

June 2019

From the Front

From the Rear

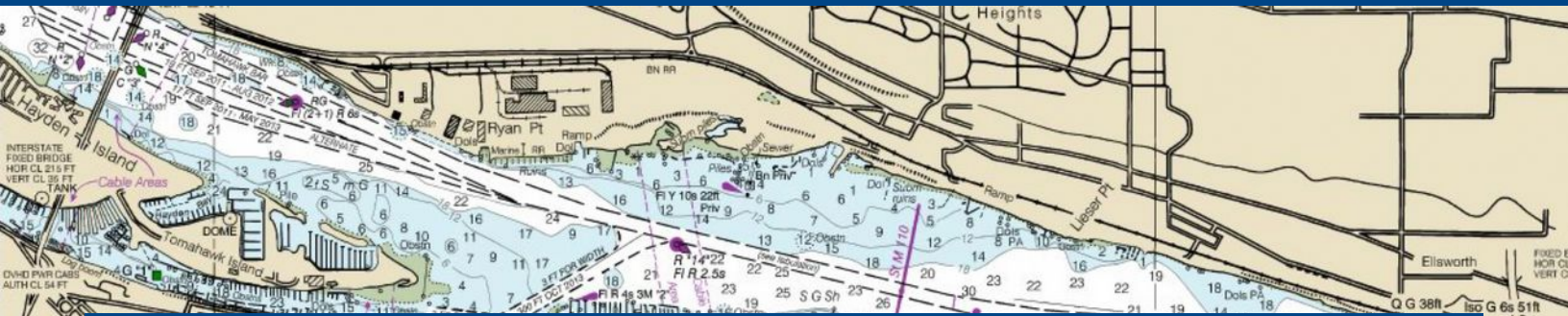
Events

Racing Report

June 2019 SYSCO Board
Meeting Minutes

Small Yacht Sailing Club of Oregon

STARTING LINE



Bite Me looking for the pot of gold at the end of the double rainbow on a stormy, fluky wind night

From the Front

Anna Campagna, Commodore

Well, we have had an exciting summer series! Temperatures in the 90s and in the 60s (in that order), no-wind nights versus too-much-wind, and double-rainbows! This issue is packed with great stories and photos of summer sailing.

SYSCO And OCSA have embarked on a mission to grow the sport of Sailing in Portland by new events and concerted marketing efforts. We have realized we need a better way to inform the *ENTIRE* sailing community about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. So we would like to be able to send out e-blasts and the monthly copy of the SYSCO Newsletter to *NOT* just racing boat owners (SYSCO members), but the crew who race with them, in addition to people who have expressed interest in racing through the Sailpdx crew list. SKIPPERS, if you would please visit the link below and fill in your crew's information, they can be better informed about sailing events. The info we're requesting is just for distributing SYSCO and OCSA sailing news and events, and in no way will be sold or used for marketing purposes other than keeping sailors in our vast community informed. We want to make it clear that crew can always unsubscribe from these emails. <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet>

Go see **Maiden**, a documentary about the first all-female crew to sail the 33,000 mile Whitbread Round The World Race. Or at the very least, listen to the Terry Gross interview: <https://www.npr.org/2019/06/19/734155985/how-an-all-female-crew-sailed-round-the-world-into-the-history-books>

The **Beer Can Races** have been revived by our move to Saturdays, with fun themed races, and post-race get-togethers. Ten or twelve boats have been showing up every week! Check the Beer Can Race Poster in this issue, and invite your friends and neighbors who keep telling you how much fun it would be to go sailboat racing with you.

There is a new directive that **Pancho**, the Race Committee runabout, will stay mobile on the course all evening. So, for safety, when it's blowing hard or there is barge activity, Pancho is quickly deployable - and this may mean that a driver (or two) hangs out on Pancho while tied to the Committee boat, ready to cast off when a boat gets knocked down in big wind. And when a barge comes through and it looks like some sailors might not be paying attention, Pancho may shadow the barge and/or communicate directly with sailors who flaunt the rules or simply don't have their radio on. See the story of the sunken Thursday night boat later in this newsletter, and you will appreciate this new push by SYSCO to improve safety on the race course. This may require Race Committees to have more hands on deck. We thank you for your participation, attention to detail, and eyes on the course!



