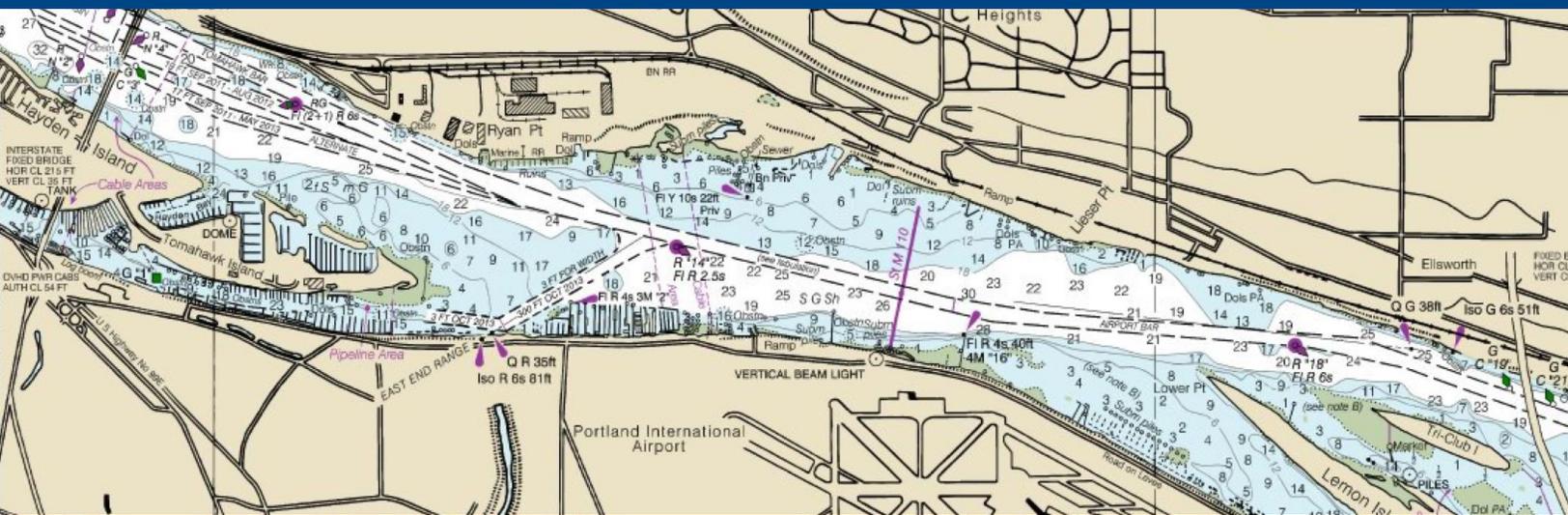




Small Yacht Sailing Club of Oregon STARTING LINE



Thunder Pig under spinnaker racing on June 30th. Photo courtesy of Arusi Loprinzi.

From the Front

Nat Powning, Commodore

June has been a very busy and fun month for SYSCO with our 4th annual edition of the famous Dual Bridge Duel, the closure of another fine Summer Series along with a few BBQ's on the Tomahawk Bay lawn giving us a chance to mingle with fellow racers. It was relatively low-key this year but we also put on a small fundraiser for the Prostate Cancer Foundation connected to our Friday night beer can race. Now we've hit the pause button on our races for a couple weeks before the Twilight series kicks off on the 19th.

Why do we take this break you ask? The primary reason is that several Portland boats and lots of crew are up north competing in Whidbey Island Race Week. This year the J/105's are surely having a blast with an impressive fleet of thirteen boats, including three from our backyard.

Along with WIRC, the Pacific Cup and Vic-Maui races are underway which can be fun and educational to follow. Little ol' Portland is represented in both of these Pacific crossing races. In particular it's been great to watch the Cascade 36, Rain Drop, doing really well closing in on the overall leaders of the Vic-Maui. The stories coming from Rhys and Martin on Evermoore in the PacCup have also been enlightening. Double-handing a little 24 footer across the Pacific in a race does sound a bit intriguing, I'll be curious to hear if they'd ever do it again once they're done. Riva and Velocity are also competing in the PacCup although, unfortunately, Velocity had to retire due to contamination of their water supply. Let's hope the storms Celia and Darby don't cause too much of a ruckus with either of these events. At minimum it's looking like they'll certainly help make this a record year for speedy finishes.

Maybe I'll be able to get the focus of my next newsletter contribution back to local buoy racing. For now I'm too distracted studying GRIB's for a few reasons including those mentioned above.

