



The Starting Line

SEPTEMBER 2007

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

Commodore:

Rod Dawson
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Vice Commodore/

Race Captain:

Karen Anderson
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Treasurer:

Al Calcagno
(503) 539-1885 (cell)

Secretary:

Sandy Smith
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Rear Commodore:

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Phil Campagna
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Save the night on your calendar

The next SYSCO General Membership meeting is Monday, **October 15, 2007, 7 pm**, Elmer's at Delta Park. Come early at 6 pm for dinner and socializing. The program will be by a young man who crossed the Pacific Ocean in a Catalina 18.

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 Highway.



A fantastic sunset in the Gulf Islands, September 2007.

SYSCO Board Meeting Minutes September 10, 2007

Meeting was called to order by Commodore Rod Dawson, at 6:35 pm. Present were Mary & Mike Stainsby, Karen Anderson, Al Calcagno, Pat O'Bryant, Thomas MacMenemy, Bill Sanborn, Frank Bocarde and Sandy Smith.

Rod stated he had received a notice that the gentleman who was scheduled to present a program at the September meeting will not be able to attend. Several suggestions were made for a replacement and Frank said that he will ask Arden & Chris Newbrook if they can give a presentation on their experience at the America's Cup. Mark Newbrook cannot speak due to contractual restrictions.

Al reported he has made a couple small deposits and paid a couple bills and we are still solvent. Next big expenditure is the Awards Banquet and the trophies.

Thomas says Poncho is now officially out of the water. He has spoken with Sportcraft regarding the sparkplug fouling problem and they seem to think it is likely something minor. He will take the motor in sometime within the next month so it is ready to go for next season.

MISC BUSINESS:

Thomas asked if we want to consider getting a new (bigger) boat. Some discussion but no, not at this time. Karen states one of the marks needs a new web bag

and she has that. Also, we never used the large marks so they will be returned to Kerry Poe with a "thank you".

AWARDS BANQUET:

Mary says Azteca will be doing the catering so we will have a Mexican theme. Rod has confirmed Tall Jazz as our entertainment. Karen says the skippers who will be receiving awards will be contacted by letter and asked to attend. Each fleet will be asked to donate a raffle prize that will work out to approximately \$20 or \$25 per boat.

ST. HELENS RACE/CRUISE:

Karen and Pat reported that a good time was had by all. There were 2 new boats this year and Karen was happy to announce that she was able to get rid of all the glasses. Someone said that Alden suggested we plan more cruises next year that have built-in races.

ELECTIONS:

That brought us to the subject of elections which are coming up before long. Karen suggested that Thomas would make an absolutely wonderful Race Captain and all other board members thought that was a delightful idea. Thomas, after the color returned to his face, said he was very flattered to be asked but believes he will decline. It was later agreed that one board member will call Thomas per day until he weakens and agrees.

*RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
SANDY SMITH, SECRETARY*

Thoughts From The Rear

BILL SANBORN

It always seems to happen about this time of year that the Club begins a search for officers to lead us for the next year and the real need is for a Vice Commodore/ Race Captain. I can tell you as one who has done it and watched 28 others do the job that it is very satisfying and not as difficult as it looks. It involves organizing registrations, making committee assignments for two Regattas and two Evening Series, and attending the monthly board meetings. And I'll assure you that the 30 years of tradition will lead the way and lots of folks will be there to help you. This is your opportunity to pay back those who have made SYSCO racing possible for you.

As the sailing season winds down for a lot of folks, some of us did not get the message. On my calendar are a couple more Wednesday night sails with the OWSA Ladies, Sail for the Cure, another trip to the Delta,

SYSCO Award Banquet, a Fall Colors Cruise, ABC Cruise and an OCSA Party. Fall sailing and cruising, especially through Multnomah Channel after the leaves turn, shows some spectacular colors. When you plan the trip around Sauvie Island the new dock on the east side of Coon Island is a great place for an overnight stop.

On the racing front, there are still a couple of weekend Regattas to be sailed to fill out the schedule. But for me the major item is for OCSA to change the 2008 "Start/Finish Line" for the Windward Leeward Alphabetic Courses. Given our geography what is shown is best because with the typical W or NW winds we get a lot more right hand side to the courses. But when you factor in current and the favored Starboard end of the line the Committee Boat anchor rode is like a set trap to snare any and all who dare to come close. The simple change of swapping sides of the Start and Finish lines in relation to the Committee Boat should reduce the exposure and will allow the use of the much preferred Alphabetic Courses.

Potato Planting (aka ABC) is scheduled on Nov 3 & 4.

Commodore's Comments

ROD DAWSON

🚣 My first sail this year

As most of you know, for various reasons, one of which was knee surgery, I did not launch my boat this year. In fact, due to the knee carving, I didn't get to go sailing at all this summer until just a couple of weeks ago. But, the wait was (almost) worth it. Two of the Sugar Plum crew (Sandy Smith and Patty Sherman) and I spent a great Sunday afternoon on the Merit 25 Lady Bee, which belongs to my good friend Michael Golden (who is also part of the Sugar Plum crew) and his wife Finn. Michael and Finn bought the boat last fall. Michael spent the winter fixing it up and now it is a very pretty boat. This is their first boat and they've had a great time sailing her this summer, but until that Sunday they had not had enough experienced crew aboard to get the spinnaker up. Boy, does that little boat fly under spinnaker. You should have seen the grin on Finn's face – she flew the spinnaker most of the day (her first time ever) and had the time of her life. And, one of the things that made it a really special day for me was the dragon fly that hitched a long ride on my shoulder. (See the pictures of the crew and the dragon fly.) Thanks Michael for a great day.

📍 General Membership Meetings

Since we started having programs again at the General Membership meetings, there has been a steady increase in the number of folks attending. We just had our September meeting on the 17th, with Arden Newbrook talking about the last America's cup, and the turnout was almost overwhelming. Mary Stainsby counted 35 people (thanks Mary). If this keeps up it won't be long before we are using the whole north side of Elmer's, not just the little banquet room.

📍 Awards Banquet

More good news: Mary Stainsby has reached an agreement with a caterer for the banquet. This year the caterer will be Azteca and Mary tells me that there will be three entrees available, one of which is vegetarian. I always get a good meal at Azteca so am really looking forward to having them cater our banquet.

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

