



OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB



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To the membership:

The Board of Governors is considering implementing two global Internet-based software systems from compete-at.com; Membership Manager and Regatta Manager.

This is an exciting project for your Board to undertake, as it brings some much-needed administrative help in many of the tasks done behind the scenes. Those that have reviewed the software package conclude it will make the entire process of membership management more consistent and much less labor intensive for our members, the Treasurer, Secretary, Race Secretary, Membership Chairman and other officers, and provide improved use of the membership database for communications.

The 1st software package, Membership Manager, offers a single secure on-line database for management of all of our membership data. Each member will have the ability to maintain his membership profile directly on-line. It will be possible to register for club events, and to pay membership dues and events fees on-line by credit card, or as always by postal mail and check.

The 2nd software package, Regatta Manager, will allow an entrant to establish and maintain an on-line entry profile including all contact, boat, handicap, and entry information. This profile can be used to enter not just Off Soundings Series, but also any race being managed with Regatta Manager. Race entry and party fees can be paid online by credit card. This will offer benefits of convenience, speed, efficiency, and consistency for entrants, the Treasurer, Race Secretary, Race Committee Chairman, and Scorer throughout the race administration process.

To provide this, a dues and entry fee increase of \$5.00 is being proposed this fall, effective in 2010. Our operating expenses in general have increased as part of the cost of doing business. Your Board has been very diligent over the years to keep our operating expenses as low as possible. The dues have been the same since 2003. Those on the Board directly impacted feel strongly the relatively minor cost increase will provide a big return in the quality of race administration and club management.

While we believe that the online services provide great benefits for all concerned and that their usage will grow with familiarity, we intend to continue to provide mail and pay by check services for those that prefer them, and the race documents will continue to be printed and mailed as has always been done.

Please contact me if you have comments on this matter.

Bill Loweth
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