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October, 2016

### Commodore's Letter



I admire our OBYC fellow members who have been with the club for decades. They have stories to tell about happenings through the years, tidbits on where to fish and knowledge of the Harpswell Islands that I will never be able to equal.

Most of all, I admire these long time members because of the club and facilities that they created for all of us. They had vision and they were willing through their collective hard work to get the job done. If they were a less committed or less giving bunch of volunteers, we wouldn't have so much. How

do we keep this spirit and volunteer model going forward?

As a volunteer based club, OBYC relies upon the work of volunteers to keep things running smoothly. In fact, the majority of our members volunteer to do something – be it hosting a social event, helping get the floats in or out, or coordinating this newsletter.

However, at the head of all volunteer activities are a much smaller number of selfless individuals who sacrifice much of their time to help OBYC. If any of this handful of members were to leave their posts we would all lose.

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## *Float Removal*





## Commodore's letter,

*continued from Pg. 1*

The need for many hands to help at all levels is becoming more acute. We have a larger and more modern clubhouse, a broader array of waterfront activities and needs, a packed social calendar, and a youth sailing program that introduces dozens of kids to the joys of a boating life.

In fact, at the annual meeting more than one member suggested that we need a club manager. We will visit this concept in the coming months to determine if the need is such that the added expense to club members is warranted.

Unlike other volunteer-based yacht clubs, OBYC is unique in that it doesn't

require members to fulfill volunteer hours or be assessed a fee for not volunteering. Time will tell whether or not we will end up like other clubs and take this route or hire folks to do work for us, and raise dues to cover the cost. Is this the natural evolution of a yacht club? Perhaps so.

So, when you encounter one of the "old timers" who have been with OBYC for decades, please be sure to thank them for all that they have done for us, and assure them that we will *pay it forward*.

Have a wonderful fall and  
Thanksgiving!

**Fred Ruscsek**  
Commodore



# *Sailing School Head Reports*

Here's my season wrap up:

I would like to begin by saying that we had a beautiful 2016 summer season. I can't express my gratitude towards any one group enough. Between all of the instructors, the committee members, AFSS Monitors, club members, and especially Bob, Sue, and Bobbi, this was certainly a season made possible by the efforts of many motivated individuals, and we could not have stayed afloat without the efforts of everyone involved.

There wasn't too much rain this season, though for those who were there during the storm on our last day during clean-up, I doubt it'll be storm many of us forget any time soon. It seemed as though the weather had been building up into the torrential rains and 60 mph winds that literally blew two of the sailboats off of the dock. That said, the rest of the season was marvelous, allowing us to hit the water every day, and get on with our favorite camp activities.

We saw many new faces this summer, and some old ones that the other instructors knew better than myself. Chelsea and Augie both stepped it up in a real way this season, and on days when I sat on the porch conducting student reviews, I was proud to know that I could count on them to completely run classes, even if I worriedly checked

in on the radio now and again. Ashley, Sarah, and Amanda all made strong advances in their leadership skills this summer, furthering the connection between student and instructor, as well as bringing a sense of professionalism with them every day. I couldn't be more thankful for such a staff.

All in all I was more than content with how this year turned out. Many students and parents came up to me at award ceremonies asking if they could do two or more weeks next summer, or if they could bring a few friends as well to future sessions. There's a joy in the child's eyes and a pride in the parents' hearts after a good session of sailing that we at AFSS are happy to be a part of. It was a pleasure to get to know so many club members who volunteered as either Day Steward or AFSS Monitor, and I saw a connection grow between AFSS and OBYC that was mutually beneficial.

It is sad to see the season end and every year it seems to come and go even more quickly. Though we may be unsure what next year holds, we should all be proud that 2016 was such a success.

Even when the wind shifts, I hope you find yourselves on good headings.

Regards,  
Andrew Hartnett  
AFSS Head Instructor

# 2016 Social Season Ends

This season was very successful and well attended. The Social Committee tries to offer a variety of venues to appeal to all members and we feel successful in reaching that goal this year. Our 2017 "Saturday" calendar is already planned. We're waiting to hear back from entertainers re availability before we can move forward with other dates and budget details. It should be another exciting season!

The 2016 Annual Holiday Party is scheduled for Sat, Dec. 3, 4-6 pm. Members are asked to bring a hearty appetizer to share plus their favorite beverage. Also, please remember the clubhouse is now closed up for the season, and there will be NO usable toilets or running water from the faucets!

On behalf of the Social Committee, thank you to the 116 OBYC members who volunteered to help out at the different planned social activities this current season. Your time and efforts were noted AND appreciated! It's folks like you who help to keep the cost of our annual dues at a minimum for all. We keep hearing from non- or new members how much our schedule of social activities are envied by surrounding yacht clubs. Without your help, these social programs could not exist. Thank you to all who help out, and to those who attend the events! Our attendance numbers surpassed previous seasons!

We look forward to 2017, and wish you a happy holiday season!"  
Joyce Duda,

## Membership News

Helen "Honnie" Edwards is our newest member having assumed the membership of her father, Bud Edwards, under our Membership Rules. She lives in St Croix, USVI where she raised her three sons and owns a real estate company. As a youth, she summered on Orr's Island and enjoyed OBYC waterfront activities where her parents were lifelong members. She is the mother of Chris Fletcher, former AFSS director. She is also the mother of Will and Hal Edwards.

She plans to once again be summering on Orr's Island, in her father's former island house, and enjoying waterfront and social activities at OBYC. Her contact information can be found in the OBYC website membership directory.

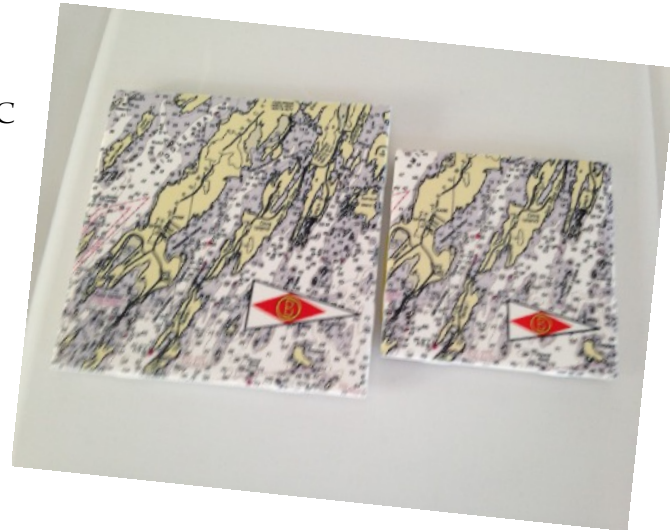
### Membership Waiting List:

Our waiting list count is currently 26 candidates (13 couples). A copy of the membership waiting list is posted on the side-door foyer bulletin board. Sponsors can check on their candidate's position on the list.

## GREAT NEW OBYC ITEM.

Coasters and Trivets available in area coastal chart with OBYC burgee. Coasters are \$8.00 each and Trivets are \$12.00 each.

For purchase Contact Helen Kitchel (802)989-5728) or Susu McIlvaine (215)767-4412.



## Board of Directors

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## Newsletter

This is the final newsletter for the 2016 season. The next issue will come out in May 2017.

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

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## OBYC

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