

Small Yacht Sailing Club of Oregon

STARTING LINE

December 2015



Upcoming Dates to Remember:

* *Portland Boat Show January 13 to 17th. Booth volunteers needed! Sign up at <http://vols.pt/NPXggr>*

**SYSCO Fleet Night Tuesday, January 26, at 6:30 p.m.*

**Seattle Boat Show, January 29 through February 6*

SYSCO Wants YOU for *Starting Line* Editor!

Dear Reader: you hold in your hands (figuratively speaking) the September thru December 2015 issue of *Starting Line*, the club's venerable newsletter. Publication temporarily ceased due to the tragic alien abduction of our newsletter editor. A crack team of SYSCO commandos parachuted into the alien base, and managed to recover a trove of purloined minutes, articles and

other newsletter submissions. Alas, our beloved newsletter editor was killed in a lightsaber duel with the alien overlord, Darth Garth (or something like that, facts are not our strong suit).

Anyhoo, the SYSCO Emergency Response and Bakesale Squad (SERBS) swung into action, and has produced the omnibus edition of *Starting Line* that you (figuratively) hold in your sweaty little hands. You may notice that this edition is rather crude, and devoid of pretty pictures. That is because the only format SERBS is familiar with is Microsoft Word, and SERBS can't figure out how to make it pretty.

Enter Heroic Editor, stage right. (That's your cue). Yes, now is your chance to step forward and save SYSCO from bad editing. If you have any editing or graphic design skills, or can walk and chew gum at the same time, you too can become a famous editor and fight lightsaber duels with

alien overlords. The work is light (approx. 4 hours a month), pay nonexistent, and the satisfaction: priceless. *Fine Print*: the editor merely compiles the submissions of others into a pretty newsletter, and doesn't have to actually write anything (although an editor who also writes would be cool). Still hesitating? OK, what about Technical Advisor? Maybe you can use your technical skills to simply advise SYSCO on how to make the newsletter pretty.

You'll do it? Great! Just contact the current interim editor at rear_commodore (at) syscosailing.org, or at basshamfam (at) hotmail.com. In the meantime, enjoy this omnibus edition of *Starting Line*.

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December Commodore's Message

Change and continuity: two strands braided together that make a powerful rope. I was reminded of this at the 2015 Annual Awards Party at Kells, where the club honored one of its most-longstanding members, Historian-For-Life Bill Sanborn, and one of its newest, Vice-Commodore Nat Powning. Together, these two represent both the honorable traditions of the club, and the youthful energy needed to help the club continue to succeed.

One big change coming our way is that SYSCO will run the former CYC Summer Series, re-named the Summer Twilight Series. Thanks to all the members who attended the November 16 Annual Meeting to discuss and vote on the bylaw amendments necessary to make that change happen. In a future edition of *Starting Line*, I expect 2016 Commodore Nat Powning or 2016 Race Captain Bruce Newton will explain how the club will run the Summer Twilight Series, and what that will mean for membership dues, race committee operations, and series scoring. But again I see that theme of change and continuity at work here: if you are a SYSCO member who typically races only the two traditional SYSCO series, then the SYSCO racing experience (and dues) will remain pretty much the same for you. If you typically race all three summer series, then you will likely save some money, and the third series will be run much like the first two. The biggest change is that the members of mixed-boat spinnaker fleets in the third series will have the option of being scored (and trophied, if there is a sub-class of at least three) under their PHRF-NW certificate rating rather than level. This PHRF/level hybrid scoring concept is a bit of an experiment. I'm hopeful that it will work reasonably well. If not, we'll re-evaluate for 2017.

Another potentially important change was discussed at the December 7, 2015 SYSCO Board Meeting. SYSCO Member Gary Bruner, the 2015 OCSA Commodore, has proposed that the SYSCO Annual Awards party and the OCSA Tropical Party be combined in 2016 into a single extravaganza. The main arguments for this proposal are that it would bring the sailing community together for a single night of celebrations, save money for those who attend both events, save the club money, etc. One concern with this proposal is whether we can get through awarding all trophies from all clubs before the cops bust up the party. SYSCO's Trophy Czar Jim Shaw demonstrated at the November 16 Annual Awards Party that trophies can be

distributed swiftly and with panache. With three series, SYSCO will be handing out probably three-fourths of all trophies, so maybe with Jim's patented rapid-fire delivery system it can be done. What do you think of this proposal? Look for a survey coming soon to an e-mail near you. Or you can show up at the January 4, 2015 meeting to discuss!

