

July-August 2020

FROM THE FRONT
BITE-ME SAILING

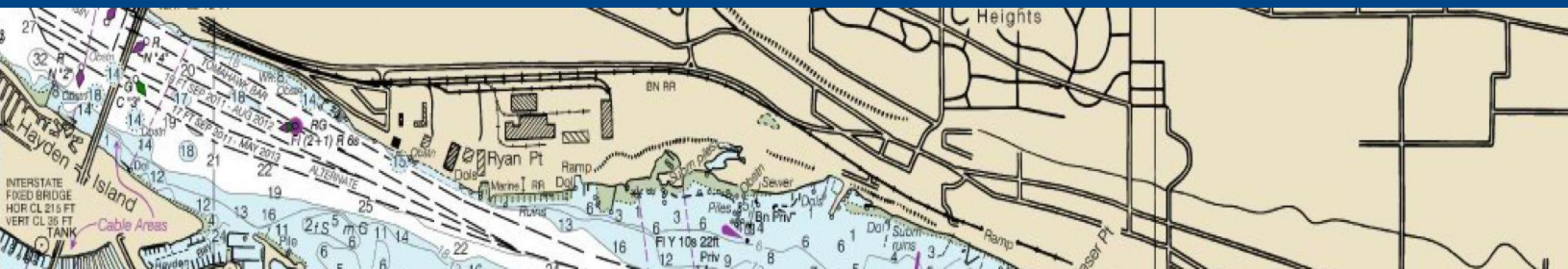
FROM THE REAR
SINGLE-HANDED

RACE REPORT



SMALL YACHT SAILING CLUB OF OREGON

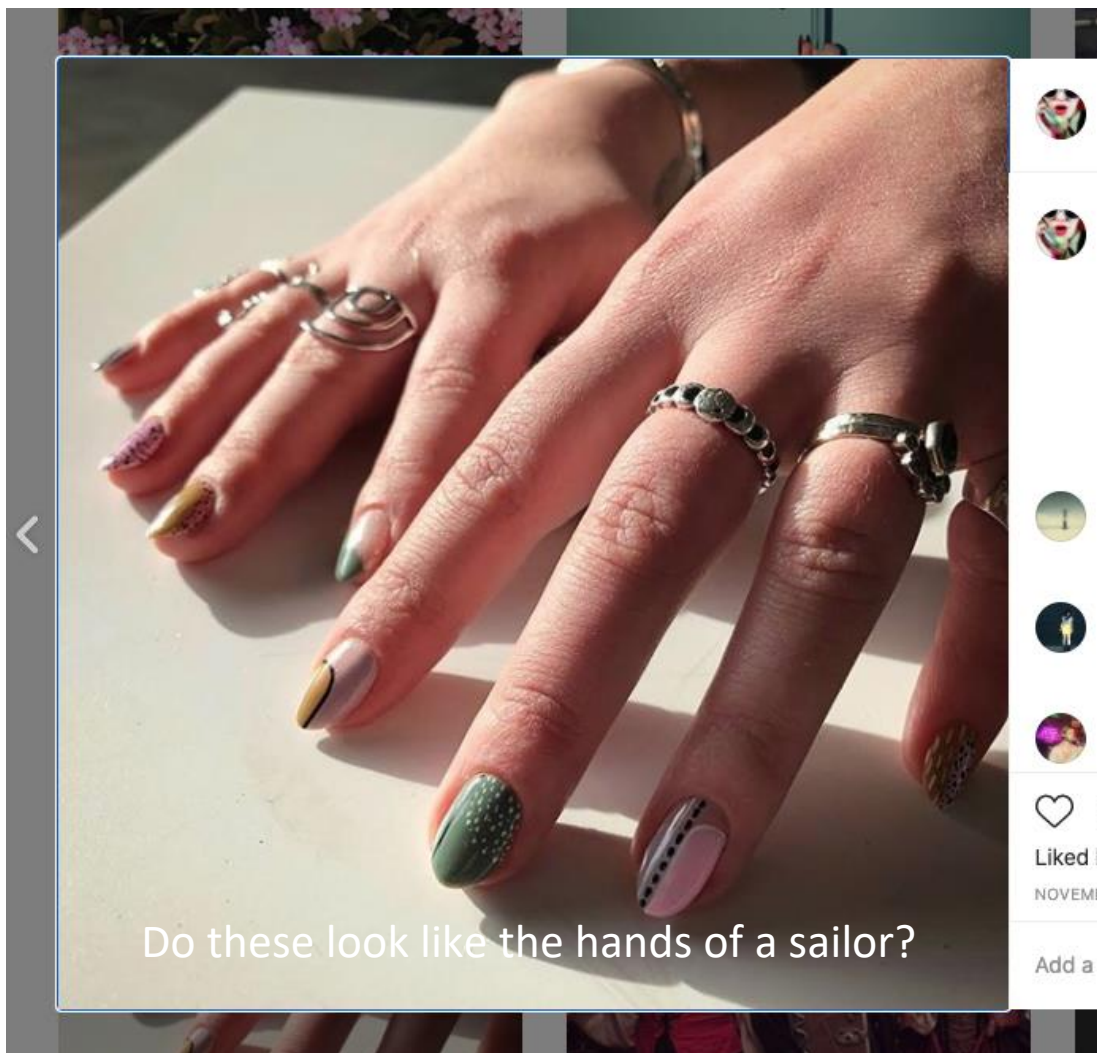
STARTING LINE



SYSCO Soaker

FROM THE FRONT

ANNA CAMPAGNA - COMMODORE



Meet my 30-year-old niece, Bex. She's the daughter of my older sister, who lives in New England. Becca, as she was called when she was small, moved to Portland straight out of film school in Boston, because that's where her Aunties were living. It didn't take her long to land a job at a hot advertising agency, and she grew into the position of Producer. Bex and her husband Ryan live a mere 6 blocks from me and Phil. We have become kind of COVID-quarantine partners. We have dinner together about every other night. We stay up late drinking wine and playing Mexican Train. Phil and I like to think that hanging out with these kids keeps us young (if mildly hung over). She is really smart, gorgeous and pretty glam. (If you want to check out her Instagram page, it's weekdaywitch.) She loves to sail... but the last time she handled lines and a tiller was when she was fourteen-fifteen-sixteen, sailing dinghies at a summer camp in upstate New York called Eagle Island. We have taken them out on our cruising boat many times,

FROM THE FRONT CONTINUED

ANNA CAMPAGNA - COMMODORE

but that's easy. Could she handle racing on a J/24?

Like many skippers, Phil had some tough choices to make about racing in this season, when a pandemic interrupted everyone's normal routine. We didn't even consider inviting Josh (the Vegan Trimmer) and Andrew Haliburton (our strategic weapon in the pit) to race with us this summer. Do we double-hand it on Bite Me as a husband-and-wife team? It normally takes four people to race a J/24 competitively (although Jenn and Jeff and Anika and Scott seem to do well at it). We decided to invite RyBex to join us, since we were already practically living together. But we had little time to train them up. We had exactly one sailing session together on Bite Me before our first race of the season in mid-July.

