

Minutes
of the
Board of Governors
of the
OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB
October 20, 1990

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 20, 1990. Commodore Hohenstein presided. Other Governors present were:

Allen N. Anderson	D. Richard Magovern, DMD
W. Frank Bohlen	Neal H. O'Connell
Leslie A. Bowman	James B. Slimmon, Jr.
E. Carleton Granbery, Jr.	Paul C. vanDyke
Lawrence R. Jacobsen	

Present by invitation were:

John H. Lockwood	Robert B. Nickerson
Ernest R. Messer, Jr.	Edgar L. Raymond

Absent were:

William L. Ames	Norman E. Rabe
Louis John Bevilacqua	Richard H. Roberts
Donald C. Davis	Donald P Robinson
Chester B. Humphrey, MD	Nicholas Staub, II
Peter W. McFadden	

The meeting was called to order at 0939.

The minutes of the previous April 7, 1990 meeting were VOTED approved as circulated.

Vice Commodore vanDyke reported that preparations are being made for our annual meeting and dinner at the Norwich Sheraton on April 6, 1991. As the Sheraton wants to charge us for use of meeting rooms we may make multi use of one room. The Seamans Inn will be looked at for a future Annual Meeting.

Rear Commodore McFadden was absent but submitted a written report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes, indicating that he managed to hold the line on trophy expenses.

The following resignations were VOTED accepted with regret:

Christian Bayreuther, 3rd	F. V. Minson, Cdr USCG
David B. Barker	Joseph H. Rhodes, Jr
Samuel J. Geiger	Wallace Sunderland
Merle Hallett	Fredrick W. Richartz, DDS
* Thomas Hazlehurst	Richard A. Wilson, Jr.
* Frank A. Medeiros	

* Motor Boat Rule

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

John T. Bates	Hubbard Phelps
Charles V. Cox, MD	Peter C. Ross, Jr.
Philip J. Hecht	Richard P. Rush
Orrin E. Jones, Jr.	Roderich Stephens, Jr.
Leo A. Messina, Jr.	(see proposal for Honorary membership)
Duane Muzzy	Calvin E. Wilcox

Membership currently is 545 members.

Treasurer Bowman indicated that we were solvent with an estimated \$4,000 projected for January 1, 1991. Attached to this report is a graph displaying January 1 balances since 1981, a graph of the "Financial, Race Series Trends" since 1983 (excluding mailing expense), and a "Treasurer's Snapshot" of 1990 finances as of October 20, 1990. Though this is good news, there are upward pressures such as an increase in insurance costs if we increase liability limits as recommended last year and the probable need to obtain a new Race Committee boat next year.

Historian Ames was absent and there was no report.

Race Secretary Anderson reported on our Spring and Fall Series and related matters. A comparison of 1986 through 1990 races show entries settling in at 150 to 160. Suggestions for the Fall 1991 Board meeting and all 1992 dates were distributed. These dates are for review and will be voted on at our January 1991 meeting. A copy of his report and date proposal are attached to these minutes.

Commodore Hohenstein initiated a discussion concerning our need to increase interest and attendance in our races. Increases in attendance tend to improve both our ability to provide good racing classes and our finances as it spreads fixed expenses and variable expenses are low. Ideas were numerous. They included inviting Bermuda racers as has been done in the past. Looking at our format to see if changes might improve interest. Reviewing the format of the August NUDE Regatta to see what made it so successful. Investigate alternative rules. Provide special plaques to one design racing groups who want such recognition. Promote the Club with such as one design classes and the academies. Consider opening the Cruising Canvass Class to guests. Publicity Chairman Nickerson volunteered to put together a list of who should be contacted at the various academies.

At the same time it was recognized that Off Soundings is alive and well. We have the most successful large cruising boat races in the Northeast. However, we need to look to the future and now is an appropriate time.

It was proposed that the Commodore and Secretary write a charge to a Long Range Race Planning Committee. Further, that such a committee be composed of four members at large plus the 5 Board and Committee Chairmen most closely associated with our race activities ie: Race Secretary, Measurer, and the Chairmen of the Race, Classification and Measurement Rule Committees. The members at large suggested were Rodney Johnstone (Chairman), Chuck Poindexter, Bill Fortmann and Dick Steinhilber. It was VOTED that the Commodore proceed with charging and gathering together this Long Range Race Planning Committee.

Clerk Magovern reported that all is proper with the State of Massachusetts.

The Measurer, Mr. Rabe, was absent and there was no report.

Race Committee Chairman Jacobsen outlined several past and future problems. The 1990 races went well except for radio communications this Fall due to the failure of the radio on Empress. Empress will probably not be available for 1991 and Northeaster has been sold. A new committee boat and housing and feeding the Race Committee probably will be more expensive than what we have been paying. Dan Miller is delighted to continue to serve as Patrol Boat.

The matter of Bill Healy and his boat Sirprize was discussed. Healy had communicated to the Race Secretary that he could not sail Saturday but asked if his crew could. It was agreed that his crew could race but they would not be included in results as an Off Soundings member or invited guest would not be in command of the vessel. Healy was to contact the Race Secretary if the situation changed. He did not and results were compiled without Sirprize.

