

**Minutes  
of the  
Board of Governors  
of the  
OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB  
APRIL 17, 1999**

A meeting of the Board of Governors of the Off Soundings Club was held at Avery Point, Groton, Connecticut on April 17, 1999. Commodore Anderson presided. Other Governors present were:

W. Frank Bohlen	D. Richard Magovern, DMD
John F. Brooks	Peter W. McFadden
Edward C. Dieckerhoff	W. Wes Maxwell
Carl D. Fast	Neal H. O'Connell
William G. Gunther	Norman E. Rabe
John H. Lockwood	Richard H. Roberts

Present by invitation were:

William L. Ames	Neal S. O'Connell
Robert B. Geary	Steven M. Purdy
Warren F. Woodworth, MD	

Absent were:

Carleton A. Granbery	Philip Smyth
Brin R. Ford	

The meeting was called to order at 1504.

The minutes of the previous January 22, 1999 meeting were VOTED approved.

Vice Commodore Bohlen reported that all is ready for the Annual Dinner. The count is about 150, which is close to that of last year. We can only finalize arrangements at the Academy no earlier than a year in advance. We will be doing this and locking up our spring dinner at the Academy for the year 2000 with a deposit tonight.

Rear Commodore Maxwell indicated that trophies and plaques are in order for tonight.

Reinstatements of Christopher McLaughlin and Robert A. Rosenblum were VOTED accepted.

The Board stood for a moment of silence for the following members whose deaths were reported since the last meeting:

Richard Maxwell	M. Keith Walker
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The following resignations were VOTED accepted with regret:

Anthony C Bailey	Donald S. Farrington
Lawrence P. Comstock	Alan Miller

The following individuals were VOTED dropped for non-payment of dues with the proviso that the Secretary was to use judgment in accepting late payments:

John P. Bartels  
Roger G. Beaudet  
Jay E. Helme  
Darryl Hersant  
Crawford Hull  
Jasper H. Kane

Ronald Nophsker  
Robert L. Puder  
F. P. Skip Raymond  
Donald Grant Russell  
W. Whitney Stueck  
R. L. van de Berghe

With the above changes, membership is currently at 501 (see page 5).

Treasurer Fast distributed financial reports for 12/31/96 through 12/31/98. Copies are attached to this report. The 1998 financial statement shows expenses exceeding income by \$1,896.19. The difference in financial results between 1997 and 1998 is slightly over \$7,000 (a \$5,242 surplus in 1997 and a \$1,896 deficit in 1998). The swing comes primarily from two sources. Race entry income was about \$3,200 less in 1998 as a result of significantly fewer entrants. Secondly, royalty income for 1998 was not received in the 1998 accounting year and will be booked in 1999. This combined with the 1998 expense of purchasing about \$2,800 in ties results in 1998 royalties being about \$4,200 less than 1997. The 1998 financial report was VOTED approved.

A final 1999 Budget was distributed. A copy is attached to this report. There was no discussion except about video expenses. It appears that the amount allocated will cover 1999 expenses. However, after this year, we will be unlikely to be able to afford professional films or have donated films of the high quality we have enjoyed in the past. It is expected that the film for 1999 will be a history of the Club's racing using film currently archived. The 1999 budget was VOTED approved.

Historian Ames indicated that the video of the 1998 race series is ready but he has only seen it in the segments he narrated last night. Discussion of lack of support for producing film in the future for either historical or entertainment purposes was discussed with the conclusion that we have other types of options as far as entertainment is concerned.

Race Secretary Roberts presented a guest list of 8 names plus the service academies. The guest list, a copy of which is attached, was VOTED approved.

A sample of a page from the project to simplify the race instructions was distributed. The committee is looking for feedback.

A complete rewrite of the "Off Soundings Minimum Equipment and accommodation Standards" including virtually all current category 4 requirements was distributed a week prior to the meeting. It is longer than the blue 2-page document it is intended to replace. This was necessary for purposes of clarity. It should be carefully reviewed to determine if changes should be made, giving special attention to exceptions previously adopted by the Board such as PFD's, and previously grandfathered items like lifelines.

Clerk Magovern reported that the state of Massachusetts has been slow in mailing our incorporation renewal papers to us. As signatures of Club officers

are not necessary, he will get the appropriate check and take care of the matter with the state.

Measurer Rabe reported later under old business.

Race Committee Chairman Granbery has resigned. He had been doing a fine job and we will miss his participation on the Board and his leadership. Commodore Anderson indicated that Kim's report is as he gave it in January. Race Secretary Roberts will contact Kim and confirm the auxiliary boats for inclusion in the spring First Notice.

Membership Committee Chairman Brooks has the paper work for 6 candidates in the pipeline that he will have ready for posting with the First Notice. The Membership Committee's guest list was given to the Race Secretary so he could prepare labels for the "first notice".

Measurement Rule Committee Chairman Brooks told us that there were several new rules that are being or will be tested.

Classification Committee Chairman N. S. O'Connell reported that they had much new information on mostly class C boats that will be used in evaluating this spring's entries.

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

Entertainment Committee Chairman Dieckerhoff has talked to Joan Abrams at Block Island. The Oar intends to continue offering breakfast but will give up the dinner on Friday evening as it was not well attended. She is looking for help with the cost of the tent. This year they will bring the PA system into the tent for announcements, which will help clear up the confusion on the deck.

