



The Starting Line

June 2009

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

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Commodore's Comments:

Summer Adventures...Find 'em, Make 'em, Enjoy 'em!

Time is the precious stuff of life, and what better way to spend it than sailing on a boat, for hours or for days.

As the June issue of *Starting Line* goes to press, SYSCO members are beginning their summers of adventure. Mike and Mary Stainsby are up north participating in the Van Isle 360 <http://www.vanisle360.com/>. Mike is crewing on Night Runner. While Mike spends two weeks sailing around Vancouver Island, Mary is enjoying a shore-side circumnavigation of her own, meeting up with boat and crew at the end of each leg of the race. For folks who have done the Van Isle 360, they can't wait for the race to come around again each year. **Lots of fun. Lots of adventure.** (It should be noted, that while Mike is on Night Runner, Timm and Victoria Lessley are crew on Jaz. Blain Gould is also up there racing around the island on a boat the name of which escapes the memory of this writer.)

This past weekend, Bob Brown and a hearty volunteer crew of Dave Peters, Malcolm Mackey, and Jim Sinclair sailed Wings of the Dawn from Portland to Port Angeles for a summer of cruising around all the fantastic places that Puget Sound and the San Juans have to offer. **Coastal cruising fun at its best. Just the right amount of adventure.**

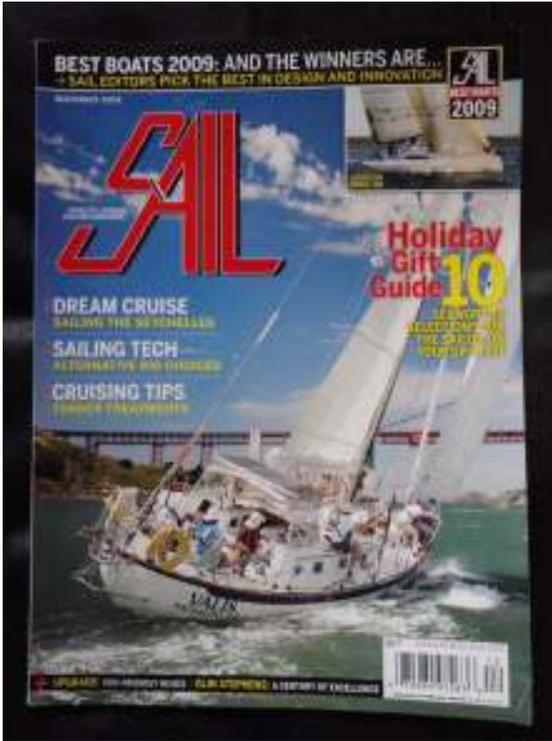
And even though Dean Woods is not a member of SYSCO, he is certainly a good friend to many of us. (Dean owns the Longview Olson 30, Black Aye.) Dean's son is currently racing a Mini T (named WAFI) in the Bermuda 1-2 <http://www.bermuda1-2.org/> (Drew's sweetie, Katie Ambach is also racing a Mini T named Eko). After his son sails the single handed part of the Bermuda 1-2, Dean will be crew in the double-handed race back to Newport R.I. from Bermuda. **More than a little of fun. Lots of blue water adventure.**

Oh, and remember Joby Easton and Bill Huseby who, on Raindrop, kicked butt in last year's Pac Cup? Well Joby is once again hopping on Reinrag² to go for two-in-a-row in this year's Trans Pac <http://www.transpacificyc.org/> **Lots of aloha fun. Wiki wiki adventure.**

Closer to home, there's George Brown and his Martin 241, Skookum Too. George is currently having fun and creating adventures while competing in the SYSCO Summer Series. But soon, Skookum Too will be one of the boats from our area that will be loaded on a trailer for a drive north and days of racing in the Whidbey Island Race Week regatta <http://www.whidbeyislandraceweek.com/>. **Lots of competitive fun. Lots of buoy racing adventure.**

Not everybody has to head off to far away places for summer vacation. For example, Bill & Vicky Sanborn on Upstart along with an armada of other cruisers will be heading off to all sorts of exotic places on the Columbia River for weekends full of enjoyment.

