

Minutes of the Board of Governors of the Off Soundings Club

October 30, 2010
Munson Room, Blunt White Building, Mystic Seaport
Mystic, CT

A meeting of the Board of Governors of the Off Soundings Club was held in Mystic, CT at Mystic Seaport on October 30, 2010. Commodore William A. Loweth presided.

The following members were present: Commodore William Loweth, Vice Commodore Steven 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, Entertainment Committee Chairman Robert Austin-LaFrance, Protest Committee Chairman Robert Bruno, Past Commodore Frank Bohlen, Past Commodore Bob Geary, Board of Governor Sarah Porter, and Jackie Fisher, guest.

The meeting was called to order at 0904 by Commodore Loweth. He led a Moment of Silence for Henry D. Towers and Donald Wilkinson.

The minutes from April 10, 2010 were accepted as amended.

Treasurer Harlan Fredericksen distributed the Treasurers Report. The expenses are running a little less than budgeted but so is the income. Harlan believes the club will end up about \$600.00 in the positive. There are about twelve members in arrears. Harlan has made contact and has collected from three of them. He will let us know at the next meeting who is still in arrears. Ted Zuse owes the club money and Harlan will contact him. Past Commodore Geary questioned whether we have any financial liability to Compete AT if we do not use them again. Harlan indicated we do not. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report. The motion was approved.

Commodore Loweth has a number of Off Soundings History and 75th Celebration disks which he will give to Membership Chairman Keeler to give out in the new member packets. The mailing on the 15th went out and Bill indicated he was very happy with Quality Printing and the work they have done. Race Secretary Francis and Secretary Nauber also said they were happy with their work on the race mailings and yearbook.

Vice Commodore Purdy reported that reservations have been made at the Latitudes Restaurant for the April 2, 2011 Annual Meeting and Banquet. He will also make reservations at the Daniel Packard Inn for the January 14, 2011 board meeting.

Rear Commodore Dickerson reported that the majority of remarks have been favorable about the low point scoring. He said the spring order forms went fairly well but in the fall some of the glassware came in late. When given a choice of awards it takes people awhile to return their order forms. The club will continue to give out the bronze plaques.

Clerk Brian Gibbs was not present and as of this meeting the papers had not been filed with the State of Massachusetts. Secretary Nauber contacted Brian before the meeting and will follow up. Harlan indicated he would also contact Brian about the paperwork.

Race Secretary Jim Francis reported that his first year in office has been good. He reported that the ~~two series went well even though numbers were down. He felt the absence of a summer mailing~~

was the reason the club had fewer racers in the fall. He and Vice Commodore Purdy decided the deadline for the Annual Banquet was four days before the event.

RC Chairman Chorlton reported that a 10' tetrahedron was lost this fall and would need to be replaced. After 11 years he will be retiring from this position. Chuck has put together a Race Committee guide which he will turn over to the new Race Committee Chairman once one is appointed. The club should begin talks now with Henry du Pont about securing the use of Nor'Easter for 2011. The club also needs to talk to the auxiliary boats to see which is planning on returning to offer on the water support.

Measurer Jennings reported that the information he needed to discuss would come under new business.

Historian Washburn reported that there is nothing to report at this time.

Membership Chairman Keeler reported as of this meeting there are 480 members, 2 pending memberships, 11 resignations, 4 deaths and about 12 members in arrears.

Protest Committee Chairman Robert Bruno reported there were no active protests or appeals at this time. Greg Gilmartin asked what constitutes sailing between the two Islands (Gull and Plum). Is there a restricted area if the boat is not actually going to go between the Islands? Steve Purdy thinks we should publish a chart to show the restricted area. There was also discussion about whether this should be done for Block Island since the Coast Guard took out on of the red buoys.

Entertainment Committee Chairman LaFrance said he had good estimates of how much to order so there is not much left over from the parties. The tent in Greenport was bigger this year. Commodore Loweth went with a larger tent but if it had rained it still would not have been big enough to fit everyone under. The next size larger tent would have been cost prohibitive. There was a discussion about the wristbands. The wristbands demonstrate the club is paying attention to any drinking age issues. At the end of March Robert will be retiring from this position. Jackie Fisher has been asked to take on this position for next year.

