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Minutes
of the
Board of Governors
of the
OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB
January 20, 1995

A meeting of the Board of Governors of the Off Soundings Club was held at the Captain Daniel Packer Inne, Mystic, Connecticut, at 1200 on January 20, 1995. Commodore McFadden presided. Other Governors present were:

W. Frank Bohlen	Ernest R. Messer, Jr.
CMDR John F. Brooks, USCG	Neal H. O'Connell
William G. Gunther	Norman E. Rabe
John H. Lockwood	Richard H. Roberts
D. Richard Magovern, DMD	James B. Slimmon, Jr.
H. Wes Maxwell	Paul C. van Dyke

Present by invitation were:

William L. Ames	John D. Haugh, MD
Donald C. Davis	Robert B. Nickerson
Carl D. Fast	Nicholas Staub, II
J. Christopher Field	

Absent were:

Allen N. Anderson	Rodney S. Johnstone
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The meeting was called to order at 1240.

The minutes of the previous October 29, 1994 meeting were VOTED approved.

Vice Commodore Gunther reported that arrangements for the Annual Dinner at the Coast Guard Academy on April 8, 1995 have been made. The Commodore's luncheon and the Board meeting will be at Jacobs Rock. Bar and food prices will be the same as last year, \$25 for roast beef or baked stuffed shrimp. The Vice Commodore promised to try and improve the speaker system.

Rear Commodore Anderson was absent but submitted a written report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. It commented that the call has gone out for the return of trophies for engraving and keeper plaques have been ordered.

The following resignations were VOTED accepted with regret:

Lucian E. Baldwin	Thomas P. Townsend
David W. Swindells	Richard D. Tuschick

(secretary's comment: I included by mistake Avery Seaman's request for resignation. Looking at the mail quickly, Thursday, I did not notice that his request was for 12/31/95 and he was paying his 1995 dues. I will bring him up next year - sorry!)

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

Burgess S. Matthews	Roderick Stephens, Jr. (Honorary)
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With these changes membership currently is 508 members.

Treasurer Messer presented his financial report for the 1994 year, a

copy of which is attached to these minutes. He further presented a listing showing cost center reporting and a graph of our balance on hand since 1981. This year resulted in a shortfall of \$7,441 leaving a balance of \$17,310.19. Several unusual expenses caused much of this shortfall. The treasure's report was VOTED approved.

The following donations were VOTED approved:

\$1,000 Mystic Seaport Museum
\$200 Coast Guard Academy
\$250 Block Island Heath Services

At this point Vice Commodore Gunther presented the report of the Ad Hoc Budget Committee consisting of Allen Anderson, Carl Fast, Ernie Messer, Neal O'Connell and himself as chairman. The committee recommended no change in dues or fees for 1995, that a cash reserve be maintained at a suggested \$15,000 to \$18,000 level, and that the Annual Dinner and Entertainment expenses usually be run to break even or have a slight surplus. A number of thoughts will be pursued by the Race Committee Chairman to reduce Race Committee Expenses. Printing, insurance and Shelter Island charges were expenses identified that could be further investigated. Commodore McFadden asked that the committee continue it's work through further investigation, by reformatting the numbers for reporting and by following through on any other outstanding issues. The Committee is to report at the April meeting.

Historian Ames commented that there are about six hours of 1994 videos of our races including some from other boats. This will be edited down to 45 minutes for the Spring Party. He also circulated a page from the a 1959 issue of the New Haven Register that indicates that 150 boats participated in Fall Off Soundings that year. Most importantly it shows a picture of Historian Ames with hair.

Race Secretary Roberts submitted a list of dates for 1996, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. The dates listed below were VOTED accepted:

1996 Off Soundings Events

Board Meeting (Friday)	January 19
Guest Invitation Cut-Off	March 21 <i>Apr 4</i>
Annual Meeting and Shore Party	April 6
First Notice - Spring Series	April 19
Closing Date - Spring Series	May 23
Final Notice - Spring Series	June 7
Race Dates - Spring Series	June 14 & 15
Results of Spring Series & First Notice - Fall Series	July 12
Closing Date - Fall Series	August 22
Final Notice - Fall Series	September 6
Race Dates - Fall Series	September 13 & 14
Final Results	October 11
Board Meeting (Saturday)	October 26

No one had any trouble with having the January Meeting of the Board on Friday.

There are new Coast Guard regulations that may effect our races. John Brooks suggested that the Race Secretary pursue obtaining a waiver. No progress has been made by the Long Range Race Planning Committee in looking at alternate sites. The locations for the Spring and Fall races will remain the same as last year. No discussion of courses was felt necessary.

Measurer Rabe presented a proposal that is attached to this report. It's intent is to cover an apparent hole in our penalty system were individuals in "the Yachting business" are able to move from boat to boat and avoid a penalty previously earned. Much discussion resulted. The question most frequently asked was whether we are trying to penalize the boat or the skipper. The Commodore will appoint a committee to review the matter and report back at the April meeting with a recommendation.

