

Minutes
of the
Board of Governors
of the
OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB
November 4, 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 November 4, 1989. Commodore Hohenstein presided. Other Governors present were:

Allen N. Anderson	Peter W. McFadden
Louis J. Bevilacqua	Neal H. O'Connell
W. Frank Bohlen	Norman E. Rabe
Leslie A. Bowman	Richard H. Roberts
E. Carleton Granbery, Jr.	James B. Slimmon, Jr.
Lawrence R. Jacobsen	Paul C. vanDyke
D. Richard Magovern, DMD	

Present by invitation were:

William L. Ames	Ernest R. Messer, Jr.
Donald C. Davis	Eliot H. Porter, 2nd
Chester B. Humphrey, M.D.	Edward S. Purcell, Jr.
John H. Lockwood	Nicholas Staub, II
William A. Loweth	

Absent were:

Edgar L. Raymond, Jr.	Donald P. Robinson
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The meeting was called to order at 1237.

The minutes of the previous April 1, 1989 meeting were VOTED approved as circulated.

Vice Commodore vanDyke reported that preparations are set for our annual meeting and dinner at the Norwich Sheraton on April 7, 1990. A copy of his report is attached to these minutes. Historian Ames indicated that he would again handle cocktail and after dinner entertainment.

Rear Commodore McFadden reported that Spring and Fall prizes were awarded. A copy of his report is attached to these minutes. The Chantyman trophy was refurbished after it was damaged in transit and the Class B trophy was returned though late (Class B not D as reported in the April 1, 1989 minutes.)

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 Board Meeting:

Peter E. Bergendahl	Mark S. Hough
John Lee Bunce	Arthur A. Kidder, Jr.
Pierre S. duPont	Richard W. Woolworth
John J. Franklin	

The following resignations were VOTED accepted with regret:

John K. Baker, Jr.	* Daniel L. Miller III
Charles N. Gregory, Jr.	John N. Newman
Richard K. McCally	

* Motor Boat Rule

The following individuals were VOTED dropped from membership for non-payment of dues:

John J. Jacques	Paul Knapp Rogers, III
Orrin E. Jones	Carl S. Swope
Richard D. Lemmerman	

Membership currently is 564 members.

The Treasurer's report is included in the body of the report concerning Shelter Island Liaison.

Historian Ames indicated that our historical documents are well organized and available at the Seaport. This year we may have to include some history in our Annual Meeting film as we are short of 1989 film. Rough weather the first day of Spring; a capsized Ultimate yacht that required the services of our patrol boat Friday, complete with photographer; and a early return by the photographer on Saturday to film the Seaport race all contributed to the shortage.

The Russell family is said to have some film of our 1936 or 1938 race that does not duplicate what we have already. It is necessary for it to be accessioned to the Seaport by either Off Soundings, after it is given to us, or given directly to the Seaport before they will turn it into a video tape. Bill Ames will contact Sam Russell to see if the family is interested in making such a gift.

Race Secretary Anderson reported on our Spring and Fall Series and related matters. A copy of his report is attached to these minutes. A comparison of 1986 through 1989 race entries show a steady decline in entries. Based on comments he sees no need to swap the Spring and Fall locations. This year's class changes seem to be well received though the Evelyn 25 problem persists.

It was VOTED to approve 1990 Board Meeting Dates of Friday January 12, 1990 and Saturday, November 3, 1990. Other 1990 dates were approved at the January 1989 meeting. Dates for 1991 were presented for review and will be voted on at the January 1990 Board meeting. A copy of this proposal is attached to these minutes.

Clerk Magovern reported that all is proper with the State of Massachusetts though fees increased last year by 50% to \$15.

The Measurer, Mr. Rabe, reported no activity.