Scoring Committee Chairman Greg Gilmartin was not in attendance but the results were sent out.

Awards Committee Chairman Dickerson reported the information in his Rear Commodore report.

Public Relations Keeler reported that the website is a work in progress. Over the winter he will work to clean up the email list. This is an ongoing process since emails are often changed. Dave Dickerson suggested putting interesting older stories about the Off Soundings Club (from area newspapers) on the website in an attempt to draw interest and maybe attract more members.

Greenport Liaison Mills – no report at this time.

Shelter Island Liaison Lockwood – no report at this time. Dave Dickerson questioned whether Shelter Island would be interested in having the Off Soundings Club back at some future date. There seems to be some interest in this possibility

Block Island Liaison Purdy reported he will try to lease the house on Block Island again this year.

Long Range Planning Chairman Bohlen reported on the upcoming winter luncheons. He will try to add a luncheon in Rhode Island this winter. The preferred dates are all after the first of the year.

Commodore Loweth would like to have the dates for the luncheons by Thanksgiving so the information can be sent out to the membership.

The dates for 2011 are set and the 2012 dates are almost set. There is still a question about the Bermuda race dates which will be checked on.

Treasurer Fredericksen handed out and reviewed the 2011 budget. Harlan was conservative on the income side when he did his calculations. He indicated the fees and dues should stay the same as 2010 and we should instead work to increase the membership. A motion was made and seconded to accept the 2011 budget and keep the dues at their current level. The motion was approved.

Old Business

Compete At did not work as the club had hoped. It actually created more work for the Treasurer. There were over 60 people who paid their dues by credit card. In this database the members changed their own information but did not do it in a uniform manner. Since it was not our database we could not go in and make changes to a member's information. While it gave us the ability to contact members easily the club did not get bounced back emails and Compete AT did not notify us of those that bounced back or take care of these issues. Because it was not our private database nonmembers had access to sign up to race. There was a discussion about who needs access to the database and the fact that the thing we need most is database management.

The Nonesuch Perpetual Trophy will be the James J. Eastland Trophy. Commodore Loweth will get the trophy. Jack Lombard will be asked to give us information for the yearbook describing the trophy and who it is being given in honor of.

The Board discussed the possible additions to the Precedent Setting Decisions document that Kathy Nauber passed out. It was decided to add them all except for the 10-31-09 item that dealt with the use of Compete At. A motion was made and seconded to include these items on the Precedent Setting Decision document. The motion was approved by the board.

New Business

Past Commodore O'Connell asked the Board to approve Gene Festa as a member of the nominating committee. A motion was made and seconded. The motion was approved by the board.

Measurer Jennings was approached by Peter and Teri Brinkley to bring before the Board the idea of having a Short Handed Class. Paul read their letter. They would like in the short handed boats to be able to use auto pilot assistance to make certain maneuvers (i.e. spinnaker sets) safer. After a discussion a motion was made to accept entries for boats racing with two or less people in a spinnaker class to use auto pilot. Harlan made a motion to amend the previous motion by deleting the spinnaker exclusion. The motion with the amendment was seconded. The vote was 13 to approve and 3 disapproved. The motion carried. Race Secretary Francis said that a boat sailing shorthanded should fly a flag indicating they are sailing with auxiliary help. There would need to be a change to the sailing instructions. _

There was discussion about the next generation member and how to promote to this target audience. Some questions were "Why would a younger person want to join?" and "What would a younger person get from joining the club?" One suggestion was to put a younger person on the Board. Dave Dickerson and Frank Bohlen will work on this. They will try to get a group of young people to meet with them to discuss this issue. Y6

There was a discussion about Perpetual Trophies and what happens if a class does not have a race or if no one in the class finishes the race. For classes who do not have a race then both classes don't get scored for the two year perpetual trophy.

There being no further formal business, motion duly made and approved to adjourn at 1210.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Nauber

Secretary