Healy appealed to the temporary Protest Committee Chairman, Rodney Johnstone, to be included in results as he was on board Saturday. After much discussion, including comments on a questionable rating, it was decided that he was aboard as verified by our Clerk and thus met the rules for racing. The matter was tabled with the Race Committee Chairman asked to resolve the matter with the acting and current Protest Committee Chairman.

The matter of the Coast Guard Cutter Mohawk cutting through our finish line on Friday was discussed. Though there was general agreement that it was a display of poor seamanship, it was decided not to pursue the matter.

It was Voted that Race Committee Chairman Jacobsen proceed with obtaining a new marine grade shotgun in conjunction with Ram Island Yacht Club. Cost to Off Soundings after trade-in is expected to be slightly in excess of \$50.

Membership Committee Chairman Bohlen reported that things were quiet with six applicants in the pipeline and three additional problem applications.

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

Classification Committee Chairman Davis was absent and there was no report.

Protest Committee Chairman Raymond indicated that though he found it very hard to do, he had to resign. It was VOTED to very reluctantly accept Ed Raymond's resignation and appreciation for all his years of service was expressed.

Entertainment Committee Chairman Messer commented that the Fall Party at Shelter Island was \$500 less than last year with only a question on the charges for beer outstanding. Copies of several reports are attached that clearly outline in graph format race participation, cost vs income of our parties in combination and separately by Block Island and Shelter Island for 1986 through 1990 and a detailed expense report for both 1990 parties. Though it has not been easy, we were able to contain expenses this year and the per person fees provided a good party for participants.

Shelter Liaison Committee Co-Chairman Lockwood commented that it was very

important for the Commodores of Off Soundings and Shelter Island to get together. At this point a letter from Jeff Goubeaud, Manager of the Shelter Island Yacht Club, was introduced, a copy of which is attached. It concerns James Gibbs, a member of Off Soundings. Mr. Goubeaud approached Mr. Gibbs on two separate days for mooring payment and was put off with the excuse his money was on the boat and his check book was on the boat. The second time he indicated that he would pay Sunday. However, by 0700 Sunday the Gibbs boat had left the harbor. Mr. Goubeaud also cited several other instances in the past where Shelter Island Yacht Club had unpleasantly interfaced with Mr. Gibbs and/or his crew. Shelter Island informed us that they do not want Mr. Gibbs or his crew back at the Shelter Island Yacht Club. The matter was discussed with regard to how Mr. Gibbs actions reflect on Off Soundings. It was VOTED unanimously to expel Mr. Gibbs under Article VII, Section 3 of our Constitution and the Secretary was directed to convey this information as well as his right to appeal to Mr. Gibbs.

Block Island Liaison Chairman Staub was absent but reported in writing, a copy of which is attached to this report, that Block Island was pleased with Spring Off Soundings. Harbormaster Littlefield also pointed out that they were strictly enforcing the no discharge law which carries a fine of \$200 if violated. It was agreed that this information should be prominently included in our race notice.

Public Relations Committee Chairman Nickerson reported that principal coverage of our Races was by the Day and Providence Journal. Future plans include the same basic coverage plus Yacht Racing and Cruising.

Fleet Surgeon Humphrey was absent and there was no report.

Nominating Committee Chairman Slimmon indicated that selection and voting on the third member of the Nominating Committee could wait until our January meeting. He further expressed that he felt that our concern with the future was an excellent idea and that a positive attitude about the Club and its activities was appropriate, "we are the premier racing club in the area".

Discussion of the Youth and Senior Recognition Awards reports were deferred.

Commodore Hohenstein suggested that regional Christmas lunches such as Jim Slimmon has organized in the Hartford area be expanded to Rhode Island and Southern Connecticut where we have large membership. The Board agreed with the Commodore that this was a good idea and he will pursue it.

Commodore Hohenstein suggested that we had no candidate for the USYRU Good Sportsmanship Award unless he hears to the contrary from the Board.

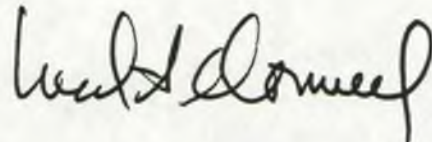
Past Commodore Granbery placed Roderick Stephens, Jr and Commodore Hohenstein placed Edgar L. Raymond, Jr before the Board as candidates for Honorary membership. Support for their remarks is attached. It was unanimously VOTED that these two gentlemen be placed before the membership at the April 6, 1991 Annual Meeting for election as Honorary members.

Vice Commodore vanDyke commented on our Motor Boat Rule. He indicated that many fine members, interested in sailing and able to continue to contribute, have been dropped because of the motor boat rule. Discussion of the Rule followed which included comments that if we are going to have a rule we should police it and we are not doing this, our 630 membership limit is an

administrative rule that can be changed by the Board, and expressions that such a change would not change the nature of the Club. A proposal was presented, a copy of which is attached. The proposal was tabled for action at the January meeting.

Race Committee Chairman Jacobsen asked the Board's feeling about a Race Committee member of long standing who had expressed interest in joining the Club. The Board agreed that participation on the Race Committee constituted participation in our races. Further the Race Committee Chairman was instructed to invite applications from our Race Committee who qualified in other respects.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Neal H. O'Connell".

Neal H. O'Connell, Secretary