First of all, you can't expect me to take you seriously if you show up to sail wearing cotton shorts; a tank top that shows off your tattoos; long, glamorous nails; and a baseball cap that says "Evacuation Team." No sailing gloves, no PFD, questionable boat shoes. (Don't get me started about her shoe fetish.)

Nevertheless, our training went well. Her husband, Ryan (adorable, intellectual, quintessential beard-sporting hipster who publishes a monthly music magazine and also works in advertising), took to trimming very quickly, although we ruled out cross-sheeting using the Lopez blocks, to keep it simple. Phil was driving and coaching, Bex was in the pit, and I ran the foredeck as usual. It was a beautiful Sunday in mid-July. Perfect wind for coaching newbies. Solid 10 kts out of the N-NW.

Thursday came along and we rigged the boat for racing. It was a gorgeous night - perfect wind, steady 8-10. We drove out of our moorage at Hayden Bay and headed toward Buoy 2 for a practice rounding and spinnaker set. All was well until we realized that we may be late to the start! Phil engaged the motor to push us faster up-river. When we heard the 5 blasts (one minute to starting sequence), we were biting our nails. We were still well below the starting line. Phil, our stalwart captain, knows the rules well and cut the engine at the 4-minutes-to-start horn. Still 50 yards below the starting line, it was gonna be close... and since there were only three J/24s registered to race, the RC combined our start with the Cal-20s. We were desperately sailing upstream, wing-on-wing, against the current, into a phalanx of Cals vying for position along the starting line.