Let me end by emphasizing the continuity side of our theme. SYSCO was founded in 1978, and we will soon be celebrating our 40th(!) anniversary. The club has succeeded due to the care and efforts of many, many volunteers over the years. The future looks bright, in part because volunteers continue to step forward to help the club further on its journey. I'm honored to introduce your 2016 officers:

Commodore: Nat Powning

Vice-Commodore/Race Captain: Bruce Newton

Treasurer: Scott Stevenson

Secretary: Don Woodhouse

Rear-Commodore: Yours truly.

In addition, I'm pleased that so many committee chairs and co-chairs have re-upped: Jan Burkhart (membership), Adrienne Lacavaro (Pancho Engineer), Tara Powning and Heather Zeiser (Social), Bill and Vicki Sanborn (Historians and Cruise Directors), Mike Stainsby (PHRF), and Michael Nance (webmaster). And I'm pleased to welcome some new faces, including Randy Poff, who will help incoming Race Captain Bruce Newton on the Racing Committee as the Thursday night coordinator. The only empty slot to fill is that of newsletter editor.

Finally, let me say how much an honor and privilege it has been to serve as your Commodore in 2015. SYSCO is in great hands, and I look forward to serving as Rear-Commodore in 2016, and to many years of membership, racing, and cruising with SYSCO.

Fair Winds,

Tod Bassham, 2015 Commodore

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The Grand Experiment: E Fleet Dabbles in PHRF

Mike Daly, E Fleet Captain

So, the racing year has ended, and so has the SYSCO by-law temporary exemption allowing fleets to choose to race under PHRF scoring.

A lot of discussion regarding the introduction of handicap racing was held prior to the start of the season, with many differing opinions. (sailors after all are not ones to hold their opinions to themselves) The issue was raised among the E fleet skippers, and eventually, with favorable input from the fleet, the board passed a motion suspending temporarily the provision limiting the handicap scoring system to one race.

Among the eight or nine E fleet boats typically registered, the handicap ratings ran from a high of 225 to a low of 189. Translating this to a time on time handicap scoring system, which is a well guarded secret formula, was given to the high priests and priestesses of sailing. This system is said to work better on the river here than in other places on earth. We'll just go with that.

The big question, what difference did it make?

This racing business is nothing if not data rich, and so mining the nuggets of info such as elapsed time, corrected time, finish order etc. was doable, and then reassembling that data in a finish order that represented the former level scoring system.

I used scoring data from both SYSCO spring and summer series for E fleet boats, and also the recently completed CYC summer series PHRF C fleet. Of the three series, 14 races total, only one series, the abbreviated SYSCO spring series resulted in a one position difference, the third and fourth place boats would have swapped places. There were individual races throughout each series where handicap played a role in finish position, but it was surprising that there was only one position change in overall results in three series.

Those who would prefer not to race under a handicap system cite increased efforts within the racing organization, including monitoring skippers and boats PHRF membership , cost of annual PHRF renewal, and additional race committee effort to accurately capture finish times. Those in favor cite increased participation by racers with higher handicap boats, a more level playing field, and an opportunity to test their skills against faster rated boats and still feel competitive.

Stay tuned to this channel since this hot topic will be up for discussion at the next board meeting.

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Racing Committee

Bruce Newton, 2016 Vice-Commodore and Race Captain

As you know, the Vice Commodore also serves as the SYSCO Race Captain. This year Nat Powning did an outstanding job running the SYSCO racing program. It was particularly challenging because, for the first time in several years, we did not have a paid Principal Race Officer (PRO) to assist the Fleets in their race committee duties. With SYSCO adding a third five-week series next year the Board has decided to reestablish a Racing Committee to run the racing program. A Racing Committee is actually called for in the club by-laws but one has not functioned in recent memory. The committee will consist of the Vice Commodore, a Tuesday Coordinator, a Thursday Coordinator, the Fleet Captains (or their designees), and anyone else who would like to help. The initial planning meeting for the Racing Committee was held on December 15 and was attended by Bruce Newton, Randy Poff, Nat Powning, and Tod Bassham.

For 2016 we will focus on better guidance and training support for our volunteer race committees.

**SYSCO Board Meeting Minutes
September 7, 2015**

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Tod Bassham.

In attendance were ;

Tod Bassham, Don Woodhouse, Bruce Newton, Kris Amundson, Jan Burhardt, Heather Zieser, Scott Stevenson, Mike Daly, Gary Bruner

Treasurers Report (Bruce Newton)

We are in good financial shape approaching the final banquet and awards season. \$100 was collected from the Catalina 22 Fleet to reimburse SYSCO for some “seed money” donated for their championship regatta. One new member has paid dues for 2016.

Race Captain’s Report.

