



# Sysco News

SEPTEMBER 2004

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Small Yacht Sailing Club of Oregon ♦ P. O. Box 5502 ♦ Portland, OR 97228

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## SYSCO Awards Banquet Around the Corner

SANDY SMITH

Well, fellow Sailors, it is hard to believe but the racing season is rapidly coming to an end and it is time once again for the SYSCO Awards Banquet, Saturday, October 9. This year's event will be held in a new venue: The Water Resources Education Center in Vancouver. It is east of Beaches Restaurant on Columbia Way by the new condominiums. If you have not been there, I think you will be quite pleased with this lovely facility.

The dinner will be catered buffet style by Capers CafØ, and we'll have a no host bar. Yes there will be a raffle with a twist! All raffle tickets must be purchased prior to the event as one of the restrictions of this

property is that no money can exchange hands on the premises. Thus, you must purchase your raffle tickets when you send in your dinner reservation.

Speaking of raffles! I need all the help I can get in securing raffle prizes. If you have some time and don't mind working for peanuts (actually free) I could sure

use some Sandy's Helpers to solicit and collect those raffle prizes!

I hope you plan to join us for an evening of kudos, exciting sea stories and (hopefully) plenty of fun. Flyers are in the mail! Call me (360) 690-4422, or email at [skchick@pcez.com](mailto:skchick@pcez.com), if you have questions or want to volunteer to help!



*Bill and Vicki Sanborn on their way to dinner at Coon Island...a bit different affair than the upcoming Awards Banquet.*

## General Membership Meeting

Make sure to attend SYSCO's General Membership meeting Monday, September 20, 7:00 p.m. at Mars Meadow restaurant (Hayden Meadows). Come at 6:00 p.m. for dinner and socializing. This is the first membership meeting since the summer break and always is a good time to catch up on members' summer activities.

P.S. The SYSCO Board meets the first-Monday of each month. Time: 6:30 p.m. Location: Barley Mill Pub, 1629 S.E. Hawthorne. All members are welcome.

## Thoughts from the Rear

*Bill Sanborn*

As the sailing season winds down and the weather begins to turn, we still need to think about the boat, go through a winter checklist and make sure that the boat will be secure and ready for the inclement weather that is close at hand. We have a checklist and every time we use the boat during the winter we go down the list after we dock to feel comfortable that the boat is secure and ready for most weather conditions.

The 2004 SYSCO racing season is complete with the St Helens Race, but there are a couple of cruises still to happen. There's the always fun ABC for the boys in mid-October, followed by the beautiful Fall Colors Cruise, with a little Halloween thrown in, to

Coon Island October 23 & 24. And of course the always-popular SYSCO Fall Awards Party.

Vicki and I went out for a Fun Friday Evening SYSCO Beer Can and found that there was no Committee and lots of folks waiting, so we found our boat horn, blew a few notes and watched the clock as close as we could while sailing for a Hare and Hound start. Most folks figured out what we were doing and made a start and sailed a leg around buoy #2 and back toward 14. Most just kept going east with a nice warm breeze and spinnakers flying. The bad news is we got no bribes, but the good news is we got to sail.

Hare and Hound starts are good for a fleet pickup race and no committee is needed. To set this

one up I sailed up to buoy 14 and was next to it as I blew the 1 minute to go horn and gived on to Port and sailed straight away for the last minute and blew the start signal. Normally without the horns the hare boat would pass the mark on a tight reach and the hound boats would pass between the mark and the hare boat's stern on the opposite tack, not tacking until the hare boat had seen all the hound boats pass astern, and the hare tacks first releasing the hound boats to tack or change course.

As we were sailing down river on the St Helens race we saw a flight of Trumpeter Swans crossing the river. That is to me an indication that it is getting close to Potato Planting Time. Pencil in October 16 & 17.

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## Commodore's Comments

*Alan Boguslawski*

September always seems to catch me by surprise. I'm just getting the hang of summer by the time September makes a showing. Suddenly there's not enough time to go sailing after work because, while I wasn't paying attention, the days have been getting shorter by five or six minutes each successive day. (Yes, I do understand that the actual days are not getting shorter just the daylight hours. It's just a figure of speech.)

I have to accept that another summer is winding down. And what that means in the SYSCO world is that the races are over and the results are published. No more chances to improve our score.

Oh well! At least the celebration remains! Next month is the SYSCO Banquet (Saturday, October 9, if you haven't yet put it

on your calendar). We can still look forward to that annual opportunity over an immaculately-dressed table, to compare versions with our fellow skippers (barely recognizable up close in banquet dress) of what actually happened out there on the water during the heat of competition and the heat of summer. And we can have our crew members there to back up our stories. And we can cheer and toast each other as prizes are awarded.

Each year I am amazed anew at the great number of people who turn out for this SYSCO social event of the year. That's probably because during the rest of the year, as I attend the board meetings and the general membership meetings, SYSCO seems like such a very small club.

While our membership roster lists 90 to 100 individuals or

couples, and while a very high percentage of those members participate regularly as skippers and crew in SYSCO racing events, it is a very few individuals whose efforts actually enable such wide spread participation.

You are probably now recognizing this month's article for what it blatantly is...an appeal to members for more participation in the affairs of the club.

As the racing season and another year winds down, we need also to look toward a changing of the guard. From among you members need to come forward some new club officers and committee chairs.

