on current SCOW operations, introduced the Board members, and opened the floor up for questions. It was a great opportunity for new and prospective members to get to know SCOW activities. Three new SCOW members signed up during the meeting. Welcome new members!

Following the business meeting was the highlight of the night. SCOW sailing instructor Bill Davenport and Chris Tindal demonstrated the steps to tie some of most frequently used nautical knots. Other SCOW sailors also made themselves available to help participants practice knots. Thanks for these impromptu volunteers. Volunteerism is the key essence of SCOW!

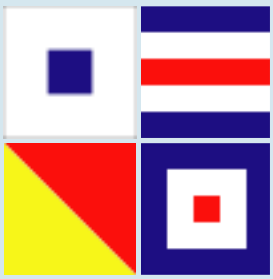
Wondering about the door prize? Elaine, a new member, was the lucky winner and received a limited edition SCOW stainless water bottle. Next time could be you!

Please note that membership meetings are no longer monthly this year as there are other great events each month. The next membership meeting is Monday, April 9th. We are planning to share the "emergency preparedness for sailing" interactive presentation at the April meeting. Please mark your calendar. We look forward to seeing many of you at the next membership meeting!

Kyoko
vice@scow.org

Photos by Kyoko Kawai





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An Update from the Training Director *Thomas Vaughan, Training Director*

Your enophilic training director is inconveniently shipping off to Paris and then London for several weeks at a time during March and April, but will be backed up by Anne Reb who is performing marvelously as an interim training director.

Our train-the-trainers program is scheduled for April 7th @ 9 am at the WSC. All land instructors and water instructors are strongly encouraged to attend.

The board is weighing the possibility of a formal Spinnaker class offering this year. Stay tuned for news about late spring or summer classes on how to "fly a kite".

Don't forget to come to the Re-Up Brunch on March 11th to sign up for classes...they sell out fast!

Tom
training@scow.org

SCOW's Membership is Growing! *Charles Gibert, Membership Director*

Ahoy SCOW members!

I'm glad to be aboard as the club's new Membership Director. This year we are hoping to increase our membership and make more people aware of the joy and excitement of sailing. I aim for members to be more active in the club with greater opportunities to sail and learn. We have many experienced sailors in our club that are eager to share their skills and knowledge with newer members.

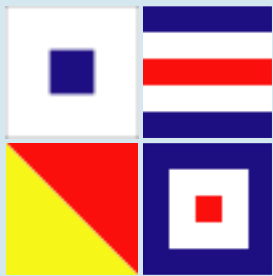
Thanks to our Web Editor, Luis Rivas, we now have the 2012 Membership application available for download on the scow.org website. I actually printed up ten applications and brought them to the February membership meeting where I was very happy to receive applications from our newest members: Laura Cohen, Jeffrey Kline, and David and Autumn Doulong.

Completing your application now and sending it in will keep your membership active through April 1st, 2013. Fill one in, print it out, and bring it our March 11th Re-up Brunch. That way, you'll have more time to scheme with your sailing friends on plans for the new season. I look forward to seeing you there! Happy Sails,

Charles
membership@scow.org



Photos by Kyoko Kawai.



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Rolling on the River

Faith Rodell, River/Bay Director

SCOW's monthly full moon raft up sails on our cruisers will start Friday, May 4th. Luckily, we will have full moons (or within a day thereof.) I am thinking the theme will be celebrating the areas, foods and music of the United States – how about a “South Jersey Italian”, a “New Orleans Cajun”, a “Texan Tex-Mex”, a “Florida Keys Margaritaville”, a “Down East Maine clam n Lobster”, or a “California raw veggies, tofu & wine ” (only kidding, Calif, -- hey, I need some help here.) Put your thinking caps on for some good themes and let me know. Watch for my emails so you can sign up as crew. SCOW skippers, let me know which moonlight raft up you would like to sign up to skipper. Below is our monthly schedule:

Potomac River Raft-up Events:

