

AFSS WEEKLY



NEWSLETTER WEEK #1 – July 4-8, 2022

We have started the 2022 season off well at the Abbot Fletcher Sailing School! It has been so nice seeing all of our students' faces right off the bat without masks, and with that, the energy levels have been amazing!

Our biggest fundraiser, the Pancake Breakfast, returned this year and was met with much excitement! With a wonderful turnout for volunteers to set up, work the breakfast, and clean up, everything went smoothly. It took place on July 2nd, serving around 165 people. Our Silent Auction will be held via Zoom this Saturday, July 9th from 10:00am to 12:00pm, being run by Chris Fletcher and his wife, Karina Lewis-Gonzalez Fletcher.

Our returning instructors Mitch Lienert and Chris Fletcher have jumped right back into their roles, with Karl Kreuze starting his first year as a paid instructor. We are also excited to have Chloe Filipowicz continue with us as a second-year volunteer instructor. Even though we have fewer volunteers than most years, they are enthusiastic and working hard!

Each day the wind was a little bit different which made for an exciting week. One day of very light wind, another of quite gusty winds, in which we did not sail, and a few days of the perfect amount. Sailing is about being prepared for anything, and these kids were ready to tackle it all with a smile.



The Beginner class was full with ten students. We were lucky enough to gain two more Optis this season so everyone had their own boat! There were three students who returned for another season, and the rest were new faces with great personalities. 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.

The Intermediate class in the afternoon had a much smaller group of students, with only four. They were able to sail in all of our boats this week, including the Optis, 420s, and the Rhodes. Their man overboard exercise, with a lifejacket, was this week. By the end of the second practice day, all students felt more confident executing the drill.

Another activity that we have been able to bring back this year is our much beloved Ice Cream Social on Fridays at noon! It is always so fun to have the families join us in celebrating the end of the week with certificates for students who have completed their time with us.

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



smaller group of our boats this 19! Practicing their challenge students felt more

back this year is noon! It is always end of the week their time with us.

brings us!



AFSS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER WEEK #2 – 7/11- 7/15/22

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

Week two down, and four to go!

While a few students from last week's Beginner class returned, we had a number of new students joining AFSS for the first time! They were a lovely group of kids who worked hard and got along really well. There were not steady winds for them to work with all week but, despite that, they did an amazing job!



Our afternoons had much more going on this week with not only our Intermediate class but our first week of our first Racing session. The Intermediate group was joined by a couple of more students coming to us from Florida where they race all year. The other students were not only able to learn from our instructors but the racers as well. The Racing class hit the ground running so they can be prepared for a race they will be traveling to next week. They went from, "What's a triangle course?" to swiftly maneuvering around the course while already using great tactics.

This week was all over the place, weather-wise, that is for sure. The first couple of days had some higher winds, while the rest of the week there was little to no wind. Tuesday afternoon turned into quite the adventure when an unpredictable wind wall that came through the mooring field as we were all heading back to the dock. Due to the heavy winds, damage was done to the Rhodes 19 mast, but did not seriously injure any students in the boat. Following this, all four Club 420s turtled in the mooring field, without hitting any moored boats. After righting all 420s, tying one to an empty mooring, towing the



others, and tying the Rhodes 19 to a private dock, all students were brought back to the OBYC dock safely. The instructors were in contact with the monitor the entire time and Bob Gill,



one of the co-chairs, was able to come to the club to assist. All parents were informed of the incident and by the time the students left, they all seemed in high spirits.



AFSS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER WEEK

#3 – 7/18-7/22/22

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

Just like that, our season is halfway over! Time really does fly by when you are having fun! We were again given very high winds a number of days this week. Thankfully, being on the water we were able to stay fairly cool during the stifling hot days. The Beginner class were all returning students from last year and one new student to sailing!

Even though this group was not able to sail each day this week to the winds, they did an exceptional job showing us their skills in the time that they could be on the water.

All of the students in the Intermediate Class this week were between the ages of 11 and 13 which made for a very exciting, energetic bunch. Everyone was able to try out sailing in a 420 and loved it, so it sounds like we will have some more racers coming up the ranks soon.





We are looking forward to full classes next week with hopefully steadier winds.

This week was an exciting week for the Racing AFSS participated in a sailing race at a different location in New Hampshire at Mendums Pond on Wednesday.



our name back out in the racing scene.

season, we are excited to see returning faces and meet

FRONT



BACK



**YOUTH SIZE HOODIE SWEATSHIRTS WILL BE BACK IN STOCK ON MONDAY, 7/25.
\$28.00 (Med., Large, X-Large)**

ADULT SIZES STILL AVAILABLE \$30.00
(Small, Med, Large, X-Large)



The first three weeks of our sailing school seemed to go by at a slower rate than usual, but now that we are already done with our fourth week, it's looking like it will fly by from here on out!

