



OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

16 April 1976

39th ANNUAL SPRING RACE SERIES

1976

June 11th & 12th

OFFICE OF
RACE SECRETARY
THOMAS M. RUSSELL, III
RIVERBEND ROAD
BOX 254 A
MYSTIC, CONN. 06355

FIRST NOTICE

Enclosed are the following:

1. Entry Blank
2. Off Soundings Club Measurement Certificate, 1976 Rule
3. List of Off Soundings Club Measurers
4. Membership Chairman's Posting of Membership Candidates *
* (Members only)
5. ORC Minimum Equipment and Accommodations Standards - Category 4

Please take special notice of the following!

1. During the winter, significant changes have been made in the procedures governing our races. Please read this notice and the Final Notice thoroughly.
2. Recent 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 handicap.
 - g. Yachts must meet all Off Soundings requirements.
3. To qualify to race in the Spring 1976 Series and thereafter, your yacht must meet all Offshore Rating Council (ORC) Category 4 requirements, including lifelines and pulpits.

In recognition that some yachts may have unique problems in meeting the lifeline requirement, or have existing installations which approach the specific requirements, Rear Commodore Donald C. Davis and a small committee will attempt to assist you. As soon as possible, submit a written request for waiver, clearly stating the problem, preferably with a dimensional sketch, if appropriate. You will be notified of the ruling. Request should be mailed not

later than April 25, 1976 for consideration for the Spring Race Series. They should be addressed as follows: Donald C. Davis, Walkley Hill, Haddam, Connecticut 06438.

Naturally, it is ultimately your responsibility to meet the ORC Category 4 requirements. To assist you in this, we have included them in this notice.

4. Taking cognizance of the increasing number of large racing class yachts, we have added a fourth racing class. Class divisions will be given in the Final Notice, but are expected to be accomplished by dividing C-1 into two classes.
5. The Measurement Rule Committee has made some improvements to the Rule this year. These include:
 - a. A change in the computation of L for the case of yachts with large beam.
 - b. Changes in propeller allowances for solid propellers to reduce the credit for small diameter or narrow blade propellers. Further, propellers with an unusual pitch condition (low-drag) will be considered as feathering, or as calculated, whichever is greater. You must notify the Chief Measurer if your propeller is of a high pitch, low-drag configuration.
 - c. Introduction of an Underbody Form Factor.
 - d. Deletion of the requirement to include certain rudders in the determination of LWL.
 - e. A change in the rig allowance for yawls and ketches.

The Measurement Certificate, enclosed with this notice, contains these changes. Owners who have provided requested data to the Chief Measurer are being notified of their recalculated ratings.

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 May 20th to Thomas M. Russell, III, Riverbend Road, Box 254A, 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 do not 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 June 12, 1973 or later. The 1975 and 1976 Revisions do not constitute remeasurement, which must be done every three years. Please read and complete your Entry Blank carefully. If the yacht does not have a valid measurement certificate, it must be measured by one of the measurers shown on the enclosed list of OSC measurers, 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 May 20, 1976. Your measurer should keep one copy. The third copy is for your files.

The closing date of May 20, 1976 for entries and measurement certificates is the latest possible date and will be rigidly adhered to. Absolutely no exceptions will be made.

Fall Entries

The incidence of late, misplaced or forgotten entries for the Fall Race Series is always substantially higher than for the Spring Series. To minimize this problem, if you plan to be away during the entry period, please write your Race Secretary in advance and request a Fall Entry Blank and return it immediately.

First Notice (including Spring Results) July 15, 1976

Closing Date August 19, 1976

Race Dates September 17 & 18, 1976

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 26, 1976 for both the Spring and Fall Series. No more guests may be invited for 1976 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 '76 and Fall '76 or Fall '76 and Spring '77.

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.
3. Excepted from this ruling are yachts owned by members which fall outside the limits of 2. above, 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.

Preliminary Racing and Rendezvous Information

The fleet will again race in Block Island Sound waters this spring. The start will be off Watch Hill and the finish off the entrance to Great Salt Pond the first day. Courses will be described in the Final Notice.

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	Yankee
C-3	Foxtrot
C-4	X-Ray
Cruising Class	Charlie

The Race Committee has modified its starting procedure to include the use of these class flags in the starting signals. This will be detailed in the Final Notice.

Those owners unsure of their yacht's class may call my office (203-536-4235) after May 29th (time will be short-don't write).

The Friday and Saturday night rendezvous will be held at "The Oar" adjacent to the Block Island Marina.

You should make your own reservations for slips, etc. early and directly.

Radio Notice

Because of the expiration of AM radio licensing, we will no longer broadcast on 2638kHz. Race Committee communications will be carried on VHF-FM Channel 9.

USYRU Sail Numbers

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

ORC Minimum Equipment and Accomodation Standards

Several instances of inadequate equipment and accomodations were noted in past series. Please take the time to read the ORC Category 4 requirements enclosed with this notice and to make the effort to bring your yacht into conformance. 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 we need to assure that all entrants have complied and are racing fairly.

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 new 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 M. Russell, III
Race Secretary
Off Soundings Club