

Minutes of the Board of Governors of the Off Soundings Club

April 10, 2010
The Ram Island Yacht Club
Noank, CT

A meeting of the Board of Governors of the Off Soundings Club was held in Noank, CT at The Rams Island Yacht Club on April 10, 2010. Commodore William A. Loweth presided.

The following members were present: Commodore William Loweth, Vice Commodore Stephen Purdy, Rear Commodore David Dickerson, Treasurer Harlan Fredericksen, Race Committee Chairman Charles Chorlton, Measurer Paul Jennings, Race Secretary James Francis, Secretary Kathy Nauber, Historian Jack Washburn, Membership Committee/Webmaster Gerry Keeler, Scoring Committee Greg Gilmartin, Past Commodore Frank Bohlen, Past Commodore Bob Geary, Board of Governor Sarah Porter, Greenport Liaison William J. Mills III and Audit Committee Katie Bradford.

The meeting was called to order at 1402 by Commodore Loweth. He led a Moment of Silence for Thayer Kingsley, Barrows Peale and Stanley Barnes.

The minutes from January 15, 2010 were accepted as amended.

Vice Commodore Purdy reported the plans for the banquet and Charles Morgan tour. He presented the Audit Report that he and Katie Bradford worked on. Everything checked out as seen on the written report. The accounts are in balance and are verified at the end of each month. The Bank of America signature card needs to be updated. The Officers of the OSC authorized Treasurer Harlan Fredericksen and Commodore William Loweth to be the designated signatures on the Bank accounts. Harlan has backed up the files and keeps them in separate places. One place is off sight at his Company office. He wrote a letter of authorization to the company to release the files to the Officers of OSC in case of an emergency and he is unable to retrieve them himself. Each year the club secretary is to remind the Clerk to file the paperwork with the State of Massachusetts before the October meeting. Commodore Loweth made a motion to accept the Audit report along with the 2009 Audit Recommendations. Sarah Hale Porter seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Vice Commodore Purdy presented the Board with a written report on modifications to the Audit Process and Procedures. The formal audit committee will consist of three members and will be chaired by either the vice or rear commodore as appointed by the commodore. Past Commodore Geary made a motion to approve the amended Audit Process and Procedures. Paul Jennings seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Rear Commodore Dickerson reported that all the trophies are ready for the banquet tonight. He wanted a clarification of the protocol for people who are not present to pick up their trophy. If a skipper is not present then it is their responsibility to make arrangements to pick up the trophy or pay to have it mailed.

Clerk Brian Gibbs was not present but our paperwork has been filed with the state of Massachusetts.

Treasurer Harlan Fredericksen distributed and reviewed his report. OSC has opened a Pay Pal account for payment on line. Dues are coming in slower than usual and 100 reminder notices were mailed out. The federal taxes have been filed and insurance has been paid. Rear Commodore Dickerson asked if we could get bids on insurance. If we do our company might give us a better deal. Jack Washburn made a motion to accept the ~~Treasurers report~~. Robert Geary seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Secretary Nauber reported that the Yearbook is at the printers and she is waiting for a copy to proof read.

Race Secretary Pratt was not present but his report was given by Jim Francis. Jim said that Walt has done the paperwork to this point and that the transition from Walter to him will be easy. The The Nonsuch class has been competing as a special invited class. We should consider making them a permanent class. We believe there will be 18 Nonsuch owners who will be members by the spring series. As a regular class the boats will need an Off Soundings certificate or if they choose an ECSA certificate. Harlan Fredericksen made a motion to make the Nonsuch class a regular Soundings Club class. Kathy Nauber seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. The decision will be announced at the Banquet tonight. Kathy Nauber will send a letter to Jack Lombard the class president. A perpetual trophy will be available to the class by the 2011 Annual Banquet.

RC Chairman Chorlton reported that at this time everything is set for both the Spring and Fall series.

Measurer Jennings reported that he went back to the ECSA Handicappers Council and let them know that anyone who only had an OSC certificate should come to him if they have an issue with their rating. He will handle any issues unless he feels he needs the help of the Council.

