



OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

WILLIAM L. AMES, Race Secretary
9 Gravel Street
Mystic, Connecticut 06355

Phone: (203) 536-7700

13 July 1984

47th Annual Fall Race Series

September 14th & 15th, 1984

First Notice

Enclosed are the following:

1. Results of Spring Series
2. Fall Series Entry Blank
3. Membership Chairman's posting of Membership Candidates*
*(Members only)

This fall the fleet will race to Block Island on Friday, September 14, and race on selected courses in the Block Island area on Saturday, September 15. Both evening rendezvous will be at "Champlin's." You should make your own reservations for slips, etc. early and directly. The address is: Champlin's Marina, Block Island, Rhode Island 02807. Telephone: (401) 466-2641. Launch service will be provided with two launches.

All Classes will race under PHRF. No participant is exempt from the requirement of having a valid Off Soundings measurement certificate.

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. Complete the enclosed Entry Blank and send by First Class Mail, postmarked on or before August 23rd, to William L. Ames, 9 Gravel Street, Mystic, Connecticut 06355. Your entry will be acknowledged by return postcard.
2. In order to determine perpetual trophy winners accurately and equitably assign handicap penalties, 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.

For reasons of space, please don't 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. Have a valid measurement certificate. A valid measurement certificate is one that is less than three years old, i.e., with an original date of September 15, 1981 or later. Please read and complete the Entry Blank carefully. If the yacht does not have a valid measurement 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, 53 Oswegatchie Road, Waterford, Connecticut 06385, postmarked not later than August 23, 1984. Your measurer should keep one copy. The third copy is for your files.

The closing date of August 23, 1984 for entries and measurement certificates is the latest possible date and will be rigidly followed. Absolutely no exceptions will be made.

The U. S. Postal Service has been known to lose entries and non-receipt of entries due to postal problems will not be an exception to the closing date. If you have not received an acknowledgment card from the Race Secretary prior to the deadline, please call to inquire. In addition, sending entries by certified mail can help.

Also, don't hold up your entry waiting for measurements, etc. Get the entry in and expedite the measurement certificate separately. However, please note that measurement certificates are also subject to the 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 offices or drop boxes' 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 postal clerk to handcancel your entry envelope immediately to insure proper postmarking.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ENTRANTS

Your contribution of \$6.00 per person on board plus \$15 per yacht is vital to the continued success of our Off Soundings Races. Please make your checks payable to the Off Soundings Club and enclose with your Entry Blank.

GUEST VESSEL INVITATIONS

The closing date for guest invitations was set at March 21, 1984 for both the Spring and Fall Series. No more guests may be invited for 1984 racing.

YACHT ELIGIBILITY

1. The minimum rating for any yacht sailing in the OSC Annual Race Series is 17 feet. Yachts whose OSC ratings calculate lower than this 17 foot minimum shall race using an equivalent PHRF rating.
2. The minimum L.O.A. of yachts which may race in the OSC Annual 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.

Excepted from this ruling are yachts owned by members which fall outside these limits, but which have raced in series prior to this date. These 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.

3. To qualify to race in Off Soundings Club Races, your yacht must meet all Off-shore Rating Council (ORC) Category 4 requirements (as adopted January 1981 by the Off Soundings Club for its use) including lifelines and pulpits. It is your responsibility to meet these requirements.

You will note that the Entry Blank requires you to sign a certification that your yacht meets the special Category 4 requirements 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.

4. 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 form to enter.
 - b. Spinnakers (including mizzen spinnakers) may not be used. All headsails must be attached along their length to the headstay by means of either hanks or a slotted headstay. This does not exclude roller furling headsails. Headsail girth measured from the luff to leech must be no greater than their proportional distances from the head.
 - c. Spinnaker poles may be used as whisker poles. Whisker pole length is limited to 80% of LP or spinnaker pole length, whichever is greater.
 - d. Only one sail at a time other than forestaysails on standard doublehead rigs 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.
5. United States Yacht Racing Union requirements regarding sail numbers are mandatory for Off Soundings participation. Class insignia, however, may continue to be displayed.

6. You must fly a class flag at all times during the race. This flag shall be no smaller than size "O", 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 over 200 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	Charlie

Those owners unsure of their yacht's class may call the Chief Measurer at home (203) 443-6741 after August 29. Time will be short—don't write.

RADIO NOTICE

Race Committee communications will be carried on VHF-FM Channel 9.

OTHER RACING 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%.

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. Handicap penalties 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 AND PATCHES

Club members may obtain our club tie for \$10.00, a cloth blazer patch for \$3.00, a gold bullion pin-on blazer patch for \$10.00, rhodium-plated tie clasps with enameled burgee for \$8.00, and cap buttons for \$5.50 from our Treasurer, Walter D. Strang, Jr., 85 Tyler Avenue, Groton, Connecticut 06340.

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

Cordially,

Bill Ames

William L. Ames
Race Secretary
Off Soundings Club