



CHANNELS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
SAILING CLUB OF WASHINGTON

OCTOBER 2020

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PLEASE SEND YOUR ARTICLES
FOR FUTURE CHANNELS
NEWSLETTERS TO:
EDITOR@SCOW.ORG

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COMMODORE'S LOG

BY RICHARD KAISER



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

Another month has flown by. The Board is wrapping up business for 2020 and getting ready for elections next month - SCOW's and our country's. Please remember to vote.

SCOW's Covid-19 Task Force modified one additional guideline last week. It has become apparent that transmission of COVID through contact on objects, especially outside, has a very low level of risk. Therefore, we are now allowing multiple boat reservations per day. Please follow SCOW guidelines for cleaning our boats after use and if you're uncomfortable having someone else clean your boat, feel free to clean it again before sailing. As we now know, no one is immune from this disease - take care and use good judgement with our boats and in your everyday activities.

It seems like all of our remaining attempts at social events, like Membership Meetings and *Hail & Farewell*, will continue to be online for the rest of the year. Keep an eye out for Zoom information emails for these important upcoming events.

And last but not least, one of our amazing volunteers has moved away from the area. **Dave Beckett** and Jennifer have moved south to the Northern Neck of Virginia. We're sorry to see them go, but understand new adventures await them in their new home on the water. Dave has been one of those special members for the past 7 years that has given innumerable hours of service to the club, with seminars, classes, his service for 6 years on the Board and the building of our racing program, that's nationally recognized by the Flying Scot Sailing Association (FSSA). He's leaving the Club better than when he arrived and that's a wonderful thing for all of us. We wish Dave and Jennifer well and hope he joins us for future regattas next season. We're going to miss him - he's been a great friend and sailing mentor to me and many others in the Club.

Again, many thanks to **Jan Rivas** for keeping us all informed with this edition of ChaNNels - and thank you to all of our contributors for October!

Stay well.

MY FAVORITE MARINA: WASHINGTON SAILING MARINA AT DAINGERFIELD ISLAND

BY BERNARD "BERL" COOK

We Don't Get No Respect, But There's No Place Like Home

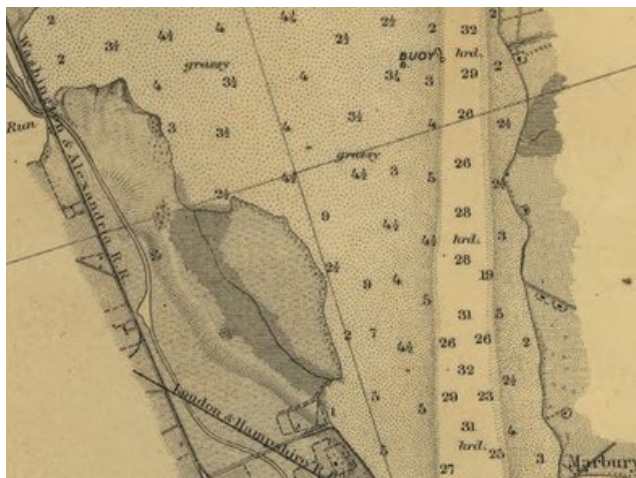
Our club is based at the Washington Sailing Marina located on Daingerfield Island where Four Mile Run meets the west bank of the Potomac river just south of the Reagan Washington National Airport. The 106 acre site, an island no longer, is a unit of the National Park Service. The marina is a Park Service concession.

North-south roads, canals, and railroads built over the years to serve Washington and Alexandria kept the acreage isolated and relatively undisturbed. The name Daingerfield for the island first appears in the 1850s in reference to Henry Daingerfield (1800-1866), wealthy through shipping and local land ownership. The island is mentioned by name in the *Alexandria Gazette* in 1865.

Construction of the George Washington Parkway started in 1932 and the airport opened in 1942 making the area less remote. The marina was built in 1946 as part of river shore improvements authorized by Congress. The Park Service also started a nursery on the island's south side producing plants and trees for area parks. Proposals for major recreational development on the island in 1980 were scrapped to keep the focus on sailing.