Friday, May 4	6:00 pm	at the Washington Sailing Marina
Friday, Jun 1	6:00 pm	at the Washington Sailing Marina
Friday, Jul 6	6:00 pm	at the Washington Sailing Marina
Friday, Aug 3	6:00 pm	at the Washington Sailing Marina
Friday, Aug 31	6:00 pm	at the Washington Sailing Marina
Friday, Sep 28	6:00 pm	at the Washington Sailing Marina

Also scheduled are:

Tim's Rivershore Weekend	Jun 23-24	10:00 am	in Woodbridge, Va
Ft. Washington Weekend	Sept 22-23	10:00 am	at the Ft. Wash Marina
Parade of Lights	Dec 1	4:00 pm-dark	at the Alexandria Marina

I am still working on the Bay events for the year, but we will be heading out for another crab feast in St. Michaels when the schooner fleet is in. We will also raft-up to watch the Tall Ships coming up the bay in celebration of the War of 1812. October brings the Chestertown De-rigging of the Tall Ships. There are a lot of events on the bay; if you have any ideas, let me know.

Faith
river@scow.org

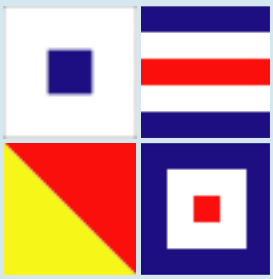


Shirley Castle and Faith Rodell at a SCOW social event in St. Michaels. Photo by George Umberger.



Tall Ships coming up the Chester River. Photo by Faith Rodell.

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Member Contributions

Annapolis sailor on unprecedented, around-the-Americas odyssey

http://www.washingtonpost.com/sports/annapolis-sailor-on-unprecedented-around-the-americas-odyssey/2012/02/06/gIQAp5p6uQ_story.html

An amazing story about a local who is sailing a 30 foot boat around the Americas. He started in Annapolis and sailed through the Northwest Passage (above Canada and Alaska), through the Pacific, around Cape Horn, and is currently off the coast of Brazil.

Submitted by Bruce Baker and Thom Unger.



Updates to the Boat Use Policy and SIF

Joseph DePoorter

The Training and Skipper Certification Committee is updating the boat use policy and sailor information files (SIFs). These files contain the policies, rules and operating procedures for our boats. They are also full of good tips that have been contributed by fellow SCOW skippers.

We welcome ideas, suggestions and comments from all members, so please send them to TSCC@scow.org. If you are a skipper or have taken SCOW training classes, you have probably referred to some of these documents. Tell us what works, what doesn't, and how it can be improved. We want these guides to be valuable companions to your club sailing.

The Flying Scot Skipper Information File (SIF) can be reviewed here: <http://www.scow.org/Resources/Skipper%20information%20file/FlyingScotSIF.pdf>

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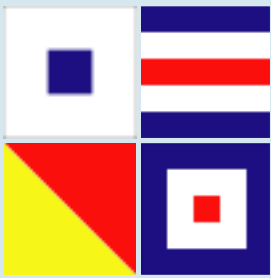
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Photo by Jonathan Thron





Welcome to Chart Desk

A monthly column by
Jonathan Thron, Skipper Director

A Real Pickle

Sailing is awesome. So are pickles. It's a shame they're loaded with fifty pounds of salt, otherwise I'd eat tons more. I haven't yet carried a jar of pickles on a cruise, but it's coming. Watch out.

In truth, good sailors are like good pickles. They're both at their best when they're crisp!

Stick with me.

Sailing crisply encompasses many things, but it can be defined in a broad sense as sailing *well* instead of just sailing. Did that skipper have a cruddy instructor? Is she having an off day-- or does she just not care? Keep it crisp on the water and you won't leave people wondering.

A very common problem and one of my biggest pet peeves is skippers who over-rotate a tack. New students are excused, but if you're cleared to command a SCOW boat, come on. Of course there are situations in racing or cruising when your course doesn't require you to sail as high as you can-- and your tacks are wide-- and that's fine. Here I'm talking about beating to windward-- those



Photo by Jonathan Thron

times when you're sailing as close to the wind as possible and your goal is maximum upwind progress.

