

OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB



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February 7, 1999

WINTER NEWS LETTER

Dear Member,

As the days get noticeably longer and the next sailing season approaches, it is time to let you all know what has been going on with your Club since we last met at Shelter Island in September.

I regret to report the deaths of two Past Commodores and members of long standing. E. Carlton Granbery, Jr. (1983-84) passed away in September and Paul C. van Dyke (1991-92) in December. We shall miss their many contributions, comradery and fellowship.

This year's Annual Dinner at the Coast Guard Academy's Officers Club is planned for April 17, 1999. This date is a bit later than usual and the thought was that some members might wish to combine a Spring Commissioning weekend in the same area with a good meal and entertainment on Saturday evening. Please give it some thought.

The Spring Series of "98" produced some heavy weather but no video Footage. Consider this a special plea for any home video footage taken by our racers to supplement what we have for the Fall Series. Send it to William Ames, 151 River road, Mystic, CT 06355 before mid February. Your original tape will be returned to you with appreciation.

Comments by members are always welcome by the Officers, Board and Committee Chairmen. They are the basis for efforts to retain what we have that is good and improve what is not. In line with this, the Race Secretary, Deputy Race Secretary and Race Committee Chairman have reviewed this past years Sailing Instructions with the goal of reducing complexity and gaining brevity. A significant improvement on both counts was achieved. Also, we have received comments relative to the difficulty in assimilating courses used lately. These comments were taken on by the same group plus the Long Range Planning Committee. The result is that this year our racers will enjoy a compromise with a few pre-established courses plus the ability to tailor make a course using the COURSE BOARDS to suit specific/unusual conditions, all signaled by numeral pennants.

With the simplification of the Sailing Instructions there are a few

changes that I have been asked to mention lest they slip by without notice.

- 1) The instructions on general recalls has been changed to be consistent with the established racing rules. We will no longer have a special rule for Off Soundings.
- 2) Several requirements pertaining to Cruising Class qualifications have been stated in both the First Notice and the Sailing Instructions. Now they will be stated in the First Notice only with a brief reference in the Sailing Instructions.
- 3) A number of provisions will only reference the applicable "Rule" rather than stating the rule as has long been the case.

There has been some confusion about the Club's race fee refund policy. For clarification the policy is as follows:

- 1) Notification that the boat will not participate which is made to the Race Secretary at least 2 weeks prior to Friday's race will result in refund of the entire entry fee.
- 2) Notification after 2 weeks prior to Friday's race that the boat will not participate which is made to the Race Secretary on or before the Thursday the day before Friday's race will result in refund of only the crew (party) portion of the entry fee.

Your Officers and Board are dedicated to at sea safety. However we are reluctant to dictate to our members in areas that many believe to be an individual decision. The recent ORC Special Regulations fall into this category. We will not adopt this USSA regulation for PFD's into our Off Soundings Club Minimum Equipment and Accommodations Standard. Yet there are many factors favoring such a rule. For instance, lighter and more responsive hull designs increase the probability of someone being pitched overboard. Thus we will strongly recommend that participants comply with the ORC provisions for PFD's.

For a number of years your Board has been concerned with the decline in race entrants in Classes A-1, A-2 and B. These are the boats of conventional design upon which Off Soundings started many years ago. It finally became clear that we could not maintain 3 classes. Thus, this year, there will be a single Class A plus a Class B. The Stan Bradford Trophy will continue to be awarded annually as the perpetual trophy for Class A. The Samuel Pepys Trophy will continue to be awarded in Class B. The G. W. Blunt White Trophy will now be awarded for the best combined results for 2 successive years in Classes A and B. The break between Classes A & B will be a PHRF rating of between 162 and 177.

For the past several years we have encouraged informal mid-winter luncheons for a number of reasons. In fact, this activity harks back to the original founding of Off Soundings. At that time, your Club was essentially a group of sailors who met frequently in Springfield, Massachusetts for lunch. The racing facet came later. The current thrust of our mid-winter luncheons is to get together at a time of the year when we want to interface with our sailing friends, introduce potential new

members and discuss the direction of the Club. It is a good time to communicate your thoughts with afterguard members present. The Hartford area lunch in December was hosted by Jim Slimmon. Tentatively the Connecticut River to Rhode Island area is working toward a February 18th date in Noank organized by John Brooks. The Connecticut River and South contingent, spearheaded by Brin Ford is contemplating a February 24th date in Branford. Appropriate supplemental information will be forthcoming.

We are continuing with the Class Representative concept. The following is an updated, re-committed listing. Please pass your class concerns on to them.

Happy New Year,



Andy Anderson
Commodore

PS: Please reserve the date of April 17th for the Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner at the USCGA Officers Club. Details will be mailed in March.

OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB
CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>REPRESENTATIVE</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE NO.</u>
A	James Slimmon, Jr.	31 Saddle Ridge, Bloomfield, CT 06002	860 726-1048
B	Edward Purcell, Jr.	4 Frazier Street, Mystic, CT 06355	860 536-6732
C-1	Dana Seniff	81 Purtil Street, S, Glastonbury, CT 06073	860 633-7447
C-2	William Healy, MD	1000 Asylum Ave., Hartford, CT 06105	860 522-3711
C-3	Carl Fast	33 High Street, Noank, CT 06340	860 572-9887
C-4	David Walker	103 Buckingham Drive, Glastonbury, CT 06033	860 657-4861
C-5	Neal S. O'Connell	81 E. Pattagassett Rd, #32, Niantic, CT 06357	860 739-2951
CR-1	Bruce Lockwood	PO Box 3330, 22 Island Circle North Groton Long Point, CT 06340	860 536-3906
CR-2	Robert Edmands	419 Colonial Rd., Guilford, CT 06437	203 488-7221