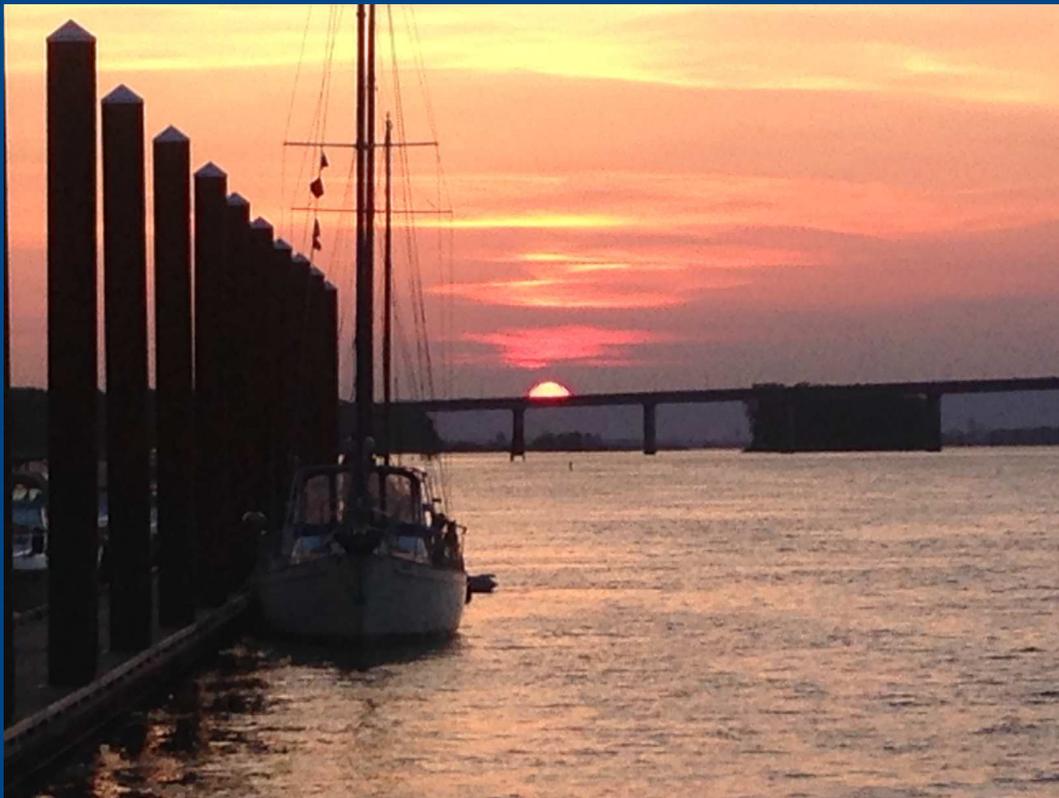
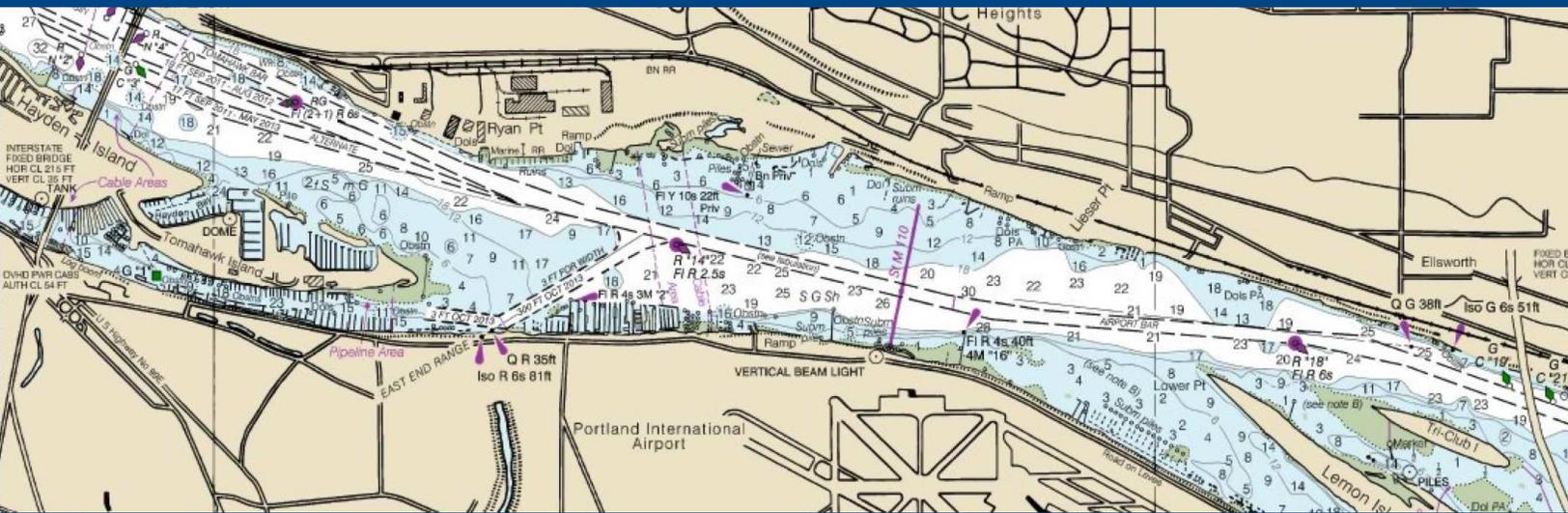


SYSCO Board Minutes
A Play in Three Acts



Small Yacht Sailing Club of Oregon STARTING LINE

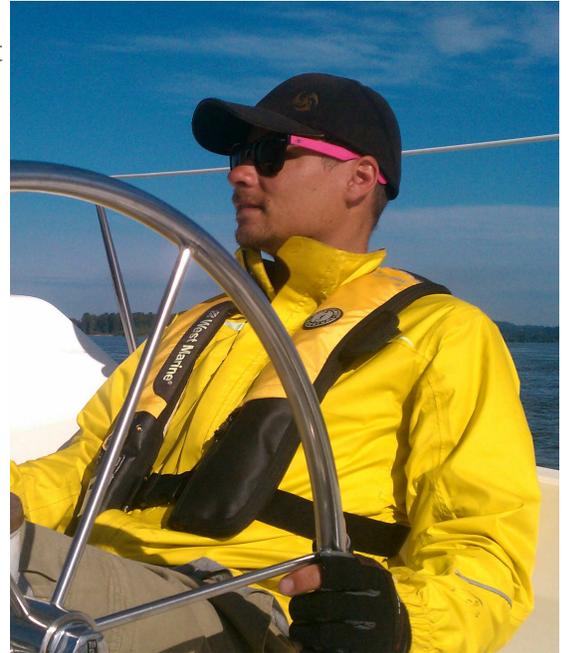


Junovia, sandy beach, sunset in April 2015. Photo courtesy of Nat Powning.

From the Front

Nat Powning, Commodore

I'm happy to report we've made it through a month without making any major changes. The only substantial update I have to share is that Pancho has been splashed with a new engine. It's quiet, emits no smoke and everything is functioning as expected with one exception. Immediately upon heading out for a test drive after launching with all our equipment and three people onboard it became obvious that the low speed thrust was inadequate to get the (typically overloaded) Pancho to planing speed. Our suspicion is that the installer had substantially less weight aboard during their sea trial and the prop pitch is too aggressive. A new prop is on the way which we hope will resolve the issue before Spring Series starts towards the end of April. While it's important that we get Pancho running great we are in good shape for buoy racing even if it takes a bit longer to work out this kink. I hope our mark boat operators appreciate the new setup. It's especially nice not laying over inflated buoys when lowering or raising the engine now with the electric tilt.



On another note I'd like to share a bit of technology some of you are already using that those who haven't heard of might find interesting. This is a free app for Android and iPhone/iPad called raceQ's that logs telemetry data while you race. Consider installing it on your phone now and launch as you hit the water each night of the Spring Series. Particularly for fleets that gather on the docks or in a clubhouse afterwards it can be quite fun to share your tracks, chatting with other crews as you watch the 3D replays presented in Google Earth inside the app or on the web. It's easy to use and, if you chose to share your data, your boat is automatically added to the replays with everyone else on the course. Search Google Play or the App Store for raceQs or checkout raceqs.com for more info.

I'll see you on the water.



An example of the RaceQs app output. Photos courtesy of Nat Powning.

Bringing Up the Rear

Tod Bassham, Rear-Commodore

SYSCO has always been an innovative little yacht club, with level racing, race/cruising, Dual Bridge Duel, Daylight Savings Dash, hybrid PHRF/level racing, etc. But we haven't had much to do with the local beer can scene, which offers 10 beer cans from May to August. SYSCO does host the beer can race the night before the DBD, and SYSCO usually jazzes that up with a Mayhem, or crew-swapping, or pirate theme or something a little different. Most of the other beer cans hosted by the other clubs are, well, a little tamer. For whatever reason, the beer cans don't get a lot of participation, and they typically involve only relatively few boats going back and forth between 14 and 2 on a Friday evening.

I'm not suggesting SYSCO run the beer cans (we have enough on our plate at the moment, thank you), but maybe we can talk with the other clubs, via OCSA, about how to increase participation in the beer cans next year, by making them more fun and convenient.

Part of the problem, I think, is that the beer cans are usually held on Friday evenings. No so many people are willing to brave Friday rush hour traffic to get to the river. Plus, for Thursday racers, this would mean getting a crew together two nights in a row. The obvious solution is to hold beer cans on a weekend day, perhaps Saturday afternoon from 4:00 to 6:00, or maybe following in the footsteps of the Sail on Sunday Series (SOS), and hold summer beer cans Sunday afternoons at 1:00. Traffic is usually better on weekends, and a lot of us are out on the river anyways. I think participation would go way up if we held beer cans on weekends instead of Friday nights. And we might get more families and kids out racing on the river.

Another problem is the isolated nature of beer cans. Beer cans are, of course, supposed to be casual one-off "races" with no connection to each other. But the SOS has demonstrated that it is possible to run casual races in a fun and yet competitive series. People who care about the series will try to be there every beer can, and those who don't will show up when it's convenient, just like the SOS. What if we connected each of the 10 beer cans the clubs run each summer into a casual summer series, just like the SOS, and posted the results on sailpdx.org? That would require participants to register (for free) and for each beer can race committee to keep track of results, just like the SOS, but that is not much extra work.

Finally, a third problem with traditional beer cans is their generic nature. Each beer can is just like all the others. But there are exceptions. As noted, SYSCO has lately tried crew-swapping and pirate themes for its one beer can. OWSA, who holds one of their beer cans on a Saturday, has experimented with themes. And, of course, the Free Bowl of Soup food bank fundraiser is a very popular and fun conclusion to the beer can season. But what if each of the 10 beer cans had a separate, fun theme?

Ah, but what about logistics? Who is going to organize all this? Good questions. Right now, the clubs already organize their own beer cans, so we are already out there on the river putting on 10 races each summer, and that wouldn't change. All we really need is some coordination among the clubs, which we already do when we get together under OCSA's umbrella each year to plan next year's racing calendar, and a little extra planning and execution.

So I say that the clubs should spend some time at the next OCSA meeting to discuss coordinating the beer can schedule for 2016. Should we switch most or all beer cans to a weekend day? Should we have themes for each beer can? Should we connect them together into a casual series, like the SOS? If so, what should we call the new series? Let's talk about it.

Racing Report

Bruce Newton, Vice Commodore/Race Captain



Pancho Engineer, Adrienne Lacavaro, demonstrates how to use Otto Horn at the Pancho Operations Training Session. Photo courtesy of Nat Powning.

