



OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

ALLEN N. ANDERSON, Race Secretary
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11 April 1986

49TH ANNUAL SPRING RACE SERIES

1986

JUNE 13TH & 14TH

FIRST NOTICE

Enclosed are the following:

1. Entry Blank
2. Roster of Off Soundings Club Measurers
3. ORC Minimum Equipment & Accommodations Standards - Category 4 (as adapted by OSC, January 1981)
4. General Information and Reservations Sheet

This spring, Off Soundings will again sail from New London to Dering Harbor on Friday, June 13th, and will race on selected courses on Saturday, June 14th, in Gardiner's Bay. Both evenings we will rendezvous at the Shelter Island Yacht Club in Dering Harbor.

PHRF handicapping will be used for all classes in 1986. There will again be three "A" and "B" Classes, five "C" Classes and a Cruising Canvas Class. There may be some type reclassifications in the "C" Classes.

PHRF ratings will be based on the work of the PHRF of Long Island Sound (the PHRF group of the Eastern Connecticut Yacht Racing Association), information from regional areas with PHRF experience, and additional information which may be developed by the OSC Chief Measurer. The adjustment factors will be in accordance with the PHRF of LIS procedures. A valid Off Soundings Club rating or data certificate is required from which necessary yacht dimensional information may be taken. Owners of yachts of a class type (such as a Tartan 41 or Morgan 34, etc.) must inform the Race Secretary of any substantial modifications to the yacht which might affect the speed potential but which might not be evident on the Off Soundings Club rating certificate. Examples of such modifications are added keel ballast and lightened interior joiner work. This request must be treated in a true Corinthian spirit. Those entrants who apply for and receive a rating certificate from the PHRF of LIS are requested to submit a copy of that certificate with their entry, but this does not waive the requirement to have a valid Off Soundings measurement or data certificate.

The logistic particulars for this series are outlined on the enclosed General Information and Reservations Sheet. Information on docking, moorings, shore facilities, meals, lodging, transportation, medical facilities, etc. are included therein and you are requested to make whatever reservations you wish direct and early. It should particularly be noted that this year again the Off Soundings Club has taken on the responsibility (and risk) of collecting for the use of the SIYC moorings at Dering Harbor for our own account and, consequently, is paying a greater fee to SIYC for the use of the premises and moorings. We will keep the mooring charge at \$10.00 per night (as was last year). Your zeal in paying for the moorings at dockside was terrific last year resulting in our breaking even with SIYC. We'll assume our Off Soundings spirit will again prevail.

ENTRY PROCEDURE

Off Soundings Club races are open to those members and guest yachts which qualify in all respects to the provisions outlined in this First Notice.

1. Complete the enclosed Entry Blank and send by First Class Mail, postmarked on or before May 22nd to Allen N. Anderson, Race Secretary, 111 Gales Ferry Road, Groton, Connecticut 06340. Your entry will be acknowledged by return postcard.
2. In order to determine perpetual trophy winners accurately and assign handicap penalties equitably, it will be necessary to confirm the ownership or charter arrangement of all entered yachts for each race series. Please list the names of all owners or charterers, whether or not also listed as master(s), in the space provided on the Entry Blank.
3. Please be reminded that our rules require that at least one of the persons in whose name the yacht is entered, i.e., master(s), must be on board for both races and must be in command of the yacht, and must be an Off Soundings Club member or a 1986 guest.

For reasons of space, please do not list more than two names as master. If yours is a syndicate boat and you wish to list the syndicate name, indicate the skipper's name only.

4. Have a valid measurement or data certificate. A valid measurement certificate is one that is less than three years old, i.e., with an original date of June 14, 1983 or later. Please read and complete the Entry Blank carefully. If the yacht does not have a valid measurement or data certificate, it must be measured by one of the measurers shown on the enclosed list of OSC Measurers, your yacht club measurer, or a yachting association measurer. The certificate should be completed in triplicate, with one copy being sent to Norman E. Rabe, Off Soundings Club Chief Measurer, 7 Ina Boulevard, Waterford, Connecticut 06385, postmarked not later than May 22, 1986. Your measurer should keep one copy. The third copy is for your files.

The closing date of May 22, 1986 for entries and measurement certificates is the latest possible date and will be rigidly adhered to. Absolutely no exceptions will be made.

The U. S. Postal Service has been known to lose entries and non-receipt of entries due to postal problems will not be an exception to the closing date. If you have not received an acknowledgment card from the Race Secretary prior to the deadline, please call to inquire. In addition, sending entries by certified mail can help.

Also, do not hold up your entry waiting for measurements, etc. Get the entry in and expedite the measurement separately. However, please note that measurements are also subject to the closing date.

An additional note of caution: since postmarks govern on entry deadlines, be advised that the U. S. Postal Service often picks up outlying office or drop box mail and transfers it to a main station for cancellation. This can cause a delay in postmarking that could invalidate your last minute entry. If you are close to the deadline, ask your post office to handcancel your entry envelope immediately to insure proper postmarking.

FALL ENTRIES

The incidence of late, misplaced or forgotten entries for the Fall Race Series is always substantially higher than for the Spring Series. To minimize this problem if you plan to be away during the entry period, please write your Race Secretary in advance and request a Fall Entry Blank and return it immediately.

First Notice	(including Spring results)	July 11, 1986
Closing Date		August 21, 1986
Race Dates		September 12 & 13, 1986

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ENTRANTS

Your contribution is vital to allow continuation of the services rendered which have made our races so successful. Please note that again this year, in order to assign actual expenses equitably, there is a \$15.00 contribution per yacht plus \$6.00 per person on board. Please make your check payable to the Off Soundings Club and enclose it with your Entry Blank.

