



The Starting Line

September 2009

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

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Commodore's Comments:

The Summer's Not Over Until The Autumnal Equinox Says It Is!



So far it's been a great season. Lots of terrific racing on the river, much of it handled by SYSCO Race Captain Extraordinaire, Alden Andre.

Big hand for Alden...

This summer found SYSCO members doing all kinds of crazy things, like tying knots.

Congrats to Anna and Phil on their marriage...the happy couple spent much of their honeymoon looking for relatives all over Italy. And congrats to Sandy and Chris on their marriage...this happy couple spent their honeymoon in a more traditional fashion...sailing the South Pacific.



And even though this year's Summer Series was pack as ever, making for some great competition, many sailors found time to head off to one place or another for days and weeks of cruising on the river or up north somewhere; which brings me to this little story:

Last month, Edie and I had the pleasure of joining Alan and Rhonda Boguslawski on their Cal 43, Summer Wind, for two glorious weeks in the San Juans. If you ever need help with planning for such a trip, Rhonda is the person to talk to. It's hard to imagine any cruise being better organized than the one we were treated to. As far as plan implementation goes, it takes a great boat and skipper to make it all work. Summer Wind is about as perfect a cruising boat as a sailor could ask for, and Alan's sailing skills and his in-depth knowledge of Summer Wind and boat systems in general combined to make the cruise around the San Juans enjoyable and trouble-free.

From Astoria, we sailed up the coast to Port Angeles <http://tinyurl.com/las3pg> for fuel before spending the night in Port Townsend. From Port Townsend <http://tinyurl.com/ly5264>, we headed for Anacortes <http://tinyurl.com/mhhfww> where we over-nighted and picked up 3 of Rhonda's 4 sisters so they could celebrate one sister's 50th BD. From Anacortes, the happy crew of 7 (2 guys, 5 gals) headed for Friday Harbor <http://tinyurl.com/la4de9>, then Rosario <http://tinyurl.com/nebq4p> the next day, then back to Anacortes <http://tinyurl.com/m7daxj>.

Before describing the rest of the trip, a special mention needs to be made about our experience in Anacortes...Cap Sante Marina to be exact. This is without a doubt the best situated marina we have ever been to. The marina is clean and like new. Businesses in community show their appreciation for visiting sailors by offering all sorts of discounts and coupons via a very clever promotion called "Scribulz." Once you walk off the dock, you find Safeway across the street, the quaint old Anacortes downtown a block away as well as the farmers' market. And while we were there we enjoyed a terrific concert on the marina lawn promoting the town's up-coming blues festival. And like almost everyday of our trip, the weather was glorious.

After bidding Aloha to Rhonda's sisters, we set sail for Sucha <http://tinyurl.com/m5ky5z>, then Patos <http://tinyurl.com/nh37mv> the next day, then Stewart Island <http://tinyurl.com/n8w57s> the next day, and Roche Harbor <http://tinyurl.com/lyua9w> for two days. From Roche Harbor we headed straight for Neah Bay <http://tinyurl.com/knd2pk> for fuel and a night's rest before heading down the coast for Astoria. As we headed toward home, we finally saw Orcas in Haro Strait (so many they got boring, not). Then as we were approaching Neah Bay, 3 humpbacks sort of served as a welcoming committee. Then after pulling Summer Wind into her slip, we thought we heard a whale actually inside the marina. It turned out to be one ginormous sea lion keeping one of the big fish boats company.

On the way down the coast, two funny things happened. We spoke to a sea otter that was swimming near the boat. Our voices caught the critters attention and it actually stopped swimming and raised its body halfway out of the water to see if it recognized any of us. The other funny thing was when a boat load of fishermen came up alongside Summer Wind to ask for directions. The whole trip down the coast was foggy. Max visibility was no more than 1.5-2 nm. We were about 8-10 nm offshore when the fishermen asked for a heading to La Push. They knew which way was east, but didn't know if La Push was north or south. The skipper gave them a heading of 020* m, then monitored ch. 16 just to make sure. Crossing the CRB was a piece of cake and a perfect end <http://tinyurl.com/l9f7sn> to a perfect cruise. Well, almost perfect...with one slight exception. Our trusty Meridian Marine GPS went kaput after going overboard. After many hours of trying to bring it back to life we gave up and bought a new one. Not an easy thing to do, seeing as how Magellan stopped making the unit back in '06 or there abouts.



Final note: Before leaving on this trip, we took along a new device for keeping in touch with family and friends. It's called the Spot Satellite Messenger.

