

## Lifeline/Pulpit Committee

## Report

For a number of years, the Off Soundings Club has permitted boats between 28 feet LOA and 35 feet LOA to follow the ORC Regulations for lifelines and pulpits that apply to boats up to 28 feet LOA. In 1994, Off Soundings invoked the ORC above-28 feet LOA requirements upon its participants 28 feet LOA to 35 feet LOA. To soften the impact, boats up to 35 feet LOA complying with the up-to-28 feet LOA requirements have been "grandfathered." A committee has been established to recommend changes, if any, to this approach.

## ORC Requirements

Up to 28 feet LOA

1. Taut single lifeline, at least 18" above working deck.
2. No vertical opening shall exceed 22".
3. If intermediate lifeline is fitted, no vertical opening shall exceed 15" (series date of 1/92 and after).
4. Stranded stainless wire, 1/8" dia. min.
5. Upper rail of pulpits at no less height as upper lifeline.
6. Intermediate rail of pulpits at same height as intermediate lifeline (if installed).
7. Bow pulpit may be aft of headstay.

Rqmts for 28 to 35 feet LOA\*

1. Taut double lifelines, upper at least 24" above working deck.
2. No vertical opening shall exceed 22"
3. No vertical opening shall exceed 15" (series date 1/93 and after).
4. Stranded stainless wire, 5/32" dia. min.
5. Upper rail of pulpits at no less height as upper lifeline.
6. Intermediate rail of pulpits at same height as intermediate lifeline.

\* Actually, this column applies to 28 ft LOA and greater, except that 3/16" wire size is required above 43 ft LOA. But the issue at hand has to do only with those boats between 28 ft and 35 ft LOA.

## Analysis and Comment

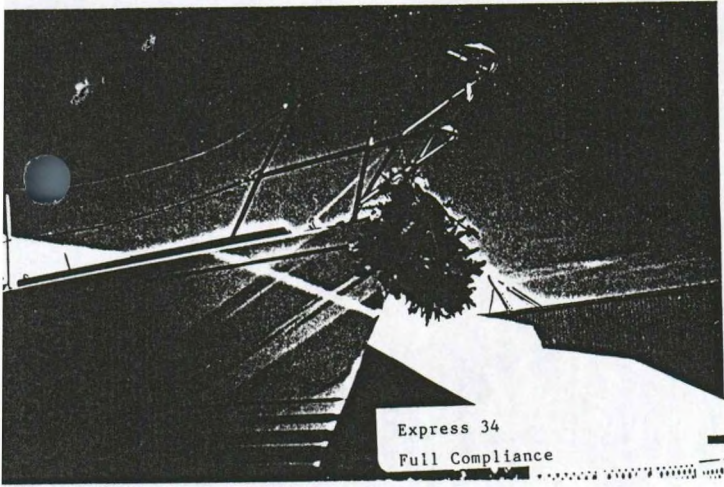
1. Norm Rabe has observed that most boats in the 28 - 35 foot LOA range were delivered with single lifelines at 24" above the working deck.
2. Earlier Regs had defined the point where the 18" single lifeline requirement changed to 24" double as 21.0 feet rating (IOR). This point was later defined as 28 feet LOA. Thus, in the most recent ten or more years, many manufacturers have been delivering boats 28 feet LOA and over with the 24" double lifelines (to meet the ORC regulations).
3. The wire diameter question is a difficult one. What is not known is how many in the 28-35 ft LOA category actually have wire larger than 1/8" dia. Chances are that most have the heavier wire, as manufacturers would have been complying with the ORC regulations and not the Off Soundings adaptation.
4. Lifelines must be continuous around the working deck except that horizontal rails in pulpits may substitute. Usually not a problem for the upper rail. Often, however, the intermediate rail is missing. If there is an intermediate lifeline, it must continue through the bow and stern pulpits or be substituted by horizontal rails in those pulpits. Correction of this could get expensive -- and could lead to removal of an intermediate lifeline that is not otherwise required.

