

Minutes  
of the  
Board of Governors  
of the  
OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB  
October 28, 1995

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 28, 1995. Commodore Gunther presided. Other Governors present were:

Allen N. Anderson  
W. Frank Bohlen  
Cdr John F. Brooks, USCG  
Carl D. Fast  
John H. Lockwood

H. Wes Maxwell  
Peter W. McFadden  
Ernest R. Messer, Jr.  
Neal H. O'Connell  
Norman R. Rabe

Richard H. Roberts

Present by invitation were:

William L. Ames  
Brin R. Ford

John D. Haugh, MD  
Neal S. O'Connell

John Philip Smyth

Absent were:

Edward C. Dieckerhoff  
J. Christopher Field  
D. Richard Magovern, DMD

James B Slimmon, Jr.  
Nicholas Staub, II  
Paul C. van Dyke

The meeting was called to order at 0935.

The minutes of the previous April 8, 1995 meeting were VOTED approved.

Vice Commodore Anderson reported that reservations have been made to have our Board Meeting, Annual Meeting and dinner held for the third year at the Coast Guard Academy on April 6, 1996.

Rear Commodore Bohlen indicated that costs for Spring and Fall race trophies were about the same as prior years at \$3,071. He is beginning to put together trophies for our Spring meeting.

The Secretary's report was submitted. There were no reported deaths or resignations. With 12 new members and 5 reinstatements, membership now stands at 519. A graph showing recent membership trends was distributed.

The Secretary commented that Nick Staub was absent today as he had a recent heart attack but expected to be fully active again in about a month.

Past Commodore White wrote expressing his appreciation to the Board for the recognition he received in being made an honorary member. Ken Mahler wrote a letter of appreciation for our donation to the video program of the Mystic Seaport.

Treasurer Messer distributed a estimated 1995 financial report and preliminary 1996

budget that had been prepared using a financial reporting package called "Quicken". He commented that though the program package has some limitations, it does provide greater transferability than the tailor program he had been using. For 1995 finances, it appears that we will about break even if the estimates hold up.

Budget Committee Chairman Anderson outlined the history of the Committee. Recently the Committee determined that a surplus of about \$15,000 to \$18,000 was adequate for the Club's operations. As we expect to be at the top of this range at the end of 1995, no change in dues or fees are recommended for 1996. If we experience some significant financial surprises or increase 1996 spending significantly above current estimates, then we may want to adjust 1996 race fees at the January or April meeting.

The purpose of implementing a budget process is so that we can better predict changes that might require dues or race fees changes for the next year in an organized and timely manner. Committee Chairmen should review the budget numbers in the Treasurer's report for which they are responsible and let Budget Committee Chairman Anderson know during November of any large pluses or minuses they expect for the 1996 year.

Historian Ames commented that this was his first full meeting since July and we should all avoid the deer tick at all costs. History continued being made without his help and we are in the place where ours is kept.

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

- . Some classes have shrunk in size with B being the most notable. At some point we may have to face up to eliminating a class or two.
- . The Seaport is considering moving the Dyer Dhow Derby one week later in October.
- . It was agreed that providing for late guest entries will be continued with the provision for an early cutoff for the convenience of guests.
- . Plan to continue Time on Time.
- . Though alternative penalties do not seem to make much difference to overall results it was agreed to continue them.
- . There was much discussion of the lifeline requirements that were grandfathered last year. A committee was appointed consisting of Roberts (Chairman), Bohlen, Maxwell, Messer, and Smyth who are to provide recommendations on the subject for the January 19, 1996 meeting.
- . It was agreed that having the 12 meters was a fun idea. It appears that many of the twelves are really commercial ventures and reasonable participation may be difficult to obtain, some may not meet ORC regulations and there is a question of just how far we stretch our guest invitation process. Race Secretary Roberts will follow up on the subject and report at the January 19, 1996 meeting.
- . Commodore Gunther reported that Ed Dieckerhoff has resigned as Deputy Race Secretary for family reasons. Neal S. O'Connell accepted this position in addition to his Classification Committee Chairman responsibility.
- . The dates for 1997 that were included in Race secretary Robert's letter are based on the Marion to Bermuda Race starting on June 20th. Treasurer Messer will give Race Secretary Roberts the name of the individual who can confirm this date. These dates are for review only and will be voted on at our meeting in January 19, 1996.

