

Sept 2017

From the Front

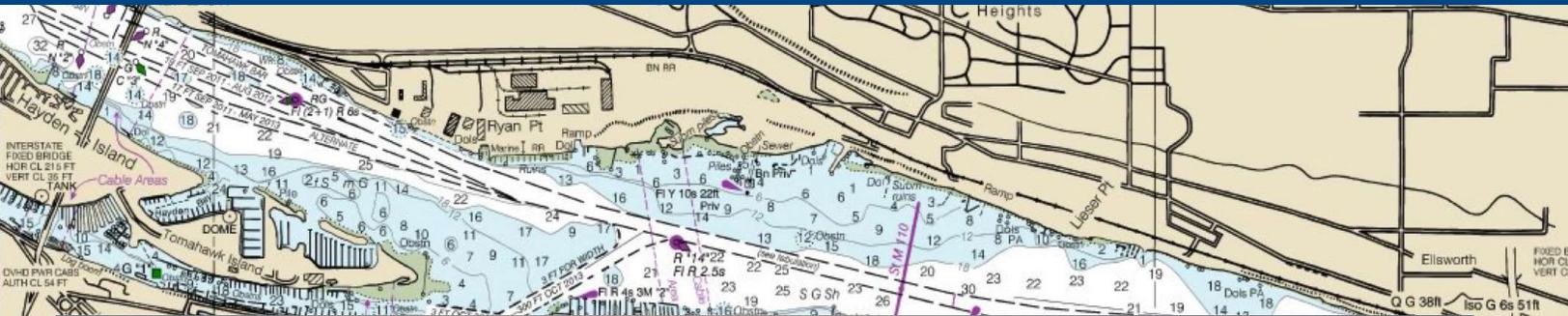
SYSCO St. Helens  
Race and Cruise

Race Report

September 2017  
SYSCO Board Minutes



# Small Yacht Sailing Club of Oregon STARTING LINE



*Above: Wildfire smoke-enhanced sunset while racing on Aug 23. Photo courtesy of Free Bowl of Soup.*

*Right: Little Jewel, Papagayo, and Lone Ranger from the Ranger 20 fleet having an impromptu Thursday race after the Twilight Series had concluded this year. Photo courtesy of Darren Posey.*



# From the Front

*Bruce Newton, Commodore*

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Another great year of SYSCO racing is now complete. There are still several weekend regattas scheduled and the winter Sailing-on-Sunday casual races to look forward to. But the racing put on by SYSCO is finished for the year. Looking back on the season I'm struck once again at the amount of effort that your all-volunteer club was able to muster. We put on 38 days of racing! That means 38 all-volunteer race committees were organized. Thanks go to the Fleet Captains who are largely responsible for organizing race committees. There is also a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes to score races; keep our mark boat, Pancho, going; maintain the racing equipment; put on barbeques; organize Fleet Night and Race Clinic; procure awards; put on the Delta Cruise; publish this newsletter; etc. It takes literally hundreds of volunteers! The amazing thing about SYSCO is that it all works so smoothly year after year. That is a tribute to the Portland sailing community and the willingness of sailors to volunteer.

The Saint Helens Race and Cruise was a blast this year. There was great wind for the race to Saint Helens and the twenty or so boats completed the course in record time. It was a beautiful afternoon in Saint Helens and the pot luck dinner was delicious. I hope more boats will plan on participating next year.

Don't forget to mark your calendars and purchase tickets for the OCSA Awards Dinner on November 4. All of the sailing clubs, including SYSCO, will be presenting trophies and awards for the 2017 season.

Register online at [sailpdx](http://sailpdx.com).



