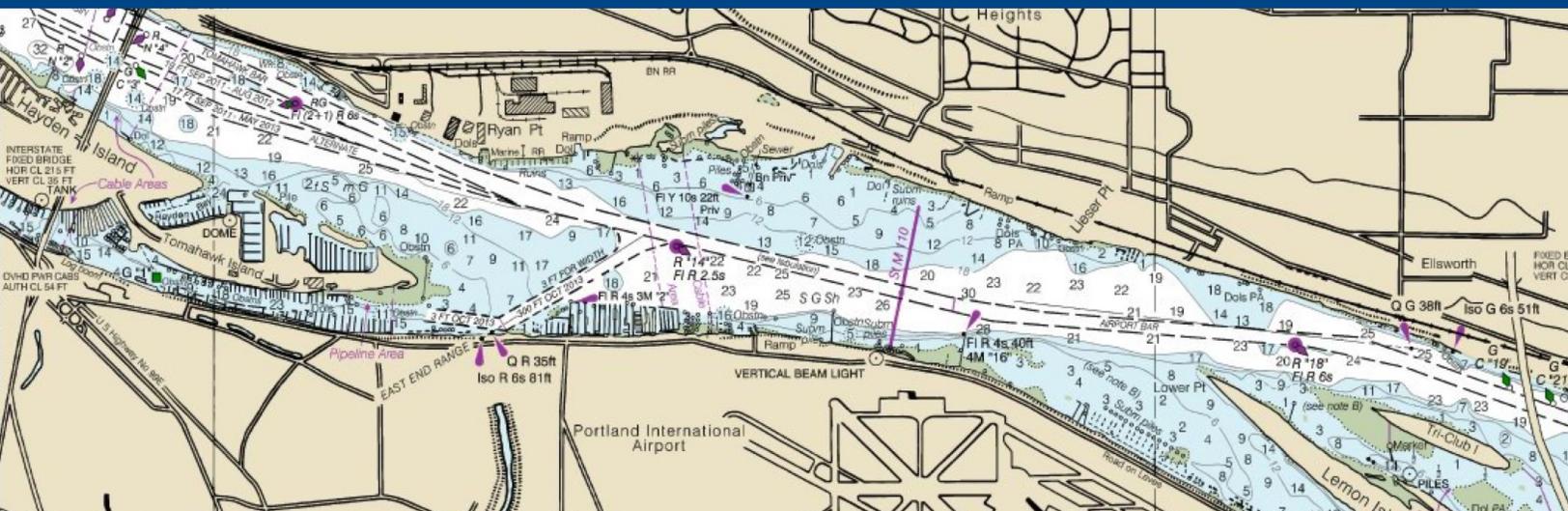




# Small Yacht Sailing Club of Oregon STARTING LINE



# From the Commodore

## Tod Bassham, Commodore

---

By the time you read this, the 2015 Portland Boat Show will be history, but I'm betting the history books will make for lively reading. Big changes for our big little sailing club. Jim Severs convinced the Board to let him loose with a circular saw and some SYSCO bucks, and presto! We have a snazzy new Boat Show booth to replace the tired old card table and 10-year old copies of Starting Line. I'm hoping that a lot of people stopped by the new booth to talk to our volunteers about SYSCO. If so, I believe that our volunteers had a lot to say, because there is much going on in our big little sailing club, and in the larger sailing community. Let's review the bidding.

**Membership Initiatives.** SYSCO offered a couple of promotions geared toward encouraging more of the hundreds of sailboat cruisers out there to explore SYSCO-style racing, including discounted memberships for new members, and a new mentor program building on our successful race clinic. Depending on the response, we will be looking for a dozen or so mentors to meet with new racers and show them the basic ropes later this spring. If you are interested in volunteering to be a race mentor, look for an e-mail in your inbox soon.

**SYSCO Hats.** We ordered 50 limited edition SYSCO Racing hats and sold them for \$20 at the boat show to help cover the expense of the new booth. If there are any of these stylin' hats left, we'll sell them at Fleet Night January 26.

