

November 2020

FROM THE FRONT
TRANSITIONS

FROM THE REAR
SOS

RACE REPORT



SMALL YACHT SAILING CLUB OF OREGON

STARTING LINE



Photo by Anna Campagna

FROM THE FRONT

ANNA CAMPAGNA - COMMODORE

Transitions are rarely easy. Fall into winter is a seasonal shift rife with pitfalls. Colds and flu, not to mention a growing pandemic, are hazards that may be difficult to avoid. (Wear your mask, sailors!) Kinks in your neck and that troublesome lower back always crop up this time of year. Even your pets exhibit odd behaviors that belie their fragile health in the shoulder seasons.

Many boats are pulled from the water before winter sets in. Are we considerate enough of the needs of our beloved boats, inanimate though they may be? Phil and I have a disparate collection of boats that receive very different treatment. The J/24, the famous Shark Boat, comes out of the water in fall. She gets put to bed on her trailer and tucked in nicely for the winter under a giant tarp, snug as a bug in a rug. The Pacific Seacraft, however, is like an old Mercedes. Too big to be lifted regularly, she needs to be kept warm in winter when the temps dip below freezing, lest she bust her ceramic head. We plug in a heater and monitor her condition during cold snaps, but if it's reasonably warm and sunny we'll take her out for a spin to keep all the juices flowing. I am an avid skier and a lover of the mountains, so I'm somewhat torn about my winter sports - mountains or river today? Am I so obsessed with being in the snow that I'm willing to drive an hour and a half to hear the crunch under my backcountry skis or snowshoes, or shall we settle for a lovely ride on Mira on the Columbia river, just ten minutes from our house? I guess it depends on the temperature. Either way we have to dress like we're going skiing.

My wooden rowboat is another matter altogether. I draw the line at rowing below forty-five degrees. If I have to wear gloves I can't feather my oars! I hate to admit that I've become a fair-weather rower. And it mustn't be too windy. Am I getting old? I forget myself... I'm a sailor. I should be out on a race boat for Sailing on Sundays. She gets out too seldom, my Grace. She may have to move to the Multnomah Channel, where glassy water is easy to come by.

Back to transitions... I've been your faithful SYSCO Commodore for two years now. It was my dumb luck to serve my second term in a pandemic, which made racing and gathering for social events difficult or simply impossible. For 2021 I'm handing off the job to our faithful and capable Race Captain/VC of the last two years, Gregg Bryden. Able to pivot or adjust at a moment's notice, Gregg and our Rear Commodore Michael Morrissey did amazing jobs keeping our membership safe and mostly happy with our adjustments to keep racing for fun on your Tuesday and Thursday calendars. Special thanks to Scott Stevenson, blissfully continual SYSCO treasurer; Lynn Eastes for

FROM THE FRONT

ANNA CAMPAGNA - COMMODORE

serving two years as secretary, and Membership Committee chair Jan Burkhart (who is moving on to be VC for OCSA). Rick Samuels will continue as Newsletter Chair, and I'm really appreciative of his efforts to work in a difficult platform such as PowerPoint to give you monthly (or bi-monthly in a pandemic) news. Send us your photos and stories, please!

For 2021 please welcome Dennis Damore as Vice Commodore, Sloan Kimball, Secretary, and Carisa Bohus, winner of this year's Welcome Slough Trophy. She is taking Jan's long-held position as Membership Chair. I figure Carisa is an apt replacement for Jan, who welcomed so many new sailors to SYSCO lo, these many years,

Anna Campagna
Commodore



Bite Me, mast down, motoring to Schooner Creek for her fall haul-out.



Anna's Chesapeake Light Craft is faster than she appears - sliding seat and graphite oars.



Mira, our Pacific Seacraft 34.