Racers on the last Thursday in June were treated to a double rainbow, shot with the panorama feature on Anna's iPhone.

Mark your calendars for the annual **SYSCO BBQs**, and please alert your crew members and family! (See? If I had their email addresses...) **After racing, July 9 and 11 on the lawn at Tomahawk Bay.** This annual event is a great way to socialize, compare stories, and do some trash-talking before the next series starts. SYSCO will provide the burgers, veggie-burgers, and sides. Bring a dish if you would like – home cooked food is always appreciated! Sailors, BYOB!



From the Rear

Michael Morrissey, Rear Commodore

SYSCO September Racing

About 6 months ago, Denny Damore from the Cal 20 fleet made a proposal to the SYSCO Board about having one-design racing in September. He and several others in SYSCO felt that we are missing some of the best winds during the early Fall and that we should try out some different type of racing for smaller boats that do not have problems getting their keel stuck in the mud in the low water September months. There was general enthusiasm for the idea including talk about match racing, team racing or short around the buoy regattas. Several folks met in December and decided that team racing was too logistically complicated and unclear what fleet would want to sacrifice their boats in a round robin series. Subsequent meetings (with Denny Damore, Michael Morrissey and Craig Garrison as ring leaders) narrowed it down to a Round-the-Buoy Regatta on September 7 and a Fleet Match Racing event on September 21.

Sept. 7 – One Design round the buoy races. Short (20-30 min) round the buoy races. 3-5 races total depending on conditions. Need 3 boats to have a class start. Could be up to 8 one-design classes (J-105, Melges 24, Martins, Merits, J-24, Cal-20, Ranger 20, Catalina 22. Possible to combine flags (e.g. Merits and J-24s) if several fleets sign up. Lowest score wins. If 5 races there will be one throw-out race.

Sept. 21 – Match Racing One-design sailboats that are equal in speed. Need 4 boats to have a match racing class (cannot be more than 4). If more than 4 boats in a class are interested, preference for the top 4 will be given to the top 4 boats from the Sept. 7 one-design regatta. Boats that did not sail in Sept. 7 race can still be eligible. Races will be round-robin (not elimination) with each boat sailing 3 races. Lowest score is the winner Logistics need to be thought through. If 4 classes, there will be 24 separate races. Discussed possibility of having 1 RC boat with 2 starting lines and 2 different courses (starboard rounding for Northern course to avoid course overlap). Also discussed on-the-water judging (2 judge boats needed). Emphasis is having good, competitive sailing in September. While competitive, it should also be fun. We need to work out several things especially race committee and judging.

So for now, put those dates aside. Come join the fun and get some good September sailboat racing in before the cold winds blow. Below is a link to a Youtube video on Match Racing. While the video gives a good overview it can be a bit intimidating if you are not familiar with the tactics of Match Racing. Remember, the emphasis on the event will be getting a new sailing experience and having fun, and a pre-race seminar will be run to give some general rules of the road. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4V9l2WRqcSw>



Andrew Kerr Seminars

Andrew Kerr ran a day-long seminar for SYSCO sailors at the Rose City Yacht Club mid-June and it brought a level of expertise to Columbia River sailors that was gobbled up by those that attended. The morning session from 9am – noon was open to all SYSCO sailors and cover a myriad of topics from getting a good start to what to look for in sail trim under different wind conditions. It was an informative session with good back and forth with the audience asking about sailing on the Columbia with questions such as keeping the boat flat in heavy air to bucking the current in light air. Mr. Kerr is a well-known sailing coach who has sailed in a number of J-24 championship regattas and works closely with local expert Kerry Poe in promoting sailing throughout the West Coast. Andrew had completed a day-long seminar and on-the-water training for Cal-20 sailors the previous day and was enticed to stay over from members of the Merit-25, Martins and J-24 fleets. After the open session in the morning, Mr. Kerr spent a few hours on the docks going over boat tuning and proper gybing and tacking mechanics on one-design boats. For a while it looked like we would end up shore-bound with little or no wind when at 2 pm the wind shifted from a light easterly to a summer-style norwester than slowly built through the afternoon. The J-24, Martins and Merits headed for the middle of the river for a series of starts, buoy roundings, spinnaker sets and take downs, all being commented on by Andrew over channel 72 VHF radio. As the wind gradually increased from 5 knots to 20 knots over the next few hours, all boats had some “learning moments” around the short courses. After 10 starts and 5 races with maximum tacking and gybing as the course would allow, all retired to the RCYC clubhouse for a debriefing and exhausted from their efforts. Lots of sun and wind and good information, a great day to be out on the river. A shout out of thanks for Dennis Damore and Nicole Sirois for helping bring Andrew to town for the event and to the Rose City Yacht Club for hosting the Sunday seminars and racing.



