



The Starting Line

May 2009

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

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RRR RRR RRR

Commodore's Comments:

from Rich Jones

Busy Bodies...

SYSCO has seen its duty and done it as far as getting this year's sailing season off to a great start. On the cruising side of things, two events have already been held and there are two more just around the corner--the Memorial Day Cruise to Martin Island, and the Summer Solstice Cruise to some exotic, perhaps tropical, place on the Columbia River. (*also Gilbert River – June 20/21 – ed.*)

But where SYSCO's bubbles have been the busiest is on the racing scene.

This year SYSCO co-hosted the Opening Day Regatta with Portland Yacht Club on April 18 & 19. The event didn't get off to a very good start. In fact, there were no starts the first day. Sometimes it seems like nice weather and the wind just can't get along. In any event, after a couple of hours on Saturday waiting for the breeze to show up, the RC called it a day and more than 30 boats headed back to the barn to get ready for Sunday. Day 2 more than made up for a disappointing Day 1. With horns sounding and flags flying almost constantly, a hardworking bunch of RC volunteers got off 5 races for 5 classes of boats. It was wild, crazy fun. And after all was said and done, everybody enjoyed a spectacular spring afternoon on the deck at PYC.



Opening Day Regatta Winners and Race Committee Volunteers

The PYC & SYSCO Opening Day Regatta was a hard act to follow. But we did. The very next weekend was the SYSCO Spring Regatta. Unlike the Opening Day Regatta where we had 2 days to get it right, the Spring Regatta is a one day event. And what a day we had to work with: Shifty winds, clouds, sun & sprinkles, boats with an over-developed fondness for marks, you name it. But undeterred, another hardworking bunch of RC volunteers got off 4 races for 5 classes of boats. And just as the RC was having thoughts about squeezing in a 5th race before time ran out, Mother Nature helped the RC decide to call it a day. Just as the last boats were finishing the 4th race, the Columbia River started to remind people what a special thing it is for sailors...water that was relatively flat suddenly filled with 2 ft wind waves. And the breeze that was shifty but steady between 8 and 12 knots suddenly started to hoot with gusts of 20 knots or more. These are OK conditions at the start of the day when skippers and their crews are fresh, but after a hard day of racing, to end things on such a note is not good, so thanks to a timely nudge from Mother Nature the day ended well for everybody.

Two successful regattas 2 weekends in a row is good work for any club, but SYSCO didn't stop there. In between these two events, SYSCO launched its Spring Series of races on Tuesday and Thursday nights. With more than 30 boats racing on Tuesday and almost 60 racing on Thursday, the first nights of racing were great. The results were mixed for the second week. On Tuesday, the wind was terrible from the south, so racers had to fetch marks from one side of the river to the other. That's a particularly hard thing to do when the river current is round 3 knots. A challenge for sailors and a challenge for another hardworking bunch of RC volunteers.

Well if Tuesday was tough with a south wind, Thursday was almost impossible with an east wind. Its hard to get a race off in the evening when the wind is out of the east against a river current like the one we have to contend with in the spring. Undaunted, another hardworking bunch of RC volunteers postponed to see if a 6 knot wind would build enough strength to allow boats to sail toward a windward mark in a reasonable period of time. After a wait of 40 minutes, the wind speed had increased and steadied at 12 knots +/- and a little bit of a north component crept into the wind's direction. So the postpone came down and the RC got off all 4 starts in sequence. The J24's made it around their shortened course and were able to finish their race. For the other classes, there just wasn't enough light left in the day to complete their races. So with sailor and boat safety upper most in the RC's mind, all races except the J24's had to be abandoned.

Race number three for the SYSCO Spring Series are May 12 & 14 after a week off for CYC's Oregon Offshore.

Yep, SYSCO's been busy. And did I mention we couldn't do what we do if it wasn't for bunches of hardworking volunteers.

See you on the water,

Rich Jones
SYSCO Commodore for 2009

SYSCO Membership STRONG

From Jan Burkhart

Thank you for your Membership! Over 100 SYSCO sailors are raring to catch the breeze. This includes 14 *new* boats spread across 11 Fleets with 11 Fleet Captains! So move over wave runners, fishing boats, stink pots and sea lions 'cause we are sailing!

While on the water please wave a big welcome to new members:

Michelle and River Rose
Rod & Myst
Jan on Wild Women & Wild Willy?
Jim and Katzenjammer
Jim and Check Ride
Steve and Kamikaze
Neil & Bones
Tim & Santana 22 (Help name the boat!)
Randall & Raicilla
Julie & Go Propless
Ken & Aventura
Mark & Lone Ranger
Mark - ready to crew
Jacob & The Sicken

New Rosters are at the printers and will be mailed soon. Fly you SYSCO burgee proudly and wave a big shout out to fellow SYSCO members.

KUDOS! Jan and the Board extend special thanks to Edie Felix for all her help with our new data base for membership.

Racing Rules Quiz

Looks like we've all had an opportunity to get out on the race course and test our knowledge of the new Racing Rules of Sailing without anyone getting seriously hurt. And that's a good thing! If you still have questions about the new rules or just want practice for yourself or your crew, check out http://www.ukhalsey.com/RulesQuiz/quiz_list.asp for some excellent examples and good explanations of the decisions.

Portland High School Sailors do well in District final

from Bruce Newton

Portland's high school sailing program has come of age. Established only three years ago, Portland is now a force to be reckoned with.