*Found this silly cozy floating in the river.
Anybody want to claim it?*

FROM THE REAR

MICHAEL MORRISSEY - REAR COMMODORE

SOS – Michael Morrissey

It's the Sailing on Sunday (SOS) season and folks are taking full advantage of getting out of the house and onto the water. Kudos for the Corinthian Yacht Club of Portland for having run this casual race series over the years as a way of getting out of the house and onto the water during the winter months. During these Covid-19 times, this is needed more than ever. I sailed this last Sunday after missing most of September and October and I had forgotten how much fun they could be. Of course Covid-19 has put a cramp on crew size and what sails to be used, but after going through an election week (rather than 1 day), threatening virus spikes in Oregon, and watching the Seahawks go backwards against the Bills, my son Tomás and I said "let's go". The sun was shining but the wind forecast app had wind arrows pointing in opposite directions less than a mile apart, never a good sign. Not good for wind but we could still get an Oregon-November tan which is as rare as an ANTIFA fanatic buying a Proud Boy bully a beer at Kells after



Sailing on Sunday. Photo by Tomás Morrissey

FROM THE REAR CONTINUED

MICHAEL MORRISSEY - REAR COMMODORE

the protest. It was a glorious Sunday. The wind was light but there were 30+ boats hanging around buoy 14 waiting for the 5 minute horn. Bill Sanborn and wife were RC and with a smile decided on a downwind start at buoy 14 with hopes that the wind would fill in by the time we drifted with the current to buoy 2. After 40 years of sailing on the Columbia, Bill knows the river well, and the wind obeyed his commands. After a very light air start, with many of us inching toward #2 while trying to keep the chute flying, we clumped together once rounding the mark and headed upwind against current. The wind did fill in from the east and most of us made it back to the shortened course finish line. It was a fine race on a sun-drenched November day and there are many aspects of the SOS that are worthwhile pointing out.

1. You get to mix it up with boats you would never sail against during the regular season. In the Level Fleet there is everything from a Santana 20 to J-105s and its great fun, especially if you're a smaller boat, mixing it up with the big boys.
2. There are often 20 boats or more on the starting line. You never get these many boats on the line during the regular season. So, even if they roll over you after 100 yards off the line, you get to experience what it is like to start in a larger fleet.
3. You can be more relaxed as there are no trophies involved. I would add in these times of Covid-19, there aren't even bragging rights at the bar as we keep our social distancing.
4. You can practice things you haven't tried before. Flying the chute without the pole, setting the traveler to windward, windward chute takedowns, etc. Things you have talked about but hesitant to try in a regular series race.

More than anything, it's great fun and just good to be out there on a Sunday afternoon, looking for some joy in the new normal that we are living in. See you on the water.

Michael Morrissey
Rear Commodore

RACING REPORT

GREGG BRYDEN - RACE CAPTAIN

This is my last SYSCO Race Captain missive as I transition to becoming your 2021 Commodore. I have to say how impressed I have been during my term by our sailing community's dedication to volunteer-based yacht racing, education, and outreach. Somehow, as if by magic, my fellow sailors always step up to fill SYSCO board positions. The same goes for other clubs. But it is not magic. It's the strength of our community coming together for a common purpose. We always step up to ensure fairness, real competition, and high quality yacht racing. It's the Corinthian spirit.

Our spirit has been challenged this last year and we will continue to see challenges to safe boating in the year to come because of COVID. While I am hopeful about a vaccine and a return to normalcy, we have to plan on uncertainty in 2021. Because so much is up in the air right now, we will have to remain flexible and patient and continue to practice safe boating until we tame this disease. To that end, SYSCO has already been discussing the 2021 season with OCSA, our next Race Captain Dennis Damore, and local expert judge Craig Daniels on how we will proceed with education events, racing, and socials next year. In short, we are proceeding with our usual (and some new unusual)



SYSCO Fleet Night February 2020. Remember when we used to meet in person? It will happen again.

RACING REPORT CONTINUED

GREGG BRYDEN - RACE CAPTAIN

plans for the 2021 season. We have adopted clear guidelines with triggering metrics that will help clubs decide whether we have to continue the lock down or can open up to race and play together without contributing the spread. We'll have more info to come on this COVID decision tree.

