



## OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

OFFICE OF  
COMMODORE  
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Dear Off Soundings Club Member,

Mid-winter greetings! The cold and snow have finally arrived just as our thoughts were turning to the upcoming sailing season. With spring just around the corner, it is time to fill you in on some of the Board of Governors discussions since we last met in Greenport this past September.

In a continuing effort to meet the demands of safety, liability and participation, the Board has revisited the Minimum Equipment and Accommodation Standards again this year. For the 2006 season, the Board has rescinded the 2005-2008 Equipment Standards (Pink Book) which we raced under last year and recommend that competitors in the 2006 race series consider using the International Sailing Foundation Offshore Racing Council Special Regulations for Race Category 4 as guidelines for minimum safety equipment. These standards are for monohulls only and are available for download from ISAF and US Sailing websites and also in hard copy. Multihulls will continue to be governed by the New England Multihull Association. Please remember that it is the responsibility of the Master to ensure the safety of his yacht and crew and in the event of bad weather, it is his decision whether to start a race or whether to continue racing. We have experienced some challenging conditions in the past and each Master is encouraged to continue to be diligent and conscientious with regard to vessel maintenance, crew training, seamanship and lastly safety.

The Board of Governors continues to look at ways to hold the line on our expenses for upcoming sailing season. In order not to increase dues or entry fees, the Board has decided to eliminate club subsidized launch service at both the Spring and Fall events. This year we will once again be sailing to Block Island in the spring and Greenport in the fall. Old port will continue to provide the launch service at Block Island, but will now charge each member individually for their services and run on their normal schedule. In Greenport, the municipal marina is now finished and there should no longer be a shortage of dock space for the fleet on the Greenport side of Stirling Basin.

I regret to inform you of the passing of Past Commodore Donald Robinson and our webmaster Dana Garvin. These members donated many hours to the club and will be sorely missed not only for their contributions, but for their comradie and fellowship.


Plan now to attend the Annual Meeting, dinner and trophy presentation to be held at the Seamen's Inne in Mystic, CT on April 1, 2006. Accompanying this letter is the notice for the dinner. It is time to contact your crewmembers and make your dinner reservations. Those members who are to receive a trophy should make plans to attend, however if you are unable to attend, please send a crewmember or friend to receive your award.

As spring approaches and our thoughts become focused on our boats, now is the time to think about membership and guest applications. If you have sponsored a guest in the past, I encourage you to follow up with your guest with a proposal for membership. It is no longer difficult to propose a new member or sponsor a guest and everyone benefits with the addition of new members and guests participating in our racing series.

Finally, Off Soundings enjoyed a successful 2005 season following the passing of the Flag from Commodore Brooks. We certainly enjoyed four days of varied and enjoyable racing thanks to the efforts of every member of the Board and various Committee Chairmen. If you have any thoughts on the Board's decisions or any other subjects, please contact any member of the Board.

I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Dinner in April, if not before.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Neal S. O'Connell', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Neal S. O'Connell  
Commodore