



Minutes of the Board of Governors of the Off Soundings Club

OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY
21 Pepperbox Rd.
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October 25, 2008
Munson Room, Blunt White Building
Mystic Seaport

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A meeting of the Board of Governors of the Off Soundings Club was held at Mystic Seaport on October 25, 2008. Commodore Robert Geary presided.

The following members were present: Commodore Robert Geary, Vice Commodore Bill Loweth, Rear Commodore Steven Purdy, Treasurer Ron Breault, Race Committee Chairman Charles Chorlton, Race Secretary Walter Pratt, Measurer Paul Jennings, Entertainment Committee Sarah Porter, Membership Committee/Webmaster Gerry Keeler, Past Commodore Frank Bohlen, Past Commodore John Brooks, and Secretary Dave Dickerson.

The meeting was called to order at 0838 by Commodore Geary. The following items were added to the agenda: review of unpaid members under Treasurer's Report, discussion of IRS status under Old Business and discussion of Guest Masters under New Business. The minutes of the April 05, 2008 meeting were approved with minor revision.

Treasurer Breault distributed his financial report, dated 10/25/08. The year end estimated operating loss for 2008 is \$6796 however, this is better than what we estimated in April (i.e., knowing we were going to have a loss due to subsidy of 75th activities). Ron discussed several items that will impact the year end report (e.g., higher royalties from Zeus, lower cost for the tent, lower race management costs, higher club management costs, higher 75th costs, dinner subsidy, higher perpetual trophy costs). The balance in the Norcross Fund is presently zero as this was drawn down for 75th video.

Vice Commodore Loweth asked if there was a breakdown of the 75th expenses. Ron passed out an update of the 75th financials which was divided into three categories: video, promo/dinner and rendezvous. Sarah Porter reported on some income recently received from 75th mementos and identified the surplus items (i.e., cups, ties, patches, pins). These are OSC inventory that will go to Zeus, to be promoted on his website. It was moved and voted to accept the Treasurer's financial report.

Treasurer Breault presented a list of thirteen unpaid members. They have all been contacted several times and Ron will send them one more mailing. It was moved and voted to drop the subject unpaid members from the rolls, unless their dues are paid by December 1, 2008.

Commodore Geary called for a moment of silence for the following members who have sailed their last voyage: John Clark (member for 44yrs), Sam Hird (member for 46yrs), Dick Steinhilber (member for 38yrs) and Anthony Halsey (member for 39yrs).

Commodore Geary reported on his negotiations with Club House concerning past due payments to OSC. Bob has engaged the services of an attorney. It has been explained to Club House that we are prepared to go to small claims court unless we come to fruition in the near term.

Regarding the July rendezvous, Commodore Geary has received many positive comments about the event (such as re-uniting older members) and received feedback that we should do it again. Past Commodore Bohlen commented that we could have a low cost rendezvous at another venue if the timing could be worked out. Vice Commodore Loweth commented that it was a good outreach to the older members and thought we could have a frugal event (e.g., cocktail party) in the future.

Commodore Geary encouraged the membership to support the photographer Chip Riegel. Photos were taken during the Fall Series and the OSC website has a link to Chip's website. The Etchells did not show for the Fall Series however, we did receive positive feedback for reaching out to Shelter Island YC and we should explore this opportunity again next fall. With regard to the appointments to the OSC website committee, they are: Bob La France (chairman), Walter Pratt, Frank Bohlen, Gerry Keeler and Steve Purdy.

Vice Commodore Loweth reported the 75th DVD set (200 of) were sold out in July and there have been requests for more. Bill would like to have 50 copies of the 2007 DVD made at a cost of \$250. The board agreed to proceed with making 50 more copies. Bill confirmed the reservation at Seamen's Inne for the April 4, 2009 Annual Meeting. Bill proposed that OSC subsidize the room charge (\$500) and dinners for the Race Committee as a way to keep the ticket cost down. The Treasurer anticipates a surplus for 2009 so this proposal should not be a problem. Bill will look into the possibility of having a tour of the Seaport prior to the dinner and will check with Chip Riegel on the possibility of a slide show.

Rear Commodore Purdy reviewed the cost summary for the 75th Anniversary Rendezvous. As expected, it was necessary to subsidize the dinner and it was noted that the boat shed charge and printing costs were significant contributors to the total cost. Steve reviewed the 2008 trophy expenses and the type of trophies given out this year. The subject of a perpetual trophy for the Nonsuch class needs to be discussed in the future. Steve said he attended a recent US Sailing meeting and talked about changes to the racing rules.

Commodore Geary stated that the Clerk had nothing to report.

The Secretary submitted a draft of the minutes for the 2008 annual meeting and asked for comments prior to the next meeting. The Treasurer inquired about reducing the cost of the yearbook. The format seems to be OK but we should talk to Quality Printers to see if there is anything we can do to reduce the cost. It was noted by the Race Secretary that the cost of mailing the yearbook was higher this year because of our mailing schedule. Perhaps next year we can combine some of our mailings to save money.

The Treasurer proposed a \$1500 donation to Mystic Seaport, with \$750 going to the Library and \$750 to support video/archive files. It was moved and voted to make the donation to the Seaport.

Race Secretary Pratt reported the Nonsuch Class had 19 boats for the Spring Series and 17 boats for the Fall Series. Walt will talk to Jack Lombard about the idea of making the Nonsuch a permanent class and having a perpetual trophy. Walt handed out race entry data for years 2004 - 2008 and noted that it was necessary to combine C-4 and C-6 for the 2008 Fall Series. The race entry form for next year will be revised so you have the option of entering for the entire year. Treasurer Breault thanked Walt for the race entry data and noted that it is important for us to keep track of % gross income from non-members as this will be needed for IRS reporting.

Race Committee Chairman Chorlton discussed the complexity of our scoring requirements and the numerous set of results that we produce (e.g., with PE, without PE, years PE applies & perpetual results). The RC will work harder at scoring better. Chuck stated that it was remarkable on how very few errors were made back in the days of Bill Ames and Dick Roberts. The Commodore thanked the RC for their efforts.

Commodore Geary spoke with the Historian and there is no report.

Membership Chairman Keeler reported (year-to-date) we have 19 new members, 2 candidates in the 30 day review period and 1 new application.

Protest Chairman Francis was not present.

Entertainment Chairman La France was not present. Sarah reported that Townsend overcharged us for the fall regatta and Bob will resolve this issue. The subject of having a better tent in Greenport was discussed. Sarah agreed to talk to Jamie Mills and John Lockwood regarding our arrangements in Greenport.

Public Relations Keeler will try to get photos of the OSC ties and mugs on the Zeus website.

Commodore Geary spoke with John Lockwood and he has been working on our relations with Shelter Island YC. Their new Commodore is believed to be a strong supporter of having OSC return to Dering Harbor.

Block Island Liaison Purdy will endeavor to reserve accommodations for the RC for the Spring Series.

Commodore Geary reported that Jamie Mills is working on preparations for OSC going to Greenport for the upcoming Fall Series.

Past Commodore Bohlen is setting up the winter luncheon dates. Also, Frank reported that the IT Committee had their first meeting. The main discussion involved how we can make full use of an integrated data base (e.g., mailings, dues, registration, membership status, etc.). They are at the point of defining what all the needs are and they have started looking at some applications (e.g., Regatta Manager).

Race Secretary Pratt reviewed the 2009 & 2010 Schedule of Events. The 2009 Fall Series is currently scheduled for September 11 - 12 and the October board meeting will be on the 31st vs. the 17th. The Annual Meeting for 2010 is currently scheduled for April 10th however, this date will be reviewed.

Treasurer Breault reviewed the 2009 budget which shows a nominal surplus for 2009. It was moved and voted to keep the dues at \$50 for next year and to increase the late fee from \$5 to \$10.

Old Business

Membership Chairman Keeler proposed Bruce Lockwood (elected '63) and John Lockwood (elected '53) as candidates for Honorary Membership. The board members had many positive comments regarding their long time participation and their numerous contributions to OSC. It was moved and voted to recommend Bruce and John as Honorary Members.

The subject of party tickets (i.e., two tier tickets) was tabled until the January meeting.

Membership Chairman Keeler reported that membership records are stored electronically on a site that the membership committee has access to.

Regarding our IRS returns, Treasurer Breault reported we have not received a response from the IRS on our latest appeal. Additionally, Ron has reached the conclusion that we do not need to file tax returns in Massachusetts or in Connecticut.

New Business

Measurer Jennings reported on a recent change by ECSA to allow a three second credit for non-spinnaker boats with roller furling headsails. Historically OSC has allowed a six second credit. It was moved and voted to change the OSC credit for roller furling headsails on non-spinnaker boats from six seconds to three seconds.

Commodore Geary proposed the following names for the Nominating Committee: John Brooks as Chairman with David Peck and John Graeb as members. It was moved and approved to accept the Nominating Committee.

Commodore Geary proposed the following names for the Audit Committee: Steve Purdy as Chairman with James Francis and Harlan Fredericksen as members.

Race Secretary Pratt opened a discussion regarding the restriction in the Sailing Instructions (i.e., Section 1.8) that states: "Guest Masters - are not eligible to have or act as co-skippers". Race Chairman Chorlton identified that we have not been consistent with our interpretation of this instruction. There was considerable debate on this subject, covering numerous examples, over many years. The fundamental issue is who is responsible for the boat and "it is the Master(s) listed on the entry form". Walt proposed that Section 1.8 of the SI be deleted. It was moved and voted to delete the subject Section 1.8 of the SI.

There being no further formal business, motion duly made and approved to adjourn at 1225.

Respectfully submitted,

David G. Dickerson
Secretary

* 1675 Anonymous Fund
to them -

The Off Soundings Club

Video for 2008 - 75 years

Business Plan

Mission Statement

- ✓ To create an entertaining and moving 30-45 minute video of the Spring and Fall series
- ✓ The video will focus on interviews of "key" Off Soundings Club members and their Yachts

✓

The Team

- ✓ Greg Gilmartin of Mystic Video
- ✓ Bill Loweth, Off Soundings Flag Officer
- ✓ "Invited Guests"!
- ✓ Greg Gilmartin has been doing Video advertising and video presentations for several years - uses the latest technology (DVD -digital quality format)
- ✓ He is also an OSC Member and will be the Scorer for the spring and fall series on board with the Race Committee.

✓

✓

Available Vendors - past, present, & future:

- Videos have been done in the past - the most recent was put together by Ken Mahler in 2000, with a history of the Off Soundings Club - 1934 to 2000, with interviews of key OSC members.
- Ken Mahler is no longer an employee of the Mystic Seaport and is an independent contractor, providing video.
- Equipment purchased by Off Soundings is 1980's vintage equipment - 3/4" VHS.

Goals & Objectives

▼ Projected Costs - \$5000.

- Deliverables:

\$1250 at start of project (May 2007)

\$1250 Spring Editing begins (August 2007)

\$1250 completion of fall editing (January, 2008)

\$1250 - final cuts of all footage and making of DVD
(March 2008)

Showing and distribution - April 2008

Financial Plan

▼ Initial Finance through the Norcross Fund (\$2500)

▼ Remainder from additional charges to 2008 annual dues -
(500 members X \$5.00/member).

▼

▼ An additional one - time charge may be added for other 2008
"75 years" planned)

Risks & Rewards

▼ Risks

▼ Unable to finance or provide initial seed money to pay for up-
front costs 2007

▼ Additional \$\$\$ needed for unforeseen cost overrun

▼

▼ Rewards

▼ A top notch DVD that members will want to buy for their crew
and others

▼ Potential to be used on Cable television, CPTV, etc, tourism in
New England, etc.