

Minutes  
of the  
Board of Governors  
of the  
OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB  
January 16, 1998

A meeting of the Board of Governors of the Off Soundings Club was held at the Quiambaugh House, Mystic, Connecticut, at 1200 on January 16, 1998. Commodore Anderson presided. Other Governors present were:

Frank Bohlen	H. Wes Maxwell
CMDR John F. Brooks, USCG	Neal H. O'Connell
Carl D. Fast	Norman E. Rabe
Carleton A. Granbery	Richard H. Roberts
William G. Gunther	

Present by invitation were:

Neal S. O'Connell	Warren F. Woodworth, MD
J. Philip Smyth	

Absent were:

William L. Ames	John H. Lockwood
Edward C. Dieckerhoff	Peter W. McFadden
Brin R. Ford	Steven M. Purdy

The meeting was called to order at 1243.

The minutes of the previous October 25, 1997 meeting were VOTED approved.

Vice Commodore Bohlen reported that the Annual Meeting and Dinner at the Coast Guard Academy on April 4, 1998 set and we are penciled in for next year. The luncheon will be held at Andy Anderson's home. John Brooks indicated that the room on the main floor could probably be used for our Board Meeting. Commodore Anderson will check into this. Information for any special invitations should be sent to Vice Commodore Bohlen. John Brooks will provide the Commodore with the names of Academy invitees.

A budget will be finalized in April. Income significantly exceeded expenses in 1997 and it does not appear necessary to adjust any race entry fees for 1998.

Rear Commodore Maxwell made a proposal concerning trophies and low class participation. After much discussion it was **VOTED** that if less than eleven boats were entered in a class the number of trophies would be reduced to three. This information will be included in the Commodore's Winter News Letter.

The following reinstatements from a non-payment of dues category should have been included in the last Secretary's report:

Timothy English

Peter Evans

The following resignations were **VOTED** accepted with regret:

Joseph T. Hermes

Paul C. vanDyke

The Board stood for a moment of silence for the following members whose deaths were reported since the last meeting:

Robert S. Blumenstock

Richard C. McCurdy

With these changes membership stands at 512 members.

Treasurer Fast presented a financial report for the 1997 year. A copy is attached to these minutes. Activities this year resulted in a 1997 surplus of \$5,411.60, which gives us a total year end surplus of \$20,497.08. This is in excess of our goal of maintaining a cushion of \$15,000 to \$18,000. The Chelsea savings account has been consolidated into our Fidelity non-taxable account.

In 1998 we can expect some unusual expenses:

- . Purchase of a batch of ties. Though this will come back to us eventually as ties are sold, it will take several years.
- . Race Committee equipment.
- . Video for 1998.

Even with these expenses in addition to our usual ones, we should remain well within our cushion and no changes in dues or fees seem necessary.

The following donations were **VOTED** approved:

\$200	Coast Guard Academy
\$250	Block Island Heath Services
\$600	Mystic Seaport Video Department
\$400	Mystic Seaport Library

Vice Commodore Bohlen as Chairman of the Budget Committee, asked for input to the 1998 budget process from everyone in sufficient time so it can be incorporated into an overall budget for submission to the Board in April.

Historian Ames was absent and Commodore Anderson made his report. We will be able to have a video for the coming Spring Party. Some extra expense will be involved for Seaport personnel to move the projection equipment.

However, filming, editing and presentation of future races is up in the air. Ken Mahler might be able to do it, making the project affordable. A professional, even at reduced rates, would probably cost \$3,500 for 35 minutes of film. As this seems out of the question, alternatives are a film incorporating segments from many of our past races or a speaker on something such as the Whitbread Race. Just what we can do will have to be worked out.

Norm Rabe read excerpts from an **1898** issue of Rudder magazine that lamented the degeneration of yacht clubs toward rocking chair activities.

