



SYSCO

News

JULY 2006

Small Yacht Sailing Club of Oregon ♦ P. O. Box 5502 ♦ Portland, OR 97228

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No July General Membership Meeting

The next SYSCO General Meeting is September 18, 7 pm at Mars Meadow restaurant (Hayden Meadows). We're taking the summer off to concentrate on racing and cruising.

But if you ache for a meeting, try a SYSCO Board meeting, always on the first Monday of each month. Time: 6:30 pm. Location: Barley Mill Pub, 1629 SE Hawthorne. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

No More Cattin' Around

KAREN ANDERSON

VICE COMMODORE/RACE CAPTAIN

As we made our passage from St. Vincent to St. Lucia in the West Indies aboard my used but "new to me" Lagoon 38' catamaran, we were learning how this boat handles in winds from 5 to 30 knots and seas featuring choppy 3 metre swells. So far only one of our six crew members was under the weather, and the rest of us were grinning widely as we got to practice with the reefing system and watch the knot meter. Even in the wind, it was very hot, so

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Set Sail on the Delta Cruise



Martin Island on Saturday, July 29, is the starting point for SYSCO's premier annual cruise. The Delta Cruise is what you want to make of it, a weekend or two, or the whole week, taking in the beautiful lower Columbia River. The Cruise generally includes a layover at Cathlamet, Washington on Sunday, and a start on Monday's high tide to get into Warren Slough (no longer a secret now that it's mentioned here). Also within reach are Astoria, Warrenton and Hammond, Oregon, as well as Ilwaco, Washington for the adventuresome. It's your cruise: use it well and have fun.

No More Cattin' Around

continued from front

we enjoyed each squall which passed over and dumped some welcome rain on us.

Folks who know me will recognize that the boat's name, CATTIN AROUND, while catchy, is probably not my cup of tea. So by the time the survey was complete and a date set for the passage from St. Vincent in the Grenadines to Tortola in the British Virgin Islands where the boat will be in charter, the search for a new name was on. Many suggestions were contemplated, but after viewing the boat and taking her out for a spin, there was really only one possibility for my little sweetie: BAD KITTY. (thanks, Charlie!)

We are sitting at anchor today in lovely Marigot Bay, St. Lucia, enjoying the quiet time, swimming when it gets too hot, and planning our next leg tomorrow to Martinique. The people of the island are so welcoming and friendly, we hate to leave. We are picking up one more crew member in several days in Domenica, and then will continue our journey north to the BVIs. So far, it has just been Good Times on BAD KITTY!

Later....

We are moving up the islands on a great boat, with great crew. BAD KITTY handles beautifully. After leaving Marigot Bay in St. Lucia, we went on north to Rodney Bay, but had to make two runs into the bay because squalls and high winds left zero visibility. Quiet anchorage with very picturesque houses lining the edge. We did not get off the boat since we had already checked out of the country.

Next morning we left for a short sail across to Martinique and pulled into the cul-de-sac Marin on the southeast corner where there are quite a few charter operations, including Moorings and Sunsail. We picked up a few parts to fix minor items on the boat and had dinner on the boat. Judi is such a superb cook we hate to eat out.

We left early for the run up to Fort de France, so we did not have such a long day, and anchored in a small bay and went ashore to celebrate the French team's progress in the World Cup – lots of excitement, flags waving, horns and flares.

It was a long trip to Portsmouth Harbor to pick up Dick. Really big seas and winds hovering about 30 knots – more reefing practice. We are getting good at doing this in a hurry! Lovely dinner out on the shore; fresh fish, interesting but unidentified vegetables. This is a very remote island compared to the others, but has more internet than previous places!

We are leaving tomorrow for Guadaloupe and will be happy to get to St. Martin to pick up the dinghy and engine. It's a challenge rowing seven people against the wind in our borrowed tender.

Good times will continue on BAD KITTY.

Thoughts from the Rear

BILL SANBORN

I am back after a sabbatical from these musings. This spring we did a car cruise thru Phoenix, and then rendezvoused with a dozen cars from the East at the Colorado River's Glen Canyon Bridge and drove southern Utah into Zion National Park and on to Las Vegas for a 10-year celebration of the BMW Z3. We had 48 total cars doing the drives out of Las Vegas. This trip and time spent with fellow owners reinforced my desire to cruise either with the car or the boat.

Waving as you pass a car on the street, messaging on line, or meeting at the Start Line is not like walking around talking to the owners, comparing how their modified flipwidget works, getting to know one another. SYSCO has the perfect format for this – the DELTA CRUISE. Several have said this is their year and what is the Plan. Like always the meeting begins at Martin Island on Saturday, July 29th. It will be called to order and the fun will begin as soon as you arrive. From then on each boat is welcome to join with the fleet, or follow their personal Float Plan.

Join us for Saturday evening, or sail one weekend to Cathlamet, and back the next, or escape with us for the whole week. *We'll be at the ABC Outstation.*

Commodore's Comments

PHIL CAMPAGNA

Summer is here! After enduring the cold, rainy and dark days of winter, this July weather is what we've been waiting for. With the summer warmth comes sailing and lawn mowing. I'm as surprised as you are that those two activities were put in the same sentence, but both have been on my mind lately.

It all starts with knowing a good friend with a blue water boat moored in the islands up north. I've taken the opportunity and cruised on the boat several times as if she were my own and have grown fond of this double-ender. My most recent trips have been out of Oak Bay, British Columbia on Memorial Day and the 4th of July weekends.

If you ever get the chance, go see the Buchart Gardens fireworks. Both plant and pyro versions are a sight to behold! We anchored in Brentwood Bay then took the dink down beautiful Todd Inlet before tying up at the Buchart Gardens dock.

As some of you know, I've owned my home for over twelve years. The property includes a separate lot which has been my dog's playground and my mowing exercise for years. It's nice to have the space but not a necessity. My friend has now decided to sell the double ender and I'm first in line. Just happens to be that this friend buys and sells properties on the side. See where I'm going with this? Never thought that all these years mowing 5000 sq ft of grass might be traded in for a blue water boat that dreams are made of. I hope that we can come to a mutually beneficial agreement.

My fingers are crossed but what am I to do with the time that I spent mowing? Any ideas?