

## OCSA RaceBook Goes On-Line

*Bassham, T. OCSA RaceBook Goes On-Line. (2014, November 12). Retrieved 2014, December 4 from [http://www.syscosailing.org/newsletters/2014/Starting\\_Line\\_Nov\\_2014.pdf](http://www.syscosailing.org/newsletters/2014/Starting_Line_Nov_2014.pdf). Reprinted with permission.*

In September, the Oregon Corinthian Sailing Association (OCSA)—the volunteer umbrella organization that coordinates racing events among the four Portland-area racing clubs—decided that next year the RaceBook will be available for free on sailpdx.org. At this point, you are probably asking yourself: “Self, selling the RaceBook<sup>1</sup> is how OCSA pays for all the many wonderful services that make racing happen on the river: the sailpdx.org website, the race calendar, NORs, General Instructions, educational seminars, protest committee, Otto Horn, the Tropical Party, etc. What will happen to the services we depend upon if OCSA goes bankrupt giving away the RaceBook for free?”

Glad you asked. Thankfully, OCSA will continue to provide all the services we depend upon. The big difference is that you, gentle reader, can save some money on OCSA membership. Here’s how it will work.

In the old days (i.e., 2014), when you paid \$25 for OCSA membership you got a physical copy of the RaceBook and the Course Chart. A portion of the \$25 membership fee paid for all the OCSA services, while another portion paid the cost of printing the RaceBook and Course Chart. But if you lost your RaceBook or left it at home, you were SOL. In the future (i.e., 2015), the RaceBook and Course Chart will be available on-line, and can be downloaded to devices and go everywhere with you. Moreover, OCSA will now save much of the cost of printing, and can pass that savings on to you. How much savings? Not sure yet, but the cost of membership will probably be reduced to somewhere under \$20 per year. There will be several ways to renew your OCSA membership, but one easy way will be to renew at the Boat Show, at SYSCO Fleet Night in January, or at the SYSCO Race Clinic in March. Later, when you register for a race on Regatta Network, you simply indicate that you are an OCSA member in good standing, and you’re good to go.

Now, let’s answer some probing questions from our readers:

**Q:** Free RaceBook on-line? Not that I would ever do this, but what would keep me from just downloading the RaceBook, getting all the info I need to race, and then racing all summer without paying OCSA a dime? Freebies! Whoo-hoo!

**A:** You’re absolutely right that no sailor would ever think of taking advantage of this deal to avoid paying for OCSA services. We are a clean and wholesome bunch, who never swear, drink, or pee off the transom. But, hypothetically, let’s say that a sailor absent-mindedly forgets to renew her OCSA membership. The simple answer is that until she renews her OCSA membership that she will not be able to race in any local regatta or series. Basically, the four area racing clubs (SYSCO, CYC, PYC and RCYC) have agreed to allow only OCSA members to race

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<sup>1</sup> OCSA Racebooks are not available for sale, but are provided as a benefit to OCSA membership. – OCSA, 12/4/14

in their events. When someone registers for a local race on Regatta Network, she will certify that she is a current OCSA member. If it happens that she is not a current OCSA member, then the host club will not score her or allow her to race until she renews her OCSA membership.

**Q:** Oh. Well, what happens if my cousin Vinny sails into town from Hood River and wants to race just one regatta or race series? Does he have to buy a full OCSA membership for one race?

**A:** Not necessarily. If Vinny wants to register for just one regatta or race series, he can pay an extra fee when registering, probably around \$10, for “temporary” OCSA membership, good for just that regatta or race series. The fee would be paid to the registering club, and then passed on to OCSA. Obviously, if Vinny plans to race two or more regattas or series, it would make more sense to pay for the full OCSA membership, which as mentioned, will probably cost less than \$20 per year<sup>2</sup>.

**Q:** Having the RaceBook and Course Chart in .pdf format will make it easy to download onto my devices and access them wherever I go. But I like having a physical RaceBook, with a laminated Course Chart. Can I still get those?

**A:** Yes. OCSA will print up a limited supply of carbon-based RaceBooks and laminated Course Charts, and will sell those separately to those who want them, basically for the cost of printing.

**Q:** Sounds good. I guess I should thank OCSA and its constituent clubs for taking local racing into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and maybe saving me a little money.

**A:** You’re welcome.

**Q:** I didn’t say thank you, I just said I should thank you.

**A:** Yeah, we picked up on that. But you’re still welcome.

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<sup>2</sup> 2015 OCSA Membership will be \$30, which includes a printed copy of the Racebook and laminated Course Charts. Those wishing to go “print-free”, with the electronic-only versions, will receive a \$10 discount on membership. – OCSA, 12/4/14