



OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

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WINTER NEWSLETTER

Sitting here at my desk, bundled up like a frostbite sailor (the fire in the woodstove keeps the room a toasty 62), with the ice-filled river flowing past, I keep telling myself, "Spring can't be far behind. The days are getting longer. Think sailing!" What better way to get my congealed mind and spirit on sailing than to write the Commodore's news letter?

I'm pleased to report that OffSoundings is alive and well and boiling along under full sail. Race Sec'y Bill Ames is putting the finishing touches on our arrangements with the Shelter Island Yacht Club for the Spring Series rendezvous. Several other sites were suggested, but after careful consideration, the Board of Governors decided that Dering Harbor and SIYC offered the best combination of anchorage and shore facilities. The size of our fleet and the depth requirements of some of our boats, as well as the facilities needed to accommodate our shore parties severely limit the selection. We are pleased to have again been invited to Shelter Island. At the same meeting the Board voted to return to Block Island and Champlin's Marina in the fall.

The numbers of boats in our C classes have been growing steadily, while at the same time the A and B classes have been dwindling to the point where, in 1980, the A & B classes averaged 14.5 per class, and the C's averaged 28.4. At their January meeting the Board bit that bullet and decided that this year we will have 3 classes in the "conventional" boats and 5 classes in the "racing", or C class boats. The classes will be A-1, A-2, B, C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4, C-5 and Cruising Canvas. If the shuffle puts you in a different class from last year, and you are carrying a penalty, it goes with you.

A committee made up of the Race Sec'y, Chief Measurer, Classification Committee Chairman and the Treasurer has reviewed the latest (January 1980) ORC Special Regulations Governing Minimum Equipment and accommodation Standards, Category 4, and adapted them for Off Soundings. A copy is enclosed herewith. Please study them carefully. They are mandatory for our races, and you will have to sign a certificate on your entry blank that your boat complies. These regulations have been developed by some of the most experienced blue water sailors in the world. Note that they are minimum standards. Don't cut corners here! Just think of how you would feel if you lost your boat or a human life because you had ignored one or more of them!

Off Soundings is what it is because dozens of guys who put in a tremendous amount of time doing the work behind the scenes twelve months in the year. I'm sure you all join me in thanking Jack and Dick Washburn, who stepped down this year after having co-chaired the Entertainment Committee for 3 years. It's an enormous task that takes careful planning, coordination and just plain hard work, but didn't they do it superbly? We are fortunate that George Hohenstein, who has worked on the committee with Jack and Dick, has agreed to take on the chairmanship. I'm sure our tradition of super shore parties will go unbroken.

Another vote of thanks is due Peter Converse who has retired as club historian. Peter has done this job for 6 years and has assembled a huge quantity of films and written materials which he has turned over to Don Robinson, who has agreed to take over as historian. "Well done", Peter, and thanks.

A couple of dates to remember:

1. The guest invitation cut-off date is 25 March. To race with us, guests must have invitations from 3 members. Forms are available from the Race Sec'y.
2. Annual meeting and dinner at the Seamen's Inne 4 April.

One final word: Please choose your crew carefully. Two club dinghies were missing after our last visit to Shelter Island. Let's not have a repeat performance. Let's have a good time, but let's behave like gentlemen and leave pleasant memories when we go.

See you at the Seaport in April,

Don