**Speaking of Fleet Night,** mark your calendar for this special meeting of the Fleets, Monday January 26, 2015, at the RCYC clubhouse. For details, see the full article in this edition of Starting Line.

**Daylight Savings Dash.** A bit rusty on your crew overboard recovery skills while under spinnaker? This fun new race on March 8, 2015, will challenge you with its staggered pursuit start and two mandatory simulated crew overboard recoveries. Details in the OCSA Racebook.

**Speaking of the OCSA Racebook,** lots of changes there. OCSA, the umbrella organization that coordinates the racing programs of the river's four race clubs and provides a number of services to the racing community, has moved the RaceBook and course chart online, under a new membership model. Now you have two options:

1. Join OCSA for \$20 (a \$5 savings over last year) and simply access the RaceBook and course chart online, or
2. Pay an extra \$10 (total \$30) and also get a physical copy of the RaceBook and a laminated copy of the course chart. There are a number of ways to join OCSA, but one of the better ways is to attend SYSCO Fleet Night on January 26, where there should be OCSA representatives, RaceBooks and course charts available.

**And...**lot's more happening out there in our little corner of sailing heaven, but we'll discuss those another day. In the meantime, let me say that I am honored that you, SYSCO members, chose me to be your 2015 Commodore. I look forward to what will almost certainly be an exciting and challenging year of racing and cruising with you.

Tod Bassham  
commodore@syscosailing.org

# Fleet Night Forever

Tod Bassham



Yes, Virginia, the long bright summer days of sailing, racing and cruising do exist, though it is hard to imagine in these dark times. Come help rekindle the light of sailing. Join your fellow sailors at the fourth annual SYSCO Fleet Night, Monday evening, January 26, 2015, at the RCYC clubhouse. Gather at 6:30 p.m. for hot pizza slices (\$2 per), complimentary soft drinks and BYOB brewskies. Crew and significant

others are very much welcome.

Then, at 7:00 p.m., we will celebrate the renewal of a new year of racing and sailing together:

- Renew OCSA memberships and buy a RaceBook and course chart.
- Renew SYSCO membership and avoid the late fee effective February 15.
- Renew old friendships. Make new friends.
- Meet your new SYSCO officers.
- Get the latest news on the coming racing season. Lotta changes!
- Elect a fleet captain.
- **Decide as a fleet whether to race level or handicap.**
- Buy a limited edition SYSCO hat or a SYSCO burgee.
- Collect leftover trophies from last year.
- Finally, imbibe racing wisdom from our special guest speaker, Kerry Poe from North Sails!

***IMPORTANT! So we can accurately estimate how much pizza to order, please RSVP yourself and crew to [social@syscosailing.org](mailto:social@syscosailing.org).*** Fleet captains, please spread the word to your fleet members and either encourage them to RSVP on their own or bundle together all RSVPs from your fleet and give that info to our new social chairs at the above e-mail address, whichever works best.

# Board Meeting Minutes

## Gary Bruner for Don Woodhouse

---

The meeting at Elmers Delta Park was called to order at 7 PM sharp by new commodore Tod Bassham. Besides Tod, members present were: Warren Dalby, Adrienne Lacavaro, Dave Paligo, Bruce Newton, Heather Zieser, Tara Powning, Ron Fairley, Scott Stevenson, Jan Burkhart, Kris Amundson, Mike Daly, Lenny and Jim Severs and Gary Bruner.

### Treasurer's Report

---

After a welcome and introductions all around, Treasurer Bruce reported that we have collected roughly \$3,000 in memberships thus far for 2015. That is approximately 1/3 of what is budgeted, but the most recent registrations are not yet in the books. He dispensed no formal treasurer's report this month but has been working hard re-vamping the budget line items and categories. Bruce reported that SYSCO is paying Regatta Network and Paypal a total of 8.3% of the membership revenue for use of their software. We are looking into an alternative for memberships. Nat Powning, our new Vice Commodore and Race Captain (not present) is the point person for working with a software company that wants to work with SYSCO to develop a sailing club support product.

