

Minutes  
of the  
Board of Governors Meeting  
of the  
OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

April 6, 1991

A meeting of the Board of Governors of the Off Soundings Club was held at the Sheraton Norwich, Norwich, Connecticut, on April 6, 1991 at 1530. Commodore Hohenstein presided. Other Governors present were:

Allen N. Anderson	Ernest R. Messer, Jr.
W. Frank Bohlen	Norman E. Rabe
E. Carleton Granbery, Jr.	Richard H. Roberts
Lawrence R. Jacobsen	James B. Slimmon, Jr.
D. Richard Magovern, DMD	Paul C. van Dyke
Peter W. McFadden	

Present by invitation were:

Milan T. Bartek	Robert B. Nickerson
Donald C. Davis	Neal H. O'Connell
Robert Edmands	Edgar L. Raymond, Jr.
William G. Gunther	Nicholas Staub, II
Chester B. Humphrey, MD	

Absent were:

William L. Ames	John H. Lockwood
Louis J. Bevilacqua	Donald P. Robinson

The meeting was called to order at 1538.

The minutes of the previous meeting on January 11, 1991 were VOTED approved as circulated.

Vice Commodore van Dyke submitted his report of the 1991 Annual Meeting and Dinner. Head count is up considerably from 210 last year to 260 this year.

Rear Commodore McFadden commented that the prize and awards are engraved and ready for tonight. Expenses for the season were about 10 percent below 1989 including repairing the Chantyman trophy that was damaged in mailing. A line drawing of Nor'easter was located at the MIT Maritime Museum and used to develop a trophy for John Helm as an expression of appreciation for his many years of service to the Club supporting the Race Committee.

A Secretary's report was submitted. The Board stood for a moment of silent prayer for the following members who were reported as having died since the last meeting:

Joseph E. Buza	William J. Donavon
Steven M. Castle	Eric A. Robba

The following resignations were VOTED accepted with regret:

Leo W. Blanchard	* John F. Harreys
Anthony A. Cooper	* Ward W. Hough
Daniel P Dyer, III	* Richard N. Jayson
* Joseph R. Fontanella	George H. Lumb, II
Frank W. Gadd	Norman D. MacLeod, Jr.
Clyde B. Gordon	Stuyvesant Wainwright, II
* John R. Gunther	Searle K. Welling, MD

\* Motor Boat Rule

Membership as of 4/6/91 is 521 members.

Treasurer Messer commented on his report, copies of which are attached to these minutes. Recent information is being entered into a computer data base. Once completed this will facilitate comparisons, tracking expenses and testing bills for reasonableness. He noted that we might be in for some financial surprises as he understands that race participation in the South this Winter has been down 30 percent.

A motion was VOTED that the treasurer be authorized to open a money market account with the Secretary and Treasurer having single signature authority for the account. The purpose of this is to improve our interest earnings as we have significant financial balances for a major part of the year.

Historian Ames was traveling and sent a report indicating that "we are making history".

Race Secretary Anderson submitted a list of 21 guests for the 1991 series. The attached listings of 9 prospective members and 21 guests were VOTED approved.

As part of his LRRPC (Long Range Race Planning Committee) activities the Race Secretary reported that about 50% of recent invitees have eventually joined the Club. This was considered a reasonable result. It was pointed out that we need to continually remind guests that an invitation to race as a guest and membership are two different steps. The Membership Chairman volunteered to send a card at the end of each year to each guest's proposer for those guests who have not started the membership process. Further, it was pointed out that though participating in our events as crew or a guest skipper is a usual requirement for membership, it is not necessary to have raced as a skipper.

Commodore Hohenstein pointed out that dock space at Shelter Island is a requirement for the Flag Officers, Entertainment Chairman and Race Secretary to facilitate the weekend. Tradition has it that at Block Island these individuals pick up their own dockage. At Shelter Island, they have usually been able lay off the committee boat at no charge. If there should be a charge, he felt that the Club should pick it up under general expenses for the weekend.

Clerk Magovern reported that our incorporation is current. He checked the State's records, discovered that 1980 was unaccounted for

and settled up with the State. Our incorporation records are correct from date of inception until today.

The Measurer, Mr. Rabe, reported that he has given up the office of ECYRA handicapper.

Race Committee Chairman Jacobsen noted that he was notified in mid March that Empress would not be available because of Bill Norton's illness. However, it might be available in the Fall. As a replacement, Harry Elliot (Freedom) has offered to assist in the Spring and will be here on June 11th for outfitting. He can not handle dinner so there will be some extra meal expense.

The Race Committee Chairman offered the idea of putting together a committee to upgrade the activities of the Race Committee, particularly in the areas of automation. He accepted the assignment as Chairman and Bob Edmands volunteered to assist.

Another short course for the Spring is being worked on.

Membership Chairman Bohlen reported that there are 10 new members posted and an additional 11 candidates are in the pipeline.

It was VOTED that if the proposed changes to the Constitution and By-laws are approved by the membership, the Secretary may accept any member who resigned in good standing who requests reinstatement and pays the current dues for his category of membership.

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

Classification Committee Chairman Davis reported that he is not aware of any problems. He does foresee problems if the recommendations of the LRRPC regarding combining classes A1, A2, and B are approved.

Past Protest Committee Chairman Raymond indicated he had heard of no problems in this area.

Past Entertainment Committee Chairman Messer indicated that he is working with the new Committee Chairman, Milan Bartek, and all is going well.

