



The Starting Line

MAY 2007

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

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20 Days Before the Mast on a Danish Square Rigger

Plan to attend the May General Membership Meeting, May 21, 2007; 7 pm at Elmer's at Delta Park (please notice the change in venue). Come early at 6 pm for dinner and socializing.

The May program is "20 Days Before the Mast in a Scandinavian Square Rigger." Arne Soreng served on a 300' Norwegian square rigger during WWII. This vessel was an American ship that was used to locate enemy sub-marines and then report them to the Navy.

P.S. The SYSCO Board meets the first Monday of each month.

Time: 6:30 pm. Location: O'Conner's Restaurant in Multnomah Village, 7850 SW Capital Hwy.



This is the Norwegian squarerigger Sorlandet scudding along. It is very similar to the Danish squarerigger Danmark that our guest speaker sailed in 1945.

Many Hands Make Light Work

KAREN ANDERSON, SYSCO RACE CAPTAIN

With the SYSCO racing season well under way, I want to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who continue to help with race committee responsibilities and keep the SYSCO race program successful. Although the wind gods have not been extremely cooperative with the Spring Series, your committees have been on the spot and ready to go. Thanks fleet captains: Tony Humpage, Mike Oxborrow, Rock Kent, Blaine Goold, Bob Rouse, Nate Hanson, John Hatch, Larry Johnson, and Dave Paligo. And speaking of volunteers, we are beginning the search for the next year's race captain.

The SYSCO Spring Regatta provided lots of mark roundings, with some fleets completing five races in a busy afternoon. Congratulations to winners:

Tony Humpage, MERLIN, PHRF A
Charlie MacDonald, DRAGONFLY, 172 Fleet;
Stephen Estes, LOLA, J-24
Craig Daniels, FOR MY GIRLS, Cal 20
Bill Sanborn, UPSTART, Cruising fleet

This weekend provides a different kind of race: Rose City has scheduled an upriver route and are busy praying for wind. With a variable distance course, they are ready for whatever the weather provides. And after the race, there is a lively social at RCYC. Hope you all come out.

See you on the water

Thoughts from the Rear

BILL SANBORN

I've heard the question posed "how long should the Committee Wait for wind?" My response is this:

Two things will happen: you wait and wait and nothing will develop and you figure that no race can be completed prior to sunset, so you call the race and the boats sail off their anchors and head home. Or, you watch the boats which are trying to sail and see how they do. Look around the River for boats sailing in other areas and at the clouds to see how they are moving the wind. Make a decision based on the evidence. In one case during an evening race this Spring, the clue was the rain just starting: that tells me that there is front moving in and the odds are that something could develop, and it did.

The timing for abandoning a race seems like a fair question. Because of the fact that all those folks came to sail, I would go at least 30 minutes and maybe the last five minutes on my knees begging the "Wind God". Still, sometimes you are cursed.

More SYSCO Socials

Our Commodore Rod is serious about promoting member socials and the plan now is to have gatherings after both the last Tuesday and Thursday Summer Evening Series at Tomahawk Bay. This will be a chance for the Fleets that are not racing that evening to help with the Parties.

Cruising

Several of us ended up at the West Dock on Government Island May 5th and spent a nice weekend at the dock. Memorial Weekend we will meet in the pond at Martin Island. You are invited to join the raft up. This is a fun time to sail a dingy or explore with a kayak. The Delta Cruise will begin July 28th, meeting at Martin Island and spending the week, the weekend, or however much time you can spare exploring the lower River.

See you on The Starting Line.

SYSCO Board Meeting – MAY 7, 2007

Meeting was called to order by Commodore Rod Dawson. Present were Bill Sanborn, Karen Anderson, Phil Campagna, Al Calcagno, Sandy Smith, Bob Brown, Frank Bocarde and Marco Fischer.

Sandy reported on correspondence we have received. Mostly advertisements and catalogs.

Racing: Karen states we have 6 more boats this year than last for the Spring Series. She still needs a Race Committee for one of the beer cans. She has looked into the special race timer/horn and is now recommending we don't invest in that unless we can have a secure box to store it in on Poncho as it is very expensive. Speaking of Poncho; it is using more fuel this year so just a heads up that the expense for that will likely be more than expected.

Al reports we have 12 more members than we planned for so that membership income is higher than expected. Also, we are over budget on the membership printing, postage, etc costs. Other than that we are solvent.

Bill & Phil talked about an impromptu cruise they attended at West Dock over Cinco de Mayo with the OWSA meeting. Sounds like they had a good time.

Rod said he got 47 questionnaires back – about the percentage that was expected. He says most respondents are happy with the newsletter as it is, 5 want soft copies and email notification and 6 would prefer hard copies mailed to their homes. We will ask Mike to accommodate those requests. We also received 5 volunteers for the Program committee but no one agreed to chair it so we will ask them all to serve as a committee which will be less work and give them a nice excuse to get together over beers to plan programs.