Photos by Andrew Haliburton

Sunken Venture

Doug Schenk

June 6th was an Interesting night on multiple levels. From the racing perspective, after we fought Rose Festival traffic we connected up with Pancho (the SYSCO Race Committee runabout) and the Race Committee boat for the night, the J105 Abstract. There was no wind, so it was looking like a bust, when an un-forecasted ~8 knot Easterly filled in. Wind held up enough to get the J24s off, and most of the Cal20s crossed the line. Continued with starts 3,4, and 5 but as the wind died (with 1.5 knots of current), we abandoned races 2-5 and went into Postpone mode. A short while later the wind suddenly shifted 180 degrees and built, with strong gusts. The first J24 was finishing, and we were standing by with Pancho tied up next to Abstract when one of the racers called that a boat had been knocked down and people were in the water just up river and in the channel. RC dealt with finishing J24s and closing out the racing while attempting to contact the authorities. As Pancho approached the capsized Venture21, there were a couple sailboats standing by. On the way, the Pancho crew watched the boat go from capsized to sinking, except about three to four feet of the bow. The three folks in the water were huddled around the boat with life jackets inflated/on. With the ladder out on the side we got them into Pancho, while radioing updates to RC and river patrol. Portland Fire and Rescue showed up (two boats), and we verbally confirmed that everyone was OK. One of the boats decided to stand by until we were in. The Venture wasn't sinking further, so we had an opportunity to save it, and get it out of the channel. We were able to undo the spinny at the top of the mast and get it and the continuous sheet into Pancho. We hooked up a bridle/lines to the bow, and very slowly dragged it out of the channel and over to Tomahawk marina where we were able to get it close enough for them to haul into an empty two slips near the end of B-row. (A barge came through the channel just ten minutes later.) The Columbia River Sheriff arrived as we were hauling the boat over. They also escorted us and actually hung out in Tomahawk Bay marina to watch what was going on. Portland Fire and Rescue left once we got in the marina. Other boats, including Abstract and Bite Me, collected the marks for us, which was very helpful. Abstract met up with Pancho in Tomahawk for the hand-off.



Surprise knockdown of a Venture 21... Pancho to the rescue, shadowed by the Sheriff and Fire boat. Photo by Jane Pagliarulo

The Venture, more or less safe in a slip in Tomahawk Bay. Photo by Doug Schenk

Props to the Venture folks on having their life jackets on in what was originally tame conditions. Two of them had inflatables that clearly worked, the one in a traditional "sport" life jacket was a lot more comfortable. Also props to the racers that were dropping sails and standing by as well. In hindsight, we probably should have called this into the Coast Guard with a "Pan Pan" vs. hailing the river patrol, without success. It was a 911 call from RC Abstract that eventually brought Portland Fire and Rescue out.

We should encourage racers to pay the \$ for tow/help services. No doubt Pancho worked well for getting folks out of the water (the swim ladder aboard is a great new addition). I think ideally as we had the crew members safe, a professional tow/help boat taking care of the sunken Venture would have been better. Pancho is not equipped, and her crew not trained for such efforts. It was good to help save the boat by getting it out of the channel and to shallower water, but perhaps a bit too much was expected of Pancho to get the Venture all the way into the marina. The Pancho Crew was acting in the moment, and the fact that we could do this was great, and much appreciated.

Racing Report

Gregg Bryden, Race Captain

SYSCO Summer Series is in full swing with mostly great weather, stiff breezes, and long daylight. We have about 40 boats racing Tuesdays and 60 on Thursdays. Hence, we are talking about rebalancing the nights next year and welcome your input.

Again, none of this would be possible without the cadre of volunteers that run SYSCO, put on races, score the results, and occasionally mediate a protest. My RC job is pretty easy thanks to all of you that step up for SYSCO.

