

Minutes  
of the  
Board of Governors  
of the  
OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB  
January 20, 1989

A meeting of the Board of Governors of the Off Soundings Club was held at the Old Lyme Inn, Old Lyme, Connecticut, at 1200 on January 20, 1989. Commodore Slimmon presided. Other Governors present were:

Allen N. Anderson	Eliot H. Porter, 2nd
Louis J. Bevilacqua	Norman E. Rabe
W. Frank Bohlen	Richard H. Roberts
E. Carleton Granbery, Jr.	Walter D. Strang, Jr
F. B. George Hohenstein	Paul C. vanDyke
Neal H. O'Connell	

Present by invitation were:

William L. Ames	Edward S. Purcell, Jr.
Leslie A. Bowman	Edgar L. Raymond, Jr.
Donald C. Davis	Donald P. Robinson
John H. Lockwood	Nicholas Staub, II
William A. Loweth	

The meeting was called to order at 1237.

The minutes of the previous November 5, 1988 meeting were VOTED approved as circulated.

Vice Commodore Hohenstein passed and submitted a written report which is attached to these minutes.

Rear Commodore vanDyke reported that we used our Fall 1987 trophies for Fall 1988. Letters have been sent to recall our perpetual trophies in preparation for awards at the annual dinner and keeper trophies will be ordered later this month. A copy of his report is attached to these minutes.

Commodore Slimmon reported on recent communications concerning use of Shelter Island facilities for our Fall 1989 series. A new Commodore, Frank Ciaccio, has been installed who wishes to institute procedural changes. He wants officers of all Clubs using their facilities to communicate with Shelter Island officers prior to making arrangements with the Club manger so that they can get a better handle on Shelter Island operations. He is looking for guarantees for dinners, moorings, etc. These Commodore Slimmon said we could work out. He then indicated that they want to purchase and serve liquor at \$3.00 a drink, thus fully controlling the bar. Commodore Slimmon indicated our reluctance to do this but indicated we would get back to him.

Commodore Slimmon discussed this with John Lockwood and then Shelter Island Yacht Club Vice Commodore Henry Kyhl who is sympathetic to Off Soundings. The consensus is that most Shelter Island members support Off Soundings but that Commodore Ciaccio is part of a small faction that do not. His term expires the first of 1990 and we'll have to live thru this year. However, there is general concern about the under age 21 drinking problem and the Wilcox incident did not help. Henry Kyhl suggested that we provide material to their Board on spending by Off soundings at Shelter Island Yacht Club .

Commodore Slimmon indicated that we should have alternate plans for the Fall of 1989. For instance, Block Island could be used two times in 1989. Further, that the Race Booklet should spell out more clearly the owners obligation for his crew.

Lou Bevilacqua gave background about Commodore Ciaccio and the factions in the Shelter Island Yacht Club. He supported the suggestion that the Board be made aware of what Off Soundings has done for Shelter Island Yacht Club and that we have more than paid our way over the years. Though under age drinking is a problem, he expects that the current situation is more a problem of individual interests and finances. Considering that the Wilcox incident involved an hour at the Off Soundings party and 4 or 5 hours at the Yacht Club bar and then time at a local commercial establishment our party is only a part of the problem. He feels that it is better to use Shelter Island in 1989 and then to satisfactorily reestablish ourselves in 1990 using John Lockwood and Henry Kyhl to work out the best situation we can for 1989.

Entertainment Committee Chairman Loweth indicated that the Oar would be able to accommodate us in the Fall as well as the Spring. To accommodate the Oar's and Race Committee Chairman's requirements, we should have the matter resolved by June 1st. John Lockwood believes we will have the foundation for a decision after Shelter Island's February 4th Board meeting.

The problem of under age drinking was discussed. We have a liability policy specific to Shelter Island but even so the general consensus was that we need to control under age drinking in a positive manner. The Flag Officers and Race Secretary will form a committee and report their conclusions at the April Board meeting. Anyone interested can participate.

It was concluded that information will be provided to the Shelter Island Yacht Club Board for their February 4th meeting, including past finances, by the Commodore.

The following resignations were VOTED accepted with regret:

W. Perry Curtiss, Jr.

Harry B. Elliott\*

Spencer C. Gowrie, Jr.\*

Edmund H. Kendrick

Charles Titus Young

\* Motor Boat Rule

The Board stood for a moment of silence as the Secretary read the names of the following members who we were notified had passed away since the last meeting:.

John P. Leo  
Donald A. Swindells

Membership currently is 583 members.

Treasurer Strang commented we only broke even in 1988 in spite of a \$10 dues increase and an additional \$5 increase in the boat fee for the Fall race series. He recommended that the \$5 increase in boat fees be continued. It was VOTED to accept the Treasurer's report.

Treasurer Strang further recommended that the following donations be made:

The Mystic Seaport- \$700, designated for the video program.  
the Coast Guard Academy- \$100, designated for local sailing program.  
the Block Island Rescue Squad- \$100,

These contributions were Voted approved.

