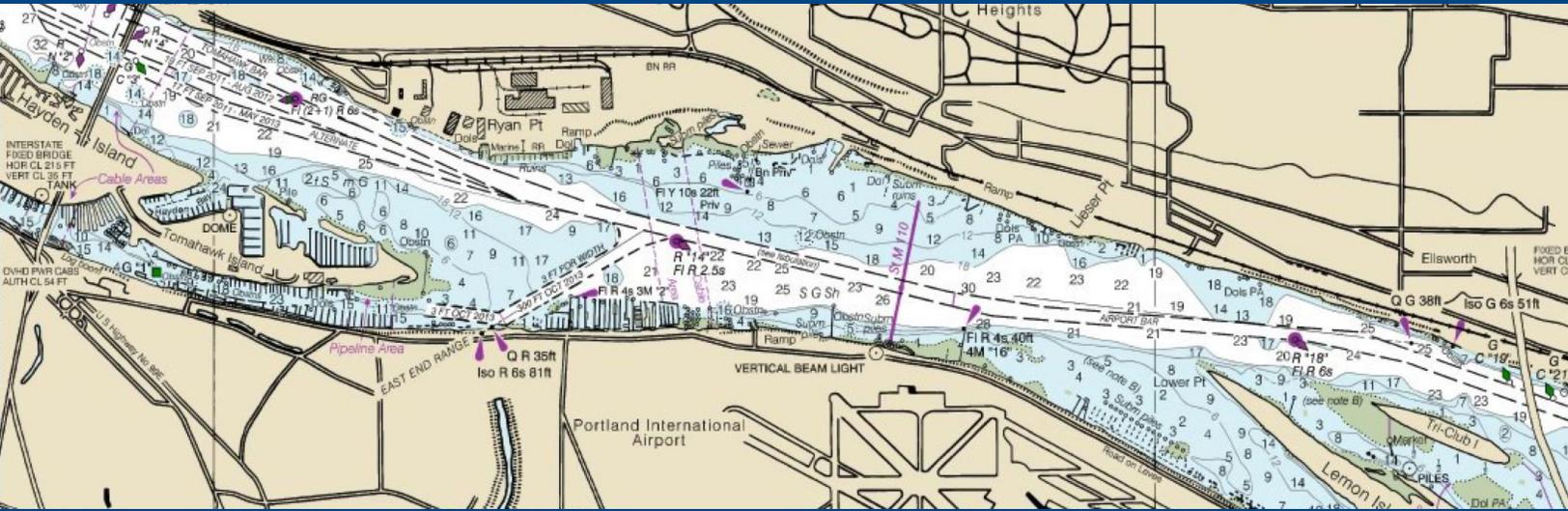




Small Yacht Sailing Club of Oregon STARTING LINE



Anam Cara before the Oregon Offshore 2016 starting line. Photo courtesy of Maria Swearingen

From the Rear

Tod Bassham, Rear-Commodore

What the hell is Summer Sailstice and why should I care?

A fair question. Summer Sailstice is a world-wide celebration of sailing, created originally by the folks at Latitude 38. It includes all sorts of events, races, activities, whatever people dream up that involves the love of sailing. As the name suggests, it is held on the Saturday nearest to the summer solstice, the longest sailing day of the year (in the northern hemisphere). This year that special day is June 18.

Why should you care? I think John Donne said it best: *no man is an island, dude, and don't be asking for whom the bell tolls. Dude, it tolls for you.* OK, not a very accurate paraphrase of that great poem, but my point is that we sailors are all connected by the love of sailing. Viewed from above, a sailboat race may look like a bunch of autonomous bits of fiberglass dashing randomly about, but in fact a race is an exquisite choreography of boats in nuanced and delicate relationships with each other (starboard/port, leeward/windward, overlapped, etc), and those relationships are one of the many things that give meaning to our little lives. By participating in Sailstice, we get to celebrate that connection, those relationships, not only with our local sailing buddies, but with tens of thousands of sailors around the world, all on the same freakin day. That, as John Donne might say if he weren't long dead, is pretty cool.

The premier Portland-area Sailstice event is SYSCO's Dual Bridge Duel/Columbia Crossings Cup, which this year is again combined with an extra bonus event: the Prostate Cancer Foundation fundraiser. The DBD/CCC requires no introduction, but I'd like to point out that last year SYSCO helped raise over \$4,000 for prostate cancer research. That research is too late to save John Donne, but it might save your life or someone you love. The boat and crew that donates the most will be honored at the post-DBD BBQ, so head right over to the internet and make your donation at <https://give.athletesforacure.org/portland/events/sysco-prostate-cancer-races-2016/e81133>.

