



OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

15 April 1977

40th ANNUAL SPRING RACE SERIES

OFFICE OF
RACE SECRETARY
THOMAS M. RUSSELL, III
RIVERBEND ROAD
BOX 254 A
MYSTIC, CONN. 06355

1977

June 10th & 11th

FIRST NOTICE

Enclosed are the following:

1. Entry Blank
2. Off Soundings Club Measurement Certificate, 1976 Rule
3. Roster of Off Soundings Club Measurers
4. ORC Minimum Equipment & Accomodations Standards - Category 4
5. General Information and Reservations Sheet
6. Membership Chairman's Posting of Membership Candidates *
* (Members Only)

PLEASE TAKE SPECIAL NOTICE OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. During the winter, significant changes have been made in the procedures governing our races. Please read this notice and the Final Notice thoroughly.
2. This spring, the fleet will race to Gardiner's Bay on Friday, June 10 and race on selected courses in the bay on Saturday, June 11. Both evening rendezvous will be at the Shelter Island Yacht Club in Dering Harbor. The courses to be sailed will be published in the Final Notice with first day courses similar to those in the past but with second day courses quite new and different.

The logistic particulars for this series are outlined on the enclosed General Information and Reservations Sheet. Information on docking, mooring, shore facilities, meals, lodging, transportation, medical facilities, etc. are included therein and you are requested to make whatever reservations you wish direct and early.

3. The 1977 Yacht Racing Rules of the International Yacht Racing Union as adopted by the United States Yacht Racing Union will be in effect for this series and henceforth until the next contemplated changes in 1981. U.S.Y.R.U. members should be receiving their rule books shortly. Some rule changes affecting our Race Committee procedures are:
 - a. Shapes, flags or other visuals signals will now be lowered one minute before the next signal (audible, visual or both) instead of the 30 second interval previously used.
 - b. Code Flags X-Ray and Yankee now have specific meanings under the Racing Rules and, therefore, can no longer be used as class flags. Accordingly, Class C-2 is assigned code flag India and Class C-4 is assigned code flag Zulu.

4. The regulations for racing in the Cruising Canvas Class are published further under Yacht Eligibility. However, this class will be the first to race under a handicap class rating system similar to that used in the Performance Handicap Racing Fleet. The results of this system will be evaluated for possible wider use in the Off Soundings Fleet.

ENTRY PROCEDURE

Off Soundings Club races are open to those members and guest yachts which qualify in all respects to the provisions outlined in this FIRST NOTICE!

1. Complete the enclosed Entry Blank and send by First Class Mail, postmarked on or before May 19th, to Thomas S. Wadlow, Jr., 17 Bank Street, Mystic, Connecticut 06355. Your entry will be acknowledged by return postcard.
2. In order to accurately determine perpetual trophy winners and equitably assign handicap penalties, it will be necessary to confirm the ownership or charter arrangement of all entered yachts for each race series. Please list the names of all owners or charterers, whether or not also listed as master(s), in the space provided on the Entry Blank.
3. Please be reminded that our rules require that at least one of the persons in whose name the yacht is entered, i.e., master(s) must be on board for both races and must be in command of the yacht.

For reasons of space, please don't list more than two names as master! If yours is a syndicate boat and you wish to list the syndicate name, indicate the skipper's name only.

4. Have a valid measurement certificate. A valid measurement certificate is one that is less than three years old, i.e., with an original date of June 11, 1974 or later. The 1975 and 1976 Rule Revisions do not constitute remeasurement, which must be done every three (3) years. Please read and complete the Entry Blank carefully. If the yacht does not have a valid measurement certificate, it must be measured by one of the measurers shown on the enclosed list of OSC measurers, your yacht club measurer, or a yachting association measurer. The certificate should be completed in triplicate, with one copy being sent to Richard H. Roberts, Off Soundings Club Chief Measurer, 60 Dart Street, New London, Connecticut 06320, postmarked not later than May 19, 1977. Your measurer should keep one copy. The third copy is for your files.

The closing date of May 19, 1977 for entries and measurement certificates is the latest possible date and will be rigidly adhered to. Absolutely no exceptions will be made.

The U.S. Postal Service has been known to lose entries and non-receipt of entries due to postal problems will not be an exception to the closing date. If you have not received an acknowledgement card from the Race Secretary prior to the deadline, please call to inquire! In addition, sending entries by certified mail can help.

Also, don't hold up your entry waiting for measurements, etc. Get the entry in and expedite the measurement separately. However, please note that measurements are also subject to the closing date.

An additional note of caution: Since postmarks govern on entry deadlines, be advised that the U.S. Postal Service often picks up outlying offices or drop boxes mail and transfers it to a main station for cancellation. This can cause a delay in postmarking that could invalidate your last minute entry. If you are close to the deadline, ask your post office to handcancel your entry envelope immediately to insure proper postmarking.

FALL ENTRIES

The incidence of late, misplaced or forgotten entries for the Fall Race Series is always substantially higher than for the Spring Series. To minimize this problem, if you plan to be away during the entry period, please write your Race Secretary in advance and request a Fall Entry Blank and return it immediately.

