

Minutes
of the
Board of Governors
of the
OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB
January 12, 1990

A meeting of the Board of Governors of the Off Soundings Club was held at the Light House Inn, New London, Connecticut, at 1200 on January 12, 1990. Commodore Hohenstein presided. Other Governors present were:

Allen N. Anderson
W. Frank Bohlen
Leslie A Bowman
Neal H. O'Connell

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

Present by invitation were:

William L. Ames
William G. Gunther
John H. Lockwood
Ernest R. Messer, Jr.

Eliot Porter, 2nd
Donald P. Robinson
Nicholas Staub, II

Absent were:

Louis J. Bevilacqua
Donald C. Davis
E. Carleton Granbery, Jr.
Chester B. Humphrey, MD
Lawrence R. Jacobsen

D. Richard Magovern, DMD
Peter W. McFadden
Edward S. Purcell, Jr.
Norman E. Rabe
Edgar L. Raymond, Jr.

The meeting was called to order at 1246.

Commodore Hohenstein welcomed Nominating Committee member William G. Gunther.

The minutes of the previous November 4, 1989 meeting were VOTED approved as circulated.

Commodore Hohenstein asked that reports be abbreviated so that we would have adequate time to discuss finances.

Vice Commodore vanDyke commented on arrangements for the Annual Dinner. Prices are up a bit on all but the meeting rooms. A written report is attached to these minutes. It was decided to sell the leftover 50th Anniversary plaques at the door. The Board will have an opportunity to obtain them at the next meeting.

Rear Commodore McFadden was absent and there was no report.

The following resignation was VOTED accepted with regret:

Roger T. Fortin

Membership currently is 564 members.

The Secretary commented that the response of the Club to his request for Shelter Island mooring fees was outstanding. He received a 100% reply and we remain a class Club.

Treasurer Bowman presented the report attached to these minutes. He commented on the difficulty in comparing apples to apples on a historical basis. The report displays Shelter Island expenses as paid though they have not been paid. This was done as these expenses are still under discussion, yet it was necessary to clearly communicate that we have developed a serious financial problem. Expenses have exceeded income for several years and we essentially have used up all our surplus.

The bills for Shelter Island may be reduced and this will be discussed later.

Commodore Hohenstein presented a list of accounts organized to pinpoint responsibility for expenses and provide for historical comparisons from year to year. It was VOTED to establish a concept of individual accountability for those people who have authority to approve expenses and to set up accounts to support this accountability. The Treasurer was requested to work out the specifics with the Commodore and necessary Board and Committee members. The Commodore asked the Secretary to see that all Board and Committee members absent receive a copy of the list of accounts that he presented.

There followed a discussion of items that might be looked at to reduce expenses. However, it appeared clear that it was "important to retain the magic of Off Soundings" and that some adjustment in fees was necessary.

The following donations were VOTED approved:

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

Historian Ames reported that history is being made and is available for all to see at the Mystic Seaport Museum. He wishes that someone would come take a look at it. Nothing to report on contacts with the Russell family.

Race Secretary Anderson submitted a list of dates for 1991 a copy of which are attached to these minutes. There is no conflict with USYRU. The dates listed below were VOTED accepted as submitted.

1990 Off Soundings Events
(Additional)

Board Meeting November 3

1991 Off Soundings Events

Board Meeting January 11

Guest Invitation Cut-Off March 20

Annual Meeting and Shore Party April 6

First Notice - Spring Series April 19

Closing Date - Spring Series May 23

Final Notice - Spring Series June 7

Race Dates - Spring Series June 14 & 15

Results of Spring Series &

First Notice - Fall Series July 5

Closing Date - Fall Series August 22

Final Notice - Fall Series September 6

Race Dates - Fall Series September 13 & 14

Final Results October 11

Clerk Magovern was absent and no report was given.

Measurer Rabe was absent and no report was given.

Commodore Hohenstein reported for Race Committee Chairman Jacobson that the Budding matter was settled and Harry Elliot received a 8 1/2 x 11 picture of his boat with an appropriate plaque from the Commodore at no expense to Off Soundings.

Historian Ames commented that Ken Mahler has obtained a 26' boat that he wants to use as the camera platform for Off Soundings. Also, he volunteered to take the doctor and set out marks. There is some doubt about Northeaster's owner being willing or able to participate in the future. Harry Elliott's Freedom is a perfect committee boat or stake boat but he may be going to Cork this Spring. The Historian and Race Committee Chairman should continue to pursue Harry Elliott's participation.

Past Commodore and Board Member Slimmon commented on the Club's Insurance policies. We have two policies:

- USYRU - An \$11 million on the water Bodily Injury liability policy that costs \$480 per year. It covers us mooring to mooring for our races and comes into play after any other coverage is exhausted.
- Gowrie Agency - A \$1 million Bodily Injury and Property liability policy that covers us on the water and shore and costs \$840. There is a 26' limitation on non owned boats

used by the Club which he has asked to be raised to 50'. However, Empress as well as our launch service should furnish their own certificates of insurance so we will be covered under their insurance. The policy does not cover minors for dram privileges, nor would any policy.

Past Commodore Slimmon believes we should have a \$5 million liability policy but finances at the moment probably preclude this and he recommends that we go to \$2 million now. Further, he will place all policies on a January 1 renewal date so all policies will be up to date when we need them in the Spring. A \$2 million policy would cost an additional \$550 and a \$5 million policy an additional \$1,400 more than the cost for \$1 million. It is not possible to cancel the USYRU policy as it covers some items not covered under the general liability policy. It was VOTED to increase our General Liability Policy to \$2 million and to review the matter again next year at this time.

