



OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

REPORT OF RACE COMMITTEE

After sitting in the R. C., Chairman's seat for four seasons one starts to get a sense of where the Off Soundings group is and how the races need to be managed on the water. Certain traditions should never change, (i.e.) Friday's race is always a destination race and Saturday's race is around the buoys race. Finishes must happen in time so the results can be read before dinner and/or dark.

A certain amount of fine tuning now needs to be done around the basic format. Up to spring 1995 the race structure has changed very little - 10 minute starts, preprinted courses, one race each day, little communication from the R. C. beyond code flags.

It seemed the R. C. needed to be (if you will) more user friendly and have more flexibility at the last minute due to changing weather conditions. So this past summer we tried the five minute start separation - get people racing. (Postpone if necessary during the start sequence to maintain class separation.)

The next major new idea we tried is to pick and post the course on a signboard. Choosing the course at the last minute gives the Committee a chance at picking the best way to go for the day. Of course, there is a lot of new pressure to make the last minute decisions correctly. One added bonus to posting the course, the fleet must come close by the Committee Boat for check-in. One problem, there is limited room for everyone to see the posted course at once.

Off Soundings has always used a drop mark near the Ruins. We feel a more liberal use of inflatable marks will give a better course selection. Saturday this fall we tried for the first time to give two races to classes C1 and C2. It seemed to be well received. A short race with drop marks and a larger Off Soundings Race around the buoys worked well. Generally we were able to keep all the boats on the same body of water - important.

To make it all work, we needed a start and finish line - one on either side of the Committee Boat. It worked.

Finally, the computer has help calculate the results. We still score the fleet the old hand way. It's a good check that we will not abandon any time soon.

Next year we would like to try these new ideas again. Probably a more liberal use of the radio is needed. Maybe the courses should be announced at pre-stated times.

As Off Soundings gets more sophisticated in its race

management there eventually will be new expenses for drop marks, maybe a computer, and other supporting equipment. Don't expect any savings in the wining and dining area, many people are needed to pull off this kind of Race Committee work.

By the way, we had the best time ever Saturday this past September watching you all.