



OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

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WINTER NEWSLETTER

Here is a collection of items that may help turn your thoughts to the sailing season ahead.

We have been reviewing the division of our classes and the starting sequence, with these decisions:

- Classes A and B to remain the same in 1986.
- Cruising Canvas Class to remain the same in 1986; review next winter with regard to splitting into two classes.
- The C Classes will be regrouped to reserve Class C-3 for high-performance, light-displacement yachts.
- The starting sequence will be: A-2, A-1, C-1, C-2, B, C-3, C-4, C-5, CR.

We will sail the Spring Race Series June 13 and 14 to Shelter Island and the Fall Race Series September 12 and 13 to Block Island. Shelter Island Yacht Club is celebrating its 100th year this year and we will take the occasion of our rendezvous there to offer congratulations on that achievement.

The system used in 1985 of having Off Soundings pay up front for moorings at Shelter Island was successful and we will continue that practice. It was gratifying that just about every yacht on one of those moorings fulfilled her obligation by paying our Off Soundings Club revenue agents upon coming ashore.

The 1985 Dyer Dhow Derby was held at the Mystic Seaport on October 19th and was, from our Club's point of view, a success. Having won the Derby in 1984, we were obligated to provide the Race Committee for the 1985 event, and that duty was ably carried out by Paul van Dyke and his henchmen. We skillfully avoided the 1986 (October 18th) Race Committee duty by finishing fourth -- after Masons Island YC and the tie between Ram Island and Pequod YCs. I note that our crew did take a first place in the quarter-ton race -- where the total crew weight must exceed 1/4-ton.

The summer of 1987 will see our 50th Race Series and I have appointed the following committee to look into ways of commemorating the occasion:

Vice Commodore Slimmon	Rear Commodore Hohenstein
Secretary Woolworth	Race Committee Chmn van Dyke
Race Secretary Ames	Historian Robinson
Past Commodore Granbery	

They will welcome suggestions to help their planning.

You are reminded that the deadline for Bill Ames to receive completed applications for 1986 Guest Invitations is March 19th. Contact Bill for details.

USYRU Rule 26 governs what advertising may be displayed on racing yachts. Some clever spinnaker designs that feature or resemble commercial logos could be construed as infringing Rule 26. Caution and discretion are advised.

Our Annual Meeting and Shore Party is set for Saturday, March 29th, at the Sheraton Norwich. A specific mailing on this event will be out shortly.

The Shore Party will include the usual great movies of our last year's race series. However, this is the last dinner where the images will be produced by film. We have decided, on cost, availability and convenience factors, to record future races on video tape, starting this summer. We have been studying this transition for some months, assisted by Mystic Seaport Museum's Ken Mahler (our loyal and dedicated cameraman for many years), and have come up with the following:

- Races will be recorded on 3/4-inch, commercial-quality video equipment.
- Video recording permits on-scene sound synchronized with the picture, permitting the preservation of some interesting spontaneous commentary at mark roundings, etc.
- Mystic Seaport Museum is procuring additional portable equipment, augmenting its current capability, so as to be able to support Off Soundings.
- The 3/4-inch tape is needed for proper projection to our annual dinner audiences, starting in 1987. Projection devices are available.
- The 3/4-inch tapes of Off Soundings races will be retained by the Mystic Seaport Library, as part of the Off Soundings Club archives.
- Tapes of older Off Soundings races are now in the Library's vaults, having been recently transferred from film to tape for preservation. Some of those go back to the 1930's. Many have had narration added, by Bill Ames and others.
- Those tapes are catalogued and are available for viewing in the Library.
- The Seaport Library will ultimately be able to transfer images from 3/4-inch to 1/2-inch tapes for home viewing -- sort of a library-book approach.
- Race participants who take their own 1/2-inch tapes are encouraged to lend them to be copied into 3/4-inch format and subsequently edited into the master tape of the Race Series.
- The Off Soundings Club welcomes the support of the Mystic Seaport Museum in producing and retaining the video record of our events. In return, we have agreed to underwrite the procurement of the needed additional portable recording equipment, a cost of about \$6500, and we solicit contributions from our members for that purpose.
- Each of our 600 members is urged to contribute to this goal. Your donation check should be made out to "Mystic Seaport Museum," be earmarked for "Film and Video Archives," and be sent to our Treasurer, W. D. Strang, Jr., 85 Tyler Avenue, Groton, CT 06340. The Museum will credit our Off Soundings donation account and will acknowledge your gift with a form which may be used for tax purposes.
- It is seldom that we appeal to our members for special funds, but on this occasion we feel it necessary in order to support the Museum's Film Archives department in its effort to preserve and catalogue our collection and to support that department's work in the proper recording, editing and projection of our future race tapes.
- Join me in making an appropriate contribution.

Sincerely,



Richard H. Roberts
Commodore