This week was gratefully not as hot as it has been this summer. The sun was shining each day and almost every day brought winds that were manageable for all levels. Each morning it started off nice and light for our beginners and it would pick up a bit more for our intermediates and racers in the afternoon! This made for a perfect sailing lesson recipe!



From day one to day five, our beginners grew so much! They were able to switch in and out of Optimists and the Rhodes 19 so easily and have become flexible sailors.

AFSS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER WEEK #4 – 7/25- 7/29/22

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

Our intermediates showed great advancement as well, and we believe most of them will be ready for racing soon! We even had one student switch to the racing class to balance out the numbers! We wish all of these students could continue on with us for one more week but sadly they are all moving on to other summer adventures.



Our second and last racing class began this week. About two weeks ago there was only one student signed up, which would have made for a challenging two weeks, but luckily two more students signed up at the last minute! Then, adding in the intermediate student we were able to fill two boats. They have worked really hard this week and will be ready for their race at Taylor Pond in Auburn next week!

We will be finishing out the season with just our four instructors, and we are sad to say goodbye to our wonderful volunteer, Chloe. She has been a great help this season, giving lessons, doing demonstrations, and sailing with kids in the boats. We hope to see her back next year as an instructor!





AFSS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WEEK #5 – 8/1-8/5

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



It was another beautiful and fun-filled week at AFSS! It is hard to believe there is only one more week left of our 2022 season. Let's cross our fingers that we have another perfect week of weather like this one, but maybe with a little less humidity.

The Beginner class was a mix of younger students as well as tall, older students. This meant that we had all of the younger students in the Optis while the older students took out Club 420s. This is the first time all season that half of the Beginner class was sailing 420s so early on, and we were so impressed with how well they could handle the boats! All students were able to sail in the Rhodes 19 throughout the week as well. It was so much fun seeing all of the students get along with each other and having a good time, despite the age differences.

The Intermediate class was the smallest class we have had this season with only six students. Unlike the Beginner class, they were all around the same age. By the middle of the week, we could see that the friendships that were formed are going to last a lifetime! Sailing 420s most of the week, they were able to show us that no matter what combination of students we used, they were encouraging and energetic every time! On Thursday, we put them all together in the

Rhodes 19. They sailed up the channel and reached the mouth of Mackerel Cove, making it the record distance covered of the season!

On Friday, there was little to no wind all day so both the Beginner and Intermediate classes played Opti Olympics! This consisted of relay races involving knot tying, sculling an Opti around an anchored mark off the dock, paddling their Opti around the same mark with a sprit pole, a rigging and derigging race, and finally some swimming. Both Olympic events ended in very close final scores. Fun was definitely had by all!

As we sail into our final week (pun intended), we hope for good weather and even more memories to be made. We will see a few students return next week from both the Beginner class as well as Intermediate students. There are a few spots left in the Beginner class! Bring your enthusiasm for our final hurrah this summer!





AFSS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

WEEK #6 – 8/8-8/12/22

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

We have wrapped up another season at the Abbot Fletcher Sailing School! Where has this summer gone? We were so fortunate to have beautiful temperatures again with no rain!

Our Beginner class was a medium-sized class of eight, with the majority new to sailing this year. Most mornings there was very little wind so they were able to ease into sailing, and then Friday morning it was more moderate. After letting the wind die down some, we sent them out in all Optis and they did amazing!



The Intermediate class was on the small size with six students, but their personalities made up for that! They proved to be such versatile sailors, proving their abilities in the Rhodes 19, the 420s, and the Optis. We can see that we have some soon-



to-be racers on our hands! While we thought that last week we made records in how far we have sailed this season, we quickly broke those this week by sailing all the way to the monument on Little Mark Island one day and into Mackerel Cove another!

With the end of the season comes another sad goodbye. Our five-year instructor, Mitch Lienert, will be leaving us for internships as he embarks on his third year at the University of Rochester. He has been an incredible instructor for us all these years, and we wish him luck with his future endeavors!

On Friday, many extra hands made light work to make sure all of the boats were safely tucked away until next season. Even though next summer is a long way off, it will be here before we all know it!

The AFSS staff would like to thank everyone involved in making our wonderful sailing school possible: our students and their families, the members of OBYC, and of course to the Sailing Committee members (the Fab Four)! All the help, support, and love that the AFSS receives before, during, and after is incredibly heartwarming.

See you next year!

Applications for 2023 will be available on the website (www.obyc.org/sailing) in mid-December

