

Minutes
of the
Board of Governors
of the
OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

APRIL 8, 1995

A meeting of the Board of Governors of the Off Soundings Club was held at Jacobs Rock, US Coast Guard Academy, New London, Connecticut on April 8, 1995. Commodore McFadden presided. Other Governors present were:

Allen N. Anderson	Ernest R. Messer, Jr.
W. Frank Bohlen	Neal H. O'Connell
CDR John F. Brooks, USCG	Norman E. Rabe
William G. Gunther	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	Robert B. Nickerson
Edward C. Dieckerhoff	Neal S. O'Connell
John D. Haugh, MD	Nicholas Staub, II
Rodney S. Johnstone	

Absent were:

Donald C. Davis	J. Christopher Field
Carl D. Fast	John H. Lockwood

The meeting was called to order at 1444.

The minutes of the previous January 20, 1995 meeting were VOTED approved.

Vice Commodore Gunther reported that attendance at the Annual Dinner is down from last year at 214 but he still expects a slight surplus.

He presented the report of the Budget Committee a copy of which is attached to this report. They recommended the following:

1. That we use an inexpensive package such as Quicken to provide "activity based" accounting and transferability.
2. That a Board appoint a knowledgeable individual to review our insurance during the year.
3. That printing invoices be funneled through the Secretary for analysis and review with the appropriate individual before payment.
4. That the Entertainment Chairman, treasurer, Block Island and Shelter Island Liaisons, and Vice Commodore meet to formulate a strategy to discuss the basis for current Race Party charges and possibly to negotiate more favorable treatment.

The Secretary pointed out that printing savings often can be made if items are grouped. He asked that individuals let him know when they have an occasional printing job.

The recommendations were accepted, the Committee discharged and Commodore McFadden thanked them for their work.

Rear Commodore Anderson indicated that trophies are engraved and ready for

presentation. He noted that for the first time in many years we have plaques to recognize the service of the committee, stake and patrol boats. The Commodore asked the Race Committee Chairman to join him to make these presentation at the beginning of the awards program.

The Board stood for a moment of silent prayer as the Secretary read the names of the following members who were reported as having died since the last Board meeting:

Harold P. Garvin, Jr.

Robert Rulon Miller

The following resignations were VOTED accepted with regret:

Travis V. Burns

Andre A. Laus

A Bryson Dawson

C. Paul LeBeau

John C. Farmelo

Grant H. Rawding, Jr.

John William Hartigan

Peter S. Reich

F. Parker Heineman

Eric C. Thompson

The following individuals were VOTED dropped for non payment of dues with the proviso that the Secretary was to use judgment in accepting late payments:

Robert Blanchard

John F. Hall, Jr.

Gardner Russell Brown

Frederick B. Hartman, MD

Robert Darling, Jr.

Curtiss S. Johnston, Jr.

Timothy English

David Rathbun

George C. "Mike" Frigard

Irving Warner, Jr.

With these changes membership is at 502.

Treasurer Messer commented that with the way society is moving we need to think about the need to have someone on the Board with the appropriate background in insurance and taxes to provide guidance to the Board on such matters.

Historian Ames indicated that our history is appropriately stored in the archives at the Seaport. Further, that tonight's video which could be called the "Froya and Bamboo show" is ready.

Race Secretary Roberts presented the guest lists. There was discussion about the requirement that a guest be a member of a yacht club recognized by the Off Soundings Club Board of Governors (4-3-76). It was moved and VOTED that this requirement be waived for 1995.

It was VOTED to approve the guest lists submitted by the Race Secretary and Membership Chairmen with the elimination of William H. Squire (duplication) and Van Brown (recent new member) from the Race Secretary's list.

After further investigation by Race Secretary Roberts and Board Member Brooks, it was decided that it would be most appropriate to send our usual notification to the Coast Guard concerning the time and location of our races. Requesting a waiver was felt to make us too visible.

We want our members to have proper sail numbers from USSA to avoid conflicts and maintain order on the race course. In checking with USSA, the Race Secretary has found that USSA can not consistently tell us who should be assigned a particularly number. They also are limited as to how much time they can spend on such research. Some violations are obvious but many people who have bought used boats may also be in violation. There does not seem to be a clear cut answer to the problem. It was agreed that the Race Secretary would continue to try to have

correct numbers used and that an individual violating the rules does so at his or her own peril.

Ed Dickerhoff has been added as a Committee Chairman to assist Race Secretary Roberts in performing his duties.

Clerk Magovern reported that all the proper papers required for our incorporation in the State of Massachusetts have been gathered and he will be obtaining the necessary signatures today.

Measurer Rabe discussed the proposals in the Race Penalties Committee Report, a copy of which is attached.

1. It was VOTED that penalties will be worked off in three race series, raced or not.
2. The time on time calculations now used are harsher on large boats than small when penalties are involved. To reduce this bias, it was VOTED that the calculations for TCF's be changed as follows:

$$\text{TCF} = 480 + \frac{600 * (1 + .0030 * \text{penalty})}{\text{PHRF}}$$

This closely duplicates what was done until 1993 at 1.5% for each 5% of handicap.

