

OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB



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To: Peter McFadden  
x.c.: Frank Bohlen, John Brooks, Dick Roberts, Bill Gunther  
From: Carl Fast  
Subject: Race Participation Ad Hoc Committee Report

The ad hoc committee for increased race participation was comprised of Messrs. Bohlen, Brooks, Roberts and Fast. The committee met twice to discuss a wide variety of topics which might directly or indirectly affect the number of race entries. Areas of discussion included membership process, guest process, race entry, racing, race party, and other non racing events. Lengthy discussions of the guest and membership process dominated the meetings. Recommendations for changes are described below. A complete list of all potential ideas discussed is attached.

The committee would like to propose the following changes to existing procedures:

1) The guest invitation process should be revised.

Guests should be able to be sponsored by a single member. The sponsor would bear the responsibility for ensuring the suitability of the guest. Invite forms should retain the current requirement for description of the guest's sailing experience to be provided by the sponsor.

Guest invite forms should be submitted by the sponsoring member directly to the Race Secretary. Upon receipt, the Race Secretary would forward a race entry package to the guest. This should be possible up to the closing day for race entries. Closing date for entries by guests should be the same as members.

Guest invites received after the spring race closing date would be honored for the fall race series. Dick Roberts has prepared complete details of the proposed process.

Discussion: It was agreed that the present guest process was cumbersome and has often kept boats from competing in our races. The current process of having the Board pass judgment on the guest list forces guest entries to close at least five

weeks before the race entry deadline. This was not viewed as beneficial as the Board has rarely vetoed a sponsored guest.

2) Do not read all the race results at the party.

Daily results should be printed, copied and made available by class each day. Friday's party should conclude with announcements of only the top 3 (or 5?) boats in each class. Saturday should have a similar reading of the top 3 for the day, followed by a complete reading of combined results.

Discussion: Printed results have been available since the RC began using a mmnnnncomputer for race calculations. Copies of results with actual times are more useful to racers than places. This format for announcements was viewed as more conducive to socializing and will likely result in more attentive listeners. This change will not affect the length or timing of the race party.

3) Penalties should be "sailed off" in three race series whether the boat races or not.

Discussion: The current policy of sailing off penalties in 3 series is long standing and effective in distributing silverware among racers. The policy of 5 series if not sailed is more recent and was perhaps intended as an incentive to race. It was perceived by the committee as being a hardship for boats unable to race every spring and fall, such as USCGA boats. Also, in the past it has led to damaged boats attempting to qualify as a starter to shorten penalty periods. Standardizing penalties at 3 series will also simplify record keeping.

These proposals will not require any changes to the By-Laws. As precedence setting decisions they will require consensus of the Board.

The remaining ideas in the enclosure were not viewed as requiring immediate attention. Most were in the realm of the entertainment or long range planning committees and are forwarded for information.

No further ad hoc committee meetings are scheduled.

Respectfully Submitted

Carl Fast

**Topics For Discussion**  
**1995 Ad Hoc Committee For Increased Race Participation**

**Membership**

**Guest Invites**

- Guest invitation cut-off date of March 25 is too early. This is before most people begin to plan their weekend race calendar. Guest cut-off should be the same as member entry deadline.
- Allow fall guest invites. Guests don't compete for combined awards so why make them wait a year to race?
- Simplify guest invite application. One member's letter with consensus of membership chairman or race secretary should suffice. References could be given and appropriate phone calls should confirm guest integrity if required.

**Race Entry**

- Eliminate the Off Soundings measurement if current PHRF or IMS certificate is available.

**Racing**

- Use alternate drop marks to ensure at least one beat each day for racing classes.
- Use alternate racing locations.
- Establish class "boosters" to drum up competition in each class.
- Organize a Sunday race home using reverse staggered start times to simplify handicapping.
- Allow boats to be raced without the skipper(s) of record on board if another OSC member is on board and in command.

**Awards**

- Offer informal "team" awards for three boat teams. Teams to be made up from three different classes.

## **Race Party**

- Don't read results, at least not all the boats, all the classes, each day and combined. Computer printouts posted and copies available by class should suffice (and should be provided regardless). Compromise by reading combined results on Saturday for everyone.
- Provide a ferry boat after the Saturday awards for sailors who don't want to spend the extra day delivering the boat home.

## **New Club Functions**

- Publish a newsletter after each series with a paragraph written (or dictated) by each class winner. Include other racing news as appropriate, such as articles about the next racing venue.
- Additional social events possibly worked around existing events such as the Dyer Dhow Derby. Lots of work but it could be lots of fun.
- Host a racing seminar using OSC members and possibly some "name brand" sailors as the panel of experts. Not all members consider themselves as expert racers and they want to get better
- Host a cruising or offshore safety seminar using OSC members and possibly some "name brand" sailors as the panel of experts.
- Host a team race using Dyer Dhows the morning of the Derby (or any other time - using USCGA?) Use three boat teams with each class fielding a team. This might attract the younger racers and future members.