

Minutes
of the
Board of Governors
of the
OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB
October 31, 1998

A meeting of the Board of Governors of the Off Soundings Club was held in the Library of the Mystic Seaport Museum, at 0930 on October 31, 1998. Commodore Anderson presided. Other Governors present were:

Frank W Bohlen
Cdr. John F. Brooks, USCG
Edward C. Dieckerhoff
Carl D. Fast
William G. Gunther

D. Richard Magovern, DMD
Peter W. McFadden
Neal H. O'Connell
Richard H. Roberts

Present by invitation were:

William L. Ames
Robert B. Geary

Neal S. O'Connell

Absent were:

Brin R. Ford
Carlton A. Granbery
John H. Lockwood
H. Wes Maxwell

Steven M. Purdy
Norman E. Rabe
J. Philip Smyth
Warren F. Woodworth, MD

The meeting was called to order at 0935.

The minutes of the previous April 4, 1998 meeting were VOTED approved.

Vice Commodore Bohlen reported that we lost our approved date for the 1999 Annual Dinner at the Officers Club of the Coast Guard academy. A phone vote of the Board approved a change of date to April 17, 1999. A latter date was selected with the hope that we could improve attendance. The thought was that out of area members might make a weekend of it by combining working on their boat with attending the Annual Dinner. As this tightens up the schedule for mailing the Spring Series First Notice, we will aim to complete all business concerning the Spring Race at the January Meeting.

Commodore Anderson suggested that, given our problems with the date for the Annual Dinner for 1999, that it would be appropriate to schedule our proposed date for 2000 even though the date will not be approved until January.

The Budget Committee, consisting of Bohlen (Chairman), Fast, Dieckerhoff, Granbery, N.H. O'Connell, and Anderson (ex-officio) reported that income and expenses are expected to be below budget and we will have about a break-even year in spite of this

year's decline in race attendance. Our surplus should exceed the top of the range of our \$15,000 to \$18,000 goal by several thousand dollars. Nor'easter is expected to be available in 1999. Dues need not change for 1999 and racing fees are not expected to require change.

Rear Commodore Maxwell was absent but reported through the Commodore that trophy expenses are about as budgeted.

The Secretary reported that he had accepted late payments from the following individuals, who were dropped for non-payment of dues at the April meeting. They have been reinstated to members in good standing:

Louis J. Bevilacqua
Halsey Herreshoff
Karl Knauss
William Rich IV

Paul D. van Dyke
Durwood Woodman
Charles A. Young

A new member with an election date of 2/2/98 was **VOTED** dropped for non-payment of dues:

James Q Rice IV

The following member resigned under the Motor Boat Rule:
Raymond Pride

The Board stood for a moment of silence for E. Carlton Granbery who died in September. A note from Diana Granbery was read. She thanked Off Soundings for its thoughts, words and extraordinarily beautiful flowers.

With these changes, 11 new members added in June and the election of Paul C. van Dyke to Honorary membership at the April Annual Meeting, our membership stands at 523.

Commodore Anderson commented on his memorandum concerning the "Audit of Off Soundings Financial Reports" a copy of which is attached. He accepted Bill Gunther's offer of the services of his Audit Department who were very helpful and patient. They found 1995 reports to be correct. Once some missing data was obtained from the bank, 1996 and 1997 reports were reconciled. Errors were of a bookkeeping nature, often occurring in the transition from one year to the next.

Treasurer Fast distributed a revised 12/31/96 balance sheet, a detailed 1997 amended report and a 1997 balance sheet. These reports are prepared on a calendar year basis, without adjustment for late receipts, as he will handle future reports.

Estimated financial reports for 1998 were also presented. The first exhibit compares budget to actual 1998 year to date expenses. He commented that most 1998 expenses are included except for this Board meeting, dues postage and other small expenses. He expects that we will end the year well under budget. Overall surplus should remain well over the high end of the \$15,000 to \$18,000 goal for surplus.

If any one has a new major expense or expected change, please let the Treasurer know. He will prepare the 1999 Budget using this year's data and any new input. A separate account will be established for Video expenses and he needs input on this category.

The Treasurer will propose 1999 contributions in line with those for this year at the January meeting.

Historian Ames reported on the 1998 video for our 1999 Annual Dinner. He indicated that he expects the only film of the spring series will be some he got from the committee boat. For fall, we have part of the first day and a full second day. This will be enough to produce a passable film. The binders containing our history for 1996, 1997 and 1998 will be gifted to the Mystic Seaport Museum shortly.

Race Secretary Roberts reported on our spring and fall Series and related matters. His written report is attached to these minutes.