Twenty six Portland area high school sailors traveled to Orcas Island for the 2009 Northwest Interscholastic Sailing Association Doublehanded Championships held April 17-19. The winds were light but the sun was bright and the sailing venue, Camp Four Winds on the shore of Orcas Island's West Sound, was breathtaking.

The varsity division consisted of teams that had at least four sailors from the same school. This year Portland had varsity teams from Lincoln High School and Saint Mary's Academy. In the varsity division, Portland's Lincoln team finished fourth overall (and came within a whisker of second!). It was a sensational performance by A Division skipper Aegir Olson, sailing with crews Jared Valeske and Gracie Recht, and B Division skipper Ciara Anderson, sailing in her first major regatta, with crew Madeline Luce. The Girls of St Mary's finished a very respectable fifth overall, with Monica Mader skippering with AnnaLena Robinson and Maggie Ruble in A Division and Liza Holtz skippering with Risa Reichelt in B Division. Varsity division winners Orcas Island High School scored a decisive victory and will represent the Northwest District at the ISSA National Championships next month in St. Petersburg, FL.

In the junior varsity division, consisting of mix-and-match teams from different high schools, Portland was able to field three teams. One of the Portland teams dominated the fleet to bring home the first place trophy beating thirteen other teams. Congratulations to skippers Andy Newton (Grant High) and Mitch Burke (Thomas Edison) and crews Mariah Archer (Riverdale), Autumn Cullivan (Wilson), and Arielle Berman (Lincoln). This team sailed as the Saint Mary's Academy JV team which drew hoots of laughter from the 130 high school sailors at the award ceremony when Andy and Mitch came forward to accept the first place trophy for the "Girls of Saint Mary's Team."



Close behind was the Portland JV team with skippers Greg and Steven Moran (Camas High) sailing with crews Scott Van Bergen (Riverdale), Suku Singh (Camas), and Amanda Wood (Saint Mary's). Next up was Catlin Gable JV with Andrew Cannard and Emma Phoman sailing in A Division, and Jonathon Cannard and Jack Rogers (Jesuit) sailing B Division on Saturday, and Jeff Carlson (Lakeridge) and Moira Lynch (Riverdale) sailing B Division on Sunday.

Portland's high school sailors have come a long way since the program began three years ago. Our kids are now respected contenders in a very competitive district. More importantly, they are a cheerful, courteous, classy, bunch of young adults on and off the water. This year there are 34 high school sailors

from 14 area high schools. They practiced three afternoons per week and went to seven regional regattas.

For photos and complete results, check out the WSC High School Sailing page at <http://www.willamettesailingclub.com/highschool/index.html>.

Thoughts from the rear

From Bill Sanborn

Couple of quick items that need to be restated. Oregon and/or Washington State Boaters Card. In Oregon all boaters should have one after January 1 2009, In Washington all boaters under age of 25 on January 1 need the card. Test can be taken on line and just stuff you should know.

Racing has been going well and we have the age old problem of folks having bought the wrong boat to fill out some of the level fleet, but other one design fleets have grown, and the Cruise Fleet with its rules on limited equipment and just have fun while chasing each other around the buoys had drawn quite a crowd. What I am seeing is that a lot of these folks are not necessarily learning to "race", but more importantly learning to sail and handle their boats, some of them on a vertical learning curve.

Our next SYSCO Cruise will be May 23, 24 & 25th when we do our annual Memorial Cruise to Martin Isl. Come join our raft up in the pond, bring your kayak and dingy for a fun time. We will also have a Cruise on June 20th, and the destination will be either Hadley's or the Gilbert River. July 4th weekend we plan to be back in Martin Pond. Delta Cruise gathering is July 25th at Martin Isl.

See you on the River.

Coming events

May 16th – Tomahawk Bay Yacht Club's annual come-one, come-all **Swap Meet** in the parking lot at Tomahawk Bay Marina (east end of Hayden Island). Starts at 7am (for the good deals) and costs just \$7 per space to clear out all the old boating junk, I mean great nautical gear, from your garage/attic/basement.

May 18th – SYSCO General Meeting at Elmer's in Delta Park. 6pm for social and dinner, 7pm meeting. The program was still a secret at press time but it's always worth it.

May 23rd – 25th - Memorial Day Cruise to Martin Pond. Bring your dingys and fun time attitude and let the stress melt away.

May 28th – final night of the SYSCO Spring series

June 1st – SYSCO Board Meeting at Mac's Deli on Bangy Rd. just off I-5 at Hwy 217. Starts about 6:45 pm or thereabouts depending on the whim of the Commodore. Any SYSCO member is welcome to attend, you don't have to be on the board.

June 2nd – first night of the SYSCO Summer series

And there's lots more! Check your 2009 OCSA Race Book for all the great sailing opportunities all summer long!

Editors note(s)

1. No board meeting minutes this month due to the fact that no one took notes! (You want minutes? Come take notes!)

2. With apologies to all the graphic artists and other designers out there, I have given up on trying to force Microsoft WORD into a role it is not suited for and have reverted to a simpler design format. I hope you find the content worthwhile regardless.

finally...

If you are selling a boat or boating related stuff, or if you are looking for crew or are a crew looking for a ride, or have a great boating related picture you'd like to share, or anything similar you'd like in the newsletter, just shoot me the info and I'll do my best to include it in the next edition. Jim Sinclair – editor. sinclairjr@comcast.net