

APRIL-MAY 2023

FROM THE FRONT
DON'T WAIT TO DO
SOMETHING

RACE REPORT
A HOLE IN THE BOAT

ANNOUNCEMENTS
MARTINS FOR SALE
BILL BRENNAN'S
NEW ADVENTURE
MARK BOAT NAME

FLEET CAPTAIN
STARTING
TECHNIQUES FOR
SYSCO RACESS



SMALL YACHT SAILING CLUB OF OREGON

STARTING LINE



April 27 Race - Photo by Michael Morrissey

Don't Wait to Do Something

At the Masters golf tournament recently there was a story about a very young amateur who made the cut, which was dramatic enough on its own. But the substance of the story was about his dad who was the young man's golfing mentor and who developed early onset Alzheimers at age 45. The last thing he was able to write as a note to his son was: "Don't wait to do something." His son now a Masters player had the note copied and tattooed on his forearm so he could see it every time he took a golf swing. I get a lump in my throat whenever I think about it.

Here I say to you, don't wait to go sailing. Go out today. Go out tomorrow. Go down to your boat and poke around fixing stuff. Take a friend or family member down and just stay at the dock and eat lunch. Take your boat to St. Helens or Astoria or the San Juans. Charter a boat in the Caribbean or the Med. Teach someone how to sail. Show them the ropes, oops, I mean the lines. Sign up a kid for classes at Willamette Sailing Club this summer. Build a dinghy. Take a navigation course. Volunteer for race committee. Don't wait to do something. The minutes tick by; the opportunities pass. 'Nuff said.

A big thank you to Bruce Newton for doing the SYSCO Race Clinic and to PYC for hosting (Jeff Stong - Tenacious made the PYC arrangements). Here's the link for the presentation that you can download. <https://syscosailing.org/resources/2023%20Race%20Clinic%20PDF.pdf>

The OCSA Racebook is available for print-on-demand by a local company here in Vancouver. The cost is approximately \$16.00. The link is here and I suggest either grouping an order or just picking it up at their offices to avoid the shipping. [OCSA Racebooks - 9 Cent Color Copies \(9centprinting.com\)](https://9centprinting.com)

Tuesday and Thursday nights Spring racing session is in full swing. Get signed up for the Summer and Twilight series now.

FROM THE FRONT

DENNIS DAMORE – COMMODORE

See you on the river,
Denny Damore
SYSCO Commodore



April 25 Race, Perfect weather – Photo by Bill Sanborn

A Hole in the Boat

SYSCO has a hole in its boat, so to speak. The hole is the Race Captain position. We have Tuesday and Thursday Race Committee Coordinators ("Wranglers"), Dave Haveman and Phillip Martindale, respectively. They fill an essential role in how we get so many races run during the year. But they alone can't cover all the details to make sure the racing runs smoothly. We need a Race Captain. Is our little SYSCO club sinking? Nope. in part because in addition to the wranglers I'm bailing water as the interim RC while we find a new person. But, are we low in the water? You bet. Will details slip through the cracks? Yes. Will the wranglers and the volunteer race committees have issues? Of course. As Gregg Bryden and every other commodore has repeatedly reminded the club, this club runs on volunteers, i.e., sailors supporting other sailors. I'm always available to discuss the job responsibilities and both myself and Gregg as well as the wranglers will hold your hand. Which one of you will step into the circle with so many others of us to keep everything high and dry? Please raise your hand. It's fun, exciting, and a joy to give back.

Since there is no Race Captain to write a column, I'm reaching out to all of you to send our editor, Rick Samuels, a few short paragraphs about sailing experiences, point of view, why racing or cruising is important to you. We're starting this series with Doug Schenk. His note follows. Don't be scared to share. We'll help you with editing or any other road block to publishing whatever you write. It's one more way to build community. Send you writing directly to me or to Rick.

Denny

Doug Schenk writes:

Start 'em young and who knows...