The next planned sybaritic excursion will be the Summer Solstice Cruise to Who Knows Where on June 20-21. **For sure, lots of out-loud-fun with laughs. Lots of comfy adventure.**



And then there are the few, the lucky few, who have adventures presented to them that are rare, and easily fit into the “once in a lifetime” category even if you get to do it twice. Your SYSCO Commodore, Rich Jones, and newsletter editor Jim Sinclair, will set sail June 20 on an offshore voyage. They will be members of the 4-man crew sailing the Pacific Seacraft 44, VALIS <http://www.sailvalis.com/> from San Francisco Bay to the San Juans (or port nearby) for a summer of cruising up north. And when the summer cruising is over for skipper Paul Elliott and his wife Mary, Karen Anderson and Edie Felix will help the skipper sail VALIS back home again. **Way too much fun to describe. Lots of storybook adventure.** (And you can enjoy the adventure vicariously via the emails posted to the sailvalis.com website, or by following the boat’s AIS track via Google Earth http://www.sailvalis.com/misc/ge_marinetraffic.kmz.)

So whatever you have planned for this summer, SYSCO hopes you enjoy more than enough fun and just the right amount of adventure. And remember, there are no SYSCO general membership meetings in June, July or August.

(Apologies to any SYSCO distance cruisers who were omitted. –Ed.)

RACING NEWS

A note from your Race Captain

Well the spring series is over and the summer series is here. SYSCO is growing and it seems like we have new boats in all of the fleets. We have had good wind for the spring series, so keep scratching your back stays for wind in the summer series. We had a few de-mastings in the spring series but no one was injured I hope to see those boats repaired and racing again. I want to thank all the race crews and skippers who have volunteered for race committee night. Without your support we cannot run the races each night. I also want to take this time to thank Rich Jones for covering for me when I have been out of town.

It also looks like we have some new boats in most of the fleets for the summer season. One in particular is a Ranger 20 that is with the Oregon Women’s Sailing Association “fleet boat”. The summer series should be an exciting.



I will be having Dale Mack Driving my boat (FLYBYE) since I will be running the races. FLYBYE didn’t do too bad spring series having a new skipper for each race, Dale Mack, Corry Bolton, Rodger (Catalina Dealer). If she gets an award I don’t know who to give it to. I think I will make them draw straws.

To all you in the cruising class, this is the view I hope you will be seeing all summer series.

Alden

Oops! It’s never a good idea to sail too close to the front of the Race Committee.



This report submitted by our "SYSCO Roving Reporter in San Carlos, Mexico" (Sandy Smith) with an on-the-spot report on racing in the Sea of Cortez.

Every year at this time the Tucson Sailing Club (Sounds like an oxymoron, doesn't it?) holds its annual Regatta in San Carlos, Mexico followed by a 2 week cruise in the Sea of Cortez. The cruise destination this year is Santa Rosalia on the Baja, after which they will work their way north through several anchorages until they reach San Francisquito and then back to San Carlos. Since Chris, the "boat boy" on "Faith", is a longtime member of TSC and we were planning to leave the boat on the hard here for the summer (sob!) we volunteered to serve as Committee Boat for the regatta. After the commitment was made, the windlass decided to pack it in and by the time we arrived here the anchor & chain (usually 120-150 ft) were having to be hauled by hand. Patty & Chris, having already served more than their share of time on the bow were reluctant (at best) to volunteer for two more days of this bicep building chore, so we enlisted some able bodied TSC members to help with this. More accurately, we explained as clearly as possible that without this help they would not have a Committee Boat. It worked.

Saturday morning the mark boat delivered Bill & Jerry (we are currently on a mooring ball) and we were off to the bay around the corner. When we arrived and got the anchor down and set the racers were already jockeying for position but we still had 10 minutes to spare before the beginning of the start sequence.

