



## OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

OFFICE OF  
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Dear Off Soundings Club Member,

Mid-winter greetings! Although the cold is still with us, the days are noticeably longer, and accompanying this letter is a notice for our annual dinner on April 2. Spring is really not that far away. Plan now to attend the annual dinner – it is a great season opener, and a fine opportunity to congratulate the winners of the club's spectacular perpetual trophies. These trophies are only on exhibit once a year.

Your Off Soundings Club Board of Governors has been working on several issues that warrant your interest and attention. I would like to summarize some of these, and encourage your feedback either to me or another member of the board.

First among these has been a scheduled review of our Off Soundings Club ***Minimum Equipment and Accommodations Standards***. The version that we have used for the last several years was based on Offshore Racing Council Category 4 Regulations. Management of the ORC regulations has now been transferred to the International Sailing Foundation, and an additional Category (5) has been added. A subcommittee (composed of **Race Secretary Steve Purdy, Past Commodore Frank Bohlen and Geordie Loveday**) has completed a thoughtful revision of the standards, which appropriately adapts the (now ISF) Category 4 and 5 regulations for our race circumstances. Copies will be available at the Annual Meeting. These regulations apply to monohulls, only, since multihull standards are governed by the New England Multihull Association (NEMA). As you are aware, we sometimes sail in conditions that may result in other club's cancellation of one-design or handicap racing. The responsibility to participate in a race, or continue racing is the Master's alone. This responsibility recognizes the particular conditions and crew situation that each yacht will experience - and that no one not on the yacht can or should second-guess the Master.

The conditions experienced in last Fall's Saturday race reinforce the need for everyone to be diligent and conscientious with regard to both safety equipment (which is a requirement), appropriate maintenance, crew training and good seamanship.

**Race Committee Chairman Chuck Chorlton** has informed us that **Henry duPont and NOR'EASTER** will return for the 2005 season. Our **Racing schedule for 2005** will once again take the fleet to **Block Island in the spring**, and **Greenport in the fall**. The Greenport Maritime Festival does not conflict with our fall series this year, thanks to the efforts of **Greenport Liaison** and Board Member **John Lockwood**. This should result in better lodging availability for the weekend, although I encourage you to make your

reservations now, since a major Optimist regatta has been planned at Shelter Island Yacht Club for the weekend. If you cannot accommodate crew aboard, consider yourself forewarned. For yacht accommodations, new floating docks are expected to be in place at the new municipal marina, and they should be able to handle nearly half of the fleet. With the re-scheduling of the Maritime Festival the following weekend, some yachts may wish to enjoy some fall cruising in the area on the weekends following our Fall Series.

The **Mumm 30 Class** is growing in interest in our area, and will likely have its own start if enough entries are received for the race series in 2005. The **Level 75 (J-35 + others) Class** is expected to return for this season as well.

**Club membership** process is in its "busy" season. Proposers should ensure that application files are complete, with packages being forwarded to Membership Chairman Bob Edmands as soon as possible. Remember that the Membership Chairman is also the contact for obtaining Guest Invitations for racing. Those of you that have sponsored past guest invitations - please follow up with proposals for membership if the guest is qualified and interested. It is really not difficult to sponsor guests and propose memberships. The club benefits, and the racing is improved with more boats on the line.

Some discussion at the Board of Governors meetings has centered on potential **handicap violations**, especially removal of structure (and weight) from a yacht's interior, differing from the certificate condition. The protest committee is in place for handling contested situations, however a little common sense should prevent and take care of this.

An update on the **Off Soundings Club History Book**. Long-time member **Bruce Lockwood** has been working diligently on the book, which should be published late this year. I anticipate having some details to present at the Annual Meeting. Publication of this history book is a lead-in to celebrating the **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Club in 2008**, with some very special highlights to the yearbook, events and regattas that year. Members interested in being a part of the planning for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year should let me or another member of the Board of Governors know.

Before concluding, I would like to recognize the tremendous effort put forward by each and every member of the Board, and the various Committee Chairmen, in working together for the ongoing health and vitality of the Off Soundings Club. Few clubs have such outstanding contributing members. If you have any thoughts on the above subjects, or others, please contact any member of the Board.

I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Dinner in April, if not before.

Sincerely,



John Brooks  
Commodore