

Minutes
of the
Board of Governors
of the
OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB
January 11, 1991

A meeting of the Board of Governors of the Off Soundings Club was held at the Mystic Hilton, Mystic, Connecticut, at 1200 on January 11, 1991. Commodore Hohenstein presided. Other Governors present were:

Allen N. Anderson
W. Frank Bohlen
Norman E. Rabe

Richard H. Roberts
James B. Slimmon, Jr.
Paul C. vanDyke

Present by invitation were:

William L. Ames
Donald C. Davis
Ernest R. Messer, Jr.
Robert B. Nickerson

Neal H. O'Connell
Eliot H. Porter, 2nd
Nicholas Staub, II

Absent were:

Louis J. Bevilacqua
Leslie A. Bowman
E. Carleton Granbery, Jr.
Chester B. Humphrey, MD
Lawrence R. Jacobsen

John H. Lockwood
D. Richard Magovern, DMD
Peter W. McFadden
Donald P. Robinson

The meeting was called to order at 1232.

Commodore Hohenstein welcomed Nominating Committee member Eliot Porter.

The minutes of the previous November 4, 1989 meeting were VOTED approved as circulated with the correction that the Newport regatta was the "NOOD" regatta rather than "NUDE". Someone does read the minutes!

Commodore Hohenstein asked that reports be abbreviated so that we would have adequate time to discuss proposed Constitution and By-Laws changes.

Commodore Hohenstein indicated that Treasurer Bowman had found that the press of work had forced him to reluctantly submit his resignation. The Board expressed its appreciation for the work Les had done to bring our finances under control and asked that the Secretary convey this to Les. He further noted that the Secretary had resigned under the motor boat rule.

Vice Commodore vanDyke commented on arrangements for the Annual

Dinner. Prices are up a bit and one room will be used for both the Board and Annual meeting to reduce costs. The decline in attendance at this function over the last 4 years was noted. A written report is attached to these minutes.

Rear Commodore McFadden was absent and his report, a copy of which is attached, was read. Trophy expense was reduced from last year and preparations for the awards presentation at the Annual Shore Party are well under way.

The following resignations were VOTED accepted with regret:

John B. Lawson	* Neal H. O'Connell
John Menzies	* Samuel M. Strong
*Motor boat rule	

It was noted that James Gibbs had been expelled as a result of the Board's October action.

The Board stood for a moment of silence as the name of the following member who had died since the last meeting was read:

David H. Miller

Membership currently is 539 members.

The Office Center, which maintains our mailing labels, rekeyed all information into a new system. Do not mail anything without contacting the Office of the Secretary for the next few weeks.

Entertainment Committee Chairman Messer presented Treasurer Bowman's report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Notable is that, for the first time in several years, income exceeded expenses and our end-of-the-year balance on hand increased by \$3,900. Some expenses need to be combined to get a correct year to year picture of such as Race Committee expenses. It was agreed that, though progress has been made, we need to further improve our processes and reporting.

The Treasurer estimates that postage increases will add about \$300 to expenses and that committee boat expenses are a wild card.

The following donations were VOTED approved:

- . The Mystic Seaport- \$700, designated for the video program and to be sent through Bill Ames.
- . the Coast Guard Academy- \$100, designated for the local sailing program.
- . the Block Island Rescue Squad- \$100

Historian Ames reported that there will be a 1990 video. Ken Mahler has requested a good sized burgee so that when he uses his boat to film from next year, participants will realize that he has a legitimate reason for being on the race course. This was approved.

It was explained that all communications to the membership using the

mailing labels at the Office Center and mailings from the Secretary to the Board are placed in the archives. Further, the Historian includes in the archives any newsworthy articles and newspaper reports on our activities that he sees. The Public Relations Committee Chairman indicated that he would assist with information of which he is aware. The Historian reviews the archives regularly to be sure that everything is properly handled.

It was suggested that an order form for Mystic Seaport videos of our races be included with the dues notices next year.

Race Secretary Anderson submitted a list of dates for 1992 a copy of which are attached to these minutes. There is no conflict with USYRU but the 1992 Bermuda Race date could not be determined. (We have since received communication that the Bermuda Race is June 19th, which does not conflict with our dates.) The dates listed below were VOTED accepted as submitted:

1992 Off Soundings Events

Board Meeting	January 10
Guest Invitation Cut-Off	March 18
Annual Meeting and Shore Party	April 4
First Notice - Spring Series	April 17
Closing Date - Spring Series	May 21
Final Notice - Spring Series	June 5
Race Dates - Spring Series	June 12 & 13
Results of Spring Series & First Notice - Fall Series	July 10
Closing Date - Fall Series	August 27
Final Notice - Fall Series	September 11
Race Dates - Fall Series	September 18 & 19
Final Results	October 16
Board Meeting	October 24

It was VOTED to hold the 1991 Spring Race Series at Block Island and Fall Series at Shelter Island.

The request for a guest invitation for the Seaport's schooner, Brilliant, was discussed. It was noted that the Brilliant is a unique situation and it was VOTED to extend an invitation without setting precedent for similar requests.

The Race Secretary indicated that information has been sent inviting any boat entering the Marion to Bermuda Race to submit a request for entry information prior to April 6th. David Nickerson will communicate with the Naragansett Bay J-35 class about our races and provide entry forms to those interested. Any resulting entries can be handled at the April meeting.

New courses are being worked on for the Fall (Gardiner's Bay). Participants seem happy with the Spring (Block Island) courses.

Commodore Hohenstein referred to the charge to the Long Range Race Planning Committee which is attached to these minutes. The four members from the general membership are Rodney Johnstone, William Fortmann, Neal S. O'Connell and Richard Steinhilber, with Johnstone as Chairman. They will make a report at our April meeting.

