



OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

TO: Members, Off Soundings Club
FROM: William Gunther, Commodore
DATE: December 8, 1996
RE: Race Venues

Your Board of Governors regularly examines all aspects of our Spring and Fall Series, and occasionally introduces improvements when justified. We have enjoyed several improvements recently. In particular the change to time-on-time scoring has introduced the ability of the Race Committee to adapt the race course to the prevailing conditions on any given day. From time to time the Board also reviews our race venues. At the October 1995 Board meeting the Long Range Race Planning Committee recommended to the Board that "we should try a different location at least once, if possible." The Board then established an ad hoc committee to investigate that recommendation and to "give a hard proposal to the Board for final action."

The Ad Hoc Venue Committee, comprised of members Grant Brandon, Carl Fast, Wes Maxwell, Richard Roberts, and with Peter McFadden as Chairman, accepted the aggressive charge from the Board. The committee adopted as a guide what it believes our members desire in our race series:

1. The course the first day takes us to a suitable destination; we go somewhere.
2. The course the second day provides good racing.

The factors considered when examining alternative sites were first of all the potential for good racing both days, the suitability of party facilities both nights, and the availability of rooms because many crews and the Race Committee sleep ashore. Also, transportation should be available because crews and guests come and go. With the above in mind the committee considered at length Montauk, Three Mile Harbor, Sag Harbor, Dutch Harbor, Jamestown, and Newport, and to a lesser extent the Connecticut River (Essex) and Westbrook.

After due consideration the Committee decided that Newport was the best alternative. It is a destination with excellent possibilities for courses the second day (up or down the bay depending on weather, or around the island), there are very good party possibilities in the Fort Adams area, rooms should be no problem, and transportation is easily handled. While there could be a legitimate concern about the course for the first day, time-on-time scoring provides the flexibility to adapt the course to the prevailing conditions. For example, we do not need to start off Watch Hill, but could start further East if the conditions so dictate.

Based on the above, the Ad Hoc Venue Committee recommended that the Board of Governors select Newport, R.I. as an alternate location for a one-time change, preferably for a Fall Series, replacing Shelter Island. However, before the Board acts on this recommendation it is important to learn the views of our membership. The last thing the Board wants to do is to make an unacceptable change, so I ask you to provide your views on an alternate venue using the enclosed questionnaire. You may be assured that the opinions of the membership will guide the Board's actions.

Please feel free to provide comments on the back side of the questionnaire if you wish, and return the questionnaire to Peter McFadden in the enclosed envelope by January 1, 1997.

Enclosure

Bill Gunther