



# The Starting Line

JUNE 2007

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

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## Explore the Delta — Cruising Night at SYSCO

Plan to attend the General Membership Meeting, June 18, 2007; 7 pm at Elmer's at Delta Park (please notice the change in venue). Come early at 6 pm for dinner and socializing.

The 23rd annual Delta Cruise is nearly upon us (July 28) and it's time to turn our sights on cruising. Cruise chair Bob Brown will talk about cruises of the past, present and future, along with some pictures to embarrass as many sailors as he can.

Note: this is the last General Membership meeting until September 17. It's time to go cruising.

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.



*Sample the cruising life this summer. Find out more at The General Membership Meeting June 18th.*

## Thoughts from the Rear

BILL SANBORN

A tip of the ol' cap to the committees: the use of the alphabetic course has been done very well and seems to give us a lot more water to use without obstructions.

**Delta Cruise:** Meet at Martin Island July 28<sup>th</sup>, and join us for the weekend, week, or any length of time you can spare. At the June SYSCO Meeting we will be talking about the cruise, with a history of the cruise, our float plan (yours could be different), some suggestions on what to expect, and try to answer any questions. This will be our 23<sup>rd</sup> SYSCO DELTA CRUISE, and of the 11 boats in the SYSCO raft up Memorial Day weekend, all expected to make the trip, and several others have informed us that they intend to join in.

An overview of our float plan is to meet up with the fleet at Martin Island on the 28<sup>th</sup>. On Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> we'll sail/motor to Cathlamet for showers, renew the ice, and do a final provision for three nights rafted at Warren Slough. On the 30<sup>th</sup> we'll leave Cathlamet for the Islands around noon to pass Horseshoe Island before the 3:45 PM high tide, and raft up in Warren Slough at the ABC Out Station. We will return to Cathlamet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> leaving Warren Slough early afternoon to pass Horseshoe Island before 5:30 PM. Friday we will return upriver to Martin Island and spend some time there, returning to Portland on Sunday.

Others might chose to modify their float plan to include a side trip to Astoria, Ilwaco, or another stop in the Lower River. Or it could be an early return home or an extended stay. That's what's so great about the Delta Cruise...it's all up to you.



*The party boys and their toys.*

## SYSCO Board Meeting Notes

JUNE 4, 2007

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Commodore. Officers attending: Rod Dawson, Commodore, and Al Calcagno, Treasurer. Others attending: Frank Bocarde, Program Committee.

No reports from officers.

Rod stated that he will not be at the next General membership meeting on June 18, and possibly the next Board meeting on July 2, due to knee surgery. Al said he will be at the next General meeting and will preside if necessary. Discussed moving the July Board meeting one week later to accommodate, but decided against that due to upcoming SYSCO picnics that week.

The picnics are scheduled for July 10 & 12 at Tomahawk Bay, during/after the last races of the SYSCO Summer series; ALL members are invited. Volunteers are needed! Columbia Crossings provides the gas BBQ and garbage cans; SYSCO provides grub/refreshments. Frank mentioned that we need a special e-mail notification of the picnics sent to all members. Also, handouts announcing the picnics need to be given out by the race committee to all race boats the week before and the evenings of the picnics.

Frank also mentioned that he feels a special e-mail notification of the General meetings needs to be sent out at least a week prior to the scheduled dates, rather than relying on the newsletter. Having the newsletter notification coming out only a couple of days before the meetings is not adequate notification. The Board members present agreed.

Rod mentioned that he has tentatively secured a popular local jazz group for entertainment at the October awards banquet; agreement yet to be finalized.

Discussed using part of the budget surplus from last year, and this year's higher than expected membership income, for subsidizing the ticket price for the banquet to entice more members and crew to attend. Board members present agreed to do this.

Al suggested that someone write an article about Delta Cruise tips and ideas for the next newsletter. Frank mentioned that he would discuss this with Bill Sanborn.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

NOTES BY ROD DAWSON

## Commodore's Comments

ROD DAWSON

### General Membership Meetings

Again we had a terrific speaker at the General Membership meeting on May 21st. Arn Soreng who is a retired Coast Guard captain, was with us talking about the time he spent aboard a Danish square-rigger while at the Coast Guard Academy in the mid 1940's. That was quite an adventure for a young man who had never been to sea.

At the General Meeting June 18, we're going to have our own terrific Cruise Chairman, Bob Brown, talking about cruises of the past, present and future, with some pictures to embarrass a number of folks. This should be another "don't miss" meeting considering the upcoming Delta Cruise this summer (begins July 28). Hope to see you at Elmer's at 7 p.m., earlier for dinner and hobnobbing. **Note that this will be the last General Membership until September.**

### Newsletter Poll

I extend my apologies to those folks responding to the newsletter poll who mentioned that they had not been receiving the e-mail notifications. I am not sure why they did not receive them again in May, but we have now corrected this.

### Picnics

SYSCO is sponsoring two picnics on the last days of the SYSCO summer series, on Tuesday, July 10, and Thursday, July 12, during and after the races. Columbia Crossings has graciously offered the use of the BBQ area at Tomahawk Bay for these events. These are for ALL members – folks not racing that night (non racers as well as off-night racers) come whenever and racers come after racing. Columbia Crossings is providing the use of the BBQ and trash cans and SYSCO the grub and refreshments. Hey, we could ALL be there BOTH nights – set these dates aside!

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



*A view from the top.*

## A Different Cruising Perspective

*AL CALGAGNO (S/V RAUZER II)*

There is a core group of members that enjoy the cruising side of SYSCO. Usually once a month during the boating season they can be found at the East Dock Government Island, Coon Island on Multnomah Channel, Martin Pond just North of St. Helens or other places up and down the river.

Many of our new members are not yet aware that they are more than welcome, in fact encouraged, to join the cruises. Perhaps they don't know what to expect, what to bring or what they are going to do.

Aside from the usual jungle cruises, (dinghy rides up and down narrow and shallow backwaters), hiking, socializing, swimming and playing in the water, invariably someone has an issue they are trying to figure out about their boat. This is where the value of all of the old sailors comes out. There is no lack of ideas on how to handle any given problem.

During the Memorial Day Cruise to Martin Pond, old sailor Flotsam said he was having problems with his roller furling during the trip down river. In no time three of us were taking the thing apart, while two others stood by to make sure we could put it back together. We unscrewed things and used a hacksaw on others. We learned quite a lot about roller furling systems

and almost fixed the problem. We did put it all back together without losing any parts.

I had been wanting for some time to remove an unused topping lift from the top of my mast and I also had a jammed halyard. When I mentioned this one morning, some eyes lit up, others groaned that it would be a fair amount of work to winch my bulk up the spar. As luck would have it, before getting into the cocktail hour much, old sailors 1, 2 and 3 agreed to grind me up. Several others refilled their refreshments and took up seats nearby to make sure all was safe and secure. First stop was the jib halyard block, about three-quarters of the way up. After freeing the jammed halyard, they hoisted me up to the top. It was a little spooky up there since the only support is the backstay, but I went right to work disconnecting the old topping lift. Then it was used to hoist up the camera. Few have the opportunity to see what a cruising raft-up looks like from 50 feet overhead. It's a different cruising perspective.

This core group of old sailors is ready, willing and able to help you out. They will help you dock, anchor, tie up to a raft or help fix a problem. With them there, you don't have to worry about what to do. Just join a SYSCO cruise. The big one is coming up July 28<sup>th</sup> through August 5<sup>th</sup>. The first raft-up is in Martin Pond, then down to Cathlamet and beyond. Come on down for the first weekend or join us for the whole week on the delta. It's Delta Cruise Time.

