



# The Starting Line

JANUARY 2008

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

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## New Year's Resolution

### Attend all SYSCO General Membership Meetings

Your first chance to keep that resolution is Mon., **Jan. 21, 7 pm**, at Elmer's at Delta Park. Come early at 6 pm for dinner and socializing.

The program will feature Kerry Poe, owner of the Portland North Sails loft. Kerry recently spent time at North's primary U.S. manufacturing facility and will be showing pictures of North Sail's latest and greatest technology. Included will be shots of sails being built for America's Cup boats, as well as lesser classes. He will discuss how this technology will trickle down to the sails that we all end up buying.

**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.



## SYSCO Board Meeting January 7, 2008

The January 7, 2008, SYSCO Board Meeting was not convened due to the lack of a quorum. Attendees were: Rod Dawson, Rich Jones, Bill Sanborn, Bob Brown.



SAVE THE DATE!



**SYSCO**

*Social & Membership Drive*

BYOB AND POT-LUCK

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

7 - 9 PM

**ROSE CITY YACHT CLUB**

3737 MARINE DRIVE

*Bring a bottle & an appetizer,  
socialize, share stories,  
and invite new members.*



## Thoughts From the Rear

**BILL SANBORN**

Thirty years ago several Columbia River Racers with smaller boats were looking for a way to improve the conditions under which they raced their boats and to be able to do it in a One-Design or Level format without all the hassles of handicapping. Following the design of a group of fleets in San Francisco they established what we have today: a group of fleets, organized into the Small Yacht Sailing Club of Oregon.

The importance of this is that with only minor adjustments over 30 years the original premise has remained, and it has been very successful. During this time other local clubs are rethinking their continuing sponsorship of sailboat racing events. This is a time to celebrate our longevity, but not a time to drop our guard. We need to stay the course, to stay within budget, while following guidance to what has worked in the past, and listen to fellow members' ideas and make improvements. As SYSCO members we can be proud that we have helped to make this experiment work and have had a lot of fun along the way, but most important it's still going forward and will offer a lot more good times.

Items to be taken care of: #1 Boater Education Card, now required in both Oregon and Washington for everyone. #2 make sure your boat's registration or documentation is current. #3 2008 Race Books are available and the OCSA Race schedule is posted on sailpdx.com.

*See you at Third Annual Chateau SYSCO Party February 16th, Delta Cruise July 26th, and on the River.*



## Commodore's Comments

KAREN ANDERSON

Although I did experience some guilt twinges about working only one shift at the SYSCO Portland Boat Show booth, they were quickly washed away by the warm water and sun that welcomed me in Tortola for my Bad Kitty winter break. Seven OWSA women joined me for the first week and we made the switch to the leisurely “island time” mode of operation: get up when you wake up, eat when you are hungry, drink when thirsty, but always be ready to put the sails up when there is wind!

It's always a challenge when eight people come together in a small space for a week, even on a spacious 38' catamaran. Are we going to get along? Is everyone going to pull their weight? How do folks adjust to changes in the schedule to allow for unexpected maintenance needs? How do we allow for an individual's need for personal time? Fortunately, with this group, teamwork is the name of the game and several are already planning to join the trip again next year.

As I write this, it's early Monday morning in Soper's Hole, and we just cleared customs back into the BVIs after several days in St. John, US Virgin Islands. St. John is the “nature” island, almost undeveloped, with US Parks Service buoys in nearly every bay. It's turtle time here, and we saw turtles coming into the bays to lay their eggs. The turquoise waters are warm and welcoming, and the tropical fish and rays are a sight to see.



The internet cafe serves excellent coffee with its “wi-fi” and it's nice to occasionally connect and get the news from home, although we were shocked by the tornado hitting Vancouver Lake. So sorry to hear of the wrecked boats and rowing club carnage. The first group of women is leaving Wednesday, so we need to be off and make another anchorage or two before they trek back to the rainy, cold NW with memories of the good times on Bad Kitty.

Hope you will enjoy Kerry Poe from North Sails at the general meeting on January 21. And I will be back next month for our wine social at Rose City Yacht Club on Feb. 16.

*See you there!*