

May 2020

FROM THE FRONT  
MONTH THREE

FROM THE REAR  
PROPER COURSE

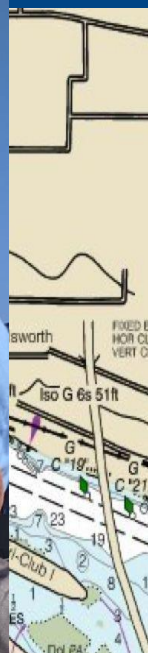
RACE REPORT  
SUMMER FUN

FEATURE  
FUN IN QUARANTINE



SMALL YACHT SAILING CLUB OF OREGON

# STARTING LINE



*Cruising class fleet captain and newsletter co-editor Rick Samuels celebrating his 68<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 13 at the helm of Vaporware . (Photo by Liz Samuels)*

# FROM THE FRONT

---

**ANNA CAMPAGNA - COMMODORE**

---

In this, the third month of the Covid-19 pandemic shelter-at-home order, we are seeing some light at the end of the social isolation tunnel as the governor is now allowing outdoor recreation in small groups. I know some of you have been getting out on the water and doing some fun racing on Saturdays, in what the founder (his boat is aptly called Breakaway) has been calling a Social Separation Seminar (not a "Race"). But at the start of June, if all goes according to plan, SYSCO will be organizing some "Fun Races" on Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting June 2nd, for those skippers who feel they can safely sail.

SYSCO leadership recognizes that safety has to be a priority, and we must not put our fellow sailors in situations that may compromise their health and well-being in regard to the Corona virus. We are encouraging sailors to follow the Guidelines of the State of Oregon <https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/Ie2342E.pdf> to create a safe environment for sailboat racing.

This means sailors with compromised immune systems may choose not to race, or have to single-hand it, or race using crew with whom you are co-habiting. It means that your "Quarantine Crew" may not be your regular crew, it might be your reluctant 15-year-old son. You may have to engage your auto-helm, or even start your motor to get out of trouble. And that's OK, cause we are gonna be out there to have FUN! Now, there are going to be boats that may appear to be not playing by the rules of co-habiting. There will be NO official policing or protests (but perhaps some nasty public shaming) against those who flaunt our guidelines. We understand that there may be exceptions. For example, Phil and I have been co-quarantining with my niece and nephew, so they may be helping us out on Bite Me or Race Committee. Or perhaps Jacqueline and Kelly invited their trimmer along because he has been living alone in a forest service lookout, and they figure he is pretty safe. But let's not stretch this too far. (Colistro, we don't want to see the usual party-of-ten!) If the Multnomah County River Patrol sees an "organized activity" commencing on the Columbia River that does NOT adhere to the state and federal guidelines, we could get the whole thing shut down as well as possibly fined.

So basically... Boat-owners, it's up to you to sail safely. Sure, you want to be competitive. Of course you want your best trimmer aboard. But in this case, ignoring the Covid-safety guidelines could get all of our fun taken away, and worse - cause somebody to get sick. Please don't be that skipper.

# FROM THE FRONT

---

**ANNA CAMPAGNA** - COMMODORE

---

Race Captain Gregg has outlined the details further on in this newsletter, but I would like to personally stress a few points made by our friend Rob, a sailor/Doctor:

- \* Social/physical distancing will always be required as long as there is a remote possibility of contact with an infected person.
- \* Wear a mask on the boat if you are racing with people with whom you are not cohabitating. (Masks do little to protect the user, but if an infected person is wearing a mask, the chance of transmission to someone nearby can be reduced, maybe by as much as 50%. This is the real reason masks should be worn by everyone; to reduce the likelihood of an occasional/rare asymptomatic COVID-19 infected person transmitting it to someone else nearby.) Out of respect for others, we all should personally assume we could be infected and not yet symptomatic and so we should all wear masks to protect others around us.
- \* Masks should ALWAYS be worn on the dock to protect others.
- \* Keep at least 6' separation on the dock. Avoid the temptation to gather in groups on the dock.
- \* Hand washing/sanitizing is always required for personal safety. (Sanitizing is good, but you can't expect 100% effectiveness.)