See you on the water.



Bringing Up the Rear

Tod Bassham, Rear-Commodore

Sailing and singing go together, as anyone sweating up an anchor at a capstan could tell you. Singing sea songs makes the work lighter, and brings the crew together. Today's push-button electric gewgaws have changed much about sailing, but the urge to sing with our fellow sailors has not diminished. Hence I am putting out the call for anyone with a voice or an instrument to join us at the SYSCO St. Helens Race/Cruise potluck, to be held at the St. Helens gazebo on Saturday August 27, 2016. After the potluck, the musically-impaired will adjourn somewhere away from the party and do some caterwauling. Anyone who wants to join in with an acoustic instrument or voice, or just listen, will be welcome.

What will we play? Whatever everyone brings to share. To anyone interested, I'll circulate ahead of time a half dozen sailing songs we can attempt, some of them amusing and entirely unlicensed sailing versions of actual songs, such as the following shameless rip-off of The Band's classic "Up on Cripple Creek."

Up on Schooner Creek (with apologies to The Band)

When I get off of this river, you know where I want to go?
Straight down the Columbia and into Grandma's Cove.
To a boatyard there, Little Bessie, girl I once knew.
She told me just to come on by if there's anything she could do

Chorus:

Up on Schooner Creek, she sends me.
If I spring a leak, she mends me.
I don't have to speak, she defends me.
A sailor's dream if I ever did see one.

Bad luck had just stung me, a deadhead I did hit.
Bessie said bring my baby in, see what she could do with it.
Bilge pumps spewing water, I crawled into the bay
There was Bessie at the dock, and I knew what she was gonna say.

Chorus

She hauled my baby out, and put her up on the stands
Sure enough a hole was there big round as Bessie's hands
Bessie grabbed up her grinder, and fiberglass started to fly
I sat back, drank some hooch, and waited for the paint to dry.

Chorus

The yard boss came to pick my pocket, but Bessie stopped him dead
She says, "He don't pay a dime, cause someday we gonna be wed."
Now that just gave my heart a throb to the bottom of my feet.
And I swore as I took another pull, my Bessie can't be beat.

Chorus

There's a flood out on the river, and winter's getting cold
And living on this boat of mine is getting pretty old.
So I guess I'll call up big mama, tell her I'll be rolling in.
But you know, deep down, I'm kind of tempted, to go and see my Bessie again.

Chorus, yodeling

So, if you have an old guitar, ukulele, trumpet, etc., or like to sing in the shower, and think you might want to yodel sailing songs with us following the potluck at the St. Helens Race/Cruise, drop me a line at [rear_commodore\(at\)syscopic.org](mailto:rear_commodore(at)syscopic.org). I'll circulate some songs we might attempt. In any case, I hope to see all good and true SYSCO-tarians at the Race/Cruise, either racing there on their boats or, failing that, driving up from the city to join the potluck.

Racing Report

Bruce Newton, Vice Commodore/Race Captain

The racing has been going very well so far this year. That is entirely due to the efforts of the many volunteers who make racing possible. The Fleet Captains have done an outstanding job of organizing their Fleets when it is their turn to run the races. Each Fleet designates a Volunteer Principal Race Official who has the job of picking courses, deciding where to place the marks, and running the show. It takes an additional six to eight volunteers to carry out the various tasks need to run races. Behind the scenes, SYSCO has a Racing Committee that supports the Fleets. No one has spent more time on race committee boats this year than Randy Poff, Thursday Night Coordinator, and Lynda Davis, racing committee member. Jerry Armstrong also helped out a lot during the Spring Series. The scribbled notes on finishes don't just magically appear on the Race Results website. It takes a lot of work to decipher the information and score the races and that work is done by Gary Whitney, SYSCO's Scoring Guru. We also get a lot of support from our OCSA Protest Committee judges, Craig Daniels and Eric Rimkis, who help our all-volunteer effort understand the finer nuances of the rules.

Being on a Race Committee is a lot of fun and provides a different perspective on sailboat racing. If you have not volunteered yet, I'd strongly urge you to try it out. The Fleets' assigned dates for running races can be viewed at [http://syscosailing.org/2016 Race Committee Assignments.pdf](http://syscosailing.org/2016_Race_Committee_Assignments.pdf). Anyone can volunteer for any date. Just contact the appropriate Fleet Captain or contact me (at bruce97212@gmail.com).



