

MARCH 2021

# CHANNELS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE SAILING CLUB OF WASHINGTON



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PHOTO CREDIT: BERNIE COOK

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# COMMODORE'S LOG

BY BRIAN MCPHERSON

We recently enjoyed a couple of 60 degree days - a spring tease! Though we'll likely have another chilly period, the sailing season is nearing, days are getting longer and the weather is warming. We'll soon be on the water again!



The trend is our friend regarding the virus. Your COVID task force has eased SCOW guidelines, vaccinations are progressing and the

Commonwealth of Virginia now allows outdoor gatherings of 25 people. The SCOW Board is exploring the possibilities of resuming the popular Thursday evening *Social Sails* on a limited basis. *Wednesday Night Racing* is scheduled to begin in April using last year's protocols. We're hoping to activate more cruiser activities while considering safety & jurisdictional guidelines. Stay tuned for more updates.

We have a busy webinar schedule for March. **Dave Beckett** will present a two-part Racing Rules presentation on March 3rd and 17th. Even if you don't race, most sailing rules on the race course are the same "rules of the road" when sailing for pleasure. Well worth your time to log on. **The SCOW Membership Meeting is scheduled for Saturday March 13th at 7pm.** We'll have a brief update from the Board followed by a screening of the film *Celestial* and a Q&A with the film's director - see page 4 for more info. Later this month we hope to bring back the Coast Guard Auxiliary presentation on water safety -- a timely review before we get back on the water for the first time in several months.

Our 2021 Membership campaign has started. Take advantage of 2020 pricing by renewing before March 31, 2021. Three simple steps on our [club website](#): 1) Renew your individual or household membership; 2) Renew your skipper membership; and 3) Pay all dues and complete the process. You can even digitally sign all documents! Feel free to send an email to **Esther Massey** at [membership@scow.org](mailto:membership@scow.org), if you have any questions about the process or **Becky Cole** at [skipper@scow.org](mailto:skipper@scow.org) for questions regarding skipper re-certification.

Looking forward to seeing you virtually on the 13th and on the water very soon!

In honor and celebration of *Women's History Month*, here's a great post from [Yachting & Boating World](#) about some of the top female trailblazers in the world -- from **Krystyna Chojnowska-Liskiewicz**, the first woman to circumnavigate the globe to **Laura Dekker**, the youngest female to do the same.



DAME ELLEN MACARTHUR, COURTESY OF [YACHTING & BOATING WORLD](#)

# RACING NEWS

BY BONNIE SYLWESTER

Racing plans look promising for 2021. Events last autumn showed we could conduct races and regattas successfully while still taking appropriate precautions for COVID-19. We plan to do the same this year with **Wednesday Night Races** starting in April and regattas beginning in May. Stay tuned for announcements about arrangements and registrations as event dates near.

Below are the WSM racing events currently on the schedule for SCOW in 2021:

April 7- SCOW Wednesday Night Races begin

May 15 - SCOW St. Brendan's Regatta

May 29-30 - PRSA Spring Regatta

June 12 - SCOW Magellan Cup

September 11 - DISK Leukemia Cup

September 18 - DC Sail Cantina Cup

September - PRSA President's Cup (Date TBD)

October 2 - SCOW Director's Cup

## Webinars

SCOW is holding webinars on racing and non-racing topics every second Wednesday in March. **Dave Beckett** will conduct webinars on the racing rules of sailing on Wednesday March 3rd and 17th. Join us at 6:15 for pre-webinar socializing and 6:30 for the presentation.

## Resources on the SCOW Website

Speaking of the racing rules, World Sailing released the 2021-2024 edition of the rules in January. If you do not yet have a copy, the PDF is available for download on the Race with SCOW page of the SCOW website or by [clicking here](#).



