



OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

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

(860) 443-4621

January 1997

GUEST SKIPPER INVITATION APPLICATION

Approval of invitations for guest skippers may be limited or denied at the discretion of the Board of Governors of the Off Soundings Club.

A guest may be eligible to receive an invitation if the Sponsor complies with the following procedure:

1. The (postmark) deadlines for the receipt by the Race Secretary of the signed Guest Invitation Application form are May 8, 1997 or August 7, 1997, which is two weeks prior to the Closing Date for entry into the Spring or Fall Race Series. Following review by the Board of Governors, the Race Entry Packages will be mailed to the approved Guests on May 15th or August 14th. Completed race Entry Blanks, together with the contribution check, must be returned to the Race Secretary, postmarked on or before the Closing Date, May 22nd or August 21st. Similarly, any necessary Measurement Data Certificates must be sent to the Chief Measurer, meeting the same Closing Date (postmark) deadlines.
2. Sponsors should point out to prospective guests that the one-week period between the mailing to the approved guests of the Race Entry Packages and the Closing Date is seldom enough time to have the guest's yacht measured and its Measurement Data Certificate sent to the Chief Measurer. Prospective guests should be urged to begin the measurement process well in advance of the scheduled mailing of the Race Entry Packages, in anticipation of approval of the Guest Invitation.
3. Early Decision service: Guest Invitation Applications received on or before April 3, 1997 will be reviewed by the Board of Governors at its April 12th meeting and Race Entry Packages will be mailed at the same time Packages are mailed to members (April 18th).
4. A Guest Invitation Application postmarked on or before May 8, 1997 will be good for both the 1997 Spring and Fall Race Series. A Guest Invitation Application postmarked later than May 8, 1997, but on or before August 7, 1997, will be good for the 1997 Fall Race Series only.
5. The Guest Invitation Application form must be filled out completely and signed by the Sponsor and two Seconders, all three being current members of the Off Soundings Club. For legibility, the names of the Sponsor and Seconders must be printed or typed above the signatures. In using the term "Sponsor" instead of "Proposer," it is intended that the person who is the Sponsor bear more than a casual responsibility for the Guest. The Sponsor shall ensure that the Guest is appropriately aware of Off Soundings Club race procedures, is made to feel welcome and is introduced to other club members, and that the Guest conducts himself appropriately on and off the race course. Admonishment or withdrawal of a Guest Invitation will be done via the Sponsor. If the request for a Guest Invitation is denied, notification will be made via the Sponsor.
6. A new Guest Invitation is required for each calendar year. Only two invitations will be issued to a Guest. The Board of Governors may, under certain circumstances, elect to waive the two-invitation limit.

It should be remembered that a guest invitation recommendation should be submitted only for a person who is a qualified racing skipper of good character and who is a member of a recognized yacht club.

YACHT ELIGIBILITY

1. The minimum LOA of yachts which may race in the OSC Spring or Fall Race Series is 23.75 feet. Yachts smaller than this LOA will not be permitted to enter, nor will yachts in excess of 62 feet LOA. Yachts must have self-bailing cockpits and be capable of normal cruising (head, galley, bunks, etc.).
2. The yacht must submit an Off Soundings Club Measurement Data Certificate on or before the Closing Date for the Race Series being entered, unless she has an existing Certificate which is valid on both race days of that Race Series.
3. The yacht shall conform to the Off Soundings Club Minimum Equipment and Accommodations Standard (based on ORC Category 4 requirements), dated April 2, 1994.
4. For handicapping purposes, the maximum PHRF base boat number will be 300.

OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

Guest Invitation Application

This form is to be filled out by the Sponsor and the two Seconders. The Application to race as an Invited Guest skipper must be submitted to the Race Secretary by the Guest Invitation closing date.

Name of guest _____ Boat name _____

Address _____ Owner () Charterer ()

_____ Type and Class of boat _____

(Note that this is the address to which race information will be mailed.)

Sail Number of boat _____ PHRF _____

Is the Guest a member of US SAILING?

Yes () No ()

Is the boat eligible to sail in Off Soundings?