The course for the race is published in the pre-race flier so it is not a Committee duty to make this decision and there is no course board to deal with. There were two starts (one for mono-hulls and one for Hobie cats) and only three flags...a red one, a yellow one and a blue one. The sequence is yellow, blue, red and they seem to be on an "honor system" regarding over early boats. These folks only race a few times a year and seem a bit lackadaisical about starts (compared to the brutal NW attitude), though it could be that they just don't get enough practice. There was a substantial improvement in getting to the line on Sunday.

There are 3 mono-hull fleets that are scored based on PHRF handicaps but, with only 15 total boats, they all start together. The 4 Hobies were in the second start and quickly blew by the mono-hulls. Once the start was over, the job of the Race Committee was to entertain themselves for the next few hours. The racecourse is 14 miles long and encompasses one set mark and 2 islands used as marks as well as 2 more islands that are "obstacles" (Duh!). One "mark" island is required to be left to port and one to starboard but the racers can choose to go around or in front of the "obstacles". This is a strategic decision based on wind and sea conditions and can really make or break where you finally finish if you choose incorrectly.

The Hobies finished first (Surprise!) with the winner crossing the line slightly over 2 hours after the start. An hour later the mono-hulls began trickling past. First in that group was the S2 "Aim To Please" followed an hour later by the Ranger 28, "Marci Ann". From then on, the finishers were spread out over the next couple hours with the last boat crossing the line at the very last minute before the 4pm cutoff. I understand that boat is regularly the last to finish but it is a small boat (O'Day 22) and the crew are all close to 80 so they are still beating the pants off most octogenarians who spend their days in a home or watching television!



Sunday there was more wind (15-20) and it stayed steadily out of the west all day. We had a downwind start (Oh dear!) and a much faster race which was nice as that allowed the "race committee" time to dinghy ashore for a shower before catching their ride to the party. Downwind starts often confuse people and this race was no exception. Many of the boats chose to round the bow of the committee boat (some were scary close to our anchor line and/or starboard side) and then luff up during the final 30 seconds or so before the horn. Fortunately, no one raised a kite, but still, my eyes were a wee bit big as some passed close enough to reach out and touch them. There was no contact with the committee boat but that wasn't the case between the competitors.



As they crossed the line, two boats (one on port, one on starboard) kissed and then continued forward in a tangle of stanchions and lifelines. As they continued forward they went farther and farther to port and snugged up against two other boats who were unable to get away from them fast enough. This little fiasco seemed to continue on in slow motion for quite some time but, surprisingly, there was no yelling and no damage to any of the boats. When they finally all got separated, the skipper who was at fault did his turns and they were all off to finish the race.

A few little differences between here and Portland:

- 1) Weather...sunny, 97, turquoise water you can swim in.
- 2) Very long courses and good wind.
- 3) Comment from one of the racers: "It isn't worth putting the spinnaker up because the downwind leg is only 2 miles long!"

We had a great time and met some wonderful people from Tucson.

Hopefully, next year we'll be able to join them on the cruise afterward as well.

Thoughts from the rear

From Bill Sanborn

Delta Cruise: Right now I know of 4 boats that are North for some summer cruising that will be cutting those plans short to be back in time for this years SYSCO Delta Cruise.

For Vicki and I this is the 25th time we will make this trip down River to the Delta. Over the years we can only guess at the number of boats that have joined us, or more importantly the number of friends who have crewed those boats. Many of them also are counting into the high teens the number of times they have joined us. We have watched kids grow from diapers to adulthood as their families cruised with the group, everyone helped watch the young ones and also the senior citizens. We have had a lot of adventures on these cruises and even help make a few repairs to get boats home.

This year the meeting at Martin Isl. is July 25th, and our float plan is for 9 days, but we also welcome those who join us along the way, or drop out to extend their time in the lower River.

Any questions, contact me at upstart-30@comcast.net.

Coming events

SYSCO Summer Series Racing continues Tuesdays & Thursdays thru July 2nd.

June 20-21: **SYSCO Cruise to Gilbert River** (alt: Hadley's Landing).