It was the perfect dip start. We crossed, we gybed, we almost kissed a couple of Cals, but we didn't foul anybody (although there was the requisite, "Come UP! Come UP!" yelling

FROM THE FRONT CONTINUED

ANNA CAMPAGNA - COMMODORE

from below). We were in a good position in relation to the other two Js, and we never looked back. Bex learned that cotton shorts are a poor choice for sitting on the rail. And she broke one nail per spinnaker-douse! (Two.) We worked well together as a crew and made almost no big mistakes, although there needed to be some adjustment to the timing of spinnaker raises and douses as called by the skipper. You take your regular crew for granted when they go missing. Put two new people on the boat and you have to allow so much more time for coaching and explaining; for slow, awkward tacks; for spinnaker douses that need to be initiated much sooner than you would if you had your seasoned crew on board, working without words, like a well-oiled machine. We miss our old crew. We love our new crew. It's a mixed bag of emotions, sailing in the time of COVID-19.



FROM THE REAR

MICHAEL MORRISSEY - REAR COMMODORE

Single-Handed

Probably the most friendly COVID 19 race of the year was the SYSCO Single-Handed Beer Can race on July 11. Not having to worry about social distancing or masks (except in the marinas) a number of boats came out to try their skills against fellow racers and the winds and currents of the Columbia. However, on the day of the race, wind forecasts seemed to be changing hourly and heading in the wrong direction – up into the 20 mph range with gusts to 28 mph. Some strange looking clouds were roaring in from the west and temps were dropping into the lower 70s before the start of the race and it look like more of a survival contest rather than a race when the starting horn finally blew. Our Commodore, Anna Campagna, had convinced her niece to help her set the course marks and run the race

from Pancho as the committee boat. Probably the last time she will listen to her aunt inviting her for a pleasure boat ride on the Columbia. Some sailors justifiably said, “This is crazy” and sailed off for a less challenging reach over toward the Washington side. Several boats did start the race and performed Herculean tasks in keeping their boats relatively flat for the long slog up to Buoy 2. Since no scores were officially recorded, I cannot say for sure all the boats finished. However, hats off to Cal-20 sailor Craig Daniels, who sailed his boat “For My Girls” to a rousing finish, even flying his spinnaker on the second downwind leg, showing his versatility in all types of winds as well as the Cal-20s remarkable steadiness in howling winds. Another shout-out to Merit sailor Bill Wagner who sailed “Nausicaa” to victory in the Merit fleet. Three Merits started for the Single-handed race but only one finished and Bill walked off with the Merit-class single-handed glass sculpture trophy “A Fish Out of Water” showing that he was the toughest of the Merit Class. Thanks to all the boats that came out, we’ll try to get better meteorological conditions for next year.



Bill Wagner with the Merit 25 single-handed trophy

FROM THE REAR CONTINUED

MICHAEL MORRISSEY - REAR COMMODORE

Dual-Bridge-Duel

It has been a windy summer and SYSCO sailors that were hoping for a bit of a reprieve in the annual DBD race that gets its start in early afternoon, usually in light airs. However, this is not a normal year and the 24 boats that entered this year's race shouldn't have been surprised to see luffing mains and travelers out to the rails for part of this race as well. It started in a gentle 5-8 knot westerly breeze that had boats headed for either the I-5 or I-205 bridges in comfort and style. The next leg was variable wind with big holes on the Oregon side and the wind more consistent over in Washington. On the final 1/3 of the race, the wind filled in with a vengeance and the usual dead-man's corner at the I-205 rounding was more of a survival event for undermanned boats who didn't take their chutes down early. The Melges-24s ran away with Division 1 finishing the course under 2 hours (all boats but one finished under 3 hours) with *Myst* taking line honors again this year. In Division 2, the Cal-20 *River Rose* won the day also finishing under 2 hours in a fast race. While most boats did the usual upwind to I-5 first strategy, *Nausicaa* in the Merit fleet found going downwind to the I-205 bridge first as the faster winning route in her fleet. Unfortunately, in these days of Covid-19, tales of woe and courage could not be told during a post-race gathering.



Photo credit: Gregg Bryden

RACING REPORT

GREGG BRYDEN - RACE CAPTAIN

Wow. The SYSCO racing season is nearly behind us. And we did it! Thanks to careful planning on the part of your SYSCO Board members and a great bunch of RC crews from the fleets we managed to pull off a Summer and Twilight series of races. I also have to thank Gary Whitney for all the behind the scenes scoring the races and posting them on Sail PDX. Gary and Ailona basically did twice the work this year setting up SailPDX: once at the beginning of the year and then a do-over with tons of revisions to schedules and Sailing Instructions as COVID upended our lives.

