



OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

DONALD P. ROBINSON, Commodore
Mystic Seaport
Mystic, CT 06355

Office: (203) 536-2631
Home: (203)536-2139

July 15, 1977

Dear Members,

The club has sound reason to be proud of those sailors who participated in the Spring Series.

Certainly those who finished have reason for satisfaction, however, I am equally proud of those who, upon poking their nose through the hatch early in the morning, decided for their own reasons not to sail - good seamanship also.

For those who started and had failures - I'm sure their vessels are the better for it now. For those of us who did not have failures - Friday may be a good reminder to take nothing for granted aloft or below including Safety Equipment in the season ahead.

We can be proud of one vessel who stood by a disabled vessel. We all should be embarrassed that many people sailed on by disabled vessels - no offers to stand by or give assistance if needed - too often we see this on our highways - aren't sailors different? Let us not "leave it to the Coast Guard;" we are there.

Your race committee is prepared to award time to those who do stand by or give assistance. Document your request and submit it to the committee.

Please review the results; your race committee had a tough go and is still open for corrections if adequately substantiated.

Finally, only one letter of withdrawal has been received. Please remember, that to work off your penalty you must submit a withdrawal in writing as soon as practical after the race.

We all extend our warmest thanks to those at Shelter Island Yacht Club who did a superb job under trying conditions.

Have yourself a fine Summer racing and cruising and we'll all gather at Block Island in the Fall.

Cordially,

Don Robinson



OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

15 July 1977

40th Annual Fall Race Series

THOMAS S. WADLOW, JR., Race Sec'y
17 Bank Street
Mystic, CT 06355

1977

September 16th & 17th

First Notice

Enclosed are the following:

1. Commodore's Letter
2. Results of Spring Series
3. Entry Blank

PLEASE TAKE SPECIAL NOTICE OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. This Fall the fleet will race to Block Island on Friday, September 16 and race on selected courses in the Block Island area on Saturday, September 17. Both evening rendezvous will be at "The Oar" adjacent to the Block Island Marina. You should make your own reservations for slips, etc., early and directly.
2. 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 August 25th, 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 September 17, 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 following; an Off Soundings Club approved measurer, 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 August 25, 1977. Your measurer should keep one copy. The third copy is for your files.

The closing date of August 25, 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 cancelation. 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.

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.

Excepted from this ruling are yachts owned by members which fall outside these limits, 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.

3. 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.

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.

4. 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.
5. United States Yacht Racing Union requirements regarding sail numbers are mandatory for Off Soundings participation. Class insignia, however, may continued to be displayed.

6. 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:

A-1	Alpha
A-2	Echo
B-1	Juliet
B-2	Kilo
C-1	Papa
C-2	Quebec
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 Aug. 30 (time will be short - don't write).

RADIO NOTICE

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

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 Block Island.

Cordially,

Thomas S. Wadlow, Jr.

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