

# Starting Line

July 2013



## In this Issue:

- From the Commodore
- SYSCO Summer Wrap up
- Snakes on a Boat
- SYSCO Board Meeting Minutes
- Columbia Crossings Cup
- Top Tip from the Pros

Small Yacht Sailing Club of Oregon

## From the Commodore

Here it is, Monday, July 8, back in Portland, with images giant black catamarans skipping across San Francisco Bay still shining in my eyes! We spent the past week in San Francisco watching the America's Cup preliminaries, and what a sight they were! The boats were so big, at seventy-six feet in length and with rigs towering a hundred and thirty-one feet that one can see the entire Presidio to the Oakland Bay Bridge race course, from virtually anywhere in downtown San Francisco.

For the first time in my forty years of yacht racing, I found members of the general public interested in and excited about a yacht race. It probably had something to do with the fact that I was wearing a Team Oracle jersey. The questions came fast and furious: "What are those giant orange teepees floating around out there for (reference to highly visible marks of the course)," "Why all that fussing around before they actually start?" "How *FAST* are they really going?!"



Hard to say how much, if any, of this general interest is going to transfer to our much less glamorous form of racing, but it sure can't hurt.

By the way, your SYSCO Board is alive, well, and having a good time. Our meeting tomorrow night is going to be at a small, laid back Thai restaurant in NE Portland. We have been moving the location to keep the dinners as interesting and enjoyable as possible.

The Board welcomes Jackie Pitter as our social director; she is already doing a great job of organizing events such as the BBQs that will mark and end to our most excellent SYSCO Tuesday and Thursday night summer series this week. (cont'd)

Your Board is going to be tapping on shoulders in the near future to recruit some new blood to fill positions that, in keeping with our constitution, are going to have to be vacated. Don't think of it as a burden. As Billy Sanborn, member at large who shows up for every board meeting, recently reminded us, there is no way any SYSCO Board member can fail; the Board won't let them!

As I slide into the Rear Commodore chair, I look forward to joining Bill as yet another eternal member, who even though I will not have a vote eventually, will continue to attend the meetings just because they are so much fun!

See you on the water!

