



The Starting Line

April 2009

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

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Commodore's Comments:

from Rich Jones

Down River...Across the Bar...Adventure Awaits You!

Many of us have had the opportunity to go offshore and experience the fun and excitement of ocean sailing. From coastal cruising to blue water racing, there's nothing in life quite like heading out to sea.

Each year, members of SYSCO and other area clubs have the opportunity to sail in the Pacific when the Corinthian Yacht Club holds the annual Oregon Offshore from Astoria to Victoria on Mother's Day Weekend. For many sailors in the Portland Area, this race is special because it was an Oregon Offshore that marks the first time they sailed out to sea, and for many boat owners it was an Oregon Offshore that marks the first time their "river-ready" sailing vessel was prepped for ocean-going.

These are milestones in a sailor's life. And once reached, other coastal adventures start falling into place--adventures such as the Swiftsure, Bridge to Bridge and of course the Baha HaHa. But for many, the coastal experiences are merely the prelude to answering the beck and call of other adventures like the Pacific Cup Yacht Race from SF to Kaneohe, the TransPac from LA to Waikiki, or the Vic Maui from Victoria to Lahaina. And of course, the return voyages after these races.

If Victoria and Timm Lessley haven't done it all, they've come pretty darn close. Timm and Victoria live a storied sailing life. Many of us have had the pleasure of sailing with or against this couple on their Cal 9.2, Freewind, or their Cal 40, currently known as California Girl. There's probably no other boat owners on the river that know more about prepping a boat and sailing her offshore or across an ocean than Timm and Victoria Lessley.

It is a pleasure to announce that the Lessley's will join us at the next SYSCO general meeting on Monday, April 20th to talk about the in's & out's and up's & down's of getting a boat ready for heading out to sea. And in the process, Timm and Victoria will have all sorts of fun stories and words of wisdom to share about racing in Oregon Offshore, as well as racing to and cruising back from Hawaii.

Join us for a great evening of vicarious sailing adventure. We'll be waiting for you at Delta Park Elmer's Restaurant. We gather for dinner between 18:00 & 18:30, then we'll start clearing the deck of business at 19:00 so the program can start ASAP.

See you Monday,
Rich Jones
SYSCO Commodore for 2009

SYSCO Racing News

From Alden André

Hello all this is your humble race captain. The weather is warming up and it is time again to hit the starting line for the PYC/SYSCO opening day, spring evening series and SYSCO Spring Regatta.

All fleet Captains, please review the 2009 SYSCO Race Committee Schedule for the assigned nights and if there are any name changes please email me.

I am sure everyone is scrambling to get their boats ready for the season, cleaning bottoms, lubing winches, and cleaning sails. I would like to say one thing and that is let's make this a fun and Safe season. So while you are doing all the items on your boat don't forget to check your safety devices and make sure they are in proper order IE: Fire extinguishers, life vests, and life slings. Also while you are out practicing before the races try a man overboard drill so your crew will know what to do.

The registrations have been slow to come in. Remember, the cost for the PYC/SYSCO opening day regatta is \$30 for all competitors, even SYSCO members.

My schedule is taking me out of town and country almost all of the spring series and my wife will be updating the race spread sheets for me. So *please* get your entries in as soon as possible. A happy wife means a Happy race Captain. A stressed out wife makes a VERY STRESSED OUT AND GRUMPY Race Captain. I don't want to have to end up living on my boat permanently. (Well maybe that wouldn't be a bad deal depending where my boat was.)

We still are ten people short of our membership from last year so if you haven't sent in your SYSCO membership please do so. We also have some new members. In fact, one member who used to race on my boat and decided to buy his own boat Neal Kopp, will be racing his new Catalina 27 *Bones* in the Cruising Fleet. Come to think of it all my crew last year left like rats leaving a sinking ship and purchased their own boats and I believe they were all Catalina's. Oh well time to get more crew involved in sailing. We also have 3 new entries in the cruising fleet; soon the cruising fleet will need their own night!

Well, I have to go and pack my bags for my trip, I wish you all well. Keep the dirty side down and the clean side up.

Alden Andre
SYSCO Race Captain
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SYSCO Cruising News

The March 2009 SYSCO Cruise to East Government Docks is in the record books. Twice as many participants showed up as boats, and at least half the boats had the addition of a canine crew member. As is usually the case on a SYSCO Cruise, all participants shared food and adult beverages and partied well into the night. Getting to the scenic location provided all boats with an up-close look at the health of the sportfishing industry on the Columbia River. And we can report that work is well underway by the Oregon State Marine Board on a large new dock and beach landing to replace West Dock.



Here, two of the weekend revelers prepare for the return down river.

On a serious note, the **Memorial Day Cruise** will be to Martin Island on May 23rd – 25th. Bring your dinghies, kayaks, canoes, and have fun without stressing about the new racing rules!

June 20-21 will find the SYSCO Cruisers in the **Gilbert River**, just off the Multnomah Channel between Coon Island and St. Helens. Promises to be really scenic and very out-of-the-way.

And if you've never been before, make this the year you join the fleet for the **SYSCO Delta Cruise** from July 25th – Aug 3rd. A fun and relaxed group cruise to Astoria and back via the scenic and mysterious backwaters of the lower Columbia River. Our experienced guides will assure you of plenty of water – or at least a tow off the mud if you find it. This is a trip you'll be talking about for years.