My apologies for being so long-winded, but i feel that communication is key if we are to host some safe, fun, racing. Skippers, if you feel that you can safely join in these races just-for-fun, we encourage you to sign up EARLY for the Summer Series so RCGregg can get to work on Covid-Approved RC assignments at <https://sailpdx.org/notice-board/>

# FROM THE REAR

---

**MICHAEL MORRISSEY - REAR COMMODORE**

---

## Proper Course

Like many sailing couples, my wife and I have been going through sailboat racing withdrawal the last month and we've noticed that we are beginning to substitute our daily walks with the dog for a race on the Columbia. We often determine a race/walk plan beforehand and set out for a 10 am start depending on the weather. Our race-course usually consists of a daily walk to one of the neighborhood parks and back while avoiding all other COVID 19 potential encounters along the way. It's amazing how one can use sailing strategy and racing rules to accomplish this. First, even before leaving the house, we talk over strategy and what the best course would be depending on the wind-strength and direction and potential crowding at the marks. Then, we exit the house observing local foot traffic, and get ready for our start near a well-traveled intersection and being very careful avoid the nearby street-corner, now called the pin end. This seems to be a gathering place for neighbors to chat at the required social distance although we've noticed 6 ft. rule violations at times (but we haven't raised a red flag yet). If it looks like it is going to be too crowded we would pause to let a few barging groups go by so we can get a clean getaway and have the option of tacking over to the north side of the street if necessary. Personal avoidance is key to a good windward leg in clean air and one of us is always on lookout to anticipate individuals or fleets of folks heading our way. While the rules aren't really clear on who has the right of way, we found that single walkers tend to alter course to give us larger groups clear sailing. However, one must anticipate some folks who obviously do not know the rules or are being distracted by their navigational instruments or iPhones, and be ready to crash-tack out of their way. Usually we can make a clean dash to the main crossing of Broadway which is our designated no. 2 buoy in terms of traffic, people congestion, and deciding what the options might be for the downward leg of our walk. The wind is always a bit shifty here and there are no overlaps allowed within the 3 body-length circle at the mark which is the pole with the safe-to-cross button ready to be elbowed. We pick our spot carefully, cross with adrenaline flowing, and get ready for the next leg of the course. This leg opens up on wide streets and one can see ahead for several blocks allowing us to plan strategic moves 2-3 blocks in advance. If an oncoming port-tacker is doing a brisk walk right towards us, my crew points out what our options are and asks what we are going to do. If there is indecision on the skipper's part, she usually grabs the tiller or dog-leash and steers us in a clear direction. If we are already on the layline, we hold a bit to see who will make the first



# FROM THE REAR

**MICHAEL MORRISSEY** - REAR COMMODORE

---

move and use a general rule of thumb of one block distance before angling off at 10 degrees to avoid collision. No foul, no harm and usually a slight wave of the hand or a nod lets them know we are giving them a free pass this time and hopefully they will reciprocate the next time around. Our trim is good, face-masks adjusted and we never let the leash drag on the ground slowing us down and it is clear sailing to the next obstruction at a busy 33rd St crossing over to Grant Park. Fortunately, Portland walkers, like sailors, are knowledgeable and polite and crossing over to the Park is a breeze. However, at Grant Park, chaos reigns especially on the weekends when everyone heads for the open spaces. Maneuvering to a dog leash-free area requires a set plan, trimming our face-masks, careful vigilance and always being ready to abandon plans and call in a new strategy in a split second. There may be larger gatherings of families maneuvering together in constricted areas and that makes one want to yell out about



# FROM THE REAR

**MICHAEL MORRISSEY - REAR COMMODORE**

room at an obstruction, but realizing that would be fruitless, we usually just slow down to let them pass or tack away. Then with a quick round-up and sheeting in the leash we head for the next leg knowing that the new rules seem adaptable depending on the situation. While there are many open areas of Grant Park, there is no question that several flotillas have come together to enjoy the sunshine and get out of the house. Usually one can pick and choose what side of the course you want to travel, weighing several factors such as, maximum avoidance of others, the needs of the dog, willingness to scuttle plans and vessels that come too close not giving you room to respond before overlap occurs. The worse are overtaking joggers who sneak up from behind, create overlaps that are too close and make you alter course. You want to yell out “Hey buddy, haven’t you heard of Rule 17, Maintain Your Proper Course” but you know that would roll off them like water off a duck. We keep an eye out for others and after a few rounds of the course and careful bagging of any mess left by our four-legged crew member, we are off to the finish line and home. We have a final obstacle in the re-crossing of 33rd but after that goes well and you are feeling pretty confident, you trim the sails, keep the dog nearby and head for home. As the finish line approaches there is the final hurdle of neighbors chatting at the corner and a few wanderers heading home from a shopping spree at the local grocery. But a firm wave of the hand, sometimes with a red flag in hand, scatters the group and we are once again sitting on the porch, beer in hand discussing the race and what strategies seem to work. Can’t wait till next time.