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| First Notice (including Spring Results) | <u>July 15, 1977</u> |
| Closing Date | <u>August 25, 1977</u> |
| Race Dates | <u>September 16 & 17, 1977</u> |

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ENTRANTS

Your contribution of \$6.00 per person on board is vital to the continued success of our Off Soundings Races. Please make your check payable to the Off Soundings Club and enclose it with your Entry Blank.

GUEST VESSEL INVITATION

To prevent our Off Soundings Classes from getting dangerously large, the closing date for guest invitations was set at March 25, 1977 for both the Spring and Fall Series. No more guests may be invited for 1977 racing.

Only two invitations will be issued to any acceptable non-member to participate in our racing events, each invitation being sufficient for any two consecutive race series, such as Spring '77 and Fall '77 or Fall '77 and Spring '78.

YACHT ELIGIBILITY

1. The minimum rating for any yacht sailing in the OSC Annual Race Series is 17 feet. Yachts whose ratings calculate lower than this 17 foot minimum shall race using this 17 foot rating.
2. The minimum L.O.A. of yachts which may race in the OSC Annual Race Series is 23.75 feet. Yachts smaller than this L.O.A. will not be permitted to race, nor will yachts in excess of 62 feet L.O.A.

3. Excepted from this ruling are yachts owned by members which fall outside the limits of 2. above, but which have raced in a series prior to this date. These yachts will be permitted to race using ratings shown on the yacht's valid rating certificate, so long as there is no change in yacht ownership.
4. To qualify to race in Off Soundings Club Races, your yacht must meet all Offshore Rating Council (ORC) Category 4 requirements (as adapted by OSC) including lifelines and pulpits. Since it is ultimately your responsibility to meet these requirements, a copy of the ORC Minimum Equipment and Accomodation Standards is enclosed.

You will note that the entry blank requires you to sign a certification that your yacht meets the Category 4 requirements in all respects. As a Corinthian yachtsman, your certifying signature is the verification needed to assure that all entrants have complied and are racing fairly.

5. Board of Governors action has defined Cruising Canvas Class requirements as follows:
 - a. Only Off Soundings Club members may enter. You must mark the appropriate box on the entry form to enter.
 - b. Spinnakers (including mizzen spinnakers) may not be used.
 - c. Spinnaker poles may be used as whisker poles.
 - d. Only one sail at a time other than fore-staysails on standard double-head rigs may be tacked forward of the mainmast (foremast on schooners). This does not prohibit a transient condition (i.e., during a sail change evolution).
 - e. Use of other sails, such as mules, mizzen staysails, is permitted.
 - f. Your normal rating will be used in calculating your performance handicap.
 - g. Yachts must meet all Off Soundings eligibility requirements.
6. United States Yacht Racing Union requirements regarding sail numbers are mandatory for Off Soundings participation. Class insignia, however, may continued to be displayed.
7. You must fly a class flag at all times during the race. This flag shall be no smaller than size "O", i.e., 12" x 15". It should be flown vertically as far forward as possible on the pulpit. This is of great assistance to all participants while racing, and aids the Race Committee as it finishes over 200 yachts.

The following International Code Flags will be used as class flags:

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|-----------------|---------|
| A-1 | Alpha |
| A-2 | Echo |
| B-1 | Juliet |
| B-2 | Kilo |
| C-1 | Papa |
| C-2 | India |
| C-3 | Foxtrot |
| C-4 | Zulu |
| Cruising Canvas | Charlie |

Those owners unsure of their yacht's class may call my office (203-446-5792) after May 26th (time will be short - don't write).

RADIO NOTICE

Race Committee communications will be carried on VHF-FM Channel 9.

ORC MINIMUM EQUIPMENT AND ACCOMODATION STANDARDS

Several instances of inadequate equipment and accomodations were noted in past series. Please take the time to read the ORC Category 4 requirements enclosed with this notice and to make the effort to bring your yacht into conformance.

OTHER RACING INFORMATION

Handicap penalties for winners are 15% for first place, 10% for second place, and 5% for third place, with a maximum penalty of 45%.

Handicap penalties may be worked off in three race series. To work off a penalty, you must start both races in each series and either be identified as a finisher or submit a written withdrawal as soon as possible to the Race Secretary. Handicap penalties will be removed after five race series, sailed or not.

CLUB TIES AND PATCHES

Club members may obtain our club tie for \$8.00 and club blazer patch for \$3.00 from your Treasurer, Walter D. Strang, Jr., 85 Tyler Avenue, Groton, Connecticut 06340. A handsome hand-stitched tie may still be ordered from Mrs. Howard Smith, Mason's Island, Mystic, Connecticut 06355 for \$6.50.

Good sailing, and we shall look forward to seeing you at Shelter Island.

Cordially,

Thomas S. Wadlow Jr.

Thomas S. Wadlow, Jr.
Race Secretary
Off Soundings Club