Shelter Island Liaison Co-Chairman, Bevilacqua and Lockwood were absent and there was no report.

Block Island Liaison Chairman Staub indicated that Block Island likes us and we like them. They are aware of our Spring Race dates.

Public Relations Committee Chairman Nickerson reported that he is working with the usual publications to assure that we get adequate exposure.

Fleet Surgeon Humphrey indicated his concern about the lack of identification of new Physicians when they become members. He feels that it will not be long before we have to depend entirely on member physicians being on call. He needs the identification of those members

who are physicians so he can made arrangements with them to be on call during the races. Membership Chairman Bohlen indicated that he would make sure that the physician's designation is indicated to the Secretary from the membership application so that proper records can be maintained for the membership book.

Measurer Rabe commented on the February 19 and March 19 minutes of the Long Range Race Planning Committee, Chaired by Rodney Johnstone, and of which he is a member. Copies of these documents are attached to these minutes. Believing that the Committee should develop suggestions that could be considered and implemented over several years, they discussed the subjects of membership, incentives and disincentives, handicapping, racing format and other issues such as crew limits. In March several specific recommendations were developed.

The first recommendation was to eliminate trying to separate the "C" classes by displacement. By combining in this way the rating spread will be reduced for each class, classes can be made closer to the same size, and the endless hassle about what a light displacement boat is will at least take a different form. It may be necessary to adjust the handicap of some boats. This change does not require Board action so these comments are for information. The change will be implemented this Spring.

The second recommendation was to modify our Constitution and By-laws to accommodate female members. A lengthy discussion followed which is only highlighted here. Concern was expressed that we may be forced to act and should do it our way on our terms with out being told how and why, so the time is now. It was questioned whether this was a real or perceived threat. Possibly we are not threatened as the laws apply primarily to clubs with private dining rooms and such. On the horizon is the question of USYRU accreditation when matters under consideration by them are finalized.

The recommendation originated under the topic of membership. The Committee's review showed that a greater percentage of our new members race than our older members. Our policies on female membership are well known. With many of the younger people the matter of restricting females is a real turn off. Further, many times the female is a major contributor to the finances of the boat and racing and in fact may be the leader.

In 1975 consideration of female members was undertaken, resulting in some violent reaction from some of the membership. To buy time it was decided to let female skippers apply as guests, one of whom did, fouled Bill Ames and the result was that no female has applied for membership. It is possible that there will be no such thing as a quiet resolution to remove all references to gender from the Constitution and By-laws. If this is being done to increase membership, it may backfire.

It was commented that the question should be "how does this effect Off Soundings?". The answer seemed to be positive. There are many women who could do nothing but enhance the Club. Morally it is something that should be done. Our Membership procedures and Committee are capable enough to see that we get a high quality member. Admission of female members would not have any negative effect on the Club. We are looking for good sailors regardless of gender.

It was decided that van Dyke, Bohlen and O'Connell would form a committee to bring a proposal to the Board for action at the Fall meeting. A Constitution and By-laws change will be required.

Other items are being considered. It seems as if we have to stay with PHRF. However, time on time may be an improvement. A consideration to consolidate A1, A2, B classes into fewer classes tweaked the Boards attention. Splitting the Cruising Class is another consideration. Also the question of crew limits will be investigated.

Nominating Committee Chairman Slimmon indicated that the Committee consisting of Bob Edmands, Bill Gunther and himself were ready with nominations for the Annual Meeting.

The Board was reminded that Phelps Brown (a holdover from last year), Rod Stephens and Ed Raymond would be proposed for Honorary Membership at the Annual Members Meeting.

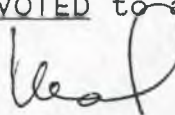
ECYRA and USYRU/ORC Representative Roberts indicated that there will be an ECYRA Race Management Committee seminar in Milford on Saturday April 20th and at Shennecossett Yacht Club on Sunday April 21st. It is an all day affair with a fee of \$20 for the seminar, materials and lunch.

Commodore Hohenstein commented that the Board has been magnificent and on the accomplishments made by the Club over the last two years. They include:

- . A new budget format and a financial turnaround of about \$7,000,
- . Reductions in costs in many areas including Board meetings,
- . A split dues structure that better recognizes the demographics of the Club,
- . Improved relationships with Shelter Island Yacht Club,
- . Establishment of a LRRPC that shows promise, and
- . Provision for members of long standing to retain their membership upon purchase of a motorboat if they so desire.

He expressed his appreciation to the Board and Committee Chairmen for their support and expressed his honor at having had the opportunity to served them and the Club.

There being no further business, it was VOTED to adjourn at 1737.

  
Neal H. O'Connell  
Secretary  
4/24/90

ps: Please see over for a list of 1991 Committee Chairman.

To: OSC Board of Governors  
From: N. H. O'Connell  
Date: 4/20/91

Our new Commodore Paul van Dyke has indicated his selections for committee chairmen as follows:

Membership	Frank Bohlen
Protest	John C. Field
Entertainment	Milan T. Bartek
Classification	Donald C. Davis
Measurement Rule	Donald P. Robinson
Prize & Awards	William G. Gunther
Public Relations	Robert B. Nickerson
Fleet Surgeon	Chester B. Humphrey, MD
Shelter Island Liaison	Louis J. Bevilacqua
	John H. Lockwood
Block Island Liaison	Nicholas Staub, II
ECYRA Representative	Richard H. Roberts
USYRU/ORC Representative	Richard H. Roberts