GUEST VESSEL INVITATION

To prevent our Off Soundings classes from getting dangerously large, the closing date for guest invitations was set at March 19, 1986 for both the Spring and Fall Series. No more guests may be invited for 1986 racing.

Only two invitations will be issued to any acceptable non-member to participate in our racing events, each invitation being sufficient for two consecutive race series, such as Spring '86 and Fall '86. The Board of Governors may under certain circumstances elect to waive the two invitation limit.

YACHT ELIGIBILITY

1. For handicapping purposes, the maximum PHRF base boat number will be 300.
2. The minimum L.O.A. of yachts which may race in the OSC Annual Race Series is 23.75 feet. Yachts smaller than this L.O.A. will not be permitted to race, nor will yachts in excess of 62 feet L.O.A.
3. Excepted from this ruling are yachts owned by members which fall outside the limits of 2 above, but which have raced in a series prior to this date. These yachts will be permitted to race using ratings shown on the yacht's valid rating certificate, so long as there is no change in yacht ownership.
4. To qualify to race in Off Soundings Club races, your yacht must meet all Offshore Rating Council (ORC) Category 4 requirements of January 1981 (as adapted by OSC) including lifelines and pulpits. It is your responsibility to meet these requirements. A copy of the ORC Minimum Equipment and Accommodation Standards is enclosed.

You will note that the Entry Blank requires you to sign a certification that your yacht meets the Category 4 requirements in all respects and that you agree to the waiver contained on the reverse thereof. As a Corinthian yachtsman, your certifying signature is the verification needed to assure that all entrants have complied and are racing fairly and truly.

5. Board of Governors action has defined Cruising Canvas Class requirements as follows:
 - a. Only Off Soundings Club members may enter. You must mark the appropriate box on the entry form to enter.
 - b. Spinnakers (including mizzen spinnakers) may not be used.
 - c. Spinnaker poles may be used as whisker poles.
 - d. Only one sail at a time, other than forestaysails on standard double-head rigs, may be tacked forward of the mainmast (foremast on schooners). This does not prohibit a transient condition (i.e. during a sail change evolution).
 - e. Use of other sails, such as mules, mizzen staysails, is permitted.
 - f. Yachts must meet all Off Soundings eligibility requirements.
6. United States Yacht Racing Union requirements regarding sail numbers are mandatory for Off Soundings participation. Class insignia, however, may be displayed.
7. You must fly a class flag at all times during the race. This flag shall be no smaller than size "0", i.e. 12" x 15". It should be flown vertically as far forward as possible on the pulpit. This is of great assistance to all participants while racing, and aids the Race Committee as it finishes over 200 yachts.

The following International Code Flags will be used as class flags:

A-1	Alpha
A-2	Echo
B	Kilo
C-1	Papa
C-2	Quebec
C-3	Foxtrot
C-4	Zulu
C-5	Juliet
Cruising	
Canvas	Charlie

Those owners unsure of their yacht's class may call me (H) 203/448-0701 or (O) 203/446-6832 after May 27th (time will be short - do not write). Also, "C" Classes please note first page of this notice.

RADIO NOTICE

Race Committee communications will be carried on VHF-FM Channel 9.

OTHER RACING INFORMATION

Handicap penalties for winners are 15% for first place, 10% for second place, and 5% for third place, with a maximum penalty of 45%. Present penalties will be carried over if a class changes for any reason.

Handicap penalties may be worked off in three race series. To work off a penalty, you must start both races in each series and either be identified as a finisher or submit a written withdrawal as soon as possible to the Race Secretary. Handicap penalties will be removed after five race series, sailed or not.

If a yacht is acquired by a person not associated with the acquisition of the penalty, the penalty will be dropped from the yacht. If the owner then purchases or charters a non-similar yacht he will also not continue to carry the penalty. It is the responsibility of the entrant to contact the Race Secretary prior to the entry closing date if there is any question regarding the dropping of a penalty.

This year, in order better to insure that the committee boat can get to the finish line (after starting nine classes) in time, the class starting sequence will be: A-2, A-1, C-1, C-2, B, C-3, C-4, C-5, Cruising Canvas.

CLUB TIES AND PATCHES

Club members may obtain our club tie for \$10.00, a cloth blazer patch for \$3.00, a gold bullion pin-on blazer patch for \$10.00, a tie clasp for \$8.00, and cap button for \$5.00 from your Treasurer, Walter D. Strang, Jr., 85 Tyler Avenue, Groton, Connecticut 06340.

For those who enjoy the movies of their racing endeavors please note Commodore Roberts's appeal in his letter of February 13, 1986 for donations to Mystic Seaport Museum for equipment which will allow continuation and expansion of this unique feature of recording our events which will also be available, in time, from the Seaport to all of you with VCRs. Response to date is much appreciated but has only represented a very small percentage of our membership and race participants. Donations are tax deductible and checks should be made payable to Mystic Seaport Museum - Audio-Visual Program and forwarded to W. D. Strang, address as above. Also, any of you who should happen to use a video recorder when racing this year, the Seaport Museum will endeavor to include good shots in their final edition of this year's racing if you can send them to the Seaport this fall.

It goes without saying that long time Race Secretary Bill Ames and sidekick, Eileen, have set one fine act to follow and their efforts are much appreciated by all.

Good sailing, and we shall look forward to seeing you at Shelter Island.

Cordially,



Allen N. Anderson
Race Secretary
OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB