

Minutes  
of the  
Board of Governors  
of the  
OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB  
January 14, 1994

A meeting of the Board of Governors of the Off Soundings Club was held at the Captain Daniel Packer Inne, Mystic, Connecticut, at 1200 on January 14, 1994. Commodore McFadden presided. Other Governors present were:

Allen N. Anderson  
W. Frank Bohlen  
William G. Gunther  
John H. Lockwood  
H. Wes Maxwell

Ernest R. Messer, Jr.  
Neal H. O'Connell  
Richard H. Roberts  
James B. Slimmon, Jr.  
Paul C. van Dyke

Present by invitation were:

William L. Ames  
Donald C. Davis  
J. Christopher Field

John D. Haugh, MD  
Nicholas Staub, II

Absent were:

Milan T. Bartek  
LCDR John F. Brooks  
F. B. George Hohenstein  
Rodney S. Johnstone

D. Richard Magovern, DDS  
Robert B. Nickerson  
Norman R. Rabe

The meeting was called to order at 1240.

The minutes of the previous October 16, 1993 meeting were VOTED approved.

Vice Commodore Gunther reported that arrangements for the Annual Dinner at the Coast Guard Academy on April 2, 1994 have been made. The Commodores luncheon and the Board meeting will be at Jacobs Rock. Prices will be \$25 for roast beef or baked stuffed shrimp.

Rear Commodore Anderson submitted a written report a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He commented that trophy expenses were about the same as for the last two years. A call has gone out for the return of trophies for engraving and keeper plaques have been ordered.

The following resignations were VOTED accepted with regret:

Ragnar D. Naess  
Capt. Eiliv M. Norvik

A. Ross Roesler

The Board stood for a moment of silence as the following members names, who we were notified had died, were read:

Robert A. Brechter  
Joseph Foran Regan

Thomas J. Watson, Jr.

With these changes membership currently is 524 members.

Off Soundings won the prestigious second place at the Dyer Dhow Derby last Fall with a team of Justin Dieckerhoff, Ann Hohenstein Wilkinson, and various members of the Nickerson clan.

Treasurer Messer presented his financial report for the 1993 year, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He further presented a listing showing cost center reporting and a graph of our balance on hand since 1991. With this year's net surplus of \$6,642 we have \$24,751 on hand. A question was asked as to whether these large surpluses would jeopardize our tax exempt status. The reply was that as long as monies are being used for member services and we have little outside income such as interest earnings and fees from non members there will be no problem. The treasure's report was VOTED approved.

The following donations were VOTED approved:

\$1,000	Mystic Seaport Museum
\$200	Coast Guard Academy
\$250	Block Island Heath Services

Historian Ames commented that the 1993 videos of our races were coming along. He suggested that the Board and Committee Chairmen make use of our archives at the Seaport.

Race Secretary Roberts submitted a list of dates for 1995, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. The dates listed below were VOTED accepted:

#### 1995 Off Soundings Events

Board Meeting (Friday)	January 20
Guest Invitation Cut-Off	March 23
Annual Meeting and Shore Party	April 8
First Notice - Spring Series	April 21
Closing Date - Spring Series	May 25
Final Notice - Spring Series	June 9
Race Dates - Spring Series	June 16 & 17
Results of Spring Series & First Notice - Fall Series	July 14
Closing Date - Fall Series	August 24
Final Notice - Fall Series	September 8
Race Dates - Fall Series	September 15 & 16
Final Results	October 13
Board Meeting (Saturday)	October 28

The locations for the Spring and Fall races will remain the same as last year. Courses were discussed. As we need a course to get to our rendezvous point on Friday, the discussion concerned Saturday's race and in particular the Fall Series. The short course needs to be

reduced from its current 19 miles. To avoid having to read results in the dark, the Race Committee should be back at the dock by 1630. We probably will start the race inside Great Peconic Bay to avoid the congestion and rip currents at the entrance.

Generally there was little response to the Boards request for input about use of the Peconic bays. It appeared that there was more favorable than unfavorable comment from the membership and the Board seemed to mirror this.

Comments about the Saturday, Fall 1993 race ranged from it's idiotic to race in Peconic Bay to it was great and provided a challenge. The Race Committee Chairman noted that with Time on Time the committee now has more flexibility. The Chairman wants to keep everyone happy. A suggestion was made that we might be able to select either Gardiner's or Peconic Bay on Saturday and notify the fleet by flags and radio. It was left to the Race Committee Chairman and Race Secretary to determine what would be done for courses in 1994.

Clerk Magovern was absent and there was no report.

Measurer Rabe was absent but the Race Secretary read his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He reported that there was no need to have any special wording for our race circular with regard to outriggers as they did not conflict with our rule or USSA rules. His comments about category 4 requirements were discussed and it was requested that they be reviewed again for the April meeting so any changes will be in time for the 1994 Spring race circular. Flare cost was a consideration. There appears to be more current information which is available from Ernie Messer and Frank Bohlen.

Race Committee Chairman Maxwell indicated that he was excited about using Time on Time this year and hopes it will work well. It appears to make the Committees job easier and he expects that results will not be as skewed by very slow or fast race days. Traditional courses will be run this Spring and we will see what happens.

Though more thought needs to be given to the matter, we should consider some way of shorting the starting sequence. Comments ranged from "if it ain't broke don't fix it" to suggestions for 5 minutes between classes or combining more classes. No conclusion was reached.

Membership Committee Chairman Bohlen reported 9 applications on file with 5 of them having been reviewed by the Committee. This is a little more than normal. About an additional dozen applications have been requested by the membership. He expects to coordinate a posting with the Commodore's Winter News Letter.

Measurement Rule Committee Chairman Brooks was absent and there was no report.

Classification Committee Chairman Davis commented that with regard to our discussions concerning race courses and race management we should keep in mind the old saying "if it ain't broke don't fix it".

Protest Committee Chairman Fields discussed the need to be able to change race instructions after publication. After discussion with

others, he concluded that we only need a way to correct instructions by strengthening the announcement portion of our race instructions.

Race Committee Chairman Maxwell expressed a concern about not being able to identify all boats that started in a class because of poor visibility and the tendency of some to mill around on the far side of the pin. He wondered if there was a way to modify the race instructions to help with this. Some people also expressed concern but some felt it was an impossible problem to solve. No conclusion was reached.

Entertainment Chairman Bartek was absent and there was no report.

Shelter Island liaison Co-chairman Lockwood commented that he felt relations with Shelter Island Yacht Club were good.

Block Island Liaison Chairman Staub submitted a written report which is attached to these minutes. He reported that he had confirmed our arrival in the Spring with local officials. He did not contact the Oar as the Entertainment Committee Chairman does this.

Public Relations Committee Chairman Nickerson was absent and there was no report.

Fleet Surgeon Haugh commented that the three medical chests are reasonable complete and being stored at his office. Resident Dr. Wiodzimierz Kolodziejczyk will be available for our races in 1994.

Long Range Race Planning Committee Chairman Johnstone was absent but asked for topics that the committee should look at. There were no suggestions for topics.

Historian Ames commented that the Schooner Brilliant, skippered by paid skipper Moffett, had received two guest invitations. Moffett is now a member of Off Soundings. He asked for confirmation that there would be no question about the schooner Brilliant with skipper Moffett entering our series. It was agreed that the Board would be pleased to accept this entry.

It was VOTED that the Nominating Committee for the 1994 slate will be Paul C. van Dyke (Chairman), and the first two individuals, asked in order, of the following list: William A. Loweth, Edward C. Dieckerhoff, W Bruce Lockwood and Charles D. Chorlton.

There were no Honorary Members proposed by the Board for 1994.

The matter of F. B. Hohenstein's resignation was tabled for this meeting.

The matter of alternative penalties was discussed. Classification Committee Chairman Davis noted that you forfeit a chance to win a trophy for the series, plus an overall for the year and possibly a combined two year overall if you lose a protest or drop out. It is his opinion that we would have better racing if the rule was not so tough.

Historian Ames disagrees but did not want to waste time discussing it. Protest Committee Chairman Field also believes that a penalty that is not so severe would give more incentive for participants to comply with the rules, which is our objective. Essentially no one is protesting now. Past Commodore van Dyke noted that if we have a problem all clubs have the same problem. Rear Commodore Anderson indicated that he and Past Commodore Slimmon had investigated the matter and found no broad support for an alternative penalty. If we are going to do anything, we need a discrete proposal to evaluate and vote upon.

At this point Membership Chairman Bohlen suggested a workshop on the matter. Commodore McFadden appointed Mr. Bohlen to look at the matter and report back at the April 1994 meeting.

Commodore McFadden reported on the results of the hearing requested by Peter R. Brinckerhoff with 6 members of the Board of Governors. He also read a letter from Peter. It was VOTED to accept the committee's report that no change be made to the action taken at the October 16, 1993 Board meeting. Vice Commodore Gunther will write to Jeff Goubeaud and the Secretary will write to Peter Brinckerhoff notifying them of the Boards action.

It was agreed that the deliberations of the Board would not be discussed outside the Board and any resulting action taken would not be discussed until any parties affected have been communicated with, if at all.

The following changes to the Constitution were VOTED approved by the Board and will be forwarded to the membership with the call of the 1994 Annual Meeting and acted upon at this meeting by the membership:

#### ARTICLE XI Membership

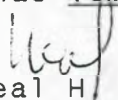
Section 3 - Any member in arrears for dues or other indebtedness for a period of two months shall be notified by mail by the Secretary of the amount due. If not paid.....

Comment: The underlined portion is a change from three to two months to improve our ability to produce the members book on a timely basis. The change reduces the time before Board action is initiated for non payment of dues or other indebtedness from 120 days to 90 days.

Section 6 - Honorary members shall be elected at any meeting of the Club after recommendation by the Board of Governors, but two negative votes shall reject. They shall be exempt from dues and assessments; they shall not vote or hold office unless they are an active member at the time of their election.

Comment: the underlined portion is an addition to the existing section and allows an active member who is elected to Honorary Membership to continue to serve the Club.

There being no further business it was VOTED to adjourn at 1524.

  
Neal H. O'Connell  
Secretary