



OBYC

Happenings

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Commodore's Letter

May 2020

Dear OBYC Members,

I hope that everyone is doing well as the days lengthen and we begin to emerge from such a strange year. Throughout the offseason, the OBYC Board and Committees have been working to prepare for the 2021 season. I'm pleased that we will be able to start to loosen some of the restrictions that were in place last year and am optimistic that as the COVID-19 situation continues to improve, that we will be able to continue our stepwise return to "normal."

To that end, the floats were installed last Friday – so early! An amazing group of volunteers worked all day (and many days before) to make that happen. Thank you to the Volunteers, especially the Waterfront & Anchorage Committee and the Buildings & Grounds Committee
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Club Plans Careful Reopening

by Bill Bulkeley

At its May meeting, the Board agreed by consensus to move cautiously toward opening up, while maximizing members' safe enjoyment of our club.

The Club is resuming outdoor social activities as the season begins. Limited access to the bathrooms and kitchen and the outdoor grill will be available. More activities may be added after July 15, depending on state guidelines and member feedback.

The plans represent a dramatic turnaround from last year when only virtual events were held and clubhouse facilities were locked up. Among other things, the Club plans to host the traditional lobster bake in August, though it may look different this year!

Masks will be required when indoors or when members are unable to maintain social-distancing. Hand
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Commodore's Letter

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who have effectively prepared our Club to be ready so early in the season. When you get to the Club, take a close look at three new floats, and newly refurbished Club Dinghies!

Also, big thanks go out to Garrett Knight for refurbishing the pier kiosk.

Moorings - Note that while the floats are ready for use, mooring service providers are in the process of commissioning moorings in the field. Please be patient while they complete this effort. Having said that, I look forward to seeing boats in the anchorage!

Club House/Social Calendar – Guidelines for Club House use will be posted on-site and are in place to ensure that we can access the Club while keeping one another safe. As described in Bill's article herein, we're pleased to be able to reopen the bathrooms and the kitchen for limited use. Masks will be required when using these Club spaces. And, as described by Joyce, June Social Events will be held outside with social distancing and "Bring Your Own Food and Drink." Keep an eye out for E-Blasts from the Social Committee announcing the details when the time is

closer. We hope to be able to loosen restrictions later in the season as the COVID situation evolves. This will depend, in part, on State law, as well as our experience with the June events and other informal social gatherings.

I look forward to seeing everyone on the floats and at our June events. I also look forward to reconnecting with new and old friends in person!

As always, please keep in touch, and let us know if you need any assistance during this difficult time. We are all in this together.

Stay well,

Kristin Fletcher, Commodore
CommodoreCommodore



Cautious Reopening

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disinfectants will be available at the doorways, and members are encouraged to use them when entering and leaving the building. There won't be any potlucks. Families must bring their own food and drink.

Because early season events must be held outside, the Social Committee is planning them for Saturday with Sunday as a rain-date. Two days of rain? Sunday will be by Zoom. Attendees will have to pre-register for contact-tracing purposes. Drop-ins won't be allowed.

The first event of the season will be the Welcome-Back Social Hour, the weekend of June 12. The second event will be the Blessing of the Fleet, June 26, with former member Rev. Kitty Babson officiating. Read more detail in the article on Social events, Page 5.

Because of the pandemic concerns, the Abbot Fletcher Sailing School is canceling the annual July 4th Pancake breakfast and auction — its major fund-raiser. There will be a virtual auction.

The sailing school is making other adjustments. It will hold classes under

tents instead of indoors and allow only one student in each boat (except for siblings).

The Club plans to schedule some lectures and book groups later in the season. The book group seeks an additional leader to work with Ellen Shillinglaw. Volunteers?

The Club will continue to monitor state and CDC recommendations for maintaining safety. Continuing research has shown that the coronavirus doesn't live well on surfaces or outside in breezy areas with lots of ultraviolet sunshine. However, shouting and singing are discouraged because of the risk of transmission of aerosol droplets. The board generally supports vaccination, but the club has no plans for a vaccination mandate.

Since many club events include children who aren't eligible for vaccines, social distancing guidelines should be observed among people who aren't regularly exposed to one another.

The board also agreed that any private events booked at the club must be held outside/under tents and follow Maine state guidelines.

*The Club
installed three
new floats*



Secure Your Mooring

The Waterfront Committee is urging all boat-owners to have their mooring chains and anchors checked for wear and corrosion.

Coastal Barge and Mooring experts recommend that moorings be inspected by a diver at least every three years. A dive inspection costs \$225, and it typically costs \$250 to \$300 to haul a mooring to the surface to inspect it.

The town of Harpswell officially recommends an annual inspection.

If a mooring fails, a boat in a crowded anchorage like the Club's is likely to blow up against nearby boats, potentially damaging them. If a boat blows ashore and leaks fuel or oil, clean-up costs can soar.

Mooring chains in salt water corrode about five times faster than they do in freshwater. If there are different metals in the same mooring system, electrolysis can cause an electric current that accelerates corrosion. Bacteria and various weeds may also eat away metals in mooring chains.

As the old saying goes: "Rust never sleeps."

The Waterfront committee works regularly with the town Harbormaster, Paul Plummer, to maximize the number of moorings near the Club's docks. The town, rather than the club, is responsible for the placement and allocation of all moorings.

