

"hark, now hear the sailors cry, smell the sea, and feel the sky let your soul & spirit fly, into the mystic..." — Van Morrison



The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington



# November - December 2016

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MAINTENANCE SHMAINTENANCE – WE HAD A BALL. PHOTO COURTESY VINCENT PENOSO.

## IN THIS ISSUE

# Commodore's Log

By Rob Reuter, Commodore

## A TREMENDOUSLY ACTIVE 2016

Hello Friends and fellow club members. The year is drawing to a close and it was a very active one for the club. Looking back over the period makes me dizzy and indeed proud of the club and all its members, and especially its board and volunteers, who have helped

make the season great! Here is a list of some of the many activities that took place this summer:

- ✚ Special Olympics for ten weeks including a Regatta!
- ✚ Wednesday Night Racing every week
- ✚ Thursday Night Social Sails every week
- ✚ Summer Basic Training
- ✚ SCOW 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Picnic
- ✚ Capsize Class
- ✚ SCOT Rookie Regatta
- ✚ SCOT Women's Regatta
- ✚ SCOT Falls Racing Series

- ✚ The Leukemia Cup
- ✚ The Presidents Cup
- ✚ Fall Basic Training
- ✚ Fall Cruiser Training
- ✚ Countless Raft Ups

And the list goes on. With a list so long, who can blame me for missing a few? I think as members we tend to focus on the activities we participate in and forget the rest of the portfolio of activities and events that SCOW conducts on behalf of its members. Please note that the list does not include the everyday ongoing tasks such as maintenance, board meetings and

planning, individual director tasks like training, skipper certification, treasurer, social, and all the board positions, as well as those of the standing committees. It is truly fascinating to see how the club functions and flows through all of its tasks through the direction of a set of by-laws written many years ago.

### *GREAT BOARD MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS*

I want to take a brief opportunity to thank all of our board officers and directors, but especially two of them. First, **Richard Kaiser** our Social Director has done a tremendous job facilitating Social Sail every week this year. I think he has only missed one. That is an incredible record. Our members and guests seem to be very happy with these events. He has seen to it that the every-other week picnic schedule works well. My special thanks for his hard work, and that of his volunteers.

Second, **Gregory Prather** our training director has done an incredible job this season. **Greg** and his trainers have navigated the logistically heavy course load involved to provide our membership quality training this year. He and his trainers have done a tremendous job this year and strengthened our training program for future years. My special thanks to him and his volunteer trainers for having a very well-run, safe, and complaint free year!

Speaking of Directors, SCOW reluctantly had to accept the

resignations of two; first **Steve Ochenkoski**, Maintenance Director, and then **Csilla Gal**, Racing Director. We would like to thank both of them for their tireless work and wish them the best in their new endeavors as they relocated from the Washington area. We would also like to thank **Dick Vida** and **Vincent Penoso** for stepping in to take over as SCOT and CRUISER Maintenance Directors, and for **Jeremy Goucher** for stepping in as Race Director. Please give all three your cooperation and assistance going forward this year.

### *A NOTE ON COMMUNICATIONS*

The Board decided to communicate directly to the email addresses of its membership as opposed to via the ALL SCOW (now Friends of SCOW) email list serve. Many members have told me that the number of emails they receive in which they have no interest, have grown so large as to make them weary. In response, many members have opted out of the list serve. As a result, the board has decided to not use it for important club information. Thanks for your acceptance of the board using a direct email address. We feel it is important to separate high level membership information from the joyful, funny, sometimes terse emails that have become the hallmark of the listserve. Remember the FRIENDS OF SCOW Listserve is self-policing. Items must relate to sailing or be of interest to the club membership.

*"The purpose of the list [ALL SCOW] is to discuss sailing, SCOW*

*events, and other information of interest to members of the club. Please try to keep submissions to the list on-topic.....When replying to a message on the list, please reply to the whole list **ONLY** if your response is relevant to everyone, not just the author. Otherwise, please reply only to the author."* (SCOW Email List Policy) (<http://scow.org/resources/Documents/EmailPolicy.pdf>).

