

Chan Nels

*"I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving: To reach the port of heaven, we must sail sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it - but we must sail, and not drift, nor lie at anchor."
- Oliver Wendel Holmes*

*The Newsletter of the
Sailing Club of Washington*

April 2012

Commodore's Log 1

**Highlights
from Spring
Maintenance Day 2**

**Our Fleet
Safety Inspection
is Completed! 5**

**The 2012 Season
Social Sail
Has Begun 6**

Get Ready To Race! 7

Chart Desk 8
"Oh, The Places You'll Go!"

Upcoming Events 14
2012's 1st Raft-Up! ..5/04
Rub Off The Rust ..5/06
Leukemia Cup
Kickoff ..6/02

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editor@scow.org

Commodore's Log

Chris McGraw, Commodore



What cool things we've done this month! You will notice lots of nice upgrades to the fleet next time you visit!

We did a fantastic maintenance day, thanks to lots of volunteers and leaders and thanks to the great Maintenance Director Sarah Jones who is sadly leaving DC for Germany. We are very excited that Luis Rivas has volunteered to take up our Maintenance Director reins. Make sure to thank him and lend a hand to help when you see him! In more fleet news, Ginny Ivan, a SCOW member and member of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, is conducting Vessel Safety Checks on our fleet and our super bosuns and key volunteers like Tom Vandenbosche, Rodger Casey, and Mark Hogan especially are crossing "i's" and dotting "t's" (or something like that) and helping make sure the vessels are ship-shape. John Imparato has gotten updated registrations for us, we've put first aid kits and distress flags on our Scots and swapped out old lifejackets

for newer ones, replaced anchor lines, and much, much more! Thanks to Brian at the Marina, you'll notice that Sunset Song has moved closer to the cranes (slip C7) and is easier to launch! All of our Flying Scots have passed Vessel Safety Check inspection (<http://cgaux.org/vsc/>) and next up is our cruiser fleet! Sadly on the cruiser side, Topaz, has had her lifting keel cable break and her depth gauge isn't working properly, so Bosun Maggie Wiseman and Tom Vaughn are working to get the boat hauled and fixed and back in service. Rebecca and Skirmish are in good form and winning their classes in the Tuesday night races along with lots of other SCOW racers who are doing well and getting lots new folks involved.

Racing season has started, and the Scots are now out every Wednesday. Thanks to Deepak and Jim and all the folks who are making the races happen! Make sure to go out and join 'em! Email racing@scow.org to get involved on either Wednesday or Tuesday nights! On Thursday nights, our Social Sails have started for the season and lots of folks are joining. Thanks to our great guys who are volunteering to co-chef and to

Photo by Carrie Quinn.

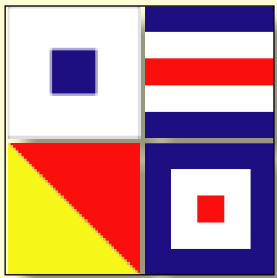
serve as dockmasters. Anna is pulling things off without a hitch. If you'd like to help on Thursday night, send Anna an email at so-cial@scow.org. Our River and Bay season is starting soon too, with our first moonlight raftup set for Friday, May 4th. Email Faith at river@scow.org to take part! Our training season is off to a big start too, with great land and water classes for basic sailing, and even more classes coming up. Please say a big thanks to our instructors when you see them! Our training program is really looking fantastic! Touch base with Tom Vaughn training@scow.org or with Ann Reb training2@scow.org to find out about upcoming opportunities. So much more great stuff is happening with our monthly meetings, our membership, our finances and much much more, but I'll leave those updates for the next installment.

Look forward to seeing you on the water!

Chris

commodore@scow.org





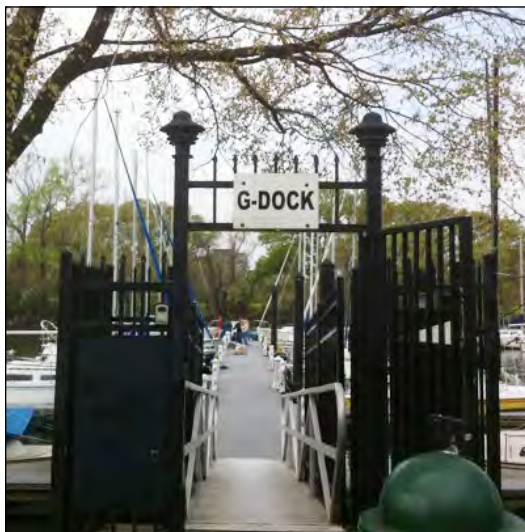
April 2012

Spring Maintenance Day Held Saturday, March 31st

A record number of club members as well as some potential new members turned out for this spring's Maintenance Day on Saturday, March 31st. This was a great opportunity to catch up with friends and serve the club, as well as learn from some of our more experienced members.

When you see him, be sure to thank busy man Luis Rivas, who has stepped in to fill the roll of Maintenance Director in Sarah's absence.

Photos by Nelson Pacheco.



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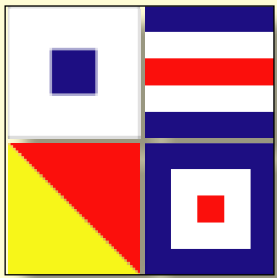
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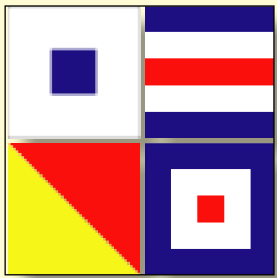
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Our Flying Scot Sunset Song is now living in slip C-7! You'll see her just across the grassy area from our Social Sails site. The closer slot will make her even easier to take out for a sail!

Photos by Barbara Thacker.



continued...



www.scow.org

ChaN Nels

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Spring Maintenance Day (continued)

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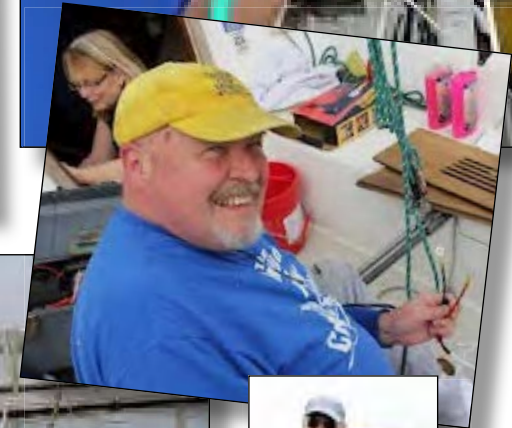
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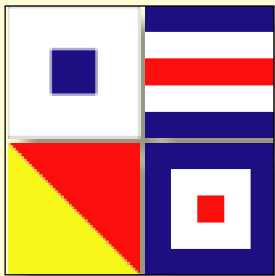
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April 2012 We've Completed Safety Inspections for our Flying Scots!

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We've been making a lot of upgrades to our boats in an effort to meet or exceed the Vessel Safety Check standards. (Thanks to Coast Guard Auxilliary member Ginny Ivan who is conducting the checks for us and to Tom Vandenboshe, John Imparato and Luis Rivas.

Here's some of the improvements we've made to the Scots: In the stern of each Flying Scot there's now a First Aid kit that has basic first aid gear, an emergency flashlight that can be used to flash S-O-S at night, instructions for hailing Mayday in an emergency, and a Boating Accident Report form, and contact info for the Harbor Police. There's also a "ditty-dot" distress signaling flag back there. We've replaced some worn anchor lines and "moused" some of our anchor's screw-pin shackles. (See photo at right.) You use a wire to keep the shackle from opening up on it's own and leaving your anchor lying on the bottom of the river unattached to the rest of your boat! There's an anchor holder in the bow of our Scots (two are still to be installed) that holds our anchors in place up front. We've also swapped out several of our pfd's that were getting a little beaten up, so that SCOW members and guests will have nice pfd's to wear. (We're discussing storing these on the seats so that they dry better and avoid getting moldy.) Finally, thanks to our great bosuns and volunteers all our registrations are up-to-date and our numbering and other gear not mentioned above has been fixed up. Great job to all the volunteers who've helped get us ship-shape!



"Mousing".

On the cruisers: we've checked all the navigation lights to confirm that they're working, we did some wiring thanks to Rodger Casey and Marty that has run the electrical to the motor and turned on all the cabin lights, we've upgraded stowage lists, and registrations, and much much more! On the cruisers, Boating Accident Report forms are available in the first aid kits. (First Aid items on our Cruisers are stored in the "medicine cabinet" that is, the stowage compartment right next to the head.) What a great club of volunteers we have pulling out lots of tasks!



Tom and Ginny. Tom spent lots of hours helping get our fleet in shape. Photo by Chris McGraw.

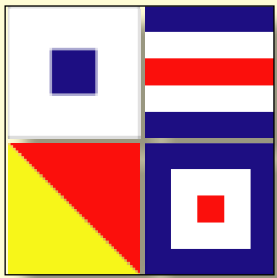


John signing the certificate together with Ginny. Photo by Luis Rivas.



Bella was also present for moral support. She is my petite Newfie/Lab mix pup at 150 pounds. Photo by Luis Rivas.





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SCOW kicks off the 2012 season with Social Sail on Thursdays!

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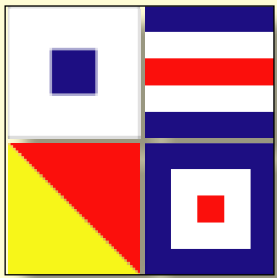
Anna, our Social Director, has been doing a wonderful job in organizing our Thursday night Social Sails. Since our first, held on April 5th, they have been well attended with everyone looking forward to the start of a new season. Come on out this Thursday, and enjoy an evening of friendship and sailing with your fellow members.

Many thanks to the volunteers who have already stepped up to help. Be sure to contact Anna, social@scow.org, and let her know how you'd like to help make Social Sail a successful and fun event.



Photos by William Smith.





April 2012

Get Ready To Race!

Commodore's Log 1

The 2012 racing season has begun!

Highlights from Spring Maintenance Day 2

SCOW members are doing great in the DISC cruiser races with Henry Cheng scoring a first on Kalypso in his class last week, and SCOW boats Skirmish (Kyoko) and Rebecca (Jan) racking up firsts in their class this Tuesday! More folks from SCOW are dotted all over the fleet, having a lot of fun and representing us well in this fun fleet!

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Racing on SCOW's cruisers is open to all SCOW members, and SCOW Racing Skippers participating in DISC races must be SCOW and DISC members and need a second certified cruiser skipper aboard.

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You can get onto the SCOW Cruiser Crew list by emailing Racing Director Deepak Bellani at racing@scow.org

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Deepak and Mark getting ready to measure our sails for our PHRF rating.
Photo by Chris McGraw.



DISC Spring Race Series, April 17, 2012 on Rebecca: Michael, Mike and Valerie (above); Jan (below). Photos by Kevin Longenbach.



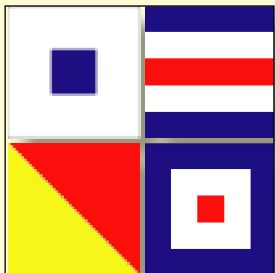


Chart Desk

A monthly column by
Jonathan Thron, Skipper Director

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"Oh, The Places You'll Go!" - Dr. Seuss

They say that sailors are people who are content to go 1) nowhere; 2) very very slowly.

Unfortunately they nailed us on the second part.

But NOT necessarily on the first! Those of you who have sailed with me know that I'm seldom content to just "go out for a sail," so I try to make it a point to pick a destination. Wind/tide/current/daylight notwithstanding.**

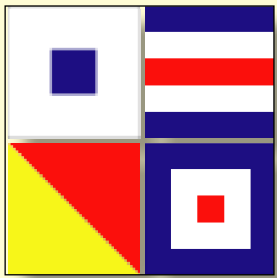
**Apologies to folks who thought they were going "sailing" but ended up playing "Row, Row, Row Your Scot, Fiercely Up The Stream." I hope the Ben & Jerry's made it worth it.

By actually picking a place to go, you strategically position yourself to enjoy some distinct advantages over those sailing nowhere:



Crab balls and calamari. Photos by Jonathan Thron.

- 1.) You and your crew get to wave proudly at the other mere wanderlusts as you sail, intentionally, by. They will think that these are just regular waves, but you and your crew know that they are powerful Salutes of Purpose.
 - 2.) You up your Skipper Cool Factor ("SKOOF") by an order of magnitude.
 - 3.) You make things more interesting for your guests.
 - 4.) You pay slip fees, thereby stimulating the economy.
 - 5.) You learn tons of new things about navigation, docking, and how to not accidentally ram expensive yachts.
 - 6.) You pay tacit homage to Columbus, Magellan, and other intrepid exp-- actually nevermind, this is much more lame on paper than it was in my head.
- While our humble strip of river is not likely to be featured in Cruising World magazine anytime soon, it does have a couple of interesting hamlets that will enable you to exploit the utility of SCOW boats and have some fun in the process. Next time you're in the mood to go somewhere very very slowly, check out these neat local destinations:



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Chart Desk continued

Alexandria City Marina (Old Town)

THE DRAW: Plenty of shops/restaurants (Ben & Jerry's ice cream!); short hop from WSM but still a quaint "destination cruise"
HOW MUCH: \$15/four hours (or free, see below)

WATCH OUT FOR: The plethora of pilings and the narrow slips, which are fairly standard and offer good practice, but which can be a little disconcerting at first. The docks closely abut the main river channel and are fairly exposed (unsheltered), so pay close attention to wind conditions and boat speed/drift on your approach.

CONTACT:

Alexandria City Marina
0 Cameron Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
"Alexandria City Marina" on Marine VHF Ch. 16
(703) 838-4265
<http://alexandriava.gov/Marina>
<http://alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/info/MarinaCostBook.pdf>

THE DEETS:

Old Town is nice if you don't have much time or don't want to stray too far from home. You're shooting for A/B Dock (the



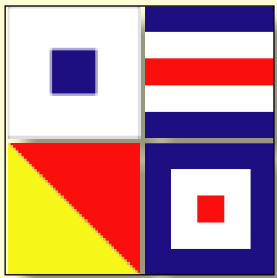
Alexandria City Marina.

marina will assign a slip when you hail them on the radio), which is basically right in front of the Torpedo Factory. Avoid the more southern docks (to the left of A/B as you're looking at the Torpedo Factory from the river)-- those are private docks for the Old Dominion Yacht Club (est. 1880). If you do manage to successfully tie up there, you

won't be able to escape the gated compound at street level and will have to take the Walk of Shame through the upstairs bar and then back downstairs in order to get out.

Don't ask me how I know this.

continued...



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Chart Desk continued

The marina management likes boats to come into A/B Dock under power, which means this option is reserved for SCOW cruisers at the moment-- but before you break down in tears, Scot Skipper, keep reading.....

ALTERNATIVE OPTION FOR FLYING SCOTS (public seawall at Waterfront Park):

For the whopping low price of zero dollars, Scots can tie up at the public seawall at Waterfront Park, just north of Nina's Dandy. At low tide, you're looking at very little water near the wall (2 feet or less in places), so watch that centerboard. I've sailed all the way to the wall-- and it's doable when conditions are right-- but the wind gets



Scots can tie up at the Waterfront Park seawall for free. Nina's Dandy in the background.

shifty around the trees and buildings, so be prepared to paddle the last few yards, dropping sail if necessary. Ben & Jerry's is 150 yards from the water at South Union and King streets, but all of Old Town is basically within reach. I've never had a problem with security, but if you plan to leave the boat for more than a few minutes, I'd take any valuables with you and make sure any items left in the boat are tucked away out of sight. Waterfront Park is a favorite not-too-

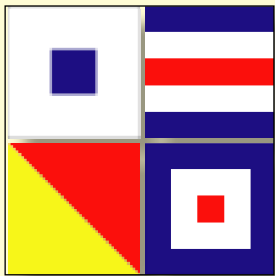
ambitious destination sail when I'm reasonably confident that I'll have enough wind and daylight to get home by dark. Recommended ice cream flavor, you ask? Coffee Buzz Buzz. It makes the sail home super exciting, even if it isn't.

