

OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB



Allen N. Anderson, Commodore
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August 18, 1997

Peter R. Brinckerhoff
Box 18
Fishers Island, NY 06390

Dear Peter,

In your July 25, 1997 letter to me you asked that your previous suspension be reviewed. This has been done.

Upon review, we continue to believe that the original actions of the Board at it's October 16, 1993 meeting were appropriate.

Sincerely,

Allen N. Anderson

cc: Gunther
O'Connell

Allen N. Anderson
Commodore
Off Soundings Club
272 N. Water Street
Stonington, CT 06378

Dear Andy,

July 25, 1997

I wonder if you could explore the matter covered below and let me know what you think. While you were not involved in the meeting with me in December 1993 you no doubt participated at the board level in the deliberations, so this will not be an entirely new matter. This has been bothering me for about a month. I apologize in advance for bothering you with this matter.

At Block Island Race Week last month I had the opportunity to talk with John Lockwood at the Narragansett Inn regarding certain aspects of the alleged incident that involved me at the Shelter Island Yacht Club at our Fall Series in 1993. John admitted to being the prime mover behind the effort that resulted in my suspension. He stated, that due to complaints from Shelter Island Yacht board members in 1993 regarding behavior of some of the Off Soundings sailors (no mention of me) that the Off Soundings Club needed to do something to demonstrate action to curb the behavior and that was why he acted against me. The tone of his comments made it apparent to me that I was a convenient and propitious means by which to demonstrate to his friends at the Shelter Island Yacht Club action by the Off Soundings Club in response to the host Club's complaints. As he has in the past, John again accused me at the Narragansett Inn of actions that did not take place. The October 1993 letter from the manager of the Shelter Island Yacht Club was replete with the same false allegations. However, unfortunately the letter from the Shelter Island Yacht Club to which I was unable to respond until after the board met on it, took on an official tone as described in Neal H. O'Connell's October 25, 1993 letter to me. Other than the Shelter Island Yacht Club letter, to my knowledge no corroboration of John's false allegations has ever come forward. Due to the time that the letter was received, 2 days before October 16, 1993 Off Soundings board meeting, it seems implausible that the allegations could have been thoroughly checked out. The manager's letter is attached, as is Neal H. O'Connell's letter. My outline of comments delivered at the appeal meeting held at Commodore McFadden's home in Noank in December 1993 dealt with those false allegations. That outline was the product of the combined recollections of my crew of nine who were present at the dinner September 17, 1993, plus myself. That outline is attached. A nine person consensus should carry more weight.

John has never liked me. I believe his animus for me was a motivating factor behind his efforts to punish me. His animus may explain an emotional outburst at the December 1993 appeal meeting wherein he improperly carried on making numerous additional false allegations that had nothing to do with the matter at hand in the meeting. You can check this out with those who attended the session at Commodore McFadden's home. No such commentary would have been admissible in a court of law. Properly, I did not respond to the additional false charges he leveled at me at the meeting. However the tone of his attack concerned me sufficiently at the time to write a letter to Commodore McFadden asking that John's additional false and irrelevant accusations be disregarded in the board's deliberations. A copy of my letter to Commodore McFadden is attached. Commodore McFadden must have agreed with my concern since my letter concerning John's outburst was read to the board members of Off Soundings at its next meeting. John's pattern of false accusations troubles me, and should trouble others as well.

Looking back now it is evident to me that John crafted the letter that was sent to Bill Gunther dated 10/14/93 signed by Jeff Coubeaud, G.M. Shelter Island Yacht Club. The false accusations he repeats to this day echo the letter. While it would have been more logical for the letter to have been sent to John, the Off Soundings Club Liaison with the Shelter Island Yacht Club, it would have been doubly odd for him to have sent himself a letter that he composed. Instead it was sent Bill Gunther for some odd reason. Its sign off described that it was written by Jeff Goubeaud "By direction", confirming the involvement of other(s). John, being a Shelter Island Yacht Club member, Off Soundings Shelter Island Yacht Club Liaison and resident of Mattituck was the logical person to compose the letter and direct that it be sent almost a month after the alleged incident, and immediately preceding the Off Soundings Board meeting on October 16, 1993. The one month time lag may account for the inaccuracies in the letter. John also announced to at least Bruce Avery at a meeting after dinner at the Shelter Island Yacht Club on September 17, 1993 that he was "going to get me thrown out of Off Soundings". This comment was relayed to me by one of my crew who got it from Bruce Avery. Additionally, Robin Lockwood commented to J. B. Turner, then Dodson Boat Yard Manager, the Monday after the 1993 Fall Series, and about a month before the October 16, 1993 Off Soundings board meeting, that I was to be thrown out of the Club at the then up coming board meeting. She could only have said that based on comments made by John. These comments strike me as inappropriate at a minimum. This pattern of focused intent on John's part is too much for me to ignore now that I have had the discussion with him directly about the 1993 event.

In contrast to the inappropriate commentary by John I remember picking up the trophy for Hooligan's win in C-1 in the 1993 Fall Series at your house in early October 1993. There was no mention of the impending action at that occasion. It would have been inappropriate. I doubt that you even knew that the matter was to come up at the then upcoming Board meeting since the letter

from the Shelter Island Yacht Club had not been received by Bill Gunther until October 14, 1993, 2 days before the Board meeting. Accordingly, I believe you will give this request of mine fair and thorough treatment.

Interestingly, the letter from the Shelter Island Club manager contains the same false allegations that John continues to make. It obvious that the manager could not have compose the letter without guidance. He was in charge of the club house operation that evening which not only was dinner for Off Soundings crews but included a wedding reception. Accordingly, it was necessary for him to be attentive to many other matters that would have precluded him from having the facts to write such a letter. In fact I only recall seeing him near our table once that evening. Only John had the motivation (to follow through on his announced intent) and the means to compose the letter (his position of influence at the Shelter Island Yacht Club). I also point out the all the allegations in the manager's letter are made at me. Conspicuously, there is only one mention of the other nine people that were dining with me. The focus of the letter on me also demonstrates John's involvement. He sould have admitted to the complicity. The unrelenting personal attacks on me by John are unacceptable, particularly when his false allegations have caused me considerable difficulty. Why he never spoke to me at any time in person regarding his feelings I find odd. That absence of common decency on John's part also fuels my belief that he used me to accomplish something that was personally fulfilling to him, responsive to his home club Shelter Island, and useful to the Off Soundings Club.

I request that you review this matter for me. The suspension that resulted from the "By direction" Jeff Goubeaud letter has caused me difficulty on Fishers Island. It was cited a reason to deny my family membership to the Fishers Island Club. Evidently one of our Off Soundings Club members reported the suspension to the officers of the Fishers Island Club who were considering my application in 1994. It undoubtedly has caused me harm in other ways that I haven't yet determined.

The suspension, when it became known to the Off Soundings membership at large, was met with dismay. This reaction lead to the letters written to the board in 1994 requesting that I be reinstated, which the board unanimously did in January 1995, thereby cutting the original suspension in half.

If, after your review and you deem it appropriate, I would be grateful for a letter that set the record straight and makes it clear that the Off Soundings Club had to demonstrate to the Shelter Island Yacht Club that action was being taken and my suspension was based on a letter received from the Shelter Island Yacht Club that, upon further review, contained false allegations and that my suspension in 1993 was in retrospect a mistake. An apology from John Lockwood would be welcome, but is unimportant to me.

I would be happy to discuss any portion of this letter with you, or to meet with you in that regard.

Yours truly,

Peter Brinckerhoff

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