

# ChaNNels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington  
December 2003

## Commodore's Log

It has been a great year, though I will admit to some frustrations with the weather at times, both for my own personal sailing and for SCOW maintenance and sailing activities. It has also been a pleasure to get to know and work with many of you, though I am far from knowing all 400+ members of this organization. Perhaps I'll meet a few more next year.

Your Board has worked diligently this year to increase the training opportunities for members, to expand the membership rolls significantly, to increase the numbers of certified skippers on the water, to maintain a stable fiscal status, to maintain a safe and effective fleet of boats, to increase the communications about club activities and plans, and to create continuing and new opportunities for sailors young and older, new and experienced, to spend time together both on the water and off. We feel good about our successes, and also now have some new insights and ideas to pass on to your new Board as they take the helm in January.

For those of you unable to attend the Hail and Farewell Banquet on November 15, let me reiterate my thanks and congratulations to several distinguished award winners, to a great crew of key volunteers, and to the 2003 Board members.

Joan O'Kane won the Ellie Abramson

award for longstanding service to SCOW; Rob Langford won the Al Blankfield Award for his contributions in 2003; and five new members were recognized as "Rookies of the Year" for their support in their first full year as SCOW members, Nancy Christin, Julia Hunt, Michael McLaughlin, Karyl Owings and Genie Williford.

The following "key volunteers" pitched in to coordinate and support a wide variety of activities throughout the year and were aided by many more volunteer helpers:

**Channels** - Joan O'Kane and Chris Chubb

**New Member Coordinators** - Melissa Ennis and Jeremy Spilker

**Historian** - Jane Farthing

**River Coordinator** - Jay Weitzel

**Database, Website and E-mail** - Monika O'Connor, Jeff Teitel and Thom Unger

**Boatique** - Bill Bernhards

**Maintenance Bosuns** - Bill Bernhards, Barry Duns Moor, David Scheuermann, Declan Conroy, Kathleen Reilly, Cathy Zeigler, Stuart Ullman, Thom Unger

**Committee Chairs** - Jay Weitzel (Boat Asset; Bylaws), Sharon DePoorter (Audit), Stuart Ullman (Safety), Mike Geissinger (Training and Skipper Certification)

**Training Support** - Phil Bender, Larry Gemoetz, John Roland, Neil Shepherd, Stuart Ullman, Jan Metten Van der Meer, Jay Weitzel, Len Zuza

**Skipper Checkout Support** - Elizabeth Bruening, Declan Conroy, Marty Crowson, Joe DePoorter, Barry Duns Moor, Dick Dyer, Larry Gemoetz,

## Reminder: No Members Meeting in December

SCOW's regular monthly meetings will resume on Monday, January 12, 2004. The meeting will be at the usual time and place - the American Legion Hall in Old Town Alexandria, 400 Cameron Street (check out [www.scow.org](http://www.scow.org) for directions). Socializing starts at 6:30, with the meeting at 7:30 and the presentation at 8:00.

Stay tuned to the January issue of ChaNNels to find out who our first speaker of the new year will be!

Randy Glantz, Jim Metcalf, Neil Shepherd, Jeff Teitel, Thom Unger, Jan Metten van der Meer, Jay Weitzel

**Social Activities Support** - Julia Hunt, Julia Clones, Dorothy Stocks, Marie Rutledge, Joe Pieper, Karyl Owings, Samia Abdel-Wahed, Nancy Christin, Phil Bender, Matt Gaston

**Special Events and Racing Support** - Ben Ackerman, Bill Bernhards, Dale Eager, Tom Hannan, Karyl Owings, Kathi Trepper

And of course all of our SCOW activities would not have been possible without an able and hard working Board dedicated to coordinating efforts, dollars, people and the calendar.