Speaking of RC, I have one friendly reminder about filling in all the information on race scoring sheets. Sometimes we need the names of the RC staff to help with clarifying the results or just to give credit for a well run course. The finish sheets are a time-tested way to capture everything we need to score boats accurately. Please also note, If the recorders note which pennant is starting a SECOND RACE with the time, it would remove some of confusion of the Scorer who dutifully reads your notes and sail numbers and finishing times, crunches the PHRF numbers and posts the scores after the races. You know our proof readers check this stuff very close, and thanks to them we seem to get things sorted out.

Racers, please remember each boat should have a radio monitoring channel 72. If you leave the race course early, please notify the Race Committee so they can note it on the scoring sheets. Also, PLEASE respect the finish line and stay clear after racing out of courtesy to other boats still finishing.

Among the crazy stories of sinking ships and crew in the water this month, on June 13 we had one Ranger 20 knocked down, but the couple racing held on to the boat and were able to get quickly back on board. I was behind them and diverted course to help and assess, but they were back on board and sailing in less than a minute. Not even enough time to call RC - Pancho was on the course but was never hailed to assist. R20s are unsinkable and generally self-righting. Whew! It was a wet and wild night.



Committee Boat owners who volunteer their boats always get a picture in the Newsletter!

It's never too early to sign up for the Twilight Series and don't miss the fun beer can races on Saturdays!

Race Captain Gregg Bryden

Saturday Beer Can Races & Post-Race Socials

Introduce friends to sailboat racing ▪ Try racing your boat in a casual goofy race ▪ Meet other sailors at the post-race social

For Info
visit
sailpdx.org



May 18 - Pirate Night Dress up as your favorite Pirate. After the race head to **The Deck** for a post-race costume party and drinks. If you care to donate a small taster of rum or another spirit to the race committee, it will go into the prize baskets for the costume contest.

June 8 - Water Guns Bring out the water cannons and do battle during the race. After the race dry off at the **post-race party at Island Sailing Club** at the end of D dock at Tomahawk Bay Marina.

June 15 - Single-Handed Test your mettle in single-handed racing. After a first start for the less courageous boats, the second start will be for single-handed boats. Gather your fleet mates or skip-pers from similarly matched fleets and create some exciting boat-to-boat competition. **The Sextant**

June 29 - Fly Your flag The RSS prohibit flying a flag while racing, but that rule is waived for this race, the last beer can before July 4th. Fly the biggest baddest flag or ensign you can find, or as many flags as you can fit onboard. Fly the national ensign or yacht ensign, along with national flags of crew members, club burgees, specialty flags, etc. Post-race social at **The Sextant**

July 20 - Family Night Gather your parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, siblings, etc. for a fun evening of sailing. Then relax on the veranda at **Portland Yacht Club** to watch the sunset.

July 27 - Rum Run Entry fee: 1 bottle of rum, handed to RC or brought to **Rose City Yacht Club** clubhouse post-race, where mixers will be provided for exotic rum drinks with and without umbrellas. Temporary moorings for non-members.

Aug 3 - Mardi Gras Make the race a New Orleans Mardi Gras parade. Costumes, beads, wigs, makeup, props, music - anything goes! Laissez les bons temps rouler! Post-race social at **The Sextant**

Aug 17 - Sport Your Colors Show your team spirit by wearing jerseys, hats, head and wrist bands, face paint, or whatever of your favorite sport team be it professional, college, recreational, women's, men's, kids, NFL, NBA, MLS or your local bowling league. Crazy and full regalia takes the day! Post-race social at **The Sextant**.

Sept 14 - Crazy Wigs The title says it all. Dust off your crazy wig and sport it during the race. No promise that photographic evidence will not appear on the internet. Post-race social at **The Sextant**.

Notifications and Upcoming Dates to Remember

SYSCO has open positions! Consider volunteering!

As a completely-volunteer run organization, our volunteers are the heart blood of our continued success. There are currently three positions needing to be filled who will be working closely with the SYSCO Board. If you, your crew, spouse, or anyone you know would be a good match for any of these positions, we would love to hear from them!

Please have any potential volunteers contact Anna at commodore@syscosailing.org or text or call her at 503-789-0586. Thank you!

Open positions:
Newsletter Editor
Sailing Marketing Intern

SYSCO Summer BBQs at Tomahawk Bay post-race

July 9 & 11

SYSCO Delta Cruise

July 27-August 4

PYC Summer Regatta

July 13 & 14

RCYC "Rum Run" Beer Can Race

Saturday, July 27

SYSCO Summer Twilight Series starts

July 16 – REGISTER NOW!

