

ChanNels

The Newsletter of the Sailing Club of Washington
February 2010



Commodore's Log

By Chris Von Guggenberg, Commodore

February! Yep, that's the month that lingers cold before serious sailing activity starts up in March. At least that is how it usually works. Nevertheless, the Board has planned a few things, completed the Calendar for 2010, and will be working on the budget for the year.

In that regard, we will be addressing the dues and fees for 2010 at the February member meeting on the 8th, namely this is a special meeting called to address this recommendation by a majority of the board members calling for an increase in membership dues and skipper fees. The board voted to increase the dues by a nominal amount as a consequence of growing expenses and the need to replenish some of the reserves for future expenditures. The proposed increase is very nominal thanks to the large number of participants. The following is the proposal:

	Current	Proposed
<u>Membership</u>		
Individual:	\$45	\$50
Household:	\$70	\$80
<u>Skipper dues</u>		
Flying Scot:	\$90	\$100
Cruiser:	\$125	\$140
Both:	\$160	\$180

While the increase is small, it is vital to the long-term financial health of our club that we enact the increase. Please note that we do require a quorum (15% of the membership or approximately 70 members, in person or via proxy). I hope you'll come in person and also enjoy our speaker, but, if you cannot, I'd request that you authorize Vice Commodore Faith Rodell to vote your proxy in favor of the increase. You can send such written authorization by email to fsrodell@comcast.net. *(continued on page 2)*

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Indicate in your email that you are a paid member, and that you authorize her to vote "yes" at the Special Membership meeting in favor of the dues and fee increase.

It is my understanding that member dues have not increased since 2004 and skipper dues since 2002. It is thanks to the volunteer efforts of members like you that we have been able to hold the cost of membership and skipper dues as affordable as they are. Please consider either attending the meeting or submitting your proxy. I will not be able to make that meeting and Faith Rodell will be in charge that evening.

In addition to the February membership meeting, things to keep an eye out for (there must be a nautical term for that!) are the Re-up Brunch on March 14 and the upcoming social sail on April 1. Stay tuned to your email for upcoming ad hoc activities by your fellow sailing friends.

The board meetings are the first Monday of the month, meeting in the Charleston Room at Indigo Landing Restaurant at the Marina.

The general membership meetings are on the second Monday of the month at the American Legion Hall in Alexandria with social hours and new member orientation downstairs 6:30 to 7:30 PM and meeting from 7:30 to 9:00 PM upstairs. The guest speaker at the February meeting on the 8th will be as follows:

Guest speaker: John C. Harris of Chesapeake Light Craft

Topic: Building Your Own Small Boat.

We look forward to your continued participation in this wonderful organization.

Sincerely yours,

Chris von Guggenberg
Commodore

Maintaining the Club's Fleet

Save the date: Saturday, March 27th, 2010 for SCOW Maintenance Day

By Mark Hogan, Maintenance Director



All SCOW members should make every possible effort to join other members in helping to maintain the SCOW fleet on March 27th. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend. There will be plenty to do for everyone -- whether you are a hands-on person or mechanically-challenged, your help is needed and very much appreciated. Look for further details in the coming days via email and on the SCOW Website.

Members who have not already volunteered to join one of the Boat Maintenance Teams should join one of these teams now. The club maintains six sailboats including four Flying Scots (Ms Ellie, Selkie, Susie Q, and Sunset Song) and two Catalina 25-foot cruisers (Topaz and

Rebecca). A maintenance team supports each boat in the fleet and each team is headed by a Bosun, the team leader. The Bosun identifies tasks that need to be performed and coordinates assigning those tasks to team members. Preventative maintenance is ongoing and accommodates the schedule of individual team members. Repairs can be more time sensitive, but no one should be concerned that by volunteering for a team they will be asked to do more than they are willing or able to take on.

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The willingness of members to volunteer their time to maintaining the fleet is one of the primary reasons why the club can continue to set nominal dues. Most of the expense of maintaining the fleet is accomplished by the member volunteers. By each of us doing our part, significant costs are avoided.

Volunteering for maintenance is also very educational. Working alongside experienced skippers, boat owners and others show the less experienced how it is done and provide a hands-on opportunity to learn the in and outs of sailboat rigging, sails, hulls, trailers, etc.