- Vice Commodore Susan Batchelder assembled meeting programs throughout the year,
- Treasurer Graham Leadbetter kept us on the financial straight and narrow,
- Secretary Monika O'Connor worked diligently on the member database and website,
- Maintenance Directors Tom Hannan and John Roland assured a well-maintained fleet,
- Training Directors Kris Bieg and Jan Earle brought many training opportunities our way and coordinated an experienced crew of land and water trainers,
- Skipper Director Steve Linke oversaw the testing and certification of a record number of skippers and was assisted by an able crew of Checkout Skippers,
- River and Bay Director Jeff Teitel organized a full calendar of on-the-water events despite fierce competition from the weather Gods,
- Racing Director Kara Wald coordinated small and large boat racing events, and
- Social Director Rob Langford assured a full calendar of entertaining and sumptuous land events, often single-handed and from a distance.

My thanks to each of you for your generous spirit and dedication.

And my best wishes now go to Commodore Len Zuza and his crew as the 2004 Board takes the helm next month. I have had the pleasure of working with several of these individuals and know that they will assure a continued tradition of fine service to our membership, while adding many of their own distinct contributions. So I now pass along the Log quill, the burgee and of course, the Commodore's chapeau.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve as Commodore, Best Wishes and Fair Winds,

*Commodore George*

#### 2004 Board Of Directors Election Results

Bill Bernhards

Elections were held at the club's November annual membership meeting for the 2004 Board of Directors.

Our club officers next year will be:

**Commodore** - Len Zuza

**Vice Commodore** - Jay Weitzel

**Secretary** - Marie Rutledge

**Treasurer** - Dorothy Stocks

**Directors** - Evie Banda , Jan Earle, Gerri Hanna, Karyl Owings, John Roland, Genie Williford



#### ChaNels

can also be read at:

[www.scow.org](http://www.scow.org).

Submit articles to

[channels@scow.org](mailto:channels@scow.org)

by one week after the monthly meeting. Use any means, but email is preferred.

*Lisbeth Lyons, Editor*

*Chris Chubb, Layout Editor*

*Monika O'Connor, Mailing Lists*

## **In Memoriam**

### Robert Bruening

It is with great sadness that we note the death of longtime SCOW member Robert (Bob) Bruening on Friday, October 31st. As many of you know, Bob was diagnosed with a brain tumor earlier this year.

Bob was a member of SCOW since 1990 and over the course of his membership served as Treasurer, voicemail manager, big boat skipper for social sails, maintenance day worker, and much more. Those who attended his funeral were awed by Bob's many and varied interests, including music, wine, science and, of course, sailing. It was obvious from all the loving stories that were told that Bob touched many lives in a meaningful way.

Whether you knew Bob for years or only a short time, all will remember him for his friendliness, optimism, and willingness to help out whenever necessary. SCOW is experiencing a great loss with his passing. He will be sorely missed.

If you would like to make a donation in Bob's memory, contributions may be sent to the American Brain Tumor Association, 2720 River Road, Des Plaines, IL 60018-4110 or to the place of worship or charity of your choice.

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## **SCOW Service Awards**

### **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 to be done. It is given annually to recognize a SCOW member who has given outstanding service to the club during the past year.

Recipients of the Al Blankfield award have been:

Rob Langford ('03)  
Neil Shepherd ('02)  
Dale Eager ('01)  
Kelly Bowers ('00)  
Larry Gemoets ('99)  
Denise Malueg ('98)  
Thom Unger ('97)  
George Umberger ('96)  
Barbara Ullman ('95)  
Rick Peters ('94)

### **Elli Abramson Award**

This award is named for the late Elli Abramson (for whom our boat Ms Elli is named), who served as Commodore twice, was active in the training program, and also wrote much of the training material we still use today. It is given annually to recognize a SCOW member who has given outstanding service to the club over an extended period of time.

