



# SYS CO

## News

FEBRUARY 2007

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

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#### Vice Commodore/ Race Captain:

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#### Treasurer:

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#### Secretary:

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#### Rear Commodore:

Phil Campagna  
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#### Trophies:

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#### Historians:

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#### PHRF Rater:

Bill Brennan  
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#### OCSA/PHRF

#### Representative:

Phil Campagna  
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## Chateau SYS CO Party and Open House

*Bring a friend, a potential member, an appetizer and drinks to the Rose City Yacht Club, for some fun and socializing at SYS CO's second annual social and open house.*



*When: February 17, 2007, 7 pm*



*Where: Rose City Yacht Club, 3737 NE Marine Drive*

*SYS CO's February General Membership Meeting is a purely social Saturday night party (sure we may have some surprises in store, too). It's a time to bring new people into the fold, racers and cruisers, boat owners or sailors sans boats. So invite your friends, pack an appetizer and your favorite drink and meet us at the Rose City Yacht Club.*

Also, plan ahead for the March General Membership Meeting, March 17, 2007, 7 pm at Elmer's at Delta Park (please notice the change in venue). Come early at 6 pm for dinner and socializing. **Alison Mazon**, one of the best local boat surveyors, will talk about "What to look for when buying a boat and how to prepare a boat you are selling for survey."

P.S. The SYS CO Board meets 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.



## Thoughts from the Rear

BILL SANBORN

I don't recall how long it has been since I had gone to the Seattle Boat Show, not since the Kingdome with lots of Sail boats rigged up in the center of the field, and the trip to Lake Union to visit a few large boats and several used boats that were rafted to the docks at Boats Afloat. That has changed and technology is the wave in boating. I do have Radar and GPS to find my way around in the dark and fog by referencing that information to a paper chart. At the Quest Field Center show everyone was showing the newest navigation equipment, and I don't mean Sextons and dividers with the latest Bowditch Tables. I happened on a fellow who was asking the "Nerdy" fellow in the Furuno booth about the "Max Sea" system and how he could use it to plan a trip to the West Coast of Vancouver Island for optimum conditions within the week. WOW, he went on line, got the latest 168 hour NOAA wind, wave, temperature, rain and pressure forecast and applied it to a tide and current program. Then after factoring in boat speed and adjusting the time to the location, he knew what the projected conditions would be at any

point along the route and could adjust transit times for the best conditions, all projected on to a chart on his screen.

The Quest field Center also had a good number of boats inside, and lots of other gear to make boating fun and safe. I was surprised to find no PWCs, but did see several powered kayaks, both sit down and stand up versions.

At Lake Union I was impressed by the number of boats on display and the geographical scope covered by those displays – Puget Sound, Southwestern Canada, Alaska, and Oregon. It was fun to dream as we toured through some very expensive Yachts.

Within SYSCO, the Board is very concerned that this newsletter is not getting to all the members and we are getting reports that sailors trying to find us are having problems locating us. Several options are being discussed and if you find this and read it please respond to Rod Dawson's email at [rodawson@comcast.net](mailto:rodawson@comcast.net) and say "I saw the newsletter" in subject line.

See you at CHATEAU SYSCO for a social evening and chance to share stories and catch up on sailing news and river happenings.

The Delta Cruise is scheduled to begin at Martin Island July 28.

## We want to hear from you

The SYSCO Board of Directors wants to know if you are reading SYSCO News online. We want to make sure that all of our members are getting the important club information they need and part of that is ensuring everyone has access to SYSCO News each and every month – not just racing months.

Let us know. Email Commodore Rod Dawson at [rodawson@comcast.net](mailto:rodawson@comcast.net) or Mike & Sandy O'Bryant, newsletter editors, at [obryants@earthlink.net](mailto:obryants@earthlink.net), and put "I saw the newsletter" in the subject line. While you're at it, give us your comments:

- About the quality of the newsletter,
- Whether it has the information you want and need,
- If the email notification and posting SYSCO News to the [www.sailpdx.com](http://www.sailpdx.com) website works for you, or
- If you'd prefer to receive SYSCO News by snail mail.