If you're out on the racecourse upcoming Thursday nights, keep your eyes open for the yet to be logo'd-up "Saltine" owned and skippered by the Soup's own Sam Hopper.

RACING REPORT

DENNIS DAMORE-INTERIM RACE CAPTAIN

"Saltine" is the boat previously known as "White Trash", which Sam took ownership of last year to carry on the J24 tradition where he first started (see pic with his Dad Eric).

Sam has been sailing extensively with the Soup, with Offshores, Swiftsures and most recently a Pacific Cup under his belt, but has had numerous sailboats of his own including an El Toro (also Tim/Sue's) Laser, 505, International 14, and probably something else I'm forgetting.

Free Bowl of Soup - Doug, Eric, Matt, and of course Sam



See you on the river,

Denny Damore

Former, and Now Interim, SYSCO Race Captain

STARTING TECHNIQUES

MICHAEL MORRISSEY, MERIT FLEET CO-CAPTAIN

Starting Techniques for SYSCO Races

For many beginning racers, the Start of a SYSCO race is often the most daunting part of racing your sailboat on the Columbia. Boats are converging into a small area, all vying for a position that will give them an advantage over their competitors. Sails are flapping, the crew is counting down the time, voices are often raised and you are wondering if this chaos is manageable or not. As the season goes on, you and your crew become more comfortable with the starting maneuvers and might even begin to enjoy the ritual. Here are some tips that you may use to help you get that good start you can talk about over beers after the race.

Three general rules for getting a good start in a SYSCO Race.

1. Be Prepared
2. Be Aware
3. Be There

We will now cover each of these topics.

Be Prepared – there is much that can happen before the race to optimize your chances in getting a good start. The most important thing is to have an engaged crew that have onboard duties that can help you get a good start.

Crew assignments are important, and these would include having someone keeping time once the 5 minute horn has sounded. A clear, calm countdown around every 30 seconds allows the skipper and crew to prepare themselves mentally for the start. This should accelerate to every 10-15 seconds or so for the last minute before the start. A good jib trimmer is important for the start of the race. The jib is often important in maneuvering at the start, slowing down or speeding up when necessary. A crew member should also be charged with letting the skipper know about surrounding boats. Things can change rapidly in the last 2 minutes and having an awareness of your boat's position as well as other boats (especially those to leeward) is invaluable information. If you can, have a line-spotter who is a good judge of your proximity to the starting line, and give you good information as you approach the start. The start is an exciting time that begins the race with all boats close together. An engaged crew feeding information to the helmsman can significantly contribute to a great start in a SYSCO Race.

Knowing the wind - many fleets have the opportunity to use different sail combinations depending on the wind speed. The Merit fleet can use a large genoa (155%) or a smaller jib

STARTING TECHNIQUES

MICHAEL MORRISSEY, MERIT FLEET CO-CAPTAIN

(100%) depending on the wind. One can get a good gage of what the wind might be doing beforehand looking at wind predictions through iPhone apps such as “Wind Flow”. But this is no substitute for sailing in the actual wind 30-40 minutes before the start. Choosing the right sail combination from actual at-hand knowledge is critical for getting a good start.

Knowing the current – there are apps that will tell you tide and current information near the starting area that can be useful. However, it is always best to sail by the starting buoy and make a good estimation of what the current is doing for the race. This is especially important for light air races where the current can push you over the line early and make it very slow to get back to the line. If you have time you may wish to sail 5-6 boat lengths below the line and time yourself to the start. This will give you a good idea of how the current is pushing you.