Recipients of the Elli Abramson Award have been:

Joan O'Kane ('03)  
Jay Weitzel ('02)  
Thom Unger ('01)  
Larry Gemoets ('00)  
Monica Maynard ('99)  
Joe DePoorter ('98)  
Declan Conroy ('97)  
Stuart Ullman ('96)  
Pat Derry ('95)  
Al Blankfield ('94)  
Sam Schaen ('93)  
Marilyn Wilson ('92)

## Notes From the Boat Yard

John Roland

### Fleet Status

As ChaNNels goes to press, all of our boats are operational. Psycho has a non-functioning steaming light and shouldn't be used at night until it's fixed. Dunschweida has a non-racheting ratchet block on her port side.

If you haven't gotten the word yet, the Flying Scots will be relocated. Phil Geishert, the marina director, needs the space where they were stored for access to the ramp and equipment staging during the renovation of the marina. He will relocate them in available dry slips attempting to keep them as close to the cranes as possible. They won't necessarily be together but you should be able to find them with a bit of looking. Please return them to the slip where you found them after use.

### On-going and Upcoming Projects

#### *Psycho's steaming light*

On Saturday Nov 15 we determined that the wiring at the mast-mounted light socket had parted and the wires had dropped down inside the mast. This repair will be a significant project that requires dropping the mast, re-running the wiring and re-raising the mast. Probably a full day's work requiring 6-8 people including at least one person who has dropped Psycho's mast before.

Thom Unger suggested postponing it until the spring maintenance day and I'm inclined to agree unless a significant number of people want her fixed earlier. She is fine for daysailing until the light is fixed.

Thanks to Donna Cohen and Thom Unger who went up the mast and to Jack Sherman, Mike Clifford and Kevin Roland who provided support from the deck.

#### *Dunschweida's Ratchet Block*

A quick look on maintenance day indicates that this is more than a bolt-on-the-new-part operation. Two of the three screws holding the block to the deck appear to have stripped the threads in whatever they are screwed into. This might be the fiberglass deck or a wood block under the deck. I've contacted Flying Scot to determine what is involved. When I have a better idea of how to proceed, I'll call for some support and set a time to take care of this. Dunschweida is also usable in her current state.

### Topic of the Month

Usually this will consist of an article or suggestion for improving the care and feeding of our boats. This isn't my personal soapbox. I encourage all members to contribute suggestions for projects or improvements in the ways in which we use the boats.

Jay Weitzel's article, Caring For Our Club's Sails in last month's ChaNNels is a great example. If you want to write under your own byline, as Jay did, that's fine. If you just want to provide an idea or outline, send me your suggestions and I'll add them to my topic list. This month, I'd like to discuss some of my plans as SCOW's new Maintenance Director.

When I started getting involved in maintenance activities this summer I was frustrated by the unavailability of tools and parts to work on the Fly Scots. Each of the cruisers has an on-board tool kit and an assortment of spare parts. I plan to set up a Scot tool kit and keep it in the sail locker. It will contain basic hand tools and a set of spare parts for common Flying Scot repairs. I welcome your suggestions for the contents of this kit.

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Several members have approached me expressing a desire to become more involved with maintenance projects. I have two avenues to allow members to participate in maintenance activities.

I will continue the system of bosuns we used last year where each bosun is the lead person for maintenance and repair of one of our fleet. There are no requirements for a bosun other than the desire to participate, but I would suggest that those considering becoming a bosun be a skipper and regular sailor on the type of boat they want to care for. In addition, I need a locker bosun to take care of our two lockers in the marina.

If you are interested in becoming a bosun, send an email to [maintenance@scow.org](mailto:maintenance@scow.org) and let me know what boat, class of boat or locker you want to work with.

For those seeking a less demanding maintenance experience, I plan to announce unscheduled maintenance activities in ChaNNels and by email to [all@scow.org](mailto:all@scow.org) inviting interested parties to participate. I've done this for hurricane preparation, restoration, and the attempted repair to Psycho's steaming lamp and the response has been gratifying. In each case, I've gotten sufficient volunteers to do an excellent job and I believe the participants have had a rewarding and educational experience.

