



OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

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WINTER NEWSLETTER

February 10, 1989

A great 1989 Off Soundings Club season has been planned by your Board of Governors and Committee Chairmen. The first important date to remember is April 1st, our annual dinner and shore party at the Sheraton Norwich Motor Inn. The movies of the 1988 season produced by Ken Mahler of Mystic Seaport and moderated by Bill Ames are excellent. Vice Commodore George Hohenstein has planned a fine dinner preceded by the Rock of Ages lively band.

Important dates for you to remember:

Annual Meeting - Shore Party.....April 1
First Notice - Spring Series.....April 7
Race Dates.....June 9 & 10
First Notice - Fall Series.....July 7
Race Dates.....September 15 & 16

The 1988 season was a successful one with one exception. Unfortunately, we had an incident at Shelter Island by an Off Soundings Club member's crew who was under the legal age of 21 and had been drinking excessively. Consequently, the Off Soundings Board of Governors has ruled that this club member, his boat and the offending crew member be suspended from racing in the 1989 Spring and Fall races. Please remember we are guests at the Shelter Island Yacht Club and Block Island. All of us are responsible for the conduct of our crew. Those that are not 21 are not legally allowed to drink in either the State of New York or Rhode Island. More attention has to be given to this matter by each of us.

Last year, your Board of Governors formalized the criteria for honorary members. They are as follows:

- 1) Candidates shall be living former active members. Candidates shall be proposed by the Flag Officers to the Board of Governors for recommendation for election. They need not be a member at time of selection.
- 2) Candidates shall, in the opinion of the Board of Governors, have performed outstanding service and in general, made a significant contribution to the operation, image and stature of the Club.
- 3) Recommendations for Honorary Membership shall reflect the Board's intention to recognize outstanding service, retain the interest of, and honor such former members who have made extraordinary contributions to the Club and to this extent, attention should be given to those who have resigned under the Motorboat Rule.
- 4) In general, recommendations for Honorary Membership shall be limited to one (1) per year.

(SEE OVER)

The first member elected was Peter Comstock, a well deserved selection. The 1989 candidate will be voted upon at the Annual Meeting.

There seems to be confusion about handling the applications of new members. Enclosed is a letter from our Membership Chairman Frank Bohlen outlining this procedure. A member should not send his potential applicant in search of membership information. That is the proposer's responsibility. Every member should be encouraged to carefully review the posted list of candidates and to pass any thoughts he might have, both pro and con, concerning candidates' suitability to the membership committee. It should not be assumed that posting implies that the candidate has been accepted for membership. It only implies that he has passed through the first series of reviews.

The Dhow Derby at Mystic Seaport was sailed October 22, 1988 in extremely gusty winds. We did not win but will be back next October for a better showing.

The nominating committee for 1989 consists of Eliot Porter, Chairman, Jack Washburn and Bill Webster.

There have been some changes in the race rules for 1989 by USYRA. A seminar most likely will be held in March and I encourage you to attend.

Classification Committee Chairman Don Davis and his committee have reviewed all classes. There have been some changes made in classes C-1, C-2, C-4 and C-5.

A candidate has been chosen for the USYRA Award which represents the spirit of sailing and/or good sportsmanship. The award will be presented at our Annual Dinner. Our candidate has been forwarded for national consideration.

It is hard to believe that six years have gone by since I became one of your flag officers and that my time of office will end shortly. I wish to thank the Committee Chairmen and the Board of Governors for their support. A virtue of our Club is that everyone willingly does their job so well.

I wish you all a very successful sailing season in 1989!

Regards,



James B. Slimmon, Jr.
Commodore