

OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB
MEMORANDUM

19 October 1955

TO: BOARD OF GOVERNORS

SUBJ: Unfinished Business Relating to Fall Series

- enc: (1) Copy of Commodore Carpenter's letter of 3 October
(2) Copy of my letter to same dated 13 October
(3) Copy of my letter to Rear Commodore Umpleby
(4) Copy of Alfred Meyer's letter of 26 September
(5) Copy of John Fales' letter of 27 September
(6) Copy of C. B. Rockwell's letter of 28 September
(7) Copy of my letter to A. Meyer dated 18 October
(8) Copy of Chequit Inn letter to Mel Southworth
(9) Copy of my letter to T. S. Hall, W. J. Cochran,
and W. E. Wade regarding Calderone affair

The above enclosures relate to what might be considered unfinished business holding over from our Fall get-together. I hope that on reading you will feel that the action taken is appropriate.

It has been suggested for consideration at our recent governors' meeting that we consider dropping the Schooner Prize. Recently it has not added anything in particular, as the winning schooner has been a prize winner anyway. Under these conditions, it is my feeling that it would be proper to drop the Schooner Prize, which would somewhat simplify the work of the race committee, require less records, and considerably reduce the burden of making announcements.

You will remember that there was a mixup regarding prizes from the Fall Races a year ago where the withdrawal of BOUNDING HOME moved SPOOKIE from fourth to third and left ONDINE deserving fourth prize that had been given to SPOOKIE. I have approved Mel's suggestion that an additional fourth prize be furnished. This is being done and will be delivered to ONDINE, which seems the best way to close the matter.

Mel reports that on checking with the Hotel Kimball in Springfield, Saturday, 17 March is not available, hence the party this year (1956) will again be held on a Friday -- 16 March. I have suggested to Mel that he check on a suitable Saturday date, taking into account the change in the date of Easter, and making tentative arrangements with the hotel.

did we take care of this?
10/27

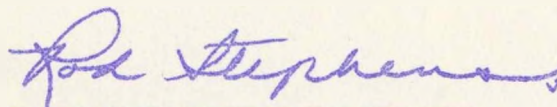
egs-904

19 October 1955

There has been an unfortunate amount of rumor and discussion about fouls or perhaps alleged fouls during the recent races. We are trying to follow a compromise course that at best is not simple. We certainly want to do nothing to encourage failure to follow the rules, and at the same time, we must recognize with such large fleets and with many persons who do only a small amount of serious racing that there are bound to be difficult situations. I see no definite course of action, but plan to draft a letter (when I get a little more time) which I will circulate to all the Governors. When it has been carefully reviewed and seems suitable and worthwhile, we might send it to the membership and perhaps to the entire mailing list in the hope that it will help keep things on an even keel in the future.

May I once more request that any of you who have any suggestions regarding the foregoing items I have covered, or anything else which comes to mind, will always feel free to let me know.

Thanks in advance.



Roderick Stephens, Jr.
Commodore

RS jr: jvi



THE SHELTER ISLAND YACHT CLUB
SHELTER ISLAND HEIGHTS, N. Y.

3 October 1955.

Dear Rod:-

Glad that Off Soundings enjoyed their weekend out here despite the light air on Saturday.

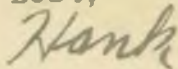
At our post-election "organizational" meeting the Trustees of the Shelter Island Yacht Club resolved to invite the Off Soundings Club to rendezvous in Dering Harbor for two days in the spring, using S.I.Y.C. as headquarters. The invitation is hereby extended to you.

I suggest that you notify our Rear -Commodore John L. Umpleby, 108 East 82nd Street, New York 28, N.Y., of your tentative dates as soon as possible. He has charge of scheduling our calendar of events.

Sorry to hear of the incident in the Clubhouse. Personally it was, and is, my impression that the members of the fleet behaved themselves in admirable fashion, considering the numbers involved and the nature of the occasion. You must carry a big stick.

Please remember me to Mrs. Stephens.

Best,



Henry G. Carpenter, jr.
Commodore

14 00
13 October 1955

Comodore Henry G. Carpenter, Jr.
The Shelter Island Yacht Club
Shelter Island Heights, New York

Dear Hanks

Certainly do appreciate your nice letter of 3
October and am delighted that we have been invited
for two days next spring. We will continue to do
our best to keep things under control and to keep
it on a mutually satisfactory basis.

I am writing Rear Commodore John Dapleby regard-
ing our tentative dates, which are Friday and
Saturday, June 8th and 9th, 1956.

Mrs. Stephens thanks you for the kind message and
joins me in sending every good wish to you and
Mrs. Carpenter.