And, as long as you are hanging out on the internet anyway, you might check out our Summer Sailstice page: <http://www.summersailstice.com/event/dual-bridge-duel-and-prostate-cancer-fundraiser>. You can register, if you like, and all registrants have a chance to win sailing swag. Regardless, I hope that on June 18 you find yourself sailing, as part of the DBD/CCC or something else, enjoying the longest day of the year with your fellow sailors.

Racing Report

Bruce Newton, Vice Commodore/Race Captain

The 2016 SYSCO Spring Evening Series is now in the history books. It was a challenging series with many nights of light wind. The series opened on Tuesday April 19 with barely enough wind to get starts off, raging current that tried its best to take the marks to Saint Helens, boats barely able to buck the current, and the sun going down just as the wind finally picked up. Half the classes finished in the dark and we're still not sure about the others. The Tuesday racers had one other night of no wind. The Thursday racers got hit with two nights of no wind. Nonetheless, it didn't rain much and 86 teams got to battle it out in 18 Classes. Congratulations to our three newest one-design fleets for bringing at least three boats to the starting line: the J/105 Fleet, the Moore 24 Fleet, and the Venture 21 Fleet.

The 2016 SYSCO Summer Evening Series is underway. 34 boats are competing on Tuesdays and 55 boats are racing on Thursdays. So far the weather has been more cooperative. Don't forget the SYSCO Summer BBQ that will be held after the racing on Tuesday, June 28, and Thursday, June 30, on the lawn at Tomahawk Bay Marina. Food and soft drinks will be provided; bring your own beer and wine.

It is no too early to register for the remaining SYSCO events this year. Since they are free to members, there is really no reason not to register for all the events you are planning to participate in at one time. All of the Fleets have now cycled through at least one night of race committee duty. If you have not yet volunteered to be on a race committee, please do so. It is the best seat in the house for watching races.

Upcoming:

- SYSCO Summer Twilight Series - July 19 to August 25
- SYSCO Race and Cruise to Saint Helens - August 27-28



Competitors of the 2016 Swiftsure heading to the start line. Photo courtesy of Maria Swearingen.

WHAT IS A SYSCO DELTA CRUISE?

Bill Sanborn

In 1984 several of us who had mortgaged the farm to buy a 22 foot sail boat realized that for a summer vacation that year the choice was a staycation, or figure out some way to vacation cruising on the boat we were paying for. The Six Pac series was the perfect option racing the boat to Astoria, but Admiral says “we’re not taking the kids and all the cruising gear and racing every day”. So Plan “B” was looking at the Six Pac itinerary and planning a 100 mile down river cruise visiting where they weren’t going to be, and that is when we were introduced to the lower Columbia River and Warren Slough.

The River runs thru a well defined gorge as it passes thru the Coast Range toward the ocean, and I believe a line drawn between Bradwood and Cathlamet mark the end of the River as it then fills into several channels between low Islands that form the Delta area (see chart #18523) with the main dredged channel along the North shore. The River then joins several other smaller rivers forming four bays in the Astoria area, and finally it drains into The Pacific thru the Columbia River Bar. Our journey is into the islands of the Delta area, and across the Bays to Astoria.

For some of us who have done this cruise over the years it is an annual ritual like Christmas or Thanksgiving that is not to be missed. I have no idea of the number of boats and sailors who have joined us on this Cruise over the years, but each year the group’s dynamics change. We have watched families start with kids in diapers and seen those kids thru college, and now these folks are sharing their love of boating with Grandkids. Those of us who have a long record of making this cruise always get that good feeling, when we have introduced a new friend as a SYSCO Delta Cruisers.

Jump forward 32 years and the Six Pac is no more, but the SYSCO Delta Cruise is still going strong, with each boat following its own Float Plan. We meet on the last Saturday of July at Martin Island, and the cruise officially begins when you join the raft up there. Sunday we will motor, sail, or get towed to Cathlamet where we get showers, have a major party, refresh ice, and resupply for Warren Slough. Monday morning on the dock is always a lot of discussions of what time do we depart Cathlamet for crossing to Devils Elbow at Horseshoe Isl., and for 2016 a high tide of 7.02 feet is at 14:07 hrs. so our goal is to be thru Devils Elbow by 13:30 We will then arrive at the lonely piling (aka: “SYSCO’s Out-Station”) in Warren Slough for a major raft up, and in time for afternoon tea.



