

ROBERT M. LOVE

CEDAR NECK

VINEYARD HAVEN

MASSACHUSETTS

January 15, 1968

Commodore Benjamin B. duPont
Chapel Drive
Pine Orchard
Connecticut 06405

Dear Commodore Ben:

I thought I would drop you a line on the Protest Committee prior to the Governor's meeting on Friday next since you may want to consider the matter in advance.

As you know for years this committee has been relatively inactive due to the unusually fine camaraderie of the Off Soundings group. A few years ago when the size of the fleet began to assume almost unmanageable proportions the then Commodore in an effort to keep the fleet in line caused Eric Olsen to write an unpopular memo urging skippers to follow the rules and to register appropriate protests. This resulted in a few more protests arising, but they were largely on outright violations, usually acknowledged as clear cut and easily resolved.

The days when you might come upon a vessel in the deep haze of Gardiner's Bay to find (as you quickly considered your rights) large lettering on the sail proclaiming "SLOW-DEER CROSSING" are gone, and today people are pretty serious about their racing. The result is that a number of protests arise many requiring a very considerable knowledge of the rules and the latest changes. Also a fair amount of animosity among the contestants occurs, some of the comments from the last session ranging from, "I'll never race with this God-damned club again!" to "I'll take this whole thing to NAYRU before I'll accept this decision!" in addition to occasional threats of violence from over-stimulated crew members.

Now while I am not crying "Uncle" at this point, it is not the pleasantest way to enjoy the post race activities, for the committee, and I think there are cogent reasons for rotating the Protest Committee job (either annually or on change of administration) among the members.

Speaking personally I find myself unqualified as a member of the Protest Committee from the point of view of familiarity with the Racing Rules. Had the committee not had the confident knowledge and experience of Ed Raymond at least one serious protest last year would have been improperly adjudged. Ed and our other member, 'Cooch' Maxwell, have both had vastly more experience in this field than I and their judgment has saved the day. But they too have certainly given the time and unselfishly accepted the unpleasantness of the job.

Finally four formal protests were handled this year by the Committee plus a number of blanket protests arising from a number of boats starting in the wrong class during the Fall Series. These latter were handled directly as disqualifications by the Race Committee. Of the others two of the decisions were accepted and two challenged. Whether further action has been taken on those challenged is not known.

The size of the present fleet and the desire for serious racing on the part of the skippers require that an experienced and knowledgeable Chairman of the Protest Committee fully versed on the "book" be sought within the membership and appointed as soon as practicable and I so recommend.

This letter can serve as my report for the Protest Committee and if you wish I will present it at the meeting on Friday.

Best personal regards,

Sincerely,



Robert M. Love

OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT? 19 January 1968

Despite the inevitable confusion involved in changing to a new committee on rather short notice, the entertainment group carried on and arranged the customary fall shore parties without too great a course deviation despite changing helmsmen.

Features of the shore parties which seem to be best received are:

1. Ready availability of standard liquor mixes
2. Ample supply of beer
3. Soft drinks for non-imbibers and minors
4. The buffet---serving cheeses and biscuits

Improvements which are proposed for future parties include:

1. More ice cubes for cooling and dilution purposes
2. New metallic crocks for greater ease in handling
3. Plastic drink cups with Off-Soundings decoration

Despite rising expenses, each pair of shore parties costs approximately one dollar per person. (Exact costs are listed by the treasurer).

The willing cooperation of Mrs Stephen Palmer of Maidstone Marina is gratefully noted. Mr John Noell of Shelter Island proved an enthusiastic aide to the committee. He is a distinct credit to the staff of that fine club.

Transportation was willingly handled by Ben Harrison of Essex whose "LOUBENVAR" provided a "home away from home" for the crocks, the cups and ailing crewmen.

In response to the commodore's request for a handbook outlining the duties and procedures of each committee within the club, a detailed layout has been prepared for future entertainment chairmen. To date, it draws from the experience of such former personnel as Ben duPont, Herb Owen and George Harrah.

A special word of thanks goes to my Sachems Head clubmates who turned into bartenders at my request. All agreed it was great fun on the business side of the bar, and have indicated their willingness to sign on for another cruise in 1968

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley G. Barnes