I'll also start maintaining an on-call list of folks who have expressed a desire to participate in maintenance projects. Send an email to [maintenance@scow.org](mailto:maintenance@scow.org) and let me know of your interest and what skills and areas of special interest you have.

Regarding a maintenance course which has also been suggested, I will be exploring this idea with the Training and Skipper Directors and committee methods of incorporating maintenance and repair into our training program. Options may include a separate class and/or the addition of maintenance / repair sections to some of our existing classes.

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### Skipper Director News

Steve Linke

As we said at the Hail & Farewell, thanks to all the checkout skippers and others who helped this year.

In 2003 we added about 47 new SCOW skippers to the rolls. Many other passed written and even on-water checkouts but did not get water safety certificates done, or they just decided to wait for spring.

As most know, to be a new skipper and take out our boats requires a written, an on-water and a water safety certificate. Then you can pay a small fee and sail on SCOW boats as much as you want. I agree, it is getting cold. But spring will soon be here and warm breezes will beckon. Be ready.

Time for some new year resolutions for 2004.

Make sailing a priority. If you do not, you will never sail around the world or in a sunny locale for a winter vacation. This part of your life you can control.

If you are a skipper, plan to get out there on warm days. (But wear a life jacket cause the water can be cold even on the warm days.)

If you are not yet a skipper, get going. Get the written requirements done over the winter and be ready to go in the spring. The new sailing year starts up on 1 April and the boats will be there. What are you waiting for? This club idea is the best way to avoid pouring money into a hole in the water.

Happy Holidays and safe sailing to you!

## Washington Sailing Marina Construction Report

George Umberger

It has begun. The long planned and awaited renovation of our slips and docks at the Marina commenced on November 10. Marina Manager Phil Geishert reports the following:

General construction is scheduled to end by March 1 of next year with ancillary punch list items completed by April 30, including all utilities restorations. An experienced marine contractor from the West River area has charge of this project.

Construction staging areas have been set up near the cranes and also near G dock. A note of caution is offered here; the staging area near G dock hampers visibility entering and exiting the Restaurant parking lot, so please enter and exit this area carefully.

Our Flying Scots have been temporarily relocated to dry slips C-1, D-14, and D-0 (end of the row).

There will be a new and improved double ramp installed at the current ramp location next to the cranes. On the west side of the peninsula, eight new docks will replace the current seven with the new A dock serving as a wave attenuator and for transient slips. Docks will be re-lettered so Psycho and Rebecca will likely be at the end of the new G dock. The footprint of the docks will shift slightly and all old pilings will be removed.

Phil and crew will keep us posted on the location of our club and personal boats as they may need to be moved for new dock installation. And ferry assistance will be provided if any boats need to be moored temporarily in the lagoon.

Keep your fingers crossed for reasonable meteorological parameters (that's weather conditions to any landlubbers out there) since the weather can alter and delay the planned schedule. Please contact the Marina office or SCOW officers if you have questions or need assistance.

Thanks for their efforts and best of luck to Phil and his able crew as they oversee this important project!



**2003 Board**

(l to r) Kris Bieg, John Roland, Graham Leadbetter, George Umberger, Susan Batchelder, Jan Earle, Rob Langford, Kara Wald, Steve Linke  
(absent - Monika O'Connor, Tom Hannan and Jeff Teitel)



**2004 Board**

(l to r) John Roland, Karyl Owings, Bill Patton (husband of Director Gerri Hanna), Jan Earle, Secretary (and Acting Commodore) Marie Rutledge, Dorothy Stocks, Evie Banda, Genie Williford  
(absent – Commodore Len Zuza, Jay Weitzel, and Gerri Hanna)

## We've Signed On for Another Big Year with Boat U.S!

Larry Gemoets

I have just renewed our Boat U.S. Cooperating Group Agreement for another year. Because of this special arrangement, you get 50% off when you join the nation's largest association of recreational boat owners. You pay half of the regular Boat U.S. dues of \$19 dollars. That's only \$9.50 a year. Last year, 51 of our members enjoyed Boat U.S. membership.