Take up, if you will, your copy of the 2004 SYSCO Official Membership Roster and Bylaws (I know you got one because Robyn

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## Board Meeting Minutes

SEPTEMBER 7, 2004 (1730 HRS)

**PRESENT** Alan Boguslawski, Steve Moshofsky, Sandy Smith, REBT, and Ronnie Spector.

**COMMODORE, AND ON BEHALF OF THE RACE CAPTAIN** The Race Captain is out of town. In his absence, Alan led the planning for the annual St. Helens Race and Cruise, to be held in three days. After quite a bit of discussion, Steve or Alan, both planning to race that day, will handle the start. The Board also discussed last Friday's beer can race and the failure of a

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has done a marvelous job in her role of Membership Chair). Open it up to the bylaws section, browse through the material for a few minutes and re-familiarize yourself with the ingredients of your club. You will see that our founding fathers (some of whom still roam among us) have thoroughly and meticulously provided a structure that will ensure the successful social and sailing endeavors of the membership...so long as members are ready and willing to participate in the organizational affairs of the club.

Your current board will soon bring forward to the general membership a slate of nominees for office in accordance with the bylaws. We will be looking toward each SYSCO fleet to bring forward volunteers to fill out that slate. These individuals will experience over the next year the satisfaction of serving the club in ways that will be celebrated at the 2005 SYSCO Banquet.

In the meantime, I look forward to seeing all of you at this year's banquet.

SYSCO committee boat to be on station. The skipper and crew of the race boat Upstart assumed the duties of committee boat. By motion and second, the Board confirmed that two

Race/Cruise glasses will be awarded to each entry in the St. Helens Race and that extra glasses will be available for sale at the dock in St. Helens for \$5 per pair.

**SECRETARY** The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

**TREASURER** Steve told us that there is an approximate balance in the checking account of \$6,434; an amount which does not include checks for deposit handed to him tonight, and an expense check or two which were written tonight. Steve awaits receipt of the One Design entry fees from our Race Captain.

**BANQUET/AWARDS DINNER** Sandy brought us up to date on the plans for the upcoming Banquet, including: the per plate charge and the flat fees; the menu (buffet); attendees must purchase the \$1 raffle tickets at the time their dinner reservations are made; the registration flyers to the membership and other interested people; and, the wonderful location in Vancouver. Sandy told us that she is working on the raffle items, and that she



*Sails hung limp at the start of this year's SYSCO St. Helens Race, but filled later as it was a sail all the way to the St. Helens dock.*

would like to have the membership's help in soliciting items for the raffle. Karen Anderson may be working on the awards and trophies, and Alan will follow up with Phil and/or Karen about this ASAP.

**CRUISING** On behalf of Cruisemasters Bobs, REBT reported that a total of ten boats attended the very casual Labor Day cruise to Coon Island. (BTW, there was 100 percent attendance by P Fleet.)

**PONCHO II (MARK BOAT)** Thomas MacMenemy will haul Poncho this weekend, and begin the usual maintenance and repairs.

**NEW BUSINESS** By email, Bill Sanborn has recommended to the Board that it not buy ad space in the Columbia Crossing publication. The Club paid \$380 for a 1/16th ad space, and the Board feels that it is likely that no new members were obtained as a result of that ad. On motion and second, the Board voted against buying ad space in that publication.

This meeting was adjourned at 1930.

*Respectfully submitted,  
REBT, Secretary*



SYSCO  
P.O. Box 5502  
Portland, OR 97228

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

**SYSCO Meeting**  
**Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.**

**Dinner begins**  
**6 p.m.**

## The Afterguard

*BOB WALDRON*

Lately this writer has been exposed to an unprecedented number of demonstrations (and perhaps lack) of leadership. This of course has nothing to do with the fact it is an election year, a change of command (not un-anticipated) in my own office, re-runs of Band of Brothers, and other observations; it may mean I am just more sensitive to it and paying more attention.

Some seek the responsibility of leadership without even realizing it by inviting others to crew aboard their boat, to compete and win races. Others even seek leadership opportunities, but not typically. Perhaps it comes naturally to step into that role; experience has been built through work or business, military service, athletics are somewhere else. It is a skill, I firmly believe, that is learned. The Natural Leader may exist somewhere, not like popularity contests we recall from many years ago in high school, but I would suggest even the natural needs

mentoring and coaching to achieve full potential. Usually the mantel of leadership is thrust upon the individual: they seem to be the last man (person) standing, or more accurately the only one in the room who made eye contact. This method of choosing leaders for the next administrative year is typical in an organization like ours, and is repeated as a ritual throughout our society at regular intervals. Believe me I know! More than a few, then, have been in that position. After a brief period of squirming, an aborted denial, they accept the situation and attempt to move forward. Those who have passed through this rite, knowingly nod their heads, hope we are not called upon to committee something, and if the greater goodness of character prevails, do not pass judgment on what success or failures are realized for that administrative year. You see by that time the coaching opportunity I mentioned above is gone. Everyone else has no privileges in making any such assessment. For some reason this

process works in thousands of civic and service organizations, club sports, and brotherhoods too numerous. Every year people like me hope, expostulate, and pray for a better system.

Next month the process begins again for SYSCO. ; I would like to express my thanks to the Officers of SYSCO, past and present, for their work and effort on behalf of the Club specifically and to sailing generally. This also is to all the people who work in those unsung duties and support the club's activities. For everyone else it is time to step up. You do not have to look far for inspiration. There will be many to make sure you do not fail and all will be there to make sure the Club succeeds. Fear not, SYSCO has more past (title) everything, than any organization with which I have been involved, to coach and mentor you to success. So when the call comes, the eye contact is made, no worries, you can do it, learn from it, and be better for it!

**SEE YOU ON THE RIVER.**