



# CHANNELS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
SAILING CLUB OF WASHINGTON

DECEMBER 2020

## COMMODORE'S LOG

BY RICHARD KAISER



I hope this issue of ChaNNels finds you and your family well.

When the pandemic forced us to cancel sailing and our other programs indefinitely, we were at a loss of how to carry our mission forward. But with the good efforts of our membership, we sought new ways to communicate, teach and gather as friends. SCOW's Training and Racing Directors rushed to produce online content, along with River and Bay and our Vice Commodore enlisted interesting speakers to educate and motivate. Sure, there was less on-the-water SCOW, but our club is continuing intact and with new skills and insights. It certainly has been a different year for SCOW, but with a little help and ingenuity from our membership, we're getting through this together. We will continue to enjoy our love of sailing with your support and enthusiasm.

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PLEASE SEND YOUR ARTICLES

FOR FUTURE CHANNELS

NEWSLETTERS TO:

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Speaking of our membership – let me take you back a few years - 39 to be exact! In 1981, club members got together and created *SCOW COOKS*, chock full of recipes to be shared. Many of these recipes were first used for Social Sails and Raft-ups. An industrious few had the idea of compiling those recipes into a cookbook and 85 club members contributed to this project. The book was in print and copies are now very hard to come by. So, thanks to **Micki Pugh** for bringing this treasure to our attention and to **Marilyn Wilson** for lending us a copy to scan, we now have a digital copy for our archives. Here's the **SCOW COOKS** cookbook for all of your culinary pleasures!

This will be my last *Commodore's Log* and before I go, I wanted to thank you for the last five years on the Board. It was great meeting and working with so many sailing enthusiasts. I also wanted to highlight a few people for making my time with the gavel an easy tour of duty. First, the **Rivas** family - **Luis** and **Jan**, for giving so much of their time, energy and talents to our Club. They really make the Club a better place. I also want to thank **Mike Hooban**, SCOW's Treasurer. He's been with me for all five years that I've served. He's a solid performer, consistent with his views and a reliable resource for many of our Club's needs and certainly has been a big help to me.

Maybe I should have changed the Bylaws to make Mike our CFO! I also wanted to thank our *Elli Abramson* awardee, **Dave Beckett**. When we closed down our sailing program, Dave jumped into action to bring the Club a dozen or so online sessions to keep us together and keep us going. I don't know if the Club would be in such good shape today without Dave's seminars. His sessions were joined by well over 50 members each night.

Finally, thanks to all of you, our members, for making this the best sailing club in the DMV. I look forward to seeing all of you on the water in 2021.

Stay well, my friends.

*Richard Kaiser, Commodore*

# SKIPPER'S CORNER

BY CHIP LUBSEN, SKIPPER CERTIFICATION DIRECTOR

November 29 was a fine day to sail. A very light breeze in the early afternoon built slowly to about 8 knots out of the south. PRSA had about 22 Lasers out racing while **Laurie** and I on *Luna* were joined for a scrimmage by **Scott McConnell** single-handing his freshly polished *Adios* and by **Bonnie Sylwester** and **Joan Olmstead** sailing *Caroline*. We started at G7 and went to HP Junction and back. As the breeze filled in it was joyful sailing. SCOW and PRSA member **Jim Klein**, serving on the race committee for the Lasers, counted about 30 sailboats out on the river from WSM. This is all to say there are probably some more gem-like sailing days ahead of us before the harshness of winter sets in. The water, however, is really cold - so please remember the SCOW mandatory-PFD policy and respect the weather conditions. Also, the jet aircraft traffic is way down due to COVID, so the wingtip vortex frequency is also reduced. That said, Scott saw one yesterday and his eyes were wide while describing it. As the planes are unusually spaced out, it is much easier to traverse beneath their flight path and stay out of harm's way.

## 2020 Skipper Counts

As of November 30, we have 118 individual skippers certified for 2020, unchanged from a month ago. 106 of them are Scot skippers and 55 are cruiser skippers, while 42 are certified for both. In 2019 we had a total of 133 individual skippers.

