

# OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB



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January 19, 1998

## WINTER NEWS LETTER

Dear Member,

With the holidays behind us and the unusual weather we've experienced in early January it might give one pause to think of getting the Winter cover off to get an early start on boat projects. However, as our Historian, Bill Ames, might remind us "never trust an EL Nino".

I am pleased to report that the number of boats entered in both the Spring and Fall race series was sufficiently up from recent years to warrant notice. Also, our membership stands at 512 and is holding its own after a number of years of decline. Thanks to all who have helped stem the erosion in our membership ranks. There is reason to believe that the informal area luncheons introduced two years ago, permitting prospective members an introduction, may have had a positive influence and will be continued. Jim Slimmon has already hosted the Hartford area event, John Brooks will coordinate the Mystic area luncheon in February and Brin Ford has events in the New Haven and Rhode Island regions in the planning stages. Appropriate notice will be provided when plans are firm.

Your Board of Governors is always ready to heed input on how to make our racing better for the majority of participants. To that end Race Committee Chairman, Kim Granbery, has plans to acquire some new eight foot high inflatable temporary course markers for easier identification / location. Also, plans are in the works for a new "COURSE BOARD" which will double the size of the numerals and hopefully reduce the difficulty in establishing your course for the day. A very generous offer by member Bruce Lockwood will see to it that this much needed piece of Race Committee gear is manufactured and donated to the Club and ready for our Spring Series.

While on the subject of the Race Committee and as a result of starting gun malfunctions this past Spring, member Bill Canning has donated a new Winchester pump 12 gauge gun for sole Club use. Just as important as the gift of the gun itself, Bill included perpetual care and maintenance following each use.

These generous donations of labor and materials are most appreciated and can only make our racing better.

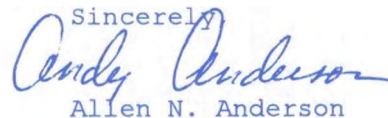
The "Guest Invitation" procedure was revised to be more friendly several years ago and it is hoped that members who know of good sailors that would enjoy participating in our events should avail themselves of this procedure. Invitation forms can be obtained by contacting Race Secretary Richard Roberts at (860) 443-4621.

A new requirement for compulsory use of personal flotation devices while racing in events governed by prescribed equipment category lists is being brought forth by US Sailing. At the present time your Board is not sure if it will apply to our category 4 races. A full explanation of this requirement will be included in the February issue of US Sailing.

To simplify things and permit more sailors to qualify for the two-year perpetual trophies offered for classes A-1/A-2, C-1/C-2 and C-4/C-5 the low point scoring system will be used to establish winners. In addition, if eight or more races are sailed, the worst race will be thrown out in computing results.

The subject of continuing the provision to conduct two races on Saturday for classes C-1, C-2 and C-3 has been under review. Originally instituted to offer increased incentives for the faster boats, the complexities involved have raised the question of whether it should be continued. Feedback so far from participants has been lackluster at best. Although the Race Committee will retain the ability to conduct the double race, it will likely not do so for the 1998 season unless there is sufficient positive interest communicated by the majority of the entrants in these classes.

Awarding four prizes in each class has been a trademark of Off Soundings. However, as certain classes have declined in number of entrants and the classification of these boats offer some serious handicaps, the fairness of always awarding four prizes in each class has been questioned. Starting in 1998 any class fielding less than 11 entrants will be afforded three prizes only. The obvious incentive to any class affected would be to build increased participation for their class.

Sincerely,  
  
Allen N. Anderson

PS: Please reserve the date of April 4<sup>th</sup> for the Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner at the USCGA Officers Club. Details will be mailed in early March.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone #</u>
A-1	James Slimmon, Jr.	31 Saddle Ridge, Bloomfield, CT 06002	(860) 726-1048
A-2	Peter McFadden	150 Pearl Street, Noank, CT 06340	(860) 572-7715
B	Edward Purcell, Jr.	4 Frazier Street, Mystic, CT 06355	(860) 536-6732
C-1	Dana Seniff	81 Purtill Street, S. Glastonbury, CT 06073	(860) 633-7447
C-2	William Healy, MD	1000 Asylum Ave., Hartford, CT 06105	(860) 522-3711
C-3	Carl Fast	33 High Street, Noank, CT 06340	(860) 572-9887
C-4	Steve O'Connell	81 E. Pattagansett Rd, #32, Niantic, CT 06357	(860) 739-2951
C-5	Milan Bartek	31 Trumbull Rd., Waterford, CT 06385	(860) 433-3560
CR 1&2	Robert Edmands	419 Colonial Rd., Guilford, CT 06437	(203) 488-7221