OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

2014 Notice of Races

77th Annual Race Series
Spring: June 13-14
Fall: September 12-13
The Off Soundings Series are two-day regattas sailed in June and September. Fleets are typically in the 100-150 boat range racing in ten or more classes. They are area events drawing entrants from ECSA, NBYA, ELIYA, YRA-LIS, NEMA and other associations, and are qualifying races on the ECSA Offshore Circuit and the New England Multihull Association Race Schedule. The races are open by invitation only. Nonmembers desiring an invitation to race should contact an Off Soundings Club member or officer.

Entries should be mailed to the Race Secretary as early as possible. Entries for both series may be submitted in one mailing. **You may enter both series using only one form if all information is identical.** Note that you are doing so on the form and make your payment for both series.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Wrist bands are used for identification at the shore parties. Please order sufficient wrist bands for your crew. Different color bands are available for minors—please indicate the number required on the entry form. They will be mailed to you with the Sailing Instructions approximately 10 days before the **Race Date.** Additional bands will be available at the party site for $10 each. Personal checks are preferred. If you must use cash please have the correct amount available.

Entry and measurement and handicap certificate deadlines will be strictly enforced for both members and guests. Please review NOR sections 4 through 7 carefully.

**SPECIAL CLASSES**

At the request of its membership the Off Soundings Club may start special classes of boats. All Off Soundings classes are sailed with OSC, ECSA, or NEMA PHRF handicaps. Special classes that consist of ‘one-design’ boats will be sailed as level handicap classes with a single assigned PHRF handicap number. Therefore, for these series they are PHRF class boats. Members wishing to request a special class should contact the Race Secretary.
OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

APPROVED SPECIAL CLASSES

OSC members who are eligible to participate in a special class but prefer to sail in a regular Off Soundings class may do so by declaration to the Race Secretary. Make a notation on the entry form.

Currently there are no active Special Classes.

IMPORTANT NEW INFORMATION

The Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions for both Series have been substantially revised; please read them carefully.
1. Rules and Regulations
1.1 Rules—These races will be governed by the constitution of the Off Soundings Club, which is the organizing authority, and The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
1.2 Changes to the Racing Rules—Any changes to the RRS implied in the Notice of Race (NOR) will be stated in the Sailing Instructions.
1.3 Class Rules—Off Soundings Series are PHRF handicap races, therefore, by Definitions of the RRS PHRF rules are the class rules for these series.

2. Advertising—is restricted to Category A (ISAF Regulation 20).

3. Eligibility—These Race Series are open to Off Soundings Club members in good standing and invited guests whose boats meet the following requirements:
3.1 Accommodations—Boats must contain as a minimum a self-bailing cockpit, fixed berths, galley facilities, and the ability to be self supporting for a weekend cruise.
3.2 Min/Max LOA.—The minimum LOA of boats which may race is 23.75 feet and the maximum is 62 feet.
3.3 Maximum PHRF or NEMA base boat handicap—300.
3.5 Guest Invitations—Members can obtain guest invitation forms from Mark B. Andrews, Membership Chair, offsoundingsmembership@gmail.com or 203-824-0706. Completed guest invitation forms must be received by the Guest Invitation Deadline. Note that a current Off Soundings Club Measurement Data Certificate may be required for entry, see Section 7.
3.6 Person In Charge An Off Soundings member or invited guest designated as a Master on the Entry Form must be aboard and in charge. Guest Masters must be aboard and in charge of their vessel at all times.

4. Entries—Enter on the enclosed Entry Form (or download it from the OSC website). Read the certification and waiver on the back before completing, signing and sending the form with your contribution check made to the Off Soundings Club (See Section 5. Fees) via first class mail (no fax or e-mail) to:
Your entry will be acknowledged by e-mail, if available. Please provide an e-mail address if you have one.

4.1 Dates and Deadlines—will be strictly enforced. In fairness, no exceptions will be made. Your entry and contribution check must be sent to the Race Secretary via first class mail postmarked on or before the Entry Deadline. Do not submit entries by any service that requires a signature as they may be returned to you as undeliverable. If you are concerned about missing the deadline telephone or e-mail the Race Secretary.

Spring Series:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guest Invitation Deadline</th>
<th>May 8</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entry Deadline:</td>
<td>May 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Race Date:</td>
<td>June 13-14</td>
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Fall Series:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Guest Invitation Deadline</th>
<th>August 7</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entry Deadline:</td>
<td>August 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Race Date:</td>
<td>September 12-13</td>
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the ownership or charter arrangement of all boats must be confirmed. List the names of all owners or charterers, whether or not also listed as Master(s), in the space provided on the Entry Form. Please do not list more than two names as Master. If you wish to list a syndicate name please also indicate the skipper's name.

