



# OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

[Letterhead]

RICHARD H. ROBERTS, Race Secretary  
60 Dart Street  
New London, Connecticut 06320

(860) 443-4621  
April 18, 1997

Enclosed are the following:

1. Notice of Race for the Spring Race Series
2. Spring Race Series Entry Blank
3. Roster of Off Soundings Club Measurers
4. Off Soundings Club Minimum Equipment & Accommodations Standard (Based on ORC Category 4), dated April 2, 1994
5. General Information and Reservations Sheet

What was called the "First Notice" has been revised and reconfigured to conform to the standard Notice of Race, as outlined in Appendix N of the Racing Rules of Sailing. Some superfluous wording has been eliminated and some provisions which were lacking have been added.

Your attention is called to the following:

1. The Racing Rulebook has been changed. The new Rulebook is called *The Racing Rules of Sailing -- 1997 - 2000*. Members of the US Sailing Association have been sent a copy of the new Rulebook as a part of their membership services. Others should call 800-US-SAIL-1 to inquire about the new Rulebook or about becoming a member of US SAILING and obtaining a new Rulebook that way.
2. The innovations used in the 1995 Fall Race Series will be continued in 1997.
3. The 1997 Race Series will use the Time-on-Time system of handicapping. In that system, each boat's PHRF rating, as properly determined by the Chief Measurer and modified to reflect any penalty awarded to a prior winner, is converted to the boat's Time Correction Factor (TCF). The Corrected Time for each boat is then calculated by multiplying its Elapsed Time by its TCF.
4. This year we will use an Alternative Penalty System, in lieu of disqualification for a breach of a Rule of Part 2. Refer to Rule 44.3 of the Rulebook. Important features are:
  - a. The breach must have been of a Rule in Part 2 (When Boats Meet), must not have resulted in serious damage, and must not have given the boat breaking a rule a significant advantage;
  - b. The boat breaking a rule accepts the penalty by promptly displaying a yellow flag and then notifies the Race Committee at the finish, identifying the other boat. (Note that Rule 44.3 no longer lists Code Flag "I" as an acceptable substitute for the yellow flag required to be displayed when accepting the alternative penalty in lieu of disqualification);
  - c. Rule 44.3(c) is changed in that the penalty is 10 minutes added to the Corrected Time of the boat breaking a rule.

5. The Race Committee is planning to select and post on the Committee Boat the courses to be sailed. The procedures will be spelled out in the Sailing Instructions.
6. Boats shall conform to the Off Soundings Club Minimum Equipment and Accommodations Standard (based on ORC Category 4), dated April 2, 1994 and enclosed with this Notice. Boats 28 ft LOA to 35 ft LOA which conformed to the previous standard (at least 18-inch single lifelines and pulpits) will be "grandfathered." Owners are strongly urged to upgrade their lifeline and pulpit installations to comply with the current ORC requirements for Category 4.
7. To help offset increased costs associated with the conduct of our races, the boat entry fee has been changed from \$30 to \$35.
8. We expect to have the 12-Metres joining us for the Spring Race Series. They will race on their own from Newport on Friday, and our Race Committee will properly finish them at the entrance to Great Salt Pond. They then will race with the Off Soundings Fleet on Saturday
8. The new rules (**RRS**, as explained in #1, above) have assigned meanings to Code Flag "A" and to Code Flag "Z." To avoid potential confusion, the Class Flag for Class A-I is changed to Code Flag "T" and the Class Flag for Class C-4 is changed to Code Flag "W".
9. The Deputy Race Secretary is Neal S. O'Connell. Neal will assist the Race Secretary and fill in when necessary. He can be reached at 860-739-2951(H).

Good sailing, and we look forward to seeing you at Block Island.

Cordially,



Richard H. Roberts  
Race Secretary  
OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

Readers of the new Rulebook will notice a change in terminology. Some of the new terms you'll be getting used to are:

Was

alter a rule, course  
infringe a rule  
infringement  
party to a protest  
two boat-length circle  
yacht  
hoist a signal  
lower a signal

Now is

change a rule, course  
break a rule  
breach  
party to a hearing  
two-length zone  
boat  
display a signal  
remove a signal

# OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

60th ANNUAL SPRING RACE SERIES  
1997  
JUNE 13th and 14th

## NOTICE OF RACE (NOR)

### **1.0 Rules**

- 1.1 The Race Series will be governed by the Constitution of the Off Soundings Club (which is concerned with NOR 14.0 of this Notice of Race), the Racing Rules of Sailing for 1997 - 2000 (referred to herein as "Rules" or "Rulebook"), the Prescriptions of US SAILING and by the Sailing Instructions. The Series is classed as a Category A event, as described in Appendix G.
- 1.2 Boats shall conform to the Off Soundings Club Minimum Equipment & Accommodations Standard (Based on ORC Category 4), dated April 2, 1994, and enclosed with this Notice. Boats 28 ft LOA to 35 ft LOA which conformed to the previous standard (at least 18-inch single lifelines and pulpits) will be "grandfathered." Owners are strongly urged to upgrade their lifeline and pulpit installations to comply with the current ORC requirements for Category 4.
- 1.3 The Off Soundings Club will adhere to and enforce Rule 77 and Appendix H regarding sail numbers.
- 1.4 Off Soundings Club rules require that at least one of the persons in whose name a boat is entered (Master) must be on board for each race and in command of that boat. In the case of guests, only the guest can be the Master and must be aboard and in command for each race.
- 1.5 These regulations apply to the Cruising Canvas Classes:
  - a. Only Off Soundings Club members may enter. You must mark the appropriate box on the Entry Blank to enter.
  - b. Spinnakers (including mizzen spinnakers) may not be used. Headsails must be attached along their length to the headstay by means of either hanks or a slotted headstay. This does not exclude roller-furling headsails. Headsail girths measured from the luff to the leech must be no greater than their proportional distance from the head.
  - c. Spinnaker poles may be used as whisker poles. Whisker pole length is limited to 80% of LP or spinnaker pole length, whichever is greater.
  - d. Only one sail at a time, other than forestaysails on standard double-head rigs, may be tacked forward of the mainmast (foremast on schooners). This does not prohibit a transient condition (i.e., during a sail change evolution).
  - e. Use of other sails, such as mules, mizzen staysails, is permitted.
  - f. Boats must meet all Off Soundings eligibility requirements.

## **2.0 Responsibility**

- 2.1 The legal age for drinking in Rhode Island is twenty-one. The "Captain's Responsibility" statement printed on the reverse of the Entry Blank makes it clear that your signature denotes that, as Master/Captain, you shoulder the responsibility that your under-age crew members are advised of the prohibition on their drinking at Off Soundings Club events. Further, you take full responsibility for their actions.
- 2.2 Guest invitees who have not received prior communication please take note of this emphasis on the Master/Captain's responsibility.
- 2.3 You will note that the Entry Blank requires you to sign a certification that your boat meets the minimum equipment & accommodations standard of NOR 1.2 and that you agree to the waiver contained on the reverse thereof. As a Corinthian yachtsman, your certifying signature is the verification needed to assure that all entrants have complied and are racing fairly and truly.

## **3.0 Changes to the Racing Rules**

- 3.1 A procedure for broadcasting corrections to the Sailing Instructions has been prescribed, under the requirement of Rule 88.2(c).
- 3.2 Visual signals have been added to Rule 25 and to Race Signals to indicate where Saturday's race is to be sailed in the event that Friday's races are Abandoned.
- 3.3 A racing boat starting early and failing to restart properly will be penalized by having thirty minutes added to her Corrected Time. Rule 29.1 is changed accordingly.
- 3.4 General Recall procedures are changed in that the recalled class is to re-start last. Race Signals and Rule 29.3 are changed accordingly.
- 3.5 The Scoring Penalty of Rule 44.3(c) is changed in that the penalty will be 10 minutes added to the Corrected Time of the boat breaking a rule. Rule 44.2 will not apply.

## **4.0 Eligibility and Entry**

- 4.1 The Race Series is open to those members and invited guests whose boats qualify in all respects to the provisions outlined in NOR 4.3, below.
- 4.2 The closing date for receipt of Guest Invitations Application forms is May 8, 1997 (for both the Spring and Fall Race Series) and August 7, 1997 (for the Fall Race Series only).
- 4.3 Boat eligibility is defined as follows:
  - a. For handicapping purposes, the maximum PHRF base boat rating will be 300.
  - b. The minimum L.O.A. of boats which may race in the OSC Spring or Fall Race Series is 23.75 feet. Boats smaller than this L.O.A. will not be permitted to race, nor will boats in excess of 62 feet L.O.A. Boats must have self-bailing cockpits and be capable of normal cruising (head, galley, bunks, etc.).
  - c. Excepted from this ruling are boats, owned by members, which fall outside the limits of 4.3.b above, but which have raced in a series prior to this date. Those boats will be permitted to race, using ratings based on the boat's valid Measurement Data Certificate, so long as there is no change in boat ownership.
- 4.4 Eligible boats may be entered by completing the enclosed Entry Blank and sending it by First Class Mail to Richard H. Roberts, Race Secretary, 60 Dart Street, New London, CT 06320-4512. Your entry will be acknowledged by return postcard.

