



OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

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WINTER NEWSLETTER

February 20, 1990

Warm greetings on a cold New England morning! This letter has traditionally been a report on the "State of our Club", and I would like to continue that tradition.

Membership - The membership continues strong with 566 members, including two honorary members, and representing some 23 states and 4 foreign countries. Membership has been stable over the past few years, but as Membership Chairman Frank Bohlen puts it, "We're like the Marine Corps, we could always use a few good...". We should look to all those who have been crewing in our events for years. Remember, boat ownership is not a requirement, but the applicant must have sailed in at least two of our spring or fall races. For skippers you want to propose, remember the cutoff date for guest invitations is March 20th, so get their names in to Andy Anderson, Race Secretary, ASAP. The Board recently voted to institute an initiation fee of \$50 effective January, 1991, so do your friends a favor and get their applications in now.

Finances - This is a subject with which your Board has been suffering for some time. We have continued to see a declining number of race entries which has impacted our revenues and has increased the offsetting contribution that has had to come from our general treasury. For example, our average expense per boat entered in 1981 (201 boats!) was \$19. In 1989 with 148 boats entered, our expense averaged \$45! While basic costs have gone up dramatically, we have also had a decided increase in land use and launch charges. We want events located conveniently for both our Rhode Island and western Long Island members and will continue to work toward obtaining appropriate locations. The important thing about our races is that our time-tested format is the key to the enjoyment of these weekends, and that should be preserved. In comparing our entry fees with those of ECYRU events, our 1990 boat fee of \$35 (with no increase in crew fees) still represents a great value for a memorable weekend.

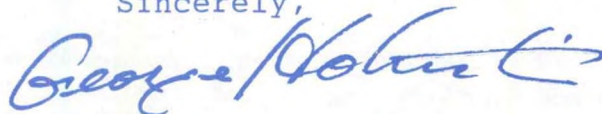
Dues - This is the other part of our treasury with which the Board has to struggle. For the past three years our expenses have exceeded income on an average of \$3,000 a year.

To stem this negative tide, the Board voted unanimously to increase dues by \$5.00 a year, making annual dues \$45.00. Since dues have risen only modestly over the past ten years, we felt this was not an unreasonable request as it will provide the means to continue the ingredients that make an Off Soundings so special. The Board also approved a special dues option of 65/25. This means that for those members who are both over 65 and have been members for 25 years, dues will remain at \$35. This was in recognition that nearly 50% of our members are at or near 60, are not actively racing, but that their membership is critically important to our club.

Special Thanks - The fun part of this year in office has been seeing so many members come forth to help. Our overworked Race Committee who travel and serve without compensation does a perfect job under sometimes impossible conditions. It's having the professional advice of CPS's, attorneys, and naval architects; doctors who volunteer to withdraw to assist in emergencies; racers who standby to aid a non-racing ultralight overturned in the middle of the fleet; an early finisher who realized that the committee boat was delayed and transmitted finishes to the committee; members who pitch in to help the Entertainment Committee; everyone who picks up after our parties; those who volunteer their power boats--especially those who've had to give up OSC membership because of our power boat rule. It's committee chairmen, officers, and Board members who do much more than asked; members who realize that Mystic Seaport is our home and who annually support it through membership and volunteer service; and it's that motley but musical crew who turn out annually for our shore party--they can't play anything not written in the key of "C", but add so much to our evening.

With that last thought, I end this missive. Please mark your calendars for April 7th. This year's shore party at the Norwich Sheraton promises to be a great evening. See you there!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George Hohenstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent loop at the end.

George Hohenstein
Commodore

OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB



OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY
67 Stanton Lane
Mystic, CT 06355

(203) 536-7550

ANNUAL MEETING

&

SHORE PARTY

APRIL 7, 1990

Our Annual Meeting and Spring Dinner will be held at the Sheraton Norwich in Norwich, Connecticut on Saturday, April 7, 1990.

The Annual Meeting for members will be held in the Leffingwell Room at 1800.

1. For election of Officers and Board of Governors for the coming year
2. To transact any business that may properly come before the meeting.

Cocktails will be served in the Constitution Ballroom at 1800 on a buy-your-own basis. "Rock of Ages" will provide music during cocktails.

A fine dinner with all the trimmings will be served promptly at 1930 in the Constitution Ballroom. Members, wives and guests are cordially invited to cocktails, dinner or both. If you plan to sit with a group, come early and stake out a table.

This year we are offering a choice of entrees: Prime Rib at \$24.50 per plate or Breast of Capon at \$17.00 per plate (including tax and gratuities). These prices are for advance payment. We will charge \$26.00 and \$19.00, respectively, if paid at the door, so send your reservations early.

The after dinner program, starting at 2030, will include the awarding of perpetual trophies and the showing of an excellent video featuring highlights of our 1989 season. The Mystic Seaport is generously providing the screen and projector to show these films. All members and guests are cordially invited to this program whether or not they have dinner tickets.

If you are to receive a trophy, please be present for the award or have a designated person accept it for you. This helps our Awards Chairman and assures the safe transport of our valuable trophies.

(over)

To be assured of seating for you, your crew and your guests, send your check soon (made payable to the Off Soundings Club) and indicate how many tickets you desire for each entree. Mail to:

Off Soundings Club
% William L. Ames
9 Gravel Street
Mystic, CT, 06355

He will mail your dinner tickets to you up until March 31. Any reservations received thereafter will be held for pick-up at the door. As long as there is room, tickets may also be purchased at the door. This is always a crowded and confused purchasing area. We heartily recommend that you shop by mail early.

Each dinner ticket will indicate to your server which entree is to be served, so please don't leave your tickets home.

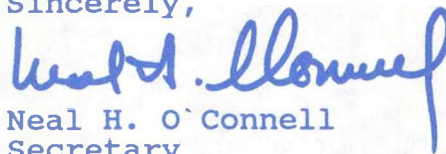
Our Treasurer, Les Bowman, will have his usual selection of ties, burgess, patches and pins for sale at the door. He also will have a few 50th Anniversary Plaques for sale.

The Sheraton Norwich is at Exit 80w on the Connecticut Turnpike, about 13 miles north of New London. The Connecticut Turnpike is now Interstate 395; formerly it was Connecticut 52.

The Sheraton Norwich is a hotel and will provide rooms for Off Soundings Club members or guests at discounted prices of \$60.00 for double and \$55.00 for single accommodations. Make room reservations directly with the hotel, mentioning Off Soundings, at 889-5201.

Your Board of Governors hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us for another fine Off Soundings Annual Meeting and Shore Party.

Sincerely,



Neal H. O'Connell
Secretary