4.3 Non-Spinnaker Class—To enter a monohull boat in a Non-Spinnaker Class you must check the box provided on the Entry Form.

4.4 Nonsuch Entries—Nonsuch entries must confirm on the Entry Form that they will use a class sail otherwise they will be assigned to a general class.

4.5 Short-handed Entries—Boats wishing to be recognized as sailing short-handed (1 or 2 crew) must so indicate on the Entry Form.

4.6 Handicap and Measurement Certificates—a current valid PHRF handicap and/or OSC Measurement Data Certificate must be submitted in hard copy with your entry (See Section 7).

4.7 Sail Numbers—Mainsails and spinnakers shall have identifying numbers that match as indicated on the entry form.

5. Fees—To defray expenses there is an expected $65.00 contribution per
boat plus $10.00 per person on board. Non-racing club members and invited guests are always welcome at our rendezvous parties at the normal per-person contribution. There is a place on the entry blank for you to indicate how many to expect and to include payment for them.

6. **Venues and Schedule of Events**

6.1 **Spring Series**—Each evening’s rendezvous will be in the vicinity of Block Island Boat Basin.

- **Friday**—The fleet will race from Watch Hill to Block Island. The first warning signal will be at 1025 at a starting line east of Watch Hill Passage, RI.

- **Saturday**—The fleet will race a course in the vicinity of Block Island. The first warning signal will be at 0955 at a starting line north of Great Salt Pond Entrance. Often the Saturday race is around the island, a traditional challenging and scenic course.

6.2 **Fall Series**—Each evening we will rendezvous at Mitchell Park, in Greenport.

- **Friday**—The fleet will race from New London to Gardiners Bay. The first warning signal will be at 0955 at a starting line located south of New London Ledge.

- **Saturday**—The fleet will sail in Gardiners Bay. The first warning signal will be at 0955 at a starting line in the vicinity of Shelter Island.

7. **Handicaps and Measurement**

7.1 **Monohull Handicaps**—Handicaps may be rationalized based on the work of PHRF-ECSA and additional information which may be developed by the OSC Measurer. and OSC procedures. By the US Sailing prescription to Rule 64.3(b) the Off Soundings Club is the monohull handicapping authority.

7.2 **Measurement or Handicap Certificate Required**—Monohull entrants must submit:

- (a) a current PHRF–ESCA handicap certificate or,
- (b) a valid handicap from another PHRF authority dated no later than the **Entry Deadline** and valid for the current year plus a valid Off Soundings Club Measurement Data Certificate dated three years or less prior to the Friday **Race Date** or,
- (c) the Club Measurer may at his discretion assign a temporary OSC handicap based on a valid OSC Measurement Data Certificate or other measurement certificate or other acceptable documentation.

- (d) Corrections, appeals, changes and adjustments to handicaps must be completed and recorded by the **Entry Deadline** to be in effect for the current series. The Sailing Instructions change Rule 78 as necessary.

7.3 **Measurement**—Your boat can be measured by an Off Soundings Club approved measurer, your yacht club measurer, a sailing association measurer, or a US Sailing IOR/IMS measurer, with a copy being sent
to Paul Jennings, Off Soundings Club Chief Measurer, 6 Captains Lane, Branford, CT 06405, or handicapped by your local PHRF-ECSA handicapper.

7.4 **Modifications**—Owners must inform the OSC measurer or PHRF handicapper of any substantial modifications that are not evident, but might affect speed potential.

7.5 **Multihull vessels** will use New England Multihull Association handicaps. An OSC Measurement Data Certificate is not required. Handicaps will be verified by NEMA, the multihull handicapping authority.

8. **Sailing Instructions**

8.1 **Spring Series**—The Sailing Instructions will be mailed to entrants by June 6 and will be posted at [www.offsoundings.org](http://www.offsoundings.org).

8.2 **Fall Series**—The Sailing Instructions will be mailed to entrants by September 5 and posted at [www.offsoundings.org](http://www.offsoundings.org).

8.3 **Race Documents**—will not be distributed on the water.

9. **Courses and Marks**—For both series courses will use a combination of government and drop marks. The former will be identified by letters or numbers in the Sailing Instructions, and the locations of the latter being designated by posted magnetic bearing and distance from the RC signal boat or by lat/lon stated in the Sailing Instructions. Courses will be determined by the RC on race day and posted on a course board on the RC Signal Boat as described in the Sailing Instructions.

10. **Scoring**

10.1 **Finishing Places**—for all classes except multihulls are determined by the PHRF Time On Time method. Multihull places are determined by the Time On Distance method.

