



## OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

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### WINTER NEWS LETTER

Greetings to one and all! This has been a good year for Off Soundings, so far, and we look forward to a good future. There have been a couple of unusual events to liven things up. One was the cancellation of the second day's race in the Fall Series in deference to Hurricane Diana. I am told by Past Commodore Prescott Huntington that this happened once before in 1940, also in the face of 50 knot winds. Our Race Committee under the able chairmanship of Paul vanDyke has been commended for their good judgment in making this decision, the reasons for which are a matter of record: 1. the weather, 2. the risk of personnel injury and difficulty of effecting transfer of the injured, 3. the risk of unnecessary damage, 4. the fact that some boats literally could not get away from the dock, 5. the unfair distortion of results both for the series and for the perpetuals, 6. the fact that thirty or more yachts had withdrawn. So we instead made a great day of it by having our shore party at noon. Some participants were of the opinion that we should do this on all our cruises and forego the racing! And some of our fleet were able to head home early with the wind in the right direction to have a fast reach all the way.

Another notable event was the Dyer Dhow Derby, on October 20th, won by none other than your own Off Soundings Club for the first time in history. We did give the old dinghy a new sail and together with the splendid performance of our capable team captained by Frank Bohlen, we were able to best all contenders, finishing with low score of 11 points followed closely by Essex at 20 points, with 23 clubs racing. The penalty for winning is to have to host the event the following year. Your Race Committee Chairman (one and the same Paul vanDyke) having ably handled this event on behalf of Ram Island has graciously agreed to again take charge, but on behalf of Off Soundings, next October 19th. Be there for a big time!

We will sail the Spring Series June 14 and 15 to rendezvous at the Shelter Island Yacht Club and the Fall Series to Block Island September 13 and 14. New arrangements have been made at Shelter Island whereby Off Soundings will pay for the moorings. These will be available on a first come

first served basis and those who use them are requested to make their donation for this to Off Soundings at \$10 per day. PHRF rating formula will be used for all classes in 1985. Off Soundings is substituting a measurement data certificate for the former OSC rating certificate which, like the old rating, will need to be renewed every three years. The new racing rules will be issued this year and if you join USYRU you will get a free copy. "EMPRESS" will continue as our committee boat. Guest invitations must be in by March 20th.

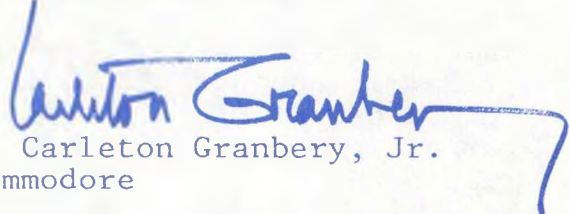
Our membership remains strong and steady. Each year, however, some room opens up for new members through attrition and/or resignations. With an eye to the future we welcome qualified new candidates who will be the ones to carry on the good activities and traditions of the club from generation to generation. In sponsoring new members note that it is not essential that they own a yacht; there are numerous crew who have been loyal to Off Soundings racing for years who could be valuable additions to our membership list and may in turn become the skippers of tomorrow. If you have a worthy candidate the necessary instructions and forms can be had from our Membership Committee Chairman, Dudley Butler.

The Nominating Committee for 1985 consists of Eliot H. Porter, 2nd, Chairman, Franklin Bohlen and Benjamin Hall.

The Seaman's Inne at Mystic has reduced its facilities so that it is now too small for our group. We will therefor have both our annual meeting and dinner April 6th at the Sheraton Inn on the Connecticut Turnpike in Norwich. This is well suited to our needs and the usual fine beverages, meals, awards, camaraderie etc. are in store thanks to the advance arrangements of our Dinner Committee under Vice Commodore Dick Roberts. You will hear more about this shortly. Looking forward to seeing you then and there.

With best wishes,

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Commodore