



OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

RICHARD H. ROBERTS, Race Secretary
60 Dart Street
New London, Connecticut 06320

(203) 443-4621 (R)
(203) 572-8810 (B)

April 16, 1993

56th ANNUAL SPRING RACE SERIES 1993 JUNE 11th and 12th

FIRST NOTICE

Enclosed are the following:

1. Spring Race Series Entry Blank
2. Roster of Off Soundings Club Measurers
3. ORC Minimum Equipment and Accommodations Standards - Category 4 (as adapted by OSC, March 1988)
4. General Information and Reservations Sheet

The Off Soundings fleet will race from Watch Hill to Block Island on Friday, June 11th, and will race on selected courses near Block Island on Saturday, June 12th. Each evening we will rendezvous at THE OAR (Block Island Boat Basin).

PHRF handicapping will be used for all classes. There will be three "A" and "B" classes, five "C" classes and a Cruising Canvas Class. PLEASE NOTE that this year the Cruising Canvas Class will be split into two divisions, Upper and Lower, by PHRF rating, and that the two divisions will be started together but will be scored separately. Where appropriate, classes will be grouped generally based on PHRF rating and that the rating break point for any of the classes will be determined after the entries have been received. Therefore, promptly check the Final Notice to ascertain your class assignment for 1993.

PHRF ratings will be based on the work of the PHRF of Long Island Sound (the PHRF group of the Eastern Connecticut Sailing Association (formerly ECYRA)), information from regional areas with PHRF experience, and additional information which may be developed by the OSC Chief Measurer. The adjustment factors will be in accordance with the procedures used by PHRF of LIS. A valid Off Soundings Club Measurement Data Certificate is required from which necessary yacht dimensional information may be taken. Owners of a class type (such as Tartan 41 or Morgan 34, etc.) must inform the OSC Chief Measurer of any substantial modifications to the yacht which might affect the speed potential but which might not be evident on the Off Soundings Club Measurement Data Certificate. Examples of such modifications are added keel ballast or lightened interior joiner work. This request must be treated in a true Corinthian spirit. Those entrants who apply for and receive a rating certificate from the PHRF of LIS are requested to submit a copy of that certificate with their entry, but this does not waive the requirement to have a valid Off Soundings Club Measurement Data Certificate.

The logistic particulars for this series are outlined on the enclosed General Information and Reservations Sheet. Information on docking, mooring, shore facilities, transportation, emergency facilities, etc., are included therein and you are requested to make whatever reservations you wish direct and early.

The legal age for drinking in Rhode Island is twenty-one. The "Captain's Responsibility" statement printed on the reverse of the Entry Blank makes it clear that your signature denotes that, as

Master/Captain, you shoulder the responsibility that your under-age crew members are advised of the prohibition on their drinking at Off Soundings Club events. Further, you take full responsibility for their actions. Guest invitees who have not received prior communication please take note of this emphasis on the Master/Captain's responsibility.

ENTRY PROCEDURE

Off Soundings Club races are open to those member and guest yachts which qualify in all respects to the provisions outlined in this First Notice.

1. You must complete the enclosed Entry Blank and send it by First Class Mail, postmarked on or before May 20th, to Richard H. Roberts, Race Secretary, 60 Dart Street, New London, CT 06320. Your entry will be acknowledged by return postcard.
2. In order to determine perpetual trophy winners accurately and assign handicap penalties equitably, it will be necessary to confirm the ownership or charter arrangement of all entered yachts for each race series. Please list the names of all owners or charterers, whether or not also listed as master(s), in the space provided on the Entry Blank.
3. Please be reminded that our rules require that at least one of the persons in whose name the yacht is entered, i.e., master(s), must be on board for both races and must be in command of the yacht, and must be an Off Soundings Club member or a 1993 guest.

For reasons of space, please do not list more than two names as Master. If yours is a syndicate boat and you wish to list the syndicate name, indicate the skipper's name only.

4. You must have a valid OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB MEASUREMENT DATA CERTIFICATE, which is one that is less than three years old, i.e., with an original date of June 11, 1990 or later. Please read and fill out the Entry Blank carefully and completely. If the yacht does not have a valid Measurement Data Certificate, it must be measured by one of the following: an Off Soundings Club approved measurer, your yacht club measurer, or a yachting association measurer. The Certificate should be completed in triplicate, with one copy being sent to Norman E. Rabe, Off Soundings Club Chief Measurer, 33 Valley Drive, Salem, Connecticut 06420, postmarked not later than May 20, 1993. Your measurer should keep one copy. The third copy is for your files.

The closing date of May 20, 1993 for entries and Measurement Data Certificates is the latest possible date and will be rigidly adhered to. Absolutely no exceptions will be made.

The U. S. Postal Service has been known to lose entries. Please note that non-receipt of entries due to postal problems will not be an exception to the closing date. If you have not received an acknowledgement card from the Race Secretary prior to the deadline, please call to inquire.

Also, do not hold up your entry waiting for your measurement. Get the Entry in and expedite the measurement separately. Please note that the Measurement Data Certificate is also subject to the same closing date.

An additional note of caution: since postmarks govern on entry deadlines, be advised that the U.S. Postal Service often picks up outlying office or drop-box mail and transfers it to a main station for cancellation. This can cause a delay in postmarking that could invalidate your last-minute entry. If you are close to the deadline, ask your post office to hand-cancel your entry envelope immediately, to insure proper postmarking.

CONTRIBUTION FROM ENTRANTS

Your contribution is vital to allow continuation of the quality services rendered which have made our races so successful and which you have come to expect. Please note that, in order to assign actual expenses equitably, there is a \$35 contribution per yacht plus \$6 per person on board. Please make your check payable to the Off Soundings Club and enclose it with your Entry Blank.

Your Board of Governors wishes to remind you that non-racing members and guests are always welcome at our rendezvous parties, at the normal per-person rate. We've included a place on the Entry Blank for you to let us know how many non-racing people to expect, and to include payment to cover them.

FALL ENTRIES

The incidence of late, misplaced or forgotten entries for the Fall Race Series is always higher than for the Spring Series. To minimize this problem, if you plan to be away during the entry period please write the Race Secretary in advance to request a Fall Entry Blank.

First Notice (including Spring results)	July 9, 1993
Closing Date	August 26, 1993
Race Dates	September 17 & 18, 1993

GUEST VESSEL INVITATION

In order to allow for proper planning and adequate notification, the closing date for Guest Invitations was set at March 18, 1993 for both the Spring and Fall series. No more guests may be invited for 1993 racing.

Only two Guest Invitations will be issued to an acceptable non-member to participate in our racing events, each invitation being sufficient for two consecutive race series -- such as Spring '93 and Fall '93. The Board of Governors may, under certain circumstances, elect to waive the two-invitation limit.

RULES

The Race Series will be governed by the Constitution of the Off Soundings Club (specifically, its Article VIII, Section 4), the 1993-1996 International Yacht Racing Rules, the Prescriptions of US SAILING and by the Sailing Instructions.

The new Rule Book (1993-1996) is effective April 1, 1993 and is distinguished by its blue cover. It has been mailed to each member of US SAILING. Others may join US SAILING and get a book, or may purchase the book from US SAILING for \$15. (Call 401-849-5200 to join or to order.)

The new Rules will require us to develop an Off Soundings Club procedure for cancelling a race and may cause other changes in our Sailing Instructions. Attention will be called to such changes in the Final Notice.

YACHT ELIGIBILITY

1. For handicapping purposes, the maximum PHRF base boat number will be 300.
2. The minimum L.O.A. of yachts which may race in the OSC Spring or Fall Race Series is 23.75 feet. Yachts smaller than this L.O.A. will not be permitted to race, nor will yachts

in excess of 62 feet L.O.A. Yachts must have self-bailing cockpits and be capable of normal cruising (head, galley, bunks, etc.).

3. Excepted from this ruling are yachts, owned by members, which fall outside the limits of 2 above, but which have raced in a series prior to this date. Those yachts will be permitted to race using ratings shown on the yacht's valid rating certificate, so long as there is no change in yacht ownership.
4. To qualify to race in Off Soundings Club races, the yacht must meet all Offshore Racing Council (ORC) Minimum Equipment and Accommodation Standards Category 4 requirements of March 1988 (as adapted by OSC) including lifelines and pulpits. It is your responsibility to meet these requirements. A copy of the ORC Minimum Equipment and Accommodation Standards, Category 4, as adapted by OSC, March 1988 is enclosed.

You will note that the Entry Blank requires you to sign a certification that your yacht meets the Category 4 requirements as adapted by OSC in all respects and that you agree to the waiver contained on the reverse thereof. As a Corinthian yachtsman, your certifying signature is the verification needed to assure that all entrants have complied and are racing fairly and truly.

5. Board of Governors action has defined Cruising Canvas Class requirements as follows:
 - a. Only Off Soundings Club members may enter. You must mark the appropriate box on the Entry Blank to enter.
 - b. Spinnakers (including mizzen spinnakers) may not be used.
 - c. Spinnaker poles may be used as whisker poles.
 - d. Only one sail at a time, other than forestaysails on a standard double-head rig, may be tacked forward of the mainmast (foremast on schooners). This does not prohibit a transient condition (i.e., during a sail change evolution).
 - e. Use of other sails, such as mules, mizzen staysails, is permitted.
 - f. Yachts must meet all Off Soundings eligibility requirements.
6. You must fly a class flag at all times during the race. This flag shall be no smaller than size "0", (i.e., 12" x 15"). It should be flown vertically, as far forward as possible, on the pulpit. This is of great assistance to all participants while racing, and aids the Race Committee as it finishes upwards of 170 yachts.

The following International Code Flags will be used as class flags:

A-1	Alpha
A-2	Echo
B	Kilo
C-1	Papa
C-2	Quebec
C-3	Foxtrot
C-4	Zulu
C-5	Juliet
Cruising Canvas, Upper	Uniform
Cruising Canvas, Lower	Lima

Those owners unsure of their yacht's Class may call me at 203-443-4621 (H) after June 1st. (Time will be short -- do not write.)

7. United States Sailing Association requirements regarding sail numbers are mandatory for Off Soundings participation. Class insignia, however, may be displayed.

RADIO NOTICE

The Coast Guard First District has advised that, effective April 1, 1992 and within its jurisdiction, VHF Channel 9 is to be used as the calling channel, reserving the use of Channel 16 for distress communications. Off Soundings Race Committee communications will be carried out on VHF Channel 72.

PENALTY INFORMATION

Handicap penalties for winners are 15% for first place, 10% for second place, and 5% for third place, with a maximum penalty of 45%. Present penalties will be carried over if a class changes for any reason.

Handicap penalties may be worked off in three race series. To work off a penalty, you must start both races in each series and either be identified as a finisher or submit a written withdrawal as soon as possible to the Race Secretary. A handicap penalty will be removed after five race series, sailed or not.

If a yacht is acquired by a person not associated with the acquisition of the penalty, the penalty will be dropped from the yacht. If the owner then purchases or charters a non-similar yacht, he will also not continue to carry the penalty. It is the responsibility of the entrant to contact the Race Secretary prior to the entry closing date if there is any question regarding the dropping of a penalty.

CLUB TIES, PATCHES, ETC.

The Off Soundings Club has recently arranged with Sportsline to offer an expanded line of ties, burgees, patches, pins, shirts, hats and jackets for sale. A brochure was included with the recent notice of the Annual Meeting. Inquire directly at Sportsline, Box 227, No. Branford, CT 06471; 203-488-2558. Some of the merchandise will be available at the Shore Party.

Good sailing, and we look forward to seeing you at Block Island.

Cordially,

Richard H. Roberts
Race Secretary
OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

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GENERAL INFORMATION AND RESERVATION SHEET

Thursday, June 10, 1993

Docking and mooring space at Dodson's in Stonington is available on a first-come, first-served basis. There will be no charge for mooring space, if available. Rafting is OK. Dockage charges will be \$1.50 per foot for boats directly on the dock, but no charge by Dodson for those boats rafted to them. Launch service will be available from 0800 till 2200 at a special charge of \$1.50 per person per trip, in or out. Dodson's can be reached at 203-535-1507.

Ram Island Yacht Club and Wadawanuck Yacht Club have generously offered their facilities to members of the fleet on Thursday night. The Committee Boat FREEDOM will be at her normal slip at Seaport Marine on Thursday night.

Friday and Saturday, June 11 & 12, 1993

THE OAR at Block Island Boat Basin in Great Salt Pond, Block Island, RI will be the site of the weekend rendezvous.

DOCKING AND MOORING

The Block Island Boat Basin has approximately 47 slips available varying in depth from 4 to 8 feet. Reservations for a slip must be made directly and as early as possible. The price is \$2.25 per foot and your reservation must be accompanied with a deposit of one night's dockage. Address and phone: Block Island Boat Basin, PO Box 412, Block Island, RI 02807; phone 401-466-2631. For reservations before June 1st, use address: 125 Steamboat Avenue, North Kingston, RI 02852; phone 401-294-3361.

There are also slips available at Payne's Dock at \$1.50 per foot (\$2.00 per foot over 40 feet); phone 401-466-5572, and Champlin's Marina and Resort; phone 401-466-2641.

The town of New Shoreham has lime-green moorings that are for rent on a first-come, first-served basis at \$30 per night. Rafting on these moorings is not permitted.

LAUNCH SERVICE

There will be launches servicing the fleet of Off Soundings participants and available for transportation ashore between the hours of 1400 and 0130 Friday and Saturday nights. Morning service will be from 0700 - 0900 Saturday and 0700 - 1100 Sunday. They may also be available at other times during the course of the weekend to individuals, using their normal fee schedules. The launches monitor Channel 68 and appreciate the showing of "T" flags. Please display an OSC burgee or other OSC identification (e.g. the Final Notice booklet) to the launch operator.

REFRESHMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The after-race shore party will be held at THE OAR following Friday's and Saturday's races. Spigotted crocks will be arranged to the side of THE OAR and your beverage of choice may be readily identified by the code flags properly arrayed. Timely finishes permitting, mainbrace splicing will commence at approximately 1730. Results of the day's racing plus the combined results of the two-day series will be announced following the party. Please assist in keeping the grounds neat and tidy by using the trash barrels available.

FACILITIES

Toilet and shower facilities in the lower level of THE OAR will be made available to race participants. Trash and garbage removal provisions have been arranged for and the deposit location will be in the vicinity of THE OAR.

We have been informed that boats must not discharge holding tanks or heads in Great Salt Pond. Block Island now has a boat for pumping holding tanks. There is no charge for boats on town moorings, but there is a \$10 charge for all others. Arrangements must be made with the Harbor Master in advance (Larry Constantine, 466-3204). Block Island has a law providing for a \$200 fine for discharging into the harbor. Further, we should display courtesy and not discharge holding tanks until a legal distance offshore.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

There will be a physician on board the patrol boat as well as several physician-members throughout the fleet who have agreed to be "on call." Should you have a medical emergency, call the Committee Boat on Channel 72; assistance will be dispatched.

While at Block Island, call:

Police	466-3220
Rescue Squad	466-3226
Doctor	466-2974

**PLEASE RETAIN THIS INFORMATION SHEET AND
BRING IT ABOARD FOR THE RACE**