### *ELECTION of the 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS*

The election was held in October and a new board was chosen for 2017. A big thank you to John Kaufmann and his nominating committee as well as Luis Rivas and Adam Dorius for administering the online voting. Congratulations and best of luck to the 2017 SCOW Board of Directors;

Commodore - Joe Leoncio  
Vice Commodore - Richard Kaiser  
Secretary - Alice Starke  
Treasurer - Mike Hooban  
Social Julie Pixler  
Maint. Scots - Dick Vida  
Maint. Cruisers - Vince Penoso  
Skipper Certs. - Brian McPherson  
Training - Steve Youngblood  
Membership - Tree Martschink  
River & Bay - Marie Brennan  
Racing - Jeremy Goucher

### *CHANNELS EDITOR*

A special thanks for member **Dan Sandhaus** who has stepped up to volunteer to be ChaNNels editor. He has also provided many articles of interest to the club in this and past issues. Thanks **Dan!**



A day at the Annapolis Boat Show. Pictured from left to right: SCOW members Martha Gibson, Joe Leoncio, Richard Kaiser (nice hat!), Allen Byrd, and Randy Rosenfeld. Picture courtesy of Martha.

## River and Bay Director's Report

*By Joe Leoncio, River/Bay Director*

*U.S. Sailboat Show - Annapolis, MD.  
Oct 9, 2016*

How many of you have fantasized about buying your own boat and living out the rest of your days exploring a sunny archipelago in

the Caribbean or some far-off, exotic location? The U.S. Sailboat Show in Annapolis, MD, is exactly the place to go to indulge in that fantasy!

On Oct. 9th, a dozen of our fellow SCOW members visited the U.S. Sailboat Show. We explored the dizzying maze of docks and vendors; each individual keen on a personal objective for the show. Jelena Lukic went sailing on the Windward Schooner in 20+ knot winds. Carlie Smith bought a new sweatshirt that says, "Annapolis" on it, and she got a new cruising

guide for the Chesapeake Bay for her bareboat charter trips next year. Many of us, like Richard Kaiser and I, shopped for boats. We inspected cockpits, salons, and berths, picturing ourselves as captains and weighing the pros and cons of this "yacht" over that one. Jonathan Thron, gear aficionado that he is, bought a universal deck plate key. For a group of diverse sailors such as ours, the U.S. Sailboat Show had something for everyone.



Hmmm.... Do I want a Dufour, a Beneteau, or a Bavaria? I'll take one of each please!

*Truckeroo Food Festival - Yards Marina, Anacostia River. Oct. 14, 2016.*

If you already know how to sail and you're proficient on SCOW's Flying Scots, why not learn how to sail SCOW's cruisers? What attracts me about the cruisers are the additional capabilities and versatility in which we can operate them, such as sailing at night. I regularly sail the cruisers at night after work, and Friday night, Oct. 14th, was no exception.

That night the wind was calm so we motored in the dark all the way to Yards Marina to grab dinner at the Truckeroo food festival, dodging thick patches of Hydrilla on the way. Bruce Baker skippered

Git-R-Done, Jonathan Thron skippered Rebecca, and I skippered Skirmish. Between our three boats, we had 12 SCOW members and 3 friends and family of SCOW members as crew. For almost all of the participants, this was the first time they had visited this new part of SCOW's area of operations since the policy was updated this past summer.

The Truckeroo food truck festival was a large lot bordered by food trucks, and it was a bit crowded even though it was already late in the evening for supper. The crews split up and wandered among the food trucks until they found what they wanted, like Maine lobster rolls, Peruvian empanadas, Canadian poutine, chicken and

waffles, and more. Part of the fun was in the forage for food and trying to be decisive among so many choices.

Satisfied with supper, we motored back the way we came, enjoying the lights of the Potomac River at night while also keeping watch for commercial vessels and navigation aids. I rotated crew positions on my boat so that everyone who wanted to practice on the helm had a chance to develop their boating skills. Upon our return at the Washington Sailing Marina, we completed our post-sail checks, expressed thanks to each other for the fellowship and camaraderie, said our goodbyes, and went home to our beds. It was 11:45 pm when the last of us left the marina, but

playing on the river at night with SCOW friends is always time well spent.