Be Aware

Have a strategy of how you want to start and what side of the course you want to sail the first leg. Before the start you should check the line to see which end is favored. This can be done by simply going to the middle of the line (as long as you are not in the starting sequence of other boats) and going head-to-wind. The side of the line that your boat is pointing toward is the favored end, i.e. it is a few boat lengths closer to the windward mark. Also, one side of the course might be favored due to current or wind shifts, and you may wish to start so that you can get to that side faster. Talk this over with your crew and they might have some good ideas as well. Let’s say you’ve decide to start near the pin-end of the line (usually the WA side in most SYSCO races). You’ve line up your boat in a good position with less than 90 sec. to go but you noticed that 5 other boats are thinking the same thing – all of them hanging out near the pin end and only one of them will get the “best” start and chances are there might be some minor boat-bumping and cursing, resulting in no good starts at the pin end. If you are aware of the situation and adjust, you might be 1/3rd of a way down from the pin-end but moving fast and in clean air. After a minute or two you can tack over to the favored side to the course ahead of most of the other boats and be in good shape at the windward mark. You are making good adjustments at the starting line that should pay off dividends in the first leg of the race.

Be ready to use Plan B. Things don’t always go as planned and you may have problems at the start, be sandwiched between boats, have a miscalculation and a poor start. You need to be aware of the situation and take a reasonable (but quick) maneuver to get back in the game. It may be worthwhile to tack and take some transoms to get over to the favored side or free yourself into clear air and concentrate on boat speed. Don’t panic as poor starts happen to all

STARTING TECHNIQUES

MICHAEL MORRISSEY, MERIT FLEET CO-CAPTAIN

of us and working your way up the fleet getting close to the leaders can be as satisfying as winning the race.

It is also important to know the rules around the starting area, how to avoid fouling other boats as well as using them to your advantage. The most important rules are *Rule 11 - ON THE SAME TACK, OVERLAPPED. When boats are on the same tack and overlapped, a windward boat shall keep clear of a leeward boat.* This rule prohibits boats reaching down the starting line interfering with leeward boats and preventing them from getting a good start. *Rule 15 - ACQUIRING RIGHT OF WAY When a boat acquires right of way, she shall initially give the other boat room to keep clear, unless she acquires right of way because of the other boat's actions.* This prohibits boats from tacking their way to leeward of another starting boat in such a way that the other starting boat cannot maneuver without hitting the leeward boat.

SYSCO also has its own set of starting rules that SYSCO sailors should be aware of. *Rule 11.6 - A boat that has not started may use propulsion without penalty as long as the boat that does not start for at least 4 minutes after discontinuing propulsion.* This rule can be used if you are over early. *Rule 11.7 - A boat that makes contact with the Race Committee vessel will be scored a DSQ without a hearing.* So be sure to keep clear of the Race Committee boat. There is also *Rule 11.5 that boats not in their starting sequence (5 minutes to start) shall keep clear of the starting box which extends 150 ft from both sides of the starting line and 150 ft radius from both ends.*



STARTING TECHNIQUES

MICHAEL MORRISSEY, MERIT FLEET CO-CAPTAIN

Be There

The best start is when you are moving fast, all trimmed in, close to the favored end, and in clear air, crossing the line within a few seconds of the starting horn. Many of the boats in various SYSCO fleets are often 2-5 boat lengths below the line at the start. They are in the second tier, and it will be difficult (but not impossible) to get back to the head of the race. In moderate wind and current there is no excuse for not being on the line and going fast. In light air and strong current it is more of a finesse game in maneuvering your boat close to the starting line as the starting horn sounds. While it can be heart-thumping in different conditions you should always be close to the line for your start. If you are over the line early, once in a while, it is a lesson learned but you are pushing yourself and the boat in the right direction.

So, Be Prepared, Be Aware and Be There. Get a good start and have fun in the SYSCO races this summer.



Nausicaa's Fabulously Executed Port Start - Photo by Anna Campagna

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SYSKO

Looking for Exhilarating Sailing and River Racing?

Sail a Martin 241

Two boats in the Portland Martin 24 Fleet are currently seeking new ownership.

***Roci - Rocinante* M241 Sail # 791**

And

***Kermit* - M241 Sail # 20**

Kermit

The infamous *Kermit* - Sail # 20 - PHRF 171 - gorgeous green hull is anxious to sail.