While the “just for fun” races offered no trophies, there was plenty of safe competition amongst those of us fortunate enough to be able to race. We had 90 boats sail in the Summer Series and 93 boats in the Twilight Series. That’s a boatload of good times on the water. We were able to do this because everyone rose to the challenge to race safely. It has been an honor to be your Race Captain.



RACING REPORT CONTINUED

GREGG BRYDEN - RACE CAPTAIN

I think we can all feel proud about making the adjustments that allowed us to still get to race. Pour yourself a beer (or cider) into your SYSCO “No Flags No Problem” glass and pat yourself on the back.

The racing season is not over! Check out the one-design races Craig Daniels and Michael Morrissey have been cooking up for Saturday 19 September: <https://sailpdx.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/SYSCO-OD-20.pdf> . Come out and race or just watch and cheer on your fleets.

RCYC is going forward with a one-day version of the Long Distance race to St. Helens on 12 September: <https://sailpdx.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/RCYC-LD-20-amended3.pdf>.

CYC is starting the Sailing on Sunday series early, beginning 20 September. More info on these races can be found here: <https://sailpdx.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/CYC-SOS-20-21-amended.pdf>.

So don't put your boat away for the winter quite yet.

Looking forward, I am confident we can pull together for a full season of safe racing next year. Keep up the good work of distancing around the docks and wearing those masks!



Who were those masked men?

RACING REPORT CONTINUED

GREGG BRYDEN - RACE CAPTAIN

Remember, SYSCO wants this:



Not this:



SYSCO BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JULY 6, 2020

Attendees: Anna Campagna, Scott Stevenson, Gregg Bryden, Lynn Eastes, Michael Morrissey, Jan Burkhart, Steph Walker, Bill Sanborn, Craig Daniels, Jacqueline Pitter

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order electronically by Anna Campagna at 5:38 pm. This meeting was done remotely using Zoom.

Newsletter: Anna wanted to thank Rick Samuels as the newsletter editor. He is doing a great job. They are looking for another platform for the newsletter other than PowerPoint.

Membership Report: Jan Burkhart

Since June 1st, SYSCO has received 4 paid renewal Memberships

Two requests for New SYSCO Membership have been received and paid.

- Bill and Natalie Beaver, Cal 20 “Flounder”, Portland, OR, Volunteering for Pancho Maintenance.6 /1/20
- Rick and Jeanie Butler, Cal 27 mark 11 “Destination”, Happy Valley, OR Volunteering for Annual Banquet Planning, 6/25/20
- Anna moved to accept these new members. Michael seconded the motion. All approved

Membership summary

90 Regular Members @ \$120.

11 Associate Members @ \$25.

101 Total SYSCO Members

Inquiries received by membership:

1 – Sailor wishing to race, needing guidance. Tod Bassham is helping him learn the ropes. Now registered for Tues Twilight and joined SYSCO.

2 – New Crew moved to Portland. Added to SYSCO email communications and connected to PYC RC for potential crew on July 12.

3 – Boat shopping – Forwarded email to Fleet Capts. - Cruising - Catalina 22 - Merit 25 – Fleet Captain-EF & Bruce – Grow the Sport. Directed to 2020 Race Book pages of Fleet descriptions.

Idea for Merchandise purchase: Thank you SYSCO Community for facilitating Sailing Visions during the COVID isolation.

SYSKO BOARD MEETING MINUTES CONTINUED

JULY 6, 2020, CONTINUED

Treasurer Report: Scott Stevenson

- \$6424.00 in checking
- \$6489 in reserve account
- \$12,913 Total liquid assets

