

Minutes
of the
Board of Governors
of the
OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB
October 26, 1996

A meeting of the Board of Governors of the Off Soundings Club was held in the Library of the Mystic Seaport Museum, at 0930 on October 26, 1996. Commodore Gunther presided. Other Governors present were

Alan N. Anderson
W. Frank Bohlen
Cdr John F. Brooks, USCG
Carl D. Fast
John H. Lockwood
D. Richard Magovern, DMD

H. Wes Maxwell
Peter W. McFadden
Ernest R. Messer, Jr.
Neal H. O'Connell
Richard H. Roberts

Present by invitation were:

William L. Ames
Brin R. Ford

John D. Haugh, MD
Neal S. O'Connell

Absent were:

J. Christopher Field
Norman E. Rabe
James B. Slimmon, Jr.

Nicholas Staub, II
Paul C. van Dyke

The meeting was called to order at 0933.

The minutes of the previous April 6, 1996 meeting were VOTED approved.

Vice Commodore Anderson reported that attendance was down a bit at the Annual Dinner at the Officers Club of the Coast Guard academy (191). However, he received nothing but positive comments on the affair. Because of prior booking, a phone vote was taken and it was agreed to change the next date for the Annual Meeting and Dinner to April 12, 1997. Though no money has been put down, he also reserved the date of April 4, 1998.

Rear Commodore Bohlen indicated that costs for Spring and Fall race trophies were about on budget at about the same as prior years expense. He has ordered 150 new burgees. It is necessary to keep track of the racing intentions of the 12 metre yachts as they unexpectedly, at the last minute, did not come this Fall.

The Board stood for a moment of silence as the following members and a former member's names, who we were notified died, were read:

Herbert S. Pasternak
Samuel B. Jones, III

Ronald Sternicki (former member)

Reinstatements were:

John L. Schultz	- voted at April meeting
H. Peter Converse	- Reinstated from NPD rolls
Malcolm B. Ross	"
Charles W. Snow, Jr.	"
William W. Tyler	"

With the addition of 17 new members, the drop of new member David F. Green for non payment of dues and these changes membership stands at 515. A graph showing recent membership trends was distributed. Treasurer Messer distributed two 1996 estimated financial reports. The first compares budget to latest estimate and the other prior year actual to 1996 estimate. He expects that we will end the year with a modest surplus which will keep our overall surplus at the high end of the \$15,000 to \$18,000 figure the budget committee believes to be prudent. Detail is available to anyone who would like it and Commodore Gunther encouraged committee chairmen to get this detail to assist in preparing their 1997 budgets.

Historian Ames commented that he had moved 1992 through 1995 information to the Seaport archives while retaining 1996. He notified us that Ken Mahler has left the Seaport. If the Seaport lets Ken use their equipment, Bill thinks the 1996 race video can be produced. 1997 is very much up in the air but by the January Meeting he expects to have a handle on the matter.

Race Secretary Roberts reported on our Spring and Fall Series and related matters. His written report is attached to these minutes.

- . Some classes have shrunk in size with A-2 and CR-1 being the most notable. It was suggested that the class liaisons be brought together and made aware of this. Commodore Gunther took a note to do this.
- . He is assuming that we will continue the current guest entry procedures.
- . Again there was much discussion of the lifeline requirements that have been grand fathered for years. A committee was appointed consisting of Roberts (Chairman), N. S. O'Connell, Brooks and, Messer. They were charged with getting some specifics and putting this issue to bed once and for all. It was VOTED to grandfather lifeline requirements for 1997.
- . The 12 meters canceled at the last moment this Fall. It appears that many of the twelves are really commercial ventures and reasonable participation may be difficult to obtain. It was decided to leave the door open. It also was suggested that the Commodore might note in his Winter News letter that they are for charter and a group of members might enjoy racing them.
- . There was much discussion concerning splitting C-4 and C-5 by boat weight as a result of Reinhard Sarges' letter. Measurer Rabe's report indicates that there are not enough light weight/fast boats to accomplish this though this is being done successfully in the Wednesday Night Series. A committee consisting of Roberts (Chairman), Rabe, Fast and N. S. O'Connell was appointed to report back at the January 1997 meeting.

Clerk Magovern had nothing to report.

Measurer Rabe was absent but submitted a report which is attached to these minutes. In addition to his comments concerning the light weight/fast boat subject in the Race Secretary's report, he identified 7 boats whose ratings would be reviewed this Winter.

Race Committee Chairman Maxwell reported on the Spring and Fall Races

and what the Committee learned. Again, there were concerns expressed by the Board about the visibility of the course board. With the objective of waiting to the last minute to select the course, it seemed to be the consensus that information on the course board needs to be more visible. There also was concern expressed about the complexity and extensive use of references in the race instructions.

The Race Committee Chairman expects the same Race Committee and auxiliary vessels will be available for the 1997 Series as we had this year (Nor'Easter, Nimble and Why Not).

Race Secretary Roberts commented that with new racing rules coming out next year we can expect significant changes. USSA is expected to hold seminars in the early Spring.

Membership Committee Chairman van Dyke was absent. With Past Commodore van Dyke's illness, the Commodore asked Rear Commodore Bohlen to complete the membership process for those already posted and clear up any membership matters pending. A note from Chairman van Dyke prior to his illness stated that a review of membership procedures indicated that no changes were currently needed.

Measurement Rule Committee Chairman Brooks had nothing to report.

Classification Committee Chairman Neal S. O'Connell had nothing to report.

Protest Committee Chairman Field was absent but verbally reported that there were no protests in the Fall and the few in the Spring were equitably resolved.

Entertainment Committee Chairman Fast commented that we continue to be blessed/cursed with fair weather for our parties. A copy of his report is attached to this report. Overall we will be about \$600 over party fee collections. Block Island marks up liquor about 25% over cost and charges a little more for incidentals while Shelter Island marks up liquor 100% and includes a few incidentals.

Shelter Island Liaison Committee Chairman Lockwood commented that everything was ok at Shelter Island Yacht Club.

Block Island Liaison Chairman Staub was absent and there was no report.

Public Relations Committee Chairman Ford indicated that magazine and newspaper coverage was about as last year. He has talked to the individuals who ran Winter luncheons last year and they will continue. John Brooks volunteered to host the Mystic lunch.

Fleet Surgeon Haugh reported that there were no medical emergencies requiring services of emergency medical personal in 1996. — *JACK HAUGH WAS MURDERED AT HOME ON NOV 2 1996 DURING A BURGLARY.*

Commodore Gunther reported for absent Long Range Race Planning Committee Chairman Slimmon that the matter of a page in the ECSA booklet will be discussed in January.

Commodore Gunther introduced the offer of Peter Brinckerhoff to give a perpetual trophy in memory of Salle Evelyn. There was much discussion including recognition of an existing offer from the wife of William Young. What seemed to develop was a feeling that we have more perpetual trophies now that we can comfortably manage and that we have stretched to get where we are now. Other alternatives were

discussed that would provide support to the sailing community as well as provide memorial recognition.

Commodore Gunther asked Rear Commodore Bohlen to communicate with Peter Brinckerhoff and Bob Evelyn to determine what they would like to accomplish with such a memorial and report back at the January meeting.

Past Commodore McFadden reported for the Alternative Race Site Committee. A copy of this report is attached to these minutes. No substantial information on the subject could be found in our archives. After a careful review, the committee concluded that Newport was the only option to meet the criteria established of good racing, shore accommodations for both parties and lodging, and ease of transportation. However, the committee suggested that the membership should be polled before making such a major change.

Discussion included concern for such as the length of the course, getting boats back on Sunday who moor West of Fishers Island and the chance for extremely rough waters. Details of the investigation included dropping Montauk from consideration because of lack of water for deep draft boats and transportation, that Fort Adams would be used at Newport and pricing for facilities and parties should be favorable, and that there was a feeling that with our objective to promote racing participation long-term we need to continue our leadership role by innovating.

It was **VOTED** to present the proposal to the membership so that results could be tabulated and reported at the January meeting. Further, that the Flag Officers should review the letter before it is mailed. Shelter Island Liaison Lockwood asked that a letter be sent to Shelter Island Yacht Club, before the letter to our membership. It would tell them what we are doing and that we fully expect to return to Shelter Island Yacht Club in 1998 if we decide to try Newport in 1997. This will help to avoid burning any bridges.

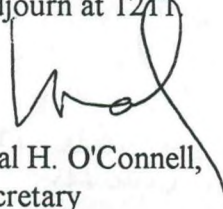
The proposal for handling contributions to sailing campaigns will be included in Rear Commodores Bohlen's report to the Board in January about Peter Brinckerhoff's trophy offer.

It was **VOTED** that the Nominating Committee for 1997 be Peter McFadden (chairman) , with Edward Dieckerhoff and Robert Edmands as members.

Commodore Gunther asked that if the Officers or Board members have anyone to propose for Honorary membership to let him know before the January meeting.

Vice Commodore Anderson's Budget Committee report is attached to these minutes. The Committee recommended that dues for 1997 remain unchanged. If final expenses for 1996 remain substantially as currently estimated, then 1997 racing fees will probably remain the same, as well. The Committees objective is to present a 1997 budget to the Board in January.

There being no further business it was **VOTED** to adjourn at 1211



Neal H. O'Connell,
Secretary