

Minutes  
of the  
Board of Governors  
of the  
OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB  
October 29, 1994

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 29, 1994. Commodore McFadden presided. Other Governors present were:

Allen N. Anderson	Ernest R. Messer, Jr.
W. Frank Bohlen	Neal H. O'Connell
William G. Gunther	Norman R. Rabe
John H. Lockwood	Richard H. Roberts
H. Wes Maxwell	Paul C. van Dyke (portion)

Present by invitation were:

William L. Ames	John D Haugh, MD
Donald C. Davis	Rodney S. Johnstone
Carl D. Fast	Nicholas Staub, II
William B. White	

Absent were:

CDR John F. Brooks, USCG	D. Richard Magovern, DMD
J. Christopher Field	Robert B. Nickerson
James B Slimmon, Jr.	

The meeting was called to order at 0937.

Commodore McFadden welcomed Past Commodore William B. White to our meeting and commented that this was Bill's fiftieth year as a member of Off Soundings.

Though the youngsters did well at the Mystic Seaports Dyer Dhow Derby the seniors did poorly and Off Soundings placed well down in the final standings.

The minutes of the previous April 2, 1994 meeting were VOTED approved with the correction that Nicholas Staub, II was absent.

Vice Commodore Gunther reported that preparations are being made for our board meeting, annual meeting and dinner to held for the second year at the Coast Guard Academy on April 8, 1995. Last year's event had a \$200 surplus. Reaction from members to the facility seemed positive and he felt another year or two seemed appropriate at the Academy before trying another location.

Rear Commodore Anderson presented a written report and indicated that costs for trophies were about the same as prior years while trying several new things.

The Secretary's report was submitted. The Board stood for a moment of silent prayer for member Christopher Cozzens Beatty who was reported as having died since the last Board meeting and for Tovey Lesnikowski who is Board member John Lockwood's step son. Tovey is missing at sea.

The following resignations were VOTED accepted with regret:

Trent Joseph Repko

Kenneth P. Sunshine, DDS

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

Jerry Abate  
Lee H. Ellison  
Edward S. Foss  
Fredrick H. Holt  
Douglas W. Mackay

George Henry Male  
Oliver S. Moore, MD  
Everett A. Pearson  
John Schultz  
Steven L. Whitcomb

The following new members were added to the rolls:

Elected 5/1/94

James F. Barrett, Jr.  
William M. Cannon  
Carol M. Connor  
Bruce D. Dinsmore  
Spencer A. Kloter  
Bruce P. Kuryla

Hugh F. Luddecke, Jr.  
Herbert R. Maher  
Barton "Bart" J. Rapaport  
Joseph A. Ristuccia  
Robert B. Weinstein

Membership currently is 514 members. A graph showing recent membership trends was distributed.

The Secretary commented that he received a thank you note from Race Secretary Roberts thanking the Board for the flowers sent while he was in the hospital this Spring.

Treasurer Messer submitted a graph showing the balance on hand for the Club as of January 1 since 1981 ( 1995 was estimated ). It showed that we expect to have almost \$23,000 on hand at year end. Rather than the four to five thousand surplus we have enjoyed the last several years, there is a estimated deficit this year of \$1,700. Insurance increased about \$1,000, Race Committee lodging was \$1,800 more than usual, printing is \$1,000 more than usual, entertainment costs had a deficit of almost \$1,000, and by reducing race entry fees by \$5 we took in \$1,500 less income than in prior years.

Historian Ames encouraged us all, in particular the flag officers, to come with him after the meeting to see where the Off Soundings archives are at the Seaport Museum library.

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 being the most notable. At some point we may have to face up to eliminating a class or two. Discussion included the undesirability of spreading ratings any more than now, handling perpetual trophies, and growth after a down period such as we recently experienced with the B class. No conclusion was reached but it was noted that the growth in B class was almost solely due to Ed Purcel's efforts. It was agreed that for the time being active boosting of classes with low participation was the best answer.

Suggestions for all 1996 dates were distributed. It was noted that the 1996 Bermuda Race is June 21. These dates are for review and will be voted upon at our January 1994 meeting.

The conflict of our 1995 Spring Race series with the Bermuda Race was discussed. It was estimated that at least 20 members will be participating. Our date has been published in the 1994 Members Book. It was VOTED to change our series dates to June 9-10 and modify any other dates appropriately (a revision is attached). This change will be noted in a cover letter to the Dues Notice, the 1995 Events Card showing the correct dates will be mailed with the Dues Notices in early January and the Commodore will comment on the change in his Winter Newsletter in February.

The rules for life lines for 1995 were discussed. It appeared that the group was in favor of continuing to grandfather boats previously grandfathered. The Measurer and Race Secretary will prepare a recommendation for the next meeting.

The Race Secretary expressed his appreciation to the Board for filling in during his illness, in particular Historian Ames who took over as acting Race Secretary.

Clerk Magovern was absent and there was no report.

Measurer Rabe commented that copies of the ORC Minimum Equipment and Accommodations Standards are about depleted and will be reprinted with corrections.

