



# AFSS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## WEEK #1 – 7/5-7/9/2021

*AFSS is a program of the Orr's-Bailey Yacht Club*



The 2020 Abbot Fletcher Sailing School was nothing like any of us wanted or expected. We feel incredibly fortunate to be able to come back this year, 2021, and bring all of the fun and excitement! Thank you to the AFSS families, OBYC Club Members, and the surrounding fun communities for all of your support with bringing back our very special sailing school.

Our returning instructor Mitch Lienert has brought back his

infectious, happy spirit that gets all of the students jazzed

about whatever lesson or activity we have in store, and we are happy to have a previous director, Chris Fletcher, back in the game bringing his wisdom and experience from his classroom. This year we are blessed with four amazing volunteers. We are excited to have Karl Kreuze and Tadd Nelson joining us for a second season, while Chloe Filipowicz and Inua Saibou-Baldi begin their journey for their first season. And, of course, Erin Kenyon returns for her third year as our amazing Head Instructor.

While our classes might be half the size this season, they are still packed with just as much energy and enthusiasm. It is so exciting to see not only familiar faces, but new and eager-to-learn faces! Despite taking one sailing season off for many of our returning students, we are amazed at what they have remembered or quickly picked up again with just one reminder.

The weather was all over the place this week. With one day having the perfect amount of wind for beginners and the next a bit gusty with a few white caps, then a sweltering day with little to no wind and a full rain day, with another perfect day mixed in, these kids experienced it all. Sailing is about being prepared for anything and these kids were ready to tackle it all with a smile.

In our Beginner Class, the majority of students being first year sailors, were able to master their own vessel in an Opti with an instructor in a nearby motorboat. With the energy and enthusiasm this class brought every morning, they were able to learn all of the basic sailing skills such as tacking and jibing, points of sail, and right of way within the first week.

In the Intermediate Class, with all returning students, competitive spirits soared. Students were able to sail in Optis and 420s with a vaccinated instructor and were happy with whatever we did. We look forward to teaching some beginner racing tactics to those students that return for a second week.

We cannot wait to see what the rest of this summer brings us!





# AFSS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## WEEK #2 – 7/12-7/16/2021

*AFSS is a program of the Orr's-Bailey Yacht Club*



Our second week is done which means we will be moving into the week that will mark the halfway point! It is so crazy how quickly the beloved summer goes by!

It was so nice having a handful of students from last week return this week. We always find it so impressive to see the amount of growth students can make from one week to the next. All new students this week were exciting additions and the groups of students mixed nicely for a full week of fun.

The weather this week was a bit trickier. Fog and light wind took over each day, except for the last, which was filled with a beautiful

wind  
wind

*classroom in the tent*

at all, we were able to continue our lessons on land with fun activities such as “Opti Olympics” “that consisted of everything from pumping our sails to get around a mark and back, to paddling with dagger boards.

The final day, Friday, really put our student’s skills to the test as the winds picked up significantly. Having only sailed in 0-3 knots of wind for four days, seeing them tackle 10 knots was thrilling! Our intermediate class took out Club 420s and a Laser and had quite some speed. It is clear that we have many upcoming racers on our hands!

Looking towards the weekend, we are excited for our annual silent auction! This year it will all be conducted online with a live zoom feed from 10am to 12pm.

*fog and light wind*





Be sure to check out the great items! We greatly appreciate everybody who has donated items to support our sailing school. And thank you to our Sailing Committee members Karina Fletcher and Amber Skinner for organizing our first online auction.

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*Capsize drill on day #1*



# AFSS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## WEEK #3 – 7/19-7/23/2021

*Bailey Yacht Club*

*AFSS is a program of the Orr's-*



It is crazy to think that we are already halfway through the AFSS sailing season! This week was our last week with our volunteer,

Karl Kreuze. We will miss his sense of humor and calm demeanor. Next week starts our first of three weeks with volunteer Tadd Nelson. We look forward to what kind of skills and energy he will bring to the group.



We lucked out with the weather this week. Most days there was a light to moderate breeze that carried us through both beginner and intermediate sessions. The fog stayed away and we only had about thirty minutes of rain at the end of one day. Thursday morning brought some higher winds which challenged the beginner class. While there might have been some anxiety that comes with a new situation, with a few reassurances and review of skills alongside the coach boats, the kids impressed us all with smiles when they were done.



The Beginners this week continued to surprise us by learning the lessons on land quickly. We often commented that they reminded us more of an Intermediate class at times when they demonstrated their learned skills out on the water. The Intermediate class brought back their skills as well. By working

on sharp points of sail they were able to make it all the way to the green can #9 two days in a row. Taking out all three boats, Optis, Club 420s, and Lasers, by the end of the week, we complimented them on their ability to stay close to one another as a fleet should. On Friday they learned a little about racing and were able to practice some races.

As we move into the second half of the season, we are excited to see returning faces and meet anyone who is new.

On another note, the Sailing Committee has announced that last

Saturday's online silent auction raised slightly over \$3,600 for AFSS. Thank you to Amber Skinner, Karina and Chris Fletcher for organizing this fundraiser and to all who donated and/or bid on items.