Block Island Liaison Committee Chairman Steven Purdy has arranged for the same housing arrangements as we had last year for the Race Committee. It is about the only weekend arrangement we can make. With less building being done on Block Island we can expect to see rents rise in the future.

Shelter Island liaison Committee Chairman Lockwood indicated that our relationship with Shelter Island Yacht Club is fine. He feels that a face to face meeting between the Commodores of the two clubs in the spring is imperative to maintain this relationship. Further, he believes we need to bring another person in as a backup or co-liaison. Larry Landry was mentioned. The specific role of such a person, timing and how such an individual will be introduced into the Off Soundings organization will be worked out between the Commodore and Committee Chairman Lockwood.

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

Fleet Surgeon Woodworth reiterated that we do not want to be in the medical business. Each boat should be responsible for their crew and for having a proper medical kit aboard.

Past Commodore Gunther reported for the Long Range Planning Committee. They were charged with evaluating why race participation dropped so significantly between 1997 and 1998. They compared entries between the two races anticipating

a relatively simple operation of identifying a few dozen boats they could poll and in this way identify the reasons for the drop in participation.

The results were surprising. About 42% of the boats that raced in the 1997 spring or fall series did not race in the comparable series in 1998. Further, About 33% of the boats racing in 1998 were new in that they had not raced in 1997. The information does not balance by several boats for each series but is certainly satisfactory as a statistical analysis. The table below shows these results:

	Raced In 97	Raced in 97 not in 98	97 Boats that raced in 98	Raced 98 Not in 97	Total Raced 98 Stat.**	Raced 98 Actual
Spring	156	65	91	46	137	135
Fall	152	64	88	38	126	123

\*\* This is a statistical total, which differs by several boats from the actual total that raced in 1998.

Past Commodore Gunther reported that the Nominating Committee composed of himself, William A. Loweth and Robert Edmands is looking for a Race Committee Chairman as a result of the recent resignation of Kim Granbery. Other than this position they have a full slate for 1999. When the Committee has identified an appropriate Race Committee Chairman they will recommend to the Board that an interim appointment be made.

Measurer Rabe proposed that guests be allowed to enter the cruising canvass classes. His feeling is that we are discouraging potential good members who are not yet ready or maybe never will be ready for spinnaker classes. It was VOTED that guests be allowed to enter the cruising canvass classes beginning with the 1999 spring series.

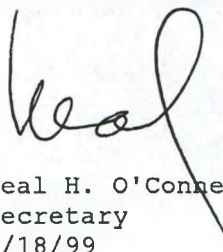
With the appointment of a new treasurer and secretary this year, the prior secretary felt it advisable to restate past resolutions about handling the financial affairs of the Club. The following motion was VOTED: "The Treasurer of the Off Soundings Club is authorized to manage and establish, when necessary, financial accounts to meet the Off Soundings Club's financial needs. Both the Treasurer and Secretary are to have single signature authority for all accounts."

John Norcross called Commodore Anderson concerning establishing a memorial fund in memory of his father J. Franklin Norcross who had been the Treasurer of Off Soundings in the 1950's. Vice Commodore Bohlen proposed the following motion and it was VOTED:

"The Board of Governors of the Off Soundings Club moves to establish the J. Franklin Norcross Memorial Fund which seeks to provide occasional one-of-a-kind" gifts in recognition or gratitude for meritorious service to the Off Soundings Club as determined by a vote of the Board of Governors. The cost of such gifts to be covered by funds accrued from interest applied to monies donated by John Norcross in memory of his father J. Franklin Norcross who served as Treasurer of the Off Soundings Club from 1951 -1955. Each gift (award) is to be accompanied by an explanation of the source of funding with a copy sent to John Norcross or his heir's."

It was agreed that administratively the Norcross Funds could be maintained as a bookkeeping account but be physically combined with other Club funds. Annually interest would be allocated to the account on the basis of the interest earnings of other Club's funds held at interest.

There being no further business it was VOTED to adjourn at 1710.



Neal H. O'Connell  
Secretary  
4/18/99

Note:

On April 17, 1999 at 2000 hours, it was VOTED to reinstate Donald Farrington, who had resigned early in March and whose resignation had been accepted earlier in the day. Board of Governor members Anderson, Bohlen, Brooks, Dieckerhoff, Gunther, Maxwell, and Roberts VOTED approval that evening and McFadden and Rabe approved by phone at a later date. Thus membership as of April 17, 1999 is 502.

On May 2, 1999, Commodore Bohlen informed me that the Board VOTED to appoint Charles D. Chorlton as Race Committee Chairman.

Commodore Bohlen has appointed the committee chairmen shown below for the 1999 year.

OFF SOUNDING CLUB  
COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN  
for  
THE 1999 YEAR

Membership	Robert Edmands
Protest	Carl D. Fast
Entertainment	Edward C. Dieckerhoff
Classification	Neal S. O'Connell
Measurement Rule	John F. Brooks
Prizes & Awards	John F. Brooks
Public Relations	William A. Loweth
Fleet Surgeon	Warren F. Woodworth, MD
Shelter Island Liaison	John H. Lockwood
Block Island Liaison	Steven M. Purdy
Long Range Race Planning	Allen N. Anderson
ECSA Representative	Richard H. Roberts
USSA/ORC Representative	Richard H. Roberts