

## Commodore's Log April 2008

Dear Scow Members,

Spring is here, and its time for the sailing season to begin in earnest. Following a highly successful and fun membership renewal event -- The Re-Up Brunch held on March 16th -- the club is poised to kick off its classes and social events. If you haven't renewed, its not too late!

### Coming in April . . .

1. **The first maintenance day** of the year will be held on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> starting at 9am to work on the club's Flying Scots. Many have already signed up for this event, but its not too late to lend a hand. Cruiser maintenance will be the following Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. See page 2 of this newsletter for additional details.

2. **The racing season** begins on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> as SCOW cruisers participate in the DISC (Dangerfield Island Sailing Club) Cherry Blossom Regatta. If you are interested in the opportunities within the SCOW racing program, please contact Racing Director Adam Pressman at [race@scow.org](mailto:race@scow.org). Of particular interest to those interested in cruiser racing, the board recently approved a new Race Policy, which can be found here: [http://www.scow.org/downloads/2008\\_SCOW\\_Racing\\_Policy.pdf](http://www.scow.org/downloads/2008_SCOW_Racing_Policy.pdf). A special thanks to Bill Bernhards and members of the Race Committee for working on this policy early in the year. Having a clear and concise policy will benefit numerous club members who have expressed an interest in racing the cruisers, but haven't been able to ascertain the requirements. Those requirements now include three primary criteria: 1) Racing resume with 20+ hours experience, 2) take and pass a written racing rules test, and 3) complete a racing water checkout. For more information on the new race policy, please view the policy at the link above and see page 6 of this newsletter.

3. **Thursday Night Social Sails** begin Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> and run through October. This is a great chance for club members to get together each week, and also to give non-members a chance to see what SCOW is all about and consider joining. Food will be available for a small \$5 donation to cover the costs, and skippers will be on hand to take members and non-members for short trips in the lagoon. The club is looking for volunteer chefs to prepare the food for these events, so if you are interested please contact Social Director Faith Rodell at [social@scow.org](mailto:social@scow.org).

4. **Basic Sailing (1<sup>st</sup> Session)**, the flagship course available to SCOW members, begins April 16<sup>th</sup> and runs through mid-May. The class is full. If you are interested in this or other classes that SCOW has to offer, watch for email announcements as new slots often become available throughout the year. For more info on courses, contact [training@scow.org](mailto:training@scow.org).

That's all for now. See you on the water.



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## **Spring Maintenance Announcement** **Saturdays, April 5<sup>th</sup> and April 12<sup>th</sup>**

By Fran Jezisek

Hello Everyone,

I'm pleased to announce that we have almost 40 members that have signed up to participate on the boat maintenance teams this year. If you haven't signed up it's not too late to do so. Even if you haven't signed up that doesn't mean you can't participate in the upcoming maintenance days!

### **1. Flying Scot maintenance day will be Saturday April 5, 2008**

Set up start at 9 AM - coffee, tea, fruit and pastry provided. Come watch the masts fall and the boats rollover on the grass. Come and learn how to whip rope ends, install new windex's and forstays. Come and install the new jiffy reefing for all of the Scots. We have some new non-skid deck polish that should make the boats look sharp! Suzy Q is due for a hull cleaning and polishing - she could look as good as Selkie when done. We have new sails this year but they may not be ready by April 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **2. Cruiser maintenance day will be Saturday April 12, 2008**

Set up start at 9 AM - coffee, tea, fruit and pastry provided. Rudders will be checked and at least one will get new bottom paint. Depth gauge on Topaz will undergo analysis to get her reading accurately. The boats will be scrubbed and polished and the bright work will be addressed. Sails will be surveyed. If the main halyard can be located that will be replaced on Rebecca.

Come and join the fun - with your help we will have the best looking and best prepared Flying Scots and Cruisers at the Marina. If we get enough help we can go sail each boat as they are finished to give them their Spring sea trials to see what else needs to be done.

See you there!!!

Thanks

Fran

2008 SCOW Maintenance Director

## **Race Seminars – April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>**

By Adam Pressman

Race fans,

Note the first of our season's seminars begin the 2nd and the 9th of April. Our esteemed race coach and SCOW member Kristen Berry of Gale Force Sailing will share race strategy in the first evening on the 2nd. On the 9th he'll build on that foundation with a discussion of the start. The most important part of a race is widely believed to be the start. These seminars, and those to follow later in the year will occur at 6pm until about 9, at the Washington Sailing Marina's Charleston Room. Future seminars will be announced in ChaNNels. Contact me if you have any questions and I look forward to seeing you Wednesday.  
Live slow...sail fast.

