



OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB

Minutes of the Board of Governors of the Off Soundings Club

April 05, 2008

University of Connecticut at Avery Point
Marine Sciences Building
Groton, CT

OFFICE OF
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A meeting of the Board of Governors of the Off Soundings Club was held at the University of Connecticut at Avery Point on April 5, 2008. Commodore Robert Geary presided.

The following members were present: Commodore Robert Geary, Vice Commodore Bill Loweth, Rear Commodore Steve Purdy, Treasurer Ron Breault, Race Committee Chairman Charles Chorlton, Race Secretary Walter Pratt, Protest Committee James Francis, Entertainment Committee Sarah Porter and R.J. Austin-LaFrance, Historian Jack Washburn, Membership Committee/Webmaster Gerry Keeler, Past Commodore Frank Bohlen, Past Commodore John Brooks, Past Commodore Neal S. O'Connell, and Secretary Dave Dickerson.

The meeting was called to order at 1408 by Commodore Geary. The agenda for the meeting and the minutes of the January 18, 2008 meeting were approved as revised.

Treasurer Ron Breault distributed his report and began with a discussion on E-mail notifications. We have 481 members, of which 423 have E-mail addresses and 270 have agreed to receive notices by E-mail. The response to recent E-mail notices sent to past due members seems to indicate that E-mail follow-up for dues may not be as effective as mail notices. Ron reviewed the Treasurer's financial report and noted that the Norcross account was being used to track the 75th Anniversary expenses. Also our insurance premium for this year is basically the same as our re-negotiated premium for last year which has resulted in a long term improvement in our cash flow. It was moved and voted to accept the Treasurer's financial report. Regarding our tax exempt status, Ron reported that we recently received a letter from the IRS granting OSC tax exempt status, effective February 4, 1949 and a copy has been forwarded to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. Ron is waiting for an answer to determine if we need to file a tax return in Massachusetts for 2006 and 2007. Ron received verbal information that we are not required to file a tax return in Connecticut and he is trying to obtain written confirmation of same. Additionally, we are waiting a response from the IRS concerning our Form 990 filings. Commodore Geary thanked Ron for his hard work and long effort on resolving our tax reporting status.

Commodore Geary called for a moment of silence in memory of the passing of members Howard Eddy, Charlie Sturgess, Philip Green and Bradford Nicholson.

Commodore Geary reported that he sent a letter to Henry duPont inviting him to be our guest at the 75th Anniversary Rendezvous and a letter to the Vice Commodore Steve Schram of the Shelter Island Yacht Club inviting the Etchells class to participate in the Fall Regatta.

Commodore Geary reported that Club House has officially gone out of business. Club House sent Bob a list of their OSC inventory that has been transferred to Zeus and Zeus has paid Club House for those items. Club House has also transferred the OSC owned inventory to Zeus. Club House still owes OSC approximately \$800 for remaining soft goods and \$600 for royalties from 2007. Chip Cooper assures us that we will have this money by the end of April.

Vice Commodore Loweth reported on the final plans for the Annual Meeting and Dinner tonight at Seaman's Inn. The 75th Anniversary DVD (two-disc set) will be premiered tonight. One disc, a re-mastered DVD of a 2000 video, will be shown during cocktails along with music by Rock-of-Ages. A second disc, the new production of 2007 races, will be shown during dinner. The OSC Awards will follow dinner. Also, Bill sent out E-mail applications for the Spring Series to boats that will be sailing in Block Island Race Week. The B.I. Race Week starts immediately after the Spring Series and it is hoped that we may pick up a few more boats.

Rear Commodore Purdy distributed his report which included a final draft of the revisions to the bylaws concerning the membership process. The proposed revisions will be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting tonight. Additionally, Steve reported that all the trophies are ready for tonight.

Commodore Geary reported that the Clerk had no report.

The Secretary reported that he met with Kelly Drake on April 4th at Mystic Seaport and updated our files for the past year. Sympathy letters have been sent out to the family of recent members who passed away. A sample of the 75th Anniversary yearbook cover was passed around for comment.

Race Secretary Pratt reported that the new Notice of Race (i.e., one NOR for the entire year) and the Spring Sailing Instructions have resulted in a significant reduction in page count and they will be mailed out prior to April 18th. A further reduction in cost could be achieved if we restricted the mailing of the NOR, SI, and Entry List to the entries (noting that these documents would be posted on the OSC website for the entire membership). After some discussion it was decided, at least for this spring, to continue our practice of mailing these documents to the entire membership. Walter reviewed the recent changes to the NOR and SI. He concluded his report with a note that we may have as many as 16 Nonsuch entries for the Spring Series.