The SYSCO Racing Committee is gearing up for the season. Fleet Captains attended a short dockside training session on Pancho operations on April 2. The Fleet Captain's Guide for SYSCO Racing has been completed. Registrations are coming in for the Spring Series. Registration closes 48 hours prior to the start of the series -- 1830 Sunday April 17 for the Tuesday series, and 1830 Tuesday April 19 for the Thursday series. This year we are giving procrastinators a little break. We will accept late registrations within 24 hours of the start of the series, but only with payment of a \$30 late fee.

A big welcome to our newest one-design fleet – the Moore 24 Fleet. Josh Raymond will be their Fleet Captain. The Moore 24 Fleet will be pairing with the Martin 24 Fleet to help out with Race Committee responsibilities.

Please share with your crew that anyone can volunteer for any race committee. The racing schedule for the year is below with race committee assignments. Just contact the listed Fleet Captain or me.

April 19 – May 26 SYSCO Spring Series

April 19	Cruising (John Osborne)	April 21	Martin 24 (Rock Kent)
April 26	Ranger 20 (Ron Fairley)	April 28	E+F Fleets (Mike Daley)
May 3	Cal 20 (Fred Hazzard)	May 5	A Fleet (Doug Schenk)
May 17	Catalina 22+Venture 21	May 19	B+C Fleets (Pam Sesar)
May 24	J-24 (Colton Gardner)	May 26	Merit 25 (Tomas Morrissey)

May 31 – June 30 SYSCO Summer Series

May 31	Cruising (John Osborne)	June 2	Martin 24 (Rock Kent)
June 7	Ranger 20 (Ron Fairley)	June 9	E+F Fleets (Mike Daley)
June 14	Cal 20 (Fred Hazzard)	June 16	Merit 25 (Tomas Morrissey)
June 21	Catalina 22+Venture 21	June 23	B+C Fleets (Pam Sesar)
June 28	J-24 (Colton Gardner)	June 30	A Fleet (Doug Schenk)

June 17 **Prostate Cancer Foundation Beer Can**

June 18 **SYSCO/Columbia Crossings Dual Bridge Duel**

June 28 **Summer BBQ for Tuesday Racers**

June 30 **Summer BBQ for Thursday Racers**

July 19 – August 25 SYSCO Summer Twilight Series

July 19	Cruising (John Osborne)	July 21	Martin 24 (Rock Kent)
July 26	Ranger 20 (Ron Fairley)	July 28	E+F Fleets (Mike Daley)
August 9	Cal 20 (Fred Hazzard)	August 11	Merit 25 (Tomas Morrissey)
August 16	Catalina 22+Venture 21	August 18	B+C Fleets (Pam Sesar)
August 23	J-24 (Colton Gardner)	August 25	A Fleet (Doug Schenk)

August 27 – 28 **SYSCO Saint Helens Race & Cruise**

November 5 **Awards Party**

Upcoming Dates to Remember

**Oregon Offshore
Kickoff Party**

April 18

**SYSCO Spring Evening
Series (Tues & Thurs)**

April 19 - May 26

CRYA Opening Day
May 7

CYC Oregon Offshore
May 12 - 15

PYC Beer Can Race
May 20

**RCYC Medium
Distance Race**
May 21

RVYC Swiftsure
May 28 - 30

**SYSCO Summer
Evening Series (Tues &
Thurs)**
May 31 – June 30

SYSCO Board Minutes - April 4, 2016

A Play in Three Acts

By Tod Bassham

Dramatis Personae: Commodore Nat Powning, Vice-Commodore Bruce Newton, Trophy Czar Jim Shaw, Rear-rear Commodore Warren Dalby, Historian and Cruise Director Bill Sanborn, Social Chair Heather Zeiser, Membership chair Jan Burkhart, and A/B fleet captain Thomas MacMenmeny, playing themselves. Appearing as the Fool is Tod Bassham, Rear-Commodore and ad hoc minutes-taker, who is filling in for the absent Gary Bruner, who was supposed to fill in for the absent Secretary Don Woodhouse, who is still off skiing somewhere in the wilds of Utah.