The marina gets four stars on *Yelp* with many five-star reviews related to the park and marina services. Services include rentals for boat slips, boats, kayaks, paddle boards, and bikes. The restaurant and burger joint are closed; the marina shop is open.

Check the website for changing limits on hours and services. The club enjoys boat storage and access to launch cranes, but is not affiliated with either the Park Service or the marina.



DAINGERFIELD ISLAND AS SHOWN IN AN 1864 MAP BY THE UNITED STATES COAST SURVEY.



WASHINGTON SAILING MARINA AS IT APPEARED IN SEPTEMBER 2020.



LAUNCH AND STORAGE FACILITIES AT THE MARINA.

FEATURED FUNNY

BY MARK WUERKER

Just wanted to give a shout out and hearty thanks to **Eric Schmidt**, who despite the virus and not knowing me at all was willing to get me out for a tutoring session so I can work on re-upping as a skipper after being out of SCOW for 16 years. We had a great evening with 14 knot winds and I was able to knock off some of the rust. Your generosity and seamanship are greatly appreciated.

—Matt Wuerker



THE EVOLUTION OF BOATS

SUBMITTED BY GEORGE CLARK

Every boat is copied from another boat. Let us reason as follows in the manner of Darwin. It is clear that a very badly made boat will end up at the bottom after one or two voyages, and thus never be copied. One could then say, with complete rigor, that it is the sea herself who fashions the boats, choosing those which function and destroying the others.

Émile Chartier [1868-1951]

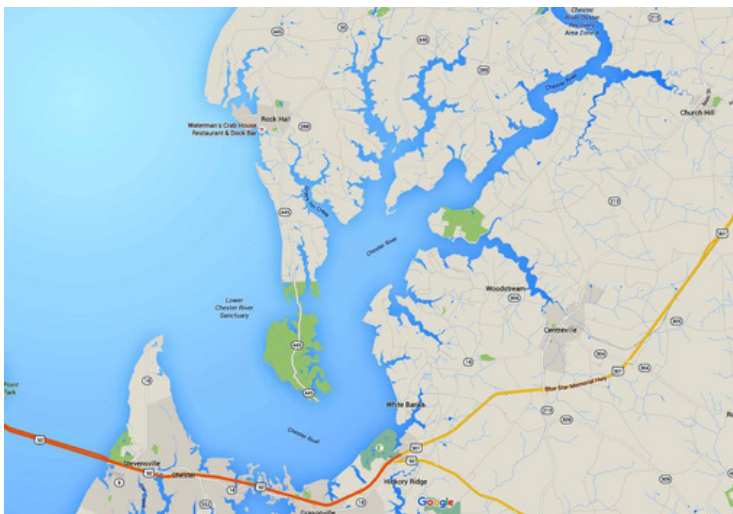
EXPANDING HORIZONS

BY RICHARD KAISER

We know that our club promotes learning to sail and getting out on the river. But our club is more than that – it prepares us for going beyond our lagoon and even our river. The skills you learn at SCOW really prepare you for getting on the Chesapeake Bay and, as we saw in July's presentation from **Matt Smith** (DC Sailing Community), you can even go beyond the Chesapeake Bay, if you desire.

I've been exploring our Chesapeake Bay this summer and have found some gems of towns across the Bay that may be worth a cruise, or even a trip by car. Many of us have been to Annapolis, St Michaels and Baltimore, which are all grand towns and cities with crowds, to go along with their great restaurants and tourist attractions. But, the real gems of the Bay are the small towns on the water that really show off their Chesapeake Bay cultures and lifestyles.

Today, I want to take you on a trip to a small Maryland town – Chestertown. Chestertown is about 26 miles up the Chester River, which begins just north of Kent Island and the Bay Bridge.



