

Minutes
of the
Board of Governors
of the
OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB
November 7, 1987

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 November 7, 1987. Commodore Slimmon presided. Other Governors present were:

Allen N. Anderson	Neal H. O'Connell
Louis J. Bevilacque	Norman E. Rabe
W. Frank Bohlen	Richard H. Roberts
E. Carleton Granbery, Jr.	Walter D. Strang, Jr.
F. B. George Hohenstein	Paul C. vanDyke
Lawrence R. Jacobsen	

Present by invitation were:

Donald C. Davis	William A. Loweth
Chester B. Humphrey, M.D.	Edward S. Purcell, Jr.
John H. Lockwood	Edgar L. Raymond, Jr.

The meeting was called to order at 1239.

The minutes of the previous April 4, 1987 meeting were VOTED approved as circulated.

Vice Commodore Hohenstein reported that preparations are underway for our annual meeting and dinner at the Norwich Sheraton on April 9, 1988. He further reported that a burgee and pin were presented to the Pentland Firth Yacht Club while cruising with Howard Chamberlin in his yacht Independence. Off Soundings Club member Bruce Lockwood also was present. Pentland Firth is the northern most harbor in the United Kingdom. It boasts currents in the 10 knot range and waves 100 feet high have been recorded in the area.

Rear Commodore vanDyke reported that Spring prizes consisting of Pewter flatware ran about \$1200 and Fall prizes of Revere Bowls ran about \$1300. The Fall prizes can be converted to 1988 prizes so we are over \$1000 ahead on trophies for 1988. Perpetual Trophies will be recalled in January so that they can be updated.

The following resignations were VOTED accepted with regret:

David O. Higley
Joseph Warren
Ned Street (motorboat rule)

The following individual was VOTED dropped from membership for non-payment of dues:

John W. Moffly, Jr.

Membership currently is 606 members.

Secretary Strang commented on a worse case scenario report of our financial situation in mid January, which is attached to these minutes. It shows our reserves diminishing to just over \$600. Prudent management of several bills will keep us out of a deficit position until dues start coming in. However, we should build up our reserves to \$10,000 to \$15,000 in order to pay our bills on time and lessen the burden on our Treasurer. It was VOTED to increase 1988 dues to \$35.

Treasurer Strang further suggested that we change our fiscal year to the calendar year so that a full Treasurer's report would be prepared at that time for the January Board meeting and a summary update prepared at the time of the annual meeting. In this way, the Board would have a detailed report prepared in a stable period for comparison purposes. It was VOTED to accept this proposal.

The Historian Mr. Ames was absent and there was no report.

Race Secretary Anderson reported on our Spring and Fall Series and related matters. A copy of his report is attached to these minutes. The 1987 Fall entries were substantially down at 155 boats. Cruising canvass was particularly low. The Board of Governors faced with a single series year established the following precedent in awarding perpetual trophies. "Overall winners (members without penalties) for 1987 were based on Spring results if the yacht was officially entered in the Fall Series on the day the first race would have taken place." Further, the Board of Governors decided that "one race series handicap penalty would be considered erased if a yacht was officially entered in the Fall Series on the day the first race would have taken place."

It was VOTED to approve the following dates and locations for 1988 Off Soundings Events:

Guest Invitation Cut-Off	March 23
Annual Meeting and Shore Party	April 9
First Notice - SPRING SERIES	April 8
Closing Date - SPRING SERIES	May 19
Final Notice - SPRING SERIES	June 3

Race Dates - SPRING SERIES (Location to be determined)	June 10 and 11
Results of Spring Series	
First Notice - FALL SERIES	July 8
Closing Date - FALL SERIES	August 25
Final Notice - FALL SERIES	September 9
Race Dates - FALL SERIES (Location to be determined)	September 16 and 17
Final Results for 1987	October 14
Dyer Dhow Derby	October (date not determined)
Other Events:	
Board Meetings	January 15, 1988 November 5, 1988
Annual Meeting and Shore Party (Easter Sunday, March 26, 1989)	April 1, 1989

There was lengthy discussion about the locations and facilities for our races. A study done five or six years ago determined that Block Island and Shelter Island were our only alternatives. Champlins was not satisfactory this year. The natives at Block Island would rather have us in the Spring as they feel they could be better prepared. However, there is a good probability of fog going to Block Island in the Spring. Fall at Shelter Island offers less exposed waters, a possibility of better wind, and facilities are more likely to be open. However, Shelter Island Yacht Club runs activities into the Fall so there may be conflicts and there will be fewer moorings available. It was noted that going twice to Shelter Island would be a real hardship on our many Rhode Island and Massachusetts members.