Clerk Magovern was absent and there was no report.

Measurer Rabe commented that he will be modifying several boat ratings based on their 1995 performance.

Before Race Committee Chairman Maxwell gave his report, Commodore Gunther and several others expressed their appreciation for the great racing day he and his committee put on Saturday of Fall Off Soundings.

Race Committee Chairman Maxwell reported that he expects the same Race Committee and auxiliary vessels for the 1996 Series as we had this year ( Nor'Easter, Nimble and Why Not ). The Race Committee's philosophy is to keep the racing as user friendly as possible.

- . Five minutes between starts gets the competitors out and racing as soon as possible. The committee is very cognizant of the need to postpone when conditions do not let the line clear before the next class.
- . Though there is not much that can be done about courses for the first day, being able to pick courses out on the course the second day is very helpful.
- . two races for C-1 and C-2 on the second day worked well. It probably is not possible to handle 2 races for more than 1 more class.
- . Course boards were put together on a minimum cost, experimental basis. The committee recognizes that they were difficult to read and caused some congestion near the line. If we continue this we will need more visible boards and may want to also announce courses on the radio.
- . For the two race a day scenario you need drop marks. A short windward /leeward course followed by a more traditional Off Soundings course works well.
- . Starting and finishing at the same committee boat worked well.
- . It is necessary to continue the results cards. They act as backup to the computer that we borrow. However, producing computer lists for reading results and after race posting and/or distribution are real pluses.
- . The priorities for equipment are additional drop marks, course boards, good radios and then computer equipment.
- . Housing expense for the Committee was reduced with about \$500 spent at Block Island and \$800 at Shelter Island for cottages.
- . With the more complicated courses, everyone on the committee boat is working and the number of people involved can not be significantly reduced, if at all. There is a large group to take out Friday night, about 25, and with people leaving after Saturday's race, a much smaller group on Saturday. Both nights are necessary. What we spent this year for Race Committee weekend expenses will be about the minimum that will be required in the future.
- . The only negative comments heard about the new initiatives were from some cruising canvass participants who were sent on the long course and expressed a preference for the short course.

Commodore Gunther asked the Vice Commodore, as Budget Committee Chairman, and the Race Committee Chairman to frame out what the Race Committee needs for both weekend

expenses and equipment to continue its recent innovations so we can decide what we want to do and can then charge accordingly.

Membership Committee Chairman van Dyke was absent and the Secretary read his report. One applicant is in the pipeline and he has sent out five applications. It was VOTED to reinstate Donald S. Farrington.

Measurement Rule Committee Chairman Brooks described the Marion to Bermuda Handicap Rule and the Channel Handicap System. The specifics of the systems are closely held to avoid rapid design obsolescence. Our Measurement Rule Chairman finds this information interesting but believes we are best served by what we use now.

Classification Committee Chairman Neal S. O'Connell indicated there were no current classification problems.

Protest Committee Chairman Field was absent and there was no report.

Entertainment Committee Chairman Fast commented that savings were made at Block Island by using large boxes of snacks rather than individual packages (\$400). Liquor was a little high at Shelter Island but one rainy day would flatten out finances over several years. Though it costs a bit to have coffee Saturday morning it is well received and he will continue this practice. The sound system was used at both Spring and Fall Races and works well. We have been contacted by the Mt. Gay distributor who offered assistance with the expense of our parties. We did use some Mt. Gay cups at the Fall party and might do this again.

As team captain of the Dyer Dhow Derby team, our Entertainment Chairman announced Off Soundings took the prestigious and much sought after second place - glory without work!

