

# OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB



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January 1, 1997

Dear Member:

As many of you know, our Past Commodore and current Membership Committee Chairman Paul van Dyke was unfortunately taken ill late this Fall. He has been slowly recovering and is now at Mariner Health of Pendleton. We are all hopeful that Paul will make much progress over the coming weeks.

The duties of the Membership Chairman are very active the first half of the year. I have asked CDM John F. Brooks, USCG to assume responsibility for the Membership Committee. John has been an active participant in Off Soundings since coming to this area. He is currently serving as Measurement Rule Chairman and has been on the Board of Governors since 1994.

On the back of this letter is an outline of the procedures to propose a new member which includes John's address. Consider it required reading for 1997.

My Best to You for the New Year,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Gunther".

William G. Gunther

From: Off Soundings Club Membership Chairman

To: Club Members

I feel honored to have been asked by Commodore Gunther to assume the duties of Off Soundings Club Membership Chairman.

In our club, every member supports the activities of the club through his dues. The membership roster is larger - and indeed must be larger - than a roster of regular skippers in Spring and Fall Race Series. The club needs the continued support from active members who sail on other boats, as well as members who have retired from racing - but maintain their membership and interest in club activities.

The Membership Committee is tasked with evaluating prospective members. For the committee to function, however, candidates must be identified by the membership. The procedure is detailed in Article IX of the Club Constitution.

The club requires a candidate be proposed in writing by a member, with two seconders and three or more supporting letters. Boat ownership is not required; new members simply cannot own (only) a motorboat or motor sailor.

Please assist the Membership Committee by IDENTIFYING PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS. Here are some suggested membership candidate pools:

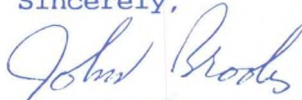
- Guest skippers who have participated in several race series; demonstrating proper yachtmanship, and having interest in continuing to participate. In these cases, the Off Soundings member who sponsored the guest invitation should take the initiative to propose for membership.
- Regular crew members of Off Soundings members' yachts during race series. This category often includes grown children of current members who are participating on their parents' or friends' boats as crew in their own right. There is no prohibition to proposing family members. There is also no reason not to propose an otherwise qualified candidate simply because his/her father is already a member.
- Qualified sailors who own boats capable of racing in the Off Soundings race series, and have expressed interest in participating. If you are well acquainted, there is no reason for the membership proposal to be deferred, even while sponsoring a guest invitation.

APPLICATION FORMS can be obtained from the Membership Committee Chairman at the following address:

John Brooks (860) 572-8066 (H)  
P.O. Box 111 (860) 444-8575 (W)  
West Mystic, CT 06388

Please contact me with any questions or concerns regarding membership matters. Take the initiative to propose/second qualified candidates. Write supporting letters when you concur with candidates being proposed. The Off Soundings Club will be even stronger as a result of your efforts.

Sincerely,



John Brooks