



OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

RICHARD H. ROBERTS, Race Secretary
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October 23, 1999

TO: Commodore W. Frank Bohlen
FROM: Race Secretary Richard H. Roberts
SUBJECT: Race Secretary's Report

1. The combined, perpetual trophy results were mailed to the members and guests on October 15th, as scheduled. That mailing would normally also include the results of the Fall Race Series, but that Series was cancelled out of respect for the approaching Hurricane Floyd.
2. Continuing the statistical work began when Andy Anderson was Race Secretary, I've added 1999 information to the attached table of Race Entry Statistics, together with some financial information for earlier years, and the enclosed table is provided for your study.
3. I have attached a tabulation of the dates for Off Soundings Club events, showing the dates approved for 2000 and the proposed dates for 2001. Those 2001 dates are scheduled for review and approval at the Board meeting on January 21, 2000.
4. We have been following the new Guest Invitation policy approved by the Board. I accepted "Early-Decision" Guest Invitation Applications up to April 15th (the Thursday prior to the April Board meeting), in lieu of the previous mid-March date, and at that meeting distributed the proposed guest list to the Board for its review and approval. The Guest Invitation Cut-Off is now two weeks prior to the race entry closing (either Spring or Fall). The resulting additions to the guest list were then circulated to the Board, with objections to be raised by any Board member on the eighth day prior to the race entry closing. (None was raised.) Race entry packages were then mailed to those guests seven days before the race entry closing.

For our 1999 races, these are the Guest Invitation Application statistics:

Received April 15 or earlier*	8	Entered:	6 (Spring)	6 (Fall)
Received April 15 - May 6*	17	Entered:	13	8
Received May 7 - August 12*	8	Entered:		5

*Does not include Membership Committee invitees. Does not include the Service Academies.

See the enclosed table "Guest Participation - 1999" for more information. You will note that 19 of the 25 Guests approved for the Spring Series actually entered. For the Fall Series, those numbers are 19 entered out of 33 approved. (One of the Fall Guest entrants subsequently scratched before the Race Booklet went to the printer.)

This year, the Board voted to allow Guests to elect to enter the Cruising Canvas Classes. Although the decision came after the entry forms had been printed saying "Members Only," five Guests in the Spring, and one in the Fall, selected this option.

5. This year we continued with an Alternative Penalty scheme, where the penalty is 10 minutes added to the boat's Corrected Time. Just one boat elected to accept an Alternative Penalty in 1999: PHOENIX (Bruce Cox in C-2) in Friday's race in the Spring. The 10-minute penalty moved PHOENIX from 11th to 14th in that race.

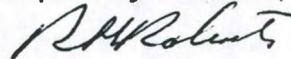
6. The Board approved the combining of Classes A-1, A-2 and B into Classes A and B, and this has been done. As part of this change, the Blunt White Trophy was changed to consider two successive years in Classes A and B, and the Kenneth Millet Trophy (Class A-2) will not be awarded for 1999. The total number of A/B boats dropped slightly this year.

7. We now have two High Performance Classes, Class C-3 and Class C-4. Participation in those two classes is not as high as we had hoped, but Classes C-2 and C-5 are relieved that the high performance boats are not "killing" them. The Race Secretary has a concern that the MADRIGAL trophy (for best combined results for two successive years in Class C-4 and C-5) considers a mixture of racing boats and high performance boats. A solution would be to shift the MADRIGAL trophy to cover the high performance boats, thus applying it to Classes C-3 and C-4. Alternatively, both the high performance classes and the MADRIGAL trophy could be re-designated, say for Class C-4 and C-5, or maybe for Class D-1 and D-2. If there is interest in pursuing this, a specific proposal will be presented at the January meeting.

8. As mentioned at the prior Board meeting, it is time to review our "Off Soundings Club Minimum Equipment and Accommodations Standard." What we have been using (the blue sheet) is dated April 2, 1994. The Deputy Race Secretary has conducted a review of that document against Category 4 of the latest ORC Regulations and has produced for consideration a revised Off Soundings Club standard. This will be distributed at the October 23rd Board meeting with a request that it be reviewed as preparation for discussion and approval consideration at our January 21st Board meeting.

9. With the cancellation of both days of the Fall Race Series, the Commodore asked each of the Class Representatives to contact the skippers in his Class to inform of the cancellation. Some called me for some of the telephone numbers, as the numbers were shown on each boat's entry form. I soon decided to enter into my master database the home and office numbers for each of the 130 boats that had entered the Fall Race Series. Having done this, I was able to print out and fax to Bruce Lockwood, at his request, the phone numbers for all of Class CR-1. For the future, I'll add corrections and new numbers as the entries come in, keeping that database up-to-date.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard H. Roberts
Race Secretary