4.5 In order to determine perpetual trophy winners accurately and assign handicap penalties equitably, it is necessary to confirm the ownership or charter arrangement of all entered boats for each race series. Please list the names of all owners or charterers, whether or not also listed as master(s), in the space provided on the Entry Blank. For reasons of space, please do not list more than two names as Master. If yours is a syndicate boat and you wish to list the syndicate name, indicate the skipper's name only.

## **5.0 Schedule of Events**

5.1 The Off Soundings fleet will race from Watch Hill to Block Island on Friday, June 13th, and will race on selected courses near Block Island on Saturday, June 14th. Each evening we will rendezvous at THE OAR (Block Island Boat Basin).

5.2 The logistics particulars for this series are outlined on the enclosed General Information and Reservations Sheet. Information and suggestions on docking, mooring, shore facilities, transportation, emergency facilities, etc., are included therein and you are requested to make whatever reservations you wish direct and early.

5.3 The First Warning will be at 0950 on Friday and 0850 on Saturday.

## **6.0 Contribution**

6.1 Please note that, in order to assign actual expenses equitably, there is an expected \$35 contribution per boat plus \$6 per person on board. Please make your check payable to the Off Soundings Club and enclose it with your Entry Form.

6.2 Non-racing members and guests are always welcome at our rendezvous parties, at the normal per-person contribution. We've included a place on the Entry Blank for you to let us know how many non-racing people to expect, and for you to include payment for them.

## **7.0 Measurement**

7.1 PHRF ratings will be used for all classes. PHRF ratings will be based on the work of the PHRF of Long Island Sound (the PHRF group of the Eastern Connecticut Sailing Association), information from regional areas with PHRF experience, and additional information which may be developed by the OSC Chief Measurer. The adjustment factors will be in accordance with the procedures used by PHRF of LIS.

7.2 Each boat must have a valid OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB MEASUREMENT DATA CERTIFICATE, which is one that is less than three years old, i.e., with an original date of June 13, 1994 or later. If the boat does not have a valid Measurement Data Certificate, it must be measured by one of the following: an Off Soundings Club approved measurer, your yacht club measurer, or a sailing association measurer. The Certificate should be completed in triplicate, with one copy being sent to Norman E. Rabe, Off Soundings Club Chief Measurer, 33 Valley Drive, Salem, Connecticut 06420. Your measurer should keep one copy. The third copy is for your files.

7.3 In determining your Off Soundings Club PHRF rating, necessary boat dimensional information will be taken from your valid Off Soundings Club Measurement Data Certificate. Owners of a class type (such as Tartan 41 or Morgan 34, etc.) must inform the OSC Chief Measurer of any substantial modifications to the boat which might affect the speed potential but which might not be evident on the Off Soundings Club Measurement Data Certificate. Examples of such modifications are added keel ballast or lightened interior joiner work. This request must be treated in a true Corinthian spirit.

**8.0 Entry Deadline** -- Entries (together with contribution check) must be received by the Race Secretary, postmarked on or before **May 22, 1997**. Where new Measurement Data Certificates are required, they must be received by the Chief Measurer, postmarked on or before **May 22, 1997**. No exceptions will be permitted, Postal Service foibles notwithstanding.

**9.0 Classes** -- There will be three "A" and "B" classes, five "C" classes and two Cruising Canvas Classes. Where appropriate, classes will be grouped generally based on PHRF rating and the rating break point for any of the classes cannot be determined until after all entries have been received. Note that Class C-3 will be comprised of boats deemed by the Classification Committee to be "high performance."

### **10.0 Class Flags**

10.1 You must fly a class flag at all times during the race. This flag shall be no smaller than size "0", (i.e., 12" x 15"). It should be flown vertically, as far forward as possible, on the bow pulpit.

10.2 The following International Code Flags will be used as class flags:

A-1	Tango*
A-2	Echo
B	Kilo
C-1	Papa
C-2	Oscar
C-3	Foxtrot
C-4	Whiskey*
C-5	Juliet
CR-1	Uniform
CR-2	Golf

#### **\*Note change**

10.3 Class assignments will be mailed with the Sailing Instructions. Owners needing to know their boat's class flag sooner may call the following, after May 28th: R. H. Roberts at 860-443-4621 (H) or N. E. Rabe at 860-859-0165 (H) or N. S. O'Connell at 860-739-2951 (H).