In the meantime, please continue to do everything you can to bend the curve back down. I know it's tough. I miss seeing my friends and family in person. I want to support our great local restaurants and pubs. I can't recall the last time I heard live music, went dancing, or sat in a theater. *I miss sailing with a full crew and serving on a full Race Committee.* But, we are more than half way through this and there is light at the end of the tunnel. Hang in there a little longer.

Greg Bryden

Race Captain



Photo by Gregg Bryden



Photos by Anna Campagna

SYSKO BOARD MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 2 2020

Attendees: Anna Campagna, Scott Stevenson, Gregg Bryden, Michael Morrissey, Jan Burkhart, Bruce Newton, Jacqueline Pitter, Denny Damore, Bill Sanborn, Phillip Martindale, Sloan Kimball, Rick Samuels, Warren Dalby, Cheryl Watson

Call to Order: This meeting was called to order electronically via Zoom at 5:35 pm.

Welcome:

A hearty round table, introduced Sloan Kimball, Phillip Martindale and other new faces to the SYSKO annual general meeting.

Membership Report: Jan Burkhart

- No change from October.
- SYSKO membership:
 - 92 Regular Members.
 - 12 Associate Members.
 - 104 Total SYSKO Members
- New members: It was moved by G. Bryden and seconded by A. Campagna to accept Sloan Kimball and Denny Damore as SYSKO Members for 2020.
- A new 2021 Membership Chair will be assigned in January. Current Chair will assist in a smooth transition.

Treasurer Report: Scott Stevenson

Account Balances:

- SYSKO Checking \$4,804.00
- SYSKO Reserve \$6,490.00

Total Liquid Assets **\$11,294.00**

- The end-of-year SYSKO Account is high. SYSKO Membership Income is down, but Expenses are also down. Treasurer advised, "Be cautious of spending due to the uncertainty of 2021 Income with possible COVID 19 restrictions."

SYSCO BOARD MEETING MINUTES CONTINUED

NOVEMBER 2, 2020, CONTINUED

- Checking Account balance transfers to the Reserve Account on Dec. 31, 2020.

Racing Report: Gregg Bryden

- Gregg has secured Pancho, moving essentials to his home.
- 2021 will have 2 Race Coordinators.
 - Tuesday – open to a Volunteer – contact Gregg Bryden
 - Thursday – Phillip Martindale
- A volunteer Pancho Engineer is needed for 2021. Contact Phil Campagna or Gregg Bryden.
- 2021 thoughts.
 - Fun Races due to Covid Restrictions?
 - Tuesday/ Thursday Equalize number of boats racing. Goal: Equal Tues/Thurs RC workload including number of Starts.

Other Business:

- Fleet Captains: The 2021 Fleet Captains will be chosen by respective Fleet members at Fleet Night scheduled for Feb. 2021. The SYSCO Board may appoint Flt Captains to Fleets not making an assignment. A generic link shares SYSCO Fleets and Captains as a resource to the sailing community.

SYSCO BOARD MEETING MINUTES CONTINUED

NOVEMBER, 2020 (CONTINUED)

- After discussion, a motion was made by A. Campagna and second by B. Newton. The SYSCO general membership and board voted unanimously to accept the SYSCO Officers for 2021.
Commodore: Gregg Bryden
Vice Commodore: Dennis Damore
Rear Commodore: Anna Campagna
Treasurer: Scott Stevenson
Secretary: Sloan Kimball
- 2021 OCSA Race Book: Jackie Pitter is coordinating. Advertisers are needed for 2021 to defray costs. Contact Jackie Pitter.
- Boat Show: Due to Covid 19, SYSCO will not participate in the Portland Boat Show. Michael Morrissey will contact the Boat Show Coordinators.
- SYSCO Starting Line: Newsletter articles and photos are due by Nov. 12, 2020. newsletter@syscosailing.org
- THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT. Incoming Commodore Gregg Bryden thanked Anna Campagna and Michael Morrissey for their 2 years of dedication to helming SYSCO.
- No December 2020 SYSCO Board Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 pm.

Jan Burkhart, sub SYSCO Sec.