Photo courtesy of Maria Swearingen.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

SYSCO Summer Evening Series (Tues & Thurs)

May 31 – June 30

RCYC Beer Can

June 24

OWSA Women's Regatta

June 27

RCYC Beer Can

July 8

Whidbey Island Race Week

July 11-15

SYSCO Summer Twilight Series (Tues & Thurs)

July 19 – Aug 25

CYC Beer Can

July 22

YBYC Bridge to Bridge

July 29 - 31

PYC Beer Can

Aug 5



Close J/24 race on June 16, 2016. Photo courtesy of Anna Campagna.

Minutes of June 6, 2016 SYSCO Board

Gary Bruner

The meeting at Elmers Delta Park was called to order by Commodore Nat Powning at 7 PM. Also present were: Scott Stevenson, Tod Bassham, Bruce Newton, Thomas MacMenamy, Warren Dalby, Mike Daly, and Gary Bruner.

Treasurer's Report

Scott Stevenson reported that SYSCO has approximately \$7,052 in our bank account, plus roughly \$2,513 in the Pancho savings account, for a total close to \$9,565. Scott says that we have 114 members, but that the Gold/Silver membership ratio is lower than budgeted for, so revenues are somewhat lower than expected.

Racing Report

Vice Commodore Bruce Newton reports that the Summer Series is now underway, with 34 boats registered to race on Tuesday nights and 55 on Thursday evenings. Generally, one design fleets and the cruising fleet seem quite healthy, but participation seems to be waning some in level fleets.

*Pancho seems to be running fine with the new Yamaha. Bruce will check to make sure when it's due for its first tune up.

*One of the marks seems to have a leak, and Bruce will check on replacing that bladder with a spare stored on Pancho.

*The board voted to spend up to \$200 to acquire a nearly complete set of racing flags from CYC who doesn't seem to need them. Many of the flags are quite new and somewhat larger than the existing

SYSCO flags. Bruce will work on consummating that deal and installing the new flags on existing flag holders. Some of our holders are a thicker variety of PVC than others, and may be replaced as a space and weight savings.

Now that the community generally seems well trained on the necessity of registering for races online and early, Nat suggested removing the language that states that no late entries will be accepted. Because the board on occasion has some compassion, there may be an exception now and again, but action on this was put off until a subsequent meeting.

*The course board needs some attention with regard to stitching. Bruce will take it to North Sails to be repaired during an 'off' week from racing.

Other Business

*SYSCO still has a need for a webmaster and Pancho engineer, even though one person has expressed some interest in the latter opportunity. Nat will go over the SYSCO membership registrations to see if someone has checked either of those boxes as part of their volunteer requirement for SYSCO membership, and contact those who've expressed interest in either of those open positions. This is a volunteer organization, after all. Gary has suggested that someone might well be willing, but they may be waiting to be contacted by SYSCO. There was some discussion about making a volunteer choice a prerequisite for completing registration through Regatta Network, but no action

was taken yet. Some members do not express a choice where they might be called on to serve, yet volunteering for some duty is expected from all.

*The board expressed approval that OCSA could contact fleet captains to request fleet raffle prizes for the Awards Party, as has been the practice in prior years.

*Tod will inquire through Columbia Crossings about a donation or, at least a discount on covered storage, or enclosed storage for Pancho over the winter, or at least the flags, marks and other gear that has been stored aboard under a leaky tarp.

Upcoming Events

Tod will oversee the Friday night beer can (June 17) race that precedes the Dual Bridge Dual on the 18th of June. Both events are fundraisers for the Prostate Cancer Foundation. Nat is the RC for the Dual

Bridge Duel and indicates that he'll have two separate start marks, depending on which direction boats decide to go first. There will be one, shorter finish line near Bouy 14 with boats finishing in opposite directions, depending on which leg is sailed first. This event will include PHRF classes. Wind conditions that day will dictate whether the course will be long (between 3 and 19) or shorter (between 2 and 18) Columbia Crossings is providing trophies. Bruce will be checking eligibility of all entries for PHRF handicaps and OCSA membership.

The meeting was adjourned before 8 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Bruner (for Secretary Don Woodhouse who is returning from assignment at the Catalina 22 Nationals in Florida).



Above: Thirsty at the 2016 Oregon Offshore start line. Photo courtesy of Maria Swearingen.

Right: Sunset from the Thunder Pig after the race on June 9, 2016. Photo courtesy of Ray Terrill.