You and I have both seen our friend Eager Earl out on the river-- he sets up for a tack, briefs his crew, and even does a thorough visual sweep of the area to make sure he doesn't execute The World's Best Tack into the side of the *Spirit of Washington*. Everything is looking great-- so he grins wide and throws the tiller hard over with gusto! Rig-

ging starts flying, sails start flapping, beer starts spilling, and everyone's having a great time-- and the bow of the boat is swinging, and swinging....and swinging. By the time the sea foam has settled, he's swung through 180 degrees with no sign of stopping. Effective perhaps, if he was simply trying to adjust the scenery. But hardly crisp. I guarantee you he's not over-rotating turns in his car! If he is, he's on the sidewalk or in a ditch. Why should maneuvering on the water be different?

continued...

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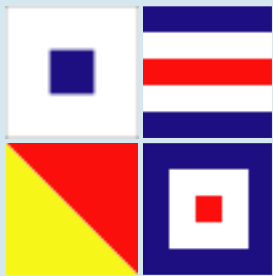
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A Real Pickle continued.

Let's keep it classy, comrades. It's kinda hard to hide when we've got "SCOW" plastered on our sails in big block letters. Consider these 3 tips for crisper tacks:

First, pay close attention to boat trim and speed. I always chuckle at students who are super excited and holler "REEEADYYY TO TACKKK!"-- when they're actually nowhere near ready to tack! It's cliché, but a quality maneuver in just about anything starts with a quality setup. If you're trying to cut a small slice of pie, get close-hauled! Un-crisp sailors take a laissez-faire approach and just "tack" from whatever point of sail they happen to be on (if they even know). That's like trying to win at tug-of-war without first taking up the slack in the rope. Get comfy with the wind! It will let you know if you get too close. Also watch your speed. Too fast is not usually a problem, but if you're too slow, you're shooting yourself in the foot. And if you're in a multi-hull, you can hang it up and go home. If you don't have enough inertia to get the job done, take your time and get some energy first. Ironman is not cool unless you're running a triathlon.

Second, use stationary reference points to your advantage. You already know that your boat can sail about 30 degrees off the wind, give or take, so trim it for close-hauled and

pick a conspicuous tree (building, antenna, navigation aid) about 45 degrees off the wind on the other side (75 degrees off your current course) and rock and roll. If you blast way past it, game over. Of course you'll have to adjust, but having a preliminary guidepost will help preclude that unintentional one-eighty. As you hone your skills you can pick more precise targets.

Finally, make sure you don't stall your rudder. Just like an airplane wing, a boat's rudder depends on smooth fluid flow in order to do its job-- namely, give you directional control on the water. If you throw the tiller over too fast and too far, you can get flow separation on the upper (aft) surface of the rudder, which destroys lift, creates drag, kills your steering ability, and effectively reduces your crisp factor to zero. The good news is that you stalled your boat rudder, not your airplane wing, which is slightly more consequential. Stall recovery for both is the same-- reduce angle of attack (e.g. center the tiller) in order to restore smooth flow. This is counter-intuitive but imperative, and the faster you regain steerage, the faster you can arrest that bow rotation.

To keep your rudder "flying" and your skippering crisp, make a conscious effort to "sail the boat through the tack" instead of

brusquely throwing it hard over, especially on the SCOW cruisers. If you have the luxury of time and room, take 2 seconds to kick in 30 degrees of rudder (instead of 1 second to kick in 60), which will put you in an intentional but shallow turn. You're trying to use the boat to draw a circle, not imitate a windshield wiper. When executed properly, you'll be able to feel the still-laminar flow over the rudder. More importantly, you'll retain full directional authority so your tack will end exactly when you want it to. ****Winning!****

Next time you're beating to windward out on the water, remember Earl-- and resolve to sail close-hauled to closed-hauled with 90-degree tacks. As skills improve, sail it even crisper-- 70 degrees, or 60, or whatever your boat will do.

Pickles get judged on their quality, and they're just sitting in a jar.

You're in charge of a boat.

No pressure-- and please pass the pickles.

