

FEBRUARY 2023

FROM THE FRONT

THERE'S A NEW
FIREFIGHTER...

FROM THE REAR

WHITHER SYSCO?

RACE REPORT

I GOT LASSED?
AND YOU CAN BE
TOO!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RACE MANAGEMENT CLINIC
MARK BOAT NAME AND
SPONSORSHIP



SMALL YACHT SAILING CLUB OF OREGON

STARTING LINE



Sometimes it's just a drift - Photo by Michelle Bennett

There's a New Firefighter...

The old saying goes, “There’s a new sheriff in town...,” but I gotta tell you that, as I start this job as your Commodore, it feels more like I’m the new firefighter in town who is both putting out fires with a firehose and drinking from it at the same time. There’s tons to do, and I won’t bore you with the details. Rather, I’d like to set the stage with a few themes that you’ll be hearing from me regularly as the year progresses.

But first, I want to thank each of you for being a SYSCO member and participating in SYSCO’s events. We are a community only because individual members sign up for races or cruises and then actually dig into what it takes to show up, participate, be competitive, and also share the experiences with each other. Without all those elements, our SYSCO sailing community would dissipate into lone boats occasionally poking around after work only on the best sunny days of summer.

Second, the two principal themes for the year are: Mutual Support and Communication. As to the latter, we’ll be working with OCSA and both RCYC and PYC to find ways to be better communicators with all of you. The current systems that the respective clubs and the association use are fragmented, inconsistent, and ineffective. There are multiple different applications in use with different lists and authorizations, and the communications then end up lost, in the trash/spam, or ignored. How can we grow the community, our sport, if all the information about upcoming events and activities is lost in the ether or hopelessly untimely and therefore unusable? The obvious answer is that we can’t. We’re going to change things. How? We don’t know, exactly, but expect recurring information here, at least, to keep you apprised of the steps forward. We ask, in advance, for your patience and feedback about what’s working and what’s not. Got new ideas, new technologies, new processes? Bring ‘em on. We just want to get better.

As to the former, each and every one of us, every time we step on a boat with a crewmate, we engage in mutual support. We become part of a team to achieve an end: a great cruise or a

FROM THE FRONT

DENNIS DAMORE – COMMODORE

great race. And, if our crewmate or a fellow racer needs help, we step up and do whatever is necessary to help that person or that boat. It's a bit of the law of the sea, but also just a variation on the old golden rule that we do for others what we would have them do for us. And on the water it's especially important because we fall overboard, we get holes in our boats, we have mechanical difficulties, all of which could be disastrous.

There's a particular form of mutual support to which I'm referring here and that is taking some of your personal time and applying it for the benefit of the club – volunteering if you will. Is the club in trouble? No more so than other sailing clubs that need people to take charge of and complete necessary tasks that keep the business of organizing races and cruises going. But, without a continuous evolution of participation by a broad collection of people with experience and willingness to learn, the well of mutually supporting teammates eventually runs dry and the health of the club suffers.

We know that of the literally several hundred people, skippers and crews, that race SYSCO series every week there are more than enough people with available time, interest, and capability to step up and mutually support the club. One of the key missing pieces relates to what we just talked about, communication. You can't help if you don't know the club needs it. But we're going to fix that too. I commit to you that we'll work on new ways of telling you what the club needs to run races, do events, and build community, so long as you recognize and acknowledge of the importance of mutual support and then do your part just as much as you would if you had to pull a crewmate alongside your boat with a Lifesling and get them aboard. It's that important.

So, Mutual Support and Communication are the touchstones for a successful year. I'm in. Are you?

See you on the river,

Denny Damore

SYSCO Commodore

Whither SYSCO?

Did you know this is the 45th (sapphire) anniversary of the founding of SYSCO? It has been an honor and a privilege to help lead SYSCO these last two years. We have come through some tough times together and I have the utmost confidence in our current board under the steady-handed leadership of Dennis Damore.