Race Committee Chairman Jacobsen, encouraged by the Commodore, related what your secretary has termed the " Trials and Tribulations of the 1989 Race Committee". This was a saga of remarkable reactions to a host of events including 200 feet of chain that wouldn't hold the committee boat several times; fog so dense that search lights were used to identify the starting

line and early starters; stake and patrol boats becoming unavailable at the last minute; lost of the patrol boat that was to take times for a shortened course to assist a capsized non participant's boat; need to postpone a start as only one boat was ready at the appointed time because of current and heavy weather; weather so heavy that the refrigerator and freezer on Empress tipped over; and the need to cut the anchor rode of the stake boat as a starter in the fourth class became entangled in it. The Race Committee Chairman was commended for his ingenuity and that of his committee in carrying on in the face of adversity.

It was agreed that Off Soundings will reimburse Bill Budding for the damage to his boat and loss of anchor rode Saturday of the Fall Series. This damage resulted from Zeitgeist becoming entangled in his anchor rode at the start of the fourth class. Our purpose in making direct payment now is to simplify the process for Bill Budding. Larry Jacobsen should submit these bills to Wave Walker (Ron Walker) for Off Soundings reimbursement as it is felt that his boat caused the incident.

Larry Jacobsen was asked to particularly thank Harry Elliot. He was of great assistance, has expressed interest in assisting with our races and his boat is an excellent one for use as committee or an auxiliary boat.

It was voted that the Secretary thank Bob Read for the Board. He with his crew on Nepenthe, radioed finishes to the committee boat when it was unable to get to the finish line on Friday of the Fall Series until just before the 90th finisher.

Empress will be available next year. However, as Bill Norton is 84 we can not expect to have Empress much longer.

It was agreed that the Commodore will reference the Corinthian spirit of Kent Kelly in assisting the crew of the Ultralight that overturned on Friday of the Fall Series.

Membership Committee Chairman Bohlen reported that between the applications in the pipeline and those completed we have 15 to 17 potential members. It was suggested that the guest invitation cut off be extended to April. After discussion, it was determined that guests have adequate notice and timing would make it very difficult to accommodate such a move. It was suggested that as we want new members the Commodore should make this clear in his Winter News Letter emphasizing that we are far from the membership limit and that it is not necessary to own a boat to be a member.

It was VOTED to file a copy of protest results involving any prospect member with the Chairman of the Membership Committee for the committee's information.

There was discussion as to whether the procedure for seeking membership and the procedure for guest invitations should be included in the Membership Book. It was decided that the Board would discuss this among themselves and we would vote on the matter at the January meeting.

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

Classification Committee Chairman Davis reported that things were quiet. The Commodore has answered one complaint about the Evelyn 25's and the only other complaint will be responded to shortly saying that the matter is under advisement.

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

Past Entertainment Committee Chairman Loweth commented that the Spring Party went well. A copy of his report is attached to these minutes. Harry Beaudreau, the Manager of the Oar, was good to work with and prices were reasonable. Launch service was expensive but reflected a specific schedule worked out by the Race Secretary after a bad experience in 1988. Our current supply of glasses tend to easily break. Entertainment Chairman Messer will follow up on obtaining a new supply that are more rugged as replacements when our current supply is exhausted.

Commodore Hohenstein expressed the appreciation of the Board for Bill's efforts and he was given a round of applause.

Commodore Hohenstein obtained preliminary Fall figures from the Shelter Island Yacht Club bookkeeper. Though these figures have not yet gone to the Shelter Island Board, the figure of \$9,300 is thousands of dollars higher than agreed upon. A preliminary report of most expenses prepared by the new Entertainment Committee Chairman Messer from information received by the Commodore is attached to these minutes. The problem seems to be Past Commodore Ciaccio who required that everything go through him and then did not communicate with anyone. For example, Jeff Gaudreau knew little of the arrangements when Commodore Hohenstein arrived on Friday, the first Fall Race day. Commodore Hohenstein had a copy of his detailed letter to Ciaccio which outlined arrangements and this became the basis for arrangements for the weekend.

Assuming that bills are received on a timely basis, the Commodore will sift through them with the Treasurer and other appropriate people and present more complete and comparable information for the January Board meeting.

Because of the poor communication, about 35 boats are said by Shelter Island not to have paid fees. The Secretary was asked to write each individual asking that the fees be paid to Off Soundings who will reimburse Shelter Island.