CLICK HERE TO

**RENEW**

## ONLINE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AT [WWW.SCOW.ORG](http://WWW.SCOW.ORG)

**01**

**RENEW YOUR  
INDIVIDUAL OR  
HOUSEHOLD  
MEMBERSHIPS**

**02**

**RENEW YOUR  
SKIPPER  
MEMBERSHIP**

**03**

**PAY ALL DUE\$  
AND COMPLETE  
THE PROCE\$S**



# MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND MOVIE SCREENING SATURDAY, MARCH 13TH

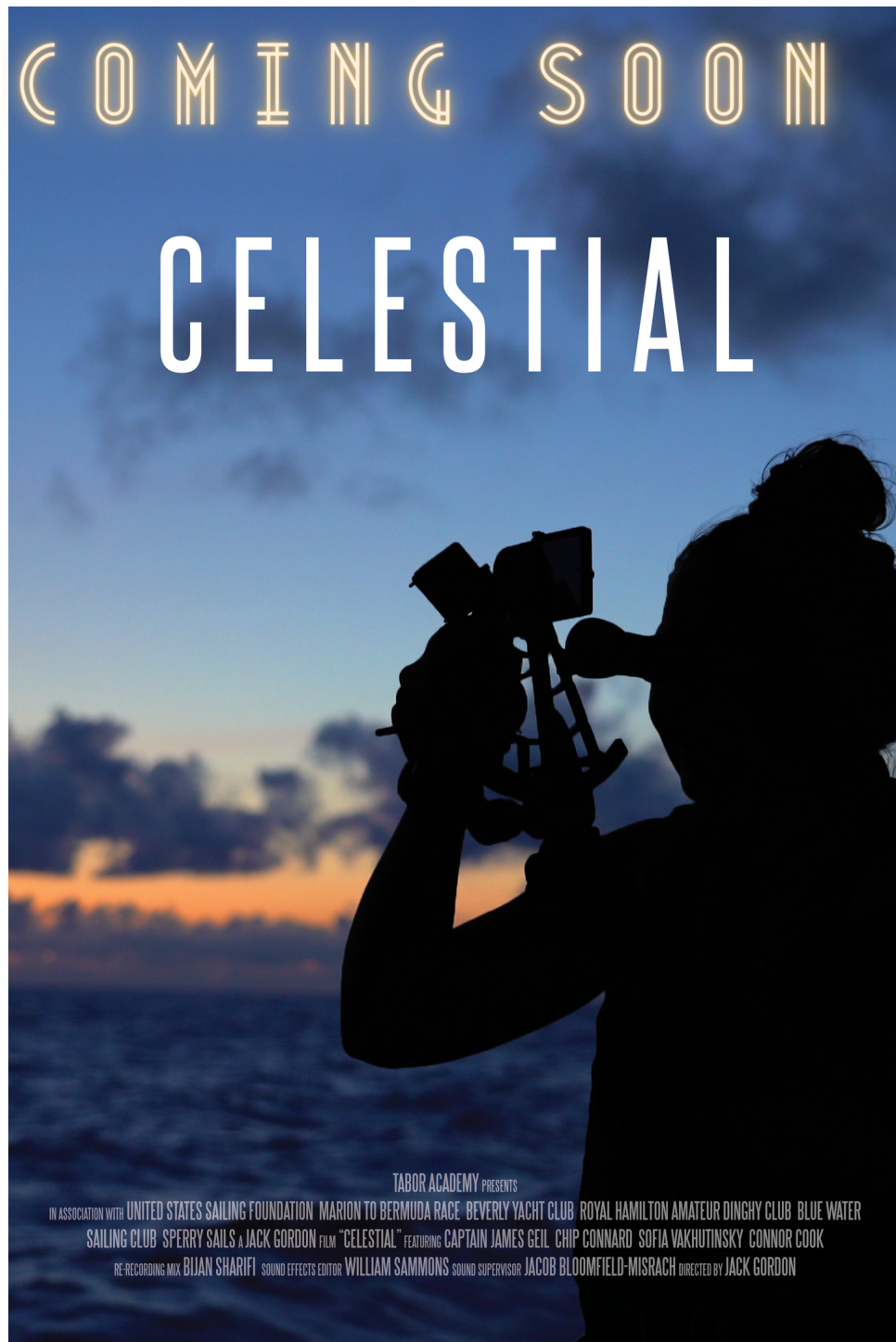
On Saturday, March 13th, SCOW will host its membership meeting and an exclusive screening of the film *Celestial*, followed by a Q&A with filmmaker **Jack Gordon**. A Zoom link will be emailed to members and all are encouraged to join in for this special event.

## About the Film

Electronics have permeated every aspect of modern society, making us reliant on them for basic everyday tasks like communication and research. In the sport of offshore sailing, where the night sky has been used to navigate for thousands of years, most people would be hopeless without their GPS. Today, few people have had the opportunity to learn how to navigate using celestial bodies.