– Adam Pressman, 2008 SCOW Racing Director

Submitted by Thom Unger

## High Tech Cowboys of the Deep Seas: The Race to Save the *Cougar Ace*

It always starts like this. Last Christmas Day, an 835-foot container vessel ran aground in Ensenada, Mexico. The phone rang, he hopped on a plane, and was soon on a Jet Ski pounding his way through the Baja surf. The ship had run aground on a beach while loaded with approximately 1,800 containers. He had to rustle up a Sikorsky Skycrane — one of the world's most powerful helicopters — to offload the cargo.

Ship captains spend their careers trying to avoid a collision or grounding like this. But for Habib, nearly every month brings a welcome disaster. While people are shouting, "Abandon ship!" Habib is scrambling aboard. He's been at sea since he was 18, and now, at 51, his tanned face, square jaw, and don't-even-try-bullshitting-me stare convey a world-weary air of command. He holds an unlimited master's license, which means he's one of the select few who are qualified to pilot ships of any size, anywhere in the world. He spent his early years captaining hulking vessels that lifted other ships on board and hauled them across oceans. He helped the Navy transport a nuclear refueling facility from California to Hawaii. Now he's the senior salvage master — the guy who runs the show at sea — for Titan Salvage, a highly specialized outfit of men who race around the world saving ships.

For the complete story go to the source of the story at this link...

[http://www.wired.com/science/discoveries/magazine/16-03/ff\\_seacowboys?currentPage=all](http://www.wired.com/science/discoveries/magazine/16-03/ff_seacowboys?currentPage=all)





## British Islands Sailing

Pics by Joy Motheral

Thanks to Joy, who upon email request is willing to share pictures of this recent trip to the British Virgin Islands.

Perhaps this will inspire others to journey there as well...





Soper's Hole Wharf & Marina – Pic by Joy



Peter Pan's Secret Cave – Pic by Joy

A cruising life is challenging, interesting, full of variety, sometimes exciting, sometimes frightening, but it's rarely easy.

Lin and Larry Pardey  
**Cruising Sailors and Authors**



British Virgin Islands – Pic by Joy

## Next Membership Meeting: Monday, April 14, 2008

Location: American Legion, 400 Cameron Street, in Old Town Alexandria

Time: Socializing downstairs begins at 6:30 pm and the meeting begins upstairs at 7:30 pm.

Thursday Night	Social Sail, Washington Sailing Marina (WSM), April - October, 6:00PM
Social No-Sail	Events and locations will vary, December - April, 6:00PM
Wednesday Night Races	WSM with Flying Scotts, May - October 6:00PM
Board Meetings	4th Monday of every month, 7:00PM (Open to Membership)
Channels Deadline	15th of every month. Submit articles to: <a href="mailto:channels06@scow.org">channels06@scow.org</a>
2008 Calendar	<a href="http://www.scow.org/calendar.html">http://www.scow.org/calendar.html</a>
SCOW Pictures	<a href="http://picasaweb.google.com/Sailing.Club.of.Washington">http://picasaweb.google.com/Sailing.Club.of.Washington</a>
SCOW Homepage	<a href="http://www.scow.org/index.html">http://www.scow.org/index.html</a>

## Racing Update

By Adam Pressman

**Race fans**, your SCOW board has approved the 2008 Race Policy unanimously. The actual policy will soon be posted but significant changes include a firm process for certifying SCOW skippers that combines fairness and flexibility to address the broad range of skill sets found amongst our members. Each year the board can adopt an entirely new race policy so I encourage you to always share with me your thoughts on making racing better at SCOW.

1. The same rules of skippering any SCOW boat applies to those who race.
2. Racing involves close quarters boat handling skills, therefore a verifiable race resume including 20 hours of racing and a race focused water checkout are required.
3. A written test is required to be successfully completed in the skipper file regarding current version of the Racing Rules of Sailing from US Sailing.
4. Racing is only done in SCOW approved races.
5. A racing skipper must select for a race crew of a cruiser, but not a Flying Scot, at least one other person, SCOW certified in that type of boat, as his "First Mate" for the race. All other crew must be SCOW members in good standing.
6. Fees will be paid by SCOW for all SCOW races. Leukemia cup monies are donations, not fees and are the responsibility of the skipper and crew of each boat.
7. Cruiser race lotteries we be held to choose which boat in the following race series will race each of:
  - a. DISC Tuesday Night races – Each of four series of 6 races will have a lottery three weeks before to select the skipper for each boat for all six races in that series.
  - b. If you win a six race series you will not participate in other 6 race series lotteries. You may still race, if we have available slots.
  - c. DISC Weekend races – Each race will have a lottery three weeks before to select the skipper for each boat for that race.
8. Races may be added with up 30 days notice to the board, who will vote on approving additional races in time to conduct a lottery three weeks before.