Elaine McLaughlin and a friend of SCOW enjoying their lobster rolls.

## From Newbie to International Race Committee

*I told myself, "do it now!" and it all began with SCOW.*

*By Stephanie Samoska. Member since 2014.*

Three years ago, I used to sit on a bench on the river bank directly across from Washington Sailing Marina, looking at the boats sail by, thinking "That must be nice. I wish I had the connections and money to join [what looked like] a private sailing club". I lived vicariously through this scene, and it made me happy --- for a while. Then one day a friend inspired me to go over to the marina and take a closer look. Well! Much to my huge surprise, I saw notices on the bulletin board for several sailing clubs and they were all public! The next day, I created my SCOW Profile and mailed in my membership agreement. The following Thursday, I went to my first Thursday social sail.

The skipper I sailed with that evening was full of information, patient, happy to teach and to answer all my questions. I was eager to learn, and willing to do anything. As I went again and again to Social Sail, I met many more skippers who helped me learn. I kept abreast of the club's activities and volunteered as often as I could. My favorite volunteer activity, still to this day, is participating in the Special Olympics racing program.

Volunteering with SCOW led to deeper relationships and more opportunities, invitations to crew with SCOW and other sailing clubs and associations, and more requests to volunteer for events. One of the most interesting opportunities was being asked to be a permanent race crew member on a Pearson 37. With them, I've raced in the long distance course of the Governor's Cup two years in a row. Another great opportunity was joining the SCOW Race Committee.

Joining the Race Committee team led to my taking up two wonderful opportunities: one was getting certified through the U.S. Coast

Guard's all-encompassing sailing and safety course, and the other was qualifying as a Principal Race Officer through the official Race Committee class offered by U.S. Sailing.

And that led to the most exciting sailing volunteer job I've ever had. In July, I was asked to join the Race Committee team for a week-long international, official Olympic-level competition on Lake Ontario, in Canada. The racing requirements and processes were basically the same, but this time the stakes for, and expectations of, the competitors, their coaches, and their judges were infinitely higher. Therefore all race committee members had to be at the top of their game in executing their individual duties sharply, clearly, properly, and in a timely manner. The Principal Race Officer (PRO) also judged each of us on our duties and we were evaluated at the end of each day. In addition, the conditions of a massive lake such as Lake Ontario required one's utmost concentration, strength, and perseverance. We were in close quarters, and sailed in 25 knot winds with three foot swells for approximately six hours a day. One day, I was on the Pin boat, lifting

and dropping marks every half hour or so. That day, I was awarded the title "*Anchor Yanker Extraordinaire*". The other days, I was the signaler, responsible for raising, securing, and lowering flags for 3 different Classes, as well as the Prep and four alternative penalty flags (which we used often), two other warning flags at the start (Oscar and Romeo), and two Recall flags. That was in addition to identifying and displaying the course type and direction for each class. It sounded relatively easy --- until I found that,

because the lake conditions were so 'active', I had to "anchor" myself into the corner of the rail at the stern by lowering my center of gravity below the rail. With my height, I ended standing in a nearly perfect 90 degree squat position for five minutes, every 20 minutes, for six hours a day! A week very well lived through varying and distinctive challenges that have had a profound impact upon me and now reverberates through everything else I do. After all, smooth seas never made a good

sailor.....nor Race Committee member!

And it's only been three sailing seasons so far! I think I am making up for lost time and I look forward to all the other surprises, opportunities, and friendships that are undoubtedly on the horizon in the coming seasons.

I am *very* grateful to SCOW's skippers and all the other SCOW members who made every moment of this possible.