*i550 in front of the railroad bridge after racing was over on Sept 10. Photo courtesy of Kelly Dews.*

# **SYSCO St. Helens Race and Cruise**

*Michael Morrissey, Vice Commodore/Race Captain*

Sunny skies, temps in the 80s, and building NW winds were in the forecast for the annual SYSCO St. Helens race and the Merit OB1 and three person crew were prepared to be race committee, racers and mojito bartenders for the race. There was to be a single start and a race to Westeros (aka St. Helens) under perfect conditions. Fleet Divisions were based on the different Houses in the Game of Thrones, leading off with the Mother of Dragons group from the House of Targaryen (Catalina 22s, Cal 20 and a Venture 21), followed by the guardians of the North from House Stark (Merit 25s and a Martin), and then the recuperating Baratheons hoping to show that all is not lost or forsaken (PHRF As and a Melges 24). House Lannister was represented by several vessels that have their own agenda (mixture of PHRF and Cruisers) while the Dothraki hordes (PHRF C) were small but dangerous. The race was delayed 15 minutes from its 11:15 am start as a few boats got stuck behind the RR bridge. Post-race stories had a Melges 24 crew hiking out on their sidestay, tilting the boat enough to sneak by under the closed bridge with inches to spare in order to make the race.



*SYSCO Race Committee for St. Helens Race and Cruise. Photo courtesy of Pati Morrissey.*

All told, 21 vessels made it to the line for an 11:30 start in front of the behemoth grain carrier Santa Johanna in clear skies and a pleasant 7-9 mph breeze. That same Melges boat feeling a revenge of Joeffrey was in order pulled off a perfect port start and led the race from beginning to end. The wind built to 10-14 mph and then proceeded to go light halfway through the course causing shifts in positions depending what side of the river you were on. The last 4 miles saw the wind build again with the usual 10-15 now coming out of St. Helens. Overall, the race was one of the fastest in recent memory with most boats finishing between 2-3 hr. This gave ample time for exploring downtown St. Helens, swapping tales and visiting the Klondike bar for refreshments if needed.



*St. Helen's Start. Photo courtesy of Pati Morrissey.*

It was a fun race with many of the boats trying different skippers or techniques. Some old SYSCO friends such as Velocity and Fresh Air who haven't raced in the summer series were also out for the event and Geronimo lived up to its name and did the course single-handed. Several of us had the pleasure to meet the SYSCO scorer, Gary Whitney, for the first time at the post-race bar-b-que. All finishing times were self-recorded when they crossed the imaginary line at Warrior Rock and the winners were:

**House Targaryen** – Don Woodhouse in Sooz Moose

**House Stark** – Bruce Newton in Kestrel

**House Baratheon** – David Valentine in Blur

**House Lannister** – Loren Beach in Fresh Air

**Dothraki Horde** – Mike Daly in Air Fair

Sunday had good winds early on but no official race. Most boats sailed their spinnakers in a NW breeze out of St. Helens and part way down Sauvie Island before hitting the doldrums about halfway home when the wind died off completely. Thanks to all the boats and volunteers who made this a great end of summer event.



*SYSCO St. Helens Race and Cruise postrace pot-luck. Photo courtesy of Michael Morrissey.*

# Ramblings from the Newsletter Editor

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*Jacqueline Pitter, Newsletter Editor*

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Hello SYSCO faithfuls! Long-time editor, first-time writer here.

If you aren't already familiar with me, you may be familiar with the black spinnaker sporting the gold lightening bolt my small yacht flies. I'm not only the current volunteer-in-charge of piecing together the monthly newsletter content, but there is a small "task force" of us (ok, it's two people) who have been attempting to expand the social media presence of SYSCO this season with small reminders, informational posts, links for event registrations, and some entertaining photos and stories from the river here and elsewhere of interest. If you haven't "liked" us yet on the book of faces, you should! Those of us choosing and posting content for the SYSCO Facebook site would be very interested in hearing your feedback if you have any thoughts on how we could improve anything.

Along those lines, we really want to boost content contribution from our membership in the form of both articles and photos for the monthly newsletter. Any little story you'd like to tell, sailing haiku or limerick that comes to your pen, or great snapshot you capture can be shared with the SYSCO Facebook page by either tagging the SYSCO page in your own post, messaging it to the SYSCO page, or by emailing anything directly to [editor@syscosailing.org](mailto:editor@syscosailing.org).

We've had some amazing photos contributed to the newsletter this year, and I'd love to keep that going. I'm challenging the Sailing on Sunday racers to snap some great photos of winter racing this off season, and show the fair-weather sailors what they're missing! Wouldn't hurt my feelings to get an SOS haiku either. ;)

Thanks for reading my ramblings. Fair winds (and photos!), everyone....

-jacqueline (s/v Thunder Pig, R20 #117)

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## Upcoming Dates to Remember

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### **PYC Fall Regatta**

Sept 23 – 24

### **PYC Robert A Smith Regatta**

Oct 7 – 8

### **CYC Sailing on Sunday Series**

Sundays, Oct 15 – Mar 4

# Racing Report

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*Michael Morrissey, Vice Commodore/Race Captain*

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The SYSCO racing season ended with the Summer Twilight series and the St Helens Race and Cruise (see separate article on the St Helens event). SYSCO took on the Summer Twilight series duties in 2016 and has made it work seamlessly, complimenting the Spring and Summer Evening series. This year the Twilight series showed good winds on both Tuesday and Thursday night and all the scheduled races were completed. The characteristic NW winds held for all of the races on the Columbia River with little current effect. Barges caused some strategic thinking on a few nights but overall it was good sailing on the water and lively conversations on the docks after the races. The Summer Twilight Tuesday night fleet had 45 boats divided into 7 classes and 5 pennants while Thursday night had 59 racers in 9 fleets and 6 pennants. A new Novice class ran on a trial basis on Thursday but only a few boats participated so unless there is a strong uptick in interested novice sailors for the 2018 season this class will probably be dropped. For those racing fanatics (like myself) there are still weekend regattas that will be held out of PYC on September 23-24 and October 7-8. Check [sailpdx.org](http://sailpdx.org) for registration details and race notices.

Running the races is a team effort and a big thank-you goes out to all the SYSCO volunteers that make the racing season happen. The Fleet Captains are assigned race dates where they have to establish a Race Committee, get a platform boat, and volunteers to take down the scoring, run Pancho and see that the flags go up at the right time. All Fleet captains took their jobs seriously and most RC were set 2-3 weeks in advance. A shout out goes to all the large boat captains and owners who lent their vessels to be used as platform boats, especially when RC duties fell onto the 25 ft. and under crowd. This type of cross-fleet cooperation is what makes SYSCO a special organization and again, special thanks to Randy Poff and Dennis Damore who helped coordinate the Tuesday and Thursday night Race Committees, often served as PROs when needed and were a great help to the Race Captain. Of course, a "mil gracias" to Gary Whitney, our intrepid scorer, who takes the finishing sheets each week, makes sense of the times and the comments and records them into the record books. His behind the scenes work is greatly appreciated. Happy to announce that next year's Race Captain will be Jeff Eastes from the Ranger 20 class. He has been an active sailor in that fleet for several years and a strong promoter of sailboat racing in SYSCO. I know that all SYSCO members will give Jeff the help he needs to run a successful 2018 racing season.



# OCSA TROPICAL PARTY

November 4th, 2017  
at Portland Yacht Club

Trophy Presentations by  
OCSA, CYC, RCYC, PYC and SYSCO  
Raffle Prizes - Great Food - Dress Tropical!  
Cocktails at 6, Dinner at 7

\$30 per person - \$40 after October 23  
Register online at [www.sailpdx.org](http://www.sailpdx.org)  
Please reserve by October 23

# September 2017 SYSCO Board Minutes

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*Gary Bruner*

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The September board meeting was held on Thursday, the 7th, because Monday was Labor Day. The meeting at Elmers-Delta Park was attended by: Mike and Mary Stainsby, Scott Stevenson, Mike Daly, Bruce Newton, Michael Morrissey, Jeff Eastes, Naomi Reichmann, Warren Dalby, Bill Sanborn, Tod Bassham, Jacqueline Pitter, Tara Powning, and Gary Bruner.

Commodore Bruce Newton introduced everyone to Ranger 20 sailor Jeff Eastes who has agreed to serve as Vice Commodore and Race Captain for the 2018 season! Thanks for stepping up, Jeff!

## **Membership**

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In Jan Burkhart's absence, Bruce gave her report that SYSCO now has 135 members, of whom 14 are associates. The board unanimously approved the membership of Paul and Gail Teveliet who sail a Melges 24 named Bandit. Welcome to SYSCO, Paul and Gail!

