



# The Starting Line

APRIL 2007

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

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Representative:**  
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## Sailing one the world's toughest spots

*Plan to attend the April General Membership Meeting, Monday, April 16, 2007; 7 pm at Elmer's at Delta Park (please notice the change in venue). Come early at 6 pm for dinner and socializing.*

*Take a virtual tour around the southern edges of South America with Gail O'Neill and Bob Gales. They will show slides and talk about their crossing the Strait of Magellan as well as a look at the Beagle channel, in addition to the voyage down the Chilean channels to Patagonia.*

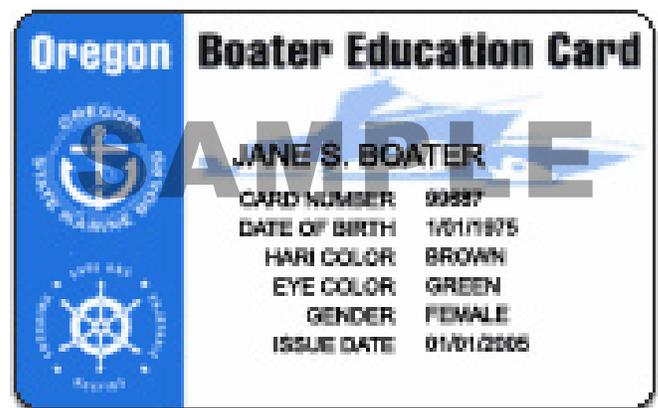
*Plan ahead for the May program with "20 Days Before the Mast in a Scandinavian Square Rigger." Arne Soreng served on a 300' Norwegian square rigger during WWII. This vessel was an American ship that was used to locate enemy submarines and then report them to the Navy.*

*P.S. The SYSCO Board meets the first Monday of each month. Time: 6:30 pm. Location: O'Conner's Restaurant in Multnomah Village, 7850 SW Capital Highway.*

## Boater's education card, now or never!

If you don't have your Oregon Boater's Education (OBE) card, this is the year everyone 60 or younger must have one to operate a boat with an engine of 10 hp or more. SYSCO and Ft. Vancouver Sail & Power Squadron are presenting a one-day class for anyone who needs this card. The Power Squadron teaches Boat Smart classes year round and once completed students receive a certificate. A copy of the certificate and a check for \$10 will get your permanent OBE card. The class is Saturday, May 5th at the International Air Academy on Grand and Mill Plain Blvd in Vancouver. The class will run from 9am to 3pm in room 138 and the cost will be \$15 for the course/exam/certificate or \$30 if you want a copy of the book to keep. Bring a sack lunch (use the vending machines in the student lounge for drinks) or there are a couple small places to eat close by (pizza, Mexican or hot dogs). This class is not limited to SYSCO members but there is a maximum number the room can accommodate, so please reserve your spot early.

If you want to participate in this class, contact Sandy Smith no later than 4/20. You can call (360-600-6503) or email ([skichick7275@msn.com](mailto:skichick7275@msn.com)).



## Thoughts from the Rear

BILL SANBORN

One of the things that I have learned is that Sailing Events tend to repeat themselves. America's Cup just goes on and on and they still protest anything and everything. Our OCSA schedule has changed little in the least 15 seasons, and within our club the SYSCO Novice Night is not a surprise to me any more. I know that when I walk into the room there will be lots of new and eager faces. Many of you in years past sat in those chairs and are still enjoying the sport. Others who shared your class have moved on. Each year we get a new group of sailors interested in racing and finding out

what is required to participate, either as a boat owner or as crew, and I think they get an excellent overview within the two hours.

The pressure is on to get folks qualified for the Oregon Boater Education card. The age requirement is now 60 years or younger (I don't know many over 60 who do not already have them). SYSCO is working with the USPS for a class to assist in completing the exam.

Delta Cruise 2007 is filling up fast. Lots of folks have plans to join us for this fun and laidback cruise starting July 28<sup>th</sup> at Martin Island. Several folks are planning to bring Kids and Grandkids.