- Frank Colistro, Commodore



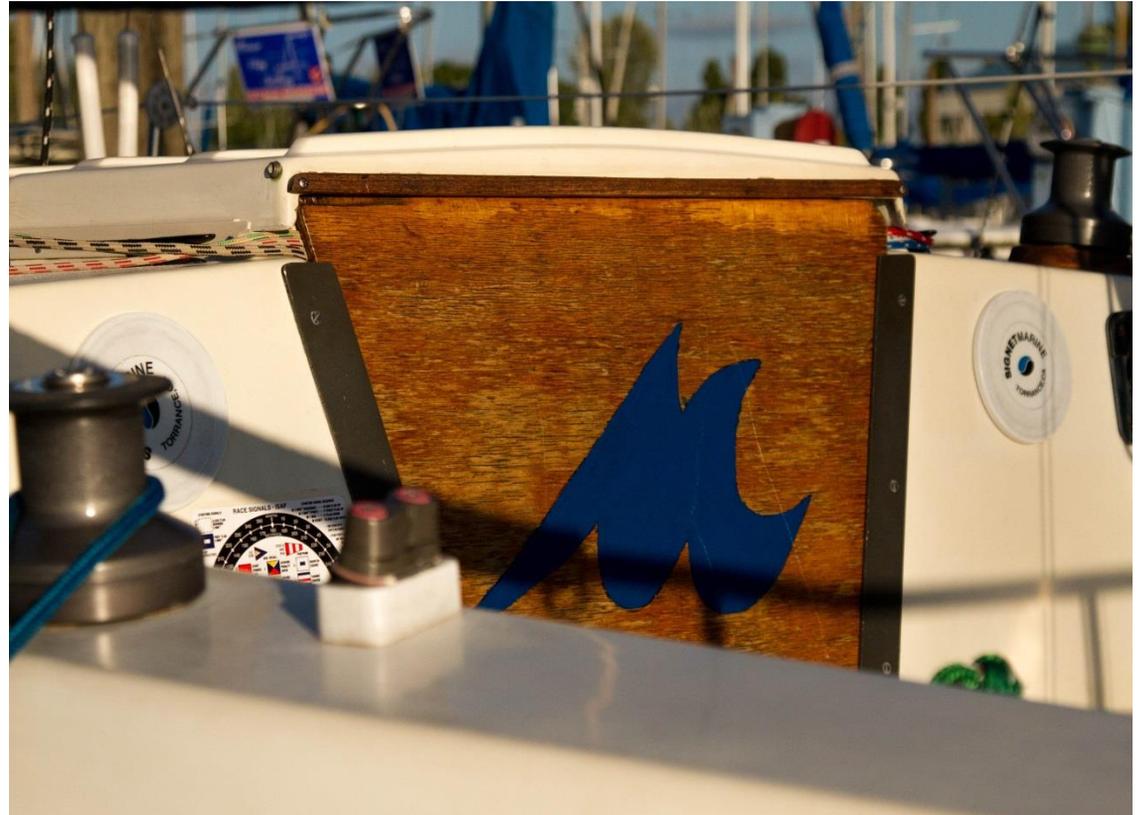
Small Yacht Sailing Club of Oregon

## SYSCO Summer Wrap Up

By Ryan Rodgers

Another SYSCO Summer Series has come and gone. And with its passing, I find myself reflecting back on the time spent with friends, colleagues, and mentors and come to the conclusion that it was indeed a good SYSCO season. Our team, though plagued with mechanical malfunctions, fickle wind, and the occasional crew shortage still managed to start most of the races, and finish almost as many as we started, all while having fun. I'd like to thank the many volunteers that made this SYSCO season possible. Without you all, there is no racing.

For most of us, we'll be setting our sights on the [C.Y.C.](#) Summer Series as well as the Columbia Crossings Cup. Let's keep the spirit of volunteerism alive through the heat of summer and the chill of Fall.



## Snakes on a Boat

By Ryan Rodgers

I was walking the docks a few weeks ago, looking for unique sailing photos to post in the newsletter when I came across this. Now I know those Merit 25 guys and gals appear to be one of the most fun loving and active fleets on the river but this is beyond me.

The cautionary tales that are passed by those of us who give the island a wide berth couldn't have imagined this.

Just what is going on here?



## SYSCO Board Meeting Minutes

The July board meeting began at 6:36 pm, at the Full Moon Thai on Broadway. Attending members were; Mike Nance, Tod Bassham, Bill Sanborn, Frank Colistro, Ryan Rodgers, Phil Campagna, and Warren Dalby, and Gary Bruner.

### **Treasury**

After receiving checks from two paying members, Regatta Network and OWSA, SYSCO's balance as of 7/8/13 is \$10,112.82 dollars.

Board members suggested that Jim Shaw be asked to attend the next board meeting to discuss options for the awards that will be awarded in the fall.

### **Membership**

No new news on the membership front.

### **Racing**

Both a PRO and race committee boat is still needed for the Columbia Crossings Regatta.

The Board also discussed Rich Jones' idea for the Dual Bridge Duel. The preliminary idea is that the race will take place on the weekend of the temporarily postponed *Sail for the Cure*. Early ideas suggest that all racers start at the same time but are free to choose a direction e.g. bridge to sail to first. After rounding a mark in the vicinity of the bridge, the racer is to set a course for the remaining bridge and then to the finish. Details are still in the works.



## **Social**

Jackie and friends discussed the many different scenarios and needs for volunteers for the summer series wrap up.

## **Pancho**

Pancho is in good shape under the covered slip at McCuddy's.



## Columbia Crossings Cup

Wow! It is the middle of July and it seems like summer has just now started. There are only two more SYSCO racing events left for the season. The Columbia Crossings Cup is Saturday, August 10 and the Saint Helens race & cruise is August 24 and 25. The SYSCO Columbia Crossings Cup is a one day regatta open to one-design, level and cruising fleets. PHRF ratings are not required. SYSCO fleet lists and one-design subclasses are listed in the 2013 OCSA Racebook on page 19. The sign-up deadline for the Columbia Crossings Regatta is August 8. After the last race you and your crew are invited to a social at the Columbia Crossing Tomahawk Bay Lawn. Good food, good music and a good time will be provided by our host, Columbia Crossings. You can [register here](#), and [view registration list here](#).

### Top Tip!

Confused by the extensive boating vernacular?

Try painting your toenails to match the corresponding side of the boat!

*"Boat toes" are courtesy of Ashley Paterson, OWSA vice-commodore and the much better half of Columbia River Marine Assistance.*