If you are already a Boat U.S. Member, you can renew your membership at the low \$9.50 rate.

Boat U.S. Membership benefits include:

- An effective lobby that fights unfair taxes, fees, and government regulations that single out boat owners.
- A 700 page Discount Equipment catalog, plus special discounts and Member Rewards with purchases.
- Discounts on fuel, overnight slips or repairs at more than 600 marinas.
- Low cost, high protection boat insurance, including special programs for trailerable boats and PWC's.
- On the water towing, with your choice of service levels- from \$50 per incident (free to members) up to unlimited service- provided by the nation's largest towing network, TowBoatU.S.
- BOAT/U.S. Magazine

If you have any questions about Boat US membership, contact me at [larry.g@comcast.net](mailto:larry.g@comcast.net). When renewing membership this year, be sure to mention Co-op group #GA80156S to get the special \$9.50 rate. You can join or renew online painlessly, but if you want to use paper, I'll get you an application.

Joining for the first time? Mention my name and member number: Larry Gemoets, 838682



Joan O'Kane receives the Ellie Abramson Award  
from Commodore George



Rob Langford receives the Al Blankfield Award  
from Commodore George

## Holiday Boat Parades

### Annapolis

The Eastport Yacht Club will hold its annual Lights Parade on Saturday, December 13 at 6:00 p.m. Share in the celebration as EYC gives this parade as a holiday gift to its neighbors and the city of Annapolis. For more information, including suggestions on parking and shuttle buses, visit the EYC's web site at <http://www.eastportyc.org/LightsParade/2003/default.htm>.

### Washington, DC

Don't forget the Fourth Annual Historic Harbors Holiday Parade of Boats Weekend on Saturday, December 6 and Sunday, December 7 in Old Town Alexandria and Georgetown. For more information, see the November issue of ChaNNels or visit the Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association web site at [http://www.funside.com/press\\_news\\_releases\\_sub3.asp](http://www.funside.com/press_news_releases_sub3.asp).

## 2003 Board of Directors

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Home</b>	<b>Work</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
Commodore	George Umberger	703.323.9358		commodore@scow.org
Vice Commodore	Susan Batchelder	703.519.9844	703.548.3700 x112	vice@scow.org
Secretary	Monika O'Connor	703.921.9262		secretary@scow.org
Treasurer	Graham Leadbetter	301.474.7270	703.325.4429	treasurer@scow.org
Training Director	Jan Earle	202.249.0855		training@scow.org
Maintenance Director	John Roland	703.368.9792	703.321.4614	maintenance@scow.org
Social Director	Rob Langford	703.383.1530	703.934.7015	social@scow.org
Skipper Director	Steve Linke	703.684.5266	703.604.7113	skipper@scow.org
River & Bay Director	Jeff Teitel	202.332.4160	202.271.1238	bay@scow.org
Racing Director	Kara Wald	703.824.1776	301.657.3077	race@scow.org
<b>Other Key People</b>				
New Members	Melissa Ennis	703.845.5764		info@scow.org
	Jeremy Spilker	703.494.7237		info@scow.org
Historian	Jane Farthing	301.972.2636		historian@scow.org
River Coordinator	Jay Weitzel	703.866.9190	703.205.3320	river@scow.org
Database Administrator	Monika O'Connor	703.921.9262		dba@scow.org
Email Administrator	Jeff Teitel			postmaster@scow.org

### Membership Meetings

On the second Monday of each month (except December) at the American Legion Hall, 400 Cameron Street  
 (around the corner from Gadsby's Tavern), Old Town Alexandria, Virginia.

Socializing starts at 6:30 p.m. downstairs, and our meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. upstairs

### For Information About Club Activities

Call 202.628.7245 (202.628.SAIL) or email [info@scow.org](mailto:info@scow.org) or visit <http://www.scow.org>