I have led many teams as a project manager in my professional life, but the opportunity to help lead SYSCO was very different: *Instead of working on projects for pay, SYSCO volunteers do it for the love of the sport--for and by themselves.*

SYSCO is clearly a case of the whole being greater than the sum of the parts. We sailors have come together to make local sailing great *and* affordable. Without volunteers, there would be no races, no clinics, no barbeques (the horror!). If we were to pay for PROs, hire committees and RC platforms, it would be prohibitively expensive for many of the sailors who currently enjoy and support Columbia River racing. So, hats off to all of you that helped us *in spite of COVID* by giving up your time for RC Boats, RC crew, Pancho maintenance, BBQ staffing, poster making, cookie baking, coaching, Board Meetings, Boat Show support, and the myriad of other contributions that add up to the unique club that is SYSCO.

One key ingredient to SYSCO's success has always been the strong foundation of the fleets that comprise our membership. It is the fleet captains who communicate with their members and represent at SYSCO board meetings. It is the fleets that provide crew and boats to put on the hundred or so races we do every year. It is the fleets that help grow and sustain the sport.

Regrettably, it is often the same group of fleets and people that do more than their share to step up when needed. What can we do to encourage new sailors and those that have been lurking for a while to step up? Here are a few ideas:

- Make your fleet strong and represent at SYSCO meetings and on Race Committee. Try to meet at least a few times a year as a fleet to build bonds and communicate. The strongest fleets in SYSCO have regular barbeques or potluck dinners and other social events off the docks to build lasting camaraderie and support each other with technical and boat maintenance assistance.

FROM THE REAR

GREGG BRYDEN – REAR COMMODORE

- Round up some new folks for Race Committee. If you can hold a flag or use a pencil, you can help run races. Bring friends and family out for what I call the best seat in the house for watching races. Warning—it's contagious!
- Ask for Principal Race Officer coaching. There are plenty of us old timers that are ready and willing to come out to help Race Committees get over the "first time running a race jitters." Occasionally conditions can be challenging, but we are a forgiving lot, and we learn from our mistakes. Get out there and do it.
- Get involved! There are many opportunities to contribute including:
 - Sending us material for the Newsletter,
 - Helping with training and social events
 - Attending Board meetings/becoming a board member
 - Doing your part to grow the sport by bringing new folks out to race.

SYSCO *will* be putting out calls for help in our website and newsletter, and our Membership Chair, Carisa, *will* be contacting you based on your membership volunteer choices. It is up to you to say yes, step up and continue to keep SYSCO alive and well through its Golden anniversary and beyond.

Gregg Bryden

Rear Commodore

Did you know that SYSCO kicks back fifty bucks to ***Any Fleet that holds an annual Fleet Meeting/Party?***

That's more than enough pizza and beer for most fleets to get together at least once a year to bond.

Sailing is Better when you Get your *Fleet* Together!

I got lassoed? And you can be too!

You know something is up when an “old, dear friend” asks if you can help them out with a “small favor.” Just this one little job of being SYSCO Race Captain. I said, “Yes,” and then, yikes!, in heartbeat it was official – I been lassoed into this volunteer position and my dear friend wasn’t even a cowboy. Actually, it is an honor to step up, but it is also with some trepidation that I take on this role to support our sailing community and SYSCO. This is a new undertaking for me even though I’ve played so many other roles with clubs in my decades of sailing here in Portland. And I feel like I have some big shoes to fill. So many excellent race captains have put in tons of volunteer hours for SYSCO over many years to keep such a vibrant racing culture alive in our community. I hope to succeed in meeting every sailor’s expectations, but I truly will only thrive best with your support. I look forward to the help of all you SYSCO volunteers without me having to lasso you, especially over the coming months as I settle into the job. Take a moment and look for volunteering opportunities on [SYSCO.org](https://www.sysco.org) or give me a call, otherwise, to make this season a success we may have to get out our own lariat and rustle up some help. More seriously, thanks in advance for stepping up.