**11.0 Sailing Instructions** -- The Sailing Instructions, together with the Entry List, by class, are scheduled to be mailed to members and invited guests on Friday, June 6, 1997.

### **12.0 Scoring**

12.1 All Classes will be handicapped using the time-on-time system. Each boat's Time Correction Factor (TCF) will be based on its PHRF rating and penalty adjustment, if any. A boat's Corrected Time is obtained by multiplying its Elapsed Time by its TCF.

12.2 As is customary for Club races, standings are given on a "Corrected Time" basis computed from the combined results of two days of racing. After each day's racing, tentative results will be announced and posted. Complete results will be mailed later to members and guests.

12.3 A boat winning a first, second or third place will be awarded a penalty for three additional race series. The penalties are 15% for each first place, 10% for each second place and 5% for each third place, for a maximum of 45% total penalty. The formulation of TCF includes the penalty adjustment of 1.5% for each 5% of awarded penalty. Existing penalties will be carried over if a class changes for any reason.

12.4 Penalties will be removed after three race series, sailed or not.

12.5 If a boat is acquired by a person not associated with the acquisition of the penalty, the penalty will be dropped from that boat. If that owner then purchases or charters a non-similar boat, he also will not continue to carry the penalty. It is the responsibility of the entrant to contact the Race Secretary prior to the entry closing date if there is any question regarding the dropping of a penalty.

### **13.0 Alternative Penalty**

13.1 The Off Soundings Club has established an Alternative Penalty, for use in lieu of disqualification, for the 1997 Race Series.

13.2 The Scoring Penalty of Rule 44 will apply, and Rule 44.3(c) is changed in that the penalty will be 10 minutes added to the Corrected Time of the boat breaking a rule.

13.3 The boat breaking a rule shall signal her acceptance of the Alternative Penalty by displaying a yellow flag for the remainder of the race. She shall comply with the other provisions of Rule 44.3(a).

13.4 You are reminded that Rule 44.1 requires that the breach must have been of a Rule in Part 2 (When Boats Meet), must not have resulted in serious damage, and must not have given the boat breaking a rule a significant advantage.

**14.0 Decisions of the Jury** -- The decisions of the Protest Committee (jury) will be final, in accordance with the Off Soundings Club Constitution, which does not allow the decisions of its Protest Committee to be appealed.

**15.0 Radio Communications** -- The Coast Guard First District has advised that, effective April 1, 1992 and within its jurisdiction, VHF Channel 9 is to be used as the calling channel, reserving the use of Channel 16 for distress communications. Off Soundings Club Race Committee communications will be carried out on VHF Channel 72.

### **16.0 Prizes**

16.1 Four prizes will be awarded in each class. Please arrange for someone to collect your trophy in your behalf if you will not be present to receive your award at the prize ceremony Saturday night. Un-claimed prizes will be held by Rear Commodore H. Wes Maxwell (860-535-3905) pending a call from the recipient to arrange for pick-up of the prize. All prizes are donated by the Off Soundings Club.

16.2 Perpetual trophies, for members only, will be presented at the winter shore party for the boat and Master with the best corrected time, without penalties, in the year's races in several categories. Winners, and second and third places, will be awarded keeper plaques.

**17.0 Fall Race Series** -- The following are the key dates for the Fall Race Series. If you plan to be away during the entry period please write the Race Secretary in advance to request a Fall Entry Blank.

Notice of Race (including Spring results)	July 11, 1997
Deadline, Fall Guest Invitation Applications	August 7, 1997
Closing Date	August 21, 1997
Race Dates	September 12 & 13, 1997

## **OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB**

### GENERAL INFORMATION AND RESERVATION SHEET

#### Thursday, June 12, 1997

Docking and mooring space at Dodson's in Stonington is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Dockage or mooring charges will be \$10.00 per boat (a special and very reasonable rate for Off Soundings participants). Launch service will be available from 0800 till 2200. Dodson's can be reached at 860-535-1507.

Ram Island Yacht Club has generously offered its facilities to members of the fleet on Thursday night. The Committee Boat NOR'EASTER will be at the dock at Ram Island Yacht Club on Thursday night.

#### Friday and Saturday, June 13 & 14, 1997

THE OAR at Block Island Boat Basin in Great Salt Pond, Block Island, RI will be the site of the weekend rendezvous.

### DOCKING AND MOORING

The Block Island Boat Basin has approximately 47 slips available varying in depth from 4 to 8 feet. Reservations for a slip must be made directly and as early as possible. The price is \$2.25 per foot and your reservation must be accompanied with a deposit of one night's dockage. Address and phone: Block Island Boat Basin, PO Box 369, Block Island, RI 02807; phone 401-466-2631. For reservations before June 1st, use address: 125 Steamboat Avenue, North Kingston, RI 02852; phone 401-294-3361.