- It was suggested that we include the new date for our Annual Dinner, April 17, 1999, in the Commodore's Winter News Letter.
- Note that the fall final notice for the year 2000 should be changed to 9/8/00 on the "Dates for Off Soundings" page of the report.
- Consensus was that quest procedures and the alternative penalty process be continued as currently constituted. Though not used often, they have been helpful and project an image of flexibility.
- After some discussion, the consensus was that we should publish our race entry and party fee refund policy with the Commodore's Winter News Letter.
- Class A1, A2, and B have been shrinking the last few years. Class representatives have been trying to increase participation in their respective classes. These representatives now feel that they will not be successful after several years of effort. After discussion, it was **VOTED** to combine Class A1, A2 and B into two classes. The assignment of boats to these two classes will be made by the Race Secretary, Deputy Race Secretary, Measurer and Classification Committee Chairman. For the January 22, 1999 Board meeting This group was asked to prepare a list of boats that have recently raced in A1, A2 and B to show how they might be compressed into two classes and make recommendations as to how trophies might be reallocated.
- We will discuss Rod Johnstone's letter and related subjects concerning improving racing at the January meeting.

Clerk Magovern had nothing to report.

Measurer Rabe was absent but submitted a written report that is attached to these minutes. In summary, he is participating with ECSA in establishing parameters/trends for high performance boats that can be used by ECSA and Off Soundings.

Race Committee Chairman Granbery was absent and some comments were made by Commodore Anderson and Vice Commodore Bohlen.

- It is expected that Nor'easter will be available for the 1999 Series.
- The program used by the Race Committee was developed when Wes Maxwell

was Race Committee Chairman. There is a degree of discomfort about depending on this program without Mary Ann Stets in attendance. Obtaining a standard program that is well documented and can be handled by most computer literate people is being pursued. Such a program is expected to cost \$400-\$500.

- There was discussion about the desirability of e mailing or faxing results of races to the various newspapers with which we deal. Developing a web page was also mentioned.

Membership Committee Chairman Brooks reported that 22 new members came in this year. He aims to have two postings; one with the Commodore's Winter News Letter and a second one in April so that the new members can sail for annual trophies. The goal is to add 25 new members each year.

In the discussion that followed comments were made that all but the Mystic luncheons seem to generate some new member interest. Commodore Anderson will contact Brin Ford to do the well attended Branford lunch again and get someone to do Rhode Island. He and the Membership Chairman will decide what to do about Mystic. Vice Commodore Bohlen suggested that the luncheon's mission be expanded to include getting members to talk up increased participation in our race series, get them thinking early and often about racing.

Measurement Rule Committee Chairman Brooks reported that information on the use of the Americap rule for the cruising class boats in the Bermuda race was hampered by light air. However, the IMS fleet was rescored using the rule to get an idea of what its effect might have been. Only 2 boats changed position and there was no change in a single class prize. He has gained a lot of confidence in the rule. It will be only slightly more expensive than PHRF to handicap a stock boat. Handicapping a small custom boat will probably be very expensive. Off Soundings boats did well. Froya won its class and Temptress won its class and was second overall.

Classification Committee Chairman Neal S. O'Connell reported that they were reclassifying boats as they came up.

Protest Committee Chairman Smyth was absent and there was no report but it was noted that there were no protests this year.

Entertainment Chairman Dieckerhoff reported the Block Island Saturday breakfasts were well attended and will be continued. What will be done with the Oar about Friday night dinner needs to be discussed with the Oar. Expenses worked out well this year, particularly at Shelter Island.

Shelter Island Liaison Committee Chairman Lockwood was absent. Commodore Anderson mentioned that relations were excellent and working with the two new managers was a pleasure.

Block Island Liaison Chairman Purdy was absent and there was no report.

Publicity Chairman Ford was absent and there was no report.

Fleet Surgeon Woodworth was absent and communicated through Vice Commodore Bohlen that there was nothing to report

Long Range Race Planning Committee Chairman Gunther indicated that his Committee has been asked to investigate the drop off in participants in this years races. This will include discussing with some who did not participate as to why they did not. He feels this will overlap into the areas of more user-friendly race instructions and some considerations addressed in Rod Johnstone's recent letter. The Committee will have input for the January meeting.

A memorandum was mailed to all concerning the PFD issue. Please read this letter from Race Secretary Robert's for discussion at the January Board meeting.

It was VOTED that the Nominating Committee for 1999 be composed of William G. Gunther, chairman; Robert Edmunds; and William A. Loweth.

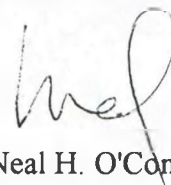
Commodore Anderson asked that if the Officers or Board members have anyone to propose for honorary membership they let him know by the January meeting with written comments. Bill Gunther suggested that Jack English be considered.

Commodore Anderson made a motion, which was **VOTED**, that "the Commodore appoint an Audit Committee to review the financial activities of the Club every other year."

Off Soundings Dyer Dhow Derby team captain N. S. O'Connell presented the Commodore with the Dyer Dhow 2nd Place trophy. A lousy sail thwarted valiant efforts by the team to win 1st place. It was **VOTED** to purchase a new Dyer sail for the Off Soundings boat for presentation to the Seaport just prior to the 1999 Dyer Dhow Derby.

Historian Ames suggested that all Honorary members be listed in the Members Book, whether living or dead.

There being no further business it was VOTED to adjourn at 1200.



Neal H. O'Connell,
Secretary