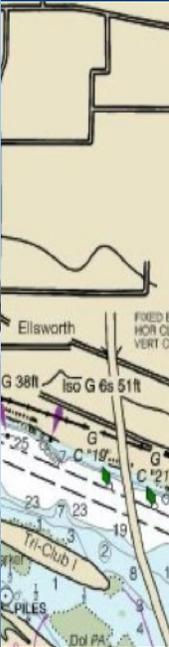




SMALL YACHT SAILING CLUB OF OREGON

STARTING LINE



*Clear view of Mt. Hood in early April. The COVID-19 outbreak has forced us to cancel the Spring Series for 2020, but on the bright side, the pollution from commuters is dramatically reduced.
Photo by Anna Campagna*

FROM THE FRONT

ANNA CAMPAGNA - COMMODORE

It's April, and we should be in the thick of it - racing on the Columbia every Tuesday and Thursday evening. Instead, we have a pandemic and a stay-at-home order. We wear home-made masks on those rare occasions when we can venture out to have a walk or shop for groceries. But I am very encouraged by the fact that SYSCO membership stands at 86 members, and we even have two new members this month. We welcome Jason Disse and Tausha Dwyre, who bought a Merit 25 and plan to race it, whenever the Governor allows the restrictions on social distancing to be relaxed, which is something we are all looking forward to! Your SYSCO leadership appreciates the continuing support of our members, because Pancho II, our faithful mark boat, needs to be stored and maintained whether we are allowed to race or not. Look further into this issue for reports from our Rear Commodore on ways to spend your time preparing (virtually) for racing, and from our Race Captain about his plans to host some fun races, even if we can't put on a proper series. Check out our new feature, which invites SYSCO members to send in photos and stories of what they're doing for fun during this COVID-19 crisis. Send me your pics and quips for the next Newsletter!



Amalfi Coast old school photo collage by Ryan Dornfeld

So with nothing new to report as far as racing goes, I'll tell the story of the travel adventure we had in Italy last September. But I have to go back to explain my fascination with traveling in Italy. Phil and I are both Italian, if you hadn't noticed. Phil's folks come from Tuscan and Sicilian stock. My father was born in southern Italy, near Bari, but he grew up in Chicago. After college he went to Rome to work in the American Embassy. My mum (perfectly American) was at Juilliard, studying voice, and went on an extended European tour with several girlfriends, which landed them in Rome. My folks met and were engaged within six months—that's the way they did it in 1953! They were married in a chapel of St. Peter's and lived in Rome for five years. Upon returning to the states, my dad struck up a conversation on the Ham radio with a fellow in Roma - Franco - and they carried on this conversation for at least ten years. Same station, same time, every Sunday. So when I went to school abroad, Rome was an easy choice. Franco met me at the train station, brought me home to meet his two handsome sons—Stefano and Giuliano, close to my age—and his wife, Paola. I would go to their house every Sunday for a big family meal, where plate after plate after plate would grace the table. I would then talk with my parents on the short wave radio. This is my adopted Italian family. I consider those boys like brothers. And I call Paola on What'sApp video about every other day now. It's a good way to keep up my Italian.

My Roman brothers are a lot like me. Very sporty. They are both dentists, and Renaissance men. Stefano plays jazz saxophone. He married an architect. Giuliano's wife, Anna, is a former Olympic fencer. (!) We have joined them on several combined family vacations to go sailing off the coast of Tuscany or skiing in the Dolomites. Giuliano's wife inherited her father's house in Sicily, a 16-room villa surrounded by grapevines, under the plume of Mt. Etna, with an ocean view. Since we had never traveled to Sicily, we figured it was a great opportunity to get to know the island. And we invited practically my entire family to come along. We were ten people in all, and we rented three cars to get there. Our takeaway: If you can drive in Nesso, or you can drive the Amalfi Coast, you can drive anywhere.



Stefano & Marta, Porto Ercole 2006



Stefano, my Roman brother, and my niece Marina, Piazza Navona, 2019



FROM THE FRONT

ANNA CAMPAGNA - COMMODORE



Oddly enough, we started the trip at Lago di Como. Initiating the trip with my niece and her husband in Northern Italy seemed like a logical choice, considering we found cheap flights into Frankfurt. I remembered a friend of mine who owned an Italian restaurant adjacent to my Italian cafe in Santa Fe (this was almost thirty years ago). Pietro had always told me that if I was ever traveling in the Lake District, he had a house on the shore of Lago di Como, and we should stay there. So I called him up in Santa Fe. As it turns out, Pietro was going to be staying at his lake house at that very same time! And we were invited to join him. Let me tell you, Bellagio is one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen. Snow-covered mountains give way to dramatic foothills that cascade into deep finger-shaped lakes. Imagine gorgeous villages with steep and narrow stone staircases lined with sophisticated shops and restaurants. Beautiful villas and botanical gardens populate the hillsides leading down the the lake. Boats of all sorts putter about the midnight-blue lake. Ferries. Tourist boats. Sailboats. Fishing boats. Stylish wooden cruisers from the 60s. And the food! Being that our host is a chef and a local, we were in good hands. We made what contributions we could—fresh bread, fine wine and grappa from the enoteca and bakery—and a little kitchen prep. We ate so well. The indefatigable Pietro, twenty to forty years our senior, drank us under the table every night.



After four days of lakeside dinners and debauchery, the four of us took a fast train from Milano to Roma. In Roma we met the rest of our family and spent a couple of days being tourists in the Eternal City, guided by my Roman brother Stefano. In short order we were ready for the countryside again, so we lit out for southern Italy via the Amalfi Coast. I could write an entire missive about driving in Italy, but I will spare you all the stress. It's a lot of fun, but the rules of the road are a little different, and especially along the Amalfi coast the conditions can be harrowing. Let me give you some advice for planning a trip for ten people in Italy - find a Millennial who has the time to painfully research AirBnBs. My niece Bex found the best spots for us to stay, and created a spreadsheet to track all of the bookings. The Amalfi Coast is difficult to describe. Photographs barely do it justice. You simply have to go there. Another fun challenge for me: managing to order several courses of obscure fish dishes at a restaurant, in Italian, for ten people. Recipe for success: Ask the owner what's his restaurant's specialty, and what particular fish is in season, and they will deliver. Evidence: plates of delicious fried anchovies!



The story continues in Sicilia in the next SYSCO Newsletter... Until then, stay well!

Anna Campagna

FROM THE REAR

MICHAEL MORRISSEY - REAR COMMODORE

COVID-19

It has been a strange month of March and a lot of us are going stir-crazy as we are not in our normal routine getting ready for the Spring series. Just the other day I stepped out of the house and saw my neighbor talking to her cat and acting like the cat was understanding everything she said. I stepped back into my house and explained what I saw to my dog, Brady, and we had a good laugh about it. Like everyone else, not having a sailboat race to look forward to has kept me too long in the house except for forays to walk Brady (again!) and prep the garden (again!).

Fortunately, for those of us who need actual sailboat racing footage visuals, there are a ton of videos out there from a beginner's "how to sail", to the finer points of sailboat racing from getting a good start or choosing the right time to tack on wind shifts. When you type "How to gybe a sailboat in heavy air" more than 100 sites pop up on Google Search, many by experts and professional sailors, even some humorous videos of gybes that didn't go so well. You can even try your luck and enter a virtual race at Virtual Regatta at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2xRHRWCuUA>

There are also a number of world sailing championships videos hosted on the web that you can watch to glean information on tactics and strategy at the highest level. More and more of these championships are being filmed and narrated by experts who explain tactics at the start of the race and strategies as the racers head for the windward or leeward marks. A good example is the video of the Laser gold fleet race with knowledgeable comments from the announcers: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UFgvNopKpgA>

For arm-chair cruisers (and I include myself) there are a plethora of video series out there about living the dream and sailing around the world. One of the more famous series (now up to 240 episodes) is the La Vagabond series with Riley and Elayna, an Australian couple who began documenting their journey in blue water and have sailed about 90,000 miles crossing the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans stopping at various points in between <https://sailing-lavagabonde.com/>. Never having sailed before, they headed out of the Mediterranean in 2014 in a 40 ft. Beneteau and began vlogging their adventures. They picked up more than 3 million viewers and eventually moved up to a 48 ft catamaran continuing their journeys with baby in tow. Their easy style, beautiful backdrops, and adventures have sparked an interest among sailors and landlubbers alike. There are many recent imitators of this sailing couple on Youtube these days but the original La Vagabonde series is the best.