There are also slips available at Payne's Dock at \$1.50 per foot (\$2.00 per foot over 40 feet); phone 401-466-5572, and Champlin's Marina and Resort; phone 401-466-2641. Rates for Champlin's: <49', \$2.25 per foot; 50' - 69', \$2.50 per foot. Champlin's has a lot of space as they will raft boats three to four deep on each side of their long fixed docks.

The town of New Shoreham has lime-green moorings that are for rent on a first-come, first-served basis at \$30 per night. Rafting on these moorings is permitted, to a maximum of one boat on either side of the moored boat, each at \$30 per night.

### LAUNCH SERVICE

There will be launches servicing the fleet of Off Soundings participants and available for transportation ashore between the hours of 1400 and 0130 Friday and Saturday nights. Morning service will be from 0700 - 0900 Saturday and 0700 - 1100 Sunday. They may also be available at other times during the course of the weekend to individuals, using their normal fee schedules. The launches monitor Channel 68 and appreciate the showing of "T" flags. Please display an OSC burgee or other OSC identification (e.g. the Final Notice booklet) to the launch operator.

### REFRESHMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The after-race shore party will be held at THE OAR following Friday's and Saturday's races. Spigotted crocks will be arranged to the side of THE OAR and your beverage of choice may be readily identified by the code flags properly arrayed. Timely finishes permitting, mainbrace splicing will commence at approximately 1730. Results of the day's racing plus the combined results of the two-day series will be announced following the party. Please assist in keeping the grounds neat and tidy by using the trash barrels available.

## FACILITIES

Toilet and shower facilities in the lower level of THE OAR will be made available to race participants. Trash and garbage removal provisions have been arranged for and the deposit location will be in the vicinity of THE OAR.

## NO-DISCHARGE ZONE

Great Salt Pond has been declared a federal no-discharge zone. Marine toilets and holding tanks cannot be discharged in the harbor. This includes Type I devices such as Lectra/San. The Harbor-master may board your vessel to ensure that seacocks are sealed. Discharge of "gray water," i.e., sinks, showers, etc. is permitted. The fine for unlawful discharge is \$200. The town of New Shoreham operates a pump-out boat at no charge. Advance arrangements must be made with the Harbormaster (Larry Constantine, 401-466-3204) for this service. Further, by courtesy and law, heads, except Type I, and holding tanks should not be discharged overboard within three miles of any shoreline.

## TRANSPORTATION

TAXI: Privately operated taxis are the primary means of public transportation on the island. There should be plenty around seeking your business, as Off Soundings is the first major event of the season and the winter has been long and lean. The basic flat fare within the triangle New Harbor - Old Harbor - Airport is \$5.00 for up to five persons, plus \$1.00 per person over five. There are surcharges for longer distances, dirt roads, etc.

FERRY: Runs from Pt. Judith to and from Old Harbor several times per day. The trip takes a little over an hour. One way fare is \$6.60 for adults, \$3.15 for children. Round trip discounts are available. One way fare for a car is \$20.25, and advance reservations are required. Telephone 401-783-4613 for exact schedules and further information.

AIR SERVICE: New England Airlines operates flights (about 10 minutes flight time) to and from Block Island out of Westerly Airport on nearly an hourly schedule year round. Fare is \$34 one way, \$59 round trip. Call 800-243-2460 (outside RI), or 596-2460 (in RI) for schedules and reservations. Charters are also available.

## EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Medical emergencies will be coordinated by the Fleet Surgeon, who will be guarding Channel 72. Participants are encouraged to have on board a medical kit properly outfitted and to be prepared to handle minor problems. Should you have a medical emergency, call the Committee Boat and/or the Fleet Surgeon on Channel 72.

While at Block Island, call:

Police	466-3220
Rescue Squad	466-3226
Doctor	466-2974

## CLUB TIES, PATCHES, ETC.

The Off Soundings Club has arranged with The Club House to offer an expanded line of ties, burgees, patches, pins, shirts, hats and jackets for sale. Inquire directly at The Club House, 29 Soundview Road, Unit 5, Guilford, CT 06437; 203-453-8366 or 800-453-3224 or (fax) 203-453-8364. Special 1997 Off Soundings Spring Race Series tee shirts will be available at the Shore Party.

PLEASE RETAIN THIS INFORMATION SHEET AND  
BRING IT ABOARD FOR THE RACE