Sarah Porter proposed an increase in the cost for normal party tickets and suggested that we offer a lower cost ticket for non-alcoholic beverages. After discussion it was decided to table this issue until the fall meeting. Sarah reported that wristbands will be used for party tickets and there will be a different color for people under the age of 21.

RC Chairman Chorlton reported that NOR' EASTER will be with us for the Spring Series.

Measurer Jennings could not be present however, Commodore Geary reported that a revised OSC measurement form has been submitted to board for comment. Race Secretary Pratt would like to see a PHRF rating on the form and the date of certificate available on the OSC website.

Rear Commodore Purdy expanded the above discussion and suggested we need a plan to determine what we are going to do with the OSC website. Past Commodore Bohlen related his experience in this area and suggested we have come to the point where we need a committee to look at our overall needs for the website (e.g., membership list, entry list, dues payment, etc., etc.). Commodore Geary agreed to appoint a website committee and will request them to report back for the October board meeting.

Historian Washburn reported, "We are still making history".

Membership Chairman Keeler reported we have five new members and two quest members. Also, there are eight new candidates ready to be submitted to the general Membership and one additional candidate in the review process. The list of new candidates will go out in the next OSC mailing.

Protest Committee Chairman Francis reported there are no protests.

Sarah Porter and Bob LaFrance reported that the transition for Entertainment Chairmanship is going well and we are ready for the events at Block Island.

Shelter Island Liaison Lockwood was absent.

Block Island Liaison Purdy reported that, due to B.I. Race Week, the normal house for the RC will not be available however RC Chairman Chorlton has made other arrangements.

Past Commodore Bohlen reported the turnout for the past two off-season OSC luncheons was good and suggested we put the word out to establish a Rhode Island connection for next year.

Past Commodore Brooks presented the Nominating Committee slate for the year 2008-2009.

Old Business

75th Anniversary Dinner – Sarah Porter has procured OSC ties, gift bags and other memorabilia for the dinner. Sarah recognized Katie Beal and Jackie Fisher for their efforts in preparing for the dinner tonight.

Sarah shared information, obtained from Howie Smith 4th of Stonington, on the history of the OSC tie. The original tie was invented by Blunt White, Past Commodore, 1946 -1947. The tie was embroidered by Samie Smith, wife of H. K. Smith 3rd. Blunt White wore the tie to all OSC events and refused to tell anyone how it was made. Finally, after his tenure on the board, he let out where it came from. Samie Smith was then smothered with requests and produced two to three hundred more ties.

75th Anniversary Video – Vice Commodore Loweth reported there are 200 DVD sets ready for the dinner. The board applauded Bill Loweth and Greg Gilmartin for their efforts on this project, which was almost two years in the making.

Disposition of Membership Committee Records – Membership Chairman Keeler read a 1976 PSD that called for membership applications and supporting letters be destroyed three years after being elected to membership. The Membership Committee will investigate the possibility of being able to archive these documents in the future.

Spring Series/Feeder for BI Race Week – Vice Commodore Loweth will try to get some PHRF boats, however most of the larger boats (Swans, etc.) will be doing the NYYC cruise to Newport.

75th Rendezvous at Mystic Seaport – Rear Commodore Purdy reported the North Dock has been reserved for OSC, Dyer Dhow races are still an option, and the Boat House has been reserved for dinner. Steve thinks the majority of people for the dinner will come by car. After a long discussion on the menu and the cost per person, it was decided to provide a \$5/meal subsidy to allow for a more attractive menu.

New Business

Commodore Geary proposed a Special Class for Etchells for the Fall Series. It was moved and voted to have a one design class for the Etchells on Saturday.

Past Commodore Brooks proposed a separate page in the year book for Honorary Members. The Secretary agreed and it will be added this year.

Commodore Geary charged the board with getting a list of candidates for Honorary Membership. It was moved and voted to have the Membership Chairman identify candidates for Honorary Membership for presentation at next year's annual meeting.

There being no further formal business, motion duly made and approved to adjourn at 1640.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DGDickerson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David G. Dickerson
Secretary