



OBYC

Happenings

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Commodore's Letter

July 2021

Dear OBYC Members,

It has been terrific to see many of you at the first two Social Events. Both events were based outside, with everyone bringing their own Food and Drink. Members were clearly happy to see one another again. Both gatherings lingered into the evening.

Many new members participated! Thank goodness for name tags, as my memory needed to be jogged in a few cases! I particularly want to thank the Social Committee and the Membership for working with the Board, and within our limitations.

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Kayak Paddlers

by Teena Patton

The OBYC kayakers have already had a number of paddles, often in conjunction with groups like Brunswick's Thursday Hikers.

Plans are being made to organize a kayak paddle in memory of OBYC member Julie Holowach who tragically was killed in a shark attack on July 27 last year.

Teena Patton, along with the staff at H2Outfitters, are in the planning stages and will have more information by mid July. Last year, H2Outfitters had a Friday evening series of paddles in honor of Julie and they are interested in helping with a one-year remembrance.

If you are interested in paddling with other OBYC members — usually on Fridays — contact Teena Patton by e-mail at (christine.patton48@yahoo.com). She maintains an e-mail list and circulates plans regularly.



Commodore's Letter

Cont. from Pg. 1

More events – parties, bingo, lectures – are being planned for July and August! And, stay tuned for news about the Catered Lobster Bake in August. We are all doing our best and working our way toward the “new normal.”

I would like to express our gratitude to former Member Reverend Kitty Babson. Kitty wrote the “Blessing of the Fleet” for OBYC in 2013 and continues to adapt it year-after-year to reflect current circumstances. The 2020 (via Zoom) and 2021 Blessings (last Saturday) were each adapted to address how the sea enables us to grow strong and brave in good times and bad, including as we endure and recover from a global pandemic. It is a beautiful piece, and it kicked off a lovely evening!

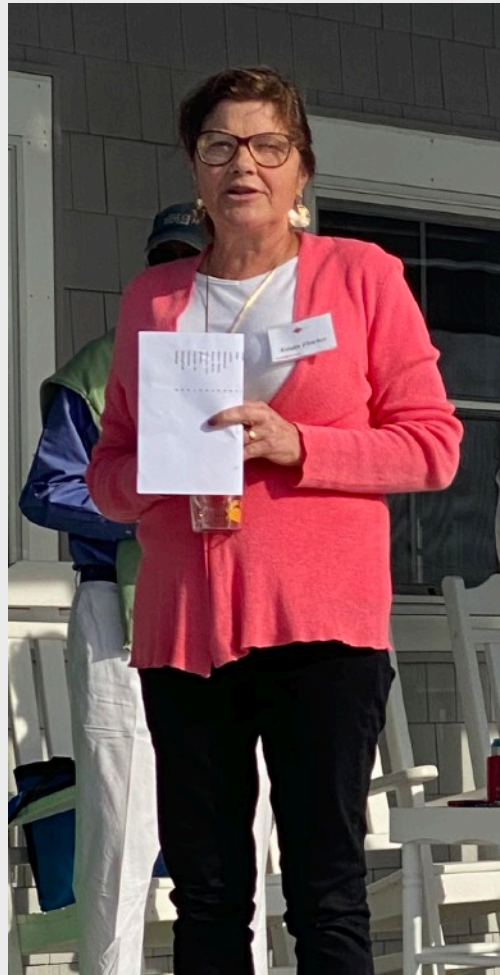
Abbot Fletcher Sailing School starts again on Monday, July 5th. It will be terrific to see kids in Optis out in the Sound again, learning and gaining confidence on the water. Additionally, please keep an eye out for news of the On-Line Silent Auction to benefit the Sailing School. Early Bidding will begin on July 10th, last through the 15th, and Final

Bidding will be completed Saturday the 17th between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon.

I look forward to seeing you on the floats, on the water, and at our Social Events - in person!

As always, please keep in touch, and stay well.

Kristin Fletcher,
Commodore



Blessing of the Fleet



Clockwise, from above:

Rev. Kitty Babson asks for blessings on the fleet.

New member Howard Levitan watches with Paul and Kym Cournoyer.

Phil Sumner, Michael Jukes, George Kinser, Jane Jukes and Sue Baker were among the viewers.



Welcome Back Social Hour



Below:

Membership chair, Sandy Nelson introduces new members.



New Social Calendar

by Joyce Duda

We are moving forward cautiously and would ask that if you have not been fully vaccinated to please wear a mask at our events. For people who are vaccinated, masks are optional. Remember not to congregate too close, especially inside the building.

We ask again that you please sign up in advance for any upcoming Saturday event, Lecture or Book Group, either online (www.obyc.org) or via the Club bulletin board. This is for contact tracing, if needed. It also helps planning for setting up. Sign-up sheets will be posted on the bulletin board 2 weeks ahead of each event. *The deadline for signing up will be the day before the event at 5:00pm, until further notice.* Thank you for doing so!

Below are the summer events planned at this time. Please make a note on your personal calendar and join us in the fun!

Mon-Fri, July 5-Aug 13 @ 9am-Noon and 1-4:00pm – AFSS Lessons – Classes will be held outside under a tent this year. Both morning “Beginners” and afternoon “Advanced” classes are already full – Congratulations to AFSS!

Wed, July 7 @ 1:30-4:00 pm - Mahjong returns! Thank you to Club member Linda Kittle for organizing this year’s Mahjong game. If interested in playing, please contact her. No walk-ins! We will meet each Wed afternoon until Oct 6 and will be using the 2021 card. A sign-up sheet will be used each week for those in attendance for contact tracing. Remember your mask if not fully vaccinated!

Wed, July 7 @ 6:00 pm – Bingo is back! We plan to hold Bingo each Wed through August. Please bring a wrapped white elephant gift, valued at no more than \$5, for each person in your party who plans to play. We will play enough games to deplete the number of gift “prizes”, one winner per game. Also, please BYOFD, but note this year *we are not including a dish to share!* At 7:00 pm we will begin the game of Bingo. This game is for ALL ages. We will have a sign-up sheet at each Bingo for those who participate for contact tracing. Also, please remember *not* to congregate inside -- space your seats apart from others, and wear a mask if not fully vaccinated. For many members, Bingo is their favorite Club activity!

Fri, July 9 @ Noon-10:00pm - Private Event

Sat, July 10 @ 5-6:30 pm - July Social Hour – Join us for our second Social Hour, in the Clubhouse, though it remains BYOFD and sign up only, no walk-ins! The sign-up deadline will be **Friday** at 5:00 pm! Remember not to congregate too close inside, and wear a mask if not fully vaccinated.

Thurs, July 15 @ 5:00pm – Book Group #1 – Mill Town: Reckoning With What Remains by Kerri Arsenault will be discussed from 5-6:00pm at OBYC. The group will then log into the Maine Humanities Council public program on Zoom at 6-7:00pm to meet with the author, Kerri Arsenault, as she speaks about growing up in Rumford and how big money changed the character of her town. At what cost comes power? Please sign up online or at the Club! Any questions contact Maggie Gill.

Sat, July 17 @ 10:00am-Noon - AFSS Virtual Auction - More about this from AFSS! Please contact Amber Skinner at millayclare@yahoo.com if you have an item to donate. Early bidding starts July 10-15.

Sun, July 18 @ 6am-10pm – Private Event – Winchell Reunion

Thurs, July 22 @ 7:00 pm - Lecture Series #1 – "Keeping Casco Bay Blue" - presented by Friends of Casco Bay Staff Scientist Mike Doan and Communications & Development Director Will Everitt. They will tell what has been learned from data collected right off the OBYC docks and the nearby Continuous Monitoring Station in Cundy's Harbor for the last 30 years. Bring your curiosity and your love of the Bay.

Sat, July 31 @ 10am-10pm – Private Event – Rusczek

Sat, Aug 7 @ 5:00pm – Annual Lobster Bake – This is the first time a caterer will prepare the meal, though we will still need volunteers for setting up the tables/chairs and the clean up afterwards. The cost of tickets will be disclosed later this week, as will additional information and a sign-up sheet posted. Please note the caterer will require an advance final headcount. Walk ins are not allowed. Also, you will be expected to pay for the dinners you sign up for, even if you're unexpectedly not able to make the dinner that evening. (We will do our best to have the food wrapped for pick up after the Bake.) A lobster/clam dinner will be available as well as a grilled chicken breast dinner and a child's hotdog/chips plate. More details to follow within this next week!

Thurs, Aug 12 @ 7:00 pm – Lecture Series #2 – “Edna St. Vincent Millay and Ragged Island” presented by Gary Lawless, Co-Owner of the Gulf of Maine Bookstore in Brunswick. Come learn about Maine’s 1923 Pulitzer Prize Laureate for Poetry and what an eccentric person she was! Some things you will learn, you’ll never forget! Ragged Island is currently owned by members of OBYC.

Thurs, Aug 19 @ 5:00pm – Book Group #2 – Mainely Power by Matt Langdon Cost will be discussed from 5-6:00pm at OBYC. The group will then log into the Maine Humanities Council public program on Zoom at 6-7:00pm to meet with the author, Matt Cost, as he speaks about his first “Goff Langdon Mainely Mystery” novel in the series that takes place in Brunswick. Please sign up online or at the Club! Any questions contact Maggie Gill.