SYSCO also needs someone to be Program Chair. We are back on track with some great programs coming up and the Board wants to ensure that each SYSCO General Membership Meeting has an entertaining and informative program, but we need someone to Chair that effort. Let us know if you can help as program chair, or if you can assist the program chair. Email Rod at [rodawson@comcast.net](mailto:rodawson@comcast.net).



*Orienting the dinghy*

## Feb. '07 SYSCO Board Mtg Minutes

MONDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2007

**PRESENT:** Rod Dawson, Dave Hickman, Al Calcagno, Sandy Smith, Alan Boguslawski, Bill Sanborn, Phil Campagna, Mike Stainsby, Pat O'Bryant and Clayton Spencer.

Meeting of the SYSCO Board of Directors was called to order by Commodore Rod Dawson at 7 pm.

Al Calcagno, Treasurer, presented a treasurer's report and Budget Worksheet for 2006 and 2007.

Pat O'Bryant, Membership, has received renewals from 47 members and applications from 7 new members. He will be sending out another renew notice shortly. The people who have submitted applications for membership are: Mark Sciarretta, George Brown, Paul Wagner (Associate member), Dan Dugan, Alan Schamp (past member and commodore returning to the fold), Jill Dahlstrom and Clayton Spencer. It was moved, seconded and approved to accept all these applicants into membership.

Report on the Boat Show: Rod Dawson thanked everyone for making our presence at the boat show a success and said he had a great time meeting and greeting people. He said he brought a stool to sit on for his shifts and suggested we get higher chairs for next year as we can place them at the outside corners of the booth and be more accessible to the public. Bill Sanborn will see about getting some directors chairs. Also, Rod suggested that our boat show flyer include better directions to the meeting place as quite a few people didn't know what or where Mars Meadows was.

No newsletter report as Mike was ill. Pat reminded everyone that newsletter deadline is Sunday.

Wine Social will be Feb 17th at RCYC in lieu of the February general meeting. SYSCO members are asked to bring wine and snacks and we will purchase disposable plates, cups, plastic silver. The RCYC gate on Marine Drive will be open from 7-7:30 and the social begins at 7:30. We will need someone to man the gate and some help to set up at 6:30. Fliers will be mailed out shortly.

PHRF: Dave Hickman will fill the PHRF rater/rep job for SYSCO this year that was recently vacated by Bill Brennan. He has been working with Bill for the past year and has been involved with PHRF for several years. It was moved, seconded, passed by the board to appoint Dave Hickman as the PHRF Rater and Rep for SYSCO for 2007. Dave also reported that PHRF has decided they are not going to implement the new protocols this year.

Rod then brought up the newsletter and his request, in his last month's column, for feedback regarding who had read the on-line newsletter. He stated he received 11 responses out of 80 members and was disappointed and concerned about the response. He is interested in finding out if we should

consider going back to hard copies or giving people a choice. Much animated discussion followed regarding previous polls taken, expense concerns, etc. Rod has put together a questionnaire he would like to send out asking the membership for their opinions. Since our newsletter editor/publisher was not present it was decided to do an email discussion on this subject and bring it up again at the next board meeting.

Programs: No program for February. The wine social *is* the program. Sandy is still trying to get Alison Mazon, a local boat surveyor, for the March 17 General Membership meeting.

New member, Clayton Spencer, stated he is new to the area and has a new boat he wants to race but had a lot of trouble finding out about SYSCO. He suggested we put fliers up in the Columbia Crossings office and on their boards and do some more advertising. He also didn't understand why folks have to go to sailpdx to get information and we don't have our own website. Bill Sanborn explained the history of the website and that the cost of having/maintaining one of our own is prohibitive. Clayton also suggested we consider a "new member mentor" program and find some more ways to get more information out about what SYSCO is and does. A good discussion followed and more great new ideas came up. One suggestion was considering a special fleet for new racers and putting mentors on each boat in that fleet.

Rod read a reply he had received from his newsletter inquiry that came from some long standing members who stated the Club used to have "land cruises" during the off season months. This sounded pretty interesting to all present but no decisions were made regarding what to do about it.

Rod reminded everyone that this is the year that everybody had to have their Boater's Education Card and suggested we try to offer a course to the membership to get that accomplished. Sandy will check with the Power Squadron to see if they would be willing to help with this.