Jonathan
skipper@scow.org

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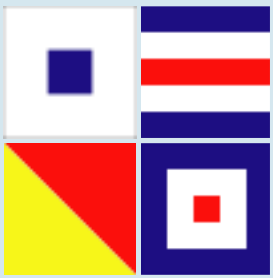
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Members Received Red Cross Certification in First Aid/CPR/AED

Thirty-seven members, twenty-four of them sailing instructors, had fun while earning their certification in First Aid/CPR/AED from the one-day Red Cross Training that was held on January 14 and February 11, 2012. The successful completion of this training confers Red Cross certification in First Aid/CPR/AED valid for two years.

We hope that this training will help us to better respond in cases of emergencies.

Photos by Kyoko Kawai



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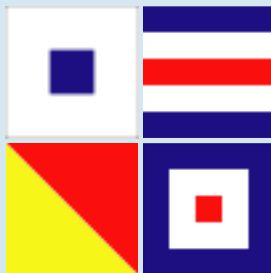
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SCOW's Budget for 2012

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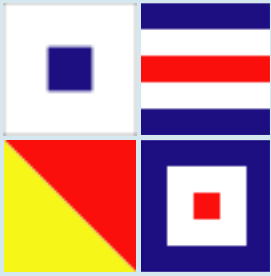
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Budget Category	Actual Income and Expense for Previous Years						2012 Budget	Assigned To:	
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Average of Last 5 Years			
Revenue:									
Boatique Sales	\$ 122	\$ 0	\$ 229	\$ 88	\$ (76)	\$ 73	\$ 0	Mem.Dir	
Interest Income	\$ 2,389	\$ 4,007	\$ 2,174	\$ 1,377	\$ 1,055	\$ 2,201	\$ 1,200	Treasurer	
Member Dues	\$ 17,555	\$ 18,985	\$ 18,705	\$ 20,320	\$ 18,735	\$ 18,860	\$ 20,000	Mem.Dir	
Other income	\$ 0	\$ 895	\$ 3,750	\$ 50	\$ 260	\$ 991	\$ 200	Treasurer	
Raffle Sales	\$ 292	\$ 34	\$ 64	\$ 43	\$ 0	\$ 87	\$ 0	N/A	
Skipper Fees	\$ 14,245	\$ 16,370	\$ 16,170	\$ 18,390	\$ 18,330	\$ 16,701	\$ 18,000	Skip.Dir.	
Social Activities:	\$ 5,661	\$ 6,370	\$ 6,505	\$ 4,510	\$ 8,386	\$ 6,287	\$ 9,000	Social Dir	
Afterglow Party					\$ 350	\$ 70	\$ 500	Social Dir	
Hail and Farewell	\$ 3,480	\$ 4,150	\$ 6,140	\$ 3,549	\$ 2,882	\$ 4,040	\$ 3,000	Social Dir	
Miscellaneous	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 20	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 4	\$ 0	Social Dir	
Re-Up Brunch	\$ 40	\$ 470	\$ (150)	\$ 24	\$ 987	\$ 274	\$ 1,000	Social Dir	
Social Sails and Other	\$ 2,141	\$ 1,750	\$ 496	\$ 937	\$ 4,167	\$ 1,898	\$ 4,500	Social Dir	
Training	\$ 13,421	\$ 12,273	\$ 13,410	\$ 14,708	\$ 14,765	\$ 13,715	\$ 19,880	Train Dir	
Total Revenue:	\$ 53,685	\$ 68,935	\$ 61,007	\$ 59,487	\$ 61,455	\$ 58,914	\$ 68,280		
Expense:									
Administration	\$ 1,745	\$ 4,105	\$ 1,207	\$ 2,310	\$ 3,907	\$ 2,655	\$ 6,390		
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,497	\$ 3,534	\$ 438	\$ 263	\$ 1,094	\$ 1,365	\$ 1,000	Treasurer	