SYSCO isn't *just* about racing. Leave the cell phone at home, take off your watch, open a nice bottle of wine, and relax. (Think of it as stress management, but more fun than yoga.)

Portland Boaters Swap Meet

Clean out your attic, basement, garage, storage shed, or wherever old boat-stuff gathers at your house and head on down to the Tomahawk Bay Yacht Club's annual Boater's Swap meet.

Tomahawk Bay parking lot is the place. May 16th is the date. Starts at 8 AM and goes to noon or sooner if things get sold out. \$7 per space or \$5 with a canned food donation to their food drive.

(If you're looking for a *really* good buy, experienced shoppers know to show up by 7am.)

Boating FOR SALE or SWAP

Speaking of swap meets, if you have boating related items, or even boats, that you would like to list for sale in the next edition of the Starting Line, just send the information along we'll make room.

(SYSCO members only please)

General Meeting

If you missed it in Rich's comments, don't forget our next General Meeting, April 20th at Elmer's in Delta Park. (6pm social/optional dinner, 7pm meeting.) We'll have a special presentation by Victoria and Timm Lessley about getting your boat ready for blue water sailing. So if your planning to go "out there" or just dream about it, come here some great stories from some folks who have.

SYSCO

Board Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2009

Present: Rich Jones, Karen Anderson, Jim Sinclair, Bill Sanborn, Alden Andre, Jan Burkhart

Absent: Scott Ferre, Mary Stainsby, Gib Colistro

Rich Jones called the meeting to order at 18:50, and presented the **Financial Report** on behalf of the Treasurer. It was noted that with the exception of "Dues" which are lagging, all other revenue and expense items look good and SYSCO continues to operate in the black.

Membership: Jan gave a detailed report on this year's membership drive. She reported that there have been 81 renewals and 9 new memberships received as of 4/5. The board voted unanimously to accept the new members into SYSCO. Jan read the list of 36 members from last year who have yet to renew. The board reviewed the names, and ID'd those members who will not be renewing for various reasons. The people remaining on the list will be sent one final reminder. Everybody expects a flood of memberships to arrive along with the race entries for the Spring Series. Rich agreed to send a thank you from the board to all the new members. Jan also ID'd certain members who have offered to be either a fleet captain or Poncho engineer this year.

Racing: Alden reported on the sign ups for the Opening Day Regatta, the Spring Series and the Spring Regatta. Entries are light but are expected to pick up steam as usual as the respective deadlines approach. The board reminded the race captain that all entries for the Opening Day Regatta should be accompanied by a \$30 check as this event is not part of the SYSCO member-benefit package. Alden advised the board that the new set of flags from North Sails Oregon will be ready next week. Alden advised the board that business will cause him to be out of town from 4/8 to 4/27. Rich (with help) will assume the Race Captain duties in Alden's absence. Alden also requested another CD copy of the 2008 Race Captain file so he can load it on his new computer.

Rich advised the board that Poncho is now located at McCuddy's. Pending availability of her usual slip (under cover next to Miss Calculation) Poncho will be tied along the walk in front of The Deck. Arrangements have been made with CYC to store the SYSCO flag bag and plastic race box on Miss Calculation between races to keep the gear out of the weather. (Thank you Blain Goold and CYC). McCuddy's is not charging SYSCO for the temporary spot for Poncho. (Thank you Mark McCuddy).

Alden advised the board that he is working on finalizing this year's roster of Fleet Captains. Thanks to Jan's membership report, a couple of the blank spots on the roster were filled in. It was agreed to leave the position of F Fleet Captain open until we know if there will be any F Fleet boats racing this year. J24 Fleet Captain is the only spot remaining in the unfilled category. Blain Goold advised Alden that the fleet will have a captain named is the next few days. Alden's goal is to have the Fleet Captain roster and RC duty assignments complete so they can be included in the next newsletter.

Cruising: Jim Sinclair reported on the *Spring Shake Down* cruise to and over-night at Government Island on March 21. The event was fun but participation was *very* light. The weather was not helpful. The next event on the SYSCO cruising calendar is the *Memorial Day Mosey* to Martin Pond on 5/23-5/25.

Old Business: Rich reported on the *SYSCO Race Clinic*. The Thursday night *Chalk Talk* was well attended by down from last year. Of the 30+ people who were there, approx a third of those were sailors totally new to the Columbia River racing scene. Dale Mack and Gary Whitney did a terrific job with the presentation. Dale's Power Point show was first class. Unfortunately, the Friday night *On-The-Water* session was cancelled because there wasn't even a hint of wind to be found.

Rich gave a report on the *Pray For Wind Party*.

New Business: The SYSCO editor reminded everybody the copy for the April newsletter is due by lights out on Easter Sunday, 4/12.

The board suggested that a member of the ocean racing community be contacted about giving an Oregon Offshore presentation at the next SYSCO General Membership meeting on Monday, April 20. Rich said he would contact CYC and get the ball rolling, with the goal of having somebody lined up in time to include an announcement in the next newsletter.

Rich announced that he and Andy will be double-handing the Olson 30, Foolish Muse, in the Southern Straits Race 4/10-4/12 (www.southernstraits.ca)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:40.