

## NOTICE TO OFF SOUNDINGS MEMBERS

SPRING RACE SERIES - The 1995 date for the Spring Race Series has been changed to June 9-10. The Board of Governors recently changed this date, and related dates, to avoid conflict with the Marion to Bermuda Race. See the enclosed Events Card for the correct dates and disregard the 1995 dates pertaining to the Spring Series in your 1994 Members Book.

DUES PAYMENT - At the 1994 Annual Meeting, the membership voted to reduce the period of time before a final notice for dues payment is sent from three to two months.

This means that if dues are not paid by March 1st, a second, and final notice, will be sent shortly after March 1st. Dues received after March 1st require an amount five dollars greater than your regular dues to defray the extra cost of follow-up. If dues are not paid by April 1st, future communications to the member will be halted and the delinquency will be reported to the Board of Governors. Board action usually results in the delinquent member being dropped for non payment of dues.

1/1/95



## OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

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### WINTER NEWSLETTER, JANUARY 16, 1995

As this is written Winter has scarcely arrived in Southeastern Connecticut. High temperature records for this time of year have been set. People have been out sailing each of the last two weekends, and day before yesterday there was a boat taking clams off West Cove in front of my house. But a fuel oil delivery today reminds me that Winter will surely savage us soon and will likely be upon us in full force as this is read.

The Winter Newsletter serves as sort of a "State of the Club" communication. In this regard I am pleased to report that the state of the Club generally is good. First and foremost our racing was successful again last year. The weather cooperated for the most part and most agree that the second day in the Fall Series was one of the best days ever, with the Sou'west breeze returning finally to Gardiners Bay.

We announced a year ago that the Board of Governors had decided to use time-on-time ("TOT") scoring for our races for at least the 1994 season. The factors leading to this decision seemed to have worked out. TOT scoring can reduce the irregularities which arise on very slow or very fast days. It simplifies production of the Final Notice for our races. And, most importantly, it offers the Race Committee more flexibility to provide you with challenging racing. With most members giving advice on the matter favoring TOT, your Board of Governors decided to use TOT for future races. We hope to take fuller advantage of TOT scoring in terms of course selection in 1995.

One announcement pertains to next season. As Secretary O'Connell reminds us in our dues notice, the 1995 date for the Spring Race Series has been changed to June 9-10, 1995. The Board of Governors recently changed this date, and related dates, to avoid conflict with the Marion to Bermuda Race. Please disregard the 1995 dates in your 1994 Members Book.

There is a concern which the Board of Governors and indeed all of us need to address. Our membership continues to decrease. Just five years ago we had 564 members whereas now we have 507. Just five years ago our members listed almost 400 sailboats. This year fewer than 350 are listed. We see an even larger decrease on the starting line, and fewer than ten boats started in one class last season. We need to recruit more "...persons actively interested in sailing..." as described in our Constitution in order to insure the continuing success of our Club. Make it your personal business to recruit another entry in your class.

We continue to maintain a strong relationship with Mystic Seaport Museum. Ken Mahler's excellent videos of our racing are a highlight of the Annual Meeting and Shore Party. Our gratitude to him and to the Seaport is partially reflected in our donation this year of \$2,000 to the Seaport's Video Department and replacement of our Dyer Dhow.

A number of people contribute to the enjoyment of our racing series. Often unrecognized are those who contribute their power craft for Race Committee use, including chase boats and the stake boat as well as the committee boat itself. This year we will bring back a past practice of awarding plaques to the power crafts which serve us so well.

Your Board of Governors continues to monitor our Club's activities. Along with TOT scoring we will continue using the alternative penalty of 10 minutes for next season. We will examine new courses and other venues and we even may have a 12 meter class in 1995. Bring your suggestions to improve our Club to the Annual Meeting and Shore Party on April 8, 1995 and share them with your Board and Committee chairmen.

Good sailing!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "P".

Peter W. McFadden, Commodore