5. ORC regulations do not permit lifelines to be dropped to accommodate a close-hauled jib. (Note that Off Soundings did permit that, up until 1994.) Also not addressed is the practice of eliminating an intermediate lifeline where it interferes with winching action.

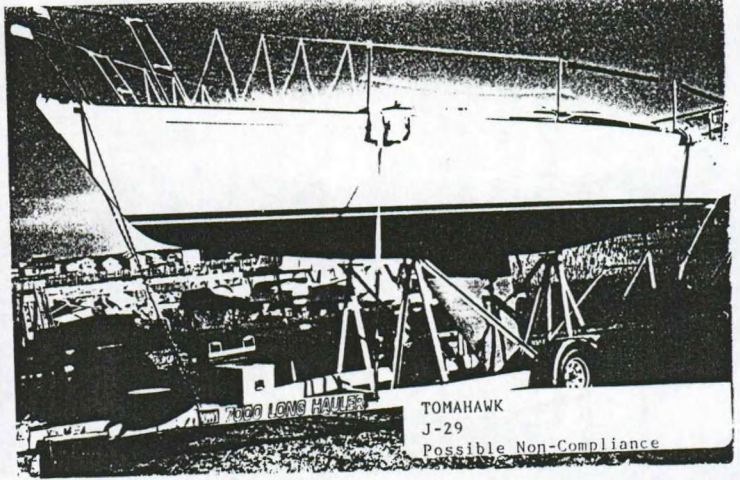
## Recommendations

1. Cease the grandfathering of the lifeline/pulpit requirements.
2. Establish a Compliance Committee. This committee would have the authority to examine for compliance with the ORC Regulations, to respond to complaints alleging non-compliance, to advise owners how to get into compliance, and to issue short and long term waivers for relief of non-compliance, upon request and as it sees fit. Other aspects (beyond lifelines) of the ORC Regulations, to the extent that they are invoked by Off Soundings, would also be eligible for scrutiny -- cockpit volume, storm sails, etc.

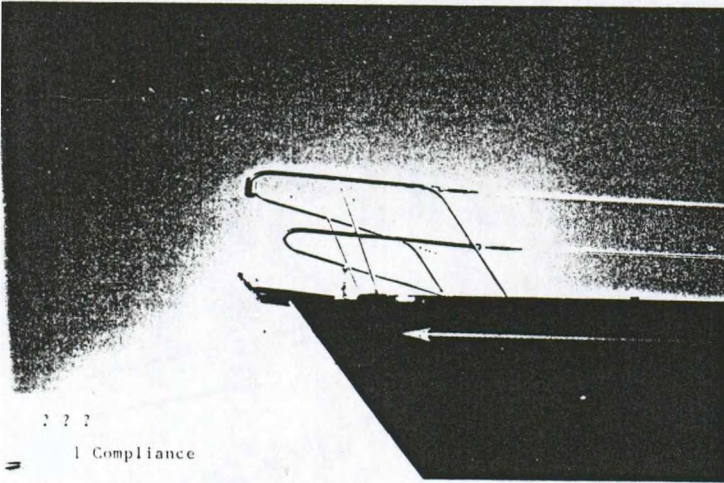
Richard H. Roberts  
John F. Brooks  
Ernest R. Messer, Jr.  
Neal S. O'Connell  
Norman E. Rabe



