

OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

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

~~860~~
~~(203)~~ 443-4621 (R)

October 26, 1996

TO: Commodore William G. Gunther
FROM: Race Secretary Richard H. Roberts
SUBJECT: Race Secretary's Report

1. The results of the Fall Race Series and the combined, perpetual trophy results were mailed to the members and guests on October 11th, as scheduled.

2. Continuing the statistical work done by Andy Anderson, I've added 1996 information to the attached table of Race Entry Statistics, together with some financial information for earlier years, and the enclosed table is provided for your study. I continue to have concerns about some of the smaller classes, particularly A-2, B, and CR-1. It also seems possible to be able to reduce the five C classes to four. Perhaps the appointment of Class Liaisons will help increase participation. See also Item 8, below.

3. I have attached a tabulation of the dates for Off Soundings Club events, showing the dates approved for 1997 and the proposed dates for 1998. Those 1998 dates are scheduled for review and approval at the Board meeting on January 17, 1997. Looking ahead to 1999 on the Forecast Dates page, you'll note that the Annual Dinner is shown on the usual first Saturday in April, which is Easter Eve. At our Board meeting last April 6th, Vice Commodore Anderson noted the diminished attendance at our dinner and suggested that we avoid Easter Eve in the future. So, I think we should plan on having the Annual Dinner and Meeting on April 10, 1999, and firm that up at our January 17th meeting, as well. Then, arrangements can be made to lock up early the banquet hall reservation. An alternate date could be the week before Easter Eve, or March 27th. The first Saturday in April won't cause a problem again with Easter Eve until April 7, 2007.

4. We have been following the new Guest Invitation policy approved by the Board. I accepted "Early-Decision" Guest Invitation Applications up to April 4th (the Thursday prior to the Board meeting), in lieu of a mid-March date, and at that meeting distributed the proposed guest list to the Board for its review and approval. The Guest Invitation Cut-Off is now two weeks prior to the race entry closing (either Spring or Fall). The resulting additions to the guest list were then circulated to the Board, with objections to be raised by any Board member on the eighth day prior to the race entry closing. (None was raised.) Race entry packages were then mailed to those guests seven days before the race entry closing.

For our 1996 races, these are the Guest Invitation Application statistics:

Received prior to April 4*	6	Entered:	4 (Spring)	2 (Fall)
Received April 5 - May 9*	7	Entered:	5	4
Received May 10 - August 8*	5	Entered:		4

*Does not include Membership Committee invitees. Does not include the Service Academies.
Does not include the 12-Metre owners.

5. This year we continued with an Alternative Penalty scheme, where the penalty is 10 minutes added to the yacht's Corrected Time. Just one skipper elected to accept an Alternative Penalty, with these results:

Spring C-5 ANTICIPATION Fri: 8th to 17th Comb: 6th to 9th

6. Invitations to join our Race Series were sent to the 12-Metre Association list provided by Fred Van Liew. That list has eight names and represents nine 12-Metre yachts. The Spring Race Series, to Block Island, was not of much interest to them, as they race in that area frequently. However, the Fall Race Series in Gardiners Bay provides a welcome challenge. Be that as it may, the only 12-Metre entry received for the Fall Series was from FREEDOM (Van Liew). For while, we thought that FURY (Paul Campbell) would be entering, but crew problems forced him to decline. So, the 12-Metre Class had to be cancelled. Other 12-Metres apparently depend heavily on charter revenues and cannot set aside the time to race with us.

7. In 1994, we revised our Minimum Equipment and Accommodations Standards to be consistent with the ORC Regulations, and we enclosed a copy of those Regulations with the 1994 Spring Notice of Race. An effect of this was to move the cut-off length for requiring double lifelines in lieu of single lifelines from 35 ft LOA down to 28 ft LOA, on relatively short notice. Existing lifeline configurations were "grandfathered" for the 1994 Spring and Fall Race Series and the "grandfather" provision was extended for the 1995 Spring and Fall Race Series. At its meeting on January 19, 1996, the Board voted that, for 1996, all yachts be strongly urged but not required to conform to the ORC Regulations with respect to lifelines and pulpits. Concurrence is requested from the Board to continue this into 1997.

8. From time to time, I hear talk from those who would have the Off Soundings Club create a light-displacement class. I encourage those people to write a letter, and Reinhard Sarges (SALUD) has done so, see enclosed. His objective is to remove such boats as Evelyn 26, Evelyn 25.5, Canning 23 from his class (C-5) and put them in a class of their own. A problem is, where do you stop? Do you include J-27, J-80, Whelan 27, CM 2000, Mumm 30, Quest 30 -- how large a rating spread can be tolerated? What would such an idea do to the Perpetual Trophies? (We could call such a class C-3, which has no combined trophy.) Some years ago, we did embark on such a program, and perhaps Norm Rabe can recall for us how it worked. Help from another direction may be in the offing -- there is talk of a multi-tier, or at first a two-tier, PHRF rating system. This would involve the development of two PHRF ratings for each base boat -- one for normal conditions and the other for planing conditions. Once the two ratings have been selected, there's the matter of deciding on the change-over conditions, which, to be workable, would have to apply to the whole fleet, I imagine. When developed, the two-tier system may let us race normal and light displacement types more easily in the same class, but we're not there, yet. This is a good topic for discussion, or perhaps, an *ad hoc* study group.

Respectfully Submitted,



Richard H. Roberts

Race Secretary

Race Entry Statistics

October 26, 1996

Class	S 1990	S 1991	S 1992	S 1993	S 1994	S 1995	S 1996	X	F 1990	F 1991	F 1992	F 1993	F 1994	F 1995	F 1996
DESTINATION --->	BI	BI	BI	BI	BI	BI	BI		SI	SI	SI	SI	SI/PB	SI	SI
12-M														2	-
A-1	12	19	14	15	16	17	17		15	16	13	15	15	12	15
A-2	14	15	12	13	8	12	11		14	15	12	11	9	11	8
B	9	11	12	13	15	8	11		13	16	13	16	15	8	11
C-1	23	22	17	19	11	18	16		18	16	17	17	14	14	20
C-2	21	16	17	19	11	16	17		15	18	15	15	11	12	20
C-3	13	18	16	16	12	18	13		19	13	15	15	15	19	12
C-4	16	13	16	15	14	17	14		17	12	16	14	16	15	12
C-5	18	15	16	15	17	18	17		17	11	17	15	17	16	15
CR, CR-1	24	27	31	15	17	11	11		26	23	26	16	19	14	10
CR-2				13	15	11	16					15	13	15	15
Totals	150	156	151	153	136	146	143		154	140	144	149	144	138	138
Crew Count	882	903	891	915	791	869	855		846	805	833	869	818	844	820
Crew per Yacht	5.9	5.8	5.9	6.0	5.8	6.0	6.0		5.5	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.7	6.1	5.9
Income, yacht + crew	\$10,583	\$10,800	\$10,634	\$11,017	\$8,879	\$9,503	\$9,421		\$10,505	\$9,700	\$10,039	\$10,622	\$9,390	\$9,005	\$9,058
\$ per yacht	\$70.55	\$69.23	\$70.42	\$72.01	\$65.29	\$65.09	\$65.88		\$68.21	\$69.29	\$69.72	\$71.29	\$65.21	\$65.50	\$65.64
\$ Non-racers @ \$6			\$78	\$174	\$96	\$66	\$66				\$108	\$204	\$174	\$108	\$66
Fee, per yacht	\$35	\$35	\$35	\$35	\$30	\$30	\$30		\$35	\$35	\$35	\$35	\$30	\$30	\$30
Fee, per crew	\$6	\$6	\$6	\$6	\$6	\$6	\$6		\$6	\$6	\$6	\$6	\$6	\$6	\$6
Scratch, boats						3	6							5	5
Scratch, \$ refunded						\$138	0							\$162	0
Scratch, crew						23	39							27	26

Scratch data have not been subtracted from other statistics.

September 26, 1996

Richard H. Roberts
Race Secretary, Off Soundings Club
60 Dart Street
New London, CT 06320

Dear Dick:

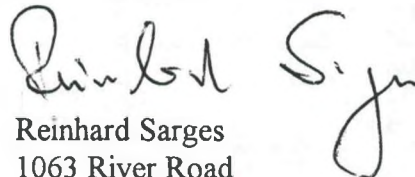
I would like to propose that the Off Soundings Club consider matching classes C-4 and C-5 by weight characteristics rather than by PHRF numbers as is now the case.

I am convinced that PHRF does not properly reflect the sailing characteristics of a heavy boat (like a Pearson 30 or a C&C 30) versus a light weight boat (such as an Evelyn 26, Evelyn 25.5, Canning 23 and a J-24). Under most sailing conditions a light weight boat will have an advantage over the heavy weight boat, assuming they are both properly manned and equipped.

One way to restore fair sailing and the opportunity for everyone to win would be a re-organization of the classes such that heavy boats sail against each other (perhaps in C-4) and that light weight boats battle each other in another class (perhaps C-5 or a newly created class). That is the way the Mystic River Mudheads organize their Wednesday night classes and accounts in part for the popularity of that series. Such a classification was also used successfully in the 1996 Commodore's Trophy race organized by Thames Yacht Club.

I would appreciate your giving this proposal your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Reinhard Sarges
1063 River Road
Mystic, CT 06355
Tel. 860-536-7234

October 26, 1996

DATES FOR OFF SOUNDINGS EVENTS

	<u>APPROVED</u> <u>1997</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u> <u>1998</u>
"Early-decision" Guest Invitation Cut-off	April 3 *	April 2 *
Annual Meeting and Shore Party	April 5	April 4
SPRING RACE SERIES		
First Notice	April 18	April 17
Late Guest Invitation Cut-off	May 8 **	May 7 **
Closing Date	May 22	May 21
Final Notice	June 6	June 5
Race Dates	June 13-14	June 12-13
Results of Spring Race Series	July 11	July 10
FALL RACE SERIES		
First Notice	July 11	July 10
Late Guest Invitation Cut-off	August 7 **	August 13 **
Closing Date	August 21	August 27
Final Notice	September 5	September 11
Race Dates	September 12-13	September 18-19
Final Results	October 10	October 16
BOARD MEETINGS		
January	January 17	January 16
April	April 5	April 4
October	October 25	October 17
REFERENCE DATES		
Easter	March 30	April 12
Bermuda Race (3rd? Fri in June)	June 20 (M/B)	June 19
Labor Day	September 1	September 7
Dyer Dhow Derby	October ___ ‡	October ___ ‡
US SAILING Meeting	October 15-19	October 21-25

NOTES

* Thursday prior to the Annual Meeting

** 14 days prior to the Closing Date

‡ Seaport is considering scheduling to avoid US SAILING meeting

Event	Year 1996	Year 1997	Year 1998	Year 1999	Year 2000	Year 2001	Year 2002	Year 2003	Year 2004	Year 2005
Status	APPROVED	APPROVED								
Early Guest Invitation Cut-off	April 4	April 3	April 2	April 1 8	April 6	April 5	April 4	April 3	April 1	Mar 31
Annual Meeting/Dinner	April 6 #	April 5	April 4	April 3 # 10	April 8	April 7	April 6	April 5	April 3	April 2
Easter	April 7	Mar 30	April 12	April 4	April 23	April 15	Mar 31	April 20	April 11	Mar 27
SPRING RACE SERIES										
First Notice	April 19	April 18	April 17	April 16 23	April 21	April 20	April 19	April 18	April 16	April 15
Late Guest Invitation Cut-off	May 9	May 8	May 7	May 6	May 4	May 3	May 9	May 8	May 6	May 5
Closing Date	May 23	May 22	May 21	May 20	May 18	May 17	May 23	May 22	May 20	May 19
Final Notice	June 7	June 6	June 5	June 4	June 2	June 1	June 7	June 6	June 4	June 3
Race Dates	June 14-15	June 13-14	June 12-13	June 11-12	June 9-10	June 8-9	June 14-15	June 13-14	June 11-12	June 10-11
Bermuda Race start	June 21	Jun 20 ??(M/B)	June 19 ??	June 18 ??(M/B)	June 16 ??	Jun 15 ??(M/B)	June 21 ??			
Spring Race Series Results	July 12	July 11	July 10	July 9	July 7	July 6	July 12	July 11	July 9	July 8
FALL RACE SERIES										
First Notice	July 12	July 11	July 10	July 9	July 7	July 6	July 12	July 11	July 9	July 8
Late Guest Invitation Cut-off	August 8	August 7	August 13	August 12	August 10	August 9	August 8	August 7	August 12	August 11
Closing Date	August 22	August 21	August 27	August 26	August 24	August 23	August 22	August 21	August 26	August 25
Final Notice	Sept 6	Sept 5	Sept 11	Sept 10	Sept 8	Sept 7	Sept 6	Sept 5	Sept 10	Sept 11
Race Dates	Sept 13-14	Sept 12-13	Sept 18-19	Sept 17-18	Sept 15-16	Sept 14-15	Sept 13-14	Sept 12-13	Sept 17-18	Sept 16-17
Labor Day	Sept 2	Sept 1	Sept 7	Sept 6	Sept 4	Sept 3	Sept 2	Sept 1	Sept 6	Sept 5
Final Results	Oct 11	Oct 10	Oct 16	Oct 15	Oct 13	Oct 12	Oct 11	Oct 10	Oct 15	Oct 14
BOARD MEETINGS										
January	Jan 19	Jan 17	Jan 16	Jan 22	Jan 21	Jan 19	Jan 18	Jan 17	Jan 16	Jan 21
April	Apr 6	Apr 5	Apr 4	Apr 3 10	Apr 8	Apr 7	Apr 6	Apr 5	Apr 3	Apr 2
October	Oct 26	Oct 25	Oct 31	Oct 23	Oct 28	Oct 27	Oct 26	Oct 25	Oct 29	Oct 28
US SAILING Annual Mtg	Oct 16-20	Oct 15-19	Oct 21-25	Oct 27-31	Oct 11-15	Oct 17-21	Oct 16-20			
Dyer Dhow Derby	Oct 26									

Easter Eve