

Minutes  
of the  
Board of Governors  
of the  
OFF SOUNDINGS CLUB  
January 19, 1996

A meeting of the Board of Governors of the Off Soundings Club was held at the Captain Daniel Packer Inne, Mystic, Connecticut, at 1200 on January 19, 1996. Commodore Gunther presided. Other Governors present were:

Allen N. Anderson	Peter W. McFadden
CMDR John F. Brooks, USCG	Ernest R. Messer, Jr.
Carl D. Fast	Neal H. O'Connell
John H. Lockwood	Norman E. Rabe
D. Richard Magovern, DMD	Richard H. Roberts
H. Wes Maxwell	Paul C. van Dyke

Present by invitation were:

William L. Ames	Neal S. O'Connell
J. Christopher Field	James B. Slimmon, Jr.
John D. Haugh, MD	J. Philip Smyth
Nicholas Staub, II	

Absent were:

Frank Bohlen	Brin R. Ford
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The meeting was called to order at 1252.

The minutes of the previous October 28, 1995 meeting were VOTED approved.

Vice Commodore Anderson reported that arrangements for the Annual Dinner at the Coast Guard Academy on April 6, 1996 are being finalized.

He submitted a report for the Budget Committee confirming that no change to fee levels is required in 1996. A copy of this report is attached. He reported that the 1996 budget requires a little more work and will be presented at the April 1996 Board Meeting. The activity has been very worthwhile.

Rear Commodore Bohlen was absent but submitted a written report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. The call has gone out for the return of annual trophies for engraving and keeper plaques have been ordered. The 1995 expense for Annual and Series Race trophies was \$4,492.45. Unless the number of trophies is changed expenses for 1996 should remain about the same.

The following resignations were VOTED accepted with regret:

Andrew C. Black	Newell Garfield, Jr.
Carlton W. Bradshaw	Ronald H. Levine
Roger H. Dickinson	Forbes Morse
Avery Seaman	

The Board stood for a moment of silence as the following member's name, who we were notified had died, was read:

Alfred P. Schlafke, Jr.

With the reinstatement of Donald S. Farrington at the last Board Meeting and these changes, membership currently is 512 members.

Treasurer Messer presented his financial report for the 1995 year, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Activities this year resulted in a shortfall of \$524 leaving a balance of \$16,786.06. Our goal is to break even or have a slight surplus. Several graphs and explanatory commentary explained our finances.

The following donations were VOTED approved:

\$1,000	Mystic Seaport Museum
\$200	Coast Guard Academy
\$250	Block Island Heath Services

At this point, Commodore Gunther introduced a letter, given him by Race Committee Chairman Maxwell, requesting financial support for the campaign of Whitney Maxwell to represent the United States at the next Olympics. There was support for doing this but concern as to the precedent we might be setting. It was VOTED that the Off Soundings Club support this activity, the amount to be determined by the officers.

Historian Ames commented that he was happy that we made use of the archives at Mystic Seaport Library as part of the evaluation of alternate locations for races. He would like to see more use made of the archives.

Race Secretary Roberts submitted a list of dates for 1997, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. The dates listed below were VOTED accepted:

#### 1997 Off Soundings Events

Board Meeting (Friday)	January 17
Guest Invitation Early Decision cut-off	April 3
Annual Meeting and Shore Party	April 5
First Notice - Spring Series	April 18
Guest Invitation Late Cut-off	May 8
Closing Date - Spring Series	May 22
Final Notice - Spring Series	June 6
Race Dates - Spring Series	June 13 & 14
Results of Spring Series & First Notice - Fall Series	July 11
Guest Invitation Late Cut-off	August 7
Closing Date - Fall Series	August 21
Final Notice - Fall Series	September 5
Race Dates - Fall Series	September 12 & 13
Final Results	October 10
Board Meeting (Saturday)	October 25

The report of the Lifeline Committee by Chairman Roberts and Addendum by Measurer Rabe which are attached to the minutes were discussed. Committee comments and discussion seemed to favor requiring adherence to Offshore Equipment List, Category 4. However, there were concerns about the effect on participation in some classes, the 12's, hardships that might be caused, classic yachts meeting requirements, need to educate owners and timing. It was VOTED that for 1996 all yachts be strongly urged but not required to conform to the ORC regulations with respect to lifelines and pulpits.

Race Secretary Roberts reported that the 12 Metre yachts are interested in again participating in Off Soundings, particularly in the Spring. It was VOTED to extend an invitation to the 12 Metre Association skippers for the 1996 series.

Clerk Magovern indicated he had nothing to report.

Measurer Rabe indicated he had nothing further to report.

Race Committee Chairman Maxwell commented that the expected financial needs of the Race Committee to continue recent innovations can be confined to the purchase of a printing stop watch. He was asked to obtain specifics on such a stop watch and report to the Board at the April Meeting.

Fleet Surgeon Haugh reported that he had surveyed 7 skippers in Cruising Class 1 concerning whether they preferred sailing the long course or the short course. The Fall 1995 winner of the class liked the long course, another was indifferent and the rest prefer a short course.

Membership Committee Chairman van Dyke reported that 5 new members are ready for posting. Planned area luncheons may stimulate some additional interest as one purpose is to acquaint non members with Off Soundings. They will be held in Providence, Mystic and Branford.

Measurement Rule Chairman Brooks indicated he had nothing to report.

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

Protest Committee Chairman Fields indicated he had nothing to report.

Entertainment Chairman Fast indicated that had nothing to report.

Shelter Island liaison Co-chairman Lockwood told us that relations with Shelter Island Yacht Club are excellent. The question of the missing burgee has been buried.

Block Island Liaison Chairman Staub said that the Oar will be under new management in 1996. The appropriate people on Block Island have been made aware of our race dates.

Public Relations Committee Chairman Ford was absent.

Fleet Surgeon Haugh indicated he had nothing to report.

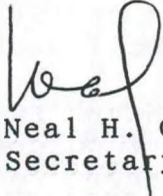
Long Range Race Planning Committee Chairman Slimmon had nothing to report.

Commodore Gunther proposed that Kenneth Mahler and William L. Ames be recommended to the membership for election to Honorary Membership. The Board VOTED, separately, that Kenneth Mahler and William L. Ames be proposed for Honorary Membership at the April 6, 1996 Annual Meeting.

Past Commodore McFadden reported that his Alternate Race Sites Committee currently is comprised of Race Secretary Roberts, Race Committee Chairman Maxwell and himself. They have agreed on a list of 9 members from which they will select 2 members to complete the committee. They have looked for past information on alternate locations with little result. Criteria will be developed and sites from Newport to Sag Harbor investigated and visited as appropriate. A report should be available for the October 1996 Board meeting.

Ed Dieckerhoff accepted membership on the Nominating Committee. The Committee has completed its work and has a full slate for the Annual Meeting.

There being no further business it was VOTED to adjourn at 1448.

  
Neal H. O'Connell  
Secretary