Clerk Magovern was absent and no report was given.

Measurer Rabe indicated that he had no report.

Entertainment Committee Chairman Messer reported for Race Committee Chairman Jacobsen. A written report is attached to these minutes. A number of comments were made with the aim of increasing participation. Chairman Messer is to communicate with Race Committee Chairman Jacobsen with the intent of finalizing any suggestions necessary at the April Board Meeting.

Clarification of the relatively simple requirements for a guest invitation to our races will be included in the Commodore's Winter News Letter with the hope of increasing participation.

There was much discussion concerning the boat Sirprize and skipper Healy. There was a broad split of the Board on the sportsmanship displayed by Dr. Healy. Both perspectives agreed that Healy was a skillful and accomplished sailor with much experience. One side seemed to say that Healy did not need the edge of an improved keel that was not factored into his rating. The other, apparently the majority, felt that Healy knew what he was doing and displayed a lack of good sportsmanship. Both felt that there was no longer a "legal" basis to change the action taken by the Race Committee Chairman which gave Sirprize 10th for the Fall Series and, after factoring out penalties, first place for the 1990 overall Byron Durfee trophy. It was felt that we are not dealing with well-defined rules, no one displaced by this change has protested and it is not appropriate to pursue the matter. However, we have seen enough to place Dr. Healy on the "watch list".

It was VOTED to obtain a memento for John Helm in recognition of his many years of service with Nor'easter. The Commodore volunteered to prepare and send a history of Nor'easter's participation with Off Soundings to the new owner, Henry duPont IV. Further, he will invite Henry to the Annual Dinner as the Club's guest.

Ram Island Yacht Club has obtained a new shotgun and the Treasurer has been instructed to pay our half (\$78).

Membership Committee Chairman Bohlen indicated that 10 individuals were in the pipeline which closes out the 1990 effort. Any further applicants will have to pay the initiation fee effective in 1991. The matter of the prohibition on board members proposing or seconding new members was discussed and it was decided not to change the 10/25/75 precedent-setting decision.

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

Classification Committee Chairman Davis indicated that there was no Winter work on which to report.

There was no Protest Committee report.

Entertainment Chairman Messer's report is attached to these minutes and outlines 1986 through 1990 expenses at Block Island and Shelter Island in detail and graph form. In 1990 the combined parties had a net profit of \$748. Chairman Messer has asked to be relieved of the Entertainment Chairman position.

Shelter Island liaison Co-chairman Bevilacqua lost his brother in-law in the recent Stonington fire. The Secretary was asked to express the Board's condolences to him. Generally we understand that all is ok at Shelter Island.

Commodore Hohenstein commented on the disposition of the Gibbs matter and indicated that each of the Board has or will receive a copy of all correspondence.

Block Island Liaison Chairman Staub reported no problems with Block Island and that the Island will be ready for us.

Public Relations Committee Chairman Nickerson indicated that son David had captained the Off Soundings Dyer Dhow Derby team to a prestigious second place. He brought the trophy to the meeting and indicated that it will be displayed at the Annual Shore Party and then at Ram Island Yacht Club until its return to the Seaport in the Fall.

Fleet Surgeon Humphrey was absent and no report was given.

Past Commodore and Board Member Slimmon commented on the Club's Insurance policies. For general liability, we have a basic one million dollars plus one million of umbrella coverage. The umbrella policy was purchased last year. The next step up is to an umbrella policy of five million rather than one million for an additional \$800 premium. The policies cover us both on land and on the water in contrast to the policy obtained through USYRU which is specific to racing activities. After some discussion, it was decided to stay with what we have for this year.

It was VOTED that Robert Edmands be the third member of the Nominating Committee.

Commodore Hohenstein indicated that no nomination will be made for the USYRU Sportsmanship award and that activity on Youth and Seniors recognition will be deferred.

Commodore Hohenstein introduced the issue of the motorboat rule. He pointed out that, in these days of declining membership, further loss of members to the motor boat rule not only represents

a decrease in dues income, but removes a source of experienced members who could otherwise be called upon to provide service to the Club. Discussion ensued. It was unanimously VOTED to recommend for consideration at the next membership meeting the following three proposed amendments to the Club's Constitution and By-Laws.

Constitution: Article XI, Section 2, modify sentence 6 to read:

"Any member purchasing a motorboat or motor sailor will be automatically dropped from the rolls, unless he has been a member of Off Soundings for 15 or more years or he also owns a sailboat in which he regularly participates in club races. Any member who owns only a power boat shall not be eligible for Flag office."

Constitution: Article XI, Section 2, delete sentence 8, which now reads: "If there is any question in either instance, this matter will be referred to the Board of Governors for appropriate action."

By-Laws: Article IV, Section 2, modify this section to read:

"The club burgee shall be flown by a club member only from a yacht owned, chartered or commanded by him or from a yacht which is under the direction of the Race Committee Chairman."

It was agreed that if these proposed amendments are approved by the membership, the records for the past ten years will be searched and those who are found to have resigned because of the motorboat rule will be invited to apply for reinstatement, with the date of election to be shown as the original date of election.

It was VOTED to appoint the following as acting appointments to fill vacated posts until the next election at the Annual Meeting:

Acting Treasurer Ernest R. Messer, Jr.
Acting Secretary * Richard H. Roberts
* Neal H. O'Connell is to continue as Voluntary Secretary during this period.

There being no further business it was VOTED to adjourn at 1602.

RHR/NHO

Richard H. Roberts (NHO)

Richard H. Roberts,
Acting Secretary