To join one of the Boat Maintenance Teams email the Maintenance Director, Mark Hogan at maintdir@scow.org or email the maintenance team directly:

Flying Scot Maintenance Teams:

Ms Ellie	msellie@scow.org	Bosun:	TBD
Selkie	selkie@scow.org	Bosun:	Moyra Cassidy
Susie Q	susieq@scow.org	Bosun:	Maggie Kruesi
Sunset Song	sunsetsong@scow.org	Bosun:	Martin Branham



Cruiser Maintenance Teams, (25 foot Catalinas)

Rebecca	rebecca@scow.org	Bosun:	Richard Magee
Topaz	topaz@scow.org	Bosun:	Chris McGraw



On behalf of the entire membership I would like to thank those who have made an ongoing commitment to maintaining the fleet and encourage all members to join these volunteers keeping our fleet well maintained. I would also like to thank the following Senior Bosuns who volunteer their time and expertise in mentoring those of us with less experience:

Bill Bernhards	Jan Earle	Kim Richards	Ron Sheldon
Bill Davenport	Jay Weitzel	Neil Shepherd	Steve Linke
Declan Conroy	Jeff Teitel	Patrick Derry	Stuart Ullman
Fran Jezisek	Joe DePoorter	Paul Cyre	Thom Unger
George Umberger	John Roland	Rodger Casey	Tom Kelly

Thank you,

Mark Hogan
Maintenance Director

Membership Meetings -- Great Guests for February and March

By Faith Rodell, Vice Commodore

We have some great speakers scheduled for our General Membership meetings on the 2nd Monday of each month this year at the Old Town Alexandria American Legion, 400 Cameron Street, Alexandria, Va. Don't miss our February and March meetings:

Feb 8th: John Harris from Chesapeake Light Craft, who is very knowledgeable about boat design and building will speak on "Building Your Own Small Boat".

March 8th: Captain Jennifer Kaye, Schooner Woodwind – Topic: "Let's quit our jobs, buy a big sailboat and take people sailing". How many times have you said this, or known people to say this? Come meet a family who did and are successful at making this American Dream come true. Twin, 74-ft schooners "Woodwind" and "Woodwind II" that sail out of Annapolis are her family's dream come true.

Please let Vice Commodore, Faith Rodell, know if there are other topics that you would like to hear about this year by submitting your request to: vice@scow.org.

Winter Boat Maintenance

By Jim Klein, SCOW Member

Winters can be long and cold and quite honestly a little depressing. So what better way to cheer yourself up than to throw on hat and gloves and stop down at Washington Sailing Marina and just give our boats a quick check and a little TLC?

When I'm down there I usually check a few minor items (on the Flying Scots), like draining out rainwater (which can accumulate significantly), making sure the cover is on securely, and assuring that items like PFDs and wooden paddles do not sit in puddles of water (they can be put up on the benches or shoved forward where there's less water). As Doug Kelch used to tell me, every little bit helps.



The cold, lonely dock at Washington Sailing Marina.

While you are down there, you can take a look at some changes we've made to the boats, specifically the addition of horn cleats on the booms which will allow quick and easy mainsail reefing and the addition of spinnaker hardware to Sunset Song and Selkie. A nice swim ladder was added to Sunset Song for safety reasons. The trailers look nicer too thanks to our new Maintenance Director Mark Hogan. Yes, even in the dark and cold of the winter some hardy and intrepid souls have been busy adding this and tweaking that!

Take a minute to picture in your mind how the new reefing system will work or how you will fly that spinnaker next July in the beautiful summer air just as the sun is setting. This both benefits our boats and will help lift your spirits and buoy you through to next April.

- Jim Klein

Winter Sailing Report

By Tom Paquin, Editor

As I was working on the format of this month's newsletter, I thought it needed some pictures. So taking advantage of the last warm day of January on Thursday the 28th, I hopped on my bike and headed towards the marina.

Not surprisingly, I didn't see a single boat out on the water, SCOW or otherwise. The temperature had warmed a bit, but nobody appeared encouraged to take a boat out. Making my way over to G-dock to check on Rebecca and Topaz, I noticed something out of place – where was the ghost ship that used to be in the slip next to Topaz? You know, the one with the bubble cockpit that had sat there for years without moving? Perhaps an adventurous soul was out there sailing after all.



Not a soul was sailing . . . or was there?

Got an article idea, photos or other content for a future newsletter? Send an email to the editor, Tom Paquin, at: channels09@scow.org.

Next Membership Meeting: Monday, February 8, 2010

Guest Speaker: John Harris from Chesapeake Light Craft, who is very knowledgeable about boat design and building will speak on "Building Your Own Small Boat".

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

Time: Socializing downstairs begins at 6:30 pm; meeting begins upstairs at 7:30 pm

Social Sail	Every Thursday, Washington Sailing Marina, April - October, 6:00 pm
Social No-Sail	Events and locations vary, December - April, 6:00 pm
Board Meetings	1st Monday of every month, 7:00 pm (open to members)
Channels Deadline	20 th of every month. Submit articles to: channels09@scow.org
2009 Calendar	http://www.scow.org/calendar.html
SCOW Pictures	http://picasaweb.google.com/Sailing.Club.of.Washington
SCOW Web Site	http://www.scow.org



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For information about club activities

Visit <http://www.scow.org> or email info@scow.org