

Pancake Breakfast!
*AFSS attracts hungry
diners, happy sailors.*
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Mark your Calendars
Jam-packed social season
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OBYC

Club Cruise
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**Family Option
Debate**
For and Against.
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Happenings

August 2017

Eliminating Family Option Tops Agenda for OBYC Annual Meeting

Members will discuss and vote on proposed elimination of the family option portion of our bylaws at the annual meeting. It takes place Saturday, Aug. 19 at 4 p.m.

The annual meeting will also see the departure of three veteran directors from the OBYC board. Those retiring from the Board are Allan Jarvis (6 years, 2 years as Commodore), Fred Holler (6 years), and Garrett Knight (3 years, 1 year as Commodore).

Nominees as replacement directors are Sue Baker, Bill Bulkeley, Nick Nichols, and Don Robertson.

The family option, for which members pay a \$50 annual fee, allows adult children and grandchildren of members to use the club as members when they are visiting the area.

The board of directors voted to recommend eliminating the option because of concern that

many non-members were using the club when unaccompanied by a member. They also voted to raise the age at which family members must become dues paying junior associate members to 21 from 18. Read arguments pro and con on page 9.



AFSS News

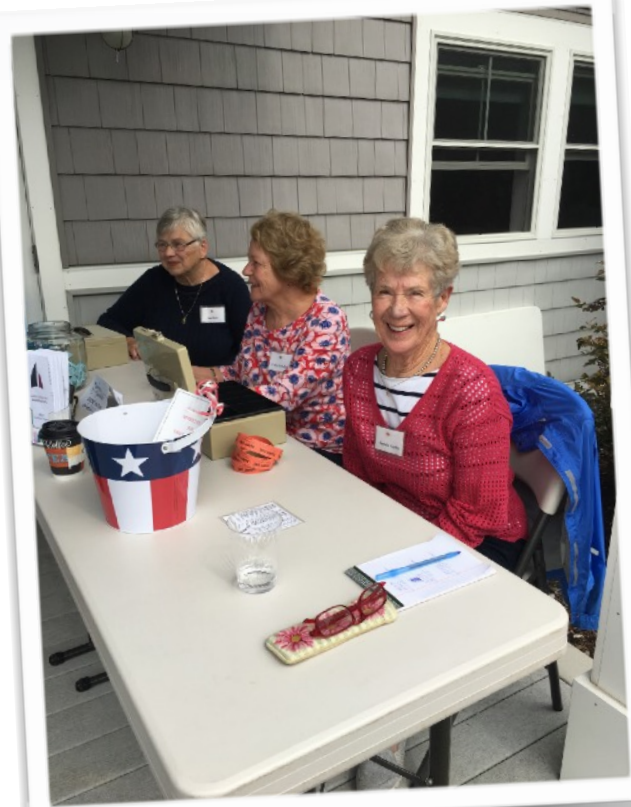
George Kinser chaired the annual pancake breakfast fundraiser. Our instructors flipped dozens of pancakes, plain and blueberry, that were served with real maple syrup donated by Dan Stevens and Larry Barker. Our thanks to Amber Skinner and her friend, Regina Bandura, for organizing the silent auction; this raised approximately \$1,200

Here are some stats for our 2017 season:

Registered students: 79 (57 for 1-week sessions, 20 for 2-week sessions). 13 students are children or grandchildren of OBYC members; 8 registered through the Town of Harpswell Rec Department.

Beginner classes were at maximum capacity of 12 weeks 3 thru 6. The Intermediate class, which re-introduced racing concepts this year, had anywhere from 4 to 12 students,

AFSS instructor team: from left — Andrew Hartnett, Augie Lienert, Chelsea Hartnett and Ashley St. Louis.



Sue Baker, Cathy Nicholson and Carolyn Carney sold admission and raffle tickets.





Club Cruise

The annual club cruise to Christmas Cove and Boothbay Harbor took place at the end of June. Couples who participated were: George and Nancy Kinser, Richard and Gail Stevens, Garret and Lynn Knight and Bob and Maggie Gill.