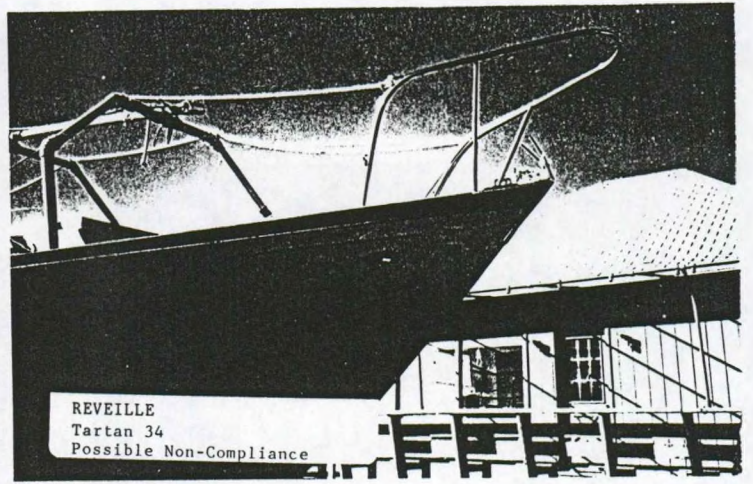
Express 34  
Full Compliance



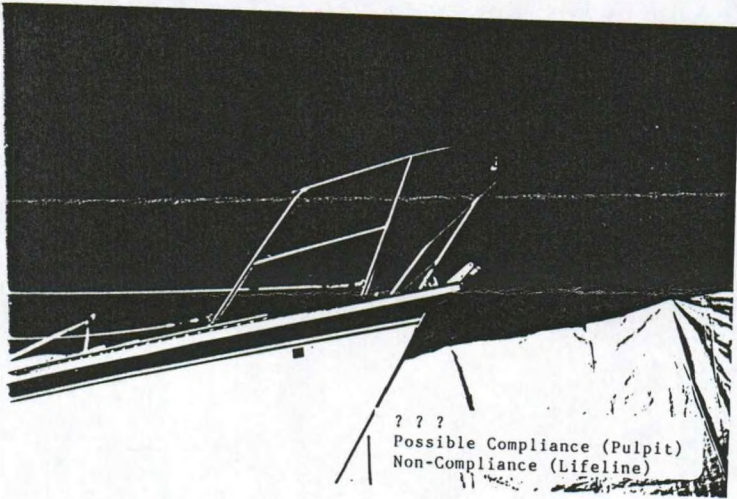
TOMAHAWK  
J-29  
Possible Non-Compliance



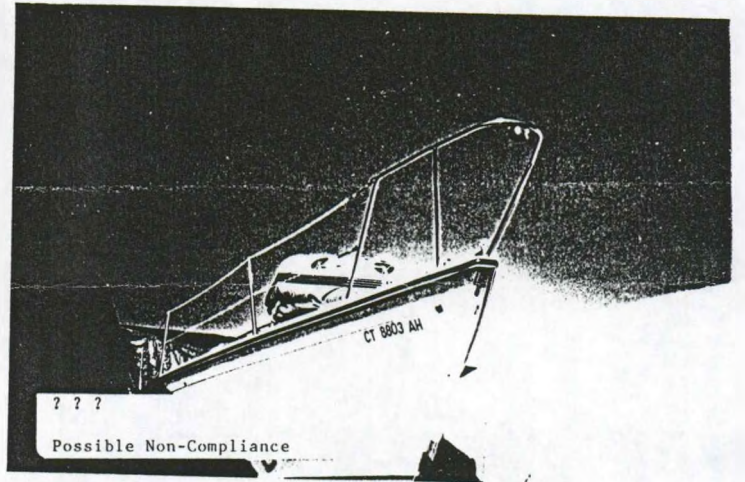
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Full Compliance



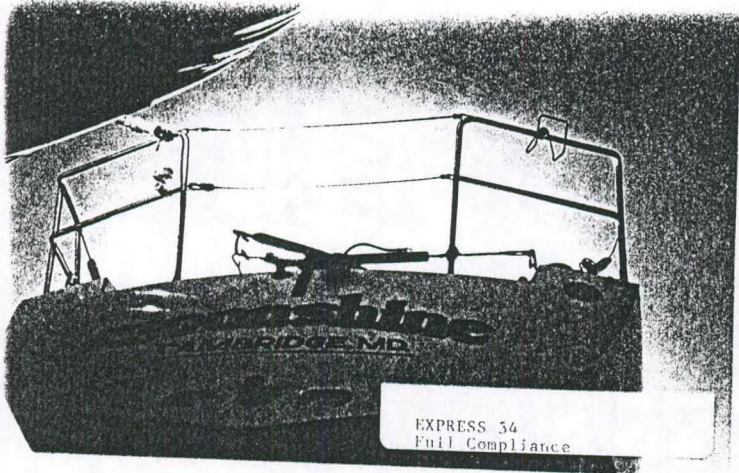
REVELLE  
Tartan 34  
Possible Non-Compliance