10.2 **Time Correction Factor**—$\text{TCF} = \frac{600}{480 + \text{HCP}}$, where HCP is the OSC handicap adjusted for PE. This produces a TCF of 1.000 for a 120 HCP. Search TCF at [www.usaailing.org](http://www.usaailing.org) for a full discussion of TOT and TCF.

10.3 **Regatta Standings**—corrected time places are converted to the Low Point System of RRS Appendix A. All completed races will be scored. Two races are scheduled; if only one race is completed the regatta will be scored on that race.

10.4 **Regatta Results**—tentative results are announced daily. Final results will be mailed and posted at [www.offsoundingss.org](http://www.offsoundingss.org).

10.5 **OSC Penalties (PE)**—Monohull boats will be awarded performance penalties applied to future Series. Details are at [www.offsoundings.org](http://www.offsoundings.org).

10.6 **ECSA Results**—results by race without PE are reported to ECSA.

10.7 **Perpetual trophies**—are awarded to Off Soundings members based on Low Point Scoring of one and two year results without PE:

- Regatta results are recalculated without PE.
• One-year results are based on low point scoring of all completed races for the current season.
• Two-year results are based on low point scoring of the results of the current and prior season. If all eight possible races are completed the worst race will be excluded, otherwise all races will be scored.
• In awarding prizes based on the combined results of multiple classes, races in which all designated classes do not have finishes will be excluded.
• Eligibility is based on membership status as of the first spring race of the season.

11. Prizes
11.1 Event Trophies—One to four prizes for total weekend results will be awarded each class based on the number of entrants.
11.2 Perpetual Trophies—awarded to members at the Annual Dinner. First place winners have custody of the perpetual trophy for one year. The first three places receive keeper plaques.

12. Responsibilities of the Master/Captain—The legal age for drinking alcohol in Rhode Island and New York is 21. The "Captain's Responsibility" statement on the reverse of the entry form makes it clear that as Master/Captain you are responsible to advise your underage crew members of the prohibition of their drinking alcohol at Off Soundings Club events. Further, you take full responsibility for their actions.

13. Equipment Standards—It is expected that each Master will recognize the importance of ensuring the safety of his crew, vessel and others, and will fulfill the US Sailing prescription to Rule 40 by meeting applicable government equipment and safety requirements.
13.2 PFDs—In accordance with Rule 1.2 competitors are individually responsible for wearing personal buoyancy adequate for the conditions.
13.3 VHF Radios — The OSC Race Committee makes extensive use of VHF radio to communicate with the racing fleet. It is recommended that all boats maintain a VHF watch at all times. The RC channel will be indicated in the Sailing Instructions.

14. Classes and Class Flags
14.1 **Classification**—Final assignment of boats to classes will be completed on receipt of all entries and handicap information. It is the intent of the club to divide the spinnaker boats into one Heritage class “A” comprised primarily of full keel and keel/centerboard boats, multiple “C” classes for racing/cruising boats and multiple “H” classes for the higher performance boats. The divisions will roughly equate to the ECSA PHRF “A”, “C” and “HP/SB” classifications.

14.2 **Class Flags**—While *racing* boats must fly a class flag of no less than size 0, i.e., 12" x 15", vertically on the bow pulpit as far forward as possible. Usually this will be an International Code Flag although others may be used. Class Flags will be designated in the Sailing Instructions.

14.2 **Short-handed Entries**—Boats registered as ‘short-handed’ must fly a numeric pennant “1” or “2” (size 0 or larger), from the backstay to designate the number of crew on board.
Lockwood Family Trophy

The Off Soundings Club, in conjunction with the Lockwood family sponsors a special trophy dedicated to encouraging youth in sail racing.

A prize will be awarded for, each series, to the boat with the best performance (without penalty) in any class which has 80% or more of its crew under the age of thirty. This trophy will be awarded independently of any other prize for which the boat is eligible.

Eligibility examples:

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<tr>
<th>Total crew</th>
<th>Under 30</th>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>4</td>
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Entry forms will be included with the Sailing Instructions for each series and will be available on the club website. The form may be sent to the Race Secretary along with the race entry or may be submitted to the Race Committee Chairman no later than 1800 hours on Friday of the race series.
You may have your boat measured by one of the above measurers, your yacht club measurer, a Sailing Association measurer, or a US Sailing measurer. Additional US Sailing Measurers are listed in the US Sailing Directory and on the US Sailing website at [www.ussailing.org](http://www.ussailing.org).

*Off Soundings Club Measurers have copies of the Measurement Data Certificate forms. They are also available on the web site at: [www.offsoundings.org](http://www.offsoundings.org). Requests for additional Measurement Data Certificate forms should be directed to Paul Jennings, OSC Chief Measurer.

Note that if you have a current PHRF-ESCA Handicap reviewable on the ECSA website an Off Soundings Data Measurement Certificate is not required.