

# ChanNels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington  
September 2010

## Commodore's Log

*By Chris Von Guggenberg, Commodore*

Dear SCOW members:

September is upon us and I look forward to the comfortable fall weather which brings steady breezes in cooler weather. We have many other activities to look forward to:

1. On September 11 we will be participating in the Leukemia/President's cup. Hopefully you have been contacted by skippers looking for crew as your participation is most appreciated;
2. Our monthly member meeting speaker on September 13 will be David A. Helgerson who will be speaking on boat design;
3. Also on September 13 we will begin the fall basic sailing class. Note that 2 of the 4 Flying Scot boats will be reserved during the following 3 weekends (and possibly more due to make up dates)
4. The Tuesday and Wednesday racing will continue along with the Thursday night social sail which will end in the early part of October.

On the long term horizon I would like to remind you of the following dates:

1. On November the 8th we will be holding elections for the 2011 board;
2. On November the 13th we will be hosting the Hail and Farewell party at the Army Navy club in Washington DC where we will be honoring some of the people who contributed during the year (regrets to the many who's contribution is valued but will not be recognized) and introduce you to the 2011 board, while enjoying fine dining, music, dancing and most of all each other's company.

As you may recall, I convened a nomination committee and am delighted to report that we have candidates for each of the positions. An announcement will be made of the candidates in mid September and ballots will be mailed in early October for the election on November 8th. That said, don't be bashful, put your name in the hat and we'll have competition for the board positions.

As previously mentioned, we're anticipating making revisions to the bylaws, the details of which you will be able to vote on at the time of the election. *(continued on next page)*

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Small craft advisory and PFD wearing policies. As long as I've been on the board we've sought to address the policy of small craft advisories. This year, for the third time in as many years we took a look at the policy. With the combined efforts of John Rogers and the remainder of the Training and Skipper Certification Committee, having conducted a survey of your thoughts, information collected by the board from other local organizations and reviewing our insurance policy I regretfully report that we decided to leave the policy as is, namely no sailing in the Flying Scots during Small Craft Advisories and not allowing sailing in the cruiser in forecasted winds of 25 knots or more. On the PFD wearing policy we've decided to require the PFDs be worn during the period from October 1 to May 1.

Financially the club is having a great year. With the combination of the dues and fees increase, your participation in the fleet maintenance and your diligence in operating our fleet we're having a great year. We have over 400 members and things are going well. The 2010 contribution to the Boat Asset Fund was made early and well in excess of the minimum required in anticipation of updating part of our fleet in the coming year.

Speaking on behalf of the entire 2010 board, we hope that you are having a fulfilling membership experience and we look forward to your continued efforts in the future.

I like to close with a reminder of the mission of this club, so that we do not lose sight of it:

"...provide its membership with opportunities to sail, to exchange information about sailing, to learn safe boating procedures, and to meet others in the Potomac River/Chesapeake Bay area with similar interests. The Club shall plan activities for both the novice and experienced sailor."

Sincerely yours,

Chris von Guggenberg  
Commodore 2010

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## On the River: SCOW Friday Night Raft-Ups

By Mike Rothenberg

Seven cruisers and more than 30 SCOW members and their guests participated in the club's Friday, May 21 moonlight raft-up. Additional moonlight raft-ups were held on June 25 and July 23 with roughly the same number of boats and SCOW members participating.

All the raft-ups were great fun. Good food, good sailing, lots of grog and great crew! For all three raft-ups, we left the dock roughly at 7 p.m., sailed for a couple of hours, and then rafted up between the #2 and #4 marks outside of Old Town. The raft-up in May was closer to the #2 mark. The bridge looked great all lit up with beautiful reflections on the river and a nice through-the-bridge view of National Harbor. The June and July raft-ups were closer to the #4 mark and provided an equally nice view of the bridge and Old Town. *(continued on next page)*

Skippers of the club cruisers for the three raft-ups were Steve Linke, Seth Allen, Chris Von Guggenberg and Jan Earle. Other participating boats and their skippers included Tango II, skippered by Rob Van Tassell; Runneth Over, Bill Davenport; Moody Blue, John Stricklett; Tamarisk, George Umberger and Rodger Casey; Lucid, Ryan Kautz; and Intrepid, Mike Rothenberg.

There have been a total of six SCOW monthly Friday evening raft-ups this sailing season. Future Moonlight Raft-Ups are scheduled for September 24, and October 22. ALL SCOW emails are sent out approximately two weeks before the raft-up looking for crew and skippers to sign-up. Those who have not participated in a previous raft-up get priority.

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## October 23-24 – Fowl Weather Raft-Up

SCOW will once again hold its annual Fowl Weather Raft-Up on the weekend of October 23 & 24. 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.

Just so you know, this weekend coincides with the Cambridge Schooner Rendezvous, and some may wish to attend that event. However, for many of us in the northern part of the bay, Cambridge is a bit too far away for a weekend sail late in the season, with its shorter days and stiff northerly winds on the return trip. I've discussed this with Lisa Carr, the bay coordinator, and we believe that there shouldn't be much of a conflict for most sailors.

If you have any questions, give me a call at (301) 445-3397(H) or (301) 466-7737(cell). You can also e-mail me at [zoomnboom@gmail.com](mailto:zoomnboom@gmail.com).

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!

Allan Lewis, Raftmaster

## Smoots Cove – Saturday, September 25

Ahoy, gang...

Hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday, and best of luck to all who are running the regatta this coming weekend.

SCOW's next big river party is the Fourth Annual Smoot's Cove Dodge-the-water-taxis Raft-up, on Saturday, September 25, noon to 4:00 PM.

I will have Valhalla on station no later than 1145 if all goes well. We raft below and inside of R90, south of the marked entrance channel to National Harbor.

Last year we had nine boats...let's go for it again this year! So far, we have firm replies from six boats, still room for a few more.

If you are coming, please let me know as soon as possible, with your name, boat name and length/draft, so I can start putting a raft plan together. If you have already replied in the affirmative, no need to reconfirm. I have your names. See you there.

Bon vents,

Jack Weaver  
s/v Valhalla  
SCOW River Party Dude 2010

Got an article idea, photos or other content for a future newsletter? Send an email to the editor, Tom Paquin, at: [editor@scow.org](mailto:editor@scow.org).

## Next Membership Meeting: Monday, September 13

**Guest Presenters:** David A. Helgerson "Boat Design"

**Location:** Holiday Inn, 625 First Street, Alexandria, Virginia

**Time:** Socializing begins at 6:30pm with reduced price happy hour food and drinks; meeting begins at 7:30pm

**Social Sail:** Every Thursday, Washington Sailing Marina, April - October, 6:00 pm  
**Social No-Sail:** Events and locations vary, December - April, 6:00 pm  
**Board Meetings** 1st Monday of every month, 7:00 pm (open to members)  
**Channels Content:** submit by the 20<sup>th</sup> of every month to: [editor@scow.org](mailto:editor@scow.org)  
**2010 Calendar:** <http://www.scow.org/calendar.html>  
**SCOW Pictures:** <http://picasaweb.google.com/Sailing.Club.of.Washington>  
**SCOW Website:** <http://www.scow.org>



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**For information about club activities**  
 Visit <http://www.scow.org> or email [info@scow.org](mailto:info@scow.org)