Cantina Marina

THE DRAW: Good food/atmosphere; nice



Rebecca at Cantina Marina with historic Presidential yacht U.S.S. Sequoia.



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Chart Desk continued

scenery en route (DCA/Hains Point/Washington Channel/SW Waterfront)

HOW MUCH: Free (up to 4 hours)

WATCH OUT FOR: Expensive boats in close quarters; small docks

CONTACT:

Cantina Marina
600 Water Street SW
Washington, DC 20024
(202) 954-8396

www.cantinamarina.com

Gangplank Marina
(202) 554-5000

THE DEETS:

Cantina Marina is a neat bar/restaurant on the Southwest Waterfront in Washington Channel, which is also home to the Spirit of Washington, Spirit of Mount Vernon, Odyssey, and the marine detachment of the DCFD. Check the Nats baseball schedule, as Cantina can get crowded on game days. The good news is that the restaurant has partnered with Gangplank Marina to graciously reserve a couple free slips for transient nautical patrons on a first-come basis. The bad news is that the slips are inboard almost to the seawall, are extremely small and narrow, and are comprised of concrete and steel floating docks. So you



Slips at Cantina Marina are less than ideal. Make sure the boat is properly secured and protected.

have to exercise care getting to them, exercise even more care when docking so you don't scratch the boat, and then exercise extreme care as you disembark so you don't fall in the river. If you make it to the top of the gangplank unscathed, congratulations! Some fantastic Cantina tacos await. Just don't look back at the boat, 'cause the aft half is sticking out of the slip and looks ridiculous. C'est la vie. Bring extra fenders

and lines, loosen the friction lock on the motor (and USE the motor in conjunction with the tiller for a tighter turn radius on final approach), and take a couple extra minutes to make sure the boat is properly secured and won't sustain scrape damage. And try not to sink the U.S.S. Sequoia on your way in. I'm not sure, but I imagine it's expensive.

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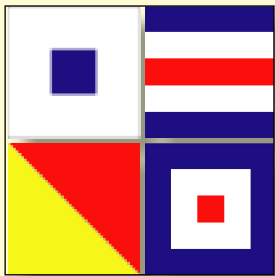


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National Harbor

THE DRAW: Classy ambience, plenty to do, and excellent marina/docks

HOW MUCH: \$20 weekend (\$10 weekday)/four hours

WATCH OUT FOR: Tricky navigation procedures and commercial boat traffic.

CONTACT:
National Harbor Marina
168 National Plaza
National Harbor, MD 20745
(301) 749-1582
"National Harbor Marina" on Marine VHF Channel 16
www.nationalharbor.com

THE DEETS:
National Harbor is my personal favorite destination because it offers the most options once you arrive. Like the Peeps Store, for example. Before you guffaw, consider that there are apparently only three (3) Peeps retail stores in the ENTIRE United States [GASP]! The other two are in Bethlehem, PA, and Minneapolis, MN. Inaccessible by boat and over a thousand miles away, respectively. In other words, you'd better

get cruising to Nat Harbor stat. You will no doubt enjoy the inspirational music that the good folks at NH play periodically through loudspeakers on the main piers. Try to synchronize your arrival with the music, and then explain to your guests that you arranged it just for them. They probably will not believe you.

The marina gets crowded on weekends in the summertime, so call to reserve a slip a couple days in advance if possible. In exchange for your credit card number, they'll give you the gate code, which changes periodically, and tell you where they'd like you to park. If you don't like their first offer (the end of B Dock when there's a stiff south breeze, for example), exercise your skipper



National Harbor is a premier SCOW destination sail on the Potomac. Make the trip!

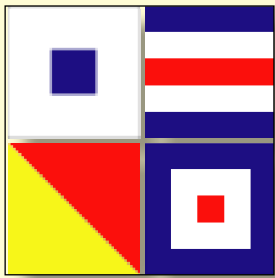


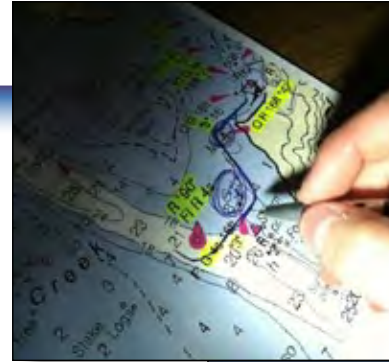
Chart Desk continued

discretion and tell them you want something more suited to the conditions. Generally speaking, however, cruising to NH is straightforward and less exciting (less challenging) than the other destinations, and the docks are quality. Go Maryland.

Navigating into the marina requires a few zigzags, but it's easy once you get the hang of it. In my early days, I wasn't able to find a chart that I liked and thought was accurate, so I just followed the water taxis and then drew my own. The new "Interactive Navigation Charts" tab in the upper right corner of the website should now be adequate: <http://nationalharbor.com/consumer/marina/index.html>

I hear that NH has free outdoor movies on Fridays and Sundays starting May 25. After dinner and before the movie, be sure to take a walk through the lobby and atrium of the Gaylord Hotel, billed on the National Harbor website as the "largest non-gaming hotel and convention center on the Eastern Seaboard." I've never spent the night there, but I hear it's super nice, and it's good to have a contingency in case you forget the gate code.

I was gonna write a few more paragraphs on some operational considerations for destination sailing, but it's getting late as I write this, and it occurs to me that folks frequent-



Navigating to National Harbor is easy after a little practice.

Fiorella Restaurant-- the best pizza at National Harbor.

National Harbor is a fun year-round destination for SCOW cruising boats.

ly figure stuff out much more readily by doing rather than reading. So suffice it to say just make sure you bring lights (plenty of flashlights, spare nav lights if you're inclined, and batteries); take extra paddles if you're in a Scot (there are extras in the sail locker-- make sure you have 4 onboard); stock up on fenders/dock lines and know how to properly configure them; and stay sharp on your docking skills so you minimize paint-scratching.

Other than that, have fun!



If you have questions, talk to me or any of the other destination sailors in the club. We're happy to help.

And when you wave to us on the river.... if it looks like a Salute of Purpose.....no guarantees that we won't call ahead to your destination and out-bid you on the slip you just paid for.

Jonathan
skipper@scow.org



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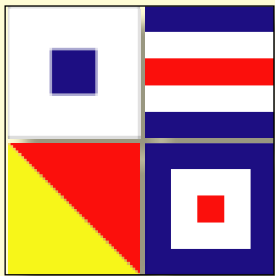
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Upcoming Events

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Social Sail!

Every Thursday, beginning April 5, 2012 6:00 pm, Washington Sailing Marina
Social Sail is back! Come out to this weekly event at the marina by the cranes. Bring your \$5.00 and enjoy an evening of good food and drink, and a chance to relax on the water with friends.

Volunteers, step up to serve as chef/co-chef, dockmaster or skipper during the 2012 season. Please contact Anna (social@scow.org) to sign up!

Membership Meeting

Monday, April 9, 2012, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Capital City Brewery
2700 South Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia 22206

Join us for a SCOW Happy Hour from 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm. (select menu items and beer half price!) followed by the membership meeting 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm. Member Tom Vandenbosche will address handling emergencies on the water.

KISS Spring Racing Series

Tuesdays through May 15, 2012, 5:00 pm
Summer Racing Series begins May 22.
Washington Sailing Marina
The Sponsored by the Dangerfield Island Sailing Club (DISC).

Check in with Deepak (racing@scow.org) about opportunities to crew on Rebecca, Topaz or Skirmish.

Flying Scot Racing Series

Wednesdays, beginning
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.

Cherry Blossom Regatta

Saturday, April 21, 8am - 5pm
Washington Sailing Marina
Sponsored by the Dangerfield Island Sailing Club (DISC).

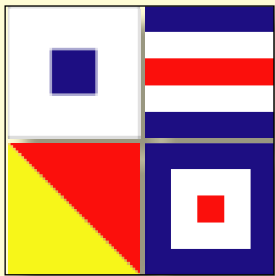
First of the Season Raft Up!

Friday, May 4, 6:00 pm - midnight
Washington Sailing Marina
Contact Faith (river@scow.org) to make a reservation to attend the event or to add a boat to the Raft Up. Attendees bring food and beverages to share.

Rub Off the Rust

Sunday, May 6, 2012, 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Washington Sailing Marina
Skippers, here's your chance to tune up and refamiliarize yourself with club procedures and rules. Contact Jonathan (skipper@scow.org) for more information.

continued...



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Rub Off The Rust ..5/06
Leukemia Cup
Kickoff ..6/02

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

The [SCOW website](http://www.scow.org) posts all events during the 2012 season.

Leukemia Cup Kickoff Party!

Saturday, June 2, 2012

4:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Capital Yacht Club

The Leukemia Cup Kickoff Party roars into town on Saturday, June 2, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Capital Yacht Club, 1000 Water Street, Washington, DC! This party is FREE to all Leukemia Cup supporters, and it is easy to be a supporter! Come eat, drink, and dance your feet off!

Learn more about The Leukemia Cup Regatta & Poker Run, meet fellow participants, share sailing and fundraising tips, meet our honored patients and kick off your own 2012 campaign!

For questions regarding the party or the Series, please contact Lynn Heun @ LLS: 703-399-2930 or Lynn.heun@lls.org To read more about this year's Leukemia Cup events, visit www.leukemicup.org/nca.

Please RSVP to Lynn ASAP so the planning committee can be prepared for the day!

Please be aware parking around the Capital Yacht Club is difficult. There is a garage located under Phillips Seafood if you are driving, or it's a short walk from the metro. If you would like to come via boat please indicate that in your response so CYC can coordinate in advance.

SCOW hopes to field seven teams on our club boats, in addition to all the teams that SCOW members field with their own boats and on those of friends. Put together a team to fund raise and race on our SCOW Flying Scots or Cruisers in the biggest sailboat race on the Potomac! The actual regatta will take place on Sept 7th and 8th with the President's Cup on the 9th. For more details about entering a SCOW boat email Chris McGraw (commodore@scow.org). Hope to see you at the kickoff party!

LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY® | LEUKEMIA CUP REGATTA®

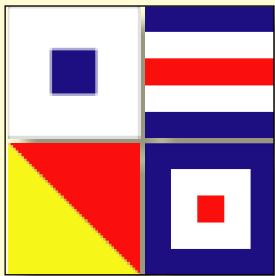
SAVE THE DATE!

**2012 Leukemia Cup Regatta Series
National Capital Area**

POKER RUN
Saturday, August 25, 2012
Old Dominion Boat Club

LEUKEMIA CUP REGATTA
Washington Sailing Marina
Friday, September 7, 2012
With Honorary Chairman, Gary Jobson
Saturday, September 8, 2012





**Three cheers for Luis Rivas,
our new Maintenance Director!**

Contact the Board

April 2012

2012 Officers

Commodore's Log 1

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

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Maintenance Director Luis Rivas maintdir@scow.org
 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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2012 Board Appointees

Channels Editor..... Barbara Thacker ... editor@scow.org
 Membership Coordinator ... Henry Cheng members@scow.org
 Email Administrator Jeff Teitel postmaster@scow.org
 Web Editor Luis Rivas webmaster@scow.org
 Picasa Pictures Charles Gilbert pictures@scow.org

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

Enjoy more pictures of SCOW fun at
<http://picasaweb.google.com/Sailing.Club.of.Washington>



Photo by Nelson Pacheco.

If you aren't on the all-scow email burst, you can join it here: scow-all+subscribe@googlegroups.com

As you've no doubt figured out, there's a problem with the all@scow.org mailing list. Messages sent to that address are not going out to the list. Until the issue is resolved, please use scow-all@googlegroups.com in order to reach the mailing list.

Sorry for the inconvenience,
 Jeff Teitel

postmaster@scow.org

April was a busy month. My apologies for the delay in this issue of ChaNNels' distribution. Enjoy this beautiful spring weather and winds, and I'll see you on the water.

Barbara

editor@scow.org