2017 Social Calendar

Items in italics are for general information only – not club functions

Members should bring their beverage of choice to ALL events.

*Members must sign up either online or at the club.

*Sign up must be completed by Wed evening for all Thursday events and Thursday for all Saturday events.

DAILY AND WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|---|
| Wednesdays | 6/21-8/30 | WEDNESDAY BINGO – Bring a <u>wrapped</u> white elephant bingo gift (not exceeding \$5 value). Great fun for all ages! |
| | 6:00 pm | Social Hour/Dinner – Bring something to grill and a dish to share (appetizer, salad, dessert) |
| | 7:00 pm | Game of Bingo begins! |
| Mon-Wed-Fri | | YOGA CLASSES by Instructor Hoa Tran |
| | 6/26-9/19* 7:30-8:30 am | Drop-in classes, donations accepted. Bring a water bottle and comfortable mat. Please arrive early – classes start promptly at 7:30 am! |
| Tues & Thurs | | GENTLE AEROBICS CLASSES – July Session |
| | 8/1-8/31* 8:30-9:15 am | by Instructor Heather Preston-Weeks |
| | | <i>Come 5-10 minutes early on 7/6</i> to sign up & complete appropriate paperwork. Classes start promptly at 8:30 am. |
| Mon-Fri | | ABBOT FLETCHER SAILING SCHOOL – Barker Rm |
| | 7/3-8/11 9:00 am-Noon | Beginner classes (Including July 4 class) |
| | 7/3-8/11 1:00-4:00 pm | Intermediate classes (Including July 4 class) |

SPECIAL EVENTS

- | | | | |
|-------|------|------------|---|
| Wed | 8/2 | 10-2:00 pm | <i>Orr's Is Library Annual Book Sale & Fair at Lowell's Cove</i> |
| Thurs | 8/4* | 7:00 pm | BOOK GROUP #4 – <u><i>The Beans of Egypt, Maine</i></u> by Carolyn Chute |



Sat	8/5*		ANNUAL LOBSTER BAKE
		5:00 pm	Social Hour
		6:00 pm	Dinner – Cost: \$22 Lobster/Clam; \$12 Chicken dinners Music by the “Squid Jiggers”
Thurs	8/10*	7:00 pm	LECTURE SERIES #4 – “<i>Maine’s First Ship, the ‘Virginia’</i>” By Orman Hines, Pres of Maine’s First Ship
		6:30 pm	Dessert and Coffee
Sat-Sun	8/12-13		<i>OBIFD 24th Annual Auction and Yard Sale</i>
Thurs	8/17*	7:00 pm	BOOK GROUP #5 – <u><i>Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy</i></u> by Gary Schmidt
Sat	8/19	4:00 pm	ANNUAL MEETING – **NEW TIME!** Proxies will be disbursed to membership by Aug. 1st
	*Directly following meeting!		SOCIAL HOUR & SUMMER PICNIC SUPPER Bring a cold dish to share or a crock pot dish to share!
Sun	8/20*	6:45 pm	MOVIE NIGHT – “<i>T-Ledge Camp on Orr’s Island</i>”
	New Addition!		Come view the dvd montage of 1950-60s photos and movies of T-Ledge Camp! Bring a drink and a snack to share -- popcorn will be provided! Bring any T-Ledge Camp memorabilia to share as well!
Thurs	8/24*	7:00 pm	LECTURE SERIES #5 – “<i>Sailing around the World</i>” by OBYC Members John and Margo Almeida
		6:30 pm	Dessert and Coffee
Sat	9/2		SUMMER SAILING SERIES @ MYA – RACE, POTLUCK DINNER & AWARDS
		1:00 pm	Skippers’ Meeting
		2:00 pm	Last Race
		6:00 pm	Potluck Dinner and Awards Ceremony
Sat	9/2	4-10:00pm	<i>PRIVATE EVENT</i>
Sat	9/9*		SOUTHERN PULLED PORK DINNER
		5:00 pm	Social Hour
		6:00 pm	Dinner cooked by the Kinsers and Volunteers Members only, \$10 per person, limited to 90.