Historian Ames reported that, excluding Ken Mahler's time, the Mystic Seaport provided us \$18,000 of video services at commercial rates. This does not include the cost of the equipment we donated. This year the Seaport purchased a stabilized Zoom lens that produces fabulous results of our race series. They continue to give us credit on all films on which they use our equipment.

Race Secretary Anderson submitted a list of dates for 1990 that he will ask to have approved at the April Board meeting, noting that the date for the Annual Party has already been approved. Our Spring Race Series conflicted with the Bermuda Race in 1986 and it was said that this resulted in decreased entries because of the difficulty in obtaining crew. He would like feedback on this problem as we have a similar situation next year.

Old Port has a new rate schedule of \$50 per hour for launch service. He intends to reduce the scheduled hours to about 5 hours which will result in about the same cost as in the past, \$2,000.

Clerk Magovern was absent and no report was given.

Measurer Rabe, reported that he had been questioned on the need for our Off Soundings Measurement Certificates. They serve the purpose of making sure that owners understand what boat they have, size sails, etc. If there is no change to prior data then the certificate is issued without physical measurement. The fee charged is up to the individual Measurer.

Vice Commodore Hohenstein reported for Race Committee Chairman Jacobson that chase and committee boats have been obtained. He is setting up procedural responsibilities for chase and stake boats. Historian Ames commented that there are new USYRU rules this year

and they should be put in the race circular. Race Secretary Anderson indicated he would take care of this.

Past Commodore Roberts said that a rules seminar is tentatively planned for March 3rd. The Commodore will mention this in his Winter letter and would like any input to this letter this week.

Membership Committee Chairman Bohlen indicated that there are 11 applications in the pipeline. He went through the attached membership procedures. The only problems are too aggressive candidates or the proposing member abdicates his responsibilities to the candidate. He will only deal with the proposer with regard to new members. Membership procedures will be attached to the Commodore's Winter News Letter.

Measurement Rule Committee Chairman Robinson indicated that the Cruising Club and USYRU are very concerned about boats being built to beat the IMS rule. Pitching moment is the most venerable part of the rule and it is expensive to control. He continues to think that Off Soundings is on the right track.

Classification Committee Chairman Davis reported on the work of his committee to review classes. As shown in the attached report, changes are recommended to classes C-1, C-2, C-4 and C-5. These address all complaints except one in class A-1 which they decided to let go. it was VOTED to accept these recommendations. There was discussion about length of courses sailed by various classes and the makeup of classes. The Race Secretary and Race Committee Chairman will determine these matters for the various classes.

Protest Committee Chairman Raymond related an incident in the Fall Series that involved damage to boats and the resulting protest meeting where the party whose boat was damaged did not appear. Subsequently the damaged party wanted to pursue the protest to present it to his insurance company. It was the consensus of the Board that we do not care to get involved in such disputes and do not intend to hold hearings other than as they pertain to the conduct of our races.

Entertainment Chairman Loweth's report is included as part of the discussion of alternate sites for our 1989 Fall Series.

Shelter Island liaison Co-chairman Bevilacqua and Lockwood reported as part of the Shelter Island Yacht Club discussion.

Block Island Liaison Chairman Staub reported that the new First Warden is Ed Magovern who owns the Yellow Kitten and he seems ready to work with us.

Public Relations Committee Chairman Purcell reported that he has written to Channel 26 indicating that we will not provide facilities to cover our series and has not, nor does he expect to, receive a reply.

Fleet Surgeon Humphrey was absent but had indicated to the Secretary that he is ready to purchase medical supplies in the

Spring so that dated supplies will not become obsolete during our 1989 Series.

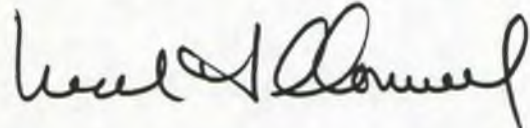
Past Commodore Roberts reported that a selection will be made for the USYRU award by February 15th. He also indicated that there will be a local half day seminar on the new rules and an all day seminar on protests, hearings, etc soon.

The Flag Officers proposed Robert Worsley for Honorary membership. The Board VOTED to submit this name to the membership at the April annual meeting.

Commodore Slimmon outlined his difficulties in making contact with Calvin Wilcox and the delay in resolving this matter. Mr. Wilcox requested that his boat be allowed to enter and that one of his twin sons not involved in the incident be allowed to race during the 1989 season. It was VOTED that Mr. Wilcox's boat would not be allowed to enter the 1989 series but that the twin son not involved could race. Commodore Slimmon will so notify Mr. Wilcox.

Nominating Committee Chairman Porter indicated that his committee consisted of Jack Washburn and Bill Webster. They are making good progress and report that so far all nominees are of drinking age.

There being no further business it was VOTED to adjourn at 1444.



Neal H. O'Connell, Secretary