Upcoming Events

This year is starting out with so much going on. Everyone is anticipating participation with so many events on the OCSA Racebook Sailing Calendar. A couple of events have already passed this month like the Fleet-O-Rama and the start of the OWSA Sailing Basic Course. OCSA’s Race Management Clinic, however, is on Saturday, February 25th. SYSCO’s first race will be the Crew Overboard April 1st. Remember, the signups for all the races and events are on [sailpdx.org](https://www.sailpdx.org). Go to it frequently for updates.

A Cautionary Tale

Finally, I wanted to share an interesting article from 48 Degrees North (January 2023) describing a situation during the CYC of Edmonds’ annual Foulweather Bluff race in October. A commercial ship took evasive maneuvers to avoid competitors in this race by doing a 360-degree turn. Wouldn’t that be a surprise to see a ship do a 360 as it is coming towards your fleet as you were racing? It was referred to in the article as “a radical move, not something that anybody had seen in those waters.” To the ship’s captain, the competitors looked like a “wall of boats.” After the race, Vessel Traffic Seattle contacted CYC of Edmonds and expected CYC to take action with these competitors. The result was that twenty boats voluntarily

RACING REPORT

MICHELLE BENNETT— RACE CAPTAIN

retired and seventeen boats were disqualified from the race. It's an informative and interesting read, including comments from our own Eric Rimkus, who was not a judge for this event but commented in the discussions. We don't have commercial ships like that here in our racing area, but, as you know, we do have barges coming through our race area all the time. Please be safe out there when they are in the area and don't take chances just to get a better finish and a pickle dish. You could end up in your own pickle, if you know what I mean.

Come on down and race with us,

Michelle Bennett

SYSCO Race Captain



Photo by Michelle Bennett

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Race Management Clinic

INVITATION: Everyone is invited to attend this FREE workshop brought to you by OCSA. This is a MUST for all race captains, fleet captains, and volunteer PROs who will be running races, as well as any others who expect to serve on a Race Committee boat.

DATE: Saturday, February 25

TIME: 10 am to 2 pm, with questions after as time permits. LOCATION: Rose City Yacht Club, 3737 NE Marine Dr, Portland FEE: There is no fee for the workshop but please register so we can plan for the group size.

REGISTRATION: Complete online at www.sailpdx.org. INFORMATION: Send an email to race_captain@sailocsa.org.

SYSCO'S New Mark/Safety Boat Needs a New Name!

Now is the time for all good Sailors to get creative! In addition to retiring Pancho III the boat, the SYSCO Board feels that it is time to update the name of our new Mark/Safety Boat. This is ***your club boat*** so please send us your *great* boat name idea *for the ages* (i.e., don't bother sending us any Boaty Mc anything). Email your perfect entry to Commodore@SyscoSailing.org.

Sponsor SYSCO's new mark boat!

Our yet-to-be-named Mark Boat is looking for a sponsor to help defray the cost of moorage, fuel, and maintenance. For the mere sum of \$500 per year, you can get the name of your business/website on one side of our beautiful Boston Whaler that gets lots of eyeball time on the water. We will also recognize your sponsorship on our website, in newsletters, and other SYSCO communications. For more information contact Commodore@SyscoSailing.org.

SYSCO BOARD MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 6, 2023

SYSCO BOARD MEETING February 6, 2023 Held at Rose City Yacht Club

Attendees: Denny Damore, Bruce Newton, Brian Haverman, Gregg Bryden, Scott Stevenson, Michelle Bennett, Cheryl Watson, Rick Samuels, Carisa Bohus, Jacqueline Pitter, Jan Burkhardt

Welcome from Denny. We will begin with the **budget. See attached.**

Scott gave a line by line walk-through on the budget. See attached budget. We are a little low on membership, but that is often the case this time of the year. It will pick up closer to racing season.

