

Minutes  
of the  
Board of Governors  
of the  
OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB  
October 19, 1991

A meeting of the Board of Governors of the Off Soundings Club was held in the Board Room of the Library at the Mystic Seaport Museum, Mystic Connecticut, at 0930 on October 19, 1991. Commodore van Dyke presided. Other Governors present were:

Allen N. Anderson	Peter W. McFadden
W. Frank Bohlen	Neal H. O'Connell
William G. Gunther	Norman E. Rabe
Lawrence R. Jacobsen	James B. Slimmon, Jr.

Present by invitation were:

William L. Ames	Rodney S. Johnstone
Milan T. Bartek	John H. Lockwood
Donald C. Davis	Robert B. Nickerson
John C. Field	Nicholas Staub, II

Absent were:

Louis John Bevilacqua	Ernest R. Messer
F. B. George Hohenstein	Richard H. Roberts
Chester B. Humphrey, MD	Donald P. Robinson
D. Richard Magovern, DMD	

The meeting was called to order at 0932.

The minutes of the previous April 6, 1991 meeting were VOTED approved as circulated.

Vice Commodore McFadden reported that preparations are being made for our annual meeting and dinner at the Norwich Sheraton on April 4, 1992. He will endeavor to improve the bar situation.

Rear Commodore Gunther submitted a written report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He was able to hold the line on trophy expenses while experimenting with some new concepts. Any feedback on these changes would be appreciated as he is already looking toward next Spring.

A Secretary's report was submitted. The Board stood for a moment of silent prayer for the following members who were reported as having died since the last Board meeting:

Robert L. Hall	C. Wallace Tiernan
A. Duncan MacDougall, MD	Cmdr. Joseph Wadsworth

The following resignation was VOTED accepted with regret:

Robert L. Mills

The following individuals were VOTED dropped from membership for non-payment of dues:

Joseph L. Dublac  
Bruce Wm. Holstein  
George L. Kirby

Kimball Summer Nickerson  
Ernest D. Reamer  
William W. Timmis

The following reinstatements were made under authorization given to the Secretary at the January 6, 1991 Board meeting concerning changes to the "Motor Boat Rule".

Robert E. Drew  
Edward B. duPont  
Harry B. Elliot  
Spencer C. Growrie, Jr.  
John R. Gunther  
Fredrick H. Holt  
C. Shepard Merrill

Daniel L. Miller, III  
Neal H. O'Connell  
Herbert W. Owen  
Ned Street  
John P. Sutphen  
Robert Young

The following new members were added to the rolls:

Elected 4/12/91

Bruce W. Avery  
Paul W. Ingle  
S. Edward Jeter  
Francis P. Murphy  
James H. Rich, III  
Thomas J. Rodgers  
Thomas K. Saxe  
Paul D. van Dyke  
H. Kirk Watson

Elected 8/8/91

Fredrick H. Brooke, III  
Thomas W. Cashel  
Brim R. Ford  
Stuart C. Dickinson  
Paul A. Hewitt  
H. David Leventhal  
George H. Mettler  
Peter J. Needham  
Manfred Noack  
Joseph G. Standart  
Steven L. Whitcomb

Membership currently is 543 members. A graph showing recent membership trends was distributed.

Treasurer Messer was absent but submitted a written report which is attached to these minutes. As every one pretty much held the line on expenses and we avoided a committee boat charter fee by use of Harry Elliot's Freedom for both series, it looks as if we will have a surplus for the year of about \$9,000. This, together with last year's surplus, is estimated to give us about \$14,000 in the treasury at the end of this fiscal year. Details by department are available if you ask the Treasurer.

Historian Ames encouraged us to make use of the Off Soundings archives. He circulated a copy of "Fast Off The Wind" a story of the Yacht Gulvain by author John Tassos that was given to us. On page 30 there is an account of Gulvain's participation in the Spring 1950 Off Soundings Series.

Race Secretary Anderson reported on our Spring and Fall Series and related matters. A comparison of 1986 through 1991 races show entries settling in at 150 to 160 for the Spring Series but down somewhat for the Fall over the previous year. The Spring high was 219 boats in 1983 and the Fall high was 204 boats in 1981. After much thought, no changes are recommended to the Fall courses because of logistic problems.

Suggestions for all 1993 dates were distributed. These dates are for review and will be voted on at our January 1992 meeting. A copy of his report and date proposal are attached to these minutes.

Clerk Magovern was absent but reported through the Commodore that all is proper with the State of Massachusetts.

The Measurer, Mr. Rabe, passed until later in the meeting.

Race Committee Chairman Jacobsen noted that he asked three motor boat owners without success to assist with Race Committee activities. Radio communications continue to be a problem as the radios on our committee vessels continue to be unreliable. Purchase of another hand held unit is probably necessary.

Freedom's availability is tentative for 1992. Northeaster is available for the Spring and Dan Miller is happy to serve in any capacity with his "Why Knot". Empress will probably not be available even though Bill Norton came through surgery very well.