It was determined that alternative facilities will be investigated at Block Island. Lou Bevilacqua will investigate the possibility of using Shelter Island in the Fall. These activities will be completed by the January Meeting so that we can determine Spring and Fall locations at that meeting. We will leave the location off the events card mailed with the dues notices. It was VOTED that the Board of Governors preference was to go to Block Island in the Spring and Shelter Island in the Fall.

There was no report from Secretary Schectherle.

The Measurer, Mr. Rabe, said there were no issues to report.

Race Secretary Jacobsen reported that Empress was raising its cost to \$2800 per series. The alternatives are not as attractive as Empress and we will pursue an Empress charter. A full report will be delivered at the January 15, 1988 meeting.

How to handle a canceled first day was discussed. Alternatives mentioned were to make the first day the second day's course or to make a determination depending on the weather and use both signals aboard the Committee boat and a radio announcement. Messrs. Jacobsen and Anderson will present a

recommendation at the January 15, 1988 meeting.

Membership Committee Chairman Bohlen indicated that there were three applications in the pipeline and that membership packages were improving.

There was no report from the Measurement Committee Chairman Mr. Robinson.

Classification Committee Chairman Davis reported that all is quiet.

Protest Committee Chairman Raymond indicated that there was no race to protest.

Entertainment Committee Chairman Loweth reported that Champlins was difficult to work with and he had to accept a sizeable amount of supplies that are in storage. The Race Committee, Larry Jacobsen and Bill Ames, made the party go Friday night, which we all appreciate.

Shelter Island liaison Co-chairman Bevilacque reported that there were several cases of minor rowdiness this Spring. He is trying to arrange to have a Dotson's launch come over but they have a limited geographical coast guard licence which will need to be resolved. The per entry mooring fee charged to Off Soundings will be increased five dollars per entry. This is really a facility fee that includes launches, grounds and heads, and is much less than their usual fee. During this discussion, the problem of the conduct of individuals participating in our race series was discussed. A comment will be made in the next letter to Skippers pointing out that they are responsible for their crew. However, there was not a concensus on how we can, or whether we should, get the attention of our membership on this matter in a more forceful manner.

Public Relations Committee Chairman Purcell reported that Channel 26 covered the Spring starts and aired them that night. They are very cooperative and turn the tapes over to Ken Maher at the Seaport. Media people were put aboard the stake boats this fall, with interesting results due to the weather, because of problems with the Coast Guard concerning the number of passengers aboard Empress. Coverage continues to be expanded with the Hartford Courant publishing our activities for the first time this year.

Fleet Surgeon Humphrey reported that our letter to Block Island Health Services, Inc. accompanying our donation was printed in its entirety in the Block Island Times. We had no medical problems in either Spring or Fall and he has had no difficulty obtaining residents to man the patrol boats. A copy of his report is attached to these minutes.

Wilbur Young died and his wife would like to give Off Soundings a tray in his memory. It was VOTED to refer this to the Prize & Awards Committee for a recommendation.

Commodore Slimmon noted that an offer has been made by USYRU to member yacht clubs of a trophy for each club to be awarded to a member who has demonstrated the spirit of sailing and/or good sportsmanship. There also would be a national award to an individual selected from nominations by participating yacht clubs. A committee comprised of Messrs. Granbery, Porter, Roberts and Slimmon has been organized to consider establishing criteria for selecting an Off Soundings member and forwarding such selection to USYRU. The selection

must be made by January 15, 1988. It was VOTED that the Committee should select and forward a candidate for the national award, if appropriate, and report on their action in January.

Rear Commodore vanDyke was given permission to prepare a simple plaque for Tom (who has been ill for the past few years) and Ginny Gotis in remembrance of their Race Committee activities and invite them to the next annual meeting.

Rear Commodore vanDyke proposed that several people should be considered for Honorary membership. The subject was discussed and the proposal was tabled until the January meeting. Between now and the January meeting, the Board of Governors should think about the matter and discuss it among themselves for it is a precedent setting action.

There being no further business it was VOTED to adjourn at 1439.