The expenses for the new Poncho, which has been purchased will come from the reserve account, not from the working account. In general, the budget is reasonably healthy for this time of the year.

Meetings for the next two months will be rescheduled due to conflicts with Denny's schedule.

March meeting will be on 3-9 at 5:30

April meeting will be on 4-6 at 5:30

BOTH OF THESE MEETINGS WILL BE ZOOM ONLY

Feedback on the Boat Show: Gregg thought it was poorly attended. However, Bruce talked to two new sailors who were interested in SYSCO and so did Rich. Michelle was not busy during her stay. Passion Yachts were very busy, as was PYC, but they were located up in the paying spaces.

As long as it is free, the consensus is we should continue to do it.

We will have another Pray for Wind party, with advertisements for it posted at yacht clubs. We should also try to get some news coverage for this events as we did last time. Can we get some merchandise sales at this event as well?

SYSCO BOARD MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 6, 2023

Fleet-a-Rama: Was lightly attended. Holding it after a SOS race means that some folks are too tired to stay for it. That was one problem. Perhaps there should be more time for visiting so that the sailors can be more interactive. Bruce thought the fleets were poorly represented.

Poncho: The new poncho has been purchased and will be taken to Denny's house along with the other poncho to swap gear and dress the new one. There are 3 people on the maintenance team so no additional volunteers will be needed.

We should have a naming contest for the Poncho. This will be announced in the newsletter. Sloan suggested that we solicit sponsors for SYSCO with their names on the new poncho to help pay for boat maintenance and fuel. Sysco sailing.org should be on one side and the sponsor/sponsors on the other side.

This is the 45th anniversary of SYSCO. We should consider a party. We will discuss this later in the year.

Communications: Denny wants to make this simpler. There are currently too many accounts and sending out a message takes too much time.

Michelle will work with the PHRF fleets to decide who will be their pros and who will provide the platform boat for each of their committee assignments.

She also needs a contact from each fleet.

Brian Haverman, from the Melges fleet has requested that they get two races per night, even if the second one is very short.

The Melges fleet is hosting a collegiate international, where college sailors will be able to sail a Melges on the Columbia in a racing venue. It will give them an opportunity to sail a Melges. This is scheduled for May 20-21. Could we expand this to other colleges? Do we want to expand it to other fleets? SYSCO could be a sponsoring organization.

Fleet reports:

Melges: should have about 6 on the line

Ranger 20's: expect about 13 on the line for racing

Merits: one new boat, probably 8 boats on the line

SYSKO BOARD MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 6, 2023

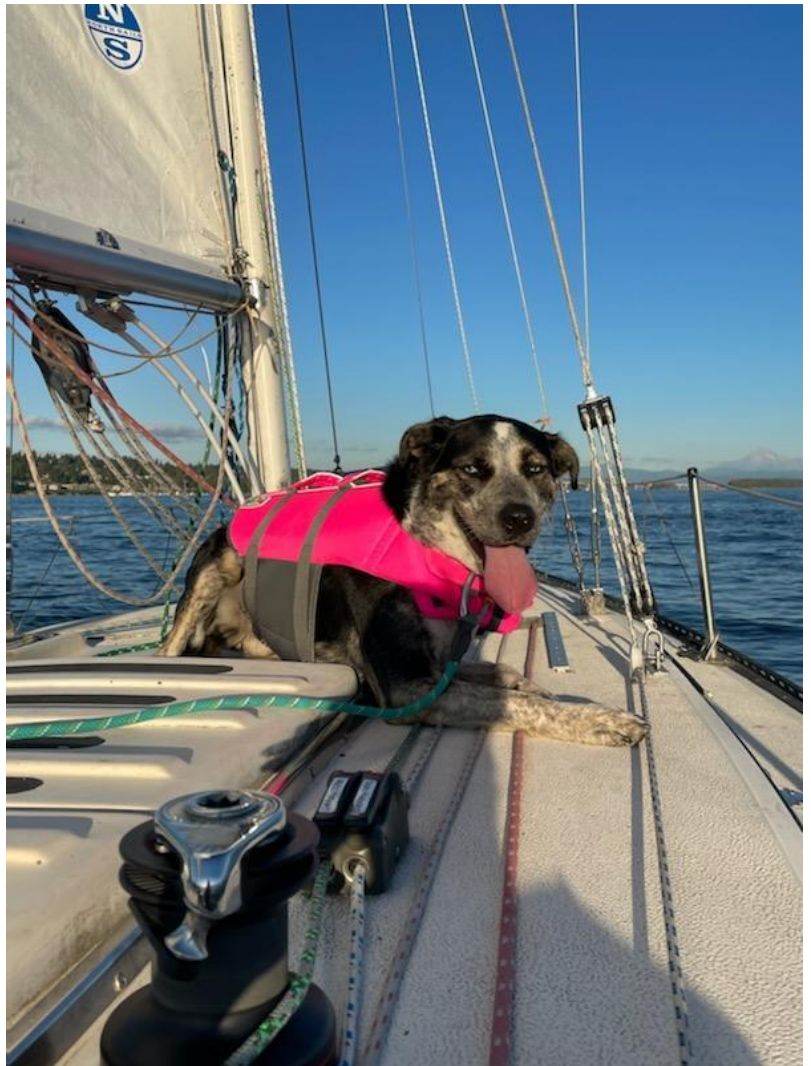
Ventures: 3-5 boats on the line
Martins: 3 boats
Cal 20: should have 10 on the line

Will SYSKO give fleets \$50.00 for fleet parties? We will look at this later.

Newsletter: articles are needed. Brian will write up a piece about the collegiate stuff.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted –
Cheryl Watson
SYSKO Secretary



Tatoosh foredeck trainee - Photo by Rick Samuels

SYSCO BOARD MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 6, 2023

SYSCO Budget 2023

Approved 2/6/23

	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	Difference
<u>Operating Budget - General Account</u>			
INCOME			
SYSCO Membership:ASSOCIATE	325	400	75
SYSCO Membership:FULL	10,860	11,000	140
SYSCO Membership	11,185	11,400	215
SYSCO Misc Income	200	210	10
SYSCO Race Income	1,281	1,200	(81)
INCOME	12,666	12,810	144
EXPENSES			
SYSCO Pancho, Moorage, Fuel, etc.	1,828	2,000	172
SYSCO Trophies	7,074	4,500	(2,574)
SYSCO Insurance	2,214	3,400	1,186
SYSCO CC Dry Storage	982	1,000	18
SYSCO Meeting, Clinics, BBQ	2,000	2,000	(0)
SYSCO Admin Expense	794	800	6
SYSCO Credit Card Fee	423	450	27
SYSCO Association Expense	225	225	-
SYSCO Fleet Events	50	200	150
SYSCO Website	1,011	100	(911)

SYSCO BOARD MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 6, 2023

SYSCO Bank Chgs	30	-	(30)
SYSCO Boat Show Expense	-	-	-
SYSCO Donations, Ads	-	-	-
SYSCO Membership, Burgees, etc.	-	-	-
SYSCO Race Income Expense.	129	-	(129)
SYSCO Racing, Marks, PRO, etc.	90	-	(90)
SYSCO RN Credit Card Fee	-	-	-
EXPENSES	16,850	14,675	(2,175)
Net Income:	(4,183)	(1,865)	2,318

Expected Insurance Increase

Doubled last year (covid) - Expect to return to 'normal' this year

Capital Budget - Reserve Account

INCOME

Sale of Pancho	5,000
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EXPENSES

Purchase new mark boat	7,500
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Mark boat improvements	500
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EXPENSES	8,000
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Net Capital/Reserve	(3,000)
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