Like everyone else out there, I've also done my share of TV watching, seeking out shows with a sailing/boating theme, and I've come up with a list of my top ten. They are not all sailing movies but they have a relationship with water that we can empathize with. Hopefully you can catch them on Netflix, Starz, Hulu or Amazon Prime and they can help get you over the boating DTs and keep you ready for the Summer Series. Depending on your video arrangements you might have to rent some. Here we go...

FROM THE REAR

MICHAEL MORRISSEY - REAR COMMODORE

1. **Maiden** Just released in 2019 and a must see for sailors whether you're virus quarantined or not. It's the true story of the first all-female crew to sail the around the world race (formerly Whitbread). It's exciting, inspiring and a great tale that will keep you on the edge of the seat even knowing the outcome.
2. **Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World.** Great 19th century sailors' yarn with the British empire against the French with two ships fighting it out off Argentina and the Galapagos. One of the better frigate battle scenes you'll ever see.
3. **Das Boot** Outside of Saving Private Ryan, this is one of the best war movies ever filmed. You can almost smell the sweat of the German submariners as they stalk the Allies in the Battle of the Atlantic. The movie begins with a drunken party scene that would put SYSCO sailors to shame.
4. **Captain Ron** A bit of silliness that we can all identify with, especially if we have considered (or done) chartering a boat in the Caribbean. Hey, we need a few laughs anyways, and Martin Short delivers.
5. **Dead Calm** Good thriller that takes place on a sailboat off Australia's waters, and for once doesn't involve sharks or sea monsters. One of Nicole Kidman's earlier movies.
6. **Jaws** Does involve a shark and can still scare the devil out of you.
7. **In the Heart of the Sea** Based on a true story about whaling a few hundred years ago. Was also the basis for Melville writing Moby Dick, which is a movie classic with Gregory Peck.
8. **Mutiny on the Bounty** Hard to pass up Marlon Brando as Christian Fletcher. Reminds you of the remarkable seamanship of Captain Bligh navigating 3,000 miles in a rowboat to save his men.
9. **Titanic** Why not. Always a good film to watch, just the scope of it. Every sailor's nightmare as the giant vessel slowly sinks into the Atlantic.
10. **Shackleton's Captain** Just watched on Amazon Prime. Great story and a heroic bit of seamanship. Brings "sheltering in place" to a new level.

So, while none of this can substitute for a good day sailing, it all helps us get through these difficult times. See you on the water in the beginning of June (hopefully). *Michael Morrissey*



Photo by Michael Morrissey

RACING REPORT

GREGG BRYDEN - RACE CAPTAIN

Well, I *wish* I had more to report. Typically this time of year we would be practicing for distance racing instead of practicing social distancing. Flying Frog is still in my driveway, anxiously waiting her leap into the water. All I can do for now is put a fresh coat of paint on the rudder and polish her hull, making ready for a splashy splash. Hopefully soon.

So, what are you doing to fill the void sailing usually fills with sun, wind, and spray? I know some of you are out sailing, but most of us are missing the riots of color and swooshy sound of dozens of sailboats lining up on the Columbia to start a race. Send SYSCO a screenshot of your SailOnline.org race simulations. Show off that model RC sailboat coming together in your basement. Send us you pattern for knitting boom warmers...

I am confident that this will pass and the Columbia sailing scene will be back better than ever. My optimism is bolstered by how well Oregonians and Washingtonians—heck all Americans—are behaving: staying at home, sanitizing like crazy, and keeping a friendly distance. Keep it up, and with any luck, we will be back for the SYSCO Summer Series. *RC Gregg*



Racing before social distancing was a thing

WHAT WE'RE DOING FOR FUN DURING QUARANTINE



Anna Campagna - I am, of course, a mad cook who loves to share things. With social distancing and being locked in our house, it's tough to share meals. So I've been volunteering for the Food Pantry, and I've been posting a recipe a day on Next-door, under the heading "Recipe for Sanity." I've also been using this time honing my baking skills. I created a sourdough culture three years ago (with native yeast from grapes from my garden) and have given it away to probably 30 people, with a complete set of instructions. We also use our sourdough culture for pizza dough and sourdough waffles.

