



OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

RICHARD H. ROBERTS, Commodore
60 Dart Street
New London, CT 06320

Home (203) 443-4621
Office (203) 446-5900

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WINTER NEWSLETTER

Well, the groundhog didn't see his shadow in New London -- so perhaps we'll all be able to start sooner doing boat-type chores for the 1987 season. This newsletter is to get you thinking about getting ready to begin to start those chores.

Race Committee Chairman Paul van Dyke has advised that our stalwart Race Committee Boat, EMPRESS, has cut back on her activities this year but has reserved time in that limited schedule for our Spring and Fall Race Series. We are pleased that Bill Norton, owner and Captain of EMPRESS, has chosen the Off Soundings Club for inclusion in that reduced schedule and are looking forward to seeing EMPRESS again this year.

Bill Loweth has been appointed as Entertainment Committee Chairman, replacing Dan Miller. We thank Dan for his fine service and meticulous dispensing over the past two seasons and are appreciative that he's offered to help Bill get started.

This season marks our 50th Race Series. Vice Commodore Slimmon heads a committee established to honor that milestone and is seeking the names of those who sailed in some of our earlier Race Series so as to invite them to join us at some point this year. Please notify Jim, or Historian Bill Ames, of those "old-timers" you are aware of. In addition, Past Commodore Carl Granbery has designed a plaque which will soon be sent to each of you to commemorate the 50th Race Series.

Once again, we will this year rendezvous at Shelter Island in the Spring and Block Island in the Fall. You are reminded of these important dates:

Guest invitation cut-off	March 25	
Closing date for entries & Measurement Certificates	May 21	August 27
Measurement Certificate must be more recent than	June 12, 1984	Sept 18, 1984

The Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (SNAME) is having a joint meeting with the American Society of Naval Engineers (ASNE) at Mystic Seaport on April 2 to discuss the dynamics of drogues and their use in prevention of sailboat capsizing. Obtain logistics information from a member of SNAME or ASNE or from the Commodore, after about mid-March.

We congratulate the San Diego Yacht Club and Dennis Connor on the successful challenge for the America's Cup. ESPN Commentator and former twelve-meter tactician Gary Jobson will present his views of the Cup competition in a talk hosted by ECYRA and the Coast Guard Academy on April 4. The talk will be given in the Academy's Dimmick Hall at 1330 and will cost \$8.00. Contact Larry White, Waterfront Director at the Academy, for reservations.

Historian/Narrator Bill Ames advises that this year's videos of the 1986 Race Series are excellent. Don't miss the "Premier" on April 4th at the Norwich

Sheraton Hotel. Season awards and the video will follow dinner and our Annual Meeting. A separate notice is soon to be issued.

Our Nominating Committee, Eliot Porter, Les Bowman and Bill Fortmann, is now hard at work and promises that a slate will be ready for our Annual Meeting.

Regarding our efforts to assist the Mystic Seaport Museum Audio-Visual Department in obtaining equipment with which to record our Spring and Fall Race Series on video tape, the Club has met the challenge and has exceeded our goal. The Board of Governors has approved the proposal by the Video Equipment Committee (Bill Ames, Dick Steinhilber, Dick Woolworth), to request the Seaport to apply those funds in excess of our goal first toward the purchase of a video projection unit of a size and quality suitable for use at our Annual Dinner (thus avoiding rental costs); further surplus then to be applied toward the purchase of additional, stabilized, camera equipment for use at the starting line, etc. The Board of Governors thanks each of you who was able to contribute to this effort.

Block Island Health Services will soon break ground for the construction of a medical services facility. Fleet Surgeon Chet Humphrey recommended that we support this effort and your Board of Governors has voted to donate to the program. Others may make a 501(c)(3) contribution to: Block Island Health Services, Inc., c/o Treasurer Ralph Greenlee, MD, P.O. Box 506, Block Island, RI 02807.

Late last summer, I received a complaint from the owner of a restaurant in Greenport, citing some rather inappropriate behavior on the part of some of our members, which was insulting to other patrons and staff and caused some damage to the dining room. While the Club cannot control the off-the-race-course actions of its members, I must point out that all of us, as members and captains of our crews, have some obligation to see that our celebrations do not become offensive and thus bring discredit to the Club. It is tempting, when away from our own backyards, to cut loose a bit, but we need to remember that we are then in someone else's backyard. In my appology to that restaurant owner, I promised to use this newsletter to remind the membership that we are guests in the communities we visit.

Sincerely,



Richard H. Roberts
Commodore