



## OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

30 January 1992

### COMMODORE'S WINTER NEWSLETTER

When the very nice lady queried me regarding the rumor that Jack English had been the fleet navigator for those ancient ships recently discovered in Abydos, Egypt, thus explaining how an Off Soundings class racing in Block Island Sound wound up on the Nile River, I regretfully had to reply in the negative, saying that it only seemed that way since good things like Jack English, diamonds, and Off Soundings really are forever. She gave me a quizzical look, mentioned something about being akin to a caution, and melted into the downtown crowd. And on we go!

Your Board of Governors and Committee Chairmen have been busy with the following results:

1. We plan specifically to invite our non-racing members who would like to join the rendezvous by providing a space for them on the entry blank.
2. We have voted to hold the previously approved \$50 initiation fee in abeyance due to our improved financial position - thanks to Committee Chairmen efforts and the outstanding contribution of our members who volunteer themselves and their vessels - and because we want to encourage younger sailors to join up as members. Now is the time; the break may not last.
3. We are looking at the possibility of some form of alternate penalty so that an incident might not necessitate a withdrawal from the event.
4. We have unanimously approved a modification to Article II of the Constitution to have it read "among persons" vice "between men". This modification will be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting in April, and your Board feels that its approval can only be advantageous to and enhance our club.

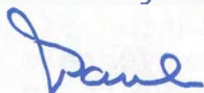
We had a few instances of rule stretches and breaks last year including hitting the mark. Please, please read the little red book and abide by it. It makes for better racing, and rule understanding and compliance is a large part of the Off Soundings heritage.

Also, with regard to boat modifications - especially those which are not measurable attributes and which may or may not affect performance - it is a must that they be reported to our Chief Measurer so that he may decide the impact if any. If we all undertake to determine this ourselves, it could undermine our rating system and would be contrary to our legacy of competing by fair sailing.

In addition, I have been reminded that on occasion our flag etiquette is a bit lax. Look to your Chapman or Eldridge, and you will find that a string of various burgees streaming from a spreader doesn't quite make it. And don't forget that our industrious (and illustrious) Secretary includes this year's and next year's calendar of events in your yearbook so that you may plan ahead. Heaven forbid that we ever get organized, but the major events schedule can be helpful.

That about sums it up. Winter well, mature with charm and good taste, and we look forward to visiting in April and to see our 1991 movies.

Have a good.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul C. van Dyke