Phil Campagna - A couple years ago I bought a 14-foot Klamath aluminum fishing boat. At the start of April, when the weather turned 65 and beautiful, I took a few days off to go fishing with Anna on the Willamette. We put in just under the St. John's Bridge. On the first day out I caught a beautiful 27-inch spring Chinook!



Tom Kelly and Barbara Woodford became first time grandparents! Their son Garret and his wife Angie are proud parents of a baby boy. Tano Lorenzo Thomas Kelly was born on April 5th at 6:43am. 7lbs 2oz and 20 inches.



Till, baby, Till — Josh Raymond with Sadie, Jack and Alessandra putting in a deer-proof garden in Stevenson.

Send us photos and stories of what kind of distant socializing you're doing during social distancing!

SYSCO BOARD MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 6TH, 2020

Attendees: Anna Campagna, Bruce Newman, Scott Stevenson, Gregg Bryden, Rick Samuels, Lynn Eastes, Warren Dalby, Jacqueline Pitter

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Anna Campagna at 5:40 pm. This meeting was done remotely using Zoom Video Communications.

Membership Report: Submitted by Jan Burkhart via email

Since the March 2020 SYSCO Bd. Meeting, One Sailing family is requesting a New SYSCO Membership. Membership is paid. Good job Merit 25 Fleet!

- Jason Disse & Tausha Dwyre applied for membership. Merit 25 (No Boat name given) They would like to Volunteer for Mark Boat.
- The board voted to approve these new members.

After accepting the New Members above, 2020 SYSCO Membership stands at **86**.

All have paid their Memberships!

76 Regular Members @ \$120.

10 Associate Members @ \$25.

86 Total SYSCO Members

As of February 19, 2020 a Late Fee of \$10 is added to Memberships.

See Bylaws Article 4.

Treasurer Report: Scott Stevenson

\$4839.00 in checking

\$ 6488.00 in savings

\$11,327 total

Racing report: Gregg Bryden

- Spring series has been cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the stay-at-home order from the Governor.
- Spring series registration has been suspended and Sailpdx.org has been updated.
- We may have fun racing at the end of May.
- Gregg will communicate with fleet captains to put them on notice for possible fun races, but these can probably be run with just two people on Pancho.
- The fun races will be run on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with a format similar to Sailing on Sundays.
- A Race subcommittee has be formed (Gregg Bryden, Michael Morrissey, Denny Damore and Jan Burkhart) has been formed to look into running a September series.

SYSCO BOARD MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 6TH, 2020, CONTINUED

- Jan expressed concern that crime appears to be up on Hayden Island
- Concern about theft of Pancho now (on the hard in the storage lot) and when the boat is placed in the water.
- Gregg reassured the group that the boat on the trailer is most likely secure, however, we may have issues when it is in the water at McCuddy's. We need to figure out how to secure both the motor and the boat. Scott suggested that in 24 years Pancho has never been stolen.
- Phil Campagna and Gregg will work to secure both the motor and the boat. The key may be able to be placed in the dock box under combination lock, instead of being left on the boat all season.
- Discussion about motor maintenance: Other than spark plug replacement, all maintenance has been completed by Phil Campagna.
- We will launch Pancho once the Governor relaxes some of the restrictions.

Marketing/Website updates Anna Campagna

- An OWSA member volunteered to redesign the SYSCO website in Wordpress.
- All members are invited to send good examples of other websites, sailing or otherwise, to Anna. Please make suggestions on functionality that you would like to see added to our site.

How often should Anna communicate with members?

- The group thought that approximately every 2 weeks is appropriate at this point due to the dynamic nature of the situation at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 5:59 pm



Hopefully, we will all be charging the line again soon. Everyone stay healthy!