Nat Powning was not present but there was much discussion about the current state of SYSCO racing and plans for next year. Nat was applauded for the decision not to hold the SYSCO St. Helens during the High Wind Warning of Sat. 08/29/2015 . The Race/Cruise has been rescheduled for 09/12/2015 , starting at daymark 39 at 11:15. We are supporting the Race for a Cure with race committee and mark boat . There will be a “Fun Race” along with the more serious “Leukemia Cup Regatta” . Sailing on Sundays will be starting soon and preparations need to be made.

Plans for next year need to be made and there was much discussions about who should run the races, adding new series, and changing the dues/race fees to accommodate more racing. A polling of the members would be the best way to move forward.

Membership Report (Jan Burkhardt): We are at 121 members.

Social Chair (Heather Zieser): Final awards banquet is again being held at Kell’s Pub. It will be organized in a fashion similar to past SYSCO Banquets. Fleet Captains are reminded to provide raffle prizes for the event.

Submitted by Don Woodhouse, Secretary

**More SYSCO Board Meeting Minutes,
October 12, 2015**

Attendance ; Rich Jones, Mike Daly, Tod Bassham, Scott Stevenson, Gary Bruner, Dave Paligo, Thomas Mac Menemy, NAt Powning, Don Woodhouse, Rock Kent, Ron Fairley, Warren Dalby, Heather Zeiser, Bruce Newton, Thomas Morissey, Bill Sanborn, Randy Poff, Jan Burkhart, Jeff Estes.

Meeting Called to order at 7:00 pm

Because of the special issues pending the usual Treasurers report, Pancho, Race capt., Membership, etc. reports were dropped from the agenda.

Heather Zeiser- Social co-chair

First item of business. Award Party. October 24th at Kell□s in Portland. The menu is set and we are ready to go. We will need a few volunteers to sell dinners and raffle tickets at the door. Fleet capts., please call award winners to see if they are attending. We have hats to sell and cups/glasses to hand out also.

Tod Bassham-Commodore

CYC Summer Series. CYC recently voted to stop offering the “Late Summer” Series. a proposal with several options was sent to SYSCO board members and Fleet capts on the subject.

After much discussion and a straw poll of the member present, it was decided to take over the “Third Series” as a five week series. After more discussion and another straw poll it was decided to offer both level fleet and PHRF races in the new series.

It was not decided at the meeting how to pay for the new series. The options included a raise in dues, or a fee for the series. A survey of members will be conducted to determine the fee structure.

Although the usual Race capt. report was forgone, the issue of how to run race next season seemed appropriate since we are adding more race dates. The feeling is a slight modification to the structure of the volunteer race management is needed to insure the quality and consistency . A proposal to have two RC individuals , working under the guidance of the Race capt. to help with evening series races would work. One person would be responsible for Tues and one for Thurs..

Meeting adjourned at 8:25.

Submitted by Don Woodhouse, Secretary

**SYSCO General Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2015**

Attending Jim Severs, Lenny Severs, David Paligo, Mike Daly, Tod Bassham, Bruce Newton, Scott Stevenson, Rich Jones, Rock Kent, Mike Stainsby, Ron Fairley, Gary Bruner, Bill Sanborn, Jan Burkhart, Mike O’Bryant, Frank Bocarde, Alex Reed, Randy Poff, Tomas Morrissey

Meeting was called to order promptly at 7:00 pm by Commodore Tod Bassham.

The first item of business was the election of officers. The Slate was composed of one candidate for each of the board positions. No other candidates emerged at the meeting.

Commodore -Nat Powning

Vice Commodore-Bruce Newton

Secretary- Don Woodhouse

Treasurer- Scott Stevenson

Bill Sanborn made a motion that we accept the candidates as listed. It was seconded and voted on by a voice vote. All candidates were approved. Thank you to all of the SYSCO 2016 Board members !

Budget report. A budget sheet was distributed to the members in attendance. The yearend balance was \$2000 on the plus side. The main reasons for the windfall was because we are not paying for a PRO and no Pancho or race mark expenses for the year. We spent more on the Banquet than we brought in and Trophies are still one of our biggest expenses. It was noted that next years expenses will be higher due to the "Third Series" costs for trophies and extra "Pancho" costs. We have \$9,702 in the reserve, a fund now dedicated for "Pancho" repair or replacement.

Alex Reed spoke about the vision of CYC. He would like to see membership in both CYC and SYSCO continue and for both clubs to work in harmony recognizing that SYSCO is more of the "Buoy Racing" club and CYC is more the "Oregon Offshore and Long Distance" club.

Bylaw amendment proposal Nat Powning

The results of the survey indicated the membership would like to have a "Third Series" of races and would also like to have a dues adjustment to allow those who wanted to, to pay a higher membership fee to include all SYSCO events . The option to pay the same dues as 2015 and opt out of the "Third Series" or pay separately, at a member rate was included in the proposal. Such a change in membership fees requires by SYSCO LAW a vote of the General Membership and Bylaw change.