Act I (*Delta Park Elmer's Restaurant on a dark and stormy night*)

Nat (rapping on glass with fork): Hail, and well met! Let's get started. Treasurer's Report! Scott? (looks around) Scott? Not here, so no gold star for him. OK, moving on to membership report. Jan?

Jan: We're at 103 members. The Gold/Silver ratio is holding steady at 2:1. And we have one new member: Wesley Dameron and his wife Adriana, who have a J-24, Exit Strategy.

Nat: Excellent! All in favor of accepting the new member? *Chorus of Ayes*. Race Captain! Bruce?

Bruce: Racing season is here, and is looking good. We held the SYSCO Race Clinic March 10 with 50 attendees, good discussion led by Dale Mack and Craig Daniels. Dale's slide show is now available on SYSCO's website <http://syscosailing.org>.

On March 13, the Race Committee held the Daylight Savings Dash, kicking off the season with a beautiful sunny day and 25-knot gusts. 24 registrants, but only 10 boats braved the winds. The Committee waived the requirement for two mandatory man overboard drills, as everyone seemed to have their hands full, and we didn't want people leaning over the lifelines in rough conditions to retrieve a buoy, perhaps leading to a real MOB situation.

Nat: Good call!

Bruce: Then, on March 31, OCSA held a well attended rules and tactics seminar led by Craig Daniels. Aaaand, on April 2, we held a training session for 15 fleet captains on how to use Pancho, our mark boat. As discussed below, we have a brand-new four-stroke motor which is much quieter and cleaner than the old stinkpot 2-stroke. I also circulated to the fleet captains the updated Guide to Racing, explaining how SYSCO races should be run.

Finally, the SYSCO Spring series starts Tuesday April 21. So far we only have 21 registered for Tuesday, and 16 for Thursday, but I assume we will have the usual late registrants.

Nat: Awesome-sauce! That's the racing report, and also the end of Act 1.

Act II (*Delta Park Elmer's, later that evening. Strange music wafts from Elmer's bar.*)

Nat: As we all remember, SYSCO decided to award its trophies at the OCSA awards party in October, which will save the club some money, and make picking up trophies a one-stop affair, but will present some challenges, such as how to present beaucoup trophies and raffle prizes in one night. Luckily for us, our Trophy Czar, Jim Shaw, has volunteered to serve on a special OCSA committee to plan the OCSA Awards Party in October. Jim knows how to fire those trophies out like bullets from a machine gun, while still making each winner feel special, right, Jim?

Jim: You bet, Nat. Yes, the challenge will be to honor a lot of sailors and their achievements, and still get home by rosy-fingered dawn. The committee is a bit skeptical that it can be done, but I offered to perform a test using all the trophies presented last year at the SYSCO and OCSA awards parties, and see if it is humanly possible to do it all, and do it right, in two hours. If not, then we'll try Plan B, which will be to randomly shoot trophies into the crowd with a giant slingshot, and hope they hit the winners. Just kidding, I think.

Nat: OK. A big chunk of time is spent raffling off prizes. What happens with that?

Jim: Well, each club will contribute a basket to be raffled off, as usual. There was also some discussion about adopting the SYSCO custom of having each individual fleet provide raffle items.

Pandemonium ensues. A mob appears with torches and pitchforks.

Nat: I'm sensing a wee bit of opposition. Fleets and fleet captains are really a SYSCO thing; it doesn't seem fair to make SYSCO fleets provide raffle prizes, outside the context of a SYSCO awards party. Plus, won't those extra raffle prizes eat up precious time? I think we should instruct Jim to oppose that suggestion.

Cheers erupt. Calls of "Nat, Nat, Nat" and "Four more years!" Then the mob extinguishes its torches and heads back to Elmer's bar.