*See you on The Starting Line.*

# SYSCO

## SYSCO Cruising

Saturday April 21st is SYSCO's first cruise of the year and we begin with a short trip to Grandma's Cove. Grandma's Cove is on the south side of the Columbia River between the I-5 Bridge and the Railroad Bridge. This should be close for most of you so come and have a great time.

The next SYSCO cruise is over Memorial Day at Martin Island's pond.

For more information, email Bob Brown at [wingsofthedawn1@yahoo.com](mailto:wingsofthedawn1@yahoo.com)

## Ladies Cruise

Ladies, get your friends together to crew and join the women of the Columbia River as they pilot their boats to Coon Island for a weekend of fun and camaraderie.

**When: May 18 to May 20**

**Where: Coon Island**

Prizes for **Best Dressed Crew** and **Best Dressed Boat**. Put together a skit or musical activity for the **Talent Show** – 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes. Bring a donation prize and enjoy our **Cruise Raffle**.

Or just come and enjoy the fun, **but remember** – it is ladies only. You must pilot your boat. Coon Island is easy to get in and out of and there's always someone there to help.

For more information, go to:

[www.LadiesCruise.com](http://www.LadiesCruise.com) or <http://www.ladiescruise.com/>



*Ladies Cruise 2006*

## SYSCO Board Meeting Minutes

MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2007

The SYSCO Board meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. Present were Rod Dawson, Al Calcagno, Sandy Smith, Karen Anderson, Pat O'Bryant, Phil Campagna, Bob Brown, Bill Sanborn, and Mike & Mary Stainsby.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Al reported we have \$8906 in the bank and with the checks he received tonight that will bring the balance to \$9300.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Pat says there are still a few membership renewals trickling in. We received two new ones from Corey Bolton who owns an Erickson 353 and Christian D'Urso for an associate membership. It was moved, seconded, carried to accept the new members.

**RACING:** Karen reports that she is receiving lots of entries and is happy that quite a few racers are entering all the races at the same time. She has all the Fleet Captains set up. PYC and SYSCO co-sponsor the Opening Day Regatta, so all racers pay \$30 with the money going to host a dinner on both days of that event.

Phil stated that he has ordered the new marks but they are on back order with the manufacturer and will not be available until June. There was much discussion about possible options and the consensus was that we will do some finagling and manage with what we have for the time being.

Karen and Phil reported that OCSA is not going to buy the automatic timing device and they asked the board to consider purchasing one of our own. They are \$300 and besides being totally accurate on the timing of starts they also provide the required sound and we spent over \$100 just in air horns last year. It was moved, seconded & carried that SYSCO purchase its own automatic timing instrument.

**CRUISING:** Bob reports that the first cruise is scheduled for April 21 & 22 at Grandma's Cove and the next will be at Martin Pond Memorial Day weekend. He will be giving us a presentation at the June meeting about the SYSCO cruising program.

It seems the move to Elmer's was well received and they were very accommodating and happy to have us. We/they will be tweaking the configuration of the seating arrangement to try to get more folks in. If necessary, we can expand into the next room or they will move us into another room.

Race Clinic was well attended as always. There was

a full house with lots of new people and Friday night there were 6 boats out for practice.

The Frostbite Regatta had quite a few boats and even had 2 non-flying-sails classes. Weather was typical for early spring and everyone had a good time.

The Boater Education Class has been firmed up and will be Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 3pm. Ft. Vancouver Sail & Power Squadron will provide the instruction and it will be held at the International Air Academy in Vancouver.

We had some discussion about things we might do to get more information out about SYSCO and encourage more membership. Lots of good ideas: among those are putting some hard copies of the newsletter or some sort of printed pamphlet in the Columbia Crossings office for new boat owners to pick up, laminated information posters that can go up on all the local marina bulletin boards and encouraging boat brokers to give out information about the club to new sailboat owners. We would still like to have someone volunteer to head up a New Member Committee.

