

May 5, 1954

Mr. Howard W. Young
18 Stuyvesant Oval
New York 9, N. Y.

Dear Howard:

Thanks very much for your letter of April 21st.

Since receiving your letter, I have talked with some of the older members of the Club and members of our Board of Governors, and we would all like very much to cooperate with you on a picture-text article on the Off Soundings Club for the new sports magazine to be published by Time, Inc.

We would, however, do this only on condition that you emphasize the fact that entry to the races are by invitation only. We would also like to review the article briefly from a historical angle before it is published.

I might say that we have quite a file of photographs of past races, some of which might be of interest.

The answers to your questions are as follows:

1. Off Soundings Dates: Spring Races, June 11th and 12th, Fall Races, September 17th and 18th.
2. Course. New London, Montauk, Dering with larger boats sailing at about a 25 mile course each day and smaller boats about a 17 mile course.
3. Last Spring, we had about 140 entries, and last Fall about 130. We expect fleets at least as large this year. Invitations are going forward to all entered in the Bermuda Race except those vessels larger than our size limitation. I don't know how many will enter, but there will probably be about 15 or 20 boats which will sail with us. We figure that we have an average of about five people per boat making a total of about 700 to 800 in the race.

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4. The fleet has outgrown the Montauk Yacht Club's feeding capacity. Since they can't feed us within, they do not put on any regular meal, but do sell some sandwiches. We have shifted from Mannhattans to Rye and Soda, and the total consumption for each afternoon rendezvous is about five cases of whiskey and an equivalent amount of soda, plus several cases of Coke, Ginger Ale, etc. for those who prefer softer fluids.
5. I am enclosing one of our Year Books which names present officers, past officers, etc.
6. The Club was founded by a group largely from Springfield back in 1933. Legal headquarters remain in Massachusetts where the Club was incorporated. At the present time the Club Historian is Douglas L. Swan of Longmeadow.

I believe between he, Mel Southworth, Stan Bradford, Blunt White and Phelps Brown, you will gather plenty of historical information.

In this connection, Bill Taylor wrote an article on the Club titled Fresh Water Yacht Club, which appeared in Yachting, December 1951 on page #36.

As far as the Club is concerned, we have one or two suggestions to make.

First, we would want any vessel carrying photographers to be piloted by someone who has a knowledge of sailing and race maneuvering so that they will not get in the way of boats racing. In this connection, I might say that Rosenfeld, the very well known Yachting photographer from New York has photographed some of our races from time to time and is generally there at least once each year. He has made some excellent pictures of our starts and seems to get to places where he can get interesting shots.

I don't know how much trouble a helicopter could cause, but hope that if you use one, it will stay high enough so that the wind is not radically disturbed on the surface.

I am mentioning the matter of photography as our experience indicates that it is very difficult to get good pictures of the race from a competing yacht. Occasionally a good one is obtained, and if you wish to review some of our movies, you might find some here that could be used especially one of the start last Spring which is nothing but a mass of masts. The best photographs that anyone has been able to get have been taken from a power boat that could maneuver as required without racing considerations.

Howard W. Young

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We could arrange for someone to go aboard the Coast Guard vessel which serves as a Committee Boat and escorts the fleet, I believe. I am sorry to say that I have a full crew this Spring, but would be very glad to have you sail with us in the Fall Race.

If you definitely want a berth this Spring, let me know, and I think I can find one for you. I have been calling around to see if anyone needed a crew member in the Bermuda race, but to date everyone I know has a full crew, I am sorry to say.

Thanks ever so much for your letter. When you want to look further into history, etc., let me know and I will make arrangements for you.

Sincerely,

Paul K. Rogers, Jr.

pkc,jr.-sl

cc: P. Brown
R. Stephens, Jr.
J. Fales
J. Wm. Jones, Jr. ✓
C.W. Blunt White