**IMPORTANT NOTE** – The list of current race skippers are hereby grandfathered into the race program for 2008 with the understanding that they may be asked, and must comply, to provide a correct written race test for their skipper file. It's a short test and won't take long to complete. This will assure that we have the correct records system going forward. Soon the race test will be posted and available to current "grandfathered" skippers (I apologize to those who are younger than my parents) and prospective race skippers to get their requirements in order as they await their checkout and fulfill their experience requirements. I will be posting on the racingnews list as well as on the racing pages of our website, appointments in the near future to get "Checked Out" and I look forward to inquiries from those of you who wish to race (skippers and crew...this could be good for you) so I can get us all together for a shakedown cruise where we'd go around some buoys, review the rules and rights, and ensure we can be safe and fast. They'll (not coincidentally) appear around the time of our training's conclusion. So, you folks just getting started...get with me soonest so we can help you plan to race SCOW boats. Live slow....sail fast.

Adam Pressman Race Director. Sailing Club of Washington



Subject: Sails for Sustenance -- Miami-based org to collect sails, deliver to fishermen of Haiti. Since 2006, Sails for Sustenance has collected used and unwanted sails from the South Florida sailing community, and delivered them to fishing communities on the Southwestern peninsula of Haiti--the most impoverished nation in the western hemisphere, where fishermen outfit their hand-made workboats with make shift sails (often scraps of discarded rice and flour bags pieced together). The fishermen rely upon their boats everyday to provide for their family and community. The donated sails are far more efficient on the water and require far less maintenance than those they replace. Up to now we've collected and delivered more than 90 sails to the fishermen of Haiti. We have begun to expand our collection efforts beyond the Greater Miami area. One effective way is to reach participants of upcoming regattas held in Miami. Regatta-goers often have throw-away sails taking up space in storage, and are able to bring them along to Miami to make a tax-deductible contribution. I write now to ask that you assist us in reaching the participants of the upcoming Lightning Midwinters to be held next week in Miami--all of whom we'd like to make aware of our organization and our aims. Surely, many of the boats/sailors have already arrived in Miami and others may be unreachable as they are currently in transit. But I wonder if it is possible that you pass on to your respective Lightning fleets a brief, unobtrusive e-mail that includes the text I've written below my signature (in italics). You can call or e-mail me directly if you'd like to know more about our organization. You may also wish to learn more about us by visiting our website: [www.sailsforsustenance.org](http://www.sailsforsustenance.org)

Thank you very much for your consideration.  
Sincerely,  
Michael Carcaise  
Sails for Sustenance, Inc.

In the past we have held on to at least one set (main and jib) of Scot sails so we would be able to continue to use a boat if the sails were damaged and out for repair. I would recommend that we continue with this policy. Keeping two or more sets of the old sails for use in the capsize course sounds like a worthwhile suggestion to me and I recommend that we do so. Do our capsize trainers have any objections?

I would not recommend using the old spinnakers for training. If they are too worn for use they are too worn for training purposes.

Old spinnakers and any other old sails can and should be donated and this seems to be a worthwhile cause.

John Roland



Serious Sailors...



Who burn their socks!



New family from FL



In go their socks!



The Annual Sock Burning  
was held on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008



**Ron of Washington Sailing Marina**  
Demonstrates how to cook on the new  
Grove Grille (which is available for sailors  
to check out for parties in the Grove thru the  
upcoming sailing season.)



Let's get this party started!



The sock burning begins...



Lunch begins



The ceremony of "sock burning" is properly  
explained to any neophytes present



## The First Annual Ramen Cup (o noodles ) Regatta

Friday night saw the first annual Ramen Cup (o noodles) Regatta come to fruition. Conceived By Capt. Chris Mc Graw the race was between SCOW boats Rebecca and Topaz, "The Cup" was set on Potomac waters.

The start line was set between the boathouse and red #6. As both boats maneuvered for the start, Topaz and crew Capt. Chris, Helmsman Steve Kline and Fore deck hand Abby Turiansky glided Topaz across the line to an early lead.