# AFSS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## WEEK #4 – 7/26-7/30/21

*AFSS is a program of the Orr's-Bailey Yacht Club*



Another week gone and only two to go. Crazy!



The weather was all over the place this week. Both the Beginner and Intermediate classes were able to experience an equal amount of light wind and heavy wind. During one morning class there was no wind at all! We towed all eight Optis out of the mooring field and let them go hoping the wind would fill in. They bobbed around for a bit, and we ended up towing them back early. The next morning brought quite high winds, and we brought them back early again due to a bit more nervousness.

*Morning Beginner class*

The Intermediate class experienced the back-and-forth winds as well and even dodged two rain storms. In the end, no matter what Mother Nature brought us, the kids ended each day with smiles on their faces.

This week was unique in our class setup. Since there were only three Intermediate kids who signed up week, we were able to accommodate a second Beginner class in the afternoon. The morning Beginner class had a mix of students who attended last week, kids who had attended two ago, and brand new kids to the program. With so many personalities it was quite exciting to watch them develop throughout the week. Several students

the group have easily shown us they are ready for Intermediate already!



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*Afternoon Beginner class*

All students in the afternoon Beginner class were friends which made for fun lessons all week. They were all new to sailing and were able to pick up the skills faster than any other Beginner class thus far! We are hoping they all return next year so we can see them continue to perfect their skills.



With such a small Intermediate class this week it almost felt like we were training future instructors! The small group allowed for more one-on-one instruction which is always a bonus. They all had such sweet and helpful personalities that will be missed.

*Afternoon Intermediate class and staff*

Moving into the next week we are hoping for more stable weather, but, as long as we can sail, we will be happy!



*Head Instructor Erin Kenyon & Instructor Chris Fletcher man the coach boat.*





# AFSS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## WEEK #5— 8/2-8/6/21

*AFSS is a program of the Orr's-Bailey Yacht Club*



Only one week left of this great season! This week was the first week where only one student from the week before continued on and all the other students came in fresh for the season. We had a nice blend of students who have been with us in the past years and students who started their first year with us at AFSS.

The weather cooperated for all days except one. Even though it was rainy in the morning, we were still able to get out and sail since there was no threat of lightning. We were so impressed to

see all students had gear ready to tackle the rain. That afternoon we got lucky with very few raindrops.



The beginner class this week included half of the class that had taken the beginner class in previous years and were fairly established in their sailing skills,

while the other half of the class began their first time sailing. We had to balance such opposite skill sets which provided some exciting mornings. We enjoyed the challenges, and by the end of the week those first-year beginners were looking more and more like second-year beginners.



This week the intermediate students were the most advanced

they have ever been. This is always fun because we are able to teach more outside of our normal lessons! One skill the students were really able to master was backwards sailing! We put their skills to the test with an obstacle course, and they truly impressed us with each run.

We are looking forward to our final week!

PHOTOS:

- Learning how to tie knots.
- Instructors are prepared for the morning's weather
- Storm clouds ahead





# AFSS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## WEEK #6 – 8/9-8/13/21

*AFSS is a program of the Orr's-Bailey Yacht*

*Club*



With that, our 2021 season has come to a close! It always feels like as soon as we begin our first day back in July we blink, and it is over. This season was incredible! After having to keep to ourselves more than normal over the past two years, with COVID, the feeling of being back together was amazing. The energy levels and spirits were so uplifting!

This week our weather consisted of light winds and a couple of scorching days. We take what we can get

and, despite it not being the best conditions we have had this season, students had a great time. Students were even voluntarily swimming, which doesn't happen too often with our chilly waters!

Both classes worked hard and showed some beautiful improvement. The Beginners were challenged with little to no wind; however, the skills needed to sail in light wind are just as important compared to heavier winds. The Intermediate class showed great promise in becoming future racers. With a couple of days trying out some races, they were able to find their competitive spirits. Even instructors hopped in Optis to put their skills to the test! We hope to see all students back next year whether they join us in the Beginner, Intermediate, or potential Racing class!



I hope everyone is looking forward to next season as much as the instructors!! Until next time!

*Erin, Head Instructor*

### **A NOTE FROM THE AFSS QUAD CHAIRS:**

We plan to have information on the 2022 program available in mid-December. Be sure to check the website ([www.obyc.org/sailing](http://www.obyc.org/sailing)) as well as "Like" and follow us on our Facebook page (Abbot Fletcher Sailing School).





Thank you to this year's amazing staff (Head Instructor, Erin Kenyon; Instructors, Chris Fletcher and Mitch Lienert; and volunteers, Chloe Filipowicz, Karl Kreuze, Tadd Nelson, and Inua Saibou-Baldi).

Thank you, too, to all the students and parents who followed the policies we put in place to keep everyone safe from covid.

And, finally, thank you to our amazing group of OBYC members who

comprise the AFSS Committee. They serve as monitors each day AFSS is in session and show up on our last day to help remove our entire fleet of sail and power boats.

**We hope to see you in 2022!**     *Sue, Bob, Chris & Nick*