Cal20 "Mardi Gras" Beer Can Race

Saturday, August 3

PYC "Family Night" Beer Can Race

Saturday, July 20

SYSCO Dual Bridge Duel

Saturday, August 10

Visit sailpdx.org for details on these and other events!

OWSA Sail a Dinghy Day/BBQ

For OWSA members and beyond.... Join us for summer fun celebrating Women in Sailing at OWSA's Sail-a-Dinghy Day and BBQ! Willamette Sailing Club Saturday, August 17, 2019 Noon to 5:30 pm Free dinghy rides by WSC members from 1:00 to 3:00 Bring: Women who want to try dinghy sailing Something for the BBQ and/or a potluck dish to share BYO beverages, plates & utensils Your own dinghy, kayak or paddle board to launch and play on! Your own PFD Sailing games to play on land or in the water Sailing stories to share Schedule: See OWSA.net

Beer Can Races this year are on select Saturdays from May to September. They're a casual race on a Saturday afternoon, and if you own a boat and are interested in trying your hand at racing, or know someone who does, this is a great opportunity. Each race is sponsored by a different club, and there's a theme to make it more fun and even somewhat goofy. If you are a skipper in need of mentoring, or a crew member wanting a ride, let me know at commodore@syscosailing.org.

Other Club's Business

Bill Symes, Columbia Gorge Racing Association

How about a weekend in the Gorge?

The Columbia Gorge Racing Association is gearing up for another epic season of sailboat racing in the Gorge, and we're hoping you'll join us. As always, CGRA depends on our volunteers to put on these events. We could not do it without you!

We'll need plenty of help on and off the water, including registration, race committee, safety boats, mark set, scoring, food service, set up and clean up, and errand running. Regatta experience is great but not required; if you're enthusiastic about sailing in the Gorge, we want you!

Check out our [2019 Regatta Schedule](#) and see if you can fit us into your summer schedule. There are volunteer opportunities available for all events, but three in particular: the [RS Aero North American Championship](#) June 28-30, the [Columbia Gorge One-Design Regatta](#) July 27-28, and the [Laser Masters PCCs](#) August 3-4.

What's in it for you? How about a weekend of fun and fantastic sailing with the friendly CGRA team in one of the most beautiful spots on the planet? A chance to see world-class sailboat racing up close and personal! And, of course, free lunch! If that sounds good to you, please [contact me](#) or [Susan Winner](#) to set up some dates. And don't hesitate to call if you have questions or need further information.

Looking forward to seeing you in the gorge this summer!

Bill Symes, President
Columbia Gorge Racing Association
709 N. Columbia Blvd, Portland, OR 97217
503-516-1563



**Columbia Gorge
Racing Association**

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For up-to-the-minute announcements, photos, and video, visit CGRA on Facebook

Join CGRA

Support a great cause and enjoy the benefits of being a CGRA member. Memberships are available in several categories to fit any budget. **More information**

Calling all Volunteers

We have an incredible schedule of events for 2019, but we can't do it without you. Click **here** to sign up to be on our fantastic team of volunteers that help put on our world renowned events. Whether you are a new or returning volunteer you'll have a terrific opportunity to see some world-class sailboat racing in a world-famous big wind venue, and a chance to work alongside the friendly CGRA team to see firsthand how an international level event is conducted.

June 3, 2019 SYSCO Board Meeting Minutes

Lynn Eastes, SYSCO Secretary

Scott Stevenson, Bruce Newton, Jan Burkhart, Jeff /Lynn Eastes, Gregg Bryden, Anna Campagna, Dennis Damore, Bill Sanborn

The meeting was called to order by Commodore, Anna Campagna at 6:55pm

Membership

(Jan Burkhart) New membership application: Tony and Elizabeth Orsini of the Cal 20 fleet – Hobbit We now have 116 members, of which, 12 are associate members

Action: New members approved unanimously by the Board

Financial Report

(Scott Stevenson) SYSCO has \$8182.57 checking account and \$5128.67 in the savings account We received a check for \$300.67 from Regatta Network. Our projected income was \$700 more than we have actually received. Discussion about Pancho: Are we looking for a replacement for Pancho? There is concern about the number of repairs that Pancho has required. It would be nice to have a bigger boat to allow for more space for the marks. Thomas was searching for a replacement boat. Most agreed that it would be a good idea to start looking for a replacement boat. Discussion about how much we spend for trophies, etc. We spend about \$6,000 budgeted for these items. Denny suggested getting a list of the prizes purchased last year and possibly providing feedback on the items that were most popular versus not. **Action:** Anna to request list of purchases for prizes last year.