## **Racing Report**

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Race Captain Michael Morrissey reported that SYSCO racing is over for the season, and was considered quite successful in spite of a couple of minor glitches. While the wind was often light and a few races were cancelled in the Spring Series, the breeze was quite good for most of the Summer and Summer Twilight Series. The winds were very light for the Daylight Savings Dash and the Dual Bridge Duel (only 8 boats were able to finish). The new Short-

handed Soaker was successful with everyone having a blast. Twenty one boats showed up for the St. Helens race two weeks ago with great wind all of the way. Even slower boats were able to finish the run in less than 3 hours. People all seem to have loved this event.

Michael mentioned that the 'novice fleet', an experiment this year, was only used by a couple of Merit 25s, so SYSCO may want to re-assess that issue going forward, but no action was taken. There were approximately seven or eight protests heard during the three series, and one, involving a collision causing damage, is still pending. The club has finished using Pancho for the season and he's ready to come out of the water and be stored, but moorage is paid through September, so there's no rush. Michael offered a huge "Thank You" to all those people who volunteered their boats as platforms, served (some multiple times) on race committees, or served on the protest committees. This is an all-volunteer club and without folks helping out where they can, sailboat racing just cannot happen.

Bill Sanborn reported that RCYC has started a conversation with SYSCO about possibly sharing the expenses and upkeep of racing equipment, but no decisions have been made. Talks may continue. Discussions with CYC about their future are also getting started. A work group to continue any future

discussions with these clubs was formed and consists of the current SYSCO flag officers, Jeff Eastes, and at-large members Warren Dalby and Tod Bassham.

## **Newsletter/Social Media**

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Jacqueline Pitter was given kudos for her fine work creating the monthly newsletter. She credits those who have submitted great material with which she can work...including photos! She thanked all who have contributed thus far. Questions arose as to how much action the SYSCO Facebook page was generating. We currently have 108 followers on the SYSCO Facebook page. The newsletter last month appears to have generated 7 more followers than we had previously. Due to the organic nature of Facebook and how it shares posts that people you know have interacted with, our reach has ranged from 50 - 220 people per each post from the last month. She and Nat Powning are the administrators of that site, and can re-share on the SYSCO page any articles, photos, and comments sent to them or the page.

## **Financial Report**

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Treasurer Scott Stevenson presented his report that shows SYSCO with a current year operating balance of \$6,352.46. There is \$3,686.60 in the Pancho/Emergency Reserve. In light of the fact that we will likely see no more income this year and we still have large expenses for trophies for multiple series, it seems clear that there will be no carry over from this year to add to the reserve account. SYSCO's goal is to put at least \$1,000 each year in the Pancho/Emergency Reserve so that we can maintain and upgrade Pancho, his engine, our marks, and

supplies as needed. In light of that, after much discussion, including the fact that SYSCO is offering many, many opportunities for racers at what amounts to a very small fee per event, it was approved by the Board that we propose in October and vote in November at the general membership meeting to increase the cost of a yearly membership to \$120, with hopes that this increase will be all that is needed for some time into the future. The Board also voted to propose an increase in the late fee on membership from \$5 to \$10. In light of these votes, the board then approved to spend the budgeted amount of \$6,000 for trophies, although \$759 has already been spent on commemorative glasses for St. Helens participation and the DBD Race. The remainder of \$5,241 will be the budget for awards given at the OCSA Tropical Party.

## **New Business**

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Warren Dalby proposed some significant change ideas for SYSCO to consider regarding the racing calendar for next season. He suggested starting the Spring series after the Oregon Offshore when the current is weaker and wind likely better. He also suggested that we NOT take off any other weeks except the 4th of July. A long discussion ensued and many issues considered, including the effect of a long lay off in the spring after the SOS series ends, unless SOS were lengthened. Nothing was decided at this meeting, but must be settled fairly soon in order to coordinate with other clubs and meet the OCSA deadline for the race book. A working committee will try to come up with a plan via email discussion and have something to present by

the next board meeting.

The meeting adjourned a bit after its scheduled hour.

*Respectfully submitted by Gary Bruner for Don Woodhouse, Secretary*



***ACTUAL BLUE SKIES!***

*Above: Mirage under spinnaker on day 2 of the RCYC Long Distance Race. Photo courtesy of Kelly Dews.*

*Right: Close finish on day 1 of the RCYC Long Distance Race between J/24s Deadbeat and Bite Me. Photo courtesy of Lime Allen.*

