



The Starting Line

AUGUST 2008

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

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SYSCO Membership Meetings start up after summer break

Join us again **September 15, 2008, 7 pm**, Elmer's at Delta Park. Come early at 6 pm for dinner and socializing.

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.

SYSCO Delta Cruise Logbook

The SYSCO Delta Cruise, July 26 to August 2, was chock full of boats – 20 in all – and spotty weather, but the fun was constant. The flotilla stayed together to Martin Island and Cathlamet, and most went to Warren Slough. After that it was a free for all, with some heading back upstream and some heading to Astoria. Lee Johnson and her husband Terry Johnson aboard the C&C 34 Ozymandias kept a logbook. Here are some excerpts.

SATURDAY, 7/26: We motored from Tomahawk Marina to the Martin Island pond for the first leg of our journey. The channel to the Pond was narrow and shallow. Terry was following other boats and was in 25 ft of water when we hit a submerged piling. It was quite a bump but no apparent damage to the hull. At Martin's Pond, we rafted with the other boats at a small wooden dock. We put a stern anchor off our boat to help anchor the raft in place. We arrived about 4:30 PM, talked with the other cruise members and then lit the barbeque. The smell of the barbeques from all the boats was thick in the air.

SUNDAY, 7/27: We awoke after daybreak to the sound of our neighbors walking across our deck to get to the dock. Soon, the raft came apart and we followed the other boats out the channel and headed for the Cathlamet marina. It took 6 hrs of driving at 5 knots to reach the marina. The current was in our favor, but the wind was against us.

I took a turn at driving, following the other boats down main channel. As Terry came up on deck from checking our course on the PC, his eyes widened and he exclaimed "Big boat behind you!" Sure enough, a huge cargo ship was bearing down on us very quietly from behind. I immediately moved out of the way. But the boats ahead continued on course and the ship sounded his horn, 5 short blasts to warn of imminent danger.

The marina at Cathlamet was quite nice. The docks were in good shape and had clean new restrooms and showers. That evening, we had a potluck dinner and birthday party for Pat Brown. Lots to eat and everyone seemed to have a good time discussing boating adventures. Later, Terry and I enjoyed walking around the tiny town of Cathlamet.

MONDAY, 7/28: We left the window open last night and the cool air made for very comfortable sleeping. But bright and early the next morning, the sounds of people passing on the dock and radios checking the weather had us awake and ready to go. You don't need alarm clocks when you're boating.

Most of the other boats were heading to Warren Slough, but we decided to head to Astoria and find an anchorage behind Tongue Point, 3-4 miles east of Astoria. The trip down the Columbia was uneventful, but the water got very rough from wind waves as we neared our destination.

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Commodore's Comments

BY KAREN ANDERSON

Yes, we were delighted and excited to win our fleet and then the overall Whidbey Island Race Week performance award with Dragonfly, but the real sailing accomplishment for Portlanders in July was the stunning performance of Joby Easton's Raindrop. Cunningly crewed by Easton and Bill Huseby, this most perfect Cascade 36 won about all the honors handed out for the Pacific Cup race to Hawaii as she stormed across the finish line hours ahead of all other boats in the race:

- First in division
- First in fleet
- Navigator's Award
- Latitude 38 Performance Trophy - for the most decisive victory over her fleet

The Dragonfly crew had a great time at Whidbey Island, and what they say is true: this is really "adult summer camp." The weather was perfect and we had a week of terrific sailing. The Dragonfly team included helmsman Phil Campagna, Edie Felix, and Kari Dapp. Dragonfly, a Martin 241, was restored, rigged and tuned by Bill Brennan. Other Portland boats competing were George Brown's Skookum Too, Mark McCuddy's Tiger Lilly, Rod Buck's Myst and Eric Rimkus' Still Gladiator.



Terry Johnson, Delta Cruise photographer, Astoria Column



Raindrop under spinnaker



Left to right: Phil, Edie, Karen, Kari

DELTA CRUISE — *Continued from page 1*

The bay behind Tongue Point was quiet and less windy. We anchored not too far from the mouth of the John Day River. Other than a few boats passing, we had the place to ourselves. At sunset, we went for a ride in the dinghy and discovered the John Day boat ramp and park around the bend from us.

TUESDAY, 7/29: This morning we awoke to the sound of a light rain. The weather report on the radio indicated a storm coming in from the west, so we wasted no time and pulled up anchor and headed into Astoria. At the harbor, we filled up with diesel (23 gallons). This was the first time we had filled up since last October and it should last until next summer. Sailboats are very fuel efficient.

The storm hit with high winds and lots of rain. But we have a nice slip here with electricity so we can charge up the boat batteries. We had lunch at the local Bistro, took showers, and did laundry. We even bought a half pound of chocolates from the local chocolate shop which were really good. After a few hours, the wind died down. The wind and rain made our little cabin very cozy. Later, we took advantage of a break in the rain and took a walk along the waterfront.

WEDNESDAY, 7/30: The storm clouds broke up this morning and drifted away. It was such a pretty day in Astoria that we decided to stay an extra day. We walked the scenic riverfront walkway to the 39th pier crossing. Along the way, we read all the displays on the history of Astoria and took pictures of interesting sights. At one point, we noticed a group of sailboats heading downriver to the harbor – it was the SYSCO cruise fleet. We caught the Trolley back to the marina, well worth the \$1.00 fare. When we got back to the harbor, we found all the empty slips around our boat filled with sailboats from Portland. We joined them for Happy Hour at the Bistro.