Historian Washburn reported that the tapes he gave to Greg Gilmartin are done and are on disks.

Membership Chairman Keeler reported that we have 481 members. As of the beginning of the year we have 1 new member, 4 resignations and 9-11 membership applications in progress. Most of these are Nonsuch owners. He compared these numbers to the 15 new members added in 2009.

Protest Committee Chairman Francis reported that there are no protest at this time. Because he is assuming the Race Secretary position Robert Bruno has been nominated to be the new Protest Committee Chairman.

Entertainment Committee report is being given by Sarah Hale Porter. Sarah will be contacting Ted Zuse about getting a bigger tent in Greenport. Sarah will work with Elizabeth Connor from the Oar concerning the Block Island tent.

Scoring Committee Chairman Greg Gilmartin reported the computer program is working and he will work with Jim Francis on getting him the needed scoring information.

Awards Committee Chairman Dickerson reported that we need to think about something else to do with the perpetual trophies. Many people take the trophy home but don't even open the box. Dave suggested displaying them at the Seaport. Frank Bohlen indicated having them at the Seaport creates some logistical problems. Jamie Mills felt that it is up to the member whether they display or not and we shouldn't make it our problem.

Public Relations Keeler reported that the Treasurers address needs to be updated on the website because the old Treasurer is still receiving bills.

Greenport Liaison Mills reported that the members on Long Island appreciated meeting the officers who attended the luncheon and wanted to make sure OSC knew the effort was appreciated. Jamie will look around for a larger tent to use in Greenport during the fall series.

Block Island Liaison Purdy reported he was able to get the house on Block Island for the Race Committee. ~~Steve brought to the Boards attention that Don Kern misinterpreted the club rules about~~

how many members can be on a boat during a race. Steve made sure they knew that the rule indicated there needed to be one OSC member on board but that didn't limit how many other members could be on board. He feels we will get a few more members from this family.

Long Range Planning Chairman Bohlen reported that Rhode Island is still a place he would like to hold a luncheon. He also suggested rethinking having class liaisons to try to keep classes strong. He felt this might help stimulate membership. Steve Purdy suggested having members who belong to area yacht clubs speak to their members about Off Sounding Club at an annual meeting. Bill Loweth suggested this topic could be in a future club communication. Frank will explore the liaison possibility. Robert Geary suggested Bill talk briefly about this topic during his opening comments at the banquet tonight.

Old Business

The Nominating Committee has nominated Jim Francis to fill the position of Race Secretary and Robert Bruno to fill the position of Protest Committee Chairman. The motion was made and approved.

Compete At progress to date. About half of the members have tried to use it for membership dues or to pay for the annual banquet. There have been several issues with Compete At and with using Pay Pal. Harlan, Jim and Steve do not feel we should use Compete At for the Spring Series registration this year because of the many problems. There should be a report on what needs to be changed to meet the club's needs at the October meeting. If the company can't meet our needs then we may need to go with a different database program.

New Business

Commodore Loweth asked that the Precedence setting decision from 4-20-60 "The matter of eligibility for listing in the Club Yearbook of the owner's yachts was discussed at some length, after which it was moved and voted that starting with the 1961 Yearbook, only those yachts eligible to race in our races and not less than 15' in overall length be listed in the club's Yearbooks" be overturned because a number of our members have boats that do not fit that designation and should be listed in the yearbook. Steve Purdy made a motion to overturn this decision and Paul Jennings seconded the motions. It was unanimously approved. There were other decisions that were brought up including who can fly the club burgee. One question was how a member becomes aware of these new decisions and where they should be posted. It was decided to discuss this issue in further detail at the next meeting. It was felt that this would be best done by a subcommittee. Kathy Nauber will resend the Precedent Setting Decision sheet before the next meeting.

Commodore Loweth has coordinated with The Ram Island Yacht Club to have OSC members come by for food and refreshments during the Antique Boat show.

There being no further formal business, motion duly made and approved to adjourn at 1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Nauber

Secretary