Race Committee Chairman Granbery gave the following report a copy of which is attached:

1. The request for comments on the desirability of having 2 races on Saturday for selected classes was sparse. The Committee plans to only hold one race on Saturday and reconsider if there is sufficient positive response from a majority of entrants.
2. Work on design and construction of a new course board will start when Bruce Lockwood returns from Key West race week.
3. Current Race Committee equipment needs including a printing stopwatch and inflatable marks will require expenditures of about \$1,150.
4. A computer program that is effective, yet user friendly, and supporting equipment needs are still being investigated. Bill Thoguson's program, currently used by many yacht clubs, is being actively investigated. There are several goals. The system should not require much special knowledge. It should be one that can be picked up by any one with some computer literacy. It should be professionally updated and supported and have a broad enough customer base to keep costs reasonable. Equipment needs should be satisfied by off the shelf components in common use. It was suggested that rather than purchasing equipment some loan arrangement might better serve us.

Membership Committee Chairman Brooks had to leave early. The Secretary reported that 11 potential members will be posted with the Commodores Winter News Letter. Ron Levine's application for reinstatement was **VOTED** approved.

Measurement Rule Chairman Brooks passed on to us by way of the Commodore that it appears that about 10% of our fleet would require an expensive certificate to sail the Americap Rule.

Classification Committee Chairman Neal S. O'Connell indicated that he had nothing to report.

Protest Committee Chairman Smyth had nothing to report.

Entertainment Chairman Dieckerhoff was absent.

Shelter Island liaison Co-chairman Lockwood was absent.

Block Island Liaison Chairman Purdy was absent.

Public Relations Committee Chairman Ford was absent.

Warren Woodworth left early and there was no report.

Long Range Race Planning Committee Chairman Gunther indicated that his committee will meet this Spring if not before. The only item that they have to address at the moment is "How do we attract qualified members?".

Vice Commodore Bohlen made a motion, which was **VOTED** approved, that Off Soundings limit their donations to those that contribute specifically to our mission and not be available for other requests. This recommendation was made realizing that there are other organizations readily available to our members that are already setup to handle such contributions. They have tax exempt 501-C3 arrangements and administrative organizations that can accept either general or specifically named contributions.

The dates listed below, copy attached, were **VOTED** accepted:

1999 Off Soundings Events

Board Meeting (Friday)	January 22
Guest Invitation Early Decision cut-off	April 8
Annual Meeting and Shore Party	April 10
First Notice - Spring Series	April 23
Guest Invitation Late Cut-off	May 6
Closing Date - Spring Series	May 20
Final Notice - Spring Series	June 4
Race Dates - Spring Series	June 11 & 12
Results of Spring Series & First Notice - Fall Series	July 9
Guest Invitation Late Cut-off	August 12
Closing Date - Fall Series	August 26
Final Notice - Fall Series	September 10
Race Dates - Fall Series	September 17 & 18
Final Results	October 15
Board Meeting (Saturday)	October 23

It was further **VOTED** to change the 1998 Fall Board Meeting date to October 31, 1998.

There was much discussion about a point scoring proposal, a copy of which is attached. There was strong feeling both ways. A compromise to only use a point system for two year trophies was thrashed out with the thought that the subject would be revisited using this practical experience in evaluating whether to extend the procedure. The motion that Off Soundings use a low point system in calculating the results of the Spring and Fall race series and for the Perpetual Trophies was defeated.

An alternative motion was made. It was **VOTED** that Off Soundings use the low point system in calculating the results for two year perpetual trophies and that if eight or more races are sailed one throwout race will be allowed. This information will be communicated in the Commodore's Winter News Letter.

US Sailing will publish information on flotation devices in February and the Race Secretary suggested we hold discussion until April. The Commodore was requested to use his Winter News Letter to urge members to read this information carefully.

A copy of how the Race Secretary will clarify the need for quests to begin the measurement process early was distributed and a copy is attached to these minutes.

Clerk Magovern was absent.

Measurer Rabe indicated that what he had to say was incorporated in the Race Secretary's report.

Vice Commodore Bohlen indicated that they had carefully considered Peter Brinckerhoff's offer of a trophy in Salle Evelyn's name. It was determined that we do not see a need for any more perpetual trophies and they recommend that the Commodore write a letter to Peter, thanking him for his offer but indicating we have no current need. This motion was **VOTED** approved.

There were no suggestions for honorary candidates.

There being no further business it was VOTED to adjourn at 1540.

Neal H. O'Connell  
Secretary