Under town rules, a mooring must be used every year to maintain occupancy rights. Several new members are seeking mooring space in the field. If any members no longer need moorings, please contact Waterfront co-chair Paul Cournoyer and let him know so he can pass the news on to the Harbormaster and request a new mooring for another member.

In a separate safety action, the State of Maine has urged local regulators to enforce rules for using kill switches on motorboats. These switches typically involve a clip that is attached to the switch and connected by a lanyard to the wrist or belt of a boat driver. If the driver is thrown out of the boat, the clip is yanked away with the driver, the engine shuts down, and the boat stops.

If a lone driver falls out of a boat that keeps going, it is likely to run in circles, potentially hitting the man overboard, or run straight until it runs out of gas or hits rocks or another boat. While connecting to the switch is inconvenient while trolling or docking, it is a vital safety measure while in rough seas.





Paul Cournoyer paints dinghy identification during the Winter.



Sandy Nelson touches up the Club sign.

Volunteers make ready for the Summer



Garrett Knight repairs the kiosk

New Social Events and New Rules

by Joyce Duda

The 2021 Social Committee is scheduling in-person events for this season. Plans comply with the Maine CDC Guidelines and Governor Mills' Executive Orders concerning occupancy limitations, 6-foot physical distancing and indoor mask wearing. But it's a lot better than last year when everything was on Zoom.

Although our 2021 calendar starts slowly, we are hoping that as we move through the summer things will loosen up and bring us closer to normalcy. We will be emailing frequent eBlasts about upcoming events. Safety of our members is first and foremost.

Our first two events will be held outside. Our **"Welcome Back! Social Hour"** will be held *Sat, June 12 from 5:00-6:30pm*, with a Rain Date on Sun, June 13, same time. If both days look to be wash outs, we will try to hold an online Zoom gathering Sunday. Any changes from Saturday will be confirmed via eBlast.

The second planned event is our **"Blessing of the Fleet"** on *Sat, June 26 @ 5:00-7:00pm*, with a Rain Date on Sun, June 27.

The Social Committee has had to revise our usual procedures in order to comply with the Guidelines, so please familiarize yourself with them. See below:

1. **Masks must be worn indoors or when social distancing is impossible unless you are eating or drinking.**
2. **Please sign up for any event we offer this season -- no walk-ups!** This allows us to get your name badges available, and it also creates a list of attendees for contact tracing. You can sign up either on the Club's website (www.obyc.org) or on the bulletin board by the Club bathrooms.
3. Until further notice, *all* Club events will be **"BYOFD"**, or **Bring Your Own Food and Drink!** No Sharing. The Club will have ice available, but *no* lemonade, coffee, etc. Kitchen use is limited because only two people are allowed in at a time.
4. Please **"Bring your own - Take your own"**. Please pick up after yourself and take your trash when leaving the property. We hope to avoid having trash bins outside the Clubhouse due to hand hygiene.
5. The CDC Guidelines allow a maximum of 8 people per table. Tables will be set outside 6-foot apart. Please remember to space yourselves (or household) 6-foot apart from others.
8. Since Covid19 is a respiratory disease, the Maine CDC strongly urges no yelling, singing, dancing or games to occur at social gatherings.

Social Events, cont.

9. Lastly, the Guidelines recommend that children do not share toys, etc. They can play outside as long as they are at least 14 feet from eating/drinking areas.

We have been in touch with the contracted caterer for the **Annual Lobster Bake scheduled for Sat, August 7, 5:00-8:00pm** and we are moving forward with our plans, barring any negative changes concerning the pandemic! Stay tuned for additional information. Also, our **Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sat, August 21**. More on that later!

The Social Committee appreciates your patience and understanding as we cautiously pace ourselves in planning the 2021 season of events. We hope to add Bingo, Lectures and Book Groups as the season progresses. Stay tuned for updates via eBlasts every few weeks.

Sailing School Resumes this Year

By Sue Baker

Abbot Fletcher Sailing School sailors will be back on the water this summer, after cancelling activities last year. Reduced-enrollment beginner classes are already full, and only three openings remain in Intermediate.

Attendance is limited to six or seven students per class session, down from as many as 12 normally. Landside classes will be taught in OBYC tents rather than inside the clubhouse. Masks are mandatory on land, along with safe distancing and frequent hand sanitation. Friday afternoon ice cream parties have been scratched.

Erin Kenyon is returning for her third year as Head Instructor. Chris Fletcher and Mitch Lienert, both

Orr's-Bailey Yacht Club

Officers

Commodore — Kristin Fletcher
 Vice Commodore — Randy Nelson
 Secretary — Holly Lusk
 Treasurer — Sue Baker

Directors

Bill Bulkeley
 Jennifer Gates
 Nick Nichols
 Ellen Shillinglaw
 Kym Cournoyer
 Bob Seaman
 Bunny Siegel
 Dawn Kalmar

seasoned AFSS instructors, round out the paid staff.

The sailboat fleet will be launched on June 19. The plan is to have each student single-hand an Opti or Laser, although a couple of 420's will be available for students who normally live together.

The annual Pancake Breakfast, one of AFSS's primary fundraisers, has been cancelled. But AFSS will be holding a virtual silent auction on July 17 with bidding starting on July 10. Karina Fletcher and Amber Skinner are providing the cyber-skills to make it possible.

The AFSS committee is asking members to donate goods or experiences for the virtual auction and to bid generously.