Race Committee Chairman Maxwell reported that Race Committee and auxiliary vessels for the 1995 Series are being pursued. Henry duPont is on for 1995, Chris Cox is a maybe, and he assumes that Dan Miller will be available and in fact offended if not asked.

Race Committee lodging was expensive this year. Nor'easter does not have room to sleep any of the committee as Freedom did. Alternative arrangements such as renting a cottage, reducing the size of the Committee, farming people out among the fleet and going with people who are willing to pay their own way were discussed.

The Race Committee Chairman suggested that taking an active racer or two for Race Committee work each two day series would help get an exchange of views that could be helpful. Also, that further innovation might increase race participation. However, he feels that before he can do much to follow through he needs support from the Commodore and/or Board. He was requested to confer with others as he sees fit and prepare a proposal for the January meeting for Board action.

Membership Committee Chairman Bohlen reported that there were 10 applicants in the pipeline and 1 just received today. He commented that we continue to need additional members if we are to hold even with deaths, resignations and drops for non payment.

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

Classification Committee Chairman Davis indicated that all was quiet.

Protest Committee Chairman Field was absent and there was no report.

Entertainment Committee Chairman Fast commented that he enjoyed his first year. Entertainment activity costs were slightly more than in prior years and party income was less as we had fewer crew members.

The bar was open about one hour and ten to fifteen minutes each party. Costs can be reduced by purchasing snacks in larger sizes. A new innovation was to have Shelter Island put out coffee on Saturday morning which was well received.

Fred Wilson of Dockside electronics thought that the speaker system we had was not adequate and offered to loan us a unit. As the moment of departure for the race became imminent and the Entertainment Chairman could not get hold of Fred ( Fred called at 2300 Thursday night), the Entertainment Chairman purchased out of his own pocket a system from Radio Shack for about \$200 which was used at Block Island. He hopes that either Off Soundings or maybe the Mudheads can use and thus purchase the system. The unsatisfactory unit in the Fall at Shelter Island Yacht Club was their's and we should plan to use our own in the future.

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

Block Island Liaison Chairman Staub commented that everything was ok at Block Island.

Public Relations Committee Chairman Nickerson was absent and there was no report.

Fleet Surgeon Haugh reported that things went well this year. The Race Secretary gave him early information on entries which greatly helped in setting up medical coverage. Equipment has been inventoried and a copy is attached.

Long Range Race Planning Committee Chairman Johnstone indicated that the committee had nothing on the agenda but will look at anything assigned. The suggestion of looking at alternate sites and courses was proposed. Discussion included a letter from Sag Harbor indicating their interest in having us, going to Newport with the second day race in Narragansett Bay, comments that not all participants want a windward leeward beat, a suggestion to poll the membership on the race entry form as to their interest in change, and a suggestion to check out the previous report on this subject that is in our archives in the Seaport Library. The Long Range Planning Committee Chairman was asked to report back at the January meeting on the matter.

Rear Commodore Anderson presented his and Past Commodore Slimmon's evaluation on using Time on Time for the Off Soundings Race Series. The Race Secretary ran a comparison of Time on Time and Time on Distance. As there were no severe sailing conditions, differences in results were minor. The general feeling of the membership polled was positive or neutral with the Race Secretary and Race Committee Chairman very positive. The formula we currently use slightly favors the bottom of the fleet, on purpose. It was VOTED that Off Soundings adopt the Time on Time handicapping system for all future race series.

Membership Committee Chairman Bohlen reported on the experiment with using an alternative penalty this year. The change did not result in a bumper car mentality at the starts. Only 3 boats used the penalty. The 10 minutes had a significant effect on the result for the day it was applied, some effect on the combined results, and almost nothing on the overall results for the year.

Alternatives to 10 minutes were discussed. It was decided that

more experience is required before a final proposal is made. It was VOTED that the alternative penalty be continued at 10 minutes for an additional year.

It was VOTED that the nominating committee for 1995 be comprised of the following: Paul van Dyke as chairman with William Loweth and Edward Dieckerhoff as members.

The application for reinstatement of Peter C. Ross, Jr. was discussed. Actions by Peter at our races this year bring into question his eligibility for reinstatement and possibly of his participation in our races. It was VOTED to table his application and further investigation was turned over to the Membership Chairman for a report at the January meeting.

The Treasurer discussed dues, race fees and recent requests for donations. The idea of reducing dues was discussed. It was decided not to reduce dues this year. The Commodore will appoint a Committee to review our finances, develop a strategic financial plan and report back to the Board in January.

It was VOTED to contribute \$2,000 to the Mystic Seaport for a video copier for the Audio Video Department and to contribute \$2,500 to the Mystic Seaport for replacement of the Off Soundings Dyer Dhow.

Commodore McFadden currently has no candidate for Honorary membership and looks to his Flag Officers for any specific proposal they may have before the January meeting.

Based upon the response to our past candidates for the USSA Sportsmanship Award it was decided not to select a candidate this year.

Commodore McFadden indicated that he will appoint a Committee to review our Constitution and By-Laws for possible change.

There being no further business it was VOTED to adjourn at 1158.

Neal H. O'Connell,  
Secretary