Treasurer Bowman commented on our projected financial situation as of January 1, 1990. A copy of this report is attached to these minutes. It shows our current balance as \$11,039.93. January 1, 1990 is estimated at \$2,843.66 about \$ 200 less than 1989. However, the estimates for bills for the Fall Series from Shelter Island were based on last year's expenses plus 10%. Preliminary information from Shelter Island indicates billings which are significantly in excess of this estimate.

There was much discussion and many questions raised concerning expenses. Is this a one year problem? The Commodore intends to talk to Commodore Kyle before the January meeting with the thought in mind that if expenses can not be made reasonable, 1989 may be our last year at Shelter Island Yacht Club. The Race Secretary indicated that just printing and mailing of race information is \$3,000 with \$1,600 of this postage. The Treasurer commented that fixed costs for a race are \$7,500 which approaches \$60 per boat. Booze is peanuts compared to fixed cost. Are expenses getting out of hand? Should race and dues be increased?

The Race Secretary indicated that if we expect to change race fees it needs to be done in January as April is too late.

In answer to a question, the Secretary indicated that the reason for early

mailing of dues notices beyond getting money in the coffers so we can make a deposit on a committee boat was to tie to our by-laws, Spring Race closing date, and to assist in preparing a correct Members Year Book. It was VOTED that dues notices not be mailed until after the January Board meeting.

Block Island Liaison Chairman Staub indicated that we have no problems with Block Island. A copy of this report is attached to these minutes. However, the Harbor Master, Chris Littlefield indicated that no boat should discharge ho;ding tanks in Great Salt Pond. Block Island has a boat that will pump out holding tanks at no cost which takes about 10 minutes. This can be arranged through the Harbor Master. It was agreed that this information should be prominently included in our race notice.

Public Relations Committee Chairman Purcell reported that though he used the same arrangements with the Day and Soundings for the Spring and Fall Races he got markedly different results. The Spring was well covered and the Fall was a disaster. The Board responded that we need to keep trying as our members like to see the results in print but it is recognized that the Public Relations Chairman is dealing with people who blow hot and cold and we can not count on consistent results.

Fleet Surgeon Humphrey reported that the availability of a resident for next year should be no problem. However, the availability of attending physicians of various specialities is getting slimmer. Also, it was pointed out that the resident was essentially unavailable most of Friday because of the Ultimate capsiz. It was agreed that the Race Committee Chairman is responsible for assignments and should review the matter and bring his comments to the Board.

We still have no immediate way to use the "Chanty" trophy that Mrs. Wilbur Young has offered to the Club. Past Commodore Slimmon believes that he has had sufficient communication with the Young's and that the matter can remain on hold until we have a need. There were some suggestions such as a rookie of the year award.

Past Commodore Roberts indicated that EYRA was combining their business and awards meetings this year into a luncheon meeting. This is a effort to increase attendance. Each Club should have their EYRA Representative in attendance. He will represent Off Soundings.

USYRU has several incentive programs. Generally it was agreed that our situation of being a two tiered, paper club makes it impractical if not impossible to participate.

Commodore Hohenstein proposed and it was VOTED to appoint the following Nominating Committee:

Eliot H. Porter, 2nd (Chairman)
James B. Slimmon, Jr.
William G. Gunther, Jr.

Commodore Hohenstein indicated that Richard H. Roberts will head the Committee to consider candidates for the USYRU Sportsmanship Award. It will be someone other than Ed Raymond who we entered the last two years.


It was noted that Ed Raymond is in a nursing home in moderate health. The Membership Chairman was asked to communicate with Ed, giving him the best wishes of the Board.

The Race Committee Chairman indicated that if anyone had any pull with Winchester Arms that he could use their help. The cannon has been there since the week after the Spring Races and we can't get it back, fixed.

The Vice Commodore was instructed to give the 50 or so remaining 50th Anniversary plaques to the ticket takers at the Spring Party and see if they can peddle them at a \$1.50 each.

The Flag Officers would appreciate any input concerning nominations for Honorary Members. In general, this is intended to be no more than one each year.

There being no further business it was VOTED to adjourn at 1532.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neal H. O'Connell". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

Neal H. O'Connell, Secretary