Winds were light and somewhat fluky as the boats sped down the course. Rebecca's Capt. Bill Davenport and Strategic Planner/Tactician Bekki Lasell trimmed, tweaked and analyzed data to urge Rebecca in to a better position. Distant weather buoys beamed information to satellites in the night sky.

Rebecca's strategic planner/tactician Bekki LaSell analyzed visual inputs as the air aloft hummed with electronic data, streamed from distant way points and downloaded to GPS and other racer friendly laptop software. While having this data available makes fine tuning race data, such as VMG quicker it also raises the level of competition. Inches separated the boats at the first mark. Both Topaz and Rebecca rounded and put a shoulder to the task of pointing high and avoiding the shoals.

It was a cold clear night with a 10kt NNW breeze. Both crews paused and relaxed the level of concentration. as they were taken breathless when a beautiful amber colored full moon rose above Oxen Hill, What a glorious night to be sailing on the Potomac.

Rebecca crossed the line as if by chance just ahead of Topaz. Later many glasses of wine were raised dockside as tactics and sail trim secrets were shared. These moments, and many others, will be shared by SCOW members. This year Join SCOW and learn to sail. This year SCOW members take a new member sailing. This year SCOW racers take a sailing member racing.

Submitted by Bill Davenport (SCOW Racing Skipper)



Jim, Chris, Bill and Bekki (presenting the Ramen Cup)

## 2008 SCOW Budget Report

By Tom Paquin, SCOW 2008 Commodore

One of the most important functions of the board is to monitor the club's financial picture. As a 501(c)(7) corporation, our club has no employees, and no members are paid for any service they perform for the club. All income generated from member dues, boat use fees and other income is used solely for the benefit of the club – for maintenance and planned replacement of its boats, slip fees, insurance and registration, training materials for classes, social activities and administrative expenses. Governed by the club's bylaws as stated in Article VII, Section 2, "The board shall approve the annual budget no later than the February Board meeting of each year, and published in the SCOW newsletter no later than April." Pursuant to this requirement, here is the 2008 budget, with some comments at how we arrived at the numbers.

### PROJECTED INCOME

Member Dues	18,000.00
Training Fees	13,500.00
Boat Use Fees	
Cruiser Use Fees	3,200.00
Day Sailors Use Fees	12,000.00
Race Fee Reimbursements	600.00
Other Income	
Boatique Sales	700.00
Raffle Sales	300.00
Social Events	1,000.00
Re-up Brunch	500.00
Hail & Farewell Sales	5,400.00
H&F Raffle	700.00
Interest Income	2,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>58,400.00</b>

### EXPENSES

Administrative Expenses	
Bank Charges	200.00
D.C. Corp Fee	100.00
Storage Rental	600.00
Recognition and Awards	500.00
Communications (postage, copying and printing)	1,000.00
American Legion Meeting Room	2,200.00
Membership Directories	1,200.00
P.O. Box Rental	90.00
Web Site Upkeep and Upgrades	200.00
Misc. Admin	1,000.00
Fleet operations	
Boat Maintenance	5,000.00
Insurance	3,500.00
Slip Fees	12,000.00
Racing Fees	600.00
Boat Registration	110.00
Training Materials	2,600.00
Hail and Farewell	7,000.00
Other Expenses	
Boatique Inventory	800.00
Social Activities	1,000.00
Re-up Brunch	500.00
Afterglow	500.00
Picnics	200.00
River Activities	600.00
Training activity refreshments	250.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>41,750.00</b>
Minimum Transfer to Boat Asset Fund:	5,300.00
Total Expenses and BAF Transfer:	47,050.00
Estimated Net Savings (to operating fund):	11,350.00

The income projections are from looking at trends in years past. SCOW has maintained similar year-to-year figures on income from membership, skipper fees and course offerings for many years. Expense trends are also very consistent from year to year. Therefore, this year's budget assumes a membership level and costs similar to years past. The approved budget described herein can be modified during the course of the year as the board sees fit, but no substantial modifications are anticipated.

One difference noted with this year's budget is an increase in slip fees. The reason is that upon purchasing a new cruiser in 2007, the board opted to keep Psycho rather than sell her according to the original plan. This decision affects the budget in two ways. In the short term, the allocation for slip fees is increased by about \$2,000 beyond the usual increases at the marina. In the long term, the board is looking into promoting an increased number of student slots in our cruiser classes, hopefully with the result of increasing the number of cruiser skippers in the club and generating additional income from skipper fees. To put this into perspective, it would take only about 16 new cruiser skippers to cover the additional annual cost in slip fees. Increased insurance and maintenance are other items to consider for the 3-cruiser fleet, but those figures are yet to be precisely determined.