# RACING REPORT

---

**GREGG BRYDEN - RACE CAPTAIN**

---

Good News! SYSCO is putting on Summer Series Fun Races for those who can Race and help with Race Committees safely.

The general idea is to have a “soft opening” for the Summer Series, beginning June 2, following specific Guidelines that are currently under development (See Anna’s Summary of Oregon Outdoor Activity Guidelines). We are still consulting with the health authorities and the Governor’s office and will have final guidelines before racing starts.

The SYSCO Board and its members will decide how to proceed on a more regular season, if possible, for the rest of the season (Long Distance, Bridge to Bridge, Summer Twilight Series, etc.).

It is up to individual skippers to determine if they can safely race while maintaining separation and other best practices under current state and federal guidelines. This is consistent with the Racing Rules of Sailing “4: DECISION TO RACE – The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.” The current guidelines can be found here: <https://govstatus.egov.com/or-covid-19>  
*Stay home if you are sick or have been exposed to someone suspected to be infected with COVID 19.*

The SYSCO Board has decided NOT to award trophies for this series because many boats may be sailing with fewer crew than optimal or are unable to sail at this time. SYSCO will score the races; but the scoring is intended to be for fun — just bragging rights.

SYSCO is currently working with the Governor’s Office to develop guidelines to safely begin racing. These are currently in draft form but include the following points:

- Groups should not congregate in parking lots or on docks before or after races. Once sailing is done, pack up your boat and go home.
- Practice physical distancing of at least six (6) feet between you and others not in your household.
- Use cloth face coverings in public areas including docks, bathrooms, and parking lots.
- Smaller boats should sail/race with their own household members rather than with those in their extended social circles, unless they wear face masks or can keep a safe social distance while sailing.
- Larger boats may sail with up to 10 individuals as long as there is a physical distance of 6 feet that can be maintained and crew wear face masks.



# RACING REPORT

---

**GREGG BRYDEN** - RACE CAPTAIN

---

- Have hand sanitizer onboard your vessel and use when appropriate.
- Cover coughs/sneezes, avoid touching your face, mouth and eyes.
- Use your own personal equipment such as life jackets, do not share equipment, water, food, etc.
- Sanitize and disinfect commonly touched surfaces or tools (winch handle, tillers, etc.) on boats after the race.

It is critical that all SYSCO sailors follow these Guidelines to create a sailing environment that is safe and comfortable for all. The Race Committee will have their own set of Guidelines that will be followed to maintain a safe environment on the RC boat and the mark-boat Pancho.

We encourage fleets to discuss how each skipper might approach sailing under the Governor's restrictions and consider whether the fleet should adopt a set of guidelines such as no spinnakers and/or a maximum crew size to encourage safe and competitive sailing.





# RACING REPORT

---

**GREGG BRYDEN - RACE CAPTAIN**

---

The greatest challenge will be ensuring the safety of race committee volunteers. To help maintain isolation there will be limited RC staffing. Boats that sign up to race will be asked to provide crew to run races on the opposite race days. The idea is, if skippers feel they can safely race through separation or are already cohabitating, they can also do RC duty. We will likely ask one boat from a fleet to be the RC platform and have a separate boat crew run Pancho—and keep them apart. Hence, the current fleet-based RC schedule for the Summer Series may be updated with a boat-based schedule for the Summer Series. The assignments will be updated prior to the races.

Fleets should communicate safely to discuss desired fleet race conditions, such as deciding not to fly spinnakers, asking for shorter/longer single courses, and helping with RC duties.

Because of the limited RC staffing we may not be able to provide the same level of racing SYSCO members have come to expect. Depending on the boats registered and RC staffing, we may:

- Group fleets differently to reduce the number of starts
- Communicate course and start information by radio (no course board)
- Use radio and sound signals only for start sequences (no flags)
- Set simple courses using existing navigation buoys
- Combine start/finish lines
- Only hold one race per fleet per evening (no second/third races).