Yes () No ()

Guest's racing experience. (Be sure to include types of boats, responsibilities, Off Soundings experience, etc.) _____

Guest's recognized yacht club membership _____

SPONSOR

SECONDER

SECONDER

PRINT Name _____

Address _____

Signature ----> _____

Business Relationship with Guest? Yes () No ()

Yes () No ()

Yes () No ()

(Describe) _____

OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB



William G. Gunther, Commodore
90 Uncas Circle
Guilford, Connecticut 06437

Home (203)458-3540
Office (203)481-2371

Dear Member:

There is a great deal to report this January, even as our vessels quietly rest under cover. This Off Soundings Winter Letter comes to you early, because some of the issues are of keen interest to many in our membership, especially the question of whether we will sail in the Newport area in 1997.

Well over half of the members, and most of those who skipper regularly in our race series responded to the questionnaire that was mailed to you in December. We received many comments and suggestions, that will be very helpful in guiding the conduct of our race events in the future. Newport was most popular among crew members, and some skippers were also enthusiastic about this change. The bottom line, however, was that while a change from time to time would help spice things up, a surprising number of skippers said that they would not go to Newport. Since it is our desire to maximize participation, the Board of Governors voted last Friday to race to Block and Shelter Islands this spring and fall respectively. Our rendezvous will be at the Oar in Block Island and at Shelter Island Yacht Club in 1997, as has been our custom for the past several years. I should also mention that as a result of our survey, we received a very gracious and unsolicited invitation from the Mayor of Greenport Village to hold our shore side activities at their waterfront facilities. Vice Commodore Anderson will pursue this further to determine its feasibility for some future time.

I am very pleased to report that our membership now stands at 515 versus 512 at this time last year, and we have 6 prospective members ready to be posted. Thanks to all who have helped stem the erosion in our membership ranks, and a fervent request to others to identify qualified candidates so that we may enjoy continued progress in this area. For your convenience you will find Guest Invitations enclosed. Guest Invitations are often the first step in the membership process, and we hope to see many new guests this year.

It was sad to note that two members who attended our October Board of Governors meeting were absent last Friday. Past Commodore Paul van Dyke continues his recovery, albeit more slowly than we all would hope. John Brooks will assume the responsibilities of Membership Committee Chairman for the foreseeable future.

Less than two weeks after our October meeting at the Seaport, Fleet Surgeon Jack Haugh and his wife Pat were slain in their home in West Hartford. The Haughs were regular participants in Off Soundings and will be sorely missed. Dr. Warren Woodward has accepted the role of Fleet Surgeon, and we are most fortunate for his willingness to act in this capacity.

In response to suggestions from our membership, classes C1, C2, C3 and C4 will be reclassified so that C3 will emerge as a high performance (predominantly light displacement) class. Other boats which were in C1, C2, C3 or C4 will be reclassified into C1, C2 or C4 so that all three of these classes will be better balanced in terms of the number of boats and provide better racing in each class. Classification of all boats affected by this change will be determined by our Classification Chairman, Neal S. O'Connell. All are encouraged to speak with their class representatives (listed on page 2) with any other suggestions you may have to improve the racing in your class.

Finally, I am delighted to note that Off Soundings was awarded ECSA's Silvestry Trophy for excellence in race management. This is a wonderful tribute to Race Committee Chairman Wes Maxwell, Race Secretary Dick Roberts and all who serve on the Race Committee for a job well done.

Have a great ski season, and we look forward to seeing a large turnout at the Annual Dinner on April 12th at the Coast Guard Academy.

Sincerely,



William G. Gunther

P.S. New sailing rules are being published by U.S. Sailing and go into effect in April of 1997. There are seminars scheduled on April 4th in Milford, CT. and April 17th at the Coast Guard Academy both featuring Dave Perry.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone #</u>
A-1	James Slimmon, Jr.	31 Saddle Ridge, Bloomfield, CT. 06002	(860)726-1048
A-2	Peter McFadden	85 Willowbrook Road, Storrs, CT. 06268	(860)429-0851
B	Edward Purcell, Jr.	4 Frazier St., Mystic, CT. 06355	(860)536-6732
C-1	Dana Seniff	81 Purtil St., S. Glastonbury, CT. 06073	(860)633-7447
C-2	William Healy, MD	1000 Asylum Ave., Hartford, CT. 06105	(860)522-3711
C-3	Carl Fast	2 Chestnut Hill Sq., Groton, CT. 06340	(860)691-1769
C-4	Steve O'Connell	81 E. Pattaganesett Road, #32, Niantic, CT. 06537	(860)739-2951
C-5	Milan Bartek	31 Trumbull Rd., Waterford, CT. 06385	(860)433-3560
CR1&2	Robert Edmands	419 Colonial Rd., Guilford, CT. 06437	(203)488-7221