Sat, Aug 21 @ 4:00pm – Annual Meeting – Social Hour and Picnic Dinner immediately following – Additional details as we get closer! Mark it on your calendar!

The Social Committee will continue to send eBlasts to the membership as a reminder of upcoming events and the details involved. We hope you will join us at these events and feel the warmth and friendship of our extended family of members at OBYC!

Max Fletcher, Lynnie Bruce and Rudy Guliani return to OBYC after a 30-day, non-stop passage from Spain. They crossed the Atlantic six days faster than Columbus.



Family Life with Schooner Alert

"Living with Boats" is a new feature in OBYC Happenings, profiling club members and their boating lives.

By Bill Bulkeley

Bethany McMillen-Davis learned about boats growing up on Bailey Island. Perry Davis learned about boats as a young man working as a Colorado River whitewater rafting guide.

Today, their personal and boating lives are merged in one of the iconic activities of the region: operating the 67-foot wooden schooner Alert. They have run the 29-year old, gaff-rigged, two-master as a charter sailing vessel since 2013. Alert leaves Cook's dock and raises its sails as many as three times a day during the busy summer season, carrying hundreds of tourists out into Casco Bay.

Bethany, now 41, grew up in her parents' rental-cottage compound, Sea Escape, where the couple now live with their daughters Margaret, 8 years old, and Calypso, 4. Like many island children, Bethany learned to sail at Orr's Bailey Yacht Club. Margaret will attend the sailing school this summer.

As a teenager Bethany crewed on various boats, and she raced in the program at Roger Williams University in Rhode Island while studying for an architecture degree. When jobs didn't materialize after college she taught sailing in summer camp and started crewing in the Penobscot Bay schooners that sailed out of Camden and Rockland where she eventually met Perry in a pub.

Perry's route to schooner entrepreneurship was even more varied. One year he was asked to help deliver a schooner from the Virgin Islands to Newport RI. It was his first East Coast experience, and he discovered he liked sailing. For the next ten years he worked and sailed from the Caribbean to Nova Scotia and even in



Europe where he did sailing scenes in the 2002 movie, *The Count of Monte Cristo*. Later he became the pilot of the year-round Monhegan ferry out of Port Clyde.

"I never found a better place to sail than the coast of Maine," he says today.

Perry, now 43, and Bethany found courtship difficult. They usually worked on different schooners because many captains avoided hiring couples. Eventually they bought a wooden boat, Tevake, that they sailed to the Bahamas, where they spent a winter living aboard. When winter ended, Perry was hired to bring the schooner Appledore north and Bethany sailed Tevake with a single inexperienced crew member.

For several years, they operated Tevake as the first sailing charter in Bailey Island, but it was limited to six passengers. After a slow start, in several years, "we were doing private charters every nice day," Bethany recalls.

In 2012, the couple decided to buy a bigger boat. There was a schooner in Portland that had been built in York in 1992, but then neglected by its owner for years. It had been refurbished as a fishing boat by a local lobsterman who loved wooden boats, and the Davises convinced him to let them buy it and convert it for passengers.

Alert Family

After various modifications, and passing the Coast Guard engineers' stability test they started operating it as a charter in September 2013.

"Every year has been a little better than the year before," Bethany says, although last year Covid restricted capacity to just 15 from the normal maximum of 28 on the ship. Typically the ship carries 18 people on public trips and up to 28 on private trips where groups are presumably already friendly. A similar size schooner in Portland carries up to 45 people. Typically they run three 2-hour trips a day for \$50 per adult -- at 10:30, 3 pm and 6:30 for a Sunset cruise. But they are flexible and run trips up to six hours for \$120.

The support of Cook's for area charter boat operators including Alert has been crucial to the success of the business, Bethany says. In addition, area fishermen and lobstermen are respectful of the Alert and the Davis's dedication to wresting a living from the sea.

Perry says that old fishing and coasting schooners were first converted for passengers in the 1930s.

"They were regarded as a dude ranch on the water," where urban escapists could experience a passing way of life. He enjoys the idea that they are carrying on the Maine maritime traditions.

"There are probably 30 working schooners in Maine. The boats have just found new cargoes."

Newsletter

OBYC Happenings usually is published monthly from May to October. The editor is Bill Bulkeley,

The Newsletter is always looking for volunteers to take photos at Club events or write up lectures.



Margaret Davis swings in the rigging of Alert

Orr's-Bailey Yacht Club

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