Modified Sailing Instructions will be posted to the Notice Board and provided to RC volunteers prior to the first race.

Regrettably, there will be no end of summer series barbeques this year. Also, we are strongly recommending that sailors do not congregate at the docks before and after races, to minimize exposures.

SYSCO will be holding a virtual Race Clinic on 21 May. Watch for information on how you can participate.

We are feeling our way back to a new normal for racing and appreciate your patience and support. SYSCO is relying on skippers' judgement to decide whether they and their crew can race safely. This includes general boat safety as well as avoiding spread of the COVID 19 virus. We will be regularly disinfecting Pancho and her race equipment and keeping up on COVID safety issues. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Contact Gregg Bryden at [Race\\_Captain@SYSCO.ORG](mailto:Race_Captain@SYSCO.ORG) with your ideas on how we can race safely.

## A person wearing a bright green protective suit, black gloves, and patterned rubber boots is using a hose to spray a blue and white HDX sprayer. The sprayer is a large white plastic jug with a blue handle and a black nozzle. The person is standing in a forest with trees and green foliage in the background. The sprayer has the HDX logo on it.

Long-time SYSCO member, Dave Paligo, writes in from Buckeye Lake, OH about running a “Home-Alone Regatta” based on Sailing Rules and Trivia. It can be viewed at <http://buckeyelakeyc.com/2020/04/04/home-alone-regatta-2020/>

This is a scorecard:

[illegible]

MAY 2020

# SYSCO BOARD MEETING MINUTES

---

MAY 4, 2020

---

**Attendees:** Anna Campagna, Bruce Newman, Scott Stevenson, Gregg Bryden, Rick Samuels, Lynn Eastes, Warren Dalby, Jacqueline Pitter, Michael Morrissey, Jan Burkhart, Steph Walker, Randy Poff, Craig Daniels, Darren Posey, Michelle Bennett, Shancy Holland, David Paul

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order electronically by Anna Campagna at 5:34 pm. This meeting was done remotely using Zoom.

**Membership Report:** Submitted by Jan Burkhart

- One renewal since last meeting
- Membership now stands at 87 total members
- 77 Regular members
- 10 Associate members
- We have 35 fewer members than last year

**Treasurer Report:** Scott Stevenson

\$4769.00 in checking

\$ 6488.00 in savings

\$11,257 total cash \$30.00 per series

- We are refunding the late fee to the 4 late SYSCO registrants
- We will likely not be spending any money on trophies and banquet





# SYSCO BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MAY 4, 2020, CONTINUED

## Racing report: Gregg Bryden

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a number of challenges for putting on races. The group decided to do limited racing beginning with the Summer Series. There will be scoring for fun, but no trophies. Other guidelines suggested include:

A few race captains may need to be reassigned because they may have high-risk family members and not want any exposure or risk of exposure doing race committee

Fleets will need to make decisions re: using spinnakers with decreased crew on board

Much discussion about the fact that > 50% of SYSCO members are > 60 years of age and are technically high risk for COVID

Recommendations will go out for facemask use, social distancing on the dock, sanitizing boat, groups of no more than 10 people

Each skipper is responsible for assuring the safety of their boat and crew

A motion was made to accept these guidelines by Lynn. Bruce seconded the motion.

Action: Gregg, Bruce, and Michael will draft a document for how to conduct races and safe structuring of race committee to put out to the general SYSCO membership



May 4 Zoom board meeting.



# SYSCO BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MAY 4, 2020, CONTINUED

## Newsletter: Anna Campagna

There is rarely any feedback about the newsletter for members

Anna is soliciting stories for the next newsletter about how people are weathering the pandemic.

Jackie stated that she often perused social media for both pictures and possible stories for the newsletter

## New Business

The Ranger 20 Nationals in July have been postponed. They will be rescheduled for the same general date in 2021

Jan suggested a “virtual” happy hour for SYSCO members. **No action was taken on this suggestion**

Jackie and Bruce suggested a virtual Town Hall to describe how racing will work. This might be a better format so that people are not talking over one another

SYSCO race clinic should be completed if we are going to have a Summer series.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm