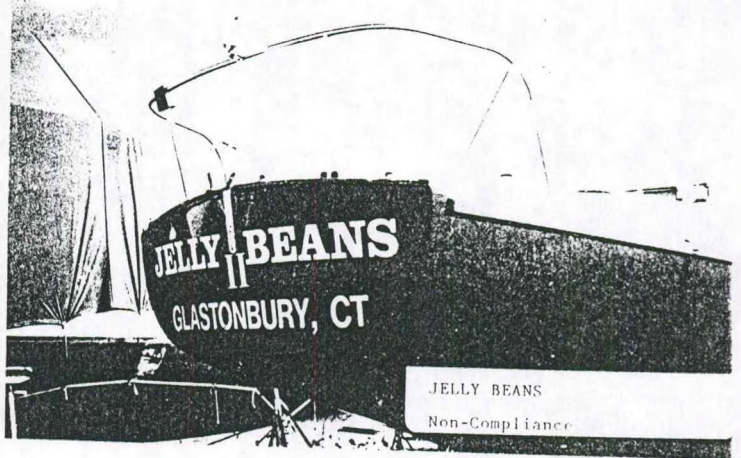
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Possible Compliance (Pulpit)  
Non-Compliance (Lifeline)



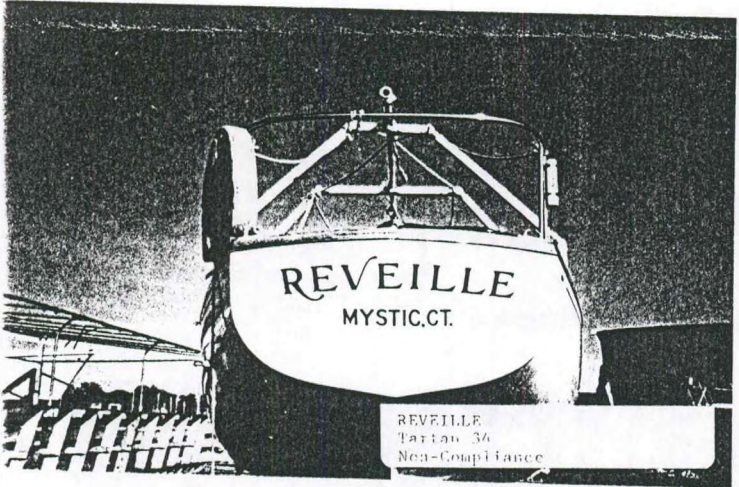
???  
Possible Non-Compliance



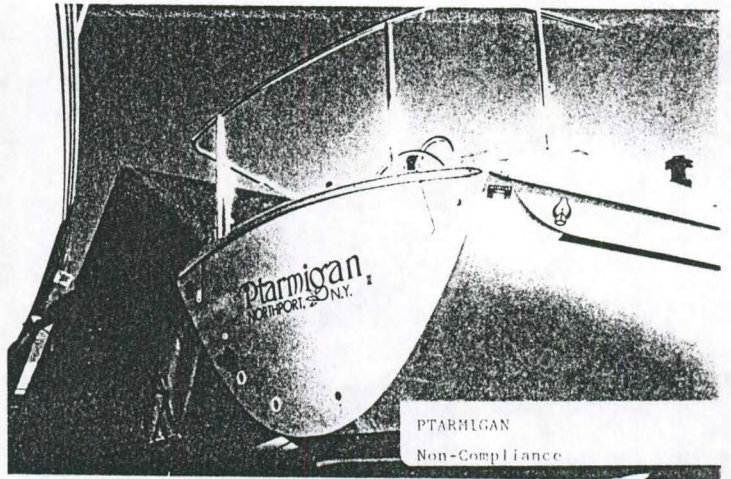
EXPRESS 34  
Full Compliance



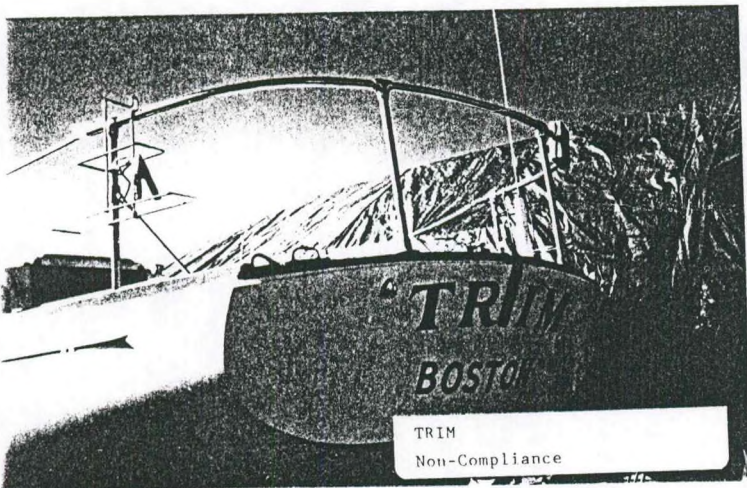
JELLY BEANS  
Non-Compliance



REVEILLE  
Tartan 34  
Non-Compliance

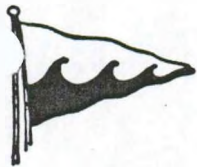


PTARMIGAN  
Non-Compliance



TRIM  
Non-Compliance

# OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB



**Allen N. Anderson, Commodore**  
272 N. Water Street  
Stonington, Connecticut 06378

**Home (860) 535-4049**

September 28, 1997

Peter Brinckerhoff  
25 Lake Drive  
Riverside, CT 06878

Dear Peter,

I am in receipt of your September 10, 1997 letter concerning an alternative proposal for a perpetual trophy in honor of Salle Evelyn. You note that two pieces of correspondence regarding your previous offer are attached but were not. I can only assume the first letter was one written to Bill Gunther and dated June 3, 1996 and the second was Bill's response to you dated June 10, 1996.

Your September 10 letter states that conversations with Frank Bohlen and Wes Maxwell have you believing the initial offer is stalled as proposed. I don't understand this since the Board voted not to accept your perpetual trophy offer as you proposed in January 1997 and Frank Bohlen reported to the Board in April that you had no desire to modify the conditions of gift. So there is no ambiguity, please understand that your original offer was refused and the Club believed it had adequately communicated that to you.

As for your latest offer of a trophy to honor Salle Evelyn, the Board will take it under consideration. However, you should be aware that in discussions relative to the original offer the Board felt we were already inundated with perpetual trophies and the present scope of the effort to deal with this existing mountain was barely manageable. In addition your proposal seems to duplicate the Melvin D. Southworth Trophy already in existence (see page 31 of this year's blue book).

Vice Commodore Bohlen has been reviewing the possibility of member contributions specifically earmarked to help the younger generation financially in sailing events such as Olympic or National competition. Perhaps you might want to consider this approach although the Board has yet to firm up whether we will do this or what the plan might be.

Thank you for your latest offer.

Sincerely,

Allen N. Anderson

cc: Board Members  
Committee Chairmen

Allen N. Anderson  
272 N. Water Street  
Stonington, CT 06378

Dear Andy,

September 10, 1997

I offered last year to donate a trophy in honor of Salle Evelyn. See my letter to Bill Gunther which is attached as is his reply. From conversations with Frank Bohlen and Wes Maxwell on this matter I believe that the effort is stalled as proposed. Accordingly, I offer an alternative perpetual trophy in honor of Salle that would be awarded to any member of the Off Soundings Club who, in the judgment of the Commodore, contributed the most to the reputation, management or recognition of the Off Soundings Club. Salle, as you know contributed endless time and effort to the functioning, operation and improvement of countless sailing programs and events. This tribute to her would be fitting.

Let me know what you and the board think about this proposal.

Yours truly,



Peter Brinckerhoff  
25 lake Drive  
Riverside, CT 06878  
203-637-1198

(see over for response)