Rod then said that he had lunch with Brad Howton from Columbia Crossings and he is anxious to help us out in whatever capacity they can. He said they will be happy to include a flyer about our group in one of the monthly billing mailings they do and thinks it would be a good idea to put some copies of the newsletter in their leasing office. He also said we are welcome to post flyers on the bulletin boards at all their facilities and recommends we do that at other marinas as well. Brad also said that Columbia Crossings will donate \$300 towards hiring a band for our Awards Banquet this year. He also offered us the free use of their BBQ and lawn at Tomahawk Bay anytime we would like to use it.

Short discussion about the Awards Banquet followed. It is scheduled for PYC again this year. We would like to put a short notice about it in each of the newsletters from now until the event. There will be some door prizes but no raffle. Each attendee will receive one door prize ticket with their paid entry and they can purchase more at the event.

We then discussed the possibility of having a picnic or two. Lots of suggestions were made but it was difficult to try to plan around other events since Mike & Mary weren't there. We tentatively decided we'd like to host a BBQ at the Tomahawk Bay facility following the July 10th & 12th races. Would like to have some of the Tuesday racers do the honors for Thursday night and vice versa. This is your chance to get your volunteer time in!!

Karen is starting to look for the Race Chairperson for 2008, and anyone who might be interested needs to contact her

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
SANDY SMITH, SECRETARY

Commodore's Comments

ROD DAWSON

General Membership Meetings

The April 16 General Membership meeting was terrific. Gail O'Neill and Bob Gayles talked about their trip to Chile, their ferry trip down the southwestern coast of South America and their trek into Patagonia. I've often said that "life should be an adventure"; these two folks live that better than I do.

This month, on May 21, we'll have Arn Soreng with us talking about his time during WWII on a Danish square-rigger. Elsewhere in this issue is a picture of a ship like the one he was on. I think this is going to be another "don't miss" meeting; hope to see you at Elmer's.

Costa Rica

My wife Deborah and I just returned from a week in Costa Rica. We spent half the time on the West Coast, near Quepos and the Manuel Antonio National Park, and the other half in San José, the capital. The picture is of the cove at Manuel Antonio, taken from the balcony of our room. Looked like a terrific protected anchorage and boats did overnight there. We didn't do any sailing while we were there, but, the beaches are beautiful and the water was warm; a great spot for surfers (which we are not, alas). We did spend a day hiking in the park and it is truly gorgeous.

We rented a car while in Costa Rica, which was great for the coast, and the drive through the mountains, but really not needed for the city as the taxis are incredible cheap by U.S. standards. Went to a number of museums and spent a lot of time just hanging out. The food was wonderful and the people very friendly.

Newsletter Poll

My thanks to those of you who returned the newsletter poll, of which 47 were received back (around half of the membership, as Pat O'Bryant predicted). I am happy to report that the majority of our members are satisfied with the distribution method we are currently using for the newsletter: posted on the web each month with an e-mail notification to all of the members when it is available. Five folks mentioned that they had not been receiving the e-mail notifications and we are correcting this. There were five folks who requested that a soft copy of the newsletter be attached to their e-mail notification and six people requested that a paper copy be sent to them via USPS. We've not figured out the logistics of these special requests yet, but we intend to honor them.

Also, we had five folks volunteer to help the Program Chairman with program planning. So, instead of having a single Chairman, we now have a Program Committee and three of those five folks came to the Board meeting on Monday. My special thanks to these people for stepping forward to help the club.

As usual, if you have any comments or questions, please let me know. rodawson@comcast.net





Phil and his girlfriend, Anna Pagliarulo, were on the race committee for the first of the Tuesday evening series and “she” took these shots. Amazing evening of light with pictures of Eric Rimkus’s crew and his “new to the river” Cheetah 30, also Marianne Thompson’s crew chasing the rainbow on her Martin 242.

2007 SYSKO Fleet Captains			2007 SYSKO Series Race Committee Assignments					
Fleet A	Tony Humpage	360-573-7176	SPRING SERIES	April 17	Fleet H1 (Cal 20)	April 19	Fleet C (172)	
Fleet B	Mike Oxborrow	503-652-1549		April 24	Fleet D (J-24)	April 26	Fleet A	
Fleet C (172)	Rock Kent	503-630-3443		May 1	Ranger 20 Fleet	May 3	Fleet B	
Fleet D (J/24)	Blaine Goold	503-492-4781		May 15	Cruising Fleet	May 17	Fleet E	
Fleet E	Thomas MacMenemy	503-659-1075		May 22	Fleet H1 (Cal 20)	May 24	Fleet F	
Fleet F	Bob Rouse	503-286-9953		SUMMER SERIES	June 5	J-24 Fleet	June 7	Fleet C (172)
Fleet F1 (Cat 25)	Nate Hanson	503-868-7705			June 12	Ranger 20 Fleet	June 14	A Fleet A
Fleet H1 (Cal 20)	John Hatch	503-292-6636			June 19	Cal 20 Fleet	June 21	B Fleet B
Cruising Fleet	Larry Johnson	503-735-2624			June 26	Cruising Fleet	June 28	E Fleet E
Ranger 20 Fleet	Dave Paligo	503-745-8227	July 10		J-24 Fleet	July 12	Fleet F (Catalina 25)	