Fri 9/15 3-9:00 pm *PRIVATE EVENT*

Fri 9/22 5:30-10:00 pm *PRIVATE EVENT*

Sat 9/23 12-10:00 pm *PRIVATE EVENT* **New Addition!**

Fri 10/13*
 5:00 pm **AUTUMN GATHERING** with Bowdoin “Longfellows”
 Social Hour
 6:00 pm Potluck – Bring a large entrée, salad, bread, or dessert
 7:00 pm Entertainment by the Bowdoin College “Longfellows”

Sat 10/14 TBA am **WATERFRONT DECOMMISSIONING / FLOAT
 REMOVAL / CLUBHOUSE CLEAN-UP**
****Volunteers Needed!****
 Hosts: Waterfront and Grounds & Building Committees
Coffee and Donuts Provided

Sat 12/2 4-6:00 pm **ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY**
 Bring a hearty appetizer



Commodore's Letter

I saw the future! It happened in July. Among other places, it was at OBYC's Family Day where our children and grandchildren were having fun against a backdrop of Casco Bay.

I was sitting quietly on our porch when it happened. It hit me that those who were presenting the awards were once the children who were participants in OBYC's Family Day Events. We've come full circle. And it's a good omen for OBYC that at least some of these children will grow up to be our sailing instructors, OBYC members, and perhaps will coordinate the Family Day Events in the future.

And some of our children and grandchildren participated in the Bailey Island Fishing Tournament which was run the same week as Family Day. What a week to be a kid! And what a week it was to be a parent and grandparent who, for a fleeting moment, could relive the happy carefree days of our youth vicariously. Carefree days. Prizes. Good desserts. *"The best week of summer"*, so say my grandchildren. You bet!

August is upon us. Families will begin thinking of school and the world away from OBYC. Don't let August slip by without trying to take it all in while you can. There is still time to catch the joy of AFSS students as they master our little sailboats. Our lobster bake this weekend is always a family favorite and the fishing and sailing continues to be top notch. The early morning hours of calm waters and loud seagulls nearly equals the spectacular sunsets that dazzle nearly every evening.

I hope to see you at OBYC often before another summer passes us by.

Fred Rusczek

Commodore

Family Day Fun

*Crab
Walk
Relay*



*Dan Gates and
Savanna won the
water-balloon toss.*



Pie-eating contest

Family Option Should be Eliminated

Dear OBYC friends,

Hi! You have all received a letter from the Commodore explaining the rationale for the changes to the Membership Model that are being proposed for consideration at the Annual Meeting. I hope you will read and consider that letter carefully. I had the honor of leading the thoughtful and engaged Committee that developed these recommendations. The Committee consisted of John Almeida, Hugh Hardcastle, Randy Nelson, Bunny Siegel and Fred Rusczek. *Our primary focus was on ensuring the Sustainability and supporting the Mission of our wonderful Club.*

We benchmarked other organizations, including several other Maine Yacht Clubs. We met with Officers from Harraseeket Yacht Club. We assembled data from our own Club Membership, and spent considerable time analyzing how our Membership Model is being utilized. I would like to add a few comments regarding the two most significant changes being proposed.

Family Membership - First, please be reminded that our Regular Adult Memberships are Family Memberships – like your local YMCA, these Memberships include our Children age 18 and younger. Further, the proposed By-Law changes increase that to include those age 21 and younger, in order to keep our offspring engaged as they transition to Adulthood. This change is consistent with changes being made at many other organizations, including many YMCAs.

Family Option - Over time, and after much discussion and debate, our Committee unanimously concluded that the “Family Option” (not Family Membership) should be eliminated. We found absolutely no precedent at Clubs of any kind wherein Adult Children are included in their Parents’ Membership for a nominal fee. In practice, the Family Option has transpired to work *against* the Sustainability of our Club. It has contributed to an ever-increasing average membership age, and is actually a disincentive for our Adult Children to join the Club. While the original intention of the Family Option was to accommodate adult children visiting from out-of-state for a week or two, it is being used by many *much* more broadly, well outside the boundaries of the original intent. We also know that those using the Club under the Family Option are often unfamiliar with Club Rules and policies. We concluded that we need a Member to be present and responsible when Family and Friends are using the Club as our Guests. Finally, the use of our Club by non-Members, including those using the Club under the “Family Option” and their friends, substantially increases our potential liability.

It is always difficult to eliminate an option that many have enjoyed. However, we sincerely believe that these changes to our Membership Model are an important step toward ensuring the Sustainability of our vibrant Club.

Please call me if you would like to discuss. My home phone number is 207-833-2878, and my cell phone number is 207-798-1616.

Sincerely, Kristin Fletcher, Vice Commodore

Keep the Family Option

The OBYC Board of Directors will be asking the membership to discontinue the Family Option at Annual Meeting. Currently there are 36 Family Option Memberships representing 63 OBYC members and their children. As a former director, Commodore, and Rules Committee member I oppose this change, and will share some background on the Family Option.

Simply stated, the Family Option is designed to allow your adult children, while visiting, to take the family sailboat out, or to use Dad’s boat, or even take Mom’s kayak for a paddle unaccompanied by a Club Member. Family Option cost is \$50 per year.

continued next page

At one time children were not welcomed to OBYC as they are today. My own children dreaded our visits to OBYC as elders were constantly correcting them: No running! Stay away from there! Where are your parents? And worse. It was obvious that children weren't welcome and parents with young children stayed away. In an effort to bring them back, Family Membership was encouraged so adult children could use the Club facilities unchaperoned by their parents.

In the by-laws it says "close relative" and that at the time meant to limit it to your children and your grandchildren. Admittedly a little vague but the officers expected that members would not abuse the offering. I was on the rules committee years ago and the intent was apparent to us, and even after reviewing the language, that more restrictive language was unwarranted. Maybe it's time to adjust that but still preserve the option?

Clubs surveyed by the ad hoc committee, Portland Yacht Club, Boothbay Yacht Club, and Harraseeket Yacht Club do not offer a Family Option, perhaps they are the ones missing out?

The other phrase asked about now is "outside the immediate area" and the Rules committee struggled with that as well. The intention was to accommodate adult children spending a day or a week or two visiting their parents and not those who would visit the Club on a daily basis. Some of the hesitation to pick an arbitrary boundary of so many miles, towns, counties, etc. was to not discriminate against our adult children living in Maine. Not all of them are at the Club every day or every week. I still struggle with this phrase and welcome suggestions.

Fred speaks of "the greater our exposure for an incident that can result in a lawsuit against the club". Just a couple of weeks ago our insurance coverage was reviewed by Eric Lusk who deemed it to be very adequate. I hate the thought of living with the fear of a lawsuit when doing nothing wrong. Don't kid yourself, with today's aggressive TV advertising of lawyers; anyone can be sued for anything. I'm not one to hide my head in the sand.

Are there abuses? Oh probably, but look at our docks and facilities, are they at capacity or over used? Let's keep it friendly OBYC and do a little fine tuning and retain the Option.

Commodore Rusczek says "Make no mistake about it, with this change (Elimination of the Family Option) OBYC will continue to welcome guests of members." Fred neglected to say every non member will need to be chaperoned including your adult children.

Hoping you will vote with me to retain the Family Option at Annual Meeting or via your Proxy vote.

Kindest Regards, Rick Patton. Commodore 90-92

Board of Directors

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[Fred Rusczek](#)

Vice Commodore

[Kristin Fletcher](#)

Secretary

[Teena Patton](#)

Treasurer

[Sue Baker](#)

Membership

[Sandy Nelson](#)

Board Members

Jim Whalen

Holly Lusk

Malcolm McFarland

Richard Siegel

Ned Kitchel

Don Robertson

Fred Holler

Allan Jarvis

Garrett Knight

Newsletter

This is the fourth newsletter for the 2017 season. The newsletter appears monthly during the summer season.

Contact **Bill Bulkeley** with photographs, articles, and suggestions for your OBYC newsletter. Any pictures of dogs or cats on boats are particularly welcome.

617-320-2528, bill.bulkeley@gmail.com,