It was moved and seconded to amend Article 3, Section 1 and Article 4, Section 1 to allow a change in the fee structure for membership.

Gold membership \$115 includes entry to all SYSCO events including the "Third Series" .

Silver membership \$85 covers all but the "Third Series"

Associate membership \$25.

Approved by voice vote.

Another Bylaw change.

Currently SYSCO Bylaws state that we will hold one handicapped (PHRF) event each season. The proposal would change that language to "One or more handicapped events". Moved, seconded, and approved.

Race Management Options were discussed and there could be a proposal ready for the next meeting to make the Vice Commodore the overseer of the volunteer Race Committee folks. He would be aided by a Tues night and a Thurs night co-ordinator to provide some guidance for the Fleet Volunteers.

It was moved and seconded that the “Third Series” be called the “Summer Twilight Series” . Motion was approved.

Submitted by Don Woodhouse, Secretary

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**And even more SYSCO Board Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2015**

The December meeting of the SYSCO board was held at Elmers, Delta Park. Commodore Tod Bassham called the meeting to order at 7 PM sharp. Also present were: Warren Dalby, Nat Powning, Bruce Newton, Jan Burkhart, Frank Colistro, Rock Kent, Mike Daly, Scott Stevenson, and Gary Bruner.

TREASURER: Bruce Newton closed the books on 2015 and gave the reins to incoming treasurer Scott Stevenson. Bruce reported we ended the year with a \$2000 profit, and states that our current reserve carryover is \$9702, much of that in preparation for upgrades to Pancho and his engine when the time arrives. Scott’s budget for 2016 will be voted on at the January meeting.

RACING: Nat Powning proposed allowing boats to enter a race or regatta late, providing the skipper pays a late fee of \$30 dollars, so long as it’s in before 18:30 hours the day before the race begins. Nat reported that only 1 or 2 boats per race or series has requested that in the past, and it would still allow minimal time to develop class breaks. It was moved, seconded and passed that such a late fee and structure be established. The SYSCO Race Clinic is scheduled for March 10 and the first race of the season, RCYC’s Frostbite is on the docket for March 19. Tod Bassham brought up the idea of the annual barbeque after the 3rd race series being held as a potluck in St. Helens after the St. Helens Race and Cruise. Nat will be sending all SYSCO changes in to the OCSA Race Book, and asked that board members review said changes within a week so the Race Book is accurate.

PORTLAND BOAT SHOW: Frank Colistro is our contact person with the Boat Show and will make sure SYSCO has a booth. Tod Bassham, Gary Bruner, Mike Daly, and, hopefully Jim Severs, will serve as the Boat Show Committee that will set up the booth with the display built last year by Jim Severs, stored at Gary’s house. SYSCO will have a sign made to hopefully attract passersby the booth, asking if folks have a sailboat and wish assistance in racing. Tod will round up left over trifold information folders.

AWARDS CEREMONY: Gary Bruner, the incoming Commodore for OCSA, made a presentation for the idea of SYSCO joining the OCSA Tropical Party for the distribution of SYSCO Awards next year. His reasons included: money savings for those attending multiple dinners to collect trophies from multiple events, the savings to various clubs in only renting one

venue, decreased pressure on sailboat related businesses being hit for multiple raffle prizes, increased unity within the greater sailboat racing community, and the changes already underway now that SYSCO will be hosting 3, not 2, weekly series during the season. He wants to reduce redundancy and overlap as much as possible. Acknowledging that we will have to speed things up with regards presentations, he thinks it possible to make those adjustments. Negative reaction was in the form of comments that SYSCO parties were more fun to attend. It was moved, seconded, and approved to send a Survey Monkey survey with a brief synopsis of the arguments pro and con to SYSCO members to gauge interest in having one big party rather than 2 as has been the case for decades. Any final decision will be made at Fleet Night in January, even though the Race Book will be printed before then, and any changes will have to be heavily promoted and advertised.

NEWSLETTER: Our former editor, Kris Amundson has resigned, so Tod Bassham will take on the task of assembling articles and putting out a newsletter. We will advertise for someone else to take on this responsibility which is important to the club. There is NO writing required, simply the assembly of newsletter submissions. Anyone with basic computer skills should be able to do the job with a time commitment of 4 hours per month.

Commodore Tod Bassham rapped the gavel for the final time at 20:30 hours for the last time. The next meeting will be the first for new Commodore Nat Powning.

Respectfully submitted for Secretary Don Woodhouse by Gary Bruner.

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<p>HAPPY HOLIDAYS!</p> <p>Hope to see you on the water in 2016!</p>