MAP OF THE CHESTER RIVER

Once you are north of the Bay Bridge and pass the northern tip of Kent Island, known as Love Point, head hard to starboard, practically making a 180-degree turn. The river snakes to port and starboard like that for the next 15 to 20 miles as you pass many creeks and harbors, well situated for a night out on the hook. A few more miles north, the Chester River has a major tributary to the west, called Langford Creek – why it's called a creek, I'm not certain as it is a major river that backs up to Rock Hall with a west creek and an east creek with another great little marina – Lankford Bay Marina. I'll leave those interesting locations for another day and story.



PORT CHESTERTOWN MUNICIPAL MARINA

If you continue heading up the Chester River early in the morning, you'll see many fishermen venturing out to retrieve the bounty from their traps and sailors starting their treks up and down the river, getting an early start. The winds are good and the river is wide enough to make this a fun trip.

At about the 26 mile mark is Chestertown and the Port of Chestertown Municipal Marina (Latitude: 39.20643629 Longitude: -76.06482155), a brand new facility of floating docks and marina facilities, finished in November of 2019.

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EXPANDING HORIZONS

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Walking off the docks you're immediately greeted by their new restaurant, 98 Cannon Riverfront Grille, with plenty of outdoor seating for social distancing. The Maryland crab soup is amazing, as is the pizza and everything from crabs to steaks are available.

Walking northwest past the restaurant onto High Street into their Historic District, you'll be met by a couple of dozen super cute shops, restaurants, taverns and inns. From antiques to the publishers of the *Kent County News*. And if you want diversity in shopping, you'll see Cassinelli Winery & Vineyards next door to Dunkin Donuts and Bee Crafty Collectibles, a fun place to browse.

A few blocks further from the town docks is Washington College. According to the Washington College website, the college was founded in 1782. Washington College was the first college chartered in the United States.

The website tells us that "General George Washington lent us his name, donated 50 guineas (gold coins) to our founding, and served on our first Board of Visitors and Governors." Now that's exciting!

We had a great stay in Chestertown and have returned three times this summer for the great trip up and down the river, as well as the many town sights and people of an eastern shore town that gives us all a good reason to venture out beyond our lagoon.



98 CANNON RIVERFRONT GRILLE



STOREFRONT ON HIGH STREET



SUNRISE FROM THE CHESTERTOWN MUNICIPAL MARINA

OCTOBER EVENTS

**6 | SCOW BOD MEETING | 7-9PM
ONLINE**

**9-11 | BLUEWATER BOAT SHOW
PORT ANNAPOLIS MARINA, MD | FREE
REGISTER [HERE](#)**

**OCTOBER IS VIRGINIA WINE MONTH
31 DAYS | 261 WINERIES**



Have You Been Faced With This At The Washington Sailing Marina?



Some powerboaters at the Washington Sailing Marina don't know the rules of the road, lack common courtesy and are very dangerous!

If you see a powerboater operating in an unsafe manner contact:
D.C. Harbor Patrol (202) 727-4582, or VHF Channel #16 or #17
Snap a picture if you can do so safely.

If you have offender boat details – send to commodore@scow.org

TO BUY OR NOT TO BUY THE PROS AND CONS OF BOAT OWNERSHIP

BY JERRY LEE

I think anyone who has ever spent any time on a sailboat, or even a powerboat, has thought about being a boat owner. It's a thought that crosses everyone's mind with varying degrees of enchantment. In recent months, I've spent some time talking to friends about their thoughts on purchasing a sailboat. All were either already sailors or had a massive interest in sailing. However, all of these friends ended up not buying a boat.

As a boat owner, it might seem a bit difficult to understand why someone who already loves sailing wouldn't buy a boat. But I understand.

If you step back and think about it, or alternatively, spend any time listening to me complain about the time and money I've spent on my boat, it would probably be extremely discouraging. Yes, owning a boat might not be for everyone. But you'll never truly know what it is like unless you experience it yourself.