### Membership

---

Chair Jan Burkhart reports no new members since last month. We now stand at 42 paid members for the coming year, which she thinks might be slightly ahead of "usual". Increasing memberships will be a major factor at the upcoming Portland Boat Show.

### Pancho Report

---

New Pancho guru, Adrienne Lacavaro, has agreed to take a good deal of Pancho 'gear' home to her garage. She and Gary Bruner will look in on Pancho soon to check on how he's managing over winter as he stays outside, covered with a tarp. Treasurer Bruce was told that Pancho is not now in need of any major work and that, barring the unforeseen, this might be an inexpensive year for Pancho. We upgraded several marks last season and all seems well at this point. We have been keeping up with maintenance issues and it seems to be paying off.

### Fleet Night

---

Fleet Night is coming on Monday night, Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> at RCYC. We are hoping that fleet captains will push hard to get sailors to show up in numbers this year, since fleets

will be deciding their leadership, plus voting on whether that fleet will choose to sail level, or use PHRF handicaps for the first time in a SYSCO series.... Kerry Poe is scheduled to be a speaker about race related topics, and there's hope to get a representative from OCSA to explain their new membership and race book options.

### Newsletter

---

New chair Kris Amundson was in attendance and requested that pictures be sent to him for use in the newsletter. He is also soliciting articles of interest to our community. Tod was selected to write a longer article promoting Fleet Night. Kris is pushing for earlier deadlines for submissions (the Saturday following board meetings is his choice) so that the Starting Line comes out in a more timely manner each month. He will try to include photos of the new "booth" at the show.

### Boat Show

---

The big news is that Jim Severs has completed a wonderful new-look booth for SYSCO to use at the boat show, complete with a mock sailboat/table, sails and rig. He's revamped the video slide show as well. As mentioned above, the focus this year will be to try to attract cruisers and new sailors to the booth, enticing them with a chance at a mentorship opportunity with an experienced sailor to help them overcome any initial concerns with racing. In addition, in an email exchange after the official board meeting, it has been decided to offer newbies a reduced membership trial for their first season. No burgee will accompany reduced priced memberships. We are promoting more 'cruising' opportunities as well, so, hopefully, we can start to do more events than just the wonderful Delta cruise throughout the season. Tod will send an email to all boat show volunteers with instructions on how to use the new booth, how to explain the mentorship plan and how to get more folks to sign up. There will be a push later to get experienced racers to volunteer as 'mentors'. Thankfully, the booth is fully stocked with volunteers. New SYSCO hats will be available for members and non-members to purchase for \$20. The meeting was adjourned promptly before 8 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary Bruner  
Pinch hitting for Secretary Don Woodhouse

## Dates to Remember

---



### **Fleet Night**

January 26<sup>th</sup>

RCYC Clubhouse

### **TSF Safety At Sea Seminar**

March 15<sup>th</sup>

### **SYSCO Late Fees Begin Daylight Savings Dash**

February 15<sup>th</sup>

March 8<sup>th</sup>

## Letter from the Editor

---

**Kris Amundson, Newsletter Editor**

---

Welcome to 2015! This year is going to be a good one.

As I settle into the editor position I realize I'm lacking access to good photos of SYSCO boats, events, and people. If you have any you would like to share please send them my way: [editor@sycosailing.org](mailto:editor@sycosailing.org). I am hoping to implement a file sharing service so members can easily send us photos for use in materials, newsletters and events. This would also allow future volunteers to reach content without having to ask for it again. This could possibly be something like Dropbox, or Box.com. Please note that by sending me photos you're letting me edit and use them in the newsletter.

I'm also seeking content for the newsletter. If you have an article you would like to submit, please feel free! I can even take unpolished material if you want help with organization and formatting. If you have an idea for a regular monthly section, let's talk.