Kermit comes with a Stellar Crew, proficient in launch, rigging and racing skills. Also really nice guys to be confined on a boat with.

Kermit is on the hard for winter. Resides in St. Helens, OR.

Kermit is modified from a M241 under the supervision of boat builder Bill Brennan.

Recently got new sails.

Do you like "Bein' Green" or seeking a "Rainbow Connection" or just wanna catch an awesome sail?

Contact: Mary Stainsby: mjssail20@gmail.com

Rocinante

Roci comes with a History of WINS. Designed and modified from a M241 by boat builder Bill Brennan. *Roci* first graced the Columbia as *Dragon Fly*, owned by Karen Anderson.

Dragon Fly took home the OCSA Performance Trophy - "Best Racing Results for the Year" - 5 TIMES!

Same rigging and newer sails, *Rocinante* is chomping at the bit to sail.

Contact: Kelly Dews and Jacqueline Pitter. j.k.pitter@gmail.com

Bill Brennan-

Mr. Bill Brennan wishes ALL SAILORS a wonderful racing season. Bill, who built and mentored the Martin 24 Fleet and Venture 21 Fleet, is off on a new adventure. Bill moved this week to

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Stanton, KY. to assist with an enormous gardening project. Look him up on your next adventure to sail on the spectacular Kentucky Lake.

Or

Email Bill Brennan, wldwly@gmail.com

Oh yes - The unfinished Venture 21 boat building project - with many mysterious parts - is stored for a very lucky boatbuilder. Could that be you? Contact the Portland Venture 21 Fleet. (Page 46 in the OCSA Racebook.)



Bill Brennan teaching racing tactics

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Our new mark boat has a name!

As you know, we have a new mark boat, and the powers that be thought it was time for a new name to differentiate it from the old boat, Pancho. Times have changed and the reference was dated, and so your Board and Fleet RC Coordinators/Captains took it upon themselves over the past few months to get creative and come up with a new and exciting name. There were only a few parameters or constraints:

1. How would it sound over the radio ("SYSCO racers, SYSCO racers, SYSCO racers this is _____")
2. Could it be confused with other things in radio announcements, e.g., rule out "Over Early" for that reason.

The entries compiled over two months included:

Question Mark, Ides of Mark, Buoy and Atta Buoy (both sort of violations of the rules), SYSCOphant (too clever), Mark Twain and Samuel Clemons (literary references because...), Great Ditch Boat, Playground Rescue, Mark Pick-up (more violations), Power Play, Boastin Whaler, Poncho, All Clear, About Time, Frank Bocarde, Markus, Puffin, Tadpole, Guppy, Misfit, Nessie, Pura Vida (Costa Rica national motto — pure life, good life, easy life, which somehow ties into no wind, strong current, hard to pull up mark anchor), Smidgen, MB (for mark boat), BB (for buoy boat or blues guitar legend), Chaser, Tag-along, Pursuit, SysOps (as opposed to SYS-OOPS!), Markster, Mark Down, Mark Up, Boo-ey (three more violations), Aiolos and Aeolus (Greek wind references that are hard to say properly - again, violations.) It was quite a list.

After this exhaustive and wide ranging branding exercise, for which we clearly were neither prepared nor experienced in boat naming or marketing, by a margin of 13 to 5 for the next best choice using ranked voting, the Board/Fleet RC Coordinators/Captains decided upon...wait for it...wait for it..."Poncho," yeah, like the raincoat. Traditions die hard. Just

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remember, when you are referring to the new boat, Poncho, you should pronounce this new name with a French nasal “O” and not with flat Chicago/Wisconsin “A”. We’d hate for there to be any confusion. And so it goes...

Merit Fleet Meeting

The Merit 25 Fleet held a fleet meeting on April 11. We had 14 participants including OCSA Rear Commodore Jan Burkhart. We planned out social events and decided to bring back the Merit Mayhem Crew Scramble casual race as well as the weekly post-race sailing log, affectionately known as a SLOG.