On shore preparation of the documents for Race Committee use is pretty well automated. Chairman Jacobsen hesitates to suggest automation for on board activities for many reasons including power, expertise, and because the committee likes doing what it does. He would like a digital timer with a printout facility that records in hours, minutes and hundredth's of minutes. All he can find that meets our requirements in 12 volts is a Sieko model that has been out of production for several years.

It was suggested that some one like Russ Nickerson might be able to put together or design a "power pack" that could provide power for a wider range of timers. This might even give us a source to charge the hand held radios.

Membership Committee Chairman Bohlen reported that things were quiet with three applicants in the pipeline. He suggested that new members be encouraged to attend the Spring party and be introduced. Also, that they be presented with a burgee. The idea of encouraging them to attend and introducing them seemed met with favor but presenting a burgee did not. No formal action was taken but Commodore van Dyke will consider introductions.

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

Classification Committee Chairman Davis indicated that all was quiet.

Protest Committee Chairman Field indicated that we had four protests, two Spring and two Fall. It was reported by son Skip that Ed Raymond, our former Protest Committee Chairman, was doing well.

Entertainment Committee Chairman Bartek commented that a profit was made in the Spring and a slight loss in the Fall on party activities and that overall we made several hundred dollars.

Shelter Liaison Committee Co-Chairman Lockwood commented that relations with Shelter Island Yacht Club are much better. There was some problem with collecting mooring fees (about 20 boats) which was partly caused by Shelter Island having to use a number of small boats with new operators as their large launch was out of commission. The Commodore will address this together with the Race Secretary.

Block Island Liaison Chairman Staub reported that Block Island was pleased with the Spring Off Soundings. Commodore van Dyke indicated that Chairman Staub should discuss dockage fees with Block Island Boat Basin.

Public Relations Committee Chairman Nickerson was not asked to report and thus made no report.

Fleet Surgeon Humphrey was absent and there was no report.

Long Range Race Planning Committee Chairman Johnstone indicated that his committee would like input about issues and ideas that they should pursue. He commented that the recent USYRU meeting addressed many of the same concerns Off Soundings has such as handicapping, crew limits, and the increase in jib main racing. It was noted that some of the problems of jib/main racing have been addressed by Off Soundings with use of a longer than actual course length and variations in the spinnaker reduction depending on boat rig.

Commodore van Dyke suggested, and it was agreed, to retain the Long Range Race Planning Committee for at least the immediate future. It will be placed in the Members Year Book as one of our regular committees. Chairman Johnstone again asked for input on what the committee should be reviewing. Commodore van Dyke said that he had several matters and indicated that it would not be inappropriate for any board member or committee chairman to go direct to the Committee.

It was VOTED that the Nominating Committee for 1992 be comprised of James B. Slimmon, Jr. (chairman), F. B. George Hohenstein and Allen N. Anderson.

Commodore van Dyke appointed Richard H. Roberts as Chairman of the USYRU Sportsmanship Award Committee.

Commodore van Dyke has no candidate for Honorary membership and looks to his Flag Officers for a specific proposal at the January meeting if they have a candidate.

The treasurer has no suggestion for 1992 dues changes. As a Massachusetts Corporation we are not subject to the Connecticut Sales Tax on dues.

It was VOTED to make a separate, annual contribution of \$250 to The Mystic Seaport for maintenance and replacement of the Dyer Dhow fleet as proposed by the Seaport.

Board member Slimmon reported on insurance. Early in the season, there was some confusion about the limits of our USYRU Racing Liability policy which was corrected. In answer to a question on Directors and Owners liability, Board member Slimmon indicated that we did not have such coverage but that he had been advised after extensive investigation that the liability for an organization such as ours is practically nil.

Commodore van Dyke commented favorably on the subject of female members. He asked that the Board be prepared to vote on a Constitution and By-laws change to accomplish this at the January meeting. If the Board approves this change, plans are to bring the matter to the membership at the 1992 Annual meeting.

The matter of a letter to the Commodore from Ed Purcell protesting Bill Drinkuth in Watercolors was discussed. The chain plates on Watercolors were moved inboard and not reported on the Off Soundings race entry. Purcell

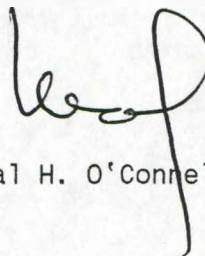
alleged that this gave Watercolors an unfair advantage. Drinkuth commented that he did this to correct a structural problem with the boat, did not believe it to be a "material" change, does not improve the performance of the boat, did not change the spreader length and knows of no rating rule that addresses the location of chain plates or genoa track. However, because of the controversy he withdrew.

After much discussion, the Board VOTED not to accept the withdrawal of Watercolors and to have race series results remain unchanged. Commodore van Dyke will communicate this to Bill Drinkuth and Ed Purcell.

Race Committee Chairman Jacobsen placed a letter in file apologizing to Dick Josylin for the mishandling of a radio message regarding his intent to protest the Yacht "Tranquillity".

This potential protest was one of several examples of rules and seamanship problems during our 1991 series. They will be addressed by the Commodore in his "Winter News Letter".

There being no further business it was VOTED to adjourn at 1201.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neal H. O'Connell', written in a cursive style.

Neal H. O'Connell, Secretary