Bank Charge	\$ 128	\$ 174	\$ 203	\$ 199	\$ 17	\$ 144	\$ 200	Treasurer	
Bonding	\$ 0	\$ 326	\$ 326	\$ 359	\$ 1,364	\$ 475	\$ 1,400	Secretary	
Supplies	\$ 121	\$ 71	\$ 240	\$ 1,489	\$ 1,432	\$ 671	\$ 1,500	Secretary	
Computer							\$ 650	Comodore	
Amplification System							\$ 140	Comodore	
AED							\$ 1,500	Comodore	
Awards	\$ 561	\$ 1,447	\$ 1,576	\$ 2,589	\$ 2,621	\$ 1,759	\$ 2,000	Comodore	
Communications:	\$ 3,258	\$ 3,763	\$ 4,894	\$ 2,975	\$ 2,889	\$ 3,556	\$ 2,070	B.Thacker	
Meeting Room	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,200	\$ 1,791	\$ 1,850	\$ 2,088	\$ 750	Vice Com	
Printing	\$ 414	\$ 214	\$ 597	\$ 174	\$ 0	\$ 280	\$ 500	B.Thacker	
Publicity	\$ 358	\$ 1,099	\$ 1,407	\$ 408	\$ 149	\$ 684		B.Thacker	
Web Site	\$ 86	\$ 250	\$ 690	\$ 602	\$ 690	\$ 504	\$ 600	WebMaster	
Door Prizes and Raffles							\$ 220	Vice Com	
Fleet Operations:	\$ 45,339	\$ 23,496	\$ 33,452	\$ 24,086	\$ 26,747	\$ 30,624	\$ 35,559		
Maintenance	\$ 6,155	\$ 7,895	\$ 12,161	\$ 8,917	\$ 7,902	\$ 8,606	\$ 13,000	MaintDir	
Boat Asset Fund/Capital Improvements	\$ 24,858	\$ 2,522	\$ 8,788	\$ 1,713	\$ 2,732	\$ 8,123	\$ 4,800	MaintDir	
Insurance	\$ 2,986	\$ 3,033	\$ 3,219	\$ 3,565	\$ 4,876	\$ 3,536	\$ 5,000	Treasurer	
Registration	\$ 966	\$ 418	\$ 236	\$ 196	\$ 389	\$ 441	\$ 400	CVG	
Slip Fees	\$ 10,373	\$ 9,628	\$ 9,048	\$ 9,695	\$ 10,848	\$ 9,918	\$ 12,359	Treasurer	
Income tax	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 775	\$ 145	\$ 57	\$ 195	\$ 100	CVG	
Member Services							\$ 658	\$ 1,500	Mem.Dir
Social Activities:	\$ 9,083	\$ 13,914	\$ 12,001	\$ 8,153	\$ 12,187	\$ 11,068	\$ 12,400	Social Dir	
Afterglow Party	\$ 600	\$ 727	\$ 605	\$ 819	\$ 916	\$ 733	\$ 1,000	Social Dir	
Hail and Farewell	\$ 7,575	\$ 10,907	\$ 10,804	\$ 5,576	\$ 5,849	\$ 8,142	\$ 5,700	Social Dir	
Re up Brunch	\$ 450	\$ 791	\$ 80	\$ 510	\$ 984	\$ 563	\$ 1,000	Social Dir	
River Activities				\$ 232	\$ 180	\$ 62	\$ 200	Social Dir	
Social Sails and Other	\$ 458	\$ 1,489	\$ 512	\$ 1,016	\$ 4,258	\$ 1,547	\$ 4,500	Social Dir	
Racing							\$ 810	\$ 700	RaceDir
Training	\$ 3,330	\$ 3,190	\$ 3,301	\$ 1,824	\$ 3,682	\$ 3,065	\$ 5,000	Train Dir	
Total Expenses	\$ 88,175	\$ 52,437	\$ 65,994	\$ 47,083	\$ 52,900	\$ 61,864	\$ 65,939		
Revenue Minus Expenses	\$ (34,490)	\$ 6,499	\$ (4,987)	\$ 12,404	\$ 8,555	\$ (2,404)	\$ 2,341		





Sign up for SCOW training at the Re-Up Brunch! For a complete list of classes see the calendar at www.scow.org

Upcoming Events

Plan now for the 2012 sailing season. The SCOW website posts all events during the 2012 season.

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Re-Up Brunch
 Sunday, March 11, 2012
 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
 The Colonies of McLean
 7681 Provincial Dr., Mc Lean, VA ([map](#))

Mark the official kick-off party for our sailing season. Bring a dish to share or pay \$10.

- Renew your membership.
- Sign up for the awesome training classes (be there by 10 am because classes fill up fast).
- See what's on schedule for river, bay, racing, and social activities this year.
- Enjoy a delicious brunch of ham & roast beef plus omelets & pancakes.
- Bloody Marys and Mimosas!
- Socialize, shoot pool, play ping pong, sing, eat, drink & be merry.

Volunteers make our events a success, as seen at the After Glow Party in January! Help is needed for set-up, clean-up, omelet cooks, bartenders. Think about how you can help, and contact Anna at social@scow.org.

Maintenance Day
 Saturday, March 24, 2012
 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
 Washington Sailing Marina

SCOW will be readying the fleet for sailing at Maintenance Day on Saturday, March 24th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Plan to join other members that day and let the Maintenance Director (maintdir@scow.org) know that you will be there to help!

Social Sail 2012!
 Thursday, April 5, 2012
 6:00 pm
 Washington Sailing Marina

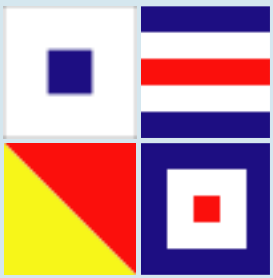
Bring friends who may be interested in joining SCOW for fun evenings with dinner and a sail. Be sure to contact Anna at social@scow.org to sign up to be the volunteer chef/co-chef and Dock Master and help make this a successful summer social event!

KISS Spring Racing Series
 Tuesday, April 10, 2012
 5:00 pm
 Washington Sailing Marina

Flying Scot Racing Series
 Wednesday, April 18, 2012
 5:00 pm
 Washington Sailing Marina

Meet at the marina on Wednesday evenings at 5:00 pm throughout the summer. This is a great way to sharpen your skills and meet other SCOW members for a little competition.

Contact Deepak for more information on racing opportunities.
racing@scow.org



Upcoming Events

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DC Sail Racing 11
Rules Seminar
March 16, 2012

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Submit feedback, ideas, content and photographs for next month's issue to editor@scow.org



DC Sail Presents:

Racing Rules Seminar

with US Sailing's Chris Petracco and Scotch Tasting

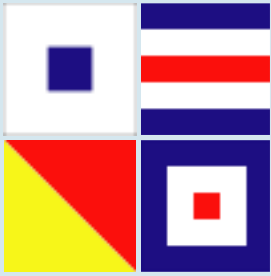
Friday, March 16, 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Capital Yacht Club
1000 Water Street, SW, Washington, DC 20024

Chris Petracco is the Race Administration Director at US Sailing which makes him responsible for the development of race officials and judges throughout the country. So he knows a thing or two about the rules and how to make them work to your advantage. Chris will speak about the upcoming changes in the rulebooks, quirks in the current one (that can help you!) and tips for staying out of the protest room.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS A\$30 FEE FOR CHRIS' TALK.
Tickets can be only be purchased in advance at www.dcsail.org





Contact the Board

2012 Officers

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 Vice Commodore Kyoko Kawai vice@scow.org
 Secretary Maggie Kruesi secretary@scow.org
 Treasurer Doug Roark treasurer@scow.org

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 Racing Director Deepak Bellani racing@scow.org
 River/Bay Director Faith Rodell river@scow.org
 Membership Director Charles Gilbert membership@scow.org
 Skipper Director Jonathan Thron skipper@scow.org
 Social Director Anna Sheinberg social@scow.org
 Training Director Tom Vaughan..... training@scow.org
 & Anne Reb..... training2@scow.org

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 Membership Coordinator ... Henry Cheng members@scow.org
 Email Administrator Jeff Teitel postmaster@scow.org
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 Picasa Pictures Charles Gilbert pictures@scow.org



Photo by Jonathan Thron

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