3. The potential exists for persons engaged in a yachting business that affords access to multiple yachts, or others, to not be effectively subject to the penalty provisions of our race rules. A review of 15-20 years of race results indicated only one member who has sailed what might be described as "house yachts". There was no committee consensus that a problem exists requiring action and no action was recommended.

Race Committee Chairman Maxwell noted that Nor'easter and Chris Cox's boat are available for the Spring. He assumes Dan Miller will be available for patrol boat. He has checked out the costs of a cottage for Race Committee for the weekend and they seem to be running from \$850 to \$950. As they plan to cookout one night off the committee boat or at a house this does not represent much, if any, savings over renting rooms. No commitment has been made and help in obtaining lodging at reasonable cost would be appreciated.

Membership Committee Chairman Bohlen reported that 13 candidates are in the pipeline and will be ready for posting within a few weeks. He encouraged us to talk up membership.

Measurement Rule Committee Chairman Brooks commented that it might be appropriate to abandon the Measurement Rule Committee. After discussion it was decided that the Committee positions us for the future and it will be continued. Given this, Chairman Brooks promised a commentary on the Channel Rating Rule and the Marion to Bermuda Rule at the next meeting.

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

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

Entertainment Committee Chairman Fast was absent and there was no report.

Shelter Island liaison Committee Chairman Lockwood was absent and there was no report.

Block Island Liaison Committee Chairman Staub commented that Block Island knows of our arrival, the change in race dates and are looking forward to having us. They now have three land and one boat pumpout stations.

Public Relations Committee Chairman Nickerson indicated that he was retiring. He commented that he has enjoyed his term and looking around the table believes Off ^ Soundings to be in good hands.

Fleet Surgeon Haugh had no report but noted that the membership was aging gracefully but at a genetically predetermined rate.

Long Range Race Planning Committee Chairman Johnstone discussed some work on alternative sites. Sag Harbor has good accommodations and he has asked Breakwater Yacht Club to send a written proposal as they would act as host. Late Summer was set as a good time for such a communication so it could be reviewed by those most concerned and a visit made prior to Board discussion in late October. Some thought was given to Newport but September is a busy time and it might require changing our race dates. As he is retiring he will pass this information on to his replacement.

Nominating Committee Chairman van Dyke reported that the Committee composed of himself, Edward Dieckerhoff and William Loweth has produced a reasonably satisfactory result.

Secretary O'Connell reported that he has corresponded with Peter Brinckerhoff concerning his race participation this year. The final communication told Peter that the spirit of the resolution was that he participate fully in all Club activities as a member except he should not be visible to Shelter Island Yacht Club personnel on the Fall Off Soundings weekend.

Board Member Brooks presented the report for the Race Participation Committee a copy of which is attached. The committee had three major proposals:

1. The guest invitation should be revised - The suggestion essentially put guests on a similar footing as members as to timing and provided for a single "sponsor". This generated much discussion. Though it was agreed that the board has only very occasionally rejected a guest application, there was great concern about losing control and that by making a guest invitation too easy to obtain we would lessen the value of such an invitation. Clearly articulating the responsibilities of a member in "sponsoring" a guest was felt to be very important plus.

A motion was made, amended and a final resolution VOTED that commencing with the Spring 1995 series guest invitations would be accepted up to two weeks before both the Spring and Fall members close date. During this two weeks, the Race Secretary will provide a list of proposed guests to the Board for their review. An invitation will require a sponsor and two seconders.

2. Do not read all race results at the party - Vice Commodore Gunther suggested that we first try speeding up the reading and this suggestion was accepted.

3. Penalties should be sailed off in three race series - This change was approved as part of the Race Penalties Committee report.

A list of further ideas mostly in the realm of the Entertainment or Long Range planning Committees were attached to the report for their information. Commodore McFadden thanked the Committee for their work and discharged them.

Commodore McFadden noted that Past Commodore Slimmon was completing 12 years on the Board but had agreed to continue on as Long Range Planning Committee Chairman next year. Further, Publicity Chairman Nickerson, Classification Chairman Davis, and Long Range Planning Chairman Johnstone were completing their terms this year.

He thanked them in particular for their contributions and all the Board and Committee Chairmen for their support over his term. "It has been a pleasure working with all of you".

There being no further business it was VOTED to adjourn at 1736.

Neal H. O'Connell
Secretary
4/21/95

PS: Commodore Gunther has appointed the following committee chairmen for the 1995-96 year:

Membership	Paul C. van Dyke
Protest	J. Christopher Field
Entertainment	Carl D. Fast
Classification	Neal S. O'Connell
Measurement Rule	CDR John F. Brooks, USCG
Prizes & Awards	W. Frank Bohlen
Public Relations	Brin R. Ford
Fleet Surgeon	John D. Haugh, MD
Shelter Island Liaison	John H. Lockwood
Block Island Liaison	Nicholas Staub, II
Long Range Race Planning	James B. Slimmon, Jr.
Deputy Race Secretary	Edward C. Dieckerhoff
ECSA Representative	Richard H. Roberts
USSA/ORC Representative	Richard H. Roberts