



OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

RICHARD H. ROBERTS, Race Secretary
60 Dart Street
New London, Connecticut 06320

F60
(203) 443-4621 (R)

February 29, 1996

TO: Commodore William G. Gunther
FROM: Richard H. Roberts, Off Soundings Rep to ECSA's Offshore Committee

At a recent meeting of the Offshore Committee of ECSA, a comment was made that, since Off Soundings has a restrictive policy as to who can participate in its races, and thus not everyone competing in the ECSA Offshore Circuit can enter an Off Soundings event, perhaps the Off Soundings Spring and Fall Race Series should not be included as Circuit races. I disagreed that we have a restrictive policy, and pointed out that there are few skippers competing in the Offshore Circuit who are not members of Off Soundings, and that, as far as guest invitations are concerned, while scrutiny is still required, the lead times have been relaxed to the point where a request for a guest invitation may be made as late as two weeks prior to the entry closing date. That produced favorable response (of course, most of the people at that meeting were members of Off Soundings), but remarks were made that this policy is not known to many.

Your Winter Newsletter, which hit the streets subsequent to that meeting, will have gotten the word out to our members regarding the guest invitation process. However, I still feel that it would be appropriate to include a statement about our guest policy in ECSA's Yearbook.

Yes, it's true that Off Soundings can say, "ECSA needs us more than we need it -- we don't care if we're in the ECSA Offshore Circuit or not." But remember, many of those that participate in the Circuit are our members, and we help them if they are able to include our Race Series in their Circuit scoring. In that sense, it's a service to our members.

I'm not advocating that we relax the guest invitation process so that we allow people to compete in our races that should not be on the race course with us. But, while we have retained scrutiny, we have made the process less complex and more rapid and I think we don't lose anything by telling people that.

I would like for the Board to review the situation and consider the question of putting some wording in the 1996 ECSA Yearbook. A draft sample of how that might look is attached.

Off Soundings Club

Spring Race Series

Friday, June 14, 1996 Watch Hill to Block Island
Saturday, June 15, 1996 Vicinity of Block Island (1 or 2 races)
Entries close on May 23th
Guest Invitations close on May 9th

Fall Race Series

Friday September 13, 1996 New London to Gardiner's Bay
Saturday, September 14, 1996 Vicinity of Gardiner's Bay (1 or 2 races)
Entries close on August 22th
Guest Invitations close on August 8th

These Race Series are open to Members and invited guests. Applications for Guest Invitations may be obtained from the Race Secretary. The application requires signatures of a Sponsor and two Seconders and must be completed and returned to the Race Secretary on or before 14 days prior to the entry closing date (i.e., May 9 or August 8, 1996). After the guest invitations are reviewed, race invitation packages are sent, seven days prior to the entry closing date, to those approved. An approved Guest Invitation for the Spring Race Series includes the Fall Race Series.

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