THURSDAY, 7/31: It was a bright sunny morning, but the weather forecast indicated more rain might be on the way. We had a great ham and egg breakfast and then started our hike to the Astor Column, located on the highest hilltop overlooking Astoria and the Columbia River. The walk was about 2.5 miles straight up some steep streets through neighborhoods filled with old Victorian homes. Many of the homes were being restored and looked great. The view from the column was worth the trip with a panoramic view of the Columbia River passing under the Astoria Bridge and flowing out to sea. The column itself is 125 ft tall and has paintings depicting the history of Astoria winding all the way to its top.

As we headed back down, the clouds came in and the wind came up. We listened to the cries of a flock of Caspian terns, a white seabird resembling a sea gull. Their cry is very loud and more like a screech, almost pre-historic. You look up expecting to see a pair of pterodactyls fighting overhead. That evening, we listened to the wind whistling through rigging.

FRIDAY, 8/1: The winds were really strong last night, pushing the boat against the fenders between the boat and the dock causing a loud grinding noise. It finally settled down in the early morning hours. There was a negative tide and the water in the marina became so shallow that the boat's keel settled about 18 inches into the muddy bottom. We had to wait for the tide to come in before we could leave. One of the larger fishing boats got stuck in the harbor entrance for a little while until the tide finally floated it free.

After the tide came in, we headed out to the river to start our return trip to Portland, 82 miles upriver. We had a favorable tide which turned the current upriver for a good portion of the trip. The river traffic today was really heavy. We had barges and big ships passing by frequently.

We arrived at Walker Island, which is exactly half way to Portland, around 5:00 pm. With the current in our favor, we averaged around 6.5 knots (SOG). We found the dock at the island nearly full. But the other boaters were very helpful and we were soon tied up to the dock and ready to relax. After dinner, Terry took the small boat out for a cruise around the bay. He saw a coyote and 2 deer. We also have an Osprey nest very close to the dock. It has 3 half-grown baby birds in it that are fun to watch.

One of the boats at the dock set up a fire pit on the dock and burned some logs. When it got dark, we all sat around the pit and talked until 11:00 that night. Though we had never met any of these people before, we were soon all laughing and swapping boating stories and mishaps. It was a fun evening.

SATURDAY, 8/2/08: The last day was long and tiring. The tide was against us so we only averaged 4 to 5 knots. We tried to take advantage of the wind blowing in from the west but it was too shifty. We finally gave up and just motored. We arrived back at Tomahawk marina around 6:00 pm, over 8 hours. It was 9:00 that night before we got home and unloaded the truck. But it sure was nice to be home and sleep in our big bed that night.

All in all, it was a great trip, one I'm sure we'll do again.

PHOTOS — *page 5*

Thoughts from the Rear

BILL SANBORN

For those who missed out on the Delta Cruise your next chance is to join us for the Labor Day weekend. Because this is a popular weekend and facilities are limited keep watch for a notice of where we will be going. The photos that are floating around in the various web sites should be enough to encourage you to join in the fun. And if the last three or four years are any indication of how the Delta Cruise is growing and how we are finding new anchorages, it is not too early to begin planning for July 25, 2009. And, for what it's worth, that will be the 25th SYSCO Delta Cruise.

We can now see the end to the racing season, but there still is lots of good Autumn sailing and cruises to enjoy, including the Fall Colors Cruise in October. And the highlight of the Social season will be the 30th Anniversary SYSCO Awards Banquet. Be sure to mark your calendar for Oct 18th.

See you on the River



“MARTINI” — FOR SALE

Join the Martin 24 fleet with MARTINI, a fast, fun Martin 241. Take her out for a test sail and see how she goes. Can't beat the price at \$4,500. Call Bill Brennan (503) 286-9374 or Karen Anderson (503) 806-0945.

“CIAO” — FOR SALE

1981 J 30. Totally equipped for racing and cruising with up to date sails, electronics and professionally installed propane system with Force 10 stove and heater. Ciao has custom paint, interior, rudder and more. Inventory and pictures available. Call Frank at 503 789 3563 or email FBocarde@aol.com.

SYSCO Board Meeting Minutes

Place: O'Connor's Restaurant, Multnomah Village

Date: August 4, 2008 • **Time:** 6:30 pm

In Attendance: Karen Anderson, Phyllis Brennan, Frank Bocarde.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m. by Karen Anderson.

SECRETARY: Phyllis Brennan had several pieces of mail to deliver.

COMMODORE: Karen Anderson — Everything is going well.

TREASURER: Al Calcagno reported that since he just received a handful of late membership payments from the secretary, his report is the same as last month's report. We have made our forecasted budget this year.

VICE COMMODORE/RACE CAPTAIN: Karen reporting for Rich.

- We have finished the two SYSCO series. The “Horn” worked well and racing now has been turned over to CYC. SYSCO is now taking entries for the one design race to be held on August 16th.
- Also, SYSCO is sending a special thank you to Thomas Macmenemy for fixing the hole in Pancho.

SOCIAL DIRECTOR: Karen reporting for Anna.

1. The one design after race BBQ for Saturday Aug. 16th. The After Race party will be at Columbia Crossings with food and program and some serious music.
2. The annual SYSCO Award Banquet – this will be our 30 year anniversary in October at PYC. The board is working to have a celebration for the 30th anniversary. With Bill Sanborn and Frank Bocarde looking for historian and a band is already coming together. The Board has formed a program committee of Frank, Karen, Anna & Bill.

PROGRAMS: FRANK BOCARDE

No August meeting. We are still out on the River Cruising. Frank has something special in mind for the September meeting, but it is a secret. It's good, very good, but it's a secret. You just have to be there.

As there is no further new business, the meeting adjourned by Karen Anderson at 7:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by
Phyllis Brennan, Secretary SYSCO*

SYSCO Delta Cruise — July 26 - August 3



For more Delta Cruise photos go to: <http://www.tj622.com/images/Delta%20Cruise%202008%20Slideshow/index.htm>