Bill suggested we consider moving the general meetings to Elmer's at Delta Park and he has already done the legwork and found that they have a conference room we can use free of charge and would be happy to have us. After some debate, it was M/S/C that we move the March general meeting to Elmer's.

We then discussed the possibility of moving the board meetings since Barley Mill is a bit on the loud side. All seemed to agree that it would be nice to have a quieter venue. A couple possibilities were bandied about and someone (I believe it was Rod) agreed to check out a couple places (Jubitz was one).

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
SANDY SMITH, SECRETARY

## Commodore's Comments

ROD DAWSON

I hope you enjoyed the Portland Boat Show as much as I did. I worked a couple of afternoons at the SYSCO booth, which is something I really enjoy because I get a chance to meet a lot of new people and some wanna-be sailors. I always encourage them to not wait, buy a boat (used and small) or find a boat to crew on and begin sailing as soon as possible. It was going to the Portland Boat Show years ago that prompted me to buy my first boat and that was best decision I ever made.

I want to extend a very special thanks to the three guys who put in so much work on the SYSCO booth: **Alan Boguslawski, Gary Whitney and Bill Sanborn. This would not have happened without you. Thank you very much!**

Oh, I also had a little time to wander around the Boat Show a bit and, by golly, there were actually a couple of fairly large sailboats there; a Beneteau 42 and, as I recall a Hunter 42 – my wife liked them both. I'd like to see more of that at Portland's boat shows.

If you read my piece in last month's newsletter, you know that I asked if you read it to send me an e-mail. I want to know how many of our members are reading it on the Web. According to the response, it looks like at least 75% of our members were vacationing somewhere warm and didn't have web access to read the newsletter because I received very few e-mails – nine! So,

counting the newsletter editor and myself, apparently only 11 SYSCO members read the January newsletter.

Is this a problem? My gut says yes. And the problem is that the newsletter is not reaching the folks it is intended to serve – all SYSCO members. For example, without reading the newsletter, how are our members to know about the programs that are being presented at the monthly general membership meetings? And, there ARE programs this year!

Why are so few reading the newsletter on the Web? Well, I can think of a number of possible reasons. Perhaps the season (winter) has something to do with it; folks are less likely to think about sailing when it is cold and raining outside. Or, perhaps some folks have changed their e-mail addresses without keeping SYSCO updated and so don't receive the e-mail notice when the most recent newsletter has been posted on the Web. It is even possible we have members who are unaware that SYSCO has a newsletter. Whatever the reason, 11 out of 80+ members is too few to ignore and the Board may be changing a few things with regard to the newsletter to better serve our members.

**One last thing: The Board is doing a good job this year providing programs for the general membership meetings, but we need a chair. If you are interested in being Program Chair for SYSCO, or maybe assisting a Program Chairman, email me when you let me know that you read SYSCO News on the web. I want to hear from you anytime, about anything at [rodawson@comcast.net](mailto:rodawson@comcast.net).**

## You meet the nicest people...

KAREN ANDERSON, RACE CAPTAIN

I spent the last two weeks on BAD KITTY in the Caribbean with six women from Oregon Women's Sailing Association and was again reminded how fortunate we as sailors are to be able to share our passion for the water with such nice people.

It could have been a challenging situation: seven people on a 38' boat for two weeks; the close proximity, different personalities and living styles. But the time flew as we worked together, choosing destinations and activities, sailing, swimming, snorkeling, touring, and getting acquainted with each other's lives.

The SYSCO cruises offer opportunities to meet other sailors on a closer basis, and I plan to participate in more of them this year. I think many of our area's newer sailors would enjoy these, and I encourage you to seek out some of these folks and invite them to come along for a great experience.

On another note, racing season is just around the corner! It is time to finish the final repairs on the boat, round up the crew and take in a seminar or two to tune up your skills. Thanks to the fleet captains who have checked in already; I'll be calling the others soon to round out our group.

\*The pictures in this issue of SYSCO News are of our trip. *Photos by Edie Felix.*

### Chateau SYSCO Party & Open House

Bring a friend, a potential member, an appetizer and drinks to the Rose City Yacht Club, for some fun and socializing at SYSCO's Second Annual Social & Open House.

**Saturday, February 17th — 7:00 pm**

**Rose City Yacht Club**

**3737 NE Marine Dr.**