Membership Committee Chairman Bohlen indicated that with the recent posting of 10 individuals they have cleared out the pipeline of all but one recent applicant. We took in the following new members: 1986 - 25, 1987 - 18, 1988 - 11, and 1989 - 18. The Commodore requested that the chart of total membership and new members for each year be kept up to date.

Measurement Rule Committee Chairman Robinson commented on John Bonds article in the January 1990 American Sailor a copy of which is attached to these minutes and included in the mailing of the minutes. He feels it is a superb description of what sailing is to people like us. He asked that the Secretary write a note to John endorsing his comments.

He commented on IMS activity which is currently tackling two problems. The first involves how to quantify pitching moment and the second is developing time allowances. They are making a good effort on quantifying pitching moment. It will be expensive and the Cruising Club has donated \$15,000 and is giving time as well. In the past Off Soundings has participated in such efforts but is not in a position to do so now.

Classification Committee Chairman Davis was absent and no report was given.

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

Entertainment Chairman Messer's report is attached to these minutes and outlines 1988 and 1989 expenses at Block Island and Shelter Island in detail and 1981 through 1989 in summary form. The Shelter Island fall 1989 bill has been adjusted from \$8200 to \$6500 by Henry Kyle, new Commodore of Shelter Island Yacht Club, but there is still room for discussion between Commodore Hohenstein and him concerning

fees tied to moorings, launches and land use fees. 148 boats were entered, 132 raced and it is estimated that 70 to 80 were in Deering Harbor.

Shelter Island liaison Co-chairman Lockwood left early to catch a ferry and this subject was covered later by the Commodore.

Block Island Liaison Chairman Staub reported no problems with Block Island. However, another large regatta out of Newport is rumored to be coming on our Spring dates. The people at Block Island are not yet aware of this activity. The Entertainment Chairman will look into the matter. As Block Island has a free pumpout boat, it is expected that they will be tough on heads and the Commodore will mention the matter in his Winter News Letter.

Public Relations Committee Chairman Purcell has submitted his letter of resignation and was absent. The Commodore recognized Ed's many years of fine service and expressed the Boards appreciation. He is ready to accept recommendations for someone to fill this slot.

Fleet Surgeon Humphrey was absent and no report was given.

It was decided that no further information as to membership or guest procedures was necessary in the Members Book. However, information will be placed in the Commodores Winter News Letter concerning the guest cut off date and that the Race Secretary should be contacted for information about guest invitations.

Commodore Hohenstein distributed a spreadsheet of race party expenses since 1981 on as much an apple to apple basis as possible. To make 1988 and 1989 comparable it is necessary to remove the Land Use/Mooring Charges as in 1988 we collected these monies and it was essentially a wash. We have gone from 201 boats entered in 1981 with an average cost of \$19 a boat to 148 boats in 1989 at about \$45 per boat. The Commodore will work with Shelter Island on the format of how we use the Club which vastly differs from the local garden club type usage. His goal will be to further reduce 1989 expenses and set the stage for 1990. He will report back to the Board on progress in April.

In discussing solvency, it was noted that \$12 to \$15 of dues are spent on administration and the remainder supports racing which is what the Club is all about. Membership apparently closely parallels USYRU ages and this and our own demographics indicate that about 54% of our group is over 59 years old, many do not race and we had better not antagonize them. An exhibit showing comparative fees of other Clubs indicates we have some room for upward movement. Crew costs are about covered by the \$6 per person entry fee. However, there was discussion that the crew should share more heavily in supporting the racing activities. Exhibits of expenses over the years indicate that we have run a race series deficit of \$40 to \$45 per boat since at least 1986. We need to build up a surplus. In doing this, we should plan to have fees remain set for several years. A commitment by all Board members to reduce expenses is

necessary. Finally, we are going to have to generate more interest and participation from new people as the membership grows older.

With these comments in mind, it was decided that boat fees and dues should be increased for 1990 and an initiation fee instituted in 1991. It was unanimously VOTED that effective for 1990 boat fees will be increased to \$35 per boat, dues will be increased to \$45 except that for those members who have attained 25 years membership, are age 65 or older and request it, dues will be \$35, and that an initiation fee of \$50 will be instituted for all memberships posted on or after January 1, 1991. In the discussion it was assumed that years of membership will be based on an individuals "Date of Election".

The Commodore's Winter Letter will provide some rationale for these new fees.

Past Commodore Roberts reported that a selection will be made shortly for the USYRU award. If any one has any candidates please let him know.

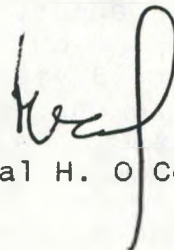
The Commodore commented on candidates for Honorary membership. He suggested that Art Johnson an old time member might be considered. Phelps Brown is another such person. He solicited input for a vote at the April meeting.

The Commodore expressed a desire that we develop some publicity that would help younger people to perceive Off Soundings as an interesting Club. He suggested that we might recognize a younger person in a special way. He appointed a committee with Ernie Messer as chairman, and Peter McFadden and Dick Roberts as members. They are to bring back ideas to the Board of a broad nature so that they can be considered at a later date.

The Commodore also mentioned that Vice Commodore vanDyke will be considering some type of recognition for selected oldtimers.

Nominating Committee Chairman Porter indicated that his committee consisting of James Slimmon and William Gunther are making good progress.

There being no further business it was VOTED to adjourn at 1543.



Neal H. O'Connell, Secretary