New copies of the Measurement Certificate are available. Discussion on lifeline rules ended in a consensus that we will continue to grandfather violations.

Clerk Magovern reported that several Off soundings items were found in former Clerk Schechterle's attic by his wife after his death. We now have evidence of both State and Federal Tax Identification numbers though we do not have the originating paper work.

Race Committee Chairman Maxwell indicated that this year the Race Committee will use a greater number of courses and will post the course being used on the Committee boat. The objective is to improve flexibility. They also plan to recruit a racer for each race day or series to act as part of the Committee for the purpose of getting new input and a different insight.

Commodore McFadden indicated that he had a letter from member Fred van Liew asking for consideration for having a special class of 12 meter yachts at the Fall Series. It is not to be an expense to Off Soundings and they will work out their own ratings. All they are looking for is a separate start and a finish. The Board has made similar exceptions in the past. It was VOTED that the Commodore should invite the 12 meter class to our 1995 Fall Off Soundings series and indicate that we will provide them with their own start.

Membership Committee Chairman Bohlen reported a high level of activity with 16 applicants ready for posting and 3 more in the pipe line.

Measurement Rule Committee Chairman Brooks thanked the Off Soundings group for insisting on Mt Gay at the Spring Party as the officers at the club have continued to enjoy this upgrading throughout the year.

Classification Committee Chairman Davis had on comments.

Protest Committee Chairman Fields had no comments.

Entertainment Chairman Fast indicated that all he needed to complete the upgrade of our sound system was a microphone stand which he was instructed to obtain.

Shelter Island liaison Co-chairman Lockwood had no comments.

Block Island Liaison Chairman Staub had no comments.

Public Relations Committee Chairman Nickerson had no comments.

Fleet Surgeon Haugh commented that Dr. Blanchard will be available for the Spring series. Also, he encouraged the board to be aware that several recent boating fatalities were a direct result of wearing sea boots without wearing a personal flotation device.

Long Range Race Planning Committee Chairman Johnstone was absent and had indicated to Commodore McFadden that he had no report.

It was decided that it is not necessary for the Race Secretary to provide the Board with a list of guest entries until the day of the Board meeting. Further that it would be expected that this would give him time to accept any late entries.

Peter C. Ross, Jr's request for reinstatement was discussed. It was agreed that the Secretary would write to Peter indicating that his personal behavior at recent Off Soundings functions has not been acceptable. His application for reinstatement has been tabled and his actions at Off Soundings events will be monitored for the next two years. If during this period his behavior has been acceptable then the Board will consider his application for reinstatement.

The Constitution & By-Laws Committee composed of Allen Anderson, Chris Field, Dick Roberts and Paul van Dyke reported that they have reviewed the Constitution & By-Laws and believe that there is no need for any change.

Treasure Messer proposed that William B. White be recommended to the membership for election to Honorary Membership based on his contributions as Secretary, Rear Commodore, Vice Commodore, Commodore and general supporter of the Club since his election in 1944. The Board VOTED that William B. White be proposed for Honorary Membership at the April 8, 1995 Annual Meeting.

Ten letters (R. Johnstone, Hansen, Wills, Bennett, Pilar, C. Gowrie, P. & C. Connor, R. Synder, Canning, and P. van Dyke) were received by the Commodore requesting that Peter Brinckerhoff's suspension be lifted so he can participate in the 1995 Off Soundings season. The matter was discussed at length. The letters and some of those at the Board meeting testified as to his skill as a racer, his embarrassment at being suspended, exemplary behavior in Bermuda this year and how he has mended his ways. On the other hand nothing has changed, he has not written a letter of apology to Shelter Island Yacht Club and there is some concern whether we really got his attention rather than just embarrassing him.

It was VOTED that Peter R. Brinckerhoff's membership be reinstated in the Off Soundings Club in all respects provided that for the 1995 Fall Series he not make use of Shelter Island Yacht Club's facilities including the mooring grid that they service. The Secretary was instructed to communicate this to Mr. Brinckerhoff.

The Commodore will respond to the members who wrote letters supporting Peter Brinckerhoff's reinstatement.

Commodore McFadden reminded the Board and Committee Chairmen that Board matters are confidential and should not be discussed outside the Board. Further that any resulting action taken should not be discussed until any parties affected have been communicated with, if at all.


Race Secretary Roberts submitted a written proposal to include a page in the 1995 ECSA Race Schedule & Year Book together with sample wording. Discussion centered on the general agreement that there are probably things we can and should do to make it less cumbersome to sail as a guest in off Soundings and to remove some of the mystique without compromising quality of participants.

To further discussion the Commodore distributed a memorandum by Carl Fast that concerns suggestions for increasing race participation. The Commodore will appoint a committee to review this matter on a broad basis and to make specific recommendations to the Board in April.

There was no second to the proposal to place a page in the 1995 ECSA Race Schedule & Year Book.

John Brooks suggested that he work with Ken Mahler to include something about Rod Stephens in our 1994 race video that recognizes his contribution to sailing as well as the man.

There being no further business it was VOTED to adjourn at 1559.



Neal H. O'Connell
Secretary