



## OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

OFFICE OF  
COMMODORE  
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To: Officers and Board Members of the Off Soundings Club

Regarding: Recommendation for Membership Longevity Recognition

As discussed at the October Board Meeting, Past Commodore W. Frank Bohlen and I met to review and discuss the potential for recognition of long-term members in the Off Soundings Club. The purpose of this recognition would be to highlight the contributions of long-term membership, both to the financial well being of the club, as well as the history of Club activities. We decided that formal recognition of regatta participation would be difficult except in the unusual case (Jack English – 50 years, several years ago), since many members crew when they are not sailing their own boats – and we do not keep a data base of this sort. The two longevity markers that seemed to be logical were the 30 year and 50 year points.

There are about 125 “30 year +” members, of which I count 13 who are “50 year+” members. Of exceptional note is our good friend Bill Dodge, with 66 years of membership! We thought that the longevity markers could be recognized in the yearbook listing (possibly a bullet or star for 30+, maybe bold type for 50+. In addition, we recommend that the 50+ members be recognized by a special page listing, with their names and original election dates.

For recognition memorabilia, there is obviously a start-up cost to do this, as well as an annual “upkeep” for the members who would achieve these milestones annually. We thought that the 30+ award could be a plaque similar to the “place” plaques for perpetual trophies (Burgee, 30 year member, name, year). The 50+ award would be just a little more substantial, perhaps already mounted on a wood back for hanging or standing on a table.

To defray the initial cost of the program for longevity recognition, we suggest tapping the Norcross fund. I would suggest setting a budget to cover the cost (including a postage allowance), and then working with Penny Langome (Gifted Trophies) to keep within the budget and select an appropriate item that is likely to be available on a continuing basis. Recognition would be made at the annual meeting dinner.

If the Board concurs, I would like to initiate this program at this year’s Annual Meeting. There are a few details to wrap up (Honorary Member date verification), but I believe that this recognition is warranted.

John Brooks