



OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

Robert B. Geary
Commodore
P.O. Box 304
Groton CT 06340

13 April 2007
860.446.9222
gearys@tvconnect.net

26 February 2009

Greetings to All Off Soundings Club Members!

As we see the beginning days of March with noticeably more daylight and somewhat warmer temperatures the itch to get to the boatyard and get started on spring cleanup chores is strong. This all prompts thoughts of the upcoming sailing season. Even though the snow may not be done yet, your Board has been hard at work planning the 2009 sailing events and associated activities and boatyard work has commenced.

During the past years, the Club has grown in membership, our financial stability remains strong, and we conduct some of the best race events in the area. We plan to continue these traditions, and also to celebrate our accomplishments.

Events this year kick off with our Annual Meeting and Shore Party on the 4th of April in the River Room at the Seamen's Inn. This year we will elect a new Board of Governors and Flag Officers. Also you will be asked to approve the Board recommended selection of two of our members for Honorary Membership. They are John and Bruce Lockwood. John is recognized for his continuing Board membership and his efforts to coordinate our activities and manage our relationship with the Shelter Island Yacht Club. Bruce is recognized for his long participation and his support of the Club's historic interests. In addition to the awarding of the season trophies at the dinner, you will find copies of the 75th video for sale and other selected Club merchandise. Please plan to join us with your crew.

While we enjoy good sailing and post-race gatherings, we have also tended to the business of managing the Club. Treasurer, Ron Breault, has been working with the IRS for the past 30 months and we now have a good understanding of our tax and not-for-profit status, and of our need to file informational returns. We can now report that all of the required filings have been made and accepted by the IRS. This has been a long and arduous task and deserves a **WELL DONE** to Ron!

We are also continuing to address the matter of membership and membership participation. Adding qualified members has always been a focus in order to keep our Club strong and vibrant. Enclosed with this letter is a membership posting by our Membership Chairman, Gerry Keeler. Please review the proposed candidates carefully and comment directly to Gerry as necessary. As we reported to you previously, we are constantly seeking ways to improve communications with you and run our operations in a more cost effective manner. In previous surveys, many of you indicated an interest in receiving electronic communications from us. For those who have done so – in excess of 60% of the membership-, this correspondence is being delivered that way. There will be more emphasis on this method of

communications later this spring. If this letter came to you in the mail and you are willing to “Opt In” for electronic delivery for future correspondence, please drop our Treasurer a note, or better yet, an email at RonBreault@cs.com, and make sure that he has your current valid email address. By the way; Ron wants to remind you that 2009 DUES are NOW DUE. If you haven’t gotten to it as yet; let this serve as a reminder.

PLEASE SEND YOIUR DUES NOW!

As in the past we have conducted several winter luncheons on Long Island and in Connecticut. Past Commodore Frank Bohlen has again coordinated these events and we deeply appreciate his efforts. It is through these meetings that the Board and Flag Officers seek feedback from our members and meet potential new members. So, thanks for joining us, we value your input. One item discussed at the Long Island luncheon was an expression of interest by the Alerion 28’s from Shelter Island Yacht Club (and other Alerion 28’s) in participating as a “T Class” in our fall regatta. We welcome this initiative and await a formal plan from them. We also plan on having a special Nonesuch class again this year. We understand that this Class continues to draw strong interest, is growing and that there is significant interest among the Nonsuch sailors in Off Soundings membership. With this in mind, the Board is currently reviewing the matter of establishing the Nonsuch Class as a permanent class for the future. This is all great news. We courage other similar groups to initiate a request for special class status and join us on the race course.

As many of you know, we have had difficulty scheduling our fall Regatta for 2009. We have worked hard with our Greenport representatives and the Greenport Historical establishment to ensure that there is no conflict with our need for accommodations, dockage, etc. This year due to prior commitments on the Greenport side, we will be racing in Gardner’s Bay and partying at Townsend Marina on September 11th and 12th. While our regular schedule normally has us in Long Island on the 3rd weekend of September, that was not feasible this year. In 2010, we will return to our dates on the 3rd weekend. We apologize if this has caused any confusion, but we felt the date change this year was warranted and in the best interests of all.

As indicated above, at the April membership meeting, we will elect a new set of Flag Officers and a new Board. Your participation is necessary and encouraged. As this is my last event as your Commodore, I want to express my gratitude for your support and that of the Board. This has been an enjoyable endeavor, and for that I thank you all. I hope to continue to see you on the course and at our various social events.

Wishing you a warm early spring and an early launch,

Bob Geary