July 3-5: **SYSCO Cruise to Martin Pond** to celebrate 4th of July. Bring your friends and all you water toys for a great time.

July 25 – Aug 2: **Annual SYSCO Delta Cruise**. If you've never done the lower river this is a great way to learn the ins and outs of some great local cruising grounds. Sometimes called the poor man's San Juans, the veterans of the lower river will help you safely get your boat into and out of places that you wouldn't think possible. So get away from the phones and the email, grab a bottle of wine or two and come de-stress with a great bunch of sailing friends!

And there's a lot more! Check your 2009 OCSA Race Book for all the great sailing opportunities all summer long, from the CYC Summer Series to all the great Friday Night Beer Can Races, to the SYSCO St. Helens race/cruise (this year *before* Labor Day), and many more.

Items Offered For Sale

Charts:

Astoria, OR to San Diego, CA:

18500, 18520, 18580, 18600, 18620, 18640, 18645 (Gulf of the Farallones), 18680, 18700, 18720, 18740, 18774

Harbor Entrances:

18581 (Newport, OR – aka Yaquina), 18587 (Coos Bay, OR), 18603 (Crescent City, CA), 18622 (Humboldt Bay, CA – aka Eureka), 18649 (San Francisco Bay), 18685 (Monterey Bay, CA)

Evergreen Pacific River Cruising Atlas: Columbia, Snake, Willamette

Charlie's Charts of the U.S. Pacific Coast, 4th edition

Exploring the Pacific Coast San Diego to Seattle - Don Douglass & R'eanne Hemingway-Douglass

Cruising Guide to San Francisco Bay (includes charts #18645 & 18649) – Carolyn & Bob Mehaffy

If interested, contact Sandy Smith at: Skichick7275@msn.com

Columbia River Marine Assistance replaces Sea Tow

A new resource is available when you need help on the river. Captain Ron Micjan now operates between St. Helens and the Bonneville Dam providing towing, jump starts, prop clearing, un-groundings and more. He monitors VHF Ch.16 and available by phone at 503-349-4401. Check out his web site at www.columbiarivermarineassistance.com.

Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes for the SYSCO Board Meeting Held June 1, 2009
Board Members Present: Rich Jones, Karen Anderson, Scott Ferre, Alden Andre,
Jan Burkhart, Jim Sinclair, Bill Sanborn

Treasurer's Report

- New treasurer, Karen Anderson, added to account signature card and former treasurer removed.
- Additional board member, Jan Burkhart will be added to the account signature card.
- Trophies for the Spring Regatta have been purchased
- Reimbursable for the spring series have been paid out
- Next significant expenditures should be summer BBQs

Membership Report

- 6 new memberships were voted on and approved
- Board will order additional burgees
- SYSCO currently has 115 members

Race Captain Report

- Spring series went well, it was noted that the sport boats appreciated multiple spinnaker sets.
- Minimal complaints have been received from racing fleets
- Board discussed congestion at mark rounding and possible solutions
- Board discussed potential summer series courses and the use of the Alpha Courses.
- Board discussed setting up the course board to minimize glare and to make the text larger and darker so it's easier to read.
- There are more boats registered for the summer series than there were for the spring series.

Cruising

- 12 boats participated in the Memorial Day cruise, the cruise went well.
- Summer Cruise scheduled for June 20th to either Gilbert River or Coon Island
- 4th of July cruise scheduled to Martin Pond

Social Program

- There will not be a June membership meeting
- There are no membership meetings in July or August, next meeting will be in September
- Board discussed having the next BBQ on June 30th.
- Board discussed working with Columbia Crossings on continuing joint SYSCO/Columbia Crossings events.

Old Business

- Poncho may need a new battery and fuel filter replacement.

New Business

- OWSA requested SYSCO to donate a membership for a boat OWSA will race in SYSCO events. The board agreed to provide free registration for the OWSA boat for the races remaining this year.

Meeting Adjourned

Board Meetings – 1st Monday of September, 2009
Next Meeting Location: Mac's Deli (Bangy Road in Lake Oswego)
Time: 6:30 pm