The Cal 20 fleet and a lone Venture were barely making water as the sun was going down. A painful thing to watch from the dock, as we could see they were a mere six or eight boat-lengths to the leeward mark – Photo and commentary by Anna Campagna

SYSKO BOARD MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 6, 2023 AND MAY 1, 2023

SYSKO BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 6, 2023

4-06-2023 5:30 pm ZOOM

Attendees: Bruce Newton, Cheryl Watson, Don Schultz, Jan Burkhardt, Denny Damore, Jacqueline Pitter, Rich Samuels, Sloan Kimball, Michael ?, Michelle Bennett.

Communications: Denny stepping in for Melissa. Melissa is working on a single email address. Did it work? Several people said yes. Rick said he would help Melissa with this if she wanted. Denny will also work with Melissa on this.

New Markboat: Financially this boat is done and is ours. It is also in shape and ready to go for the racing season. Name? Gregg Bryden is working on this.

Spring Race Clinic: Bruce took charge of this and it went very well. There were 20-22 participants, about half of which are new sailors wanting to race. Michael was the guest speaker and talked about starting strategies. This presentation was held at PYC. There was discussion about which was the better venue – PYC or RCYC. Each has advantages. The presentation will be posted on resources page of SYSKO.

Safety at Sea: Michelle said it went great. Good class. It was held at Marshall Pool in Vancouver. The venue was excellent. The Lifesling use class at RCYC was also good. Should we have a more extensive safety program for river sailors? Could we train life sling teachers within SYSKO? Jacqueline suggested that Passion Yacht Sailing and Island sailing might be involved in this training.

Treasurer's Report: Monthly summary was shown on screen shot and will be sent to the board members. Memberships are running behind. Insurance bill was less than we projected so we are not far off from our projected budget for this date.

SYSCO BOARD MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 6, 2023 AND MAY 1, 2023

Vice Commodore: Race Captain: Denny presenting. The J105 and Martin fleets no longer exist. There is a new schedule for race committee assignments that will be coming out soon. PHRF and A and B cruising fleets do not have fleet captains, so setting their committee assignments has been challenging. Discussion about Island Sailing boats membership. For them it is done by boat, not by owner, so each boat pays a membership.

Membership: It is hard for fleet captains to find out who in their fleets have joined SYSCO. Can this be done? That way fleet captains could tickle their members. Sloan and Denny will work on Regatta network lists to see if this can be done easily. Jan will also help.

Fleet Reports:

Cal 20: Barbeque will be held this Saturday.

Melges: Apex is on the hard. Brian Haverman is organizing a race on the Melges for college students. The boat owners will be on board during the race. This will be on May 21 and he may need our mark boat. PSU and Oregon state students are taking part and other universities as well.

J24: No representative

OWSA: No representative

Ranger 20: The Aug 6 beer can race needs to be put on the notice board on the registration page. Denny will take care of this. Bill Sanborn will provide the platform boat for the first race committee responsibility. Full crew for committee.

5 boats are registered for spring.

Merits: will have a get together at Steeplejack on April 11.

Catalina: Don said they will have 4-6 boats for the spring series

Ventures: Jan said there is a Venture to be renovated if someone wants it.

Newsletter: Rick needs articles. Jan will write up the Venture material.

Sailor's dinner is next Saturday, April 15.

Adjourned at 6:30 pm

SYSCO BOARD MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 6, 2023 AND MAY 1, 2023

SYSCO BOARD MEETING MINUTES MAY 1, 2023 6:30 pm

Attendees: Denny Damore, Cheryl Watson, Melissa Cealock, Michelle Bennett, Bruce Newton, Rick Samuels, Gregg Brydden, Dan Petrin, Brian Haverman, Michael Morrissey, Carisa Bohus, Brian Haverman, Anna Campagna, Jody Schultz.

Vice Commodore/Race Captain: After many years of volunteering, Michelle Bennett needs to cut back. Therefore, we are in dire need of a Race Captain for SYSCO for this season and next.

Volunteers: OWSA keeps a list of members who are willing to help with committee work during the season. Their goal is to have 12 members on this list. If you need crew to help with committee, contacting OWSA might be productive.

PRO/Mark/Signal list: Denny is working on a list of pros from each fleet as a resource for the new Race Captain.

Rear Commodore Notes: Gregg Brydden is in charge of the barbecues this year and is looking for help, both physical and with ideas for the barbecue food and structure. All help welcome.

Treasurer's Report: given by Denny as Sloan is traveling. Financially SYSCO is in good shape. See attached. Bruce thought we should consider doing something useful with our extra money. This will be discussed at our next meeting.

Membership Report: Carisa reported that we currently have 109 members. We have 2 new members who were voted in this meeting: Anika Caldwell, who has been racing for 22 years and Andy Sorensen, who has been racing for 4 years. Andy has volunteered for everything, so we should call on him this season. Some returning members register as new to avoid the late fee. This causes unnecessary duplication. We should consider a "fix" for this.

Social Media Report: Melissa reported that the SYSCO Board email list has been established. There is now a membership page on the SYSCO site. The Melges fleet asked for space for content and picture. Melissa will set that up as soon as she receives the content.

Mark Boat update: Please send any suggestions or questions to Bruce Newton. Gregg

SYSCO BOARD MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 6, 2023 AND MAY 1, 2023

mentioned that the throttle can easily be hit, causing a sudden acceleration. This is a matter for caution. The cover needs to be put on at the end of every race. **Mark Boat name:** The board members voted for the new boat name from the list provided. The winner was Poncho.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

Respectfully submitted –

Cheryl Watson

SYSCO Secretary

SYSCO 2023 Account Balances - As of 4/30/2023

Account	3/31/2023 Balance	4/30/2023 Balance
Bank Accounts		
SYSCO Checking	6,479.50	3,761.99
SYSCO Reserve	6,602.52	11,602.52
TOTAL Bank Accounts	13,082.02	15,364.51
OVERALL TOTAL	13,082.02	15,364.51

SYSCO BOARD MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 6, 2023 AND MAY 1, 2023

SYSCO 2023 Budget

1/1/2023 through 4/30/2023 Using SYSCO Budget 2023

Category	1/1/2023 Actual	- Budget	4/30/2023 Difference
INCOME	11,240.00	11,004.00	236.00
SYSCO Bank Interest	0.00	4.00	-4.00
SYSCO Membership	11,200.00	10,800.00	400.00
ASSOCIATE	275.00	400.00	-125.00
FULL	10,925.00	10,400.00	525.00
SYSCO Misc Income	40.00	200.00	-160.00
SYSCO Race Income	0.00	0.00	0.00
EXPENSES	6,712.18	7,105.00	392.82
SYSCO Admin Expense	1,176.00	800.00	-376.00
SYSCO Association Expense	250.00	225.00	-25.00
SYSCO Bank Chgs	0.00	0.00	0.00
SYSCO Boat Show Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00
SYSCO CC Dry Storage	228.00	320.00	92.00
SYSCO Credit Card Fee	427.90	450.00	22.10
SYSCO Donations, Ads	0.00	0.00	0.00
SYSCO Fleet Events	50.00	60.00	10.00
SYSCO Insurance	2,429.95	3,400.00	970.05
SYSCO Meeting, Clinics, BBQ	0.00	0.00	0.00
SYSCO Membership, Burgees, etc.	0.00	0.00	0.00
SYSCO Pancho, Moorage, Fuel, etc.	1,952.65	1,750.00	-202.65
SYSCO Race Income Expense.	0.00	0.00	0.00
SYSCO Racing, Marks, PRO, etc.	101.80	0.00	-101.80
SYSCO RN Credit Card Fee	0.00	0.00	0.00
SYSCO Trophies	0.00	0.00	0.00
SYSCO Website	95.88	100.00	4.12
Net Difference:	4,527.82	3,899.00	628.82