The bylaws have special requirements for the planned upkeep and replacement of the club's boats. The Boat Asset Fund (BAF) is a fund kept separate from the rest of the club's financials. Its purpose is for major upgrades and replacements in the fleet. Currently the boat asset fund stands at about \$24,000. The bylaws require that a minimum of 9 percent of the annual gross receipts from training fees, skipper fees and membership dues be transferred to the BAF at the end of each fiscal year. This year the estimated minimum transfer is \$5,300. However in practice, the board will typically transfer an amount greater than the minimum requirement. The additional BAF transfer would come out of the anticipated net savings, projected this year at around \$11,350.

Overall, the club has a very strong financial situation with reserves and BAF funds in excess of \$70,000. This year's board will endeavor to continue the strong financial tradition of the club. □

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **Boating Safety Class Offered**

#### **By the U.S. Coast Guard Auxillary**

By Ginny Ivin

DC laws require skippers to carry a certificate saying that they have completed a boating safety course. SCOW policies require skippers using club boats to have it, as well as pass the written and on-water check out. One of the ways to get the certificate is to attend the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary's boating safety class at the Washington Sailing Marina taught by one of our own members. "About Boating Safely" will meet on Wednesdays in April in the Afterdeck Café from 7:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. starting April 2. The cost is \$40. If you are interested in enrolling, please contact Ginny Ivin on (202) 547-8558 or [flotilla22@hotmail.com](mailto:flotilla22@hotmail.com)

### **1<sup>st</sup> Social Sail – April 10<sup>th</sup>**

By Faith Rodell, Social Director

The warm sailing season has started! Remember, we are a volunteer club, so there are opportunities to sign up to help with Thursday night social sail cooks & dock masters.

Contact Faith Rodell, Social Director at 301.474.2444 or by email at [social@scow.org](mailto:social@scow.org)

### **Vice Commodore's Notes:**

A hearty thanks goes out to our own Racing Director, Adam Pressman, for his presenting information about the upcoming racing season at the March General Meeting. If you are interested in more sailing opportunities as crew, don't miss our April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, where the Commodore of the Dangerfield Island Sailing Club (DISC), Richard Knab, will be discussing a collaboration we've been working on between the two clubs to provide more opportunities for SCOW members to sail, and more crew for the DISC boat-owners. It's a win-win situation for all sailors! See you at the meeting, and see you on the water! Lisa (Arrgh! It's great to be a sailor in the spring time!)



### 2008 Board of Directors

Position	Name	Home	Work	E-mail
Commodore	Tom Paquin	202.281.8999	202.659.6500	commodore@scow.org
Vice Commodore	Lisa Eller	423.360.6899	202.353.2755	vice@scow.org
Secretary	Maggie Nelson	202.415.1983		secretary@scow.org
Treasurer	Chris Von Guggenberg	703.683.6649	703.622.9125	treasurer@scow.org
Training Director	Mike Rothenberg	703.820.1270		training@scow.org
Maintenance	Fran Jezisek	301.839.3351	202.721.4564	maintenance@scow.org
Social Director	Faith Rodell	301.474.2444	301.674.9324	social@scow.org
Skipper Director	Wayne Williams		703.981.9320 cell	skipper@scow.org
River Director	Melissa Ennis	703.845.5764		river@scow.org
Racing Director	Adam Pressman		703.850.2072 cell	race@scow.org
Records Director	John Roland	703.368.9792	703.321.4614	records@scow.org

### Other Key People

Crew Liaison	Melissa Ennis	703.845.5764		crew@scow.org
SCOW Photos	Alice Starcke			pictures@scow.org
Bay Director	Vacant – could be you!			bay@scow.org
Channels Editor	Lisa Eller	423.360.6899	202.353.2755	channels06@scow.org
Channels Layout	Wayne Williams		703.981.9320 cell	channels06@scow.org
Advertising	Vacant – could be you!			advertising@scow.org
Email Administrator	Jeff Teitel	202.271.1238		postmaster@scow.org
Membership Coordinator	Henry Cheng			members@scow.org
Web Editor	Peg O’Laughlin	703.207.0675	202.205.1819	webmaster@scow.org

### For Information about Club Activities

Visit <http://www.scow.org> or email [info@scow.org](mailto:info@scow.org)