## Hydrilla Hell This Year

### Likely No Relief Next Year

By Dick Kerr

The masses of "submerged aquatic vegetation" or SAV clogging the docks, the lagoon, and even the river this season have been a real drag. And scientists can't offer much encouragement about Potomac boaters' future with SAV, much of which can be Hydrilla, an invasive escapee from the ornamental plant trade stocking aquariums. Though we boaters use "Hydrilla" as shorthand for the underwater green stuff that we have been scrapping off our rudders lately, about a dozen native aquatic plant species thrive in the upper Potomac River as well.

Dr. Nancy Rybicki, U.S. Geological Survey SAV expert

for the Potomac and the Bay, gave the bad news in an email: "If the past is any indication of the future, the abundance [of SAV] in the upper tidal Potomac River will be similar next year, unless weather conditions are unusually poor for growth in the

SAV—absent the yet-to-arrive Hydrilla—was abundant in the early 20th century in the Potomac, but from the 1950s to the 1970s, it was scarce or absent. Pollutant nitrogen from sewage discharges (primarily from the Blue Plains treatment



spring ...." And weeding SAV more than around the docks takes serious money that no one has anymore.

SAV at the Washington Sailing Marina (Photo by Nancy Rybicki, USGS)

plant) and agricultural runoff was fertilizing floating microscopic algae so that it grew so thick that it shaded out native SAV species. Hydrilla only appeared since about 1980, and was one of the many species of SAV to come back after the cleanup of the tidal Potomac began in earnest.

Hydrilla loves the environment of its new home. As a result, it does remarkably well here. But all that's green in the Potomac these days isn't necessarily Hydrilla. Native SAV species can have a good year and dominate

in some places while a bad growing year can knock down all SAV species. A bad growing year has lots of storms to flush the river with high flows. Storms also jack up water turbidity that cuts off essential sunlight, the way algal blooms used to do. Lots of clouds cut down on sunlight too. Those sorts of poor conditions knocked down SAV in 2003 and 2011, according to Dr. Rybicki. A slow rebound since 2012 then brought us to this season's trials for boaters, she says.

More natural variations in SAV abundance no doubt lie ahead,

likely in favor of boaters (could it get any worse?). But scientists are hard-pressed to predict how SAV will fare in any given year. The hard fact is that SAV is back and is at peak abundance, which for many people is good news; it can improve water quality and provide an environment favoring many aquatic organisms. Even Hydrilla has its good side. But in coming years boaters may have to put their heads together to see how they can make the best of a bad situation.

## Hail and Farewell 2016 Wrap-Up

By Richard Kaiser - Social Director 2016 & Julie Pixler Social Director 2017

The Sailing Club of Washington created hundreds of long-lasting memories from 2016; *After Glow*, featuring our first annual *Crockpot Regatta*, *Spring Re-Up*, our first Social Sail featuring *Burning of the Socks*, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, *Cinco De Mayo* and a jubilant *Oktoberfest!* 2016 was a jam-packed year of over 20+ events that brought our members together, and the icing on the cake (pun intended) was the fabulous Hail & Farewell celebration November 12<sup>th</sup> at Ft. McNair

Officers Club for the 5<sup>th</sup> time in SCOW history.

We were welcomed at Ft McNair by a new catering company that really hit the mark from our cocktail hour through the extra hour at the end of our party to cap off 2 hours of dancing with our great DJ Mike and my favorite - socializing - with some of the most fun-loving sailors in the metropolitan area.

Two exciting features of the evening's program were the Annual Achievement awards and the Officer/Directors awards. Here are the 2016 recipients:

### 2016 ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

***Ellie Abramson Award - John Kauffman*** - Awarded annually for outstanding service to the Club over an extended period.

### ***Al Blankfield Award – Becky Cole***

- Awarded annually for outstanding service to the Club during the past year.

### ***Woodie Woodside Award – David Beckett***

- Awarded annually to the SCOW member who has done the most to promote sailing by sharing his/her love of sailing through example, mentoring and service to the Club.

## DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS VOLUNTEER AWARDEES

### ***River and Bay Director***

Gold – Jonathan Thron, Silver – Becky Cole & Bill Davenport

### ***Training Director***

Gold – Neil Shepherd, Silver – Jan Earle & John Kauffman

### ***Racing Director***

Gold – Dave Beckett, Silver – Mike Hooban & Dick Kerr

***Social Director***

Gold – Julie Pixler, Silver – Carol Bartl & Jim Klein

***Maintenance Director Flying Scots***

Gold – Jim Klein, Silver – Julian Mallett & Brian McPherson

***Maintenance Director Cruisers***

Gold – John Kauffman, Silver – Bill Davenport & Rob Reuter

***Skipper Director***

Gold – John Kauffman, Silver – Richard Lawrence & Jan Earle

***Membership Director***

Gold – Jeff Teitel

***Treasurer***

Gold – Chris Von Guggenberg

**Honorable Mention Awards for their service ABOVE AND BEYOND**

**River and Bay** - Kevin Longenbach, Michael McNulty, Mike Rothenberg, Barbara Thacker, Thom Unger

**Training Director** - Bill Gillespie, John Rogers, Dan Sandhaus, Tom Vandenbosche

**Social Director** - Martha Gibson, Joe Leoncio, Kris Paul, Randy Rosenfeld, Dick Vida

**Maintenance Director – Flying Scot** - George Clark, Mike Hooban, Chris Kehoe, Richard Lawrence, Randy Rosenfeld

**Racing Director** - Ana Areias, Becky Cole, Chris Kehoe, Stephanie Samoska, Alice Starcke

Many thanks to the outgoing 2016 SCOW Board. (Photo by Julie Pixler)



**Special Olympics volunteers were also honored for their amazing service to the community. These volunteers were awarded the *Above and Beyond* Certificates of Service:**

Sue Beffel, Marie Brennan, Shirley Gao, Elisabeth Graham, John Graham, Mike Hooban, John Imparato, Richard Kaiser, Maggie Kruesi, Greg Loew, Jelena Lukic, Elaine McLaughlin, Kevin McMahon, Celia Ochs, Julie Pixler, Luis Rivas, Kristine Sadusky, Stephanie Samoska, Dick Vida

**We also said farewell and smooth seas to a great group of dedicated Club members, the outgoing Board of Directors:**

#### **Farewell to the 2016 Board**

Commodore – Rob Reuter, Vice Commodore – Amy Deckelbaum, Secretary – Kevin Longenbach, Treasurer – Mike Hooban, Maintenance Directors – Dick Vida & Vince Penoso, Racing – Jeremy Goucher, River & Bay – Joe Leoncio, Skipper – Teresa Fralish, Social – Richard Kaiser, Training – Greg Prather, and Membership – Elisabeth Graham

We also had the opportunity to toast the 2017 Board of Directors:

#### **Hail to the 2017 Board**

Commodore – Joe Leoncio, Vice Commodore – Richard Kaiser, Secretary – Alice Starcke, Treasurer – Mike Hooban, Maintenance Directors – Dick Vida & Vince Penoso, Racing – Jeremy Goucher, River & Bay – Marie Brennan, Skipper – Brian



Turning over the reins from the old Commodore (Rob Reuter) to the young (oops – I mean new) Commodore (Joe Leoncio). (Photo by Julie Pixler)

McPherson, Social – Julie Pixler, Training – Steve Youngblood, and Membership – Tree Martschink.

Hail and Farewell 2017 is now in the memory banks of all who attended and by all accounts, it was a great evening. One of my highlights of the evening was turning over the Social Director's burgee to our new Social Director - Julie Pixler. I can't imagine a better pick for the 2017 Social Director.

Please give Julie all of the support that you shared with me throughout 2016 - I had a great

time working with all of you and look forward to a great 2017.

Have a safe and happy holiday season - we'll see you all on January 7<sup>th</sup> for **SCOW's After Glow** party - get your Crockpots ready to go! The regatta **Notice of Race** will be coming out soon.



Dancing up a storm at the Hail & Farewell, (Photo by Julie Pixler).

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Correction from the last issue: Cover photo courtesy of Julie Pixler.