Nat: OK, moving on. What about club trophies, like the Commodore's Cup, SYSCO Sailor of the Year, and so forth? Can we present those?

Jim: May not be time. I think the consensus will be that club trophies open to all sailors, like the SYSCO Commodore's Cup, would be awarded at the OCSA awards party, but that club trophies limited to club members would be awarded elsewhere. But I don't know where, since SYSCO will not hold its own awards party this year.

Bruce: One possibility would be to award club trophies at the SYSCO St. Helens Race/Cruise, August 27. We've rented the gazebo at St. Helens Marine Park, and are planning to hold a potluck and music jam session. It's the official culmination of the SYSCO racing/cruising season, and should be reasonably well-attended by the SYSCO hardcore. Plus, St. Helens is close enough that those not sailing there could drive down and meet us for a fun end-of-season potluck. Not a perfect solution, but better than nothing.

Unknown voice: We should have our own awards party! *The mob growls approvingly at this sentiment, but remains seated on the bar stools.*

Nat: Well, we may go back to our own party next year, if the combined party this year is a bust. OK, on that dramatic note, let's transition to the next Act.

Act III (*Delta Park Elmer's, later that evening. A strange fog wafts in from Elmer's bar.*)

Nat: What else we got? Newsletter?

Bruce: Jacqueline Pitter is our new editor, and she's doing a great job. Future editions may have articles about the Willamette Sailing Club's community sailing program, and from OWSA about how to get more women into racing.

All: Hear, hear. *Mob cheers, then goes back to drinking and bong hits.*

Nat: Pancho Report?

Bruce: Ah, some of our flags stored in Pancho over the winter got stained. I talked with Gregg Bryden from CYC about obtaining their nice new complete set of flags, which CYC won't need since they no longer conduct river racing. They're asking \$200 for a \$500+ set of flags. With two sets of flags we could keep those on Pancho needed for a temporary mark or shortened course.

Nat: Sounds reasonable. I so move, and just to speed things up I'll second myself and call for a vote. All in favor? *Chorus of Ayes.* OK, we're almost done here. The only remaining question is: how cool is Pancho's new Yamaha outboard?

Bruce: Very cool. It's so quiet, you can't tell it's running. We need to fiddle with the prop pitch, but it is so much better than the old noisy, polluting stinkpot.

Nat: Then I move that we adjourn and go for a joy ride on Pancho. Do I hear an amen?

All: Amen!

Nat: Ladies and Gentlemen, our work here is done. *Exeunt omnes. Curtain.*

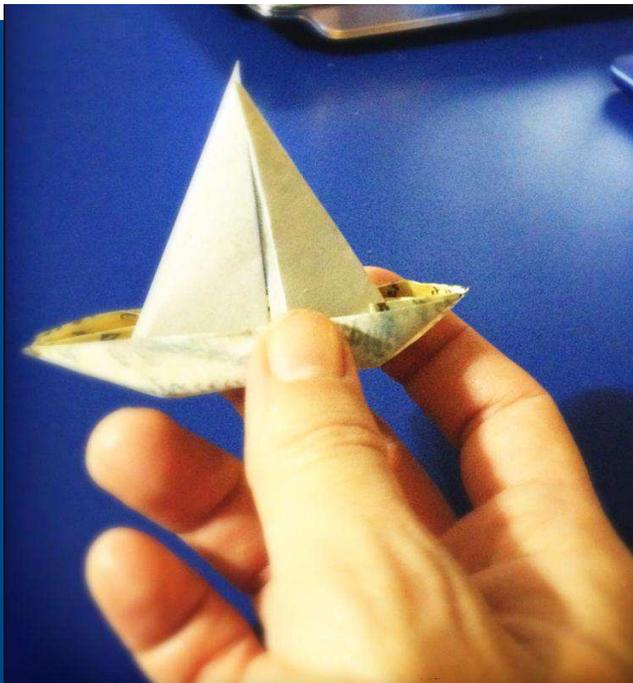


Photo courtesy of Jacqueline Pitter.