Sincerely,

OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

Roderick Stephens, Jr.
Comodore

RJr:jvi
cc: Board of Governors

13 October 1955

Rear Commodore John L. Upleby
109 East 82nd Street
New York 28, New York

Dear Commodore Upleby:

I was very pleased to learn from Commodore Carpenter that we have been invited to rendezvous in Dering Harbor for two days next spring. The purpose of this letter is to let you know that our schedule would bring us to Dering Harbor Friday, June 8th and that we would leave on Sunday, June 10th.

I hope these dates are satisfactory to you and wonder whether you would be good enough to confirm this to me.

All our members thought it added greatly to the pleasure of our cruise to be able to spend both days at Shelter Island.

Very truly yours,

OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

Roderick Stephens, Jr.
Commodore

RSjr:jvl
cc: Board of Governors

9 cc

September 26, 1955

Mr. Roderick Stephens, Jr., Commodore
Off Soundings Club
79 Madison Avenue
New York City, New York

Dear Commodore Stephens:

After returning from the last "Off Soundings" races, I have just been told just what Jim Doak, a member of my crew on the Morning Star, did on Friday evening. Further apologies to you and your family are certainly in order, and I sincerely hope you will accept them.

I do not want to duck my responsibility in this matter, but would like to offer the following information:

I have known Jim Doak for about two years. He has been a guest in my house, and crew on my boat several times. At no time to my knowledge has he been anything but a gentleman, and rarely has he taken a drink, and then only perhaps one before dinner.

I have been told by others who have known Jim for several years, that he has had his problems with alcohol in the past. But from my experiences, I have been convinced that he had it under control. Therefore, I was greatly surprised to learn, after returning from the Inn, that Jim had acted as he did. I never saw him take a drink that evening, and didn't discover until Saturday morning, how he got so intoxicated. Apparently he took several straight shots on the sly, out of a bottle on the boat, just before we went ashore, and then it took its affect after he reached the club. The rest of my crew and I left the Yacht Club soon after the start of reading the results. Jim had not really planned to go with us, so I made no effort to locate him, nor did I then realize his condition.

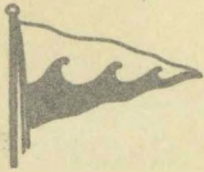
Again I would like to extend my apologies to you and your family. This matter is of importance to me, because I would like to race in the "Off Soundings" again, and would also like to become a member of your club sometime in the future. You can be sure my crews from now on will not be made up of persons likely to cause this embarrassment, and that I will be more aware of their actions.

Sincerely yours,

Alfred R. Meyer, Jr.

ARMJr:mk

4 Wood St
Bristol, R.I.



OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

900

VICE COMMODORE JOHN R. FALES
38 GREENWICH STREET
PROVIDENCE 7, R. I.

September 27, 1955

Mr. Roderick Stephens, Jr., Commodore
79 Madison Avenue
New York 16, New York

Dear Rod:

As far as I can gather from many sources, the Doak incident was one of those unfortunate things. His past history is not too good, but apparently during the last several years he had straightened out and had been O. K.

Meyer, of course, had no inkling that he would pick this particular time to act up. Probably he didn't either.

I understand that when Meyer obtained the details of the situation, which was not until the next day, he was and still is very upset. I personally don't think he can be blamed as it is a rather unusual case. It is really more in the sickness category than that of the common party drunk.

As for Meyer, he is a member of the firm of Hornblower and Weeks here in Providence. He lives in Bristol and is a good friend of other Off Soundings members including Stan Livingston, Paul Nicholson, Jr., Bob Miller, etc. He purchased "Morning Star" after the hurricane last year and raced in Off Soundings for the first time last Spring. He has a very excellent reputation in his home community as well as with business associates here in Providence.

I hope, Rod, that this answers the majority of your questions. If not, kindly let me know, and I will see what additional information I can dig up.

Sincerely,

Off Soundings Club

John R. Fales
John R. Fales

THE ALLENDALE COMPANY

WORSTED YARN SPINNERS

CHARLES B. ROCKWELL,
PRESIDENT & TREASURER

HARRY W. MUNRO, SECRETARY
JOHN W. LISTER, MANAGER

ALLÉNDALE II, R. I. Ivory Littlefield, Jr.
Centredale 11, Rhode Island
September 28, 1955

Roderick Stephens, Jr., Commodore
Off Soundings Club
79 Madison Avenue
New York City 16

Dear Rod:

Your letter of September 22nd has been received, and I am very sorry that you had any cause to write it.

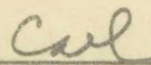
I would much prefer to tell you what I know about the crew of the MORNING STAR in a conversation with you, rather than give half truths in a letter - but I will give you certain facts.

A. R. Meyer, Jr. is connected with the Hornblower family, and I am not quite sure whether it is through himself or his wife. I understand that he was at one time Commodore of the Plymouth Yacht Club. He was sent on to Providence to be the manager of Hornblower & Weeks - prominent investment people of Boston - about three years ago, and came to live in Bristol. He is a very pleasant, genial man, and he and his wife did yeoman work this last spring in helping us get our new Bristol Yacht Club on its feet in our new very fine location.

I understand that he had as crew - Fred Towle, who I understand is connected with the Beetle Boat Company of Fall River and New Bedford - Mr. Crow, who used to sail a ketch called CROW'S NEST - Jim Doak, of Bristol - and possibly, one other.

I imagine that they could be a very lively group at times. Further than this I would not want to commit myself in a letter.

Sincerely yours,


Charles B. Rockwell

P. S.

I had every intention of racing in the spring Off Soundings Race, and my crew slept on board the boat the night before we were to leave for New London.

THE ALLENDALE COMPANY

WORSTED YARN SPINNERS

CHARLES B. ROCKWELL,
PRESIDENT & TREASURER
HARRY W. MUNRO, SECRETARY
JOHN W. LISTER, MANAGER

ALLENDALE II, R. I.

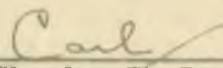
Commodore Rodney Stephens, Jr. September 28, 1955 #2

We left the mooring at 4:30 A. M., but as we started out we heard fire engines, and discovered that it was my daughter's house which burned down to the ground. One of the members of my crew was my son-in-law. My daughter and the children were able to get out of the house through the smoke by just the grace of God.

After our delightful cruise to Maine I left BELISARIUS at Camden, and went back the next week with my wife and another couple to bring the boat back. Unfortunately, we received radio information about Hurricane Diane which made our trip back rather unpleasant - trying to decide what to do, where to put in to have maximum safety, etc.

The Fall Race was impossible for me to get to, and I understand that the weather conditions were such that I did not miss anything.

With kindest regards,



Charles B. Rockwell

400.7000

18 October 1955

Mr. Alfred R. Meyer, Jr.
4 Wood Street
Bristol, Rhode Island

Dear Mr. Meyer:

This will acknowledge your letter of 26 September.

As I mentioned briefly to you on Saturday morning, we have to definitely count on the individual skippers taking their share of the responsibility by keeping their crews under control, and only by successfully adhering to this policy will these parties continue to be the type of get-together that the majority of us want. It is further of great importance to insure the good will of the host club, which is of course vital to making our future races successful.

I know that you will keep this clearly in mind, and on this basis I will accept the apologies expressed in your letter of September 26th and will look forward to seeing you under more pleasant circumstances in the future.

Very truly yours,

OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

Roderick Stephens, Jr.
Commodore

RJjr:jvl
cc: Board of Governors



September 29, 1955

Dear Mr. Southworth:

Yes we found the oilskin jacket but we didn't know who had left it behind. I am mailing it today.

The Calderone affair is still a mystery to me. We had the police take Mr. and Mrs. Calderone to the local court (Mr. Johnson, justice of the peace) where they were most belligerent and insulting to the local police. Mr. Calderone produced an empty wallet and his wife said she had given the money to a member of the crew. They finally agreed to sign a check for the four dinners, and apparently the check has cleared as I have not heard otherwise from the bank.

Why they would come in to dinner without money, or without asking to cash a check, is a mystery. After eating a hearty meal they could hardly be dead drunk...apparently they thought they could bluff it through.

It is too bad that a few ill-mannered persons can create a disturbance when ninety-nine out of one hundred OIF Soundings Club members are well bred and well behaved.

Mrs. Franzoni joins me in sending our greetings to you and Mrs. Southworth. We appreciate your loyalty to Chequit Inn.

Sincerely,

Carletto Franzoni
Carletto Franzoni

RECEIVED

OCT 3 - 1955

SOUTHWORTH CO

Approved _____

9.00

13 October 1955

Mr. Theodore S. Hall, Jr.
Mr. William J. Cochran
Mr. William Eugene Wade, Jr.

Gentlemen:

I am sorry that circumstances make it necessary for me to write this letter. However, it has been reliably reported that your guests Mr. & Mrs. A. H. Calderone created a difficult situation at the Chequit Inn on Saturday night, 17 September.

Inasmuch as the Calderones are not members of the club, I am not interested in pursuing the matter with them, and I merely want you to know, officially, that we do not want you to invite them to future club functions.

Copy of this letter is being sent to the secretary and the governors of the club so that all hands will know the action that has been taken.

I can assure you that the action is taken in an effort to insure that our get-togethers can go as smoothly as possible.

Sincerely yours,
OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

Roderick Stephens, Jr.
Connadore

RS jr:jvi
cc: Board of Governors