Shelter Island Liaison Committee Chairman Lockwood commented that everything was ok at Shelter Island Yacht Club. However, a large burgee was missing from the Steward's office after our Fall weekend. We were asked to request its return from our membership, which was done without results. From his perspective it seems political to tell Shelter Island to get a new one and send us the bill whether we feel one of our Club members took it or not. There was discussion pro and con. Commodore Gunther indicated that Shelter Island Liaison Lockwood and the flag officers would meet and decide what to do.

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

Public Relations Committee Chairman Ford indicated that he was beginning to know the ropes. The mechanics of getting information to the appropriate parties worked well this Fall. However, the publications that ought to be interested are not interested and he feels he needs to concentrate on massaging the people involved. He asked for suggestions on what Public Relations might do to help increase membership.

Fleet Surgeon Haugh reported that there were two minor injuries this year which were handled without problems.

Commodore Gunther reported for absent Long Range Race Planning Committee Chairman Slimmon. The long Range Planning Committee met and discussed alternative courses. It was decided by the committee that we should try a different location at least once, if possible. A committee comprised of Past Commodore McFadden (chairman), Race Committee Chairman Maxwell, Race Secretary Roberts and two active racers will investigate and give a hard proposal to the Board for final action.

They also discussed holding a Winter luncheon in several locations in the format that

Past Commodore Slimmon uses in the Hartford area. Brin Ford for Branford and Paul van Dyke for Mystic have been approached and Len Hubbard will be approached for the Newport area.

Rear Commodore Anderson indicated that the use of an accounting package was covered under the Treasurers report.

Phil Smyth reported on his investigation of our insurance arrangements. A copy of his report is attached to these minutes. He believes that our insurance policy with Gowrie adequately covers our needs and that we are lucky to have Gowrie covering this niche market. Contact with the State of Massachusetts indicates that we are a proper Massachusetts corporation

Secretary O'Connell reported that he has been monitoring our printing bills since April and is beginning to have an understanding of printing expense. Preliminary investigation has not revealed a printer who he would feel as comfortable with as Quality with regard to getting out our time critical printing. However, Quality's pricing bears continuous watching.

With regard to party costs Vice Commodore Anderson indicated that actions taken have been previously covered. What can be done has been done and what we see are the costs we can expect.

Commodore Gunther commented on the experiment to combine the reading of Saturdays results and combined results at the same time. Though it was shaky this first time, it was agreed that the experiment seems to be worth continuing through next year before final evaluation.

It was VOTED that the nominating committee for 1996 be comprised of the following: Peter W. McFadden, who has accepted chairmanship, and Robert Edmands and Edward Dieckerhoff as members. If either are unable to serve, chairman McFadden will bring an alternative name to the January meeting for a Board vote.

Unless there is objection from the Board or a significant event that would make it desirable for us to participate in the USSA sportsmanship Award activity we will no longer participate.

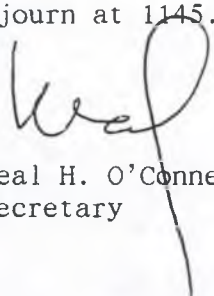
Commodore Gunther currently has no candidate for Honorary membership and looks to his Flag Officers and the Board to communicate any potential candidates to him before the January meeting.

The subject of 1996 dues and race fees were covered under the Treasurers report.

It was VOTED to remove Peter R. Brinckerhoff's suspension. The Secretary was instructed to write Peter and tell him of this. Shelter Island Liaison Lockwood asked that it be conveyed to Peter that the Commodore, Stewart and Assistant Stewart of the Shelter Island Yacht Club welcome him to the facilities of the Club.

If anyone has printing done that includes telephone numbers they should be sure to use the proper Connecticut telephone area code, 203 or 860.

There being no further business it was VOTED to adjourn at 1145.

  
Neal H. O'Connell,  
Secretary