## Onward

I have enjoyed serving as Skipper Certification Director the past two years and look forward to my term as Vice Commodore in 2021. Throughout next year, please reach out to me at [vice@scow.org](mailto:vice@scow.org) with any ideas you have regarding how SCOW can better serve its members.

Sail Safe - Chip



SCOTT AND LASERS BEFORE THE BUILDING BREEZE



BONNIE AND JOAN APPROACHING THE FINISH

# ICYMI

(IN CASE YOU MISSED IT)

*Hail & Farewell* looked a little different this year, but still went on without a hitch! The event started with 30 minutes of social time followed by a program to honor our volunteers; say farewell to the current 2020 Board of Directors; and welcome the 2021 Board of Directors. [Click here to watch the full Zoom recording!](#)

A few highlights from the evening:

## Elli Abramson Award

This award is named for the late Elli Abramson (for whom our boat Ms Elli is named). Elli served as Commodore twice, was active in the training program, and also wrote much of the training material we still use today. Established in 1992, it is awarded annually for outstanding service to the club over an extended period. The 2019 recipient is **Dave Beckett**.

## Al Blankfield Award

This award is named for the late Al Blankfield, who served the club in many capacities, including Commodore, and is recalled by his friends in the club as someone who was "always there" when something needed doing. Established in 1994, it is awarded annually for outstanding service to the club during the past year. **Dana Howe** took this honor.

## Woodie Woodside Award

Established in 2009, in memory of Robert Custer "Woodie" Woodside, CDR USN (Ret), 1920-2009, one of the founders of SCOW and awarded annually to the member who has done the most to promote sailing by sharing his/her love of sailing through example, mentoring and service to the club. This time around, this prize was awarded to **Joe Leoncio**.

The Nominating Committee extends a warm welcome to the incoming 2021 Board of Directors and a heartfelt THANK YOU to the outgoing officers and directors. Special thanks to **Richard Kaiser** who served as Commodore in what will surely go down in SCOW history as a most difficult year.



OUTGOING COMMODORE RICHARD KAISER RECEIVING HIS AWARD FROM INCOMING COMMODORE BRIAN MCPHERSON



DAVE BECKETT



DANA HOWE



JOE LEONCIO

# SAILING MEMORIES

BY BILL DAVENPORT

It was winter in the early 1980's. We were in Florida for warm weather and the Southern Ocean Racing Conference (SORC). The yard was a beehive of activity and filled with some of the fastest, most cutting-edge sailing machines I had ever seen. We noticed a forty-something boat in the slip near us and marveled at its mast height which was festooned with side stays, check stays, spreader blocks and other hardware I couldn't name. Lots of sail area hung from a mast that looked like a noodle

We went out that day and found the wind was up and the 6-8 foot seas had a very short crest-to-crest ratio, making for a lumpy ride. When we got back that evening, the forty-something marvel was looking forlorn with its mast folded at a spreader. The next morning she was standing proud and tall with a new mast and tuned rig. Later, I caught word of the cost -- the rigger/mast supplier was very proud of his achievement.

Fresh from a season of college wrestling I was wondering how it was that I was among this crew of sailing rock stars on this 57' gold plated racing machine. It was then that I was introduced to the coffee grinder winch: a medieval looking device designed to quickly make crew tire and whine. As we maneuvered for the start, I saw **Dennis Conner, Ted Hood** and **Tom Blackaller** -- all on other boats before the start. Pinch me, this was the big leagues!

We had a good start for about 300 yards. Then the main ripped just below the first reef points. We reefed quickly and stayed in the hunt. Twenty miles later the Genoa ripped at the lifelines. We switched to the "Blast Reacher," a high clew sail just a little smaller than the Genoa. Still with good speed we sailed on.

## IT WAS THEN THAT I WAS INTRODUCED TO THE COFFEE GRINDER WINCH: A MEDIEVAL LOOKING DEVICE DESIGNED TO QUICKLY MAKE CREW TIRE AND WHINE.