Racing Report

(Gregg Bryden) Tuesday summer series breakdown is complete. Significant imbalance between Tuesdays and Thursdays. For the last 5 years, we have had 37-38 boats on Tuesdays and on Thursdays, 57-58. Tuesday seems to be getting smaller and smaller. Some are moving because they do not want to fly spinnakers anymore. Next year, we might need to rebalance the Tuesday versus Thursday.

Action: For next year, the Race Captain will consider changing the nights to better balance the nights for safety reasons. There was a great deal of dissatisfaction last time we tried to do this. Need to move the cruising boats to Tuesdays.

Action: Gregg will contact Stephanie to poll the cruising group about the possibility to move them to Tuesday to better balance the groups next year.

Rogue boats showing up to race: We recently had a J 24 showing up who is not registered and is racing. This has created a number of safety concerns because the individual may not know the rules and may not carry the required insurance. It was suggested that the mark boat inform the sailor that he/she is liable for any damage to other boats. Also, the rogue boat got

in the way of a barge. Bruce suggests getting the fleet captains involved in bringing these boats into the club. There was also a Catalina 22 who was unregistered last week. Michael is willing to coach these boats to help them learn to race.

OCSA and scoring: Some were not registered with OCSA and their scores were removed. There were many disgruntled people who were not registered with OCSA. We should not wait until the end of the series to address this.

Denny asked why we could not have a “hard stop” in the Regatta Network for OCSA membership.

Action: Anna to inquire if a hard stop is possible on Regatta Network for OCSA membership

Barges: A racer was protesting the race committee or requesting redress because Race Committee announced for the group to get out of the channel. This sailor stated that this affected his position in the race. We don’t know if the protest committee accepted this request. Gregg wants to compose a communication to the boats that are causing these problems. Bruce argues that the Race Committee should not give directions, they should just announce the presence of the barge. Denny suggested that when the barge comes down, the mark boat shadows the barge and sees who is in the way of the barge. Denny suggests that the mark boat not be tied to the committee boat so they can be available to assist with man-overboards, etc. Gregg suggested inviting a barge operator to one of the SYSCO meetings. It is imperative to education members about the barges. **Action:** Article about barges in the newsletter. Invite barge representative for fleet night.

Action: 1. Gregg will ask Gary, the scorer, to post the OCSA membership issue on the scoring page so that participants know they are delinquent in the OCSA membership. Ask Gary to put these boats in the “dog house.”

Action: 2. Gregg will look at the inventory of letters we use for race courses and Anna will make the letters and give the bill to the treasurer.

Action: 3. Gregg will contact the race captain for the fleets that have rogue boats showing up. Gregg will inform the Race Committee of how to respond to these unregistered boats.

Action: 4. We Try to put a hard stop in Regatta Network for OCSA membership.

Bruce brought up the fact that SYSCO would like to expand the mailing list to include crew.

Action: Anna will collect crew information from all of the fleet captains and put it in a database so it can be uploaded to vertical response.

Newsletter/Webmaster/Marketing Report

(Anna Campagna)

Beer Cans: ISC sponsored Pirate night was rescheduled for last weekend. 11 boats came out. The Deck restaurant did not honor the reservation, so there were not tables. Prize to Cal 20 boat after their first race. Bruce will try to get out pictures and an email about the event. SYSCO is responsible for the single hand race.

Other Business

PYC moving Fall Regatta to Summer – July 13-14

Vancouver Lake looking for donations to combat Eurasian Milfoil infestation: Denny explained that the lake is being taken over by milfoil. Vancouver Lake Sailing club and VLRC formed Friends of Vancouver Lake. There is an event this weekend at the sailing club. Denny would like to post information about their need for donations. He would also ask SYSCO to donate \$200 and do an email blast

Action: SYSCO will donate \$200 to VLSC Eurasian Milfoil fund.
Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm