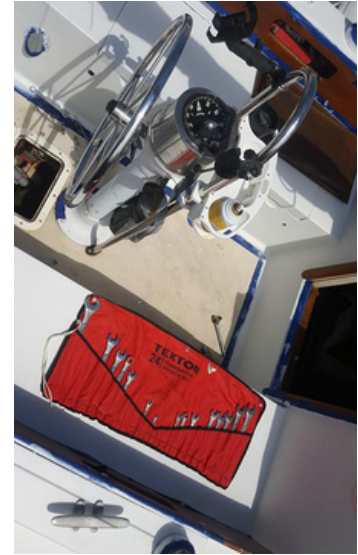
If you started reading this article to find specific advice on how to purchase a boat, I am sorry.

While there may be tidbits of practical advice in this article, the topic is mainly about why you should or shouldn't buy a boat. In this article, I'll tell you about all of the things that caused heartbreak and abandon as a boat owner. However, I'll only be able to hint at all of the triumphs, learning, happiness, and other positives that came to me from boat ownership, because there are simply too many.

So, what is owning a boat like? Let's get to the bad parts first.

Financially, buying a boat never makes sense.

To get the most out of your experiences, you'll be keeping your boat in a slip. That is a regular, recurring expense. In my personal world of financial planning this is the worst kind of expense. If you want to do maintenance, that costs money.



SOME OF THE CONS OF BOAT OWNERSHIP: THE AUTHOR, PRESUMABLY "FIXING STUFF"

As soon as you put the word "marine" in an item, for example, "marine drain hose," the price doubles. Also, boat mechanics charge a lot, and they charge by the hour. And heaven help you if you want to progress to a more involved type of sailing and want to upgrade your boat.

You'll be spending fistfuls of Benjamins on a depreciating asset and you probably won't get that money back.*

** this isn't completely true – if you sell your boat upgrades separately, then you'll recoup a lot of the money you put in. Of course, that takes... more of your time.*

Time is also another resource that you'll be spending excessively. I have a lot of flexibility in my job, so I take a lot of time off to go work on my boat. Recently, I spent over a week just replacing my propeller shaft and shaft bearing. Something like 16 hours of work on this project alone. Sometimes when you are neck deep in boat work, whether that is maintenance or upgrades, you remember why people spend that hourly fee on a boat mechanic.

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SKIPPER'S CORNER

BY CHIP LUBSEN, SKIPPER CERTIFICATION DIRECTOR

New SCOW Skippers

Congratulations, **Tim Bliss** and **Mark Lauricella** – Cruiser Skippers! Thank you to tutors **Vince Penoso** and **Becky Cole** and to Checkout Skipper **Greg Prather**.



TIM SKIPPERING A CLUB SCOT



MARK IN TRAINING AT THE HELM OF HIATUS

Congratulations also go to **Josh Morin** and **Robert Ochs** – our newest Flying Scot Skippers! Thank you to tutors **Tim Bliss** and **Rhonda Glasmann**, and to Checkout Skipper **Becky Cole**.



JOSH PREPARING FOR CHECKOUT



BOB IN 2014 ON LAKE MONROE, INDIANA

Flying Scot Rigging Change

Flying Scot skippers will soon receive, or may have already received, a document titled 'Rigging Changes on SCOW Flying Scots – Fall 2020'. This document covers installation of; 1) 2:1 outhaul leverage, 2) 2:1 jib sheeting on all boats, and 3) spinnaker halyard routed aft on the centerboard trunk. It also covers boom vang operation on Andiamo as it differs from the other club Scots. Scot skippers please monitor your email inbox and read this document carefully. These changes will be reflected in the Flying Scot Skipper Information File (SIF) next season.

Skipper Candidates

The challenges are significant, but we are getting new skippers certified every month. There is great sailing weather ahead. Contact me at skipper@scow.org if you feel stuck and need help making progress.

2020 Skipper Counts

As of September 30, we have 114 individual skippers certified for 2020, up one from a month ago. 102 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.

TO BUY OR NOT TO BUY

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Smack in the middle of a project, your determination will wane, and you might come to your senses. Only then do you realize you could have spent that time working – even if that money goes straight to the mechanic, you'll have sat at your cushy office desk instead of being hunched over in the engine bay.

So, our two most valuable assets in life – time and money – are always being spent at an alarming rate. So why bother buying a boat?

Learning is something integral to sailing, and the most enjoyable part of boat ownership for me. We all know that sailing is a lifelong pursuit. Dance, martial arts, visual arts, automobile racing and even frying an egg in a pan have this in common. All of these activities pursue an ideological perfection that is impossible to attain. Sailing is just like this, and anyone who has tried to trim a mainsail knows this.

Aside from commercial marine activities and clubs like ours where you can take out a fleet boat, how often do you hear of someone being a captain of a vessel they do not own?

When you are the captain of the vessel you are on, it is a lot of fun – ask Tim Bliss about that one time he let me be the skipper.

Because you are the master of the vessel, you understand the big picture. It also forces you to be at least decent at every aspect of sailing. So you learn skills very quickly. Skills like sail tuning, anchoring, sailboat maneuvers and other skills that fall under the umbrella of seamanship. And yes, ground tackle handling is a whole skill area of its own. You also get to learn a lot about boat systems such as rigging, powertrain, electrical systems, and power generation. This sounds like a pain-in-the-behind to a lot of people, and perhaps they are right. But these things are inevitable, and a boat owner must enjoy learning.

If you are someone who loves the "pursuit" itself, you will absolutely love owning a boat.

Freedom is something that we all seek. Why do people ride motorcycles? Fly small airplanes? Go for walks? Or get very intoxicated? We all have the drive to liberate ourselves from anything that binds us.

Having full control of when, where and how you want to proceed on a trip, especially a longer trip, goes a long way to satisfy this drive. When you are out in the middle of the sea -- on your little private island with no one to answer to -- you feel truly liberated. There is only that slight tugging at the tail of your shirt, reminding you that in a few weeks, you will go back to your office desk, that prevents you from true enlightenment. But in the moment, that is a distant call and you can allow yourself to feel free.

Joy – This one is pretty obvious and I can't bring myself to methodically break this down. I'll simply list some of my favorite moments.

- Feeling accomplished and looking forward to the next day's activities, while quietly motoring into a harbor at a new destination at night
- Making it into a sheltered anchorage after running from a storm, feeling stillness and serenity more than ever before
- Dolphins coming to check out your boat in the middle of the Atlantic
- Going to sleep in my bunk after a full day of exploring, being rocked to sleep by the gentle movement of the boat
- Lazily napping on the deck at an anchorage, waking up to find myself slightly sunburnt
- Going snorkeling off my boat, seeing turtles and fish swim under my keel

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TO BUY OR NOT TO BUY

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- Beating into the wind offshore, listening to waves go under my boat, come out the leeward side as spray
- Taking the tender to a French cruising family anchored next to me, then watching the fourth of July fireworks with them
- And sunsets! Sunsets never get old, which is funny because you see them every day when you are out sailing. I'm sure I am leaving a lot out. You get the picture.



ONE OF THE PROS: SUNSETS

Adventure – Sailing isn't always pure joy. It's challenging. Every aspect of it is difficult, until you attain some level of competency. At times, it is downright scary. Although I'm not that kind of a sailor, you can even choose to make it thrilling and dangerous if you want to. But if you thought of yourself as an adventurous person, you do understand that it is the difficulties that make an adventure.

You will solve all of these problems, then become a stronger person for it. You can eventually become that woman or a man that gives an air of humble confidence. Those things only come with the experiences of adventure, and owning and sailing the pants off your own boat will get you there. Perhaps even for someone like me, whose challenges mainly involved ceasing to do things last minute without any planning.

So, there you have it: two simple, but major, quantifiable reasons not to get a boat, but many more intangible reasons to buy one.

Perhaps the questions we should be asking are more meditative in nature. Those kinds of questions that sometimes slowly change the way you look at life. I know it has changed me. But the truth is, the only way to know is to try it. Go ahead, start small. Get a small pocket cruiser or even a dinghy. Spend too much time working on it, curse yourself out when you get wet from unintentional broach, and get angry when you have to pay hundreds of dollars to replace that stanchion you bent. But then you'll also have shared some of the joys and positives we discussed, and you will be able to decide for yourself.

Maybe you'll discover that you are always fondly anticipating time spent on your boat, and that being a captain of your own boat is becoming a part of your identity. Or maybe you'll decide it isn't for you. But guess what?

If that happens, just sell the dang boat. Maybe you'll be short a few thousand dollars and be out a handful of weekends. But knowing what I know now, that is a price I'd easily pay to find out.

When I asked some of these questions to a wiser friend of mine, he said, as if he knew all of the answers with the utmost clarity, "No one on their deathbed ever looked out the window and thought, 'geez, I wish I spent less time sailing.'"



A SENSE OF ADVENTURE ALWAYS HELPS!

MEMBERSHIP

BY TONI COLE, MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Ahoy!

Welcome new members! New members this month include **Arman Anwar, Lara Yarmolenko & JJ Wadhwa!**

Please join us **Monday October 4, 2020** for our Fall Members Meeting and get to know us. While our sailing season wraps up, keep up with the club by making sure you are signed up to our unofficial Google Group. To subscribe, click

on this [link](#). Choose to "Join Group". You may unsubscribe at any time.

Lastly, we appreciate your support throughout this unique year. To that end don't forget to email our Social Director with your preferred choice of SCOW SWAG! Check your email for details and page 11 of this issue for more info.

Happy Fall Sailors!

ATTENTION 2020 SCOW Members!

As a thank you for supporting our club through this challenging year, we would like to offer a small gift of appreciation. In addition to a few small gifts, you will have a choice between two Swag items: a SCOW Umbrella (blue) or a 5L Dry Bag (blue). PLEASE email [Social Director Marie Brennan](#) with your selection by October 9th -- please title the email with your "Last name, SWAG". (One gift bag per household). Two pick up days at the Marina (TBD) will be offered, providing a safe, socially distant pick up area.

Again, thanks for supporting our club and paying your dues despite limited sailing this year. We all hope for a better 2021!

BE ON THE LOOKOUT!

The Nominating Committee will be sending an email to all SCOW members in good standing with voting procedures, followed by electronic voting instructions and ballots.

VOTE for your 2020-2021 Board of Directors!

View the slate and get more info [here](#).



WHO'S WHO IN SCOW

2020 OFFICERS

Richard Kaiser, Commodore | commodore@scow.org

Brian McPherson, Vice Commodore | vice@scow.org

Jock Whittlesey, Secretary | secretary@scow.org

Mike Hooban, Treasurer | treasurer@scow.org

2020 BOARD MEMBERS

Marie Brennan, Social Activities Director | social@scow.org

Trueman Sharp, Training Director | training@scow.org

Carlie Smith, River/Bay Director | river@scow.org

Dana Howe, Maintenance Director (Flying Scots) |
scotmaint@scow.org

Wayne Williams, Maintenance Director (Cruisers) |
cruisermaint@scow.org

Dave Beckett, Racing Director | racing@scow.org

Antonia Cole, Membership Director | membership@scow.org

Chip Lubsen, Skipper Director | skipper@scow.org

2020 BOARD APPOINTEES

John Rogers | Chair, Training & Skipper Certification Committee |
TSCC@scow.org

John Kauffman | Chair, Boat Assets Committee | BAC@scow.org

Vacant | Chair, Investments Committee | investment@scow.org

Luis Rivas | Chair, Audit Committee | audit@scow.org

Jeff Teitel | Email Administrator | postmaster@scow.org

George Clark | SCOW Pictures (SmugMug) | pictures@scow.org

Luis Rivas, Webmaster | webmaster@scow.org

Jan Rivas, ChaNNels Editor | editor@scow.org