

## OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

OFFICE OF  
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### **Minutes of the Board of Governors of the Off Soundings Club**

October 28, 2006  
G.W. Blunt White Library (Olin Stephens Room)  
Mystic Seaport

The meeting of the Board of Governors of the Off Soundings Club was held at the Olin Stephens Room on October 28, 2006. Commodore Neal O'Connell presided.

The following members were present: Commodore Neal S. O'Connell, Vice Commodore Robert Geary, Treasurer Ron Breault, Race Committee Chairman Charles Chorlton, Race Secretary Steven Purdy, Measurer Paul Jennings, Protest Committee Walter Pratt, Entertainment Committee Sara Porter, Long Range Planning PC Frank Bohlen, Past Commodore H. Wes Maxwell, Past Commodore John Brooks and Secretary Dave Dickerson.

The meeting was called to order at 0911 by Commodore O'Connell. The minutes of the April 1, 2006 meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer Ron Breault passed out his report which is made part of these minutes. PC Bohlen asked about the status of the account with Club House. The Treasurer reported that Club House said they would send out a check next week for '05/ '06 royalties.

Commodore O'Connell reported that last weekend, the Dyer Dow Derby at Mystic Seaport (sailed under challenging conditions) was won by Team OSC (Dan Nickerson was 1<sup>st</sup> in Jr. Division, Dave Nickerson was 2<sup>nd</sup> in Men's Division, and Cindy Gibbs was 2<sup>nd</sup> in Women's Division). Also, OSC is responsible to run the event for next year.

Vice Commodore Geary reported that arrangements have been made with the Lighthouse Inn for the 2007 annual dinner. The normal rental fee will be waived if we have at least 110 reservations, there are three menu options and they have rooms available for long distance travelers (Seaman's Inn was booked for a wedding). The board discussed various options on how to better coordinate communications with the membership. It was agreed to combine the mailing of the Commodore's letter with the announcement of the annual meeting/dinner.

Additionally, an early announcement of the dinner (i.e., save the date) will be inserted in the annual dues notice. The question of E-mail notification was discussed. The Treasurer reported that we have e-mail addresses for only 380 out of 506 members.

A detailed discussion evolved regarding the location for the 2008 annual meeting and dinner. PC Bohlen's suggestion of the Mystic Aquarium was received as an interesting option.

Rear Commodore Loweth was unable to attend and asked the Secretary to give his report. The fall series trophies have been awarded. We will be slightly over budget due to the cost of the small OSC emblems however, we now have another years supply. RC Loweth suggested we increase the budgeted amount for next year to \$2100.

RC Loweth also relayed information regarding the production of a video for 2008 (i.e., our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary). He had some preliminary discussions with Ken Mueller and Greg Gilmartin. The idea is to film the 2007 races for production of a 35-40 minute DVD to be shown in 2008. RC Loweth volunteered his power boat as the platform boat for filming. Additionally, the estimated budget would be about \$5000.

A lively discussion followed with considerable enthusiasm towards this project. Numerous comments and ideas were submitted in favor getting started (e.g., the video attracts people to the dinner, we need to document our anniversary year, we could incorporate historic snapshots, the cost could be split over two years, use the Norcross fund to get started, sell the DVD for a nominal amount to help recover some of the cost, and convert the old OSC videos over to DVD). Also, Sara Porter said that she had some old OSC photos, from the 50s, and she would try to get them to Mary Anne Stets at the Seaport.

Commodore O'Connell suggested we give RC Loweth the "go ahead" and Treasurer Breault added that we should ask RC Loweth to have a plan and a schedule ready for the January meeting.

The Secretary provided a package of information which included an update of the OSC Precedent Setting Decisions. Also, in the near future, the Secretary will meet with Kelly Drake from the Seaport Library to check on the completeness of the OSC archives.

The Secretary recently talked to Steve Corkery, of Shelter Island, about the attendance of the "T" class in the fall series. Steve's initial reaction was that they probably would not attend but we would continue to pursue this item.

The Historian, Jack Washburn, was unable to attend. He called in "no report".

The Clerk was unable to attend, but he e-mailed the OSC Corporation paperwork that he recently filed with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

John Lockwood was unable to attend but he stopped by prior to the meeting and requested that the Secretary send a letter to the Mayor of Greenport with the dates for the 2007 fall series.

The Race Secretary handed out the 2007 (already approved) and 2008 Schedule of Events. There is no conflict with Easter for the April 5, 2008 annual meeting and the Spring Series does not conflict with the Bermuda Race. After much discussion regarding alternative dates for the Spring Series, the 2008 schedule was moved and approved.

The Race Secretary explained the description of the penalty (PE) process which has been added to the Sailing Instructions. Additionally, it was noted that there were several errors in the reporting of the fall results (without PE) to ECSA and that these have been corrected.

The subject of Launches was discussed. The Commodore suggested that the Block Island liaison should make arrangements for the Spring Series and that the Greenport liaison should make arrangements for the Fall Series.

The Race Secretary provided several tables and graphs to help analyze OSC participation between 2003 and 2006. It was noted that racing participation is down and guest members are down. A lengthy discussion ensued in an attempt to understand the reasons (e.g., bad weather, expensive weekend, housing costs, etc.). PC Bohlen emphasized that eternal vigilance is necessary to make the race attractive and to bring in new classes and special classes. PC Brooks re-introduced the idea of having a 2 day series out of New London. PC Maxwell suggested that the secret to keeping OSC alive is keep trying different things (e.g., Peconic Bay, Montauk, Shelter Island, etc.).

The subject of membership was discussed (e.g., remind the members that membership is their responsibility, remove barriers to make it easier to get new members, follow-up on guest members). The Treasurer noted that membership in 2006 was down by 19, offset by 7 new. RC Chairman, Chorlton challenged the existing restriction that officers can not propose members. After further discussion, it was moved and approved to remove the 10-25-75 restriction that "no Officer, Governor, or Committee Chairman shall propose or second anyone for membership". Additionally, it was suggested that the Commodores annual letter address the subject of membership.

The Treasurer asked what the policy was for returning the entry fee and the party fee if we had to cancel a regatta. After discussion, it was concluded that we would follow past practice and give as much money back as we could, to the point of breaking even on the event.

The Measurer continues to work on the balance of the classes. We received positive feedback on placing the sprit boats in C3. We had a good turnout from the USCG with 8 boats in the fall series. The board discussed the evolution of future classes with the theme of trying to accommodate as many types of boats as possible.

The RC Chairman acknowledged the efforts of Jim Arnold and noted that Jim must leave the RC due to other priorities. The Commodore agreed to write a thank you letter and also to recognize Jim at the annual meeting. Additionally, the RC Chairman reported that it has become necessary to pursue another scorer and that Greg Gilmartin has expressed an interest in the position.

The Protest Committee Chairman reported there was only one protest this fall and it was withdrawn.

Entertainment Committee – The Treasurer suggested we investigate the use of the facility at Claudio's dock for the fall series. PC Bohlen suggested we procure a bull horn as a back-up for the sound system.

Long Range Planning – PC Bohlen would like to re-organize the OSC luncheons. It was agreed to try to have two luncheons (i.e., CT & LI) in mid-January, prior to the January 19<sup>th</sup> board meeting. The plans are put a notice of the luncheon(s) in the dues notice (December '06) and also notify by e-mail.

Review of Bylaws – PC Brooks and Sara Porter are reviewing the Bylaws. John asked the board to take a look at the Bylaws and the Precedent Setting Decisions and to e-mail their comments to him before the next meeting. John will bring any proposed changes to the January meeting and if the board concurs, the proposed changes can go out to the membership for the April meeting.

The Treasurer passed out an updated budget and noted that we will have a small cash balance at the end of the year. Presently, there is no need to change the structure of our entry fees, party fees, or membership fees. Printing and postage costs continue to be a big expense.

The board discussed numerous ideas on how to reduce printing costs (e.g., reduce the size of the membership book, produce a CD in lieu of a hardcopy, send the Sailing Instructions only to those entered, use e-mail for correspondence and race results, better use of the website, build a better website, run a test to determine who would be willing to go paperless). It was noted that Quality Printing provides a major coordination function for the present way of doing business. Also there was concern that we may lose some of the older members if the traditional mailings are discontinued.

It was decided to produce the membership book in the same manner for 2007. The draft budget was accepted and a final budget will be presented in January.

Additionally, it was moved and approved to keep the 2007 dues structure the same as 2006.

#### Old Business

The letter that was sent on behalf of a member in good standing (Peter Brinckerhoff) was reviewed and was considered satisfactory.

#### New Business

It was moved and approved to appoint the following individuals to the Nominating Committee: Ed Purcell, Ed Dieckerhoff and Wes Maxwell.

The intent of the Masters paragraph in the Sailing Instructions was discussed at length. During this past year, the subject requirement made it necessary for at least one boat to retire after the first day of racing and one other boat to withdraw after racing. It is a relatively easy process to enter as a guest however, perhaps we could make some improvements (e.g., revise the procedure, revise the timeline, ease up on the requirements, establish a crew substitution procedure). PC Bohlen suggested we table this item and list it under the review of the Bylaws, scheduled for the January meeting.

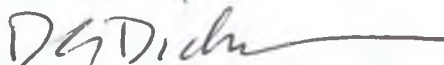
VC Geary asked for ideas to make 2008 (i.e., the Anniversary) a special year (e.g., change the venue to New London). PC Maxwell suggested we invite a couple of one-design classes (e.g., IODs & Atlantics). The one-designs may get some of the younger people out there. Another possibility is to organize participation of the 12 meters. PC Bohlen suggested this would be a good topic for discussion at the upcoming luncheons.

The Treasurer reported there were nine members that have not paid their dues and he made a motion to drop them from the rolls subject to discussion. The subject members have received three or more notifications. It was moved and voted that the Treasurer would drop the subject members from the rolls on December 1, 2006, unless contrary communication is received before that date.

The Treasurer reported that OSC received a letter from Mystic Seaport thanking us for the recent \$1500 donation to the Museum's Library and Film and Video Division.

There being no further formal business, motion duly made and approved to adjourn at 1232.

Respectfully submitted,



David G. Dickerson  
Secretary