Racing report: Gregg Bryden

- Jan Burkhart is doing a wonderful job of disinfection Pancho for us
 - The Twilight series is coming up. Race committees are secured for the next several weeks
 - There are currently 18 racers registered for Tuesday and 30 for Thursday. Further discussion about this disparity in numbers and possible options. This will need to be discussed next season.
 - Deadline for signing up for the Twilight Series: The registration deadline is 48 hours prior to the first scheduled race. Late registration may be accepted up to 1830 hours on the day before the first scheduled race with a \$30 late fee in addition to any required entry fees. Otherwise, no late entries will be accepted.
 - Single-hand race coming up on July 11th. Gregg needs help with RC and Pancho for this
 - Soaker race scheduled for July 28th also needs RC
 - Duel Bridge Duel will take place as planned.
 - Delta Cruise will take place as planned with Covid Guidelines in place.
 - The majority of racers have been positive about the Covid-era racing we have managed to do. There are a few disgruntled sailors making comments to Gregg by email and one snarky comment on our Facebook page about how we are ruining racing in Portland by encouraging people to give lots of room at the marks. Gregg will be writing a summary of the rationale for the curtailed racing we are doing for the next newsletter.
 - Recommendation to send all SYSKO members a "I survived Covid sailing" mug. or possibly "Covid Participation Cup"
 - Action: Anna, Jan, and other board members will talk over email to choose the style of mug and the saying. Anna will order the mugs.
 - Action: Anna will send out an email blast about upcoming events.
 - Action: Who will find RC volunteers for the DBD?
- New Business : Jan suggested doing a virtual (Zoom call) happy hour with SYSKO members.
- Action: Jan will talk with Anna and Michael to choose a date/time

Meeting adjourned at 6:27 pm

SYSCO BOARD MEETING MINUTES CONTINUED

AUGUST 3, 2020

Attendees: Anna Campagna, Scott Stevenson, Gregg Bryden, Lynn Eastes, Michael Morrissey, Jan Burkhart, Rick Samuels, Bruce Newton, Jacqueline Pitter, Gary Bruner, Denny Damore

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order electronically at 5:39pm. This meeting was done remotely using Zoom.

Newsletter: Anna wanted to thank Rick Samuels as the newsletter editor. He is doing a great job. They are looking for another platform for the newsletter other than PowerPoint.

Membership Report: Jan Burkhart

Since July 6, SYSCO has received 1 paid renewal Membership.

91 Regular Members @ \$120.

11 Associate Members @ \$25.

102 Total SYSCO Members

One inquiry has been made regarding SYSCO Membership. At this time, the skipper may choose to pay the \$30 entry fee per event. 2 SYSCO sponsored events left in 2020.

Treasurer Report: Scott Stevenson

- \$6787.00 in checking
- \$6489 in reserve account
- Total liquid assets - \$13,276
- There are no outstanding bills except for \$70 for Columbia Crossing dry storage

Racing report: Gregg Bryden

- Racing is going well
- Need race committee for Duel Bridge Duel
- There were about 17 boats that participated in the Soaker event
- A few boats have “dropped in” to the Twilight series without registering. They can do this but they will not be scored

SYSCO BOARD MEETING MINUTES CONTINUED

AUGUST 3, 2020, CONTINUED

- Pancho radio does not transmit on high power. The radio is fairly new. Need to check the fuses and antenna, handhelds seem to miss some communications

Action: Gregg or Anna to check connections and antenna

New Business: (Anna)

- Because SYSCO is not giving trophies out this year, Jan Burkhardt came up with an idea to give each member a commemorative glass for “Sailing in the year of COVID-19”. Wording and design will be decided over a vote of board members by email. SYSCO members will each get 2 glasses, and Associate Members will get one, and there will be an option to order more glasses for your crew, at a slight discount. Much discussion about the style of glass. The group decided on beer glasses without handles, and the color of type will be “etched” so that it looks white.
- Distribute them at the end of August by setting up volunteers to distribute in the parking lot at the moorages on the last days of racing, Aug. 25 and 27. Rick said he could spend a few hours manning the gate and meeting people in the parking lot of Rose City. Anna could cover McCuddy's. Jan said she could meet Vancouver people at the new Vancouver Waterfront.
- Anticipated total price will be about \$1400 - We will give away 193 and order around 100 extra to sell for \$5 each. Anna got Pint glasses estimate from Dormers: So, the good news is that the pint glass (not the Imperial Pint, mind you) is \$6.25 a piece instead of \$7.95 for the 13-oz mug that we usually get for the Dual Bridge Duel race. Plus \$35. setup fee. Anna checked on the Imperial Pint glass price, and it's an extra \$2 bucks apiece - is it worth it? It is a more unique glass shape. And more delicate.
- We are not buying glasses for distribution for the DBD race this year, but we will be giving away the giant bowl perpetual trophy.

Action: Jacqueline to develop Google form for ordering more. Anna will complete the artwork and make the order.

SYSCO BOARD MEETING MINUTES CONTINUED

AUGUST 3, 2020, CONTINUED

Other business: We need a slate of new officers for 2021

- Gregg has agreed to be commodore
- Need a race captain, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm



Photo Credit: Dierk Polzin