

Off Soundings finishes quietly

By **LARRY WHITE**
Special to The Day

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More than 150 boats in 10 classes lined up to start Fall Off Soundings at New London Ledge Friday. Only six of the classes completed a race within the time limit, despite the shortening of the course by the Race Committee.

Robert Read's Nepenthe topped A-1 Friday and overall, even with a fifth Saturday to Seville Simonds' first in Rogue. While A-2, B, C-5, and CR2 had no finishers Friday, Bob Almeida's Piper Too won A-2, Reinhard Sarges' Salud took C-5 and Jeff Going's Celebration topped CR2 in Saturday's racing in Gardiner's Bay — in brisker breezes.

The fleet remained overnight in Dering Harbor and held the traditional Off Soundings rendezvous at Shelter Island Yacht Club.

Saturday's racing in Gardiner's Bay made it a series for the remaining classes, with James Brown's Eala winning B, the Wasley's Solution taking the 20-boat C-1 fleet with two bullets and Bill Healy's Sir Prize in first Friday and ninth Saturday winning C-2.

Don Wilkinson's Dirty Harry also with two bullets won C-3, Bill Baxter's Pirate in one-two to take C-4, a one-three for Bruce Lockwood's Arrow won C-1. ECSA Commodore Paul Connor's Hawk was third in C-3.

The top finishers will have to eat a performance penalty in subsequent races, a great equalizer, but sometimes a deterrent to racing, since some winners elect to take a bye until the clock runs out on the additional handicap. Racing was scored under the time-on-time system.

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Off Soundings final standings

From C3

The results:

■ Class A-1 — 1. Robert Read; 2. David C. Noyes; 3. Peter C. Ross.

■ Class A-2 — 1. Bob Almeida; 2. Dusty Staub; 3. John Read.

■ Class B — 1. James Brown; 2. Aborn Smith; 3. Russell W. Brown.

■ Class C-1 — 1. Alan and A.J. Wasley.

2. Peter Brinckerhoff; 3. Philip Garland.

■ Class C-2 — 1. Bill Healy; 2. Jack Wills; 3. William Gunther.

■ Class C-3 — 1. Don Wilkinson.

2. Joel Green; 3. Paul and Carol Connor.

■ Class C-4 — 1. Bill Baxter; 2. Neal O'Connell; 3. Wes Maxwell.

■ Class C-5 — 1. Reinhard Sarges; 2. Milan Bartek and Bill Cannon; 3. Bijan Rasadi.

■ Class CR-1 — 1. Bruce Lockwood; 2. A.P. Halsey; 3. Bill Fortmann.

■ Class CR-2 — 1. Jeff Going.

2. Allen Ames.

3. Charles Snow.

Second-day wind saves Off Soundings race

By John Brooks

The Fall Off Soundings Regatta last weekend started off in New London in frustratingly light air on Friday, which continued throughout the day as the 150 boat fleet struggled with the tide to get through The Race and make progress to the finish line in Gardiners Bay.

Many boats withdrew in order to make it to Dering Harbor before dark. Fortunately, Saturday followed with near perfect sailing breezes on Gardiners Bay for the second day of the series.

The Off Soundings rules specify that if any yacht in a class finishes by 1700 (5 p.m.), the class will be scored as "having a race" for the day, and other yachts in the class will be scored if they complete the course.

Consequently, most of the boats still racing at 5 p.m. tuned in to the radio to hear which classes had finishers. Many had not waited to find out, figuring that there was not enough wind to finish by midnight, even if their class did have a race.

I was racing on Tattler, an Ohlson 38 owned by Frank and

Elizabeth Bohlen of Mystic, and I was surprised to hear that Class A-1 (ours) did have a race! Nepenthe, a well-sailed Pearson 39 yawl, apparently had found enough breeze to make it to the finish in time. While some of us were initially disappointed that we would not be making all deliberate speed toward the harbor (under power), we soon found ourselves sailing at 5 knots in a delightful breeze.

Several other A-1 boats (including Ohlson 38 rival Tynaje, owned by Peter Ross) were just ahead, but all of us were "hanging in" for a legitimate finish to remain in contention for the weekend series. The breeze held into a near perfect late summer evening, and we finally finished - at 7:45 p.m.! Our 9:30 p.m. arrival at Shelter Island Yacht Club was almost 14 hours after our departure from the dock at Noank!

With Saturday's race, we had to put some extra time on some of the boats that had beaten us the day before if we were to have any chance at a place for the series. We sailed a good race tactically, which made up for a few crew errors, and put us across the finish

line ahead of the other two Ohlson 38s in the race. While we didn't beat those two in the series, we did salvage a 4th, which in Off Soundings races means that you take home a trophy with no added penalty to your handicap for the next race series.

Final results for the two day series: **Class A-1:** 1st, *Nepenthe* (Pearson 39 yawl), Bob Read; 2nd, *Elixer* (Ohlson 38 Y), David Noyes; 3rd, *Tynaje* (Ohlson 38), Peter Ross; **Class A-2:** 1st, *Piper Too* (Tartan 34), Bob Almeida; 2nd, *Bow Wow* (Tartan 34), Dusty Staub; 3rd, *Legacy* (Galaxy 32), John Read;

Class B: 1st, *Eala* (Morgan 24), James Brown; 2nd, *Salty* (Tartan 27), Aborn Smith; 3rd, *Windrider II* (BI 25), Russ Brown;

Class C-1: 1st, *Solution* (Farr 40), A. Wasley; 2nd, *Hooligan* (Evelyn 42), Peter Brinckerhoff; 3rd, *Samba* (Quest 30), Phil Garland; **Class C-2:** 1st *Sirprize* (Sirena 38), Bill Healy; 2nd, *Jet Stream* (C&C 40) Jack Wills; 3rd, *Eddystone Light* (C&C 40), USCGA; **Class C-3:** 1st, *Dirty Harry* (J-29), Don Wilkinson; 2nd, *Caliente* (Evelyn 32), Joel Green; 3rd, *Hawk* (J-29), Paul/Carol Connor; **Class C-4:**

1st, *Pirate* (Abott 33) Bill Baxter; 2nd, *Checkered Demon* (Holland 1/2 ton), Neal O'Connell; 3rd, *Fifi* (Evelyn 25), Wes Maxwell; **Class C-5:** 1st, *Salud* (Pearson 30), Reinhard Sarges; 2nd, *Chasing Rainbows* (Pearson 30) Milan Bartek/Bill Cannon; 3rd, *Anticipation* (C&C 30) Bijan Risadi;

Class CR-1: 1st, *Arrow* (J-36), Bruce Lockwood; 2nd, *Patriot* (Baltic 39), Tony Halsey; 3rd, *Snow Goose* (F&C 44), Bill Fortmann; **Class CR-2:** 1st, *Celebration* (Morgan 24), Jeff Going; 2nd, *Sesame* (Nonsuch 30), Allen Ames; 3rd, *Tern About* (Pearson 30), Charlie Snow.

This weekend is the Hospitality Regatta, along with Saturday Vixen Ledge weekend race at Shennecossett Yacht Club.

John Brooks a Mystic resident and an active sailor, works at Coast Guard Academy waterfront.

BOATING

WHARF RAT

Season falls off, but sailors still race

By John Brooks

This weekend is a big one for local racing sailors — Fall Off Soundings. More than 150 cruising boats are entered for the two-day race series that starts Friday morning off New London Harbor. Friday's race is to Shelter Island, with a rendezvous at Shelter Island Yacht Club on Friday evening. Saturday's race will be held around the buoys in Gardiners Bay, with another rendezvous at SIYC in Dering Harbor Saturday night.

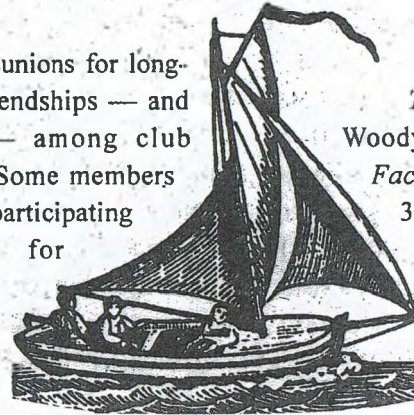
Traditionally, the Off Soundings series provide some of the best sailing competition locally. There are no larger

regattas in the area for cruising boats; consequently bragging rights for boat and crew performance mean nothing unless they include a strong showing — placing first through fourth in class — at Off Soundings.

The Off Soundings Club is a "paper" yacht club, with no clubhouse or facilities, and has a strong affiliation with Mystic. The archives of the club are maintained at Mystic Seaport Museum, and Fishers Island Sound area sailors are well represented in the membership. Current Commodore Andy Anderson and Vice Commodore Frank Bohlen both hail from Ram Island Yacht Club. Off Soundings spring and fall ra

series are reunions for long-standing friendships — and rivalries — among club members. Some members have been participating regularly for more than 40 years.

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