*Celestial* follows a crew of students onboard the schooner *S.S.V. Tabor Boy*, as they compete in the Marion to Bermuda Race navigating exclusively with celestial navigation. Directed and produced by Jack Gordon, the film gets an intimate look at life onboard the vessel and the intricacies of navigating celestially.

Told through the perspective of the three Watch Officers and the Captain onboard *Tabor Boy*, the film shows the value of learning to navigate celestially and the deeper connection it produces between the sailor and the sea. Onboard the vessel for the entirety of the race from Massachusetts to Bermuda, the film captures the mental and physical strain of offshore sailing. RUNTIME 28 Minutes. [\*\*Click here to watch the trailer.\*\*](#)



# THE HARBOR PATROL AND YOU

BY BERNIE COOK

Depending on what you've done wrong, you are most likely to be pulled out or pulled over by the Metropolitan Police Harbor Patrol Unit. The unit patrols all Washington rivers, waterways, and inlets and enforces safe recreational boating. Since the district border follows the Potomac low tide mark on the Virginia side, SCOW sailing by the marina comes under the protection of this unit.

Service calls include capsized boats, vehicles or people in the water, foot pursuits of subjects near the water, and suicides off bridges. To do all this response work, the unit Harbor Master commands 19 officers and sergeants who can launch craft such as jet skis or airboats. A half-dozen rigid-hulled inflatable speed boats are the unit's workhorses for river response. All the officers are certified divers. Staff and equipment are based on a Washington Channel wharf located at 550 Water Street, SW.

**JUST AS THERE IS NO DRIVING WITHOUT A DRIVER'S LICENSE, THERE'S NO SAILING WITHOUT A BOATING SAFETY CERTIFICATE.**

Incidents last summer included both rescue and recovery. Following a violent July storm with high winds, the unit canvassed the Potomac River for distressed kayakers and boaters. Four individuals and three dogs were rescued.

In August, unit divers recovered the bodies of three men swept off a power boat during a storm.

Just as there is no driving without a driver's license, there's no sailing without a Boating Safety Certificate. Skippers should have theirs at all times. The certificate is obtained through a Boating Safety Education class that covers legal requirements, navigational rules, safety equipment, boating accident risks, and all things about safe sailing. A free, online version is offered by the BoatUS Foundation and is approved by the Harbor Patrol. Sign up at [BOATUS](http://BOATUS).



The U.S. Coast Guard also has security responsibilities on the river. And, once downstream from Alexandria, the Maryland Natural Resources Police becomes part of the story, too.

Stay tuned for Part II.



# WINTER SAILING

PHOTOS BY TIM BLISS



## MARCH EVENTS

**5 - 27 | ALEXANDRIA DRIVE-IN MOVIES EACH FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
\$40 PER CAR | TICKET SALES BENEFIT LOCAL CHARITIES & CAN BE  
PURCHASED [HERE](#)**

**12 | SPINSHEET VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR | 5PM  
LESSONS LEARNED THE HARD WAY | [CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)**

**13 | MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND "CELESTIAL" SCREENING VIA ZOOM | 7PM  
SCREENING TO BE FOLLOWED BY Q&A W/THE DIRECTOR, JACK GORDON**

**17 | SCOW WEBINAR: RACING RULES OF SAILING VIA ZOOM | 6:30PM  
SOCIALIZING BEGINS AT 6:15PM**

**20 | SPRING EQUINOX**

**20 - APRIL 11 | CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL | VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON  
[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS AND EVENTS](#)**

**26 | SPINSHEET VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR | 5PM  
FINDING AND MANAGING RACE CREW | [CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)**

**APRIL 5 | SCOW BOARD MEETING VIA ZOOM | 7PM**

**APRIL 7 | WEDNESDAY NIGHT RACING BEGINS | WASHINGTON SAILING  
MARINA**

# WHO'S WHO IN SCOW

## 2021 OFFICERS

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

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Jenn Joint, Secretary | [secretary@scow.org](mailto:secretary@scow.org)

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

## 2021 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)

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Wayne Williams, Maintenance Director (Cruisers) |  
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Becky Cole, Skipper Director | [skipper@scow.org](mailto:skipper@scow.org)

## 2021 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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