Race committee!! Photos courtesy of Nat Powning.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

SYSCO Summer Twilight Series (Tues & Thurs)

July 19 - Aug 25

CYC Beer Can Race

July 21

YBYC Bridge to Bridge Race

July 29 - 31

PYC Beer Can Race

Aug 5

PYC Commodore Race

Aug 6

HRYC Double Damned Race

Aug 6

AYC Astoria Regatta

Aug 13 - 14

OWSA Beer Can

Aug 13

Oregon Food Bank Free Bowl of Soup Beer Can

Aug 20

SYSCO St Helen's Race and Cruise

Aug 27 - 28



Merit crossing! Photo courtesy of Tod Bassham.

SYSCO Board Meeting Minutes – July 2016

Gary Bruner

The board meeting was held at Elmer's Delta Park and started promptly at 7 PM.

Present were: Nat Powning, Bruce Newton, Scott Stevenson, Warren Dalby, Rock Kent, Mike Daly, Bill Sanborn, Jan Burkhart, Heather Zieser, and Gary Bruner.

Treasurer's Report (Scott Stevenson)

Scott Stevenson reported that SYSCO currently has \$7,309 in our checking account, and \$2,523 in the Pancho reserve, for a total of \$9,822. \$11,440 in income has been received from memberships, down approximately \$1,000 from projections. We are currently at 118 members, and awaiting payment from one associate. Outstanding bills include some payments for barbeque supplies, which have totaled roughly \$700 out of the \$1,500 budgeted. The last social event is expected to be a potluck at St. Helens after the race and cruise there at the end of August.

Race Captain's Report (Bruce Newton)

Bruce Newton reported that to date only 28 boats signed up for Tuesday nights and 29 for Thursdays in the new-to-SYSCO Twilight Series that starts next week. At Rock's suggestion, the board voted to allow any interested Silver Members to upgrade to Gold for an additional \$30, a significant savings over paying the \$50 event fee. It is hoped more folks will decide to race the Twilight Series, which will feature

a PHRF handicap division for those who choose that option. Separating boats into viable fleets might be a challenge. Bruce also revised the "Fleet Captain's Guide for SYSCO Racing" and distributed it to the Fleet Captains.

Membership (Jan Burkhart)

Jan Burkhart reported that we have had 5 renewal memberships in the last month and a half, and one new member: Gerald Johnson who is racing Lipstick, Bill Brennan's former Venture 21. The board voted to accept his application. Welcome to SYSCO, Gerald!

Pancho

Bruce said that the course board is being repaired at North Sails. Bruce also reported that Nat replaced Pancho's broken VHF antenna, and that Bruce and Gary pulled Pancho out of the water long enough to change oil and lower unit oil in the new Yamaha, keeping it within warranty requirements. CYC has donated their new, larger race flags and pennants to SYSCO, and Bruce has finished attaching them to new PVC poles. Bruce also reminded the board that SYSCO will need a new Race Captain for 2017, and that one prospective candidate has withdrawn his name from consideration at this time.

Social

Heather Zieser reported that the last social event

will be a potluck at St. Helens. She thinks there are left over items from previous barbeques that may well be used at that event, but it was undecided how much SYSCO would provide.

Other Business

Bruce suggests that most races have gone off without a hitch this season, but there have been a few bugs. One problem that needs addressed is the wording in the OCSA rules about using the letters S and F on courses that use OCSA static mark placement.....such places as B, C, N, T, A, U, X on the OCSA course board. Bruce has suggested new wording to clarify the use of those marks, and it will appear in the SSIs for the Summer Twilight Series. Bruce will also approach OCSA about a permanent wording change in the OCSA rules going forward. OCSA meets next week and that proposal will be made. Some discussion revolved around potential confusion regarding the infrequent use of (S) to designate starboard roundings. It was mentioned that RCs would be encouraged to clarify their intentions to all racers via Channel 72 to minimize any confusion.

Lastly, Bruce commented on the issue of boats that,

for one reason or another, do not complete their requirements to race, whether that be OCSA membership, a \$10 OCSA surcharge, SYSCO membership, a PHRF certificate (when required), or other obligations. While not wanting to leave the boats out of competition, the board has voted to post those boats in a separate “not yet eligible to be scored” list until their paperwork, fees and obligations are completed. This will eliminate those boats being scored DSQ after the fact.

Respectfully submitted by stand in secretary Gary Bruner for Don Woodhouse.



Photo courtesy of Nat Powning.