

From the Commodore 2017

Commodore Ray Ruppert

Greetings Fellow Cruisers!

It is time again to cast off our lines and enjoy another SCOO cruising season. Rest assured your Flag Officers and Board members are committed to ensuring that Oriental's primary cruising club will accomplish the club's goal of encouraging and planning both cruising and boating activities for our members.

This goal, established when our club was formed in 1984, is achievable because we are fortunate to follow in the wake of so many great sailors who have gone before us. This year is no different. I am privileged to have an exceptional group of individuals to work with. The work of sailing a boat is made much easier by having a good crew aboard and I could not ask for a finer group of folks to help navigate the waters ahead.

Speaking of helping to navigating waters ahead, our Rear Commodore, Roger Hammer, is preparing a series of Winter Seminars designed to help us meet some of the unique challenges that only those that venture out on the water in boats face.

Our Vice Commodore, Chris Behre, has crafted a superb cruising schedule that will enable us to put to use the knowledge gained from our annual seminars. Our cruising schedule has something for everyone from short overnight trips to cruises of several weeks in duration. This schedule, designed for both sailboats and power boats, is what makes our club unique among Oriental's boating organizations.

I've asked both Chris and Roger to navigate some new waters by working with the Neuse Sailing Association to see if we could host some training seminars together and possibly have a joint cruise or two. Hopefully, these joint efforts will give our club greater exposure to the Oriental sailing community.

Visit our website: www.scoo.org to see both the Winter Seminars and our Cruising Schedule

Talking of exposure, just as you would expose more sail to the wind to increase your speed so must we increase our club's exposure to move forward. We have a wonderful organization with great learning opportunities, unique cruising experiences and tremendous fellowship both on and off of the water. But if we don't promote our club to newcomers, our club will be adrift before we know it. New members are the life blood of any organization. So I ask each of you to help recruit new members- members that not only have a boat but want to cruise.

Visit our website and purchase an item or two of SCOO gear. Wear the gear around town. Use every opportunity to promote our wonderful club.

And speaking of members, our club activities are run by members. Pitch in and help in club activities. It is a great way to get to meet your fellow sailors and have some fun.

As we sail into both known and unknown waters this coming year, let's all grab a line and pull together to once again have another wonderful year of cruising and boating opportunities.

I look forward to seeing you on the water.