*Bill Davenport*

We saw a port-starboard collision. That put a smile in the bow of an aluminum thirty-some footer. In the steep seas it scooped up water at an alarming rate. Later, we heard the Coastguard arrived with pumps just in time, as the cockpit was awash. With several pumps going full blast she looked like a fire boat. We learned she had made it back to shore.

Conditions calmed as we rounded Bahama light, but I remained sea sick. Usually I use transderm scopolamine patches for sea sickness, but I was out of them (never again).

The next day, while walking the docks, I spoke to the Captain of *Kialoa*. As much as I would have liked to sail on her, my stomach said no.



# MEMBERSHIP

BY TONI COLE, MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Ahoy!

And just like that, we are coming to the close of 2020. For many a relief and with anticipation of a brighter 2021. As you cuddle with your immediate families this holiday, I wish you all a happy and healthy season. We appreciate your support this year and also look forward to Spring 2021 and meeting up again with our sailing family.

This month we welcome **Kirk Sabnani** to the club. Kirk, you and all SCOW members can keep up with the club this winter by making sure you are signed up to our unofficial Google Group.

To subscribe, [click on this link](#) or paste the following URL in your browser:

<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/scow-all>

Choose to "Join Group." You may unsubscribe at any time.

Happy Holidays, it's been a pleasure to serve on the Board this year and I welcome all our new Officers and Directors.

**YEP, THAT PRETTY MUCH SUMS IT UP!**



## DECEMBER EVENTS

**4 | SPINSHEET VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR | 5PM**  
HOW AN AMATEUR CREW PREPARES FOR A WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP | [CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)

**4-31 | POP-UP HOLIDAY MOVIES AT THE WHARF**  
THE WHARF, DC | COZY UP BY A FIREPIT WITH HOT DRINKS AND A CLASSIC HOLIDAY MOVIE ON THE BIG SCREEN | [SCHEDULE AND RESERVATIONS](#)

**7 | SCOW BOARD MEETING | 7PM | ONLINE**

**10-18 | HAPPY HANNUKAH!**

**11 | SPINSHEET VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR | 5PM**  
TALK TO EDITORS IN THE NATIONAL SAILING PRESS ABOUT THEIR SAILING LIVES, PANDEMIC CHALLENGES, AND THE LATEST BUZZ IN THE WORLD OF SAILING | [CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)

**25 | MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

**26-JAN 1 | HAPPY KWANZAA!**

**31 | NEW YEAR'S EVE | BUH-BYE 2020**



# WHO'S WHO IN SCOW

## 2020 OFFICERS

Richard Kaiser, Commodore | [commodore@scow.org](mailto:commodore@scow.org)

Brian McPherson, Vice Commodore | [vice@scow.org](mailto:vice@scow.org)

Jock Whittlesey, Secretary | [secretary@scow.org](mailto:secretary@scow.org)

Mike Hooban, Treasurer | [treasurer@scow.org](mailto:treasurer@scow.org)

## 2020 BOARD MEMBERS

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Trueman Sharp, Training Director | [training@scow.org](mailto:training@scow.org)

Carlie Smith, River/Bay Director | [river@scow.org](mailto:river@scow.org)

Dana Howe, Maintenance Director (Flying Scots) |  
[scotmaint@scow.org](mailto:scotmaint@scow.org)

Wayne Williams, Maintenance Director (Cruisers) |  
[cruisermaint@scow.org](mailto:cruisermaint@scow.org)

Dave Beckett, Racing Director | [racing@scow.org](mailto:racing@scow.org)

Antonia Cole, Membership Director | [membership@scow.org](mailto:membership@scow.org)

Chip Lubsen, Skipper Director | [skipper@scow.org](mailto:skipper@scow.org)

## 2020 BOARD APPOINTEES

John Rogers | Chair, Training & Skipper Certification Committee |  
[TSCC@scow.org](mailto:TSCC@scow.org)

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Vacant | Chair, Investments Committee | [investment@scow.org](mailto:investment@scow.org)

Luis Rivas | Chair, Audit Committee | [audit@scow.org](mailto:audit@scow.org)

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