What a cool device. You can find out all about it by going to

<http://www.findmespot.com/en/>. In a nutshell, the above location links were

Created by the Spot unit by simply pressing the OK button on the device. Then the plot is posted to a "Shared Adventure" page for friends to see.

In addition, the Spot unit has another feature whereby you can provide up to 10 email or text message addresses and the Spot unit will automatically transmit an email or text message to selected people everytime you hit OK. If there's a problem, hit the HELP button and the same people will be notified accordingly. There are many other features that are available for the Spot device. Check it out. We'll never leave home without it.

Reminders: Mark your calendars, the SYSCO Awards Banquet is October 17 at PYC, and the next SYSCO general membership meeting is Monday, September 21st at the Delta Park Elmer's Restaurant (gathering at 18:13:47 for visiting and grub – meeting starts at approximately 18:58:54).

RACING NEWS

A note from your Race Captain

So there I was, I had the start flags up and the fleet was drifting over the start line. Then here comes upstart. No scratch that. The name of the boat was upstart. Bill yells over (you better get those sails up and race with us). I had no intention the wind was light and I wanted a fast motor trip to St Helens so I could take pictures of the finishers. Well the motor gods were not with me right after Billy boy passed my boat the engine died. I tried to restart with no luck. Well it is a sail boat so I pulled up the main and rolled out the head sail





and started after the fleet. As the race went on the wind built up to 19-20 kts and I had fun catching and passing half of the fleet. I really enjoyed watching the six Catalina battle it out the whole race. I finally caught up to pat O at the end and asked if he would keep a slot open for me at the docks so I could sail in. I went around Sand Island and pulled down the main and rolled up the head sail so only a foot of sail was out. And started up the channel to the public docks. I knew this was no good hardly any sail and I was still doing 3 kts up river. I rolled up almost all the head sail and started doing turns left and right to get my speed down. I also rigged my drogue for a fast deployment. My plan was to approach at a 45 degree angle so when I turned it would

bleed some speed and if I still didn't slow down I would just do a 360 turn after the approach. As I got closer the speed slowed down I deployed the drogue and did a captain Ron raft up to the dock just like I knew what I was doing. I couldn't screw it up there was only 60 people gathered in mob watching me. Really they just wanted their Sysco race glasses for 2009. Well we got tied up handed out glasses and it was time for a glass of rum. Then Billy boy and his diesel mechanic Gibb Colistro came to watch and tell me what to do. We changed the filter then bleed the system and the engine was off and running again. Then fun was had by all lots of visiting, eating and I believe partaking of spirits were had by all. I was elated because this was the last race I am responsible for being race captain for Sysco. We are looking for a new race Captain for next year so I hope one of you will step up and take the position. I don't want to have to use pictures and black mail to get someone for the position. I have enclosed some pictures of the st Helens race and will be posting the rest on my face book page for you to download if you like.

Alden Andre

Thoughts from the rear

From Bill Sanborn

The ***Bundy Pirates Chowder and Marching Society*** will be assembling for the annual "Always Bright and Cloudless" fall potato planting. Word is that none of them sail well enough to be invited to the winners thing so they have a good time. Manly eats, a taste of beverage, belly full of laughs, tall tales, October 10~11, somewhere in Multnomah Channel. Radio code is "kalifornia hairpiece".

Coming events

Monday, September 21st – **SYSCO General Meeting** at the Elmer's in Delta Park. 6pm gather for food and gab time, 7pm meeting.

Saturday & Sunday, September 19 & 20 – **PYC Fall Regatta** – Hurry, entries must be in by Wednesday the 16th. See the Race Book page 126 for details.

Sunday, September 27th – **Sail For The Cure** – Register now if you haven't already. <http://www.sailforthecureoregon.net/>

Saturday & Sunday, October 3 & 4 – **CYC Fall Regatta** – Entries must be in by Wednesday September 30th. See the Race Book page 130 for details.

Saturday & Sunday, October 10 & 11 – **PYC Grand Prix**–. See the Race Book page 132 for details.

Saturday, October 17th – **Annual SYSCO Awards Banquet** – Member or not, plan on joining us for a fun night of great raffle prizes and trophies. Bring all the crew!

Items Offered For Sale

1981 Niagara 26 "Quicksilver" in very nice shape. Email for photos and more info. bmco2@qwestoffice.net or phone 503-816-0185. Offered by Terry Busby.

Board Meeting Minutes

no minutes submitted.