**PROGRAMS:** We are all set for the next 3 months. Bob Gales and Gayle O'Neill will be at the April program with a presentation on their trip to Chili. The May meeting will feature Arne Soreng who served aboard a 300' Norwegian square rigger during WWII. June is our own Bob Brown who will be giving a presentation on SYSCO cruises past and future.

**AWARDS DINNER:** This year's dinner will be on Oct 20<sup>th</sup> at PYC. Rod said that in previous years we have had live entertainment and the board was in favor of doing that this year if we can get someone for a reasonable price. Stainsby's will explore possibilities.

Rod brought up the attendance at the General Meetings again. He believes there are still issues with people not reading their newsletter and would like to send out a separate Letter of Inquiry to the membership to find out what their preference is regarding receipt of the newsletter. He will send the letter to Sandy and she will get it mailed out. Karen has offered to help with folding and stuffing envelopes.

**NEWSLETTER:** Bill brought some suggestions for a new name/logo on the newsletter. It was enthusiastically agreed to change the name to The Starting Line. Sandy O'Bryant was also working on the new name/graphics. Karen suggested we put more photos in as she believes people are more likely to read publications when there are interesting pictures in them. Pat said that Mike is happy to do that but we have to get them to him.

## Racing News

KAREN ANDERSON

April is a big month for racers and it is especially busy for your SYSCO race committee. After a fun evening at the PYC Sailors' Dinner April 13, racers will convene to the river for the PYC-SYSCO Opening Day Regatta. The SYSCO Spring Evening Series begins April 17 and 19. Boats will gather on April 28 for the SYSCO Spring Regatta. Entries are coming in at a fast and furious pace and all events look great.

One of our fastest growing classes is the non-spinnaker cruising class. We will be having two divisions for the class this year and it looks like both will be full. Congratulations to this fleet for its promotion and growth. The Ranger 20 fleet is also growing as is my own 172 Fleet. Encouraging new sailors to get involved is one of the goals of the SYSCO Board of Directors for 2007, and to that end we will personally work with new members to help them get more enjoyment on the water to keep their interest high.

*See you on the water...*

### 2007 SYSCO Fleet Captains

Fleet A	Tony Humpage	360-573-7176
Fleet B	Mike Oxborrow	503-652-1549
Fleet C (172)	Rock Kent	503-630-3443
Fleet D (J/24)	Blaine Goold	503-492-4781
Fleet E	Thomas MacMenemy	503-659-1075
Fleet F	Bob Rouse	503-286-9953
Fleet F1 (Cat 25)	Nate Hanson	503-868-7705
Fleet H1 (Cal 20)	John Hatch	503-292-6636
Cruising Fleet	Larry Johnson	503-735-2624
Ranger 20 Fleet	Dave Paligo	503-745-8227

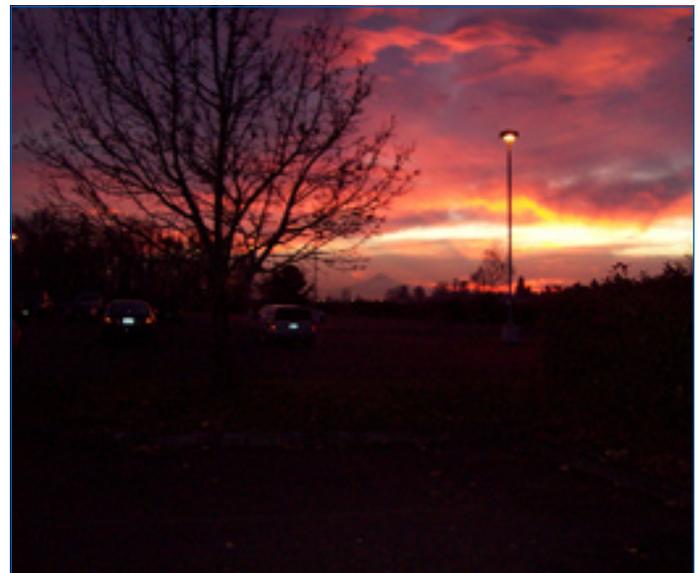
### 2007 SYSCO Series Race Committee Assignments

SPRING SERIES	April 17	Fleet H1 (Cal 20)	April 19	Fleet C (172)
	April 24	Fleet D (J-24)	April 26	Fleet A
	May 1	Ranger 20 Fleet	May 3	Fleet B
	May 15	Cruising Fleet	May 17	Fleet E
	May 22	Fleet H1 (Cal 20)	May 24	Fleet F
SUMMER SERIES	June 5	J-24 Fleet	June 7	Fleet C (172)
	June 12	Ranger 20 Fleet	June 14	A Fleet A
	June 19	Cal 20 Fleet	June 21	B Fleet B
	June 26	Cruising Fleet	June 28	E Fleet E
	July 10	J-24 Fleet	July 12	Fleet F (Catalina 25)

## Musings from a neophyte liveaboard

SANDY SMITH

Waking in the morning to see a flotilla of ducks filing past my bedroom window...walking up the dock in the morning to take a shower and marveling at the stillness of the water...the quiet...the reflection of the moon...not a morning person I have always disliked crawling out of bed in the dark of winter...not so bad now...and sunrises...oh, my goodness, the sunrises! I had previously thought them to be a myth perpetuated by those nutty people who actually enjoy getting up in the wee hours – you know the ones – they don't need intravenous caffeine to perform basic functions before 10am. It would appear I was wrong. Sunrises can be even more spectacular than sunsets and the impact on the rest of your day is stunning.



## Commodore's Comments

ROD DAWSON

As I mentioned in last month's notes, this is the watershed year for the Oregon Boater's card; every boat operator will need one this year. The SYSCO sponsored training session is May 5 with the instruction provided by the Power Squadron. The specific location and time are mentioned other places in the newsletter, but one the thing to remember is if you do not yet have your card, you need to get in on this session.

Alison Mazon, a terrific local boat surveyor, provided a great talk for our March 19 General Membership meeting. This was our first General meeting held at the Elmer's Restaurant at Delta Park, which I believe will be a great venue for these meetings in the future. Alison is definitely the kind of surveyor that you want to have if you are looking to buy a boat, because she is meticulous. (But, if you are selling a boat, perhaps not - for the same reason!). Thank you Alison; I thoroughly enjoyed your talk. Oh, and the

food was good, too.

However, the turnout for the March meeting was disappointing. There were a total of nineteen folks attending, three of which were guests. Of the remaining sixteen, five were Board members and three were committee chairmen. Bill Sanborn, who is probably our most dependable regular at all of our meetings, Board and General, also attended and brought a screen for the pictures. That means that only seven other folks from our General Membership attended; not very many, considering how many folks are members of SYSCO!

Perhaps there will be a better turnout for the April 19 General Membership meeting. I know I am looking forward to it. Gail O'Neill and Bob Gayles will be talking about, and showing pictures of, their trip to Chile, which includes rounding of the Horn (how many of us get to do THAT!). Again, it will be at Elmer's, so come hungry.

As usual, if you have any comments or questions, please let me know at [rodawson@comcast.net](mailto:rodawson@comcast.net).

## SYSCO Board Meeting Minutes

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**NEW BUSINESS:** We have received a request from the Ranger 20's to start last. The request was discussed and the board has decided to decline at this time.

Karen was puzzled that there are so many racers who are not members and pay a higher price to race. Non-members pay \$120 if they participate in all the SYSCO events whereas membership is \$70/yr and they race for free. Phil has agreed to try to attend some of the different Fleet organizations' meetings and see what he can do to recruit some new membership.

We also discussed having a member who would be the contact person for new members. They would be responsible for making sure new members are greeted and introduced around at the meetings, answer any questions and take a special interest in helping them to feel a part of the group. At this point the Board Members will